

Cooperation with Other Governments: Neutral European: Portugal

11040

CROSS REFERENCE ON COOPERATION WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS: NEUTRAL
EUROPEAN (PORTUGAL)

FOR:

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

1. FOR MATERIAL RE PRESSURE ON THE SATELLITES TO DESIST FROM ABETTING PERSECUTIONS
2. FOR MATERIAL RE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT RE ATROCITIES AGAINST THE JEWS
3. FOR MATERIAL RE PORTUGUESE VESSEL FOR THE PURPOSE OF EVACUATING REFUGEES FROM RUMANIA TO TURKEY
4. FOR MATERIAL RE EVENTUAL DESTINATIONS OF REFUGEE CHILDREN ARRIVING IN PORTUGAL FROM FRANCE
5. FOR OTHER MATERIAL RELATIVE TO THIS FILE

- SEE:
1. MEASURES DIRECTED TOWARD HALTING PERSECUTION: APPROACHES TO OFFENDING GOVERNMENTS
(THE SATELLITES)
 2. MEASURES DIRECTED TOWARD HALTING PERSECUTION: STATEMENTS, POLICIES, AND INFORMATION CAMPAIGNS INSPIRED BY BOARD
(PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT)
 3. PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES: EVACUATION TO AND THROUGH TURKEY
 4. PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES: EVACUATION TO AND THROUGH SPAIN (AND PORTUGAL)
(EVACUATION OF CHILDREN FROM FRANCE TO SPAIN AND PORTUGAL (JDC))
 5. REPRESENTATIVES AND SPECIAL ATTACHES : APPOINTMENTS

1040

CROSS-REFERENCE

.....
(Name of Applicant)

.....
(Application Number)

For Relative Material Concerning Cooperation with Private
Organizations in Portugal -

SEE: REPORT ON TRIP TO SPAIN & PORTUGAL - MR. MANN (SECRET)

10040

Copy with original

Files #

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Lisbon, January 6, 1945.

*DC/L
WE*

No. 1319

RESTRICTED

SUBJECT: Removal of Refugees now in Portugal; Views of British Foreign Office and Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees at London.

~~Restricted~~

*3WRB (State)
1 War (Mr. Bundy)
3 War Refugee Board (Treasury)
GWW*

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

In continuation of the Embassy's despatch no. 1071 of October 16, 1944, concerning the care of refugees now in Portugal, and advancing the suggestion that such refugees might be removed to the camp at Fedhala, in North Africa, I have the honor to report that the British Foreign Office has now informed the British Embassy in Lisbon that in London's opinion it would be best that the refugees now in Portugal remain here until it becomes necessary to remove them.

*important
also for eva-
uation from
Portugal.*

The decision of the British Foreign Office, which is understood to be shared by the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees at London, was apparently partially predicated on the belief that the problem here might solve itself in time. The British Embassy is also informed that the camp at Fedhala has been closed, and the only other alternative, the refugee camp at Philippeville, with a capacity of only 300 persons, is now completely filled and unable to receive more people.

GWW

The British Embassy yesterday approached this mission with respect to a communication received through the British Foreign Office from the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees proposing a survey of all refugees in Portugal and in Spain. Such a survey would indicate in each case the previous situation in Europe of the individual in question, his preference as to destination outside of Portugal and the practical possibility of his being able, eventually, to arrive at the destination of his choice. It was anticipated that were the survey to be made, the facilities of relief organizations presently established in Portugal could be enlisted, as well as the facilities of the British and American missions here. A joint Anglo-American list of refugees could then be drawn up, checked for accuracy and,

subsequent

Control - Alger

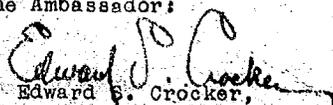
LN

subsequent to a joint intelligence check, forwarded to the Department and to the Foreign Office for informational purposes.

A copy of the communication of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees addressed to the British Foreign Office proposing this survey has been seen by a member of my staff. The Intergovernmental Committee divides refugees in Portugal into two general categories. The first category consists of refugees who were legally admitted into France or Belgium, but who were not permitted to engage in gainful pursuits in those countries. The second category consists of refugees who not only had a legal residence in France or Belgium, but who also were permitted to work and were thus considered permanent members of the economic community. The Intergovernmental Committee believes that neither France nor Belgium will permit the return of refugees of the first category and that, in view of the past generosity of both countries in giving shelter and protection to refugees, this point should not be pressed. The second category would doubtless be permitted to return.

In discussing the matter of the survey with the British Embassy, the willingness of this mission to cooperate was expressed, with the understanding that no financial commitment could be entered into without prior consultation with the Department. In this respect, the Intergovernmental Committee has undertaken to contribute its share of any necessary financing in connection with the survey. It is not anticipated that the financial outlay would be at all unreasonable and the Embassy would appreciate the comments of the Department on the subject. It is thought that a survey of the kind proposed should prove extremely valuable in conjunction with any effort which may be made to dispose of the problem of refugees in Portugal.

Respectfully yours,
For the Ambassador:


Edward S. Crocker,
Counselor of Embassy.

HLR/iv

NOV 10 1944

My dear Mr. Ambassador:

Reference is made to the letter dated October 16, 1944, from Mr. Edward S. Crocker, Counselor of the Embassy, to the Secretary of State, requesting the War Refugee Board's comment upon the Embassy's suggestion that those among the 700 refugees from various European countries now in Portugal, not having immediate migratory possibilities, be evacuated to Camp Lyautey at Pedhala.

It is the War Refugee Board's understanding that very few of the refugees referred to in Mr. Crocker's letter were admitted to Portugal at the request of the Board. It is understood further that the few refugees so admitted at the request of the Board are presently being cared for by the Joint Distribution Committee or one of the other private agencies, which have also charged themselves with the responsibility for the ultimate evacuation of these refugees from Portugal.

Upon receipt of the above letter, the Joint Distribution Committee was informally queried concerning its future plans with regard to these and the other refugees now under its care in Portugal. We have been advised that regardless of any future transfer of its European headquarters the Joint Distribution Committee has no intention of withdrawing its support from the 400 to 500 refugees now under its care in Portugal or of discontinuing its efforts to find a permanent home for these people.

In view of the above and in view also of the fact that the Portuguese Government does not appear to be pressing for the evacuation of these refugees, the Board is not prepared at the present time to recommend their transfer to Camp Lyautey.

A copy of this letter is being forwarded to the Secretary of State.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Honorable R. Henry Norweb,
American Ambassador,
Lisbon, Portugal.

*Original signed by Mr. Pehle.
Copy sent to Secy of State.*

11/10/44
HUNKIND 11/10/44

AIR MAIL
No. 1071

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

3 War Ref Com
(Dread)

Lisbon, October 16, 1944.

Subject: Care for Refugees now in Portugal.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

3 War (Whose Profits)
War (Mr. Sundry)
B. W. R. B. C. H.

Sir:

I have the honor to invite the attention of the Department to a matter which has been giving the Embassy a great deal of concern of late, due to the decision of the War Refugee Board to withdraw its representative from Portugal on or about December 1. The matter concerns plans for refugees still in Portugal who will presumably not be able to leave the country for some time unless some definite action is taken by the authorities of the United Nations.

It is not possible to fix absolutely the number of such refugees but at the present moment there are approximately 700 from various European countries in Portugal who are receiving assistance from the four American private agencies here, the American Friends Service Committee, the Joint Distribution Committee, the Unitarian Service Committee and the Refugee Relief Section of the National Catholic Welfare Council. In addition there are some hundreds of Spanish Republican refugees. There is also a small number of refugees who are receiving aid from their Consulates, particularly Dutch, Belgians, French and Poles, but these need not concern us at the moment. In addition there is a certain number of refugees who still have funds of their own who are supporting themselves in Portugal. These also do not present any special problem. I should add that of the seven hundred refugees above mentioned, most of whom are stateless, approximately five hundred are Jewish.

While there is no legal obligation, either on the part of the United States Government or governments of any of the other United Nations in respect to these people, there is a possible moral obligation. Many of them were admitted to Portugal either at the direct request of the American organizations mentioned or in some cases through the intervention of the War Refugee Board. It was the understanding of the Portuguese Government in most cases that they would ultimately be evacuated from this country. Portugal, as the Department realizes, has always considered itself a country of transit and not a country of final destination for refugees. It should also be made clear that none of these refugees is permitted to work in Portugal and consequently, for the most part, they are being supported by private funds which come from the United States. Further, the fact that they can't work and support themselves

How many of these are there?

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

RECEIVED
OCT 20 1944
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

themselves has resulted in a great deal of moral deterioration. Some of them have definitely taken the position, almost inevitable under the circumstances, that they should be cared for.

Check with info of this organization find out if this is true

A further problem which is very disturbing concerns what is going to happen to these individuals at the end of the war. Some of them ultimately may be returned to the country of their origin and others may conceivably secure visas for other lands. However, this will only be done after very considerable effort on the part of the organizations which are now taking care of them, and it is the feeling of the organizations that if they remain here, the chances of their leaving are very small. Another complicating factor in this connection is that most of the organizations, which for obvious reasons have maintained their European headquarters in Portugal since 1940, will sooner or later be moving their personnel to other areas where there are greater needs, and this will leave this particular group of refugees without anyone to look after their interests. This would not only be unfortunate for the refugees themselves but the Embassy feels that it might present a problem in American-Portuguese relations as the Portuguese might feel that American interests were responsible for bringing these people here and that we have left them holding the bag. A sad aspect of the situation is that these are the refugees who for one reason or another would find it the most difficult to move unless there were considerable pressure behind them.

In view of these facts, the Embassy has not only given considerable thought to what might be done to these unfortunate people but has also consulted the various private agencies involved. It has occurred to the Embassy that if the camp at Fedhala is to be maintained for some time, one solution would be to send as many of these people as possible, excluding those who have possibilities for visas elsewhere or who can perhaps shortly return to their native lands, to Fedhala. There are several obvious advantages to such a plan:

1. There is no question but that the refugees will be far better cared for in the camp at Fedhala than they are here in Portugal at present, and they would be provided with a certain amount of occupation. If they were able to work and opportunities were available, they could possibly be given remunerative employment. In addition, there are in the camp excellent schools for children which are entirely missing here in Portugal and there is good medical and social care.

2. They would have a far better chance of being returned to their homelands or sent elsewhere from Fedhala than they would have here in Portugal. At the end of the war or even sooner, the refugees here would be forgotten. There would be no particular foreign pressure for their care or plans made for their ultimate destination. If they were in Fedhala, obviously the camp would sooner or later be liquidated and careful plans could be made for each individual.

3. This

3. This plan would obviously be looked on with favor by the Portuguese authorities and it would inevitably result in a willingness on the part of the Portuguese to grant Portuguese transit visas for other refugees still in occupied territory. It seems true that not many of them would ultimately reach Portugal but the fact that the Portuguese granted visas might save the lives of many in occupied territories even if they never came to Portugal.

Of course, this suggestion is being made only tentatively by the Embassy as it has no definite information as to the plans for Fedhala. At the same time, the Embassy understands that both the British and the American Governments have decided for the time being not to liquidate the camp and it seems that the suggestion, if it were possible to carry it out, would accomplish several results. First, it would sweeten American-Portuguese relations; second, it would fulfill whatever moral obligations the United States and the United Nations have toward these unfortunate people; and third, it would give them far better care for the present and infinitely better prospects for the future.

The Embassy should add that reports which it has had regarding Fedhala are excellent. The people there are well cared for and everything possible is being done to set them on their feet. It is impossible to do anything here except simply provide for their maintenance.

There would, of course, be certain difficulties in the way. Some of the refugees who are thoroughly demoralized would not be willing to go voluntarily to a place where they had to work. Others would object to going to a camp. Incidentally, the name might be changed to reception center or something of this sort which would meet that objection. Still others would feel that they had an immediate chance to go back to their homeland when such chance was by no means immediate. All of these problems would have to be met here but the Embassy believes that it would have the cooperation of the private agencies and that it itself could do a good deal in the way of persuasion.

In view of the fact that the Representative of the War Refugee Board is scheduled for withdrawal December 1, and since the major part of the work, if the plan were approved by the authorities concerned, would fall upon him so far as it is an Embassy responsibility, it is hoped that the Embassy may have the comments of the Department and the War Refugee Board and, if possible, a definite decision at an early date.

It is assumed that the War Refugee Board will be interested in this despatch, and if the Department perceives no objection, it is hoped that it will be transmitted to the Board.

Respectfully yours,

For the Ambassador:


Edward S. Crocker,
Counselor of Embassy

RUD:ev

My dear Ambassador:

Reference is made to ^{the} letter dated October 6, 1944, from Mr. Edward S. Crocker to the Secretary of State requesting that the War Refugee Board comment upon ~~the~~ ^{the Board's suggestion} ~~the~~ recommendation that approximately 700 refugees from ~~the~~ various European countries who are now in Lisbon be transferred to Camp Lyautey at Fedhala.

It is the War Refugee Board's understanding that very few of the refugees referred to ⁱⁿ Mr. Crocker's letter were admitted to Portugal at the request of the Board. ~~It is believed~~ ^{as it can be readily arranged} ~~that the majority of the other refugees have been in Portugal~~ ^{for several years and in most cases were not admitted to Portugal at the request of private American agencies.} The Joint Distribution Committee which cares for 400 to 500 of the above refugees has no intention of withdrawing financial support when its headquarters are transferred from Lisbon elsewhere. Furthermore, the Committee apparently intends to continue as at present to do all possible to find a domicile for these refugees, despite the fact that by the transfer of these refugees to Fedhala the Joint Distribution Committee might be thus relieved of all financial and other responsibility. When this possibility was mentioned to a representative of the Committee, it was rejected as no solution whatsoever.

The Board has no reason to feel that the plans of the other agencies responsible for refugees now in Lisbon will be any different from those of the Joint Distribution Committee. It, therefore,

000413

sees no danger that the Portuguese Government will be left
- "holding the bag" with regard to these refugees.

A copy of this letter is being forwarded to the Secretary
of State.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Ambassador Norweb,
Embassy of the United States of America,
Lisbon, Portugal.

000414

My dear Mr. Ambassador:

Reference is made to the letter dated October 16, 1944, from Mr. Edward S. Crocker, Counselor of the Embassy, to the Secretary of State, requesting the War Refugee Board's comment upon the Embassy's suggestion that those among the 700 refugees from various European countries now in Portugal, not having immediate migratory possibilities, be evacuated to Camp Lyautey at Fedhala.

It is the War Refugee Board's understanding that very few of the refugees referred to in Mr. Crocker's letter were admitted to Portugal at the request of the Board. It is understood further that the few refugees so admitted at the request of the Board are presently being cared for by the Joint Distribution Committee, which has likewise charged itself with the responsibility for their ultimate evacuation from Portugal.

Upon receipt of the above letter, the Joint Distribution Committee was informally queried concerning its future plans with regard to these and the other refugees now under its care in Portugal. We have been advised that regardless of any ^{future} transfer of its European headquarters the Joint Distribution Committee has no intention of withdrawing its support from the 400 to 500 refugees now under its care in Portugal.

In view of the above and in view also of the fact that the Portuguese Government is not pressing for the evacuation of these refugees, ~~it would seem premature at the present time to recommend their transfer to Camp Lyautey.~~
the Board is not prepared

000415

- 2 -

A copy of this letter is being forwarded to the
Secretary of State.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Honorable R. Henry Norweb,
United States Ambassador,
Embassy of the United States of America,
Lisbon, Portugal.

000416

My dear Mr. Ambassador:

Reference is made to the letter dated October 16, 1944 from Mr. Edward S. Crocker, Counselor of the Embassy, to the Secretary of State, requesting the War Refugee Board's comment upon the Embassy's suggestion that those among the 700 refugees from various European countries now in Portugal, not having immediate migratory possibilities, be evacuated to Camp Lyautey at Fedhala.

It is the War Refugee Board's understanding that very few of the refugees referred to in Mr. Crocker's letter were admitted to Portugal at the request of the Board. It is understood further that the few refugees so admitted at the request of the Board are presently being cared for by the Joint Distribution Committee which has likewise charged itself with the responsibility for their ultimate evacuation from Portugal.

Upon receipt of the above letter, the Joint Distribution Committee was informally queried concerning its future plans with regard to these and the other refugees now under its care in Portugal. We have been advised that regardless of any transfer of its European headquarters the Joint Distribution Committee has no intention of withdrawing its support from the 400 to 500 refugees now under its care in Portugal.

In view of the above and in view also of the fact that the Portuguese Government is not pressing for the evacuation of these refugees, it would seem premature at the present time to recommend their transfer to Camp Lyautey.

000411

... from the ...
... of ...
... from ...
... reference is ...
... MA 0801 ...

A copy of this letter is being forwarded to the
Secretary of State.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Honorable R. Henry Norweb,
United States Ambassador,
Embassy of the United States of America,
Lisbon, Portugal.

MJM:láb 11/8/44

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

000418

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

CP-862
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. [REDACTED]

Lisbon

Dated September 14, 1944

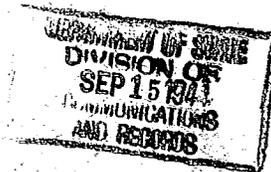
Rec'd 10:52 p.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

2864, September 14, 11 a.m.

WRB 188



Portuguese Foreign Office, while sympathetic humanitarian aims expressed Embassy's notes 498, August 17 and 515, August 31, feels it impossible to admit refugees falling in classifications outlined Department's telegrams 211^c, July 28 and 2332, August 24 without more effective guarantees from United States that all of these people, whether given US visas or not, will be speedily removed from Portugal by US if admitted. Ministry and government fear end of war and consequent decline US interest. Specifically object to statement that recipients of US visas after July 1, 1941 will only be admitted to the US subject to US immigration law and other limitations. Also object to indefiniteness of statement that US will evacuate those not given US visas as soon as possible. Desire US guarantee definite time limit on stay in

Portugal

[REDACTED]
For security reasons the
text of this message must
be closely guarded

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

000419

-2-#2864, September 14, 11 a.m., from Lisbon

Portugal for all coming under classifications DEPTEL 2118 and 2332. Also statement regarding specific country which has in advance accepted those unable secure US visas, and guarantee transport for evacuation of all visa and non-visa within comparatively short period. If above requirements impossible to meet, and they seem very formidable, doubt if Portugal will take affirmative action above notes. Embassy is asked for definite written guarantee along above lines.

NORWEB

JT

000420

AIR MAIL

No. 914
X

Lisbon, August 31, 1944

Subject: Granting of Visas for Certain Categories of
Aliens from Enemy Countries

The Honorable
The Secretary of State
Washington

35 MRB.
War Refugee Board
New York

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of the Embassy's Note Verbale, No. 515, August 31, 1944, to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the above subject. This Note was sent in accordance with the Department's telegram No. 2342 of August 24. It will be observed that in the Note the Ministry has not been asked to advise foreign governments of Portugal's willingness to allow persons falling within these categories to enter Portugal. It seemed wisest to obtain the permission first and then to request the Portuguese Government to notify the governments with which the United States is at war.

The substance of the Department's telegram has been made available to the Consular Section of the Embassy and the provisions for the issuance of the visas in question thoroughly discussed. All necessary arrangements are being made in accordance with instructions and the Embassy awaits notification by telegram of the names of persons for whom petitions have been filed.

Representatives of private agencies in Portugal have also been apprised of the contents of the telegram and will inform the Embassy if they know of any individuals coming under the categories mentioned who enter Portugal. If the Embassy learns of any such persons, either directly or through the private agencies, it will, as requested, notify the War Refugee Board immediately. The Embassy will advise the Department and the Board of any developments that may occur in connection with this program.

It is assumed that the War Refugee Board will be interested in this despatch and the enclosed copy of the Note Verbale, and if the Department perceives no objection, it is requested that they be transmitted to the Board.

Respectfully yours,

For the Ambassador:

Charles E. Dickerson, Jr.
First Secretary of Embassy

RECEIVED
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 13 1972

Enclosure: 11

Copy of Note Verbale No. 515

RD: ew

000421

Enclosure to despatch No. 914, August 31, 1944, from
the Embassy at Lisbon.

Copy of Note Verbale No. 515

The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Portuguese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and has the honor to inform the Ministry that the United States Government has authorized its Consular officers in Portugal to issue immigration visas to aliens who are the parents, husbands, wives or unmarried minor children of American citizens and to alien wives and unmarried minor children of aliens who have been lawfully admitted into the United States for permanent residence. These arrangements are, of course, subject to the ordinary restrictions of the immigration laws of the United States.

The Swiss Government is being requested to advise the governments with which the United States is at war, particularly Hungary and Germany, that American Consular officers in Portugal and other neutral countries have been authorized to issue immigration visas to the above classifications of individuals who have been in an area controlled by Germany or any of Germany's allies, provided that such individuals are able to present themselves to American Consular officers and are found not to be disqualified for a visa.

The Embassy therefore requests the Ministry that it be kind enough to use its good offices in arranging for the entry into Portugal of persons falling within the categories described above. The Embassy assures the Ministry that any such persons who may be admitted will be adequately maintained and that any who may be found not to be qualified for the issuance of United States immigration visas will be evacuated as promptly as possible. Similar requests have been directed to the Governments of Turkey, Sweden, Switzerland and Spain.

This action of the United States Government is made solely for humanitarian purposes and the Embassy is confidently relying on the generosity of the Government of Portugal to assist in every way possible.

Lisbon, August 31, 1944.

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BOVEN

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DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

NMC-647

1944 AUG 24 11 52

PLAIN

Lisbon

Dated August 24, 1944

Rec'd 11:23 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

2613, Twenty-fourth, 6 p.m.

FOR LEAVITT FROM FILPEL WRB 164 JDC 57.

Joseph Castillon designated by World Jewish

Congress under July 13th agreement rejects
appointment and refused be bound wherefore consider
agreement void and status quo ante reestablished
Spain, Portugal. Local committee now caring 20
children here and will care for additional arrivals
from Spain and France.

NORTEL

WTF NPL

000423

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

REC-645
1941 AUG 24 11 53

PLAIN

Lisbon

Dated August 24, 1941

Rec'd 11:27 p.m.

*J - War Ref
Bd (m)
Pohl*

Secretary of State,
Washington,

CONTROL COPY

2612, Twenty-fourth, 6 p.m.

WRB 162.

Joseph Crustillon designated by World Jewish Congress under July 13th agreement rejects appointment and refuses to be bound by it. JDC here (see WRB 162) therefore considers agreement void and local representatives Jewish Agency acquiesce. In view present military situation feel this will not seriously affect rescue program. Also feel reasonably sure situation here and in Spain can be cleared without too much difficulty.

NORWEB

WMP NPL

000424

August 21, 1944

Dr. Robert C. Dexter
American Embassy
Lisbon, Portugal

Dear Dr. Dexter:

Mr. James H. Mann who, as you know, has served until recently as an Assistant Executive Director of the War Refugee Board in Washington, has now been appointed Special Representative of the War Refugee Board for Spain and will be attached to the American Embassy there. I have designated Mr. Mann to be in charge of War Refugee Board matters for the Iberian Peninsula. Accordingly, I shall expect that you will keep him advised of your activities in Lisbon and will consult him on major decisions which are to be made in the field.

Both the Board and the State Department were highly pleased that the Joint Distribution Committee and the World Jewish Congress representatives in Lisbon were finally brought into an agreement. However, there were some things of a rather disturbing nature concerning this situation which Mr. Mann reported to me. It is my understanding that the relations between you and the Joint Distribution Committee representatives in Lisbon are not as cordial as I would like them to be. Accordingly, I shall expect you to make every effort to improve those relations and am hopeful that with your efforts and Mr. Mann's presence on the peninsula, we will be able to have the same kind of relations with the field representatives of the Joint Distribution Committee which the Board enjoys with that organization in the United States.

I have asked Mr. Mann to take up with you several matters concerning your operations in Lisbon. You should consider his comments and instructions as coming directly from me.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

JHMann:das

10042



A CRUZ VERMELHA PORTUGUESA

Com muito cumprimentos.

17.6.44

PRAÇA DO COMERCIO
LISBOA

TEL. 244444

000420

Confidential information on the activity of Mr. Isaac Weissman, their Delegate in Portugal, with Head Office at Hotel Tivoli, Av. Liberdade

The Portuguese Red Cross had been requested by the "American Joint Distribution Committee" and by the Comunidade Israelita de Lisboa, to deal with the problem of giving assistance to the children victims of the War, coming from Spain and from France. It was requested that the children could stay in Portugal to rest, before leaving for the United States of America and Palestine.

It was not the first time that we were going to deal with such a matter. In 1942 we came to an arrangement regarding the transit of five thousand children, which did not take place due to the development of the International conflict; in 1943, three different groups of children passed through our country, coming from Spain, who sailed in Portuguese steamers to the United States of America.

By several talks at the Foreign Affairs Ministry, it was understood that the United States of America Embassy and British Embassy were dealing with the same affair, and it was found convenient to get in touch with same. It was ^{said} by the former that the Embassies were only attending to the granting of the "vistos" near the Portuguese Government, for the entrance in the emigrating places, and that the questions of transit and accommodation were in charge of the Delegate of the World Jewish Congress, Mr. Isaac Weissman.

As this Delegate is not entitled near the Portuguese Red Cross, nor he is also near the organisations that he represents, which is verified at page 30 of the Boletim Oficial da Cruz Vermelha Portuguesa, in reference to the first semester of 1943, where are described the Organisations of Red Cross And Assistance, who have their delegates near the Portuguese Institution, and by our records. Besides, the above mentioned Delegate of W.J.C. was he who organised the "Comissão de Auxilio aos Transitarios Estrangeiros para a Legalisação da sua Estadia na Eriçeira" with Head Office in Lisbon, at Rua dos Fanqueiros, 15 -52 which existed in 1942 and was closed down in the next year as a result of the non granting of Authorization from the Policia de Vigilancia e Defesa do Estado, which had been granted as usually at his request.

The activity of this "Comissão" was of such a nature that the Director of P.V.D.E. by their note to the Comunidade Israelita in Lisbon, said that "the subject had been treated in a loyal and correct manner.

However, I soon found out, that there was something the matter with the clandestines, and for this reason I accepted no longer the intervention of the Comité". Further, in the same letter, dated 14th May 1943, says: "there is no ill will against those clandestines. We shall not say the same regarding those who deal with their fares, promising them

000420

Font."

every facility, for which they do not take any responsibility as soon as they receive the price of the business."

Moreover: The Comunidade Israelita de Lisboa, according to letters sent to the Policia de Vigilancia e Defesa do Estado by that Institution, had never been in touch with the "Comissão" mentioned. However, same made use of their name to guarantee the assistance in Portugal to the clandestine refugees for whom he got permission to stay at Ericeira, not being authorized to do so.

Closed down this "Comissão", it even seems that the Authorities sent Mr. Isaac Weissman to Caldas da Rainha.

Regarding the problem of children, there were several talks between the Portuguese Red Cross and Mr. Weissman having after a meeting with the respective President His Excellence Vice-Admiral Guilherme Ivens Ferraz, being present the Secretary of same Institution.

By the Delegate of W.J.C. was said that he only needed the protection of our Institution, as he disposed of funds enough for his enterprise.

However, on 19th May he sent a letter to the American Joint Distribution Committee, Institution that he said did not want to work with for several reasons, asking for funds for his plan, and according to the same letter, he said that he knew that this Organisation was financially prepared to that end.

The Portuguese Red Cross informed him that their protection could not be grant because he was not credited near it.

The American Joint Distribution Committee answered that his request could not be considered as their funds were destined to the assistance through the Comunidade Israelita de Lisboa.

Moreover, the Portuguese Red Cross could not collaborate with a person, who, our Country Authorities refused the necessary guarantee adding as follows.:

By his letter of May 20th Mr. Isaac Weissman sent to the Portuguese Red Cross a photo-Copie of a declaration from the Committee for Relief of the War-Stricken Jewish Population, which according to what he says, is a department of the World Jewish Congress, which credits him their delegate to the end of assistance. Such document not being sufficient for him to be entitled.

There is still the fact that Mr. Isaac Weissman said that he tried to make enter clandestinely children from France, which should be impossible to the Portuguese Red Cross to do by their official situation dealing legally with both parties (Germany on one side, United States of America and great Britain on the other). This being the reason why

"con"

should not be easy now a perfect contact of the efforts of the Portuguese Red Cross Embassies of the United States of America and Great Britain, American Joint Distribution Committee and Comunidade Israelita de Lisboa, in the granting of assistance to the children suffering the effects of the war.

It should be very grateful to the Portuguese Red Cross that conjunction of efforts, as it has always been, as a Neutral Institution that is, since the general organization proves that there is no interference of people whom we cannot work with.

As a final note, we point out the fact that many refugees that we have been in touch with, accuse people who explore their poor stricken situation. The Portuguese Red Cross could never act in a manner contrary to their principles.

Lisbon, 16 de Junho de 1944

700423

SERVIÇO DA REPÚBLICA

Exm^o Sr. Vice-Presidente da Comissão
Israelita de

N.º 14184 /SE

Pr. 33-Dos 30

LISBOA

Regra-se que na resposta
se indiquem os números e
data deste ofício.

Em resposta ao ofício de V. Ex.^a, datado de 11 do corrente, tenho a honra de informar que as instruções dadas em tempo ao "Comite" que tratou da situação de refugiados clandestinos foram claras e precisas.

O assunto foi tratado com lealdade e lisura. A breve trecho, porém, tive de concluir que andava no ar um "negocio" com os clandestinos, o que me levou a não aceitar mais a intervenção do "Comite".

Não há, portanto, nada de novo acerca dos clandestinos. A Lei fez-se para se cumprir e, naturalmente os estrangeiros que entram indevidamente no País, são presos. Se, como diz o ofício, alguns não se apresentam, esperando escapar até ao momento da partida, esse facto só pode agravar a sua situação e a das pessoas que lhe tenham dado albergue, mesmo quando estejam para partir.

E como é mais difícil partir clandestinamente do que entrar, naturalmente ficarão sujeitos da mesma forma aos rigores da Lei.

Salvo o caso dos apátridas, não há motivos para que no presente momento entrem clandestinos em Portugal. A nossa representação diplomática em Madrid está autorizada a condicionar a passagem em trânsito de todos os libertos de campos de concentração e outros, de acordo com as representações diplomáticas próprias e protectoras e com as autoridades portuguesas. Se assim e com garantias absolutas poderemos enfrentar o problema.

No caso dos clandestinos o aspecto é outro, pois ninguém, a bem dizer, tem responsabilidade por eles nem pela sua saída do País, o que é grave no momento que atravessamos. A muitos desses indivíduos, mesmo quando obtêm "visto", e negado o "navyert" pelos serviços ingleses, e nos continuamos a aguentar o "pêso morto" de indivíduos cuja fixação temos de aceitar por força.....

Não nos move qualquer má vontade contra esses clandestinos. Já o mesmo não diremos acerca dos que negociam com a sua passagem, acenando-lhes com todas as facilidades e garan

tias, de que não ficam responsáveis uma vez que embolsam o preço do negócio. Ora é preciso, que se assente em que a liberdade e tolerância absoluta que V. Ex.^a humanamente, concordamos, deseja, não vá até ao ponto de estabelecer regras novas, de direito bem menosprezo das obrigações de todos os estrangeiros num País que não é o seu.

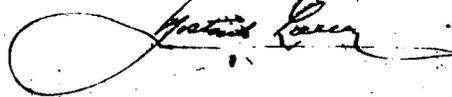
Não posso, porque seria desprestigiado, condicionar a apresentação dos clandestinos, que se encontram no País, aos desejos por eles manifestados. Um conselho dou: o de se apresentarem.

No entretanto vou mandar intensificar a vigilância.

A Bem da Nação

Lisboa, 14 de Maio de 1943

O Director



AT/AF

11

11043



CRUZ VERMELHA PORTUGUÊSA

PRAÇA DO COMÉRCIO - LISBOA

Confidencial

Ex. mo Senhor

James H. Mann

Embaixada dos Estados Unidos da América
Praça da Bolsa, 106

Lisboa

000430

AIR MAIL

CWPG: Portugal

No. 764

CONTROL COPY

3 War Refugee Board (Treas)

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



RESTRICTED

Lisbon, July 24, 1944

~~RESTRICTED~~

Subject: Treatment of Jews and Anti-Nazis in Dutch and Polish Prison Camps

*3 W R B
3/4 War Refugee Board
1 man (m. Bundy)*

The Honorable
The Secretary of State
Washington

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit herewith a memorandum for the War Refugee Board covering statements given here by four American citizens recently evacuated from German camps regarding treatment of anti-Nazis and Jews in German prison camps in Holland Poland. It is assumed that the information will be of interest to the War Refugee Board, and if the Department perceives no objection, it is requested that copies of the memorandum be transmitted to the Board.

Respectfully yours,

For the Ambassador:

Edward S. Crocker
Edward S. Crocker,
Counselor of Embassy

Enclosure:

Memorandum for War Refugee Board.

RCD:ew

840.48 REFUGEE / 7-2444

1043

his face was badly crushed. Fifteen men were shot while trying to escape. The food given in the camps to both the Jewish and the anti-Nazi Dutch was so inadequate that most of the prisoners appeared starved. Their skin turned yellow. Mrs. Johnson and the other American prisoners were given somewhat better food and the anti-Nazi prisoners, Dutch and Jews used to fight over the garbage that came from their section of the camp.

Following their confinement in Amersfort, the Johnsons were taken to the prison at Oberhausen. They were kept at Oberhausen with 42 people in one very small room. Thence they were transported to Liebenau, a prison for American and British, where they had no complaint to make at all. There were no refugees or anti-Nazis in this prison.

Mrs. Johnson reported that before going to Amersfort their house in The Hague was near a Jewish Synagogue and night after night she saw the Dutch Nazis beating up the Jews. If Christians intervened, as many of them did, they were also badly maltreated.

The evacuee interviewed was Fanny Flinder, American passport No. 593,535, issued at Washington the fifteenth of December, 1938. The address of Miss Flinder, who is Jewish, is 1561 Longfellow Avenue, The Bronx, New York.

Miss Flinder went to Poland in 1938 to visit her mother who was living in the city of Radcyn. She was taken seriously ill in May, 1939 and was unable to leave before the war broke out.

She herself was badly maltreated and beaten and imprisoned in Poland. She was put in a prison cell with 94 women, all Jewish. These women were given 20 minutes exercise each day and made to "run like horses." The guards stood near them as they ran and beat them with heavy whips if they did not run fast enough. When the women came in from exercising, many of them were covered with blood. She herself was badly beaten more than once. She claims the prisons were full of filth and lice and day after day they heard the sounds of the beating by the Gestapo. Many of the women as well as the men died from the treatment they received in the prisons and many others committed suicide.

She was then taken to a prison in Berlin, Alexanderplatz, which had been previously a criminal prison, and in one small cell 39 women were confined, all political prisoners or Jews. If the guards happened to feel like it, they would take out the prisoners to special cells which were covered with broken glass and either make the prisoner's dance on the broken glass or roll around on it. If they survived this ordeal, they would then come back to the ordinary cell, streaming with blood. She herself was told that she would be hanged but this was only a threat. After some weeks in the prison at Alexanderplatz, she was transported to Liebenau, as an American, where she also claims the treatment was satisfactory.

Miss Flinder had been living with her mother and stepfather and several younger half-brothers and sisters in Radcyn. She was separated from them when she was sent to prison and has not seen or heard of them since. She was informed that they were sent to a

ghetto....

ghetto in another city and she hopes that they died. Otherwise, they would still be living in torture.

She claims that young Jewish girls were raped and then tortured by the Gestapo. She says that she herself has seen bodies of young girls thrown into streets after this experience. They were treated so badly they were streaming with blood and many of them were viciously mutilated. She also claims that the first question that was asked when the Gestapo entered a Jewish home was "Have you any young women here?", and these women were used to satisfy the passions of the Gestapo guards before they were killed or taken to prison. She tells the story of a cousin of her mother to whom this sort of thing happened and tells of the searching of her stepfather's house for her young half-sister.

Both Mrs. Johnson and Miss Flinder seemed to me to be obviously telling the truth, although it is difficult to understand how any individuals could be as cruel as they reported the Gestapo and the German guards to have been. Miss Flinder reported that the Polish Christians were very friendly to the Jews and did everything they could for them although any Christian aiding a Jew subjected himself to the same penalties as the Jews received.

Neither Miss Flinder nor Mrs. Johnson could give names of their torturers although they said the leaders were always officials and men of the Gestapo. In the case of Mrs. Johnson, many of the torturers were Dutch Nazis although Mrs. Johnson claims that the great majority of the Dutch people were hostile to the Nazi regime.

The important thing in regard to these stories is that they are first-hand evidence of people who actually saw with their own eyes what was happening in parts of occupied Europe. It seems very much worth while that when these individuals arrive in the United States, they be seen and their stories be taken down in detail. Mrs. Johnson's stories are particularly valuable as she is obviously not Jewish. All four women are apparently very badly affected by the experiences which they have had. The nervous strain which they have undergone has left its marks on them.

Robert C. Dexter

Lisbon, July 24, 1944

ROD:aw

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

H. W. B. P. P. P.
DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

E00245

PLAIN

List

Dated July 24, 1944

Rec'd 8:02 p.m.

CONTROL COPY

Secretary of State,
Washington.

2284, July 24, 7 p.m.

FROM E DOBKIN TO JAMES MANN WRB 112.

Returned yesterday from Spain where all parties reached complete agreement. Committee here held first meeting yesterday cordial spirit. Spanish authorities on British Ambassador's request gave favorable reply regarding 1500 transit visas. Intend proceed next week short visit Palestine afterwards to United States. Kindly intervene United States Consulate Cairo for air passage priority from Cairo to United States. Regards.

HORWEB

HEV

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AUG 2 1944
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

RCD:ew

00430

*copy sent
sent to
Portugal
(copy to file)*

AIR MAIL
No. 760



*3 War Refugee Board
Cress*

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

CONTROL COPY

UNRESTRICTED

Lisbon, July 21, 1944

Subject: The Release of Refugees from Prison in Portugal

*2 MRB
3 War Refugee Board (Cress
1 mail (on board))*

The Honorable
The Secretary of State
Washington

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a note verbale recently sent to the Portuguese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, requesting consideration by the Portuguese Government of the matter of release of refugees from prison.

A note on the same subject, couched in different language but covering the same points, is being submitted at the same time by the British Embassy.

It is the intention of both Embassies to pursue the matter if a reply is not received to the notes within a reasonable time.

It is believed that this despatch and the enclosed note would be of interest to the War Refugee Board, and if the Department perceives no objection, it is requested that copies be transmitted to the Board.

Respectfully yours,

For the Ambassador:

Edward S. Crocker
Edward S. Crocker,
Counselor of Embassy

Enclosure:

Copy of note verbale to Portuguese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

RCD:ew

140.48 REFUGEE/7-2144

00043

Enclosure to despatch No. 780, dated July 21, 1944, from
the Embassy at Lisbon

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 464

The Embassy of the United States presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and has the honor to bring to the attention of the Ministry a matter concerning the treatment of refugees in Portugal regarding which the United States Government ventures to bespeak the cooperation of the Government of Portugal.

As the Ministry has already been informed, the President and the Government of the United States have solemnly pledged themselves to do everything possible to alleviate the condition of political and racial refugees from Germany and the occupied countries. Recent statements both by the President and Congress make this abundantly clear.

In this humanitarian effort the United States Government has had most effective cooperation from the Government of Portugal.

Unfortunately many refugees are necessarily without papers and attempt to enter Portugal without visas. Such refugees are frequently placed under arrest and must spend some time in prison. The majority of these individuals are released after a period of detention to fixed residences, for example, to Ericeira and Caldas da Rainha.

Others, however, are apparently retained in confinement for long periods and it is on behalf of such of these as are genuine refugees that this Embassy bespeaks the further cooperation of the Ministry and the Portuguese Government. It is the policy of the United States Government to offer every possible assistance to war victims and in this connection this Embassy is willing to take up the question of support with the various agencies of all genuine refugees coming to Portugal of whatever nationality or religion as long as they are bona fide victims of oppression. Since the numbers of such released refugees would be small and the resources of the agencies are adequate, there is every reason to assume that all would be cared for in reasonable comfort. In addition this Embassy agrees to do all possible to remove such refugees to places of permanent residence, although this is recognized to be a difficult problem at the present time.

In view of the foregoing considerations the Embassy of the United States requests the good offices of the Ministry to the

end....

end that consideration may be given to the matter of release of such refugees as are imprisoned in Portugal to such places of fixed residence as shall be approved by the police. If this Embassy is advised of such intended release, it will, on its part, arrange to make the necessary provision with the assistance of the private agencies for the support of those released and for their ultimate emigration.

Lisbon, July 21, 1944

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Mr. Mann
FROM: R.C.Dexter

Subject: Brief Report on Refugee Situation in Portugal

The Board is fairly well informed as to the general situation in Portugal and this memorandum is simply for your information and to bring matters up to date.

1. Statistics. It is practically impossible to give exact data regarding number of refugees in Portugal. The Portuguese Government does not issue any figures on the subject and we must depend entirely on the reporting by private organizations. Since this Embassy has no mandate to secure statistical data from the private organizations, it is very difficult to get from them accurate detailed reporting. I have requested informally that each organization give statistical reports to this office once a month. I have been completely unsuccessful only with the American Polish Committee (which is a package-sending, not a refugee relief organization), the National Catholic Welfare Council and the Unitarian Service Committee. I have had a partial report covering three months from the Quakers and a report on migration from the Hicem. No reports at all have come from the Joint Distribution Committee. The Quaker report was not cast in such form as to make its statistics very useful.

However, from various sources I gather that there are about 600 Jewish refugees in Portugal under the care of the Joint Distribution Committee or its affiliated organizations. The Catholic Committee is now working with 80 cases; the Quakers with a somewhat smaller number; and the Unitarians have something over 300 on their relief rolls of whom almost half are Spanish. I think therefore it is fair to say that there are about 800 refugees in Portugal, excluding Spaniards. The number has remained fairly constant in the last several months, despite the fact that there have been considerable departures for Palestine, Canada and other countries. The departures are compensated for by people coming in. Recently we have had 32 Jewish refugees from Hungary in one group. The prospects for an increase of the group of refugees, excluding Spaniards, depends almost entirely on what is done in Spain. The prospects for departure depend on securing ship for Palestine and the granting of visas by the United States, Canada, etc.

Regarding the Spaniards which are almost entirely the responsibility of the Unitarian Service Committee - although the Quakers have a few - no one knows how many are in the country. Estimates vary from 1,000 to 3,000. Many of

these....

these Spaniards are in prison and the balance are practically all in the country clandestinely.

The attached detailed report from the Unitarian Service Committee, which was secured just prior to your departure, will give you some idea of the nationality of the various refugee groups and also how they are distributed in Portugal.

Regarding the Spaniards, there are two propositions on foot at the present time which may reduce the number materially:

- a. The possibility of sending 500 to Mexico;
- b. The possibility of sending a considerable number for British Pioneer Corps in North Africa.

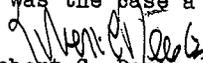
Both are being pushed from this end and the first is under consideration in London at the present moment. There is also a possibility that 20 or 30 non-Spaniards may go to Fedhala, possibly more. The difficulty here is that not many of the refugees here desire to go to a camp in North Africa. My personal feeling is that whether they desire to go or not, they ought to be made to go, but this requires complete cooperation on the part of the agencies which are at present supporting them, and they are hesitant to put the necessary pressure. My reason for urging departure is that it opens up the way here for other people who are in more serious situation to enter.

2. I do not think that it is necessary to describe the situation here as it is well known to the Board. On the whole the refugees are well cared for - sometimes I think too well cared for - by the private organizations. For too many of them Portugal is a country of rest and ease. There are, however, many others who desire to resume an active self-supporting existence. All of this does not apply to the Spanish refugees who are living in constant danger if they are not in prison, and if they are not in prison, are treated rather badly and live with the threat of being sent back to Spain over their heads.
3. Recommendations. The first recommendation has to do with the question of statistics. I believe that it would be very helpful to the Board if this Embassy were requested officially by the Board to ask for monthly reports in the form in which we now receive them from the Catholics and Unitarians, from all American organizations functioning in the country. This will give us a pretty clear picture of the situation. Until such request is officially made by the Board, I do not believe that we shall be able to get the data that we ought to have. Most of these organizations should have the material in the reports which they send to their home offices.

.....
The

The second recommendation is that all private organizations be instructed that it is the Board's policy to empty Portugal of its present refugee population as far as possible, and to that end that they use the financial leverage which they have to insist that people who can leave for any haven of refuge be made to do so, even if it is not the country of their heart's desire. The only two exceptions which I should make to this general sweeping proposition are (a) that it should not apply to people who are ill; and (b) that it should not apply to people whose only alternative is to serve in the French Foreign Legion. The experience of most refugees, particularly Jewish refugees, with the French Foreign Legion has been deplorable and I do not feel that we are justified in insisting on this alternative. Otherwise, it seems to me that Fedhala or any other country is all right. Our main difficulty in Portugal has been that so many refugees have stayed here. That always presents a problem when we ask for visas for others.

One other item I should add and that is that judging by the figures which we now have, in the refugee population in Portugal the Jews are now in the minority. This is, of course, due to the large number of Spanish refugees, but even leaving them out, it would seem that ~~though~~ the percentage of non-Jews here was much higher than was the case a year or two ago.


Robert C. Dexter

Lisbon, July 14, 1944

LIST OF REFUGEES IN PORTUGAL KNOWN TO THE U.S.C.

NAME-Number of persons	NATIONALITY	ADDRESS
ABAD, Severino Pernas (1)	Spanish	Lisbon
ABRANCHES, Aristides S.M. (1)	Portuguese	Beira Alta
AGOUROFF, Vladimir (1)	Russian	Lisbon
AGUZA, Ramon Zama (1)	Spanish	Lisbon
ALEXANDRO, (1) (Alexandre Leroy)	Spanish	Lisbon
ALEXANDRESCU, Alexandre (1)	Rumanian	Cascais
ALVAREZ, Rafael Murietta (2)	Spanish	Lisbon
ALVES, Manuel (1)	Spanish	Lisbon
ARTASANCHEZ, Ceferino (1)	Mexican	Oporto
ALONSO, Antonio Gil (1)	Spanish	Aljube
ALCARAZ, Gines Aparicio (1) (David Cohen)	Spanish	Caxias
BARCENA, Emilio Gallego (1)	Spanish	Lisbon
BARREIROS, Manuel (1)	Spanish	Lisbon
BARROS, Joaquim (1)	Spanish	Lisbon
BERKOWITZ, Simon (2)	Hungarian	Ericeira
BERNSDORFF, Countess May (1)	Brazilian	Estoril
BEST, Emil (2)	German	Ericeira
BOTEZ, Eugene (2)	Rumanian	Mourão
BRAGANZA, Antonio José (4)	Spanish	Lisbon
BRAVO, Amalio (1)	Spanish	Lisbon
BRIGAS, Eugenio (3)	Spanish	Lisbon
BOURGOIS, Pierre (3)	French	Lisbon
BUSTINZA, Julio (1)	Spanish	Lisbon
BOHM, Hans (3)	German	Lisbon
BRAKMAN, Gotard (1)	Latvian	Lisbon
BRAKMAN, David (3)	Latvian	Lisbon
BLANCO, Domingo (1)	Spanish	Lisbon
BRANCO, Martinho (1)	Portuguese	Caxias
BACHS, (1)	?	Lisbon
BARATA, Louise (4)	French	Lisbon
CABALLERO, Rosa (1)	Spanish	Lisbon
CAVILLE, Elisa Antoinette (1)	French	Caldas
CAL, Delmiro (1)	Spanish	Lisbon
CAMP, James (1)	Spanish	Lisbon
CHACON, Rogelio (1)	French	Caxias
CORREIA, Albino (1)	American (?)	Nogueira de Barroso
CANALS, Dolores (4)	Spanish	?
CORREIA, Martinho (1)	Portuguese	Caxias
CUENDA, Vitor Ardila (1)	Spanish	Aljube
DAHLEN van, Freundlich (5)	Dutch	Caldas
BETROYAT, Michel (1) (Fritz Teppich)	Austrian	Ericeira
DIAZ, Francisco Garcia (1)	Spanish	Lisbon
DIMAND, Henri (3)	Austrian	Ericeira

NAME - Number of persons NATIONALITY ADDRESS

NAME - Number of persons	NATIONALITY	ADDRESS
HIGUERA, Juan (1)	Spanish	Campo Mayor
HUYSMANS, Jean Janice (1)	Belgian	Aljube
HAHN, Otto (1)	Austrian	Lisbon
HOEHNER, Friedrich Wilhelm (3)	German	Lisbon
HOFFMANN, Max (1)	German	Caldas
HERNANDEZ, Alexandro de la Cruz (1)	Spanish	Lisbon
HALLIDAY, Sam (2)	British	Caldas
HURTADO, Antonio (1)	Spanish	Aljube
IGLESIAS, Juan Henrique (1)	Spanish	Lisbon
JACOBSEN, Maxim (1)	Lithuanian	Ericeira
XXXXXXXXXX		
JOHN, Waldemar (1)	American	Coimbra
JANEIRO, Amerigo Reis (1)	American	Miranda do Douro
KALLESKE, Willy (1)	German	Peniche
KOHN, Edith (4)	Czech	Ericeira
KREMER, Manfred (2)	Rumanian	Ericeira
LAGO, Adolf Garcia (1)	Spanish	Peniche
LASUEN, Comtesse (2)	Spanish	Lisbon
LEMPERS, Emma (1)	German	Ericeira
LOESCH, Karl (2)	German	Ericeira
LOPEZ, Antonio Garrido (1)	Spanish	Caxias
LOPEZ, Juan Pascal (1)	Spanish	Aljube
LOZANO, Joao (1)	Spanish	Lisbon
LUIZESCU, Stelian (2) (Luxemburg)	Rumanian	Caldas
LUNA, Pedro Ramon (1)	Spanish	Lisbon
LUZ, José Villa (1)	Spanish	Lisbon
LOPES, Raul (1)	American	Torres Vedras
LOWE, Herbert Casanova (1)	American	Lisbon
MANUEL, Quintela (1) (Guilherme Sanchez)	Spanish	Alcobaga
MARGOSIS (1)	Iranian	Caldas
MARQUIS, Roger (3)	French	Peniche (?)
MARTINEZ, Manuel Azumendi (1)	Spanish	Caxias
MARTINEZ, José Antonio (1)	Spanish	Portugal
MATOS, Fernando (1)	Spanish	Lisbon
MESQUITA, Rolando (2)	Portuguese	Lisbon
MOULINET, Arlette (1)	French	Caldas
MENGES, Waleska (1)	German	Caldas
MARIA, Rafael Oliva (2)	Spanish	Lisbon
MIRONES, Estaban (1)	Spanish	Lisbon
MANSUA, Joaquim (3)	Spanish	Lisbon
MOURA, Alice dos Santos (3)	Portuguese	Lisbon
MILLAU, Eugenio Lopez (1)	Spanish	Lisbon

DIRECCION
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 DIVISION
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 INMIGRACION
 Y
 EXTRANJERIA
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044

NAME - Number of persons

NATIONALITY

ADDRESS

- 4 -

NAME - Number of persons	NATIONALITY	ADDRESS
NAVARRO, Pedro Tirado (1)	Spanish	Lisbon
NEGER, Julius (4)	German	Lisbon
NEUSTADT, Heinz (1)	German	Caldas
NEVES, Alfonso \$1)	American	Figueiro dos Vinhos
NUNOZ, Sebastian (1)	Spanish	Aljube
NEUWIRTH, Geza (1)	Hungarian	Portugal - left?
OCHAVA, Peter (1)	American ?	Lisbon ?
OLACIREGUI, Pedro (1)	Spanish	Lisbon
OPPENHEIMER, Selma (1)	German	Ericeira
OUBRY, Blanche Berthe (1)	French	Lisbon
OWCZARZAK, Helmut (4)	German	Caldas
OPARICIO, José (1)	Spanish	Lisbon
PAREDE, José (1)	Spanish	Lisbon
PARMAC, Gregor (1)	Yugoslav	Lisbon
PAYNO, José (Marchante) (3)	Spanish	Caldas
PERIZ, Palacio (5)	Spanish	Lisbon
PICO, Camillo Carbonell (1)	Spanish	Lisbon
PUIG, Maria Jesus Therese (3)	Spanish	Lisbon
POMBAR, Faustino Fernandez (1)	Spanish	Lisbon
PEREIRA, Maria Garret (3)	Fr.-Port.	Lisbon
PANINO, Frederico (1)	Portuguese	Lisbon
QUINTELA, Manuel (1)	Spanish	Alcobaça
RADZIMINSKY, Witold (1)	Polish	Lisbon
RAKOWSKI, Leon (1)	Polish	Ericeira
RODRIGUEZ, Jesus Sampo (1)	Spanish	Lisbon
ROSENBERG, Alice (2)	German	Lisbon
RZYZAK, Albert (2)	Polish	Ericeira
RECIO, Nicamor (1)	Sp-French	Caldas
REINA, Francisco Perez (1)	Spanish	Lisbon
RENCKENS, Natan Kacandenbogien (1)	Belgian	Lisbon
REVELIS, Spiro (1)	Greek	Caldas
RINDFLEISCH, Erich Willy (1)	German	Peniche
RIO, Amando Gonzales (1)	Spanish	Lisbon
RODRIGUES, Antonio (1)	Spanish	Portugal
RODRIGUEZ, Amando (1)	American	Lisbon
RODRIGUEZ, Manuel Francisco (1)	Spanish	Tarrafal
RODRIGUEZ, Melida Perez (1)	Spanish	Caxias
ROME, Frieno Pascual (1)	Spanish	Lisbon
ROSADO, José (1)	Spanish	Candoza
ROSENFELD, Herbert (1)	German	Ericeira
RUIZ, Antonio (1)	Spanish	Lisbon
SANTOS, Jacinto Silva (3)	Portuguese	Lisbon
ZAGATELIAN, Karnig (1)	American	Lisbon
SAUL, Gustav (1)	German	Caldas
SAUSSET, Maxime Narcisse (2)	French	Oporto
SCHUMANN, Abi (1)	ex-Polish	Tarrafal
SALOMON, Mme. Else (1)	German	Coimbra
SILVEIRA, José (1)	Spanish	Lisbon

10. Americans
 1 Argentine
 7 Austrians
 2 Belgians
 2 Brazilians
 5 British
 3 Chilian
 1 Cuban
 4 Czech
 5 Dutch
 20 French
 43 Germans
 3 Greeks
 5 Hungarians
 1 Iranian
 5 Latvian
 1 Luxemberger
 1 Lithuanian
 4 Mexican
 7 Polish
 23 Portuguese
 3 Philipinos
 7 Rumanian
 2 Russians
 129 Spanish
 1 Yugoslav
 5 Uncertain

301 Total

The so-called Portuguese have some claim to be considered as refugees; they are married to foreigners, have lived in another country (usually France) and lost their property or the chance to work, etc. A laege number of them might be called half French.

Distribution Refugees - Unitarian Service Committee

In prison	26
Residence forçée	
1. Caldas da Rainha	48
2. Ericeira	33
3. Other places	10
4. Lisbon	147
Scattering (other places in Portugal)	<u>35</u>
	299

The distribution of refugees given by the Unitarian Service Committee is more or less typical of the distribution of the others, although this Committee has a larger proportionate number of prisoners in its care.

Lisbon, July 14, 1944

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

1 hour Ref. Bk. - P. 10

CONTROL COPY

MAE-44B
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. (W)

Lisbon
Dated July 14, 1944

Rec'd 10:42 a.m.

4843

Secretary of State,
Washington.

DIVISION OF
JUL 15 1944

COMMUNICATIONS *noted*
JBZ

2169, July 14, 1 p.m.

FOR PETEE FROM MANN. WRB 102, reference MBS
telegram 1894, WRB 74 of June 17.

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

Interested parties have now reached agreement
which in my opinion was the only one capable of
settling the fundamental differences and making for
more effective work in this area. Since the details
of the controversy are long and complicated, am not
telegraphing them nor the agreement. Am bringing
agreement and will make detailed report when I arrive
Washington which should be middle of week. Consider
it best to advise interested persons in New York
after arrival.

NORWEB

RB
WSB

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 13 1972

1045

M E M O R A N D U M

At a meeting in the American Embassy attended by Mr. Dobkin, representing the Jewish Agency for Palestine; Mr. Pilpel, representing the Joint Distribution Committee; and Mr. Weissman, representing the World Jewish Congress, with Mr. Mann and Dr. Dexter of the War Refugee Board present as intermediaries and observers, it was agreed by the interested parties that, in order to work more effectively for the rescue from enemy territory of those persons who are in imminent danger of death as a result of Nazi persecutions and oppressions because of their race, religion or political beliefs, there should be a cooperation and collaboration among the interested parties along the following lines:

1) There shall be created in Spain a Rescue Committee which shall have as its sole purpose the rescue of as many as possible of the above-described persecuted persons who are in imminent danger of death. Such Committee shall be composed of:

- a) Mr. Jules Jeffreykin, named by the Joint Distribution Committee;
- b) Mr. Joseph Groustillon, named by the World Jewish Congress; and
- c) Mr. David Sealtiel, named by the Jewish Agency for Palestine.

2) The Rescue Committee shall remain anonymous and no publicity whatsoever shall be given to it, its efforts, its members or the principals represented in connection with the work of such Committee. Such Committee shall act on behalf of all principals and there shall be a free and frank exchange of information and complete cooperation in all rescue work. The principals represented on such Committee shall conduct all rescue operations through it. It shall be the duty of the Rescue Committee to see that the principals in Portugal are informed of all operations of the Committee
in....

The Youth Alyah Committee shall determine the destination, training and education of the children. The Communidade shall be charged with the technical and financial operations connected with the care and maintenance of the children; however, employees used in all operations for the care and maintenance of the children shall be mutually agreed upon by the Communidade and the Youth Alyah Committee.

6) All relations with the foreign Governments or organizations regarding reimbursement for child care shall be exclusively conducted by the Committee or persons or organizations delegated by it.

The subject memorandum is accepted as the agreement between the interested parties.

The original of the subject memorandum shall be kept by Dr. Dexter, Representative of the War Refugee Board in Portugal. Initialled copies of such memorandum shall be given to each of the parties present at the discussion which gave rise to this agreement of cooperation and collaboration, and to Mr. Hart of the British Embassy, who in his capacity as an observer for that Embassy has seen and approved this agreement.

E. Dobkin

Robert Pilpel

Isaac Weissman

WITNESS:

James H. Mann

Robert C. Dexter

J. Hart

Lisbon, July 13, 1944

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Mr. Mapp
FROM: R.C. Dexter

Subject: Proposition of Transit Visas for
1500 Hungarian Jews

Attached herewith is a copy of a letter written by E. Dobkin, Immigration Department, Jewish Agency for Palestine, regarding the above subject. A similar letter was sent to the British Ambassador.

When Mr. Dobkin first consulted with me about this matter a day or two ago, it seemed to me that it would be relatively easier to get the Spanish transit visas necessary if the individuals had Portuguese transit visas.

However, in talking with the Counselor of the Embassy this afternoon, he pointed out that the real necessity was not Portuguese but Spanish transit visas, and that these people could just as easily, perhaps more easily, go from Spain to Palestine than from Portugal. He also pointed out that not only the War Refugee Board but this Embassy itself was making many requests of the Portuguese and that we did not want to use up our capital too quickly. He therefore strongly recommended that we ask Dobkin to make every effort to get Spanish visas. If that were impossible without Portuguese visas, then we might consider the matter again.

I can quite see the logic of Mr. Crocker's position and wish to assure the Board that it is not done through any prejudice on his part or through the Embassy here. It is simply and solely a practical problem. The one thing that he apparently overlooks but which is ever present with us is the fact that we have no adequate representation in Spain who would push the Spanish Government to grant the necessary visas. If we get a strong organization in Spain or even a strong person, Mr. Crocker's position is unassailable. As it is, due to the fact that there is no adequate representation in Spain, your Portuguese representative in this case, as in many others, has to do the best he can. However, in view of the strong position taken by Mr. Crocker, with which, he says, the Ambassador agrees, it seems best for the moment to urge on those interested the securing of Spanish visas, if possible. Since Mr. Dobkin is going into Spain himself soon, this information will be conveyed to him with the request that he keep me advised as to developments. Personally, I am somewhat disappointed as the situation of these people is so dangerous. However, one cannot escape from the realism of the Counselor's position.

Lisbon, July 13, 1944

RFD:Sw

COPY

The Jewish Agency for Palestine

July 12, 1944

His Excellency
The American Ambassador to Portugal
L i s b o n

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

I have the honor to inform you that I have received a telegram signed by a member of the Executive of the Jewish Rescue Committee in Hungary, saying that negotiations are in course with the local authorities regarding the emigration of 1,500 Jews who, I understand, are mostly Rabbis and prominent personalities in Jewish committees and organizations, and asking me to secure the necessary permits for their transit through Spain.

These 1,500 people will be chosen from among the many holders of Palestine Immigration Certificates who are now in Hungary and to whom certificates have already been granted by the Palestine Government and transmitted to Budapest through the Swiss Government as the protecting power. If, in exceptional cases, there are some among these 1,500 who are without Palestine Immigration Certificates I, as the Director of the Immigration Department of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, will undertake to allot the necessary certificates to them subject to the approval of the mandatory power. I assume, from the cable to which I refer above which was sent on July 9th, that these people will travel through Germany and France to the Spanish border in all probability without possessing any regular passports.

In order to facilitate obtaining Spanish transit visas, it is suggested that the Portuguese authorities be approached with a view to obtaining transit visas through Portugal, provided that the above mentioned emigrants have their ultimate destination assured and will, therefore, stay in Portugal no longer than transportation facilities from Portugal to Palestine demand.

I, therefore, take the liberty of requesting the American Embassy and the British Embassy to undertake the necessary steps in order that permission for these 1,500 people to transit Portugal may be forthcoming. An identical letter is being sent to His Excellency, the British Ambassador to Portugal.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(sgd.) E. Dobkin
Immigration Department
Jewish Agency for Palestine

7 1 1 0 4 5

enclosed
7
AIR MAIL

No. 689

CONTROL COPY
EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Lisbon, July 7, 1944

UNRESTRICTED

Subject: Action by Portuguese Government in regard to Provision for Maintenance of Certain Destitute Italian Subjects.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State
Washington

Sir:

I have the honor of informing the Department of action recently taken by the Portuguese Government which, it is believed, shows an increasing concern for certain groups of destitute foreigners in Portuguese possessions.

Decree No. 33,771, published in the Diario do Governo, 1 Series, Number 144, July 5, 1944, provides as follows:

"considering that, because of present circumstances resulting from the war, it is urgent and necessary to give assistance to foreign citizens in Portuguese territory;....

"Article 1. There is opened in the Ministry of Finances, in favor of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a special credit of 1,300,000\$00, destined to the expenses of protecting foreigners in Portuguese territory by reason of the present circumstances resulting from the war, this amount being inscribed as an extraordinary expense in a new section of Article 49 of Section 8 of the budget of the second of the Ministries named for the present year, as follows:

EXTRAORDINARY EXPENSE

Section 8

"Extraordinary expenses resulting from the war

"Article 49 - Various charges resulting from the war:

"2) Expense of protecting foreigners in Portuguese territory motivated by the present circumstances resulting from the war, to be reimbursed at the proper time by the respective States...1,300,000\$00"

It was not clear to this Embassy just what was meant by this appropriation but inquiry at the Foreign Office this morning disclosed the fact that this appropriation is made by the Portuguese to care for some 400 Italian citizens in certain

of the...

*3 MR B
3 MRa Refugee Bond
(Press)
1 MR (Mr. Burt)*

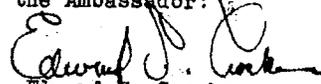
of the Portuguese possessions who, because of the present unsettled situation in Italy, are out of touch with their homeland and without funds. This situation has been reported to the Foreign Office by the Secretary of State for Colonies.

The action taken has apparently been discussed with the Italian Legation in Lisbon and has their approval. It is anticipated by both the Italians and the Portuguese that the amounts expended will be refunded when conditions make it possible.

Since this action was taken in behalf of war victims, it is believed that the War Refugee Board will be interested, and if the Department perceives no objection, it will be appreciated if a copy of this despatch were transmitted to them. So far as we now know, this is the first action of this sort that has been taken by the Portuguese Government and is an indication of the increasing concern of the Portuguese Government in the unfortunate situation of victims of the war.

Respectfully yours,

For the Ambassador:


Edward H. Crocker
Counselor of Embassy

RCD:ew

X

AIR MAIL

No. 695

X

CONTROL COPY

3 War Refugee Board

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

*Memo
J.A.M.*

Lisbon, July 7, 1944

~~RESTRICTED~~

RESTRICTED

*3 War Refugee Board
1 War (Don't know)*

Subject: Transmitting Memorandum to War Refugee Board
Prepared by Robert C. Dexter, Special Attache,
in Portugal, Concerning Note from British
Foreign Office on General Problem.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State
Washington

Sir:

I have the honor of transmitting herewith memorandum prepared by Robert C. Dexter, Special Attache to this Embassy on refugee matters, conveying the substance of a note sent to the British Embassy from the British Foreign Office with their comments thereon, and the action taken by representatives of this Embassy and the British Embassy meeting in conference. This memorandum also deals with one or two other items in the program of the War Refugee Board in the peninsula. Provided the Department perceives no objection, it would be appreciated if the memorandum were forwarded to the War Refugee Board.

Respectfully yours,

For the Ambassador:

Edward S. Crocker
Edward S. Crocker
Counselor of Embassy

Enclosure:

As stated above.

RCD:ew

1045

Enclosure to despatch No. 695, dated July 7, 1941, from the Embassy at Lisbon.

MEMORANDUM

To: John W. Pehle, Executive Director,
War Refugee Board

From: Robert C. Dexter, Special Attache,
American Embassy, Lisbon

I have delayed transmitting a detailed report of the situation in Portugal pending the return of assistant director Mann from Madrid. It is my thought that he and I together could then prepare a report dealing with all aspects of the situation in the peninsula. However, one or two matters have arisen recently on which it might be helpful if I made an interim report:

1. Regarding the controversy between the Joint Distribution Committee and the World Jewish Congress, you will be interested to know that for the first time since the two organizations have been functioning in Portugal, their respective representatives met in an apparently friendly conference a day or two ago and yesterday they had lunch together. I expect to hear the outcome of the luncheon meeting shortly.

2. You will recall the detailed memorandum submitted with despatch No. 427 which was prepared by the British Embassy in Lisbon and transmitted to the Foreign Office on the latter part of April. A day or two ago the British Embassy here telephoned and reported that they had received a long instruction with detailed comments on this report, particularly regarding its recommendations. Representatives of the British Embassy and this Embassy conferred together and I think it will be interesting to you to have a summary at least of the Foreign Office report and an indication of the action that is to follow.

First of all, I should say that apparently the Foreign Office has given the situation here very careful consideration and has shown a genuine interest in the problem which is only equalled by the equally genuine interest which the British Embassy takes in these matters.

The British Foreign Office took up point by point the suggestions made in their Embassy's memorandum beginning on Page 2 of the memorandum as sent to you in April.

1a. The suggestion of admission of children has already been cared for by action of the Portuguese government at the request of both the British and American Embassies here.

1b. Page 3. The Foreign Office felt that little could be done in regard to admitting additional refugees from the East until we had absolute assurance that they would be cared for within a short time elsewhere. The representatives of the two Embassies here added that the practical problems of transportation made the likelihood of many people from Slovakia and Hungary reaching here very difficult.

1c. The Foreign Office felt very strongly that both Embassies should make representations to the Portuguese Government regarding the treatment of refugees born in Russia.

Since...

Since at the present moment there are so few of such refugees here, it was the feeling of the representatives of the Embassies in conference that it would be unwise to make representation in principle and that we would only antagonize the Portuguese Government and possibly affect their attitude toward the general refugee situation adversely. It was felt that the few Russians that are here might well be handled by case basis.

1d. This recommendation has no practical effect. There is no special permission for relatives and each visa case has to be handled on its own basis.

2a. The Foreign Office felt that this was a matter that had to do with Portuguese internal policy and that it would probably be unwise for us to press it at the present time. There is no question that the allowing of refugees to work here would be one of the most beneficial things that could be done but in view of the economic situation of the country, it was felt that any attempt to secure such permission except in special cases where the individuals had special qualifications would react disastrously to the whole refugee program.

2B. The Foreign Office felt that the Embassy should make a definite attempt, formally and officially, to secure the transfer of refugees from prison to fixed residence. It was realized by the representatives of the two Embassies that this would be a delicate problem but it was, nevertheless, decided that I should prepare a draft note which the representatives of both Embassies should discuss in conference, and if we could arrive at similar wording, present joint notes to the Portuguese government urging release of refugees from prison. In order to do this, it was obvious that the Embassy should guarantee (1) maintenance for such refugees as are released; and (2) should guarantee to make every attempt to get such refugees out of Portugal.

2c. This question, that of brutal treatment of the refugees by the Portuguese, is again a delicate one. Nevertheless, the Foreign Office felt and we agreed that something should be done about it. It was finally decided that the best way to handle this question was indirectly, and tentatively the British and American Embassies have agreed that the Attache for the War Refugee Board and a representative of the British Embassy should make it a practice of visiting all the prisons in which political refugees are kept in the mainland of Portugal. We can make an excuse for our visits that we wish to see certain refugees regarding visa possibilities, etc., but such visits, if made at periodic intervals, would, it is believed, check up on cases of brutality and prevent their recurrence. In this connection it is of vital importance that adequate transportation be provided. It would make far more of an impression on the Portuguese if the visitors arrived in a good-looking GD car than in a broken-down taxi.

3x. This matter of securing shipping for Constanza is in process at the present time. The Foreign Office was very sympathetic but had little definite to offer in the way of suggestion. After our conference it was felt that two matters might be taken up immediately.

First....

First, there are two parts to this transportation situation: a. the transport of refugees from the Iberian peninsula to Palestine; and b. transport of refugees from Constanza to Palestine. In regard to both, the determining factor is the German safe conduct. It was felt that inquiry should be made as to just under what terms the Joint Distribution Committee, which is conducting the detailed negotiations, asked for the safe conduct. Following the conference I consulted with the Joint's representative and he said that they had asked for the safe conduct in two parts: 1. from Lisbon to Haifa; and 2. from Haifa to Constanza, and that so far both had been refused. It was felt by the representatives of the Embassy in conference that maybe the first would be given and the latter withheld but such is not the case; 2. The other problem is a much more serious one. The question was brought up by a representative of the British Embassy whether or not the War Refugee Board and the War Shipping Administration would be willing to do for a Portuguese ship what they agreed to do for the TARI, namely, to agree to provide another ship in case the Portuguese ship sailed without safe conduct and was sunk. My feeling was that this matter should not be taken up with the War Refugee Board until we found out what the attitude of the Joint Distribution Committee was in the matter. In addition I felt, and in this the other representative of this Embassy who was present and the British representative agreed with me, that the two questions were not parallel. The people in Constanza are in a very dangerous situation. Those on the Iberian peninsula are in an uncomfortable situation but three of us felt that we were not justified in risking the lives of the refugees here in having them sail on the ship without safe conduct even if the Portuguese were willing. That is not the case in the Black Sea area. However, without stating my own position at all, I put the question up to Mr. Pilpel of the Joint Distribution Committee and he was emphatic in his feeling that we should not ask refugees from the Iberian peninsula to sail for Palestine without a safe conduct. That definitely disposes of that aspect of the question.

Frankly I am exceedingly pessimistic regarding the possibility of getting a Portuguese ship. Every effort has been made and the efforts have been strongly backed by both Embassies, so far with no success. The Portuguese are short of shipping and I do not see any way in which we can get them to risk one of their ships without safe conduct nor do I believe that refugees should be asked to sail on a ship without it.

3y. The Foreign Office felt that plans should be made for dealing with the possible influx of refugees to the Iberian peninsula due to the military events further north and to the east. This was agreed upon by those present, and as a result, despatch No. 427 was sent to you.

3z. This matter, the Foreign Office said, had been referred to the Ministry of Economic Warfare and just what that means, no one present at the conference seemed to know. There is no question but that there is a need of additional packages but owing to the fact that communications are at the present moment pretty well cut off from Portugal to the rest of Europe and that not even packages for prisoners of war are moving in any great numbers, it seems to be a practical rather than a theoretical problem. Even if the permission were given, it is doubtful now that many packages would get through. Just yesterday word reached the Embassy that all mail, telegraphic and radio communications have been interrupted by action of the "Maquis." However, every effort is being made by the organizations interested to send packages and we hope that before long, more can be sent.

Lisbon, July 6, 1944

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

KEM-258

PLAIN

Lisbon

Dated June 29, 1944

Rec'd 6:46 a.m., 30th.

CONTROL COPY

Secretary of State,

Washington.

JUN 30 1944

2032, June 29, 6 p.m.

WRB 89. This Embassy has conveyed contents of
resolution in Department's circular telegram June 28 to
Portuguese Government and taken all possible steps
suggested last paragraph same telegram.

NORWEB

RR

WRB

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL .: CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

330 WEST 42nd STREET
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

NEW ADDRESS:

330 WEST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

CABLES: CONGRESS, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: LONGACRE 5-2600

LONDON
55 New Cavendish St., W 1

GENEVA
37 Quai Wilson

BUENOS AIRES
Corrientes 2024-90

JERUSALEM
Vaad Leumi, P.O.B. 471

MONTREAL
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY
Sonora 174-4

(1) Pehle
(2) Horel
June 21, 1944

In reply refer
to No. 103

Hon. John W. Pehle
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

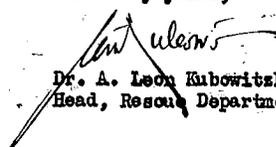
Dear Mr. Pehle:

I regret to have to inform you that we received
from Mr. Weissman a cable which starts as follows:

"Consequence Joint's interference children
rescue suffering."

I will be very grateful to you for letting me
know whether Mr. James Mann has concluded his inquiry,
and what suggestions have been submitted in order
to settle the unfortunate difficulties of the Lisbon
situation.

Sincerely yours,


Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki
Head, Rescue Department

ALK:bg

*copy sent
to the
President*

AIRMAIL
No. 690

3 War Refugee Board (Leas)

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Lisbon, July 5, 1944
*3 WRB
3 War Refugee Board (Leas)
1 War (im Pending)*

UNRESTRICTED

Subject: Report on Distribution of Resolution
Passed by the House Foreign Affairs
Committee on Oppression of Minority Groups

The Honorable
The Secretary of State
Washington

CONTROL COPY

Sir:

Referring to the Department's circular unnumbered telegram of June 28th transmitting resolution passed by House Foreign Affairs Committee on oppression of minority groups, I have the honor to report the following.

Thanks to the excellent cooperation of the Press Attache of this Embassy the full text of the resolution was sent to all Portuguese newspapers on June 29th and appeared in the following newspapers June 30th. Clippings are enclosed.

A Voz
Diario da Manha
Diario Popular

The full text was also sent to the Program Director of Emissora Nacional and was broadcast in full on the main news programs at 9 P.M. on June 29th and at 1 P.M. on June 30th.

The resolution was also used as the leading article in the Press Office's weekly illustrated bulletin which is distributed to a mailing list of 20,000. A copy of the bulletin is enclosed.

In addition, the text was given personally to the former Hungarian Press Attache, Dr. Ladislau Sima. Dr. Sima belongs to that Hungarian group which has refused allegiance to the new Budapest government and its present representative in Lisbon, but he assured a representative of this Embassy that he would see to it that the text was brought to the attention of all Hungarian officials here.

Further, another officer of this Embassy, in addition to the Press Attache, who contacted Dr. Sima, undertook to see to it that the text got through to the present Hungarian representatives here.

Up to the time of writing this despatch all the clippings are not in and there may be articles in other newspapers which

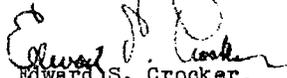
have....

1045

have not yet been seen. If they come to the attention of the Embassy, they will be sent on in due course. The War Refugee Board is interested in this matter and if the Department perceives no objection it is requested that a copy of this despatch together with the enclosures be sent them.

Respectfully yours,

For the Ambassador:


Edward S. Crocker,
Counselor of Embassy

✓
Enclosures:

1. Clippings from A Uoz, Diario da Manha, and Diario Popular.
2. Press Office's weekly bulletin.

RCD;ew

10046

2 - War Ref. Bd.
Mr. Pihle

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Embassy, Lisbon
DATED: July 3, 1944
NUMBER: 1900

CONTROL COPY

The Governments of the United States and Great Britain have agreed that in furtherance of their joint policy to use every means available consistent with the successful prosecution of the war to bring about the rescue of the victims of German persecution in imminent danger of death a joint approach should be made to the Portuguese Government in the sense of the following:

QUOTE The Governments of the United States and Great Britain are appreciative of the assistance already rendered by the Portuguese Government to refugees who have fled from German-controlled Europe as the result of persecution on account of race, religion, or political belief. The Governments of the United States and Great Britain believe, however, that if the persecuted minority groups still remaining in German-controlled Europe have further assurances that, if they are able to make their way to neutral territory, they will be received and their minimum material needs provided for until such time as they can be moved onward to other havens of refuge or repatriated to their homeland, the rescue of still greater numbers from inhuman oppression might be effected. If such assurances are not forthcoming, it is feared that the death toll among the persecuted minority groups will continue to increase.

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

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The Governments of the United States and Great Britain in furtherance of their joint policy to use every available means consistent with the successful prosecution of the war to bring about the rescue of victims of German oppression in imminent danger of death, appeal to the humanitarianism of the Portuguese Government in behalf of these persecuted persons in the hope that the Portuguese Government will find it possible to adopt an even more liberal policy than heretofore as regards the reception and temporary care of refugees from German-controlled Europe.

The Governments of the United States and Great Britain wish to assure the Portuguese Government that for their part they will be glad to arrange for the provision of such additional food and other supplies as may be required to meet the added burden on Portuguese resources resulting from the temporary care of refugees, as well as funds if needed. The Governments of the United States and Great Britain wish further to assure the Portuguese Government that they will make every effort to arrange for the onward movement to other havens of refuge of such refugees as may be received by Portugal. UNQUOTE

You are requested to concert with your British colleague who is expected shortly to receive instructions substantially in the sense of the above.

Similar joint approaches are being made to the Swedish, Turkish, Swiss, and Spanish Governments.

HULL

10 4 6

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

VMT-520

JUN 18 1944

COMMUNICATIONS

PLAIN

Lisbon

Dated June 17, 1944

Rec'd 10:15 p.m.

CONTROL COPY

Secretary of State,
Washington.

1874, June 17, 3 p.m.

WRB 73. Referring circular telegrams June 14 and 15.

Information therein conveyed Portuguese Ministry Foreign Affairs with request for comment and cooperation. Also sent copy President's statement June 12. Commercial news agencies released story and news items appeared in four Portuguese newspapers to date. No release prepared by Press Attache account commercial releases and conflict with invasion news. Action taken received enthusiastic approval all concerned with rescue relief activities. It is felt that this will strengthen our Government's position in dealing with refugee problem.

NORWEB

EJH
LMS

10046

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

EOC-425
Distribution of
true reading only by
special arrangement.
[REDACTED] W)

Lisbon

Dated June 17, 1944

Rec'd 6:43 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

CONTROL COPY

1884, June 17, 7 p.m.

WRB 74 FOR PEHLE FROM MANN

[REDACTED] RESTRICTED CIRCULATION.

Leaving Monday plane for Spain. Expect return here within week or ten days. Situation more difficult than anticipated. There are many complications including personalities and possibly some people playing both sides.

Have not yet seen Schwartz but hope to see him on return here. Until talk with him, cannot appraise possibilities of finding a workable formula. Preliminary investigation indicates that he may be in a position to bring about workable solution but about that cannot be sure. So far Joint, while very courteous, has taken attitude that there is no problem and in that they are wrong. It seems essential that Board promptly send operating representative with power to immediate rescue area. Had such been done earlier,

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

-2-#1884, June 17, 7 p.m. from Lisbon.

very probable that all difficulties could have been avoided.

When is McDonald arriving? Essential that Mann confer with him either here or Madrid.

Am not cabling detailed report of findings and impressions thus far since feel it would serve no useful purpose.

NORWEB

JT

WRB

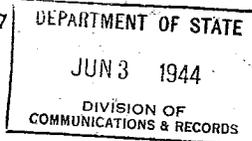
DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

CONTROL COPY

LC - 787



PLAIN

Lisbon

Dated June 2, 1944

Rec'd 9:56 p.m.

*6/5/44
Weissman and to
Dr. Wise*

Secretary of State,

Washington.

X
1686, June 2, 1 p.m.

FOR RABBI STEPHEN WISE, JEWISH CONGRESS, NEW
YORK FROM WEISSMAN WRB.

60. "Your 107.

Please consult WRB Washington who completely informed regarding temporary stoppage rescue work and other difficulties. Washington advises early arrival Lisbon special WRB representative in attempt secure agreement between agencies. Suggest you maintain close contact WRB regarding developments".

NORWEB

EDA-EMB

7 10 4 7

JUN 5 1944

Dear Dr. Wise:

The following message for you from Mr. Weissman was received from Lisbon under date of June 2, 1944:

"Tour 107.

"Please consult WRB Washington who completely informed regarding temporary stoppage rescue work and other difficulties. Washington advises early arrival Lisbon special WRB representative in attempt secure agreement between agencies. Suggest you maintain close contact WRB regarding developments."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Dr. Stephen S. Wise,
World Jewish Congress,
1834 Broadway,
New York, New York.

FH/lab 6/5/44

JES Cleared
with GUP.

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Lisbon
DATED: May 29, 1944
NUMBER: 1524

*We - Ref Bd
(Mr. Dehle)
copy only*

CONTROL COPY

TO AMBASSADOR NORWEG FOR DEXTER FROM PEHLE

James H. Mann, Assistant Executive Director of the War Refugee Board, is leaving within the next day or so for Lisbon by clipper. Mann's mission is to attempt to settle dispute between WJC and JDC. He has full authority from me. I am counting upon you to advise Weismann and Schwartz, to obtain their full cooperation in bringing about a settlement of this matter, and to have both available for conversations with Mann and yourself shortly after his arrival. Please notify me when Mann has arrived.

THIS IS WRB LISBON CABLE NO. 20.

HULL

TO || WA | MUL AMB
WASHINGTON, D.C.
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
RECEIVED

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

100473

CABLE TO AMBASSADOR NORMAN FOR DEXTER FROM PEHLE

James H. Mann, Assistant Executive Director of the War Refugee Board, is leaving within the next day or so for Lisbon by clipper. Mann's mission is to attempt to settle dispute between WJC and JDC. He has full authority from me. I am counting upon you to advise Weismann and Schwartz, to obtain their full cooperation in bringing about a settlement of this matter, and to have both available for conversations with Mann and yourself shortly after his arrival. Please notify me when Mann has arrived.

THIS IS WRB LISBON CABLE NO. 30 /

May 29, 1944
9:40 a.m.

JHM
JHMann:db/jp

5/26/44

*File
Room*

Dr. Robert C. Dexter
War Refugee Board
Special, Attaché in Lisbon
Lisbon, Portugal

Dear Dr. Dexter:

The War Refugee Board is greatly concerned about the present dispute between the "World Jewish Congress and the Joint Distribution Committee regarding operations in Portugal which are of vital interest to the Board. It appears that unless a prompt and workable solution is found for this matter, the Board's entire operations in this whole area may be jeopardized. I have given this matter a great deal of consideration and I feel that it can best be solved by sending to Lisbon a representative of the Board who is familiar with our thinking on this problem to assist you in working out a solution. Accordingly, I have designated Mr. James H. Mann, Assistant Executive Director of the War Refugee Board, to go to Lisbon to discuss this problem with you and the other interested parties and arrive at a solution. Mr. Mann has full authority to speak for me in this matter. I am sure that I can count upon you to cooperate with him in every way and to accord him every facility in carrying out his mission.

I have asked Mr. Mann to discuss with you in detail the situation in Spain and Portugal and to bring back with him your suggestions regarding operations which will succeed in saving more people from persecution and death.

I take this opportunity to send you my kindest personal regards.

Very truly yours,

S/ J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

JHM

JHM:dbb 5/28/44

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

EJR - 858
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. (b) (7)

Lisbon
Dated May 24, 1944
Red'd 5:52 p.m.

CONTROL COPY

DIVISION OF

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

Secretary of State,
Washington.

1587, May 24, 6 p.m.

THIS IS WRB 51 FROM WEISSMAN FOR RABBI STEPHEN WISE.

Joint who previously refused to deal with rescue work, alleging this illegal, now claims large scale activity this direction. This most welcome if sincerely meant and not merely momentary for propoganda and prestige. Nevertheless, if Joint prefers non-cooperate Jewish Congress whose experienced rescue organization running since beginning war thwarting maneuver against us must cease.

Rescue work means working inside enemy territory, transmission of message through and from occupied countries and regular contact with people therein. Such activities too delicate and dangerous for private unsupervised workers. For securities purposes must be officially controlled and supervised. These reasons explain Goldman's suggestions to Winant to London and our action in putting our activities under official control here.

BB
MEV

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

*5/30/44
Message sent to
Dr. Wise.
JH*

1047

MAY 30 1944

Dear Dr. Wise:

The following confidential message for you from Mr. Weissman was received from Lisbon under date of May 24, 1944:

"Joint who previously refused to deal with rescue work, alleging this illegal, now claims large scale activity this direction. This most welcome if sincerely meant and not merely momentary for propaganda and prestige. Nevertheless, if Joint prefers non-cooperate Jewish Congress whose experienced rescue organization running since beginning war thwarting maneuver against us must cease.

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Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Dr. Stephen S. Wise,
World Jewish Congress,
1834 Broadway,
New York, New York.

FH:lab 5/30/44 *JW*

000477

AIR MAIL

No. 531

3 War Refugee Board (Jews)

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

CONTROL COPY

3 WRB
3 War Refugee Board (Jews)
1 War (Mr Bundy)
Ch

Subject: Exchange of Correspondence between War Refugee Organizations.

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

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose herewith copies of letters between the Delegate of the World Jewish Congress and the European Chairman of the American Joint Distribution Committee, which it is believed the War Refugee Board would be interested to see. If the Department perceives no objection it will be appreciated if the Department would transmit these copies to the War Refugee Board.

Respectfully yours,

For the Ambassador:

Edward S. Crocker
Edward S. Crocker
Counselor of Embassy

Enclosures:

- 1. From World Jewish Congress.
- 2. From American Joint Distribution Committee.

Miss Hall

7-1047

Enclosure no. , despatch no. 531 dated May 24, 1944, from
the American Embassy in Lisbon.

COPY

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS
Delegate for Portugal & Spain:
Isaac Weissman
179 Avenida da Liberdade, Lisbon

Lisbon, May 19th, 1944

Dear Sir:

The delegate of the WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS for Portugal and Spain begs leave to present his compliments to the European Director of the American Joint Distribution Committee and to call his attention to the following situation.

1. As is known to the European Director of the American Joint Distribution Committee the World Jewish Congress has been fortunate enough to have been able to bring out of occupied Europe to Spain and Portugal a number of Jewish children and adults.

2. In order to accomplish this the World Jewish Congress has made a considerable financial outlay; and if the World Jewish Congress is to increase the number -- as they have every expectation of doing in the near future -- they will also need increased funds.

3. The World Jewish Congress understands that the Joint Distribution Committee has presently available funds for the above purpose.

4. It would facilitate greatly the immediate rescue of a large number of children and adults if the Joint Distribution Committee could see its way clear to allocate a portion of its unused funds to the World Jewish Congress to be used exclusively for the purpose of rescue of children and adults from German occupied lands.

The delegate of the World Jewish Congress awaits the reply of the European Director of the Joint Distribution Committee with the keenest interest.

Faithfully yours,

Delegate for Spain and Portugal
of the WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

Dr. Joseph Schwartz
European Director
of the American Joint
Distribution Committee
Lisbon.

Enclosure no. 2, despatch no. 531 dated May 24, 1944, from the American Embassy in Lisbon.

COPY

May 21, 1944

Mr. Isaac Weissman
Delegate of the World Jewish Congress
179 Avenida da Liberdade
L i s b o n

Dear Mr. Weissman:

I just returned to Lisbon to find your letter of May 19th in which you ask for a subvention from the American Joint Distribution Committee for a program of rescue.

As you probably know the Joint Distribution Committee is itself engaged in a program of rescue which includes, among other things, the bringing of refugees, children as well as adults, to the Iberian Peninsula. To further this program we have had to set aside considerable sums of money. My recent visit to Spain has made it clear that we shall have to use all our available funds for our own work of rescue which we believe can best be accomplished through our direct efforts rather than through the intermediary of another organization.

It should also be noted that while you are asking for a subvention to your rescue program you have at the same time set up duplicating machinery here for the care and maintenance of children when it was well known that facilities for this purpose are already in existence and that no new expenditure in this direction was necessary.

Under the circumstances the Joint Distribution Committee cannot see its way clear to grant a subvention to the World Jewish Congress. Should you desire to pursue the matter further we shall, of course, be glad to afford you an opportunity of doing so.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph J. Schwartz
Chairman

War Ref Bd
(Mr. Beble)

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Lisbon
DATED: May 19, 1944
NUMBER: 1422

TO II HA CS YAM M I

CONTROL COPY

Following is personal for the Minister's attention.

It is wished by the War Refugee Board to send James H. Mann Assistant Executive Director of the War Refugee Board to Lisbon for a short visit of inspection to confer with the Board's representative, Dexter, and representatives of the World Jewish Congress and Joint Distribution Committee. Mann will travel on a diplomatic passport. The purpose of his mission is to obtain better coordination in activities of foregoing agencies to insure effective cooperation with the program of the Board.

You will be informed when Mann leaves.

HULL

DOR:VAG:HL 5/27/44

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

10048

*War Refugee Board
M. P. L. L.*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Lisbon
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: May 13, 1944
NUMBER: 1447

1 copy only

CONTROL COPY

Following is WRB No. 32.

If refugees are to get out, absolutely essential are large disbursements in Spain either by WRB or private agencies. The first question at issue is whether or not facilities can be provided for purchasing and transmitting pesetas at reduced rates, or shall the legal rate be paid by the agencies or board. If the former, what channels are available? Would save 40% cost operations.

The second question is ^{more} fundamental. Unless (One) the World Jewish Congress is able to transmit considerable funds at once; (Two) the Joint Distribution Committee turns over part of their funds to Congress for evacuation or; (Three) money is sent by WRB direct for work in Portugal and Spain, Weisman's project endangered. Except for comparatively small sums promised from WRB funds here, at present he is financing it personally, or on his ^{own} Congress credit. Imperative is on immediate decision.

NORWES

SE 3 PM 21 YAM APR 1944

DCR:VAG:HL 5/15/44

WASHINGTON D.C.
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
RECEIVED

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

1148

CORRECTION OF
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Lisbon
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: May 10, 1944
NUMBER: 1410

was Ref. 31
In Rille
1 copy only

CONTROL COPY

On page 2 in the 16th line of this message delete the entire sentence beginning with the word "Although and ending with the word visionary." and insert the following: "The Embassy believes Weissman to be honest and he does seem to get results even though he is impractical and visionary".

NORWEB

DGR:MAB:RM
5-13-44
MAY 12 12 54 PM '44
RECEIVED
STATE DEPT.
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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

was Ref. Bt.
Mrs. Peller
1 copy only

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Lisbon
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: May 10, 1944
NUMBER: 1410

CONTROL COPY

Over the friction between two Jewish agencies in Portugal the Embassy is as much disturbed as WED. Although so far I have been unsuccessful, everything has been done to bring JDC and Jewish Congress together.

Yesterday I interviewed Schwartz and asked him to forward his views as requested, but until he goes to Spain, he feels that he is unable to do so. On May 10, Schwartz departed for Spain and in about eight days expects to return. Some days ago he asked him for a report of people rescued by Joint under license which he promised, but so far this report has not been received by me. Schwartz claims as JDC cases all children and most of adults now in Spain.

A formal report is being made in writing by Weisman to Schwartz requesting joint financial assistance in Congress rescue program, but Schwartz will probably not answer until his return and then negative response is feared.

Amount in terms of Congress license should be made known to the Embassy as soon as possible. Much will be done to ameliorate the immediate situation if granted and the amount is adequate.

A former French Diplomat, Jacques Chastain who is wanted for

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 13 1972

1148

by the Military Attache as reliable is now in Lisbon. Chatain states that the Congress is the only organization working effectively in getting people out of France. And if funds are available he states that Congress organization can rescue, at a cost of \$100,000 per month thirty to fifty per day. He is a voluntary worker and although a Catholic is directing the Congress organization in Spain. It is apparent that he has excellent cooperation in Spain with Spanish Red Cross and Fighting French Red Cross. For further details we refer you to WRB No. 37.

We recommend either an increase of amount from ^{Congress} ~~that~~ or grant from WRB to Congress representative here for immediate use if Congress license not adequate. It is doubted by us if action will be taken soon enough here and possible opportunities may be lost, unless WRB can secure immediate action from joint officers in USA authorizing ^{of} the hundred thousand dollar license to Congress for rescue work. ^{of} a limited degree I am in the meantime helping Weissman; his whole plan disintegrates otherwise. Although the Embassy believes Weissman to be honest he does seem to get results as he is impractical and visionary.

The foregoing message is WRB No. 29 and is in reference to the Department's No. 1289 WRB No. 16 transmitted May 8, 1944.

HORWED

DCR:NAS:EL 8/12/44

RECEIVED
 DIVISION OF
 INVESTIGATION
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
 AUG 12 1944

1048

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

Rec'd May 13 11:16 AM

FROM: American Legation, Lisbon
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: May 10, 1944
NUMBER: 1410

Over the friction between two Jewish agencies in Portugal the Embassy is as much disturbed as WRB. Although so far I have been unsuccessful, everything has been done to bring JDC and Jewish Congress together.

Yesterday I interviewed Schwartz and asked him to forward his views as requested, but until he goes to Spain, he feels that he is unable to do so. On May 10, Schwartz departed for Spain and in about eight days expects to return. Some days ago I asked him for a report of people rescued by Joint under license which he promised, but so far this report has not been received by me. Schwartz claims as JDC cases all children and most of adults now in Spain.

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Amount in terms of Congress license should be made known to the Embassy as soon as possible. Much will be done to ameliorate the immediate situation if granted and the amount is adequate.

A former French Diplomat, Jacques Chatain who is vouched for

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

048

by the Military Attache as reliable is now in Lisbon. Chattain states that the Congress is the only organization working effectively in getting people out of France. And if funds are available he states that Congress organization can rescue, at a cost of \$100,000 per month thirty to fifty per day. He is a voluntary worker and although a Catholic is directing the Congress organization in Spain. It is apparent that he has excellent cooperation in Spain with Spanish Red Cross and Fighting French Red Cross. For further details we refer you to WRB No. 27.

We recommend either an increase of amount from Congress or grant from WRB to Congress representative here for immediate use if Congress license not adequate. It is doubted by us if action will be taken soon enough here and possible opportunities may be lost, unless WRB can secure immediate action from joint officers in USA authorizing some of the hundred thousand dollar license to Congress for rescue work. In a limited degree I am in the meantime helping Weissman; his whole plan disintegrates otherwise. ~~Although~~ ^{Even though} The Embassy believes Weissman to be honest ^{and} ~~he does seem to get results~~ ^{as} he is impractical and visionary, Carey

The foregoing message is WRB No. 29 and is in reference to the Department's No. 1289 WRB No. 16 transmitted May 8, 1944.

NORWEB

DCR:MAS:HL 5/12/44

AIRMAIL

No. 455



CONTROL COPY

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Lisbon, May 2, 1944

Subject: Transmitting Preliminary Report on Activity
for Refugees in Portugal for War Refugee Board

3 MRB
3 War Refugee
Board (Pres)
1 War Com Remedy
CN

The Honorable
The Secretary of State
Washington

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit herewith a preliminary report,
prepared by Dr. Robert C. Dexter, Special Attaché to this
Embassy, on the activity in Portugal in behalf of refugees. Pro-
vided that the Department perceives no objection, it would be
appreciated if the report would be forwarded to Mr. John W. Pehle,
Director of the War Refugee Board.

Respectfully yours,

For the Ambassador:

Edward S. Crocker
Edward S. Crocker
Counselor of Embassy

Enclosure
Report

300
MOR/mvd

24048 RUGREES

13951

10/14

1048

Enclosure to despatch no. 455 dated May 2, 1944, from
the Embassy in Lisbon

Preliminary Report

To: John W. Pehle
Director, War Refugee Board

From: Robert C. Dexter
Special Attache, American Embassy, Lisbon.

April 26, 1944.

Since I have actually been functioning as your representative in the Embassy approximately one week, there is not very much in the way of concrete accomplishments to report. There are, however, certain matters en train and there are certain indications pointing either to possibilities of success in our efforts or suggesting possible difficulties. It therefore seems advisable that I send you this report. There are certain points on which the cooperation of the Board in Washington may be helpful and there are other matters on which it will be exceedingly desirable to have your advice.

Attitude of Embassy

First of all I wish to record my appreciation of the cordial and helpful attitude adopted by the entire staff of the Embassy in Lisbon from the Ambassador down. As I already indicated to you, the Ambassador was most friendly in his interview with me on receipt of your cable, and that cordiality and friendliness, together with genuine interest in the task we are undertaking, continues. Prior to my taking over the work here the main responsibility for carrying out your directives has rested and still rests so far as the Embassy is concerned, on the Counselor of the Embassy, Mr. Edward S. Crocker, and I desire to express to you my appreciation not only of the way in which Mr. Crocker has been helpful to me but also of his untiring efforts to carry out your suggestions and the willingness with which he has assumed heavy burdens in addition to multitudes of others which he has been carrying. I sincerely hope that the present cordial and friendly relation will continue as it makes the work ever so much easier and pleasanter.

Attitude of Private American Agencies

There are, as you know, five or possibly six American or American affiliated agencies functioning here in Portugal dealing to a greater or less degree with the problems of refugees. The reason that I am somewhat in doubt as to the number is that I am not altogether clear where to classify the representative of the World Jewish Congress. This is an international body but its strongest single constituent group is that in the United States, so that practically speaking it seems fair to include it among the American agencies.

The

The largest and most important single agency in Portugal is the American Joint Distribution Committee, whose director is Dr. Joseph Schwartz. Dr. Schwartz and his associates have been cooperative and have made more use of the facilities of communication accorded by the War Refugee Board than any other agency. Considering the size of the agency and its long history of effective work for Jewish refugees, one might have thought that they would have considered the appointment of a representative of the War Refugee Board unnecessary and an infringement on their autonomy, but so far at least no such attitude has developed.

The second large Jewish agency is the HICEM, the director of which is also an American, Dr. James Bernstein. The HICEM is, in one sense, an international agency also, as prior to this war most of its resources came from Europe. Since the war, however, the resources of HICEM have almost entirely come from the Joint Distribution Committee, consequently from the United States. The HICEM is primarily concerned with transportation. Dr. Bernstein has been ill and I have not seen as much of him as the other persons involved, but I see no reason to believe that he will not cooperate in our endeavors.

The third agency in chronological order, that is in length of time which it has served in Portugal and in financial budget is the Unitarian Service Committee. I have officially turned over all my responsibilities in connection with that Committee to Mrs. Dexter, but under the circumstances I see no reason to be disturbed about lack of cooperation. This Committee is mainly concerned with non-Jewish refugees and, as will be indicated below, has a very heavy responsibility in connection with Spanish republicans.

The American Friends Service Committee, under the direction of Mr. Phillip Conard, has been established here a shorter time than the Unitarians or the Joint and has a smaller budget. They carry a case load of both Christians and Jews which is not as large as that of the Unitarians. Mr. Conard has been very friendly but there is one difficulty as to policy which has already arisen, which I shall comment on later. I think it can be straightened out.

The American-Polish Relief Committee has a representative here, Mr. Victor Piskorski. This Committee has been primarily concerned with the shipment of food parcels to Poland, for which it has had a special license from the United States. It is also concerned in a minor degree with the care of Polish refugees and, at a conference held yesterday in the Embassy, Mr. Piskorski indicated that there was a possibility of his Committee bringing out of France a large number of Polish children. Up to the present time this Committee has not functioned in as close cooperation with the other refugee committees, as I believe it could. This was not been the fault of Mr. Piskorski, however, and I believe that with the attachment of an officer to the Embassy concerned with refugee problems we can bring about a closer integration of the Polish-American Committee into the general picture. This will, I hope, result in our getting out a larger number of Polish refugees than might otherwise have been the case. Mr. Piskorski's attitude is exceedingly cordial and he is to be counted on for effective cooperation.

The American Red Cross has had a representative in Lisbon for a considerable time, Mr. Ronald Klein. The Red Cross is not primarily a refugee organization per se, but in making plans for any large and cooperative movement the Red Cross should be included. The Red Cross has facilities which none of the other private organizations have, and Mr. Klein's personal attitude is exceedingly friendly. One of my hopes is to bring the Red Cross also into closer cooperation and contact with the problems which we are facing.

The most recent American private organization to establish itself here in Lisbon is a representation of the American National Catholic Welfare Council. Its representative is Dr. Henry Amiel. This committee naturally is concerned with Catholic refugees. Dr. Amiel has only been in Lisbon for a couple of months and is at the present time feeling his way very carefully. Just how much this agency can do in getting out refugees from occupied countries is uncertain at the present time but it may well be that they will be exceedingly helpful in our relations with Spain. They already have an American representative in Spain, Miss Eileen Eagan. She is returning from Spain shortly and when she comes back I desire to have a conference with her and see if she cannot help us smooth the way of refugees across the Peninsula. Dr. Amiel naturally is very dependent for advice on the longer established agencies and seems very grateful for any cooperation which the Embassy here can give. I think we can count on him to the full insofar as he can be of effective service.

The last agency is the World Jewish Congress previously referred to. This organization has had a representative in Lisbon, Mr. Isaac Weissman, who came to Lisbon as a Turkish citizen but now possesses a Polish passport. Mr. Weissman came here in 1942 I believe, and has been exceedingly active ever since his arrival. He on the one side, and the Joint Distribution Committee, the HICEM and the local Jewish community on the other, seem to have an outstanding feud. Whether this is due to a difference of ideologies - Weissman's organization is Zionist and the others are neutral on the Zionist question - or to a difference of general policies - the World Jewish Congress has always been in close touch with underground movements in the occupied countries and has not hesitated to use technically illegal means in helping refugees, and the others have tried to be technically "correct" - or whether it is due to personalities, it is difficult to say. The fact remains that there are difficulties. Weissman, more than any other representative of the agencies here, has shown a most cordial - if not a proprietary - interest in the War Refugee Board. The Unitarian Service Committee has been more closely in touch with Dr. Weissman than any of the other refugee organizations here and he has appreciated its support at difficult times very much. Consequently he welcomed my appointment with almost too open arms. At the same time it must be said that Weissman has contacts with the refugee governments, with the underground in various countries and has unlimited persistence and devotion. The British Embassy has very close relations with Dr. Weissman although their officials recognize

his

his shortcomings as much as the rest of us. His cordiality and friendliness will be an asset in our program but at the same time we must not allow ourselves to fall entirely into his hands or those of his organization. It is going to be difficult to steer a middle course as we wish to avail ourselves of the opportunities which his organization provides; but this is what we must try to do unless we are going to antagonize the other Jewish organizations.

The Problem in Portugal at present

The general problem in Portugal at present has been adequately covered in the memorandum sent you recently enclosing the report of the British Embassy to the Foreign Office. In regard to this report, which was prepared by Mr. Peter Garran, Second Secretary of the British Embassy, it should be said that his data was almost entirely derived from reports given him by the various private agencies here. Mr. Garran has been designated by the British Embassy to handle refugee problems and he has the able assistance of another member of the staff of the Embassy, Mr. John Hart. With both of these men this office works in the closest contact and harmony.

There are no further comments that need to be made at the moment on the situation here except to once more query you regarding the situation of Spaniards. Before I left the United States you had already sent a representative to Mexico to intervene with the Mexican Government and secure if possible 500 Mexican visas for Spanish republicans in Spain or Portugal. You were also taking up the matter of transit visas for the Spaniards across the United States in case that should be necessary. I have had no word from you as to the success of your efforts and should appreciate very much hearing about it. May I point out once more that the evacuation of these Spanish refugees from Portugal would help a lot in softening the attitude of the Portuguese Government toward the admission of other refugees from the occupied countries and it is absolutely vital for their own welfare. They are, at the moment, the only large number of refugees who are in immediate danger in this country. And they constitute a very real problem for the Unitarian Committee and to a lesser degree for the Friends Service Committee, both of which organizations have a number of Spanish cases, although the Unitarian Committee has the much larger number.

Incoming Refugees from Occupied Areas

At the present moment the indications are, as described in cables and memoranda previously sent, that we may have an influx of child refugees coming from France via Spain. That influx has not yet materialized but the preparation for it has been made during the last week or ten days. Formal notes have been sent by both the British and American Embassies to the Portuguese Foreign Office indicating the possibility of the arrival of a number of children who will have no proper papers. The International Police have indicated to the British Embassy's representative that if the Foreign Office and the Government approved, they would be willing to receive these children even without

transit.

transit visas for Portugal, provided that we, in our turn, would see that they were provided for while here and that plans for their migration would be made within a reasonable time. In view of your recent cable regarding American visas for such children and your promise to provide for them while in Portugal, we felt that we could make such guarantees. In addition, the British Government has advised the Portuguese Government that visas for Jewish children would be available for Palestine. At the present moment a representative of the Jewish agency, Mr. Lichtenstein, a Palestinian, is here and has authority to issue such visas. We therefore have two possibilities for migration.

As indicated to you in a recent cable, this presents a problem as well as a possibility. There is almost certain to be some conflict between the American Jewish agencies, which I judge would prefer the children to go to the United States, and the World Jewish Congress, which would prefer the children to go to Palestine. For the moment at least, since there is likely to be a ship for Palestine in the next month or two, it would seem to me that it would be best, in case children come in soon, to send as many as possible to Palestine as the expenses of transportation are cheaper, the facilities for their care on arrival apparently just as good if not better, and one very important thing, they would be nearer their parents and friends in Europe after the end of the war. However, we can take no sides in this possible controversy. The Joint Distribution Committee is apparently willing to send children to Palestine when there is transportation, but if transportation is not available, they naturally desire to send them to the United States. I hope we can iron out this situation without any real clash.

Some of the difficulties are illustrated, however, by what has happened within the last few days. According to Dr. Weissman's report, his organization brought four children over the Pyrennees at their expense. When they landed in Barcelona they were immediately arrested by the Spaniards, and the World Jewish Congress, as yet having no representation in Spain, could not do anything for them. The Joint Distribution Committee was appealed to and its representative had the children released in his care. Now the Joint Distribution Committee is claiming that these are their children. A similar situation arose regarding forty Jewish men, who had to call on the Joint Distribution Committee and the Quakers in Spain for assistance, although Weissman claims that they were brought out of France through the agency of his organization. I fear that there are going to be many similar problems unless we here, and perhaps particularly you in the United States, can somehow get these two important Jewish organizations to work in harmony. This lack of harmony is going to affect our work, is going to make it more difficult for us to get people out, and is certainly going to present heavy and unnecessary problems to your representatives abroad.

Dr. Weissman claims that the first contingent of six children from France will reach Portugal within the next day or two. He is making his own arrangements quite independent of the Jewish agencies here for their reception and care and is calling on the War Refugee Board for financial support. In view of your telegram and since the number is comparatively small, I have agreed to furnish the necessary support for these six and perhaps for a small number of others, who he indicates will be coming soon. But it

will

will be far better and less expensive for the War Refugee Board if these children can be cared for by other Jewish agencies here, who apparently are ready and willing to do so. The difficulty seems to be a matter of control and organizational prestige. Frankly, it seems to me that the children are a bit like the unfortunately child on whom Solomon was asked to pass judgment, where the woman who was not the mother was willing the child should be cut in two. I sincerely hope that I can do something here to prevent any such unhappy occurrence and also that you can make the necessary representations to the head offices of the organizations concerned in New York so that they will instruct their representatives to cooperate.

Despite these difficulties, I feel very definitely that so far as children, and probably so far as adults are concerned, Mr. Weissman has the more effective organization to bring people out. He and his group are willing to take chances and that is essential. He claims to have, and I believe does have, representatives in France who are running the risk of their lives in this undertaking, and incidentally I think his organization brings children out at a less cost than the Joint Distribution Committee. This means that there is less American cash that runs the risk of getting into the hands of the Germans.

We shall continue here to work in as close cooperation as possible with both groups. Weissman's group, as indicated in the cable, will certainly need financial support, the other not, but it is my feeling that we will get more people through from Weissman than in the other way.

Publicity

Publicity also presents a thorny problem. We realize perfectly well here that the War Refugee Board must justify its existence and must from time to time report to the country regarding its accomplishments. At the same time any reports regarding children or adults gotten out of occupied territories may well mean the end. It is for this reason that we asked in a recent cable that no publicity be released regarding these activities without consultation here. After all, our main objective is to get the people out and if it is killed by publicity, then our usefulness is ended. In this connection also we are going to have a problem with the World Jewish Congress. They are very keen on publicity with their name attached. I do not see any objection to using their name, but I do feel very doubtful about publicity in the press. I am sorry that this is the case, but years of experience in dealing with the evacuation of refugees are back of this feeling on my part, which I must add is shared with many of the officials of the Embassy here with whom I have talked.

Joint Distribution Committee Plans

I need not say much regarding the Joint Distribution Committee's plans as you are informed regarding them through their many cables. They, too, have plans for getting out children,

some

some of whom will go directly to Palestine from Spain and others come through here. They have similar plans for adults. Just how many of these plans may be realized, it is difficult to say. The same caution should be used regarding their plans as those of Dr. Weissman. This is another reason why it is unwise to have any publicity until things are really accomplished.

The Joint Distribution Committee is doing an excellent piece of work in bringing children, and adults too, out of the Balkans to Palestine and in this effort we are cooperating through facilitating their communications back and forth to Istanbul as well as to New York.

The American Friends Service Committee

The only item in this organization's program that needs comment is one which is at present under discussion. Mr. Conard some days ago received a cable from his head office in Philadelphia saying that they had available an appropriation of some \$15,000, which was to be used for bringing French children out of France to Portugal for a period of three months, keeping them here for feeding and physical rebuilding, and then returning them to France. He had not asked the cooperation of this Embassy officially in representing the matter to the Portuguese Government, but was planning to do so through the former Brazilian Ambassador to Paris, who was passing through here, who is a close friend of a very high official of the Portuguese Government. In view of the fact that both the British and the American Embassies are now making representations, to which no answer has as yet been received, regarding refugee children whose very lives are in danger, it seemed to us here that it would be unwise at present to make additional representations to the Portuguese regarding these French children. It might well complicate matters; the Portuguese might think that by accepting this suggestion made by an American committee they would not only please America but please Vichy and the Germans as well, and might feel that there was less risk involved in accepting this suggestion than that of taking in the refugee children. After consultation here, I therefore advised Mr. Conard to cable his head office that the Embassy here recommended a delay in this request. Certainly if such a request were to be made by an American organization it should be made through an American representative. We here hope that you will agree with our decision, which is based on the belief that the main function of the War Refugee Board is to get people out who are in immediate danger and that all the forces of the American diplomatic representatives should be directed toward that end. If our request is refused, which I do not think it will be, as the police have given approval for the first six to come through, then we might take up the other, but it presents many difficulties. However, our main objection is that it might endanger the original plans.

Communications

Communications

The facilities which the War Refugee Board has offered to the various private agencies of communication through diplomatic channels, have been most gratefully received. The Joint Distribution Committee has availed itself of them extensively and the others to a lesser degree. However, in view of the fact that the sending of cables, particularly if coding is involved, means a terrific amount of work both for the staff of the Embassy here and for the State Department in Washington, I have suggested to the agencies at a conference held yesterday that wherever possible they use first the ordinary commercial cables. It seemed to me that many cables were being sent that could just as well have gone through the commercial channels. Second, that, where for reasons of speed it was advisable to use diplomatic communication, they wherever possible send their cables in the clear. This means that the cables will go through quicker and actually they will be more accurate, as they are not subject to paraphrase, although I didn't mention this last argument. Third, that code cables should only be sent in cases where it is necessary to keep information out of enemy hands. In general it seems to me that the decision as to whether a cable should be sent coded or in clear should be made at the Embassy rather than by the agency. Sometimes, even, they might send cables which from their point of view would seem perfectly all right to send in clear, which for reasons of security the Embassy might feel should be coded.

Radio Bulletin No. 98, Paragraph 1, Page 3.

The Embassy here has noted with considerable interest this paragraph in the radio bulletin of April 22. Your statement regarding the WRB's function is perfectly clear. I am not quite so clear as to Sir Herbert Emerson's statement to the effect that the principal task of the Intergovernmental Committee will be "looking after the refugees after they reach neutral territory". Does that mean that the Intergovernmental Committee will take the responsibility of refugees here and if so will they have a representative here, or will the WRB represent them as well? I should appreciate elucidation on this point, which I assume will be coming before long. The UNRAA portion of the task is clear except in regard to Palestine, regarding which I have sent you a special memorandum.

Spain

It is becoming increasingly clear to me that success or failure of our task here will to a very large extent depend on the attitude of Spain. Spain can make it possible for refugees to come through or can completely block our plans. And unless the WRB has a strong representative in our Embassy in Spain, little or nothing can be done here. I should appreciate it exceedingly if I were informed as to just what progress has been made in regard to Spain.

Dr. Weissman is planning to visit Spain shortly - he has a Spanish visa - to consult with General Jordana, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, regarding the possibility that the World Jewish Congress open up offices in Spain to receive refugees and also to get the general attitude of the Spanish

Government

Government. He has had apparently quite successful conferences with the Spanish Ambassador here, Senor Nicolas Franco, and this Ambassador has asked Mr. Weissman to ask me to call upon him. Mr. Weissman is arranging an interview for me.

Weissman has also suggested that if he did have offices in Spain he would be perfectly willing if it could be arranged to have American representatives, either official or unofficial, of the War Refugee Board work in these offices. They would have to work technically as employees of the World Jewish Congress unless we could get some kind of special permission. Frankly I do not like the idea very much. I wish that we could have representatives of our own, or if that is not possible, representatives of the Unitarian Service Committee in Spain who would closely cooperate with the WRB. The important thing, however, is to have an official WRB representative at Madrid, as otherwise our work in Portugal is limited indeed. Such a man ought to be of the type who could contact people who are interested in bringing people out of the occupied territories and it would necessarily take an individual of strong personality and plenty of courage as well as wisdom. Whoever went to Spain should of course be in the closest contact with the WRB representative here, as the problems of the two countries are really in this regard practically one.

Financial Licenses

The question of financial licenses bids fair to be one which will consume considerable time here. With the new policy of the Treasury, there will undoubtedly be increasing demands for funds to be sent into enemy countries. Here, your representative will of necessity have to work in the closest cooperation with the Financial Attache of the Embassy. He, and I likewise, must be satisfied, insofar as is reasonably possible, that the funds do not get into enemy hands, and sometimes this is a very difficult thing to be sure about. We shall do our best to check each case, and if we are in doubt will of course advise you and the Treasury. Each license is being worked out by us cooperatively and the information is being gathered so that we both may have it. Incidentally there is a possibility that there will be a demand for an increase of license from the Polish-American Committee, as they have many more demands for food to be sent to Poland than they can supply under their present license. When that demand comes, we shall try to check over their data and if it seems reasonably sure that the food does not fall into the hands of the Germans, we shall make a recommendation for an increase.

Another problem in connection with the sending of food is the price of food from here. At the present time the price is sky-high, and the Financial Attache and this office are making investigations to see if reduction in the price to American agencies and the simplification of the processes of sending cannot be attained, as I believe if we can save the agencies' money they can use their funds to greater advantage.

Conclusion

Conclusion

I have tried to make this report as complete as possible and have stated our problems as well as our possibilities. I should be very happy to have any comments which you care to make and especially urge your cooperation in solving some of the problems which may be best approached at your end. May I say, in conclusion, that, as you have already gathered, the task is not a simple one, that we cannot accomplish all that we would like to accomplish, and that we must be governed ultimately by the policy of our Government, with which we gladly cooperate, not to do anything which would interfere in the slightest with our winning the war or winning the peace.

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AIR MAIL

No. 439

CONTROL COPY

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Lisbon, April 28, 1944

Subject: Meeting of Representatives of American Agencies dealing with War Refugees.

*3 WRB
3 War Refugee Board
Press*

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

1 War Refugee Board

Sir:

I have the honor to inform the Department that a meeting of the representatives of the various American private agencies dealing with refugees was held at this Embassy at five p.m. on April 25, 1944.

Present: Messrs. Crocker, Lyon, Lancaster, Miller and Dexter, representing the Embassy;

Dr. Schwartz and Mr. Pilpel, representing the American Joint Distribution Committee;

Mr. Roland Klein, representing the American Red Cross;

Mr. Florian Piskorsky, representing the American-Polish Relief Committee;

Dr. Bernstein and Mr. Spanien, representing SICEM;

Mr. Philip Conard, representing the American Friends Service Committee;

Dr. Henry Amiel, representing the National Catholic Welfare Council;

Mrs. Elisabeth Dexter, representing the Unitarian Service Committee.

The only absentee was Dr. Isaac Weissman, of the World Jewish Congress, who sent a note of regret in which he expressed his desire to cooperate. A copy of this report will be made available to Mr. Weissman.

Mr. Crocker presided and spoke of Dr. Dexter's appointment, representing the War Refugee Board in the Embassy, and his designation as Special Attache for that purpose. He said that the Embassy desired to be as helpful as possible in any activities within its power for saving refugees.

He then introduced Dr. Dexter, who outlined the aims and purposes of the War Refugees Board.

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After expressing his appreciation of the cooperative attitude of the Embassy, Dr. Dexter gave his personal interpretation, based on his contacts in Washington, of the aims and purposes of the War Refugee Board. He said that the War Refugee Board as a Department of Government is first of all expected in common with all other departments to subordinate its activities to those of the Government itself. The main objective of the United States Government today is to win the present War and all activities of any governmental department must be subordinate to that end. This will necessarily mean a limitation of otherwise beneficent humanitarian activities but it is expected that all Americans will understand and loyally support these limitations.

The second objective of the Government is to win the peace which will follow the War and this too may at times impose limitations on the War Refugee Board activities. It should be made perfectly clear that the Board can in no circumstances do anything which would in the slightest degree hinder these two primary objectives of government.

Within these limitations the War Refugee Board was established to perform essentially "an emergency life saving task - aiding people to get out of Nazi-dominated countries".

The War Refugee Board is not primarily concerned with the ultimate destination of these people, but rather with their immediate safety. Other departments of Government and other international organizations will presumably take up where the War Refugee Board ends.

In order to accomplish this task the War Refugee Board must rely to a very large extent on the cooperation of the Allied governments and of the private organizations which have had a long and successful experience in this field. Dr. Dexter spoke of the splendid cooperation which had already been given the Embassy by the British authorities in Portugal and said there was every reason to believe that similar cooperation would come from the governments of our other allies. It is the War Refugee Board's task to see that the best use be made of this generously extended cooperation.

The attitude of the War Refugee Board toward the private societies was described as follows:-

I. It is not the intention of the War Refugee Board to usurp the activities of private organizations, indeed it would be impossible to do so. On the contrary, the War Refugee Board must depend to a very large extent on the activities of the private societies, and it is its hope that it may strengthen these organizations in their endeavors.

II. The War Refugee Board is prepared to offer certain governmental facilities to the private organizations in the performance of their joint task. These are three in number:-

1) To

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1) To extend to the private societies, when it is necessary, the facilities of communication with the U.S. and through U.S. representatives in other countries. Some of the private organizations have already availed themselves of these facilities, particularly in cabling. In this connection, Dr. Dexter asked the private organizations to be as careful as possible in the use of Embassy communication facilities since these are already overburdened. When it is essential for the purposes of speed they could consult the Embassy regarding the use of governmental cable facilities, but unless confidential information is involved their cables should be sent in the clear. Where the information is of a confidential nature, then and only then should the Embassy be asked to use its code facilities. Such cases should be presented to the Embassy's representative for decision.

2) The second facility which the Embassy affords is the use of governmental intervention with Portuguese and other governments when necessary. The Embassy has already intervened in regard to visas for children coming from France, and is willing to do so in any case that will help refugees to escape from enemy or enemy occupied territory - again with the proviso that such intervention does not affect in any way the War effort.

3) The third facility which the War Refugee Board is willing to offer in case of necessity is financial. Where individuals could be gotten out and the agencies involved are without funds to cover the costs, it is quite reasonable to approach the Embassy through the appropriate channels. The funds of the War Refugee Board are limited, but Dr. Dexter promised serious consideration to all such requests on the part of the War Refugee Board.

Dr. Dexter also indicated that the War Refugee Board had already used its facilities to secure the granting of 1000 visas for children from occupied France free of the usual affidavit procedure, but subject to all the other immigration visa requirements.

So far as the private agencies themselves are concerned the War Refugee Board expects first their full and complete cooperation with it in its endeavors. This involves giving to the representative of the Board all information regarding plans and procedures in getting refugees out of occupied countries and preferably discussion of such plans and procedures in advance. It also involves submitting to the Embassy from time to time reports of activities. Dr. Dexter said that he would appreciate receiving copies of the monthly reports which most of them were now sending to their home offices.

Secondly the War Refugee Board urgently requests of the agencies that they cooperate with each other in the most complete degree possible. They are all engaged, together with the Board, in the same activities and nothing would be more disastrous than competition or organizational strife. All must be willing from time to time to subordinate their own purposes to the ultimate aim, which is the saving of people from death and suffering. This will involve at times certain sacrifices of organizational prestige, but he hoped that the agencies would willingly make such sacrifices. He realized the difficulties involved as the agencies had somewhat different backgrounds and

different

different fundamental philosophies, but since the War Refugee Board was placing the Government behind their activities he hoped these sacrifices would not be impossible. It is for this reason that he urged consultation with him and with the proper officials of the Embassy in advance of plans.

Following Dr. Dexter's presentation the meeting was thrown open for questions.

Dr. Bernstein asked if the War Refugee Board could not help the relief workers in securing visas and validations of passport for countries which they wish to visit in the course of their work. The reply was that the Refugee Board would do what it could, but Mr. Crocker pointed out that there were some countries for which it was very difficult to secure visas at the present time.

Mr. Piskorsky asked if the Board could help to secure licenses for larger sums to be used for sending food supplies, in his case to Poland. Dr. Dexter replied that he thought that might be possible, but that in all such cases our Government must be satisfied that food or money or anything else sent to occupied countries does not get into the enemy's hands. He reported that this whole matter was now under consideration here, between the competent representatives of the Embassy and the Financial Attache who is responsible to the Treasury and that new developments might be expected.

Questions were asked by Dr. Schwartz and others concerning the procedure for visas for the 1000 children. It was pointed out by Mr. Lancaster and Mr. Miller that this procedure would have to be similar to that for all emigrants, but that the consular section would try its best to make all allowances possible. It was pointed out that there were other possibilities also beside the U.S. It is hoped that a considerable number of Jewish children would be sent to Palestine. For this purpose, Palestinian certificates are definitely available here. Dr. Dexter announced that some children are expected to arrive almost immediately and he hoped that others would be coming soon.

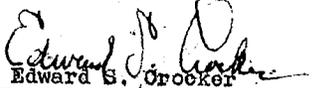
Dr. Dexter said in conclusion that he hoped that the representatives of the American private organizations would consult with him freely and frequently, that his office at the Embassy was at their disposal. He could not guarantee to accomplish all the things they desired, but he assured them that the Embassy and the War Refugee Board would do everything possible to facilitate their work.

Dr. Dexter also suggested that it might be a good idea for the representatives of the private agencies to meet with him as a group from time to time when new projects could be discussed and difficulties ironed out.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully yours,

For the Ambassador:


Edward S. Crocker
Counselor of Embassy

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AIR MAIL

No. 427



CONTROL COPY

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Lisbon, April 24, 1944

Subject: Transmitting Memoranda to War Refugee Board
on Refugee Situation in Portugal.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

*3 WRB
3 War Refugee Board
(Lisbon)
War Dept
ch*

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit herewith a memorandum prepared by Dr. Robert C. Dexter, Special Attache to the Embassy for refugee matters, commenting on a report, a copy of which is enclosed, prepared by the British Embassy in Lisbon on the refugee situation in Portugal. Provided the Department perceives no objection, it would be appreciated if the memoranda would be forwarded to the War Refugee Board.

Respectfully yours,

For the Ambassador:

Edward S. Crocker
Edward S. Crocker
Counselor of Embassy

- Enclosures: 2
1. Memorandum prepared by Dr. Dexter;
2. Report prepared by British Embassy.

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Enclosure no. 1 despatch no. 427 dated April 24, 1944,
from the American Embassy in Lisbon.

M E M O R A N D U M

To: The War Refugee Board

From: Robert C. Dexter, Special Attache

I have the honor to transmit herewith a detailed and comprehensive report on the refugee situation in Portugal which was recently submitted to the British Government by the British Embassy in Lisbon. This data was carefully gathered by the Embassy on the basis of reports submitted by the various refugee agencies, and I believe that the facts given are correct and I agree with most of the conclusions.

There are one or two points on which comment is necessary and a paragraph is added which gives a more complete picture of the situation of the Spanish Republican refugees who at the moment present the most serious problem in Portugal. It should be added in this connection that if any arrangement could be made for the evacuation of Spanish refugees, it would improve the situation in regard to other refugees in this country.

The following are comments on the British report appended hereto:

Page 2, Paragraph 1. (a): Plans are now under way to admit children from the occupied countries.

Page 2, Paragraph 1. (b): The present political and military situation in Slovakia, Hungary and Rumania makes this suggestion at the moment impracticable.

Page 3, Paragraph 2. (a): We would strongly emphasize the importance of this recommendation.

Page 3, Paragraph 2. (b): As is indicated, the British Government is making an effort to carry this recommendation into effect, and we would urge that our Government assist in every possible way.

Page 4, Paragraph 3: We would strongly emphasize the importance of this suggestion, both on behalf of the refugees now here, many of whom have been here for a long time, and of others who are in greater danger. The Portuguese would presumably be more willing to take newcomers if those here were evacuated.

Page 4, Paragraph 3 (z): We agree with the British conclusion in regard to parcels but believe that with proper care on the part of the sending agencies it might be possible to send food which would not fall into German hands. However, this is a moot point and should have careful consideration.

There

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There follows the paragraph on Spanish refugees referred to above.

SPANISH REFUGEES

The problem of the Spanish refugee is, by all odds, the most serious, measured either in terms of numbers or difficulty. Estimates of the number of Spaniards now in Portugal illegally vary from 1000 to 3000. New people come into the various relief offices every few days, many of them extremely exhausted from their journey over the frontier and totally destitute. It seems probable that a much greater number find shelter among kindly disposed Portuguese, at least for a time. Many of these apply to one of the committees when they are obliged to move or have some expenses. There are a few women and some families among these refugees, but the great majority are single men.

Any Spaniard caught without papers by the police is thrown into prison, sometimes treated with brutality, and a number of cases are definitely known when they have been returned to Spain. We know of 25 such cases, and there are probably more. Some who have been returned manage to escape and reappear the second or third time. Others are never heard from after their return, and it is quite possible that some of them are executed, since they have death sentences hanging over them. For some weeks after the announcement of the amnesty in Spain few additional Spaniards arrived, but before long they were coming in greater numbers than ever. It was said that a great many political prisoners had been released but they were being re-arrested on trivial charges.

Information which has come within the last twenty-four hours indicates that, presumably owing to increased Spanish pressure, a number of Spanish Republican refugees who were living comparatively safely in one of the towns outside Lisbon are now being returned to Spain. Just why this action should be taken at this time is unknown, but it emphasizes the seriousness of the present situation.

There is no solution at present in sight for most of these Spanish refugees in Portugal. A very few have been able to escape clandestinely through their own efforts and a very small number have received visas for some country in the Western Hemisphere. Some Spaniards are able to make a plausible claim to South American citizenship, and in those cases there is hope of getting them out, but for others there is practically no chance.

Any information concerning the proposed plan for Mexican visas for these refugees would be appreciated. At the moment this seems to be the only possibility of help.

RCD/ajl

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Enclosure no. 2, despatch no. 427 dated April 24, 1944,
from the American Embassy in Lisbon.

MEMORANDUM transmitted by the British Embassy, Lisbon,
to the Foreign Office, London.

Paragraph 3 of Foreign Office despatch No. 69, first
sentence.

As Portugal does not border directly on Axis-controlled territory, there has been little that we could do directly to assist in "rescuing the victims of enemy oppression ...". What we have been able to do in some small measure is to help refugees who have escaped from Axis-occupied Europe into Spain to obtain transit visas for Portugal, and to assist refugees who have reached Portugal either legitimately or clandestinely and arrange where possible for their onward journey. Our contribution has in fact been not the rescuing of the refugees from enemy oppression, but primarily their protection (especially from harsh treatment by the Portuguese Police) after they have reached Portugal. But while we have made no distinction of race or religion, we have made a definite distinction of nationality in that we have given all possible support to Allied missions for the protection and evacuation of their nationals, but have only intervened on behalf of enemy nationals or stateless persons in exceptional cases on their merits. Generally speaking the protection of these persons has been left to the Jewish organizations and to the Unitarians and the Quakers.

To explain the position clearly it is necessary to give a brief account of the situation of refugees in Portugal:-

The Portuguese Government soon after the first influx of refugees following the fall of France adopted the principle that no refugees from Axis Europe could remain in Portugal. Since that time they have only given transit visas to refugees and have generally insisted on a guarantee of early departure.

Refugees arriving in Portugal may be classified as follows:-

(A) Refugees with their papers in order.

These possess transit visas and visas of ultimate destination. They may reside anywhere in Portugal, but they are warned that they must leave the country within a certain period (generally 30 days). In order that a check may be kept on them they have to report to the Police every 15 days for the renewal of their residence permit. If at the end of the specified period they have not left the country, they are sent, if they have adequate funds, to Caldas da Rainha in "residence forcees". If they have no funds, they go to prison.

(B) Refugees whose papers are not in order (who have arrived in the country clandestinely).

(i) Allied refugees.

By special arrangement with the International Police the names of these persons are given to the Police and on their arrival in Lisbon they are sent to an agreed place of residence near to Lisbon until such time as they can be sent out of Portugal. (Some approved stateless refugees have been included under this arrangement.) If, however, any of these refugees are arrested on the road to Lisbon, they go to prison and have to remain there until arrangements can be made to send them out of the country.

(11)

(ii) Jewish refugees (insofar as they are not covered by (i)).

The Jewish organisations have found by experience that the best method is for these refugees to give themselves up to the police on their arrival in Lisbon. They then go to prison but the Jewish organisations generally manage to get them out after a certain period (unless they were born in Russia - see below). They are then placed in forced residence at Caldas or elsewhere.

(iii) Other refugees (enemy nationals, stateless persons and Spaniards).

Most of these know that they should get in touch with the Unitarians or the Quakers. The Unitarians have found by experience that it is better for non-Jews not to give themselves up to the Police. The police are, in fact, more lenient towards Jews. Non-Jewish refugees they tend to treat as ipso facto communists. (The Unitarians also take under their wing Jewish refugees born in Russia, who, if they followed the advice of the Jewish organisations would languish in prison indefinitely.)

Thus the Unitarians (and to a less extent the Quakers) have under their care a number of stateless refugees and Spaniards who are living clandestinely in Portugal with their papers not in order. If any of these refugees fall into the hands of the police they go to prison. The Unitarians and the Friends give them such help and protection as they can there, but they do not often succeed in getting any of them out of prison.

The number of refugees (not including Spaniards) at present in Portugal is not exactly known but it is probably about 800, of whom by far the greater part are in forced residence. Conditions of life in places of forced residence are quite agreeable though naturally demoralising over a long period of time. But conditions in some of the Portuguese prisons are very bad, and insanitary. There have been few cases of maltreatment or beating of Jewish refugees, but the Unitarians have authenticated cases of brutal maltreatment of non-Jews. There is also the danger, particularly for Spaniards but also (to a lesser degree) for Germans, that they will be put back over the Spanish border (cf. the case of Senhor Lopes Real - Foreign Office despatch 66 of February 17th).

All the refugee organisations have submitted memoranda to the U.S. Legation suggesting ways in which more can be done for refugees. The memorandum by the Joint Distribution Committee which is the clearest and most constructive, is attached for information; briefly, the recommendations of the organisations may be summarised under three headings:-

1. Facilitating the entry of refugees into Portugal.
2. Improving the lot of refugees in Portugal.
3. Facilitating their departure from Portugal.

Under 1, the following suggestions were made:-

(a) that the Portuguese Government be asked to admit into Portugal such children (both Jewish and non-Jewish) from France and other occupied countries as may succeed in escaping into Spain, either for a limited period until they are evacuated, or for the duration of the war. In this connexion it was pointed out that the U.S. Government had agreed to grant up to 5,000 visas for children in France.

(b) If

(b) If the Portuguese would give immigration visas to Jews in some of the satellite countries like Slovakia, Hungary and Roumania they might be given exit permits by those governments. It might be necessary in this connection to give a guarantee that such refugees would be evacuated a reasonable time after they had reached Portugal.

(c) That the Portuguese Government be asked to change their present policy of refusing admission to all refugees born in Russia.

(d) That the Portuguese Government be urged to grant entry visas to relatives of refugees stranded in Portugal.

Under 2, it was suggested:-

(a) that in view of the small numbers of refugees now remaining in Portugal, the Portuguese Government be asked to remove, or at least to relax, the ban forbidding them to work or exercise a trade.

(b) that the Portuguese Government be asked to facilitate the transfer of refugees from prison to residence forcee.

(c) that representations be made to the Portuguese Government against the brutal treatment sometimes meted out to refugees (usually non-Jewish).

Under 3, various suggestions were made about arranging destinations for refugees in Portugal or awaiting visas for Portugal, it being understood that the attitude of the Portuguese Government to admitting further refugees would be to a great extent conditioned by the speed with which refugees left the country.

Three suggestions of a more general nature are also made in the memoranda:-

x. That the Portuguese Government should allow Portuguese shipping to go to Constanza in Roumania to pick up 5,000 Jewish children from Transnistria awaiting transport to Palestine.

y. That plans should be prepared now for dealing with the influx of refugees into the Peninsula which is to be expected on the opening of the second front.

z. That permission (from the U.S. Government and His Majesty's Government) be given for the despatch of increased numbers of parcels from Portugal to the ghettos, internment camps, etc. in occupied Europe.

Of the above suggestions, 1(a) would seem to deserve sympathetic consideration and support, insofar as it does not interfere with more important considerations (see Foreign Office despatch No. 123 of the 27th March and Madrid telegram No. 494 to Foreign Office of the 30th March). The Portuguese Government would be likely to respond to an appeal on humanitarian grounds for a certain relaxation of their visa regulations, especially in the case of children and especially if we and the U.S. Government were able to give some guarantee that the recipients of the visas would not remain an undue length of time.

1(b) would

- 1(b) would seem impracticable
- 1(c) would seem worth trying. The Portuguese attitude on this point is childish.
- 1(d) is perhaps worth trying.
- 2(a) is a reasonable suggestion but likely to meet with resistance from the Portuguese.
- 2(b) is another suggestion which deserves sympathetic consideration, although the number of persons affected is probably not so very great. Mr. Hart has suggested that we should arrange with the International Police for the establishment of a place of residence to which persons to whom we (and the U.S. Government) were prepared to give limited protection could go. It should in this way be possible to get some people out of prison and give others at present in hiding reasonable security and facilitate the task of evacuating them, if destinations can be found for them. All expenses would, of course, fall on the refugee organisations concerned. This would, of course, raise a security problem, as, if we are to protect refugees without distinction of race, religion or nationality, we must be satisfied that none of the refugees in question are undesirable. (N.B. Although from the humanitarian point of view refugees from Spain constitute an identical problem to refugees from occupied Europe, political considerations would presumably make it impossible for us to afford them even such limited protection. They would have to be left to the care of the Unitarians - I believe the Mexican Legation also helps sometimes.)
- 2(c) would, I think, be better kept in reserve. If arrangements can be made to get the unfortunates (that is those against whom there is no security objection) out of prison we shall have gained our point.
- 3. It should be possible to arrange destinations for the small numbers of refugees still in Portugal. If destinations in America cannot be found for all, could the remainder be sent to the Fedhala camp in North Africa? His Majesty's Government and the United States Government might consult together on this point. One difficulty, of course, is that many of these refugees do not want to leave Portugal. They want to stay and wait for the collapse of the Axis so that they can get back quickly to the countries from which they have been driven.
- x. seems impracticable.
- y. is an important consideration. But will there be an influx of refugees to the Peninsula when the second front opens. That will no doubt depend on circumstances but it is a contingency for which we ought to be prepared.
- z. is bound up with our general policy as regards despatch of parcels to occupied territory.

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SHEET

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington

TO: American Legation, Lisbon

DATE: April 17, 1944

NUMBER: 1089

FROM JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE AND WAR REFUGEE BOARD
TO MINISTER MORWEB, LISBON, PORTUGAL.

The following message to Joseph Schwartz, 242 Rua Aurea,
Lisbon from Joint Distribution Committee and War Refugee Board.

QUOTE. Reference your Nos. 879 of March 23 and 918 of
March 27.

Have received message from Steinhardt urgently recommend-
ing that you conclude negotiations for Portuguese ship with
Portuguese Shipping Company as apparently there is sufficiently
large number of refugees to justify use of ships in addition
to SS TARI. Furthermore, granting of German safe conduct
for SS TARI is not (repeat not) certain. Please conclude negotia-
tions as soon as possible and keep us advised. UNQUOTE.

It will be appreciated if you and Mr. Dexter will lend
all possible assistance to Mr. Schwartz in his effort to obtain
a Portuguese ship for evacuation from Rumania. Please advise
the Board of action which should be taken by it to facilitate
these negotiations including the obtaining of safe conducts, etc.

This is WRE Cable No. 1.

In order to avoid confusion in connection with its
cables to representatives in the field, the Board, com-
mencing with this cable, intends to number its cables
to each representative consecutively. In replying to
Board cables kindly refer to the WRE designation. You
should also consecutively number all cables to the Board.

cc: Miss Channery (for the Secy.), Abrahamson, Akain, Bernstein,
Cohn, Dubois, Friedman, Gerson, Medal, Laughlin, Lasser,
Larford, Mann, Menden, Marks, McCormack, Paul, Felle, Pollak,
Rains, Sargoy, Smith, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, E.D. White,
Tamm.

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter 4-11-78

By E. H. Parks, Date 11-3-1972

SEP 13 1972

000510

TELEGRAM SENT

CM

April 12, 1944

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

9 p.m.

AMEMBASSY

MADRID

1008

In an endeavor to cause the Spanish and Portuguese Governments to give refuge to additional refugee children from France, the following special instructions relating to the issuance of visas to refugee children are issued pursuant to Section 59.45(a)(16) of the Regulations of November 19, 1941 as amended regarding aliens entering the United States:

Consular officers in Spain and Portugal are authorized to issue during the present quota year in the aggregate up to one thousand immigration visas to refugee children from France who shall have arrived in Spain and Portugal on or after January 1, 1944 and before July 1, 1944. This latter date may be extended by specific instruction from the Department. The visas are to be issued to the children without regard to the question of availability of means of transportation to the United States and without regard to religious, nationality or stateless status. The children covered by this instruction shall be under sixteen years of age at the time of the issuance of the visas, and are, of course, subject to the statutory immigration requirements of Section 3 of the Act of February 5, 1927, except that they may be considered to meet the public charge requirements in view of the fact that the Attorney General has found that satisfactory arrangements have been made for their support. In connection with the determination of questions under Section 59.47 of the Regulations of November 19, 1941, as amended, regarding aliens entering the United States, the existence of the relationships described in Section 59.48 thereof shall not be considered. Replace visas may be issued during the same quota year to those children who are still qualified therefor under this instruction and who are still under sixteen years of age at the date of the issuance of such replace visas. Subject to the quota laws it is the Department's intention to assign numbers from next year's quota to cover visas issued pursuant to this instruction under this year's quota. The foregoing further assumes no pertinent adverse change in present quota laws. Cases of children who have passed their sixteenth birthday in the interim desiring to obtain new or replace visas should be reported to the Department for further instructions. Children under 14 years of age need not be registered and fingerprinted.

The Embassy at Madrid will be the supervisory and control office for the assignment of quota numbers to offices in Spain and Portugal. For this purpose the following inclusive nonpreference quota numbers are allotted to Madrid:

000511

1008, April 12, 5 p.m., to Madrid.

_____ to _____ German
_____ to _____ Polish
_____ to _____ Belgian
_____ to _____ Netherland

541

_____ to _____ Czechoslovak and
_____ to _____ French quotas.

The visas may be issued at the rate of one-third of each allotment per month. Consolidated quota reports should be submitted by telegraph by Madrid at the end of each month returning any unused numbers and giving name of child, quota number, date and place of issuance. If additional quota numbers of the countries mentioned or of any other country are desired, they should be requested by telegraph. Submit by telegraph before June 1st estimate of quota numbers needed for fiscal year 1944-1945. Inform consular officers in Spain and Portugal. Advise the appropriate Spanish and Portuguese authorities regarding this instruction and state that it is the earnest hope of this Government that the Spanish and Portuguese Governments will promptly take such action, direct and indirect as will facilitate and expedite the movement of children from Franco. You may also inform the Spanish and Portuguese Governments that the War Refugee Board will undertake to arrange for any financing that may be necessary to provide maintenance for refugees from enemy oppression arriving in Spain and Portugal.

Report Spanish and Portuguese reaction and keep Department advised regarding developments in this matter which may be of interest. Repeated to LEGATION at Lisbon.

HULL
(EBC)

Code Room - Please repeat the foregoing telegram to our LEGATION AT Lisbon 1017 with the following opening: Sentence - "The following was sent to Madrid as Department's No. 1008 of April 12"

WB
WRB:GLW:OMH
4/11/44

VD 5/CR
Cleared over phone
with Mr. Gilbertson

cc: Sec'y: Abrahamson, Akzin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Purford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Paul, Pollak, Quinn, Sargoy, Smith, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, E. D. White, Fehle, Files.

000512

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington

TO: Embassy, Ankara

DATED: April 4, 1944

NUMBER: 296

FOLLOWING IS FOR THE AMBASSADOR'S ATTENTION.

REF. CABLE 16.

It is understood by us that you and Hirschmann have been informed by Joseph Schwartz, Lisbon JDO representative, that there is a good possibility that a Portuguese vessel may be obtained for the purpose of evacuating refugees from Constantia. We have also been informed by Schwartz that Hirschmann has advised him to suspend negotiations with the Portuguese Shipping Company until the possibilities of evacuation are definitely decided and until the question of using a Turkish vessel has been determined.

We assume that you will bear in mind the suggestion made by Schwartz and that if an occasion should develop wherein a Portuguese vessel could be used you will inform Schwartz and us.

WILL
(RM)

cc: Miss Gurnsey (for the Secty.), Abrahamson, Akkin, Bernstein, Cahn, DeBois, Friedman, Garton, Kotal, Laughlin, Lester, Lufford, Mann, Mennen, Marks, McCormack, Paul, Pehle, Pollak, Rains, Sargent, Smith, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, E. B. White, Files.

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

000514

PLAIN
Edition
Dated April 1, 1944
No. 10 7:10 P.M.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

973 First, noon.
Department's 350, March 24/44

JOURNAL DE COMERCIO FOR MARCH 31 editorializes as follows on Roosevelt's refugee statement:

"Who can deny high political and moral significance of statement made by Roosevelt regarding United States attitude towards people whose circumstances have forced to abandon central European countries and parts of Asia. An civilized nation will ignore appeal of the American President to all free peoples of Europe and Asia to open frontiers to refugees fleeing horrors of war, seeking shelter in any corner of world until storm is over. Portugal is country of limited resources which conflict has placed in delicate international position. However, neither these considerations nor any others stand in the way of our country fulfilling its duty, giving generously to all who reached our frontiers. Because of what we witnessed and did, we are in better position than anyone to understand Roosevelt's appeal. American President believes that persons who have even before war had to abandon countries will again be faced with very great difficulties owing to invasion of Hungary and possible intervention in Rumania. In view of new ways of suffering, Roosevelt again spoke with energy of sanctions that will again be applied at any time to all those who have been guilty of carrying out deeds of violence".

Radio station VOX DA LISBON broadcast following commentary of March thirtieth: "Roosevelt, the great President of the United States, obtains indisputably the admiration of the entire world, affirming himself one of the most gigantic figures of recent years. One of the greatest statesmen, with extraordinary vision he foresaw correct action for his country in time of stress. Intelligently without violence, he threw the weight of America into the struggle thus contributing the prestige of a great nation and its incomparable resources. President Roosevelt, in this difficult time we are now passing through, has not failed to open his generous and noble heart worthy of a great chief of a great nation. And so out of his heart, he has launched an appeal in favor of the refugees and innocent victims

SECRET

... abandoned their homes and
... As roads they wandered without com-
... in hills and valleys, fleeing persecution and
... victims of unenvied refugees have reached the
... of the United States. Many thousands continue
... their endless wandering, suffering great privation.
... Of them Roosevelt in his Christmas appeal seeks the
... protection of the free countries of Europe and Asia.
... No revolt after his own country had been the first to
... set the example, appeals to the sentiments of human
... solidarity of other free peoples. Personal contact
... fail to affirm that its heart is with that of the great
... American leader because these sentiments of solidarity
... are universal to all free people. It is the
... of freedom and democracy that we address not for
... of the United States, but for the sake of
... of the world.

... on a...
... which was...
... except...
... appeal...
... case...
... particularly to the tragedy of civilization.

Clippings and text of broadcast being attached.

NORWES.

LES

- cc: Miss Chamcey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Akein, Barnstein,
- Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Leuser,
- Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Murphy, Paul, Pehle,
- Pollak, Rains, Sargoy, Smith, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein,
- H. D. White, Files

1051

BJR - 150
This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Governmental
agency. (BR)

Lisbon

Dated March 26, 1944

Rec'd 4:51 p.m.

Secretary of State.

Washington.

905, March 28, 4 p.m. (SECTION TWO)

No editorial comment has appeared as yet but will
endeavor to utilize press contacts to give statement
fullest discussion. We are arranging for commentary
over local commercial station.

HOKWEB

EDA

Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akria, Bernstein, Cohn,
DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann,
McCormack, Paul, Pollak, Rains, Sargoy, Standish, Stewart, White,
Fehle, Files

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE March 25, 1944

TO : Mr. J. B. Friedman
FROM : Joseph H. Murphy

Re: Relief of Victims of Enemy Persecution
in Europe: Report from Portugal.

The attached report which consists of Air Despatch No. 217 of February 16, 1944 from Lisbon, plus individual reports of JDC, USC, AFSC, and HICEM indicates that there are about 445 stateless Jews in Portugal, the majority of which are ex-Germans and ex-Austrians; about 487 Jews of Polish nationality, many of whom are stateless by reason of non-recognition; and about 193 of mixed nationality, including Belgian, French, Dutch, Czech, Yugoslav, Hungarian, etc. Of this total of 1125, 495 are war refugees, 360 are refugees by reason of Hitler's pre-war persecutions, and 270 are normal immigrants. This total does not include 150 recently arrived Portuguese nationals, whose status is presently a subject of consideration, and 525 Portuguese Jews. Thus, there are 1800 Jews residing in Portugal.

Portuguese immigration policy was quite lenient at first but at the present time restrictions have been tightened. Only transit visas are granted to refugees, and these are limited to cases where the refugee has a valid end visa and a paid reservation on a steamship, leaving on a definite date. Illegal entrants are not, however, excluded, and after a short period of arrest their entry has usually been legalized. Those arriving in Portugal since 1940 are not allowed to work. Some are in forced residence, others are restricted to town liberty, and still others have full liberty. Education and religious worship are available to many.

It should be noted, however, that the Portuguese Government has not permitted the admission of refugees born in Russia or other Baltic countries, even for transit purposes.

The following seem to be the significant recommendations made in the attached reports:

Port.

- 1.) Approach to the Portuguese authorities to permit the entry of further refugees. In this connection it would probably be necessary to secure commitments for the disposition of these refugees after the war. With such commitments the Portuguese might be willing to approach the Vichy Government to secure the release of refugees, particularly children.
- 2.) Appeal to the Portuguese Government for shipping space.
- 3.) Appeal to the Portuguese Government to grant end visas on the theory that if this were done certain of the "satellite" countries might be willing to release refugees.
- 4.) Appeal to the Portuguese Government to remove restrictions upon admission of Russian and Baltic refugees. In this connection it was felt that an exception might be made in the case of small numbers by handling them on a group passport basis.
- 5.) Speedier and more frequent issuance of licenses by the United States and British Governments facilitating the purchase of food packages in Portugal for transmission to occupied areas.
- 6.) Simplification of present procedures for the issuance of United States visas, transit and otherwise.
- 7.) Speeding up of Portuguese police procedures in those cases in which refugees are detained in order to speed their evacuation when, and if possible.
- 8.) Repatriation of American citizens in Portugal who, though not technically war refugees, are war victims.
- 9.) Appeal to the Portuguese to be less brutal in their treatment of imprisoned refugees.
- 10.) Appeal to the Portuguese to permit refugees to work.

The importance of evacuating refugees presently in Portugal was stressed upon two occasions as a means of inducing the Portuguese Government to receive more refugees. Against this however is the conclusion that refugees in Portugal are, as a general matter, well treated and would probably be reluctant presently to leave Portugal, especially for a camp such as the one in North Africa.

J. A. L.

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED.
FROM: The American Minister, Lisbon
TO: The Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: March 11, 1944
NUMBER: 778

Through appropriate channel, the substance of the message contained in Department's number 713 dated 4/2/44 has been launched and within a comparatively short time is expected to reach the Bulgarian and Hungarian Governments. Although we are a few days to receive their answers, steps are also being taken to see that it is conveyed to the Government of Rumania.

Although we believe already that we may expect an answer in due course from the Government of Hungary, no such indication has been conveyed as yet concerning the intentions of the Government of Bulgaria or the Government of Rumania, with the channel of approach in which we have not yet made contact.

These answers will be sent to you as quickly as possible when and if we receive them.

NCHEVER

DCR:MPL
3/11/44

- cc. Miss Chauncey (Sec'y) Messrs. Abrahamson, Akzin, Bernstein, Mrs. Cohn, Messrs. Dubois, Friedman, Gaston, Miss Hodel, Miss Laughlin, Messrs. Lessert, Luckford, Mann, McCormack, Paul, Pollak, Raines, Smith, Standish, Stewart, H.D. White

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

COPY PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT
FROM: SECRETARY OF STATE, WASHINGTON
TO: AMERICAN LEGATION, BERN
DATED: MARCH 7, 1944
NUMBER: 770

The fact that you have had approaches through various channels from one or more of the Governments of Bulgaria, Rumania, and Hungary and that you have channels through which messages can be conveyed to one or more of these Governments is born in mind by the Department.

We instruct you to convey through such channels to the Governments of Bulgaria, Rumania, and Hungary, or any of them to which you have such access, the following information:

At the present time the Government of the United States is aware that these Governments are pursuing programs of persecuting their Jewish minorities and refugees of other nationalities who have escaped into their territories. The persecution consists among other forms in sending such refugees beyond the borders of their own countries into Poland where they undergo various forms of cruelty and even death, dictated by Nazi degeneracy. Still another form of persecution consists in preventing the refugees from escaping to neutral countries where their lives may be saved.

The Government of the United States is determined to do everything it can to rescue such unfortunates who are in danger of losing their lives and to find for them havens of refuge. Any continuation by these Governments of the execution of these policies of Hitlerite persecutions is viewed with great seriousness by this Government and will be kept in mind. The President, in establishing the War Refugee Board, recently restated unequivocally the position of the United States Government in this matter. (Department's cable to Bern of January 25, 1944 No. 201). The Government of the United States takes the view that these Governments, as well as their subordinates and functionaries, are fully responsible for the actions of persecution committed on their territories and in the interests of humanity they should assist immediately. Moreover, they should be informed that in their own interest, they will be well advised to take advantage in the future of such opportunities as may be available to them to allow refugees to depart across their borders into territories of any neutral countries which may be prepared to receive them.

You are requested to try to ascertain through appropriate channels that the Governments in question have received the substance of this message, and the results of the representations, if any.

The foregoing message was repeated to Cairo for MacVeagh as Greek Series 37 and to Stockholm, Lisbon, and Ankara as the Department's cables Nos. 372, 713 and 177 respectively.

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

000521

February 22, 1944.

PORTUGAL

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

On March 24, 1943, the Lisbon Embassy reported to the State Department that the British favor Lisbon as a port of embarkation for refugees and expect the first two ships on March 28.

On March 25, the Ambassador in Lisbon reports that he requested the permission of Portugal for transit for French refugees from Spain and was told to ask the Portuguese Minister for Foreign Affairs for its assistance by note. He proceeded to follow these instructions rather than the previous directions received from the State Department. On March 30, the Embassy at Madrid wired the State Department that Portugal was awaiting a formal note requesting assistance, and would accept nothing else.

On April 1, a wire from London disclosed that the Portuguese now prefer embarkation from a port further south than Lisbon. Vilareal is reported as being too shallow for the French ships available. It cannot take ships with a draft of more than 14 ft. according to the British. Setubal has been suggested as being less conspicuous. The British prefer to leave all arrangements to admiralty and to State Department officials in Portugal, to avoid the delay caused by frequent communications with London.

On April 3, the Lisbon Embassy reported to the State Department that Chatel, former Governor of Algeria, had offered to direct relief work for French refugees on route through Portugal. This appears desirable to Lisbon, but must await the O.K. of the French Red Cross.

On the same date, Lisbon also reported that there had been no organized shipment of French refugees into Portugal up to that time. Some of them had been smuggled in by the de Gaullis and thence to England. The British admiralty was still arguing over what port to use.

The English have informed our Lisbon Legation that it will be responsible for the refugees while in Portugal, and Lisbon asks for \$25,000, if this is so. It is the understanding of the Lisbon Embassy that all negotiations are to be conducted through the Portuguese Embassy at Madrid rather than with the Government at Lisbon.

RS:Smith:ia 2/22/44

700522

1/1
Portugal

AIR MAIL

no. 217

CONTROL COPY 3

WRB
(initials)

Lisbon, February 16, 1944

Subject: Relief of Victims of Enemy Persecution in Europe.

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

Sir:

In line with the Department's telegraphic instruction no. 200, January 25 midnight, and after consultation with the British Embassy and with members of the several relief organizations in Lisbon, a meeting was held at the Legation on February 9, 1944, at which were present Mr. Garran, Secretary of the British Embassy, Dr. Schwartz of the American Joint Distribution Committee, Mr. Conard, head of the American Friends Service Committee, Mrs. Dexter (in the absence of Mr. Dexter), head of the Unitarian Service Committee, Mr. Spanien, secretary of the HIAS-JCA Emigration Association (HIOEM), and Mr. Crocker, First Secretary of this Legation. The substance of the Department's telegram under reference was conveyed to the meeting and comments were invited.

As a result of this meeting the four relief organizations above mentioned have sent in separate memoranda containing valuable comments and suggestions which would appear to embody the replies requested as to (a) What the United States Government can do to effectuate with all possible speed the rescue and relief of the victims of enemy oppression and (b) What can be done to make the Portuguese Government cooperate more fully in carrying out this policy.

Copies of the memoranda prepared by the Joint Distribution Committee, the Friends and the Unitarian Service Committees and a translation of that prepared by HIOEM, are transmitted herewith for the Department's information.

The historical report included in the memorandum prepared by the Joint Distribution Committee fully covers the situation as it exists today in Portugal and requires no further elaboration.

In general it can be stated that the conditions under which refugees are at present living in Portugal are perhaps as favorable as those in any other country in Europe. As a matter of fact they are so favorable that it is the opinion of Dr. Schwartz of the Joint Distribution Committee that little if any response would be had to an appeal for volunteers to proceed to the new Reception Center recently established in North Africa where arrangements made to receive them there.

It

70052

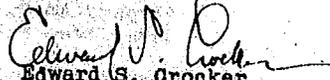
It will be noted by reference to the HICEM memorandum that although the representative who was present on February 9 meeting agreed with the sense of the meeting that at present no useful purpose would be served by the opening of a branch in Portugal of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees or of the appointment as Intergovernmental Committee representative of a Portuguese national, Dr. Bernstein, who was absent because of illness, nevertheless adduces certain arguments in favor of opening such a branch office. Nevertheless, after further consultation with the British we still hold to the negative opinion expressed in the Legation's telegram no. 401, February 10, 10 a.m.

As reported in my 468, February 15, 5 p.m., I brought the policy as expressed in the President's Executive Order to the attention of the Secretary General of the Portuguese Foreign Office, who indicated his agreement and sympathy with the problems brought up by the refugees question. He expounded at some length as to the well-known liberal attitude always held by Portugal in this respect and emphasized Portugal's humanitarian policy, which he said would be continued. He brought up the question presented by refugees of Russian origin and explained that an exception had to be made in their case because refuge could not be given to them in Portugal. However, he felt that if it was a matter of small numbers in transit this might be arranged provided they were included in group passports.

In conclusion, it may be stated that the response on the part of the representatives of the various American relief organizations here to the interest shown by the American Government in the refugee problem was one of extreme gratification.

Respectfully yours,

For the Minister:


Edward S. Crocker
First Secretary

Enclosures:

1. From American Joint Distribution Committee;
2. From American Friends Service Committee;
3. From Unitarian Service Committee;
4. From HIAS-JCA Emigration Association (HICEM).

300
ESC/ajl

Enclosure no. 1, despatch no. 217 dated February 16, 1944,
from the American Legation in Lisbon.

COPY

AMERICAN JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

European Executive
Council

242, Rua Aurea,
Lisbon, Portugal

PORTUGAL AND THE REFUGEE PROBLEM

A) Historical Background and Present Situation.

At the very beginning of the refugee problem in 1933 entry into Portugal was quite easy and involved few formalities. Regular immigration visas were issued by Portuguese consulates in all parts of Germany and Austria and with these visas immigrants came into Portugal, were given residence cards and were permitted to establish businesses of their own without restriction. They were not permitted, however, to compete with Portuguese labor and refugees could accept employment only when the firm offering such employment could prove that there was not a Portuguese national who could fill the position. In August of 1938 the Portuguese authorities stopped issuing residence cards to incoming refugees. Nevertheless some refugees continued to come in. All in all between 1933 and the end of May 1940 several hundred Jewish refugees from Central Europe arrived in Portugal. The great majority settled in Lisbon.

With the fall of France in June 1940, when people began to come here in great numbers, the policy of the Portuguese Government changed. They no longer issued permanent or immigration visas but did issue transit visas to persons who were in possession of an end visa to an overseas country. The attitude of Portugal was that in this emergency its role would be that of a country of transit and not a place for permanent or even temporary settlement.

As a country of transit Portugal afforded facilities to many tens of thousands of refugees who passed through here from June 1940 to date. Refugees having in their passports visas for an overseas country received the Portuguese transit visa without much difficulty and were able to embark for their ultimate destination. It is estimated that during this period approximately 100,000 people passed through Portugal on their way to North-, South- and Central America, England, South Africa, North Africa, Belgian Congo, Palestine and other territories. In the beginning the Portuguese authorities did not examine too closely the validity of the end visas which refugees presented and, as a result, many thousands were stranded here because their end visas were found to be not valid and they had no possibility of emigrating. Gradually these refugees succeeded in obtaining visas or in finding a haven of refuge, and the great majority have since left this country. As a result, however,

the

the Portuguese authorities began to examine more carefully the individual end visas of people coming here in transit. For some time now transit visas are granted only to those who have a valid end visa and a paid reservation on a steamship leaving on a definite date.

Since 1940 the Portuguese authorities have consistently refused to issue permanent visas to refugees or to permit them to enter the country on anything but a transit visa. A few hundred refugees from Spain did succeed in entering the country illegally without a transit or any other kind of Portuguese visa. After a relatively short period of arrest the Portuguese authorities legalized the entry of these people and have permitted them to remain in the country. This entire group was placed in forced residence in Ericeira, a small fishing town and summer resort near Lisbon, where about 125 of these originally illegal entrants still remain.

As a result of the efforts of individual refugees and their families abroad, and also as a result of the activities of private relief agencies, often with Government cooperation, the great bulk of refugees who came to Portugal have now reached a more or less permanent haven of refuge overseas. There now remain in Portugal only 7 - 800 refugees, of whom some 300 are in forced residence in Caldas da Rainha, a spa about 100 kilometers from Lisbon; about 125 in Ericeira; about 200 in Lisbon and the rest scattered in the provinces. The great majority of the refugees now in Portugal are being maintained by American relief agencies. Thus, in the month of December 1943, the American Joint Distribution Committee alone had on its relief rolls 551 individuals.

The refugees who arrived in Portugal since 1940 are not permitted to engage in any type of work or business activity. Those who are assigned to forced residence in either Caldas da Rainha or Ericeira are not permitted to leave the town without special police authorization. Children of refugee families are permitted to go to schools provided they, or a relief agency, pay the tuition fees. Religious activities are permitted and small synagogues have been organized both in Caldas da Rainha and in Ericeira. Group activity of a recreational or vocational nature is, however, not encouraged although on occasions specific projects may be authorized by the Police. Within the town to which they are assigned, however, the refugees have complete freedom of movement and of choice of residence.

Since Portugal does not border on any occupied territory, it is impossible for people fleeing from these territories to come into the country without first passing through Spain. As a result of this and also because of the Portuguese attitude on visas, the great bulk of refugees who fled "illegally" from France and other occupied countries of Europe in a westward direction, came to Spain and remained there until they were evacuated either through Portugal, when they had obtained a transit visa, or directly from Spain to North Africa or to overseas countries on Spanish steamers leaving from Spanish

ports.

ports. Because of the fact also that Portugal does not border on occupied territory, the attitude of the Portuguese Government has had practically no effect on the ability of refugees to escape from Nazi territory. There have been no instances in which the Portuguese authorities have turned back people at the border. On the contrary, people who came in illegally were soon legalized and permitted to remain in the country.

B) How we and the Portuguese Government could help from here in the rescue of Jews and other persecuted minorities from Hitler.

Several possibilities exist for enlisting the help of the Portuguese Government on behalf of Jews and other persecuted minorities in Axis or Axis occupied Europe.

1) The American Government could approach the Portuguese authorities and suggest to them that a haven be offered to Jewish and other children now in France, Belgium and Holland, permitting them to come into the country either for a limited time until they are evacuated or for the duration of the war. In this connection it might be necessary for the United States Government, either acting alone or in cooperation with other governments, to guarantee to the Portuguese Government that any children coming into Portugal under this plan will be evacuated either now or at the end of the war. It should be recalled in this connection that the State Department has already authorized some five thousand visas for children in France, and those visas might be utilized if the children were brought into Portugal. The Portuguese Government should be prevailed upon to approach the authorities at Vichy and ask that these children be permitted to leave for Portugal. In the final analysis the success of this plan would depend upon the ability of the Portuguese authorities to convince the Vichy authorities that these children should be permitted to leave. Without French exit visas these children could not come out.

2) An appeal should be made to the Portuguese Government to make available some of its shipping for the evacuation of refugees from occupied Europe at the present time. A possibility exists of transferring some five thousand children from Transnistria to Palestine. We are informed by our representatives in Turkey that the Roumanian authorities are willing to permit these children to depart if a neutral vessel could pick them up at Constanza and bring them either to Istanbul in transit for Palestine or directly to a Palestine port. The obstacle to the carrying out of this plan is lack of shipping and it is suggested that the American authorities approach the Portuguese Government asking them to make available one of their ships for this purpose.

3) There

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3) There is some indication that some of the satellite countries, like Slovakia, Hungary and Roumania, would be willing to grant exit permits to Jews provided they had in their possession evidence of an end visa to a neutral country. The Portuguese Government might be asked to issue a number of immigration visas to Jews residing in those countries. In this connection, too, a guarantee might have to be given to the Portuguese Government that those people coming here under this plan would be evacuated after a reasonable length of time.

4) The Portuguese Government has made it a policy not to admit, even in transit, refugees who were born in Russia or the Baltic countries. This has worked great hardship on refugees who had end visas but could not come into Portugal simply because they happened to be born in one of the above mentioned countries. In the beginning, such groups were routed through France and Casablanca to be embarked from there. Now that has become impossible. In view of the fact that we are now preparing to emigrate some hundred families from Spain to Canada on duration visas being issued by the Canadian Government, it is important that this restriction be removed. Otherwise those families in Spain eligible for Canadian emigration but born in Russia or the Baltic countries will find it difficult to reach their ultimate destination.

5) In addition to serving as a country of transit, Portugal has also served in a limited way as a food supply centre for the internees of Nazi occupied Europe. Thus, on Licenses issued by the United States Treasury Department and by the British Treasury, refugee relief agencies have been able to purchase food parcels in Portugal and send them to Theresienstadt in Czechoslovakia, to ghettos in Poland and to other points of concentration. The shortage of food has necessarily imposed some restrictions, and only certain types of food, such as sardines, dried fruits and almonds, may now be exported from here. Nevertheless, even within these limitations, this kind of help could be increased if our Government issued additional Licenses to private relief agencies for the despatch of these packages. Licenses are now pending for permission to send food to internment camps in Holland and in other parts of occupied Europe. Speedier action on these Licenses would be most helpful.

6) The position of refugees in Portugal would be improved if evidence could be furnished that steady progress is being made in their removal from Portugal. In this connection the issuance of United States visas or visas to other countries in the Western Hemisphere to families who are eligible under the Immigration Laws and whose presence in the Western Hemisphere would not be detrimental to the war effort, would be of great assistance not only to the individual refugees involved but in creating a more favorable attitude on the part of the Portuguese Government towards refugees in general. In recent months the number of United States visas issued to refugees now in Portugal has been negligible. It is suggested that some way be found to simplify present procedures in the issuance of visas and to increase the number of visas issued.

Enclosure no. 2, despatch no. 217 dated February 16, 1944,
from the American Legation in Lisbon.

COPY

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE

Lisbon Office:
Rua de D. Pedro V. 7-1^o.

14th February 1944

Mr. E.S. Crocker,
Counsellor of the American Legation,
Rua a Lapa 106,
L I S B O N

Dear Mr. Crocker:

With reference to the matters discussed in the conference you so kindly arranged for representatives of the American Legation and British Embassy with Delegates of the Welfare Agencies dealing with refugees, and in accord with your suggestion that we prepare a memorandum on the several questions, we beg to present the following:

First let me say that we appreciate very much the suggestion that a branch office be established here of the Inter-governmental Committee on Refugees (there have been times during the past three or four years when such an office would have been a veritable godsend), but the refugee situation as it stands at present does not seem to warrant the setting up of such an office.

The number of refugees in Portugal is very small. Those who have good chances of emigration are in general of nationalities, which have their own official representatives here to look after the needs of their own people.

For those who are "Stateless", or for other reasons lack such protection, the private agencies now here are meeting their needs, so far as those are concerned who seem to come within the purview of the proposal.

While we do not think the situation would warrant the creation of a new office, we do believe it would be very advantageous to have some one in the Legation and the Embassy to whom we may address such matters as would be advanced by official help. And your own generous offer and that of Mr. Peter Garran will certainly cover this need.

On the specific questions you raised and on which we might venture an opinion we may comment as follows:

1 - What

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1 - What the United States Government can do for the rescue and relief of refugees in danger:

In Portugal refugees are not in imminent danger in the sense evidently referred to. So that the intent of the proposal would seem not to apply to this field. However, if such an office were established, such problems of the relatively small number here, as now vex the Relief Committees would certainly be referred to it. The following are suggestive:

a) The great problem is migration.

The Government might speed up the process on consideration of visa applications. The process is in itself so complicated as to make it almost prohibitive to immigration.

The Legation might be given certain discretionary powers to act in certain cases, as such an office as is proposed would certainly be given to act quickly to save those in immediate danger. This would be particularly valuable where the uniting of families is involved.

Certain facilities might be offered for joining the armed forces or working for them direct from here. Visitors or non-quota visas might be granted at once to worthy cases, unable for lack of family in America, to get the immigration visa.

b) Transit visas. This process is now so complicated and slow that persons with valid visas for other American nations are unable to get through before the expiration of such visas.

c) Repatriation. There is a considerable burden on private agencies in the repatriation of American citizens. Even their passports must be paid for. As was done for those who went on the Exchange ships, a promisory note might be taken for expenses and passages. Since those of military age will soon be in the armed forces, they can soon pay their debts.

2 - Where helpful influence might be brought to bear on the Portuguese Authorities:

a) For the relatively small numbers now in Portugal.

1) The handicaps are usually due to police measures. For those who are in forced residence outside of Lisbon, (which, it should be said, is immeasurably better than any kind of concentration camps) the process of securing permission to come to Lisbon when necessary is slow, the time allowed is often insufficient and legitimate reasons for extensions are often not convincing. This situation may be due to abuses of privileges by the refugees in general, but it is a problem that such an official office as is suggested would probably have to deal with.

2) Residence visas. There are some refugees who have slight chance of emigrating until after the war and whose families might have a chance to join

them

them if they could secure visas other than transit.

3) Work. The numbers are now so small that it would not affect the economy of the country to allow them to undertake some useful occupation. Some have special skills which would not put them into competition in any case with nationals. This would not only relieve the Committees of financial burdens, but much more important, it would save the refugees from the degeneration of stagnation.

b) For others.

1) Saving Children. Thinking of larger problems of the victims of war, Portugal might, as a neutral on the very rim of the battle field, take in a large number of children from France, for a vacation and feeding program, by bringing them in by groups for a period of several months each. This could be done with or without cost to the Government. Switzerland did a magnificent service in this regard. It could be handled by the Portuguese Red Cross and financed, if necessary, by funds raised for the purpose. Non-French children, once here could be evacuated to other countries. The USCOM had 1000 visas for such children when the Germans came into "un-occupied" France and closed the frontier. At the time Canada offered to take 1000 and Argentina 1000. Portugal might succeed in getting these out.

2) Increasing numbers. As the war comes into France the stream of fleeing refugees will doubtless increase. Portugal probably will not open doors for their entry unless some provision is previously agreed on to evacuate them. Some plan like that which took so many from Spain to North Africa, might be worked out so that Portugal could be assured of their evacuation.

3) Transit visas denied certain persons. Persons born in Russia, of whatever political position, or of none, are denied transit through Portugal. Some other nationalities are also denied transit, though our Committee has not had cases other than Russian. With proper guarantees, this rule might be eased.

3 - Special obstacles:

The obstacles have been implied in each case presented. We believe that, in establishing such a branch office of the I.G.S.as is being considered, such facilities as those required in our suggestions under No. 1, would probably be contemplated, and could therefore be solicited by the regular diplomatic representatives. And such an office would certainly be expected to use its influence in dealing with the local authorities in the questions mentioned in Section No. 2.

- 4 - Recommendations for overcoming such obstacles:
- a) That representation be made to the United States Government on such of the suggestions of Section No. 1 as the Legation thinks proper.
 - b) That representations be made to the competent Portuguese Authorities as may be necessary on cases as they arise and can be presented concretely and from which may be established certain rules or principles of procedure.
 - c) On the suggestion of bringing children to Portugal, the question be raised with the Red Cross or directly with the Government.

Discussion will doubtless bring out other proposals, but these are presented as a basis for study.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) Philip A. Conard
Commissioner

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Enclosure no. 3, Dispatch no. 217 dated February 16, 1944,
from the American Legation in Lisbon.

COPY

UNITARIAN SERVICE COMMITTEE

Lisbon, Portugal
Rua Marques de Fronteira 111, 1^o

Dr. Elisabeth A. Dexter
Associate Director

February 14th 1944

Mr. Edward S. Crocker,
American Legation,
Lisbon.

Dear Mr. Crocker,

I have discussed the questions posed by Mr. Hull's cable with the members of our staff, and here are the suggestions which occur to us:

I. What can the United States government do to aid refugees?

(1) Transit visas could be speeded, and pending applications for residence visas could be cleared more rapidly.

(2) Some provision should be arranged for single refugees. At present, Canadian visas are available for most suitable family groups now in Portugal. It is particularly demoralizing for a young person alone to live year after year as a refugee. If the present restrictions on work in Portugal could be modified (see II-5 below) this problem would be less pressing.

(3) A representative in Lisbon might be permitted to grant visas, within certain categories, without reference to Washington. This was done until July 1941, and is now being done by the Canadian government. It would greatly diminish the present delays.

(4) The question of visas for the duration might be considered. At present the problem is so small that such visas may hardly be necessary, but the possibility of a considerable increase after landings in Europe, as has happened in Switzerland, should be borne in mind.

(5) The U.S. government ought to provide for repatriation of American citizens. Most of these are war victims, if not technically refugees. The private agencies here are now carrying quite a burden which is shouldered by the government of most countries.

II. How may the Portuguese government be asked to help refugees?

(1) It might explore possibilities of getting some children, orphaned or separated from their parents, out of France.

(2) It might furnish ships for transporting refugees who can leave the danger zone.

(3) In

(3) In Portugal, it might facilitate the transfer of refugees, arrested merely for lack of proper papers, from prison to residence forcée. Such transfers occur less easily now, at any rate for Christian refugees, than was the case a year ago.

(4) Protest should be made against brutality in the treatment of imprisoned refugees, and against persecution of refugees for the expression of pro-allied sympathy -- a persecution which has sometimes stood in sharp contrast to lenient treatment of refugees who obtained German protection.

(5) In view of the small number of refugees now in Portugal, the rule forbidding them to work might be, if not modified, at least interpreted in a more lenient way. For example, a really distinguished violinist was sent to prison for giving a few lessons. Qualified students are not allowed to attend university lectures. And so forth. Enforced idleness is the most demoralizing factor in refugee life, and is responsible for most of the problems of behavior.

Cases to illustrate the need of the actions suggested above can be furnished for every point.

A considerable majority, both those in and out of enemy territory, are Jews, but there are still Christians who are equally victims of the present War and the Nazi philosophy. There is a tendency in Portugal to regard non-Jewish refugees as *ipso facto* communists. It appears to be more difficult now for a non-Jew than for a Jew to receive an American visa or a British navicert. I completely approve of care in issuing either of these, but believe that the care should be given indiscriminately to all applicants and that the non-Jews, although fewer in numbers, should not be forgotten.

In conclusion, may I say how greatly encouraged I feel by this proposal on the part of the government, and by the very sympathetic attitude shown by you and by Mr. Garran. It seems to me the most cheering development which has occurred for a long time -- aside from Allied victories, of course. I have some appreciation of how heavily burdened you and Mr. Garran must be. I hope that you will be able to make some arrangement so that not all the work will fall on you two personally. I am sure that this proposal gives promise of great usefulness.

With great appreciation, I am

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) Elisabeth A. Dexter.

Enclosure no. 4, despatch no. 217 dated February 16, 1944,
from the American Legation in Lisbon.

TRANSLATION

HIAS - JCA Emigration Association

(HICEM)

49, Rua Rodrigo da Fonseca, 2º,

Lisbon, February 14, 1944

M E M O R A N D U M

Attention of Mr. Crocker.

Following a meeting which took place at the American Legation on the 9th instant, permit me to address you the following memorandum:

- 1) A - Concerning the assistance which the American Legation could give us in cooperating on the refugee problems of our organization, we feel that the Legation might wish to draw the attention of the State Department upon the necessity of shortening the delay for the authorization of visas, which would result in facilitating immigration into the United States insofar as such facilities would be compatible with the national interest and the security of the country.
- B - Our Secretary, who was present at the meeting, in which I could not participate for reasons of health, informed me of the adjournment of the question of the establishment in Lisbon of an office of the Intergovernmental Committee.

However, the questions which pre-occupy our organization in the sphere of its activities in connection with emigration are intimately bound up with a representation of this kind in Lisbon which would appear to me to be desirable

Although it appears that Portugal does not participate in the agreement which created the Intergovernmental Committee, our experience has proven that its efforts even in Lisbon, where the Deputy High Commissioner Mr. Kullmann worked for a certain length of time, proved to be useful. Furthermore, even when certain requests have been made by cable to the Intergovernmental Committee, which in turn is connected with the League of Nations, its interventions in favor of stateless persons and bearers of Nansen passports, of which it is the legal and recognized representative, have borne fruit and have given satisfactory results. We shall touch below on the question of stateless bearers of Nansen passports.

This is why it seems to us that the representation of the Intergovernmental Committee, desired and indicated

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in the cable of the State Department, which is always interested in the Committee, to judge by the effective collaboration which personalities like Mr. Myron Taylor, its head, and M. Malin, bring to it, could be extremely useful in Lisbon as well as the other cities mentioned, and it is to this end that we would like to ask that our mission be facilitated by its support in many questions. Besides, the Intergovernmental Committee has been up to the present the only organization which recognizes the value of its efforts and work and already, as the result of the activities of Mr. James McDonald and Mr. Malcolm and later of Sir Emerson, has come to our aid.

2) Concerning your requests for general information which you were asked:

A - Portugal does not permit the entrance into the country of refugees excepting in the case where the interested individuals are bearers of valid visas of ultimate destination or where proof can be furnished of their immediate departure (steamship reservations, etc.). The only restriction is applied to stateless bearers of Nansen passports and those originating in the Baltic States, that is to say persons born in former Russian territory, but in view of the small number of refugees of this category we have not deemed it necessary to ask the Intergovernmental Committee's intervention as a solution has been found by embarkation from Spain.

B - Portugal even applies this line of conduct to its own nationals since it has confined at Curia and at Coimbra groups of refugees of Portuguese nationality recently arrived from France, preventing them by forced residence in a pre-determined spot from even earning their living in the country whose passport they nevertheless hold.

C - The number of refugees in the country is reduced and we have the impression that only the departure of those who are now here will permit new entries, always, however, under the same conditions.

D - As to the immigration of children, we are authoritatively informed that Switzerland has accepted a rather large number of them within its territory; furthermore, the Argentine, since its break in diplomatic relations with the Axis countries, has authorized the entry of 1,000 children originating in the occupied countries. The realization of these projects has been prevented only by the question of exit visas, which the occupying authorities have not granted.

If Portugal would make a similar gesture to that of Switzerland and the Argentine, it would represent an important moral factor even though there is no great hope that the children in question could be gotten out.

E - We attach to this memorandum certain statistical information concerning the refugees at present in Portugal.

APPROXIMATE STATISTICAL INFORMATION

1) Foreign Jewish population in Portugal February 1, 1944:

(In these figures are included foreign Jews forced to reside either in Caldas-da-Rainha or in Ericeira.)

A - <u>STATELESS.</u> (Ex-Germans and ex-Austrians form the majority) about	445
B - <u>POLES.</u> (Including those originating in Poland not actually recognized by their national authorities, therefore stateless) about	487
C - <u>VARIOUS.</u> (Belgians, French, Dutch, Czech, Yugoslavs, Hungarians, etc.) about	193
TOTAL	1125

composed of the following:

1. War refugees,	44 pc. 495
2. Refugees because of Hitler's pre-war persecutions,	32 pc. 360
3. Normal immigrants,	<u>24 pc. 270</u>
Total	100 pc. 1125

2) Note:

A - Portuguese recently arrived forced to reside in Curia or Coimbra until definite decision is made regarding their nationality, really also war refugees, about	150
B - Jewish population of Portuguese nationality, about	<u>525</u>

TOTAL 675
TOTAL OF JEWS RESIDING IN PORTUGAL: 1800

In these figures we have not taken into account whether these people were assisted or not.

100 800

100 800

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

Lisbon

Dated February 15, 1944

Rec'd 6:30 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

468, February 15, 5 p.m.



Report requested in Department's 200, February 11, 10 a.m. concerning War Refugee Board going forward in the next pouch.

I have brought the policy as expressed in the President's executive order to the attention of Secretary General of the Foreign Office who signified his agreement and sympathy with the principles thereof and willingness of Portuguese Government to continue its well-known liberal attitude toward refugee question along broad humanitarian lines. He explained that, of course, the question of refugees of Russian origin presented a special problem but he thought small numbers could be afforded transit through Portugal if included in group passports.

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