Cooperation with Other Governments: Neutral European: Spain - Exhibit 1
CROSS REFERENCE ON COOPERATION WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS:
NEUTRAL EUROPEAN: (SPAIN)

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

1. FOR RELATIVE MATERIAL RE ATTEMPT TO FORESTALL DEPORTATION AND DEATH FOR SOME 400 SEPHARDIC JEWS
2. FOR FURTHER DETAILS IN CONNECTION WITH PROBLEM OF REMOVING REFUGEES FROM SPAIN
3. FOR OTHER RELATIVE MATERIAL TO THIS FILE

SEE:
1. PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES: OTHER MEANS OF EFFECTING RESCUE (RECOGNITION OF SPANISH JEWS IN ATHENS)
2. PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES: EVACUATION OF AND THROUGH SPAIN (AND PORTUGAL) (EVACUATION OF REPUBLICAN REFUGEES FROM SPAIN AND PORTUGAL (UCD))
   PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES: EVACUATION TO AND THROUGH SPAIN (AND PORTUGAL) (EVAUCATIONS FROM SPAIN TO LITUANIA)
3. PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES: EVACUATION TO AND THROUGH SPAIN (AND PORTUGAL) (EVAUCATIONS OF CHILDREN FROM FRANCE TO SPAIN AND PORTUGAL (JDC))
   PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF & RESCUE OF REFUGEES: EVACUATION TO AND THROUGH SPAIN
This is a paraphrase of a message from Mann in Lisbon to Mr. Pehle.

Heineman and I have been talking recently and have convinced Spanish associates of his to take definite steps in regard to helping refugees coming in from France. These friends have been in touch with important Spanish authorities, asking urgently that they give their help in this humanitarian movement; that they take the initiative and announce formally to the United States Government that the Government of Spain is at present prepared to give her help. Having thought the matter out, the authorities in question told Heineman's associates that the Government of Spain is inclined to move favorably on this, that the Government of the United States must be the first to act. Consequently the War Refugee Board should be sure to send appropriate instructions immediately to the American Ambassador advising him to get in touch with the Spanish authorities as recommended previously. Over and above Heineman's report there are additional signs pointing to the fact that there will be a favorable reaction although the initial move must come from the Ambassador. It must be made clear to the Spaniards from the outset that either the United States Government or private groups will pay for the project and that absolutely no financial obligations will have to be carried by the Government of Spain which is a vital factor in this whole project.
TELEGRAM TO AMBASSADOR HAYES AT MADRID

SECRET

For the personal and confidential attention of the Ambassador:

Having completed a comprehensive re-examination of the part that Spain can play in the further rescue of Jews and other victims of enemy oppression, and the extent to which this Government may, consistent with the successful prosecution of the war and our relations with Spain, at this time request, with some prospect of success, the active assistance of the Spanish Government in the rescue of such persons, the following conclusions have been reached on the basis of all available information:

(a) In the coming months Spain can play a most important part in saving the lives of many victims of enemy persecution now in France or who may hereafter arrive there from elsewhere. (b) This Government can, consistent with the successful prosecution of the war and our relations with Spain, at this time request the Spanish government to take measures, hereinafter outlined, for the further rescue of victims of enemy oppression. (c) The prospects are excellent that such request will be complied with substantially.

In arriving at these conclusions and the measures hereinafter outlined, the considerations raised by your 1-99 of February 15, 12 noon; sections two and three of your 683 of February 28; section one of your 974 of March 20; your 997 of March 22 and your 1195 of April 6 have not (repeat not) been overlooked. The Department and the War Refugee Board, of which the Secretary of State is Chairman, appreciate deeply the understanding and sympathy with which you have handled the refugee problem, and the diligence and careful thought that you have given to the many complex and troublesome aspects. In view, however, of present circumstances, both the Department and the Board are confident that you will agree with them that the considerations raised in the messages under reference no longer obtain. Both the Department and the Board agree that in view of recent military, political and economic developments, the time has clearly arrived when a definitive and positive attitude may be taken vis-a-vis the Spanish Government with respect to the rescue of victims of enemy oppression, which would not only be consistent with, but in furtherance of our war effort and our relations with Spain.

In this connection it is believed that an approach to the Spanish Government requesting the adoption of the following measures would be timely and appropriate, and would meet with substantial success:

(a) The relaxation of border controls at the French border and the substitution therefor of reception centers within Spain, but close to the border, where the bona fide of the entrants' claim to being a refugee from enemy oppression could be examined. With reference to Section Two of your 683 of February 28, to the effect that so far as is known, virtually no refugees of this type have been prevented from entering Spain by Spanish
border guards, it must be noted that information of this kind would
hardly reach populated centers. Furthermore, at least one government-in-
exile has informed the Department that a number of its nationals seeking-
to escape into Spain have been turned back by Spanish border guards, and
has suggested our intercession on this score.

(b) Such reception centers to be so set up as to afford an opportunity
for rest and medical care. In this connection it has been reported that
one deterrent to aiding less hardy victims of enemy persecution to escape
to Spain is that, in view of the arduous nature of the terrain, it is
feared the effort would fail because of the lack of facilities necessary
to insure their survival, even if the crossing should be successful.

(c) The removal of refugees from such reception centers to emergency
refugee shelters where they would be held until arrangements could be made
for their removal from Spain.

We believe that the Spanish Government would agree to undertake the
prompt institution of the foregoing measures, substantially, if not
entirely, on the following guarantees: (a) No part of the cost of con-
structing or maintaining such reception centers and emergency refugee
centers is to be borne by Spain; (b) Medical, security and social welfare
personnel necessary to the proper maintenance of such centers and shelters
will be supplied by the United States or American voluntary agencies,
should the Spanish government so desire; (c) This Government will assume
the responsibility for arranging for the removal from Spain of stateless
and unprotected refugees as rapidly as possible.

The foregoing, of course, represents a simplification of the program
suggested in the Department's 453 of February 18 and 799 of March 23, and
the guarantees and undertakings therein contained obtain with respect to
the program herein set forth to the extent applicable.

In view of weather conditions now prevailing and expected to continue
during this season, you are requested promptly to approach appropriate
authorities of the Spanish government in person and, reminding them of the
deep concern of this Government for the lives of victims of enemy oppres-
sion, earnestly to seek their agreement promptly to take, on the basis of
the guarantees indicated, the three measures constituting the program herein
outlined. For your information and guidance, these measures are listed in
the order of their importance, and the acceptance of only the first of the
three suggested measures, would be considered substantial acquiescence.
Since time is of the essence, the Department would appreciate a report of
the results of your approach not later than July 7.

This matter has received my personal attention and I fully agree.
At the present moment, Spain is practically the only country through which Jews and other similar groups in danger of death in German occupied territory can be brought to safety. This fact offers the Spanish Government an unequalled opportunity to perform an outstanding humanitarian service. Action by the Spanish Government to encourage the transit of such refugees through Spain would certainly produce the most favorable reaction everywhere, and particularly in the United States where the Government itself is actively using its power and resources to rescue these unfortunate people.

Although the exact reasons for the situation are not entirely clear, it is known that the flow of refugees from France to Spain is now no more than a mere trickle. The Spanish Government can, it is believed, take certain measures to change this situation and make possible the rescue of many persons whose lives are now in danger. For example:

1. To the extent that the entry of refugees lacking proper documentation is now being impeded by the Spanish border controls, the escape of refugees to safety in Spain could be greatly facilitated by appropriate administrative action by the Spanish Government. If the liberal attitude of the Spanish Government in this regard were then to be made known to refugees in occupied France, many more might attempt to brave the physical hardships involved in crossing the border.

2. To the extent that the small number of refugees now entering Spain may be due to the attitude of the German or French authorities, the Spanish Government might, by appropriate representations to such authorities, secure the release of Jews and similar groups. In this connection, it may be noted that the successful humanitarian efforts of the Spanish Government to obtain the release of Spanish Jews from France are well and favorably known in the United States. It may be that efforts to obtain from the German and French authorities permission for other Jewish and similar groups, and particularly children, to leave France for Spain would now have an excellent chance of success.

It is realized that if the number of refugees entering Spain were greatly increased as a result of action along the lines indicated certain problems of care and maintenance in Spain would exist for temporary periods pending removal of the refugees to other countries. Fortunately, however, in the present circumstances the Spanish Government could, if it so desired, receive all necessary assistance in meeting these problems from private and governmental organizations in the United States.

It is the publicly announced policy of the Government of the United States to take all measures within its power to effect the rescue and relief of Jews and other similar persons in danger of death in German occupied territory. In order to carry out the power without delay, President Roosevelt in January of this year, established a War Refugee Board, composed of the
"शैलीमध्ये तुम्हीने भुवनेश्वरकडून तुमच्यांमध्ये डोळेवर तुम्ही आलेल्यास तुमच्या वृत्तीतीले तुम्ही इतर देखील अनुभव केलेले होते. तुम्ही सोयी केलेले होते किंवा तुम्हींना तुमच्या संबंधातील म्हणजेच तुम्हींना तुमच्या उपरांतचे अंदाज करतो. तुम्ही नेपालीमध्ये तुम्हींना पूर्ववर्तीत तुमच्या उपरांतीला तुमच्या उपरांतीला होते. तुम्ही नेपालीमध्ये तुम्हींना पूर्ववर्तीत तुमच्या उपरांतीला होते. तुम्ही नेपालीमध्ये तुम्हींना पूर्ववर्तीत तुमच्यांमध्ये तुमच्यांमध्ये तुमच्यांमध्ये होते. तुम्ही नेपालीमध्ये तुम्हींना पूर्ववर्तीत तुमच्यांमध्ये तुमच्यांमध्ये होते. तुम्ही नेपालीमध्ये तुम्हींना पूर्ववर्तीत तुमच्यांमध्ये तुमच्यांमध्ये होते. तुम्ही नेपालीमध्ये तुम्हींना पूर्ववर्तीत तुमच्यांमध्ये तुमच्यांमध्ये होते. तुम्ही नेपालीमध्ये तुम्हींना पूर्ववर्तीत तुमच्यांमध्ये तुमच्यांमध्ये होते. तुम्ही नेपालीमध्ये तुम्हींना पूर्ववर्तीत तुमच्यांमध्ये तुमच्यांमध्ये होते. तुम्ही नेपालीमध्ये तुम्हींना पूर्ववर्तीत तुमच्यांमध्ये तुमच्यांमध्ये होते. तुम्ही नेपालीमध्ये तुम्हींना पूर्ववर्तीत तुमच्यांमध्ये तुमच्यांमध्ये होते.

"
Board or by private American charitable organisations such as, for example, the Friends Service Committee and the Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

In view of the urgent humanitarian considerations involved in the present situation of Jewish and similar groups in France, the Spanish Government may well wish to consider whether it would be prepared to take action of the nature indicated.
Followng non-preference quota numbers allotted for
refugee children for month of March 1945 returned unused.
Figures represent 25% of block allotted Department's re-
stricted airgram 662 December 9, 1944. All numbers in-
cclusive.

German 4642-4791; Polish 1794-1831; Belgian 262-269;
Netherlands 503-522; Czechoslovakia 589-583; French
528-546; Hungarian 349-355.
Secretary of State,  
Washington.

A-623, November 2, 1944, 3 p.m.

[Handwritten text not transcribed]  

For War-Refugee Board. Official of Ministry of Foreign Affairs has orally confirmed that instructions along lines indicated in the Spanish Ambassador's letter of October 13 quoted in Department's telegram No. 2671 of October 25 have been sent to Spanish Embassy in Berlin on several occasions. He states, however, that efforts of latter Mission are being met with increasing unwillingness on part of German Government to cooperate in such matters.

HAYLC

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1972
By R. H. Parks Date 1972
Reference is made to your 3488 of October 19 and appreciation is expressed of your initiative reported therein.

For your information, the following is the substance of a letter written by Spanish Ambassador in Washington to representative of a Jewish welfare organization on October 13:

"I am glad to inform you that I have just received a cable from my Government directing me to tell you that, although Spain has been doing all in her power to ameliorate the Jewish present situation, is very pleased now to grant the request of the Vaud Nahatza. To this effect, special instructions have been given to the ambassador in Berlin to take with all speed and interest the necessary steps tending to the defense of the Jewry and to the special protection of the Spanish-American Jews, emphasizing that this help is not only to be extended to those citizens of countries which have entrusted Spain with their protection, but also to those of all other countries.

I am also authorized to inform your Committee that the Spanish Government has always made all possible efforts to protect the Sefardites of Spanish nationality now interned in German concentration camps, though, unhappily, not always with the desired results."
Nevertheless, it is gratifying to point out that, due to the Spanish intervention, several hundreds of them have been able to reach Spain in safety and to leave afterwards in complete freedom for their other destinations.

Please advise Department and Board whether such instructions mentioned in foregoing letter have been issued and are being carried out.

SHEETTIMUS
ACTING
(GBW)
CABLE TO AMBASSADOR, MADRID, FROM DEPARTMENT AND WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Reference is made to your 2488 of October 18 and appreciation is expressed of your initiative reported therein.

For your information, the following is the substance of a letter written by Spanish Ambassador in Washington to representative of a Jewish welfare organization on October 18:

"I am glad to inform you that I have just received a cable from my Government directing me to tell you that, although Spain has been doing all in her power to accelerate the Jewish present situation, is very pleased now to grant the request of the Vaad Hakashrut. To this effect, special instructions have been given to the Ambassador in Berlin to take with all speed and interest the necessary steps leading to the defense of the Jews and to the special protection of the Spanish-American Jews, emphasizing that this help is not only to be extended to those citizens of countries which have extracted Spain with their protection, but also to those of all other countries.

I am also authorized to inform your Committee that the Spanish Government has always made all possible efforts to protect the Safes of Spanish nationality now interned in German concentration camps, though, unhappily, not always with the desired result. Nevertheless, it is gratifying to point out that, due to the Spanish intervention, several hundreds of them have been able to reach Spain in safety and to leave afterwards in complete freedom for their other destinations." UNQUOTE

Please advise Department and Board whether such instructions mentioned in foregoing letter have been issued and are being carried out.

2:00 PM,
October 23, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Lesser, Mannon, McCormack, Files

Re: Refugees 10-23-44 B.A.J.82
October 19, 1944

Honorable John W. Pehle, Exec. Dir.
War Refugee Board
Treasury Bldg.
Washington, D. C.

Honorable Sir:

We beg to enclose a copy of a letter from the Spanish Ambassador, which we are sure you would like to have.

We anxiously await your word in reference to our memorandum of yesterday, which included the various proposals for the rescue of the remaining Jews in Europe.

With deepest appreciation,

Very respectfully yours,

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

[A Signature]

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

To recover, save and preserve from war destruction the Torah values (Yeshivot, Rabbis, Scholars and Commanded Leaders) To initiate the possibility for many of European Jewry where the Vaad Hahatza'la program is especially needed.
October 17, 1944

No. 828

Mr. Abraham Feigenwitz
Vaad Hahatzala
132 Nassau Street (Room 819)
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Feigenwitz:

Referring to my letter of October 13th, I am glad to inform you that I have just received a cable from my Government directing me to tell you that, although Spain has been doing all in her power to ameliorate the Jewish present situation, is very pleased now to grant the request of the Vaad Hahatzala. To this effect, special instructions have been given to the Ambassador in Berlin to take with all speed and interest the necessary steps tending to the defense of the Jewry and to the special protection of the Spanish-American Jews, emphasizing that this help is not only to be extended to those citizens of countries which have trusted Spain with their protection, but also to those of all other countries.

I am also authorized to inform your Committee that the Spanish Government has always made all possible efforts to protect the Sephardites of Spanish nationality now interned in German concentration camps, though, unhappily, not always with the desired results. Nevertheless, it is gratifying to point out that, due to the Spanish intervention, several hundreds of them have been able to reach Spain in safety and to leave afterwards in complete freedom for their other destinations.

Sincerely yours,

Juan F. de Cardenas
Spanish Ambassador.
Nonassigneur, Boyer-Mas
French Red Cross
Madrid

Nonassigneur,

Having been informed of your generous intention to accept a group of 73 Sephardic Jews for evacuation to North Africa with the next French convoy, I take pleasure in sending you herewith a brief statement regarding the antecedents of this group, mentioning a few of the problems connected with the evacuation.

In March of this year I was informed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that the Spanish Government was willing to authorize the entry into Spain of certain Jewish groups of Spanish origin if I would guarantee their evacuation from Spain immediately after their arrival here. It is of course obvious that I could not give such a guarantee. I did assure the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, however, that the services of this office would be extended to these people in assisting them in their emigration from Spain. These people were represented to me as being of different nationalities, largely French, Belgian and Dutch to some of which Spanish documents might be granted to facilitate their exit from occupied territory.

On August 11 the first group of these Sephardic Jews, numbering 73, arrived in Spain.

Many difficulties have been found in the problem of this group's evacuation and the following, discovered after the arrival of this group in Spain, will be of interest to you:

1.- Every person in this group possesses a valid Spanish passport.

2.- With the exception of children and wives who have acquired Spanish nationality through marriage, every person in this group possesses an "Acta de Inscripción de Ciudadanía" in which is indicated the number and date of the Ministerial Order (Decreto Real) "por la que se reconoce la ciudadanía de ciudadano español". Such an order, you will remember, was issued nominatively in favour of Spanish patriots living abroad who fulfilled between 1926 and 1930 the requirements of Spanish nationality according to the laws formulated by Primo de Rivera.
3.- All persons of this group possess a Spanish nationality certificate issued by a Spanish Consular authority abroad.

4.- Entry into Spain in this convey was refused to Sephardic Jews recognized abroad as Spaniards who did not possess the Decree Real and other formal requirements.

5.- With the exception of a few children, not one person of this group was born in France.

6.- Before the arrival of this group on August 11, 1943, Sephardic Jews of Spanish nationality had for years past been arriving individually in Spain with valid Spanish documents. Some of these returning Spaniards even figured in repatriation groups organized by the Falangist party. Members of the same family, some arriving before August 11, others with the convey of August 11, are now being separated, those arriving before that date having the right of residence in Spain with all the rights of Spanish citizens.

7.- Men of military age arriving in Spain with the convey of August 11 were arrested at the Spanish frontier, spent several weeks in prison in Madrid to be subsequently released with the obligation of presenting themselves with their class for military service in Spain. They have not been included in the group scheduled for evacuation from Malaga.

The above facts in my opinion throw considerable light on the true nature of this group of 78 people. In addition to the many other important issues involved in their expulsion from Spain, the order to evacuate them as a group creates many difficult problems. A few examples will show you what some of these problems are:

1.- Alberto Cattagni, aged 19, is a member of the group. His father, Samuel Cattagni, with his mother, succeeded in entering Spain a few months previously. Alberto is forced to leave Spain with the group. His parents are obliged to remain in Spain.

2.- Eusebio Jessen and his son Hector came to Spain in January 1943. Here they were able to arrange the entry of Mrs. Dora Jessen and the two remaining children, Exterior and Jeanne, arrived with the convey of 78 on August 11.
Dora Jesus and the two children, Susana and Jaime, are obliged to leave Spain with the group while the father and elder son HECTOR must remain in Spain.

3. In the convoy of August 11 the Hassid family composed of Rene Hassid, his wife Ana, Pedro aged 5 and Colette aged 3, arrived in Spain. Rene Hassid is obliged to remain in Spain for his military service. All appeals to have his wife and children remain with him or to have him accompany them to North Africa have till now been fruitless. The wife and children are expelled, he must remain for military service.

4. Jose Hassid, a relative of Rene Hassid, is obliged to remain while his wife is expelled with the rest of the group.

5. Anchor Rafael Svenniste and his wife Esther arrived in Spain with the convoy of August 11. Their daughter J观nita Svenniste, aged 20, had arrived in Spain a few months previously. The parents must leave from Malaga with the group, the daughter must remain in Spain. The mother, Esther Svenniste, is very sick and several doctors have stated that it will be dangerous for her to make the trip. It appears that the police might have allowed her to remain behind upon the advice of the doctor, but the husband nevertheless will be obliged to leave.

6. The Hamatgile family composed of Isaac Hamatgile, his wife, two daughters and son Hana, "arrived in Spain with the convoy of August 11. The family is expelled with the rest of the group except for Hana who must remain behind to do his military service with the class of 1948.

7. There are several cases of persons whose state of health is such that they are unable to undertake a long trip. In most cases these persons have nevertheless been obliged to leave their sick beds to go to Malaga for evacuation.

I leave these facts in your hands feeling that you will take whatever actions seem appropriate. In conclusion let me state briefly that my interest is in this
whole affair.

1.- I hope that everything possible will be done to save from Polish concentration camps the groups of Sephardic Jews remaining in occupied Europe who may have the possibility of entering Spain as this first group of 75 has done.

2.- Any tendency on the part of Spanish authorities to adopt an attitude of anti-Semitism should be discouraged.

3.- If mass evacuations of Sephardic Jews from Spain must nevertheless take place, the conditions of such evacuations should be humane and just.

Respectfully yours,

David Bickensstaff

DB/JT
No. 3139

Madrid, Spain, September 26, 1944.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,

Washington,

Sir:

With reference to the Embassy's despatch No. 3055 of August 16, 1944 transmitting in the Department's copies of its Notes Verbales No. 2907 and No. 2908 of August 11, 1944 to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs requesting respectively that the Spanish Government permit the entry into Spain of persons released from Hungary in pursuance of the recent decision of the Hungarian authorities to allow the departure from that country of Jewish persons in possession of entry permits entitling them to admission to any other country, and that, in particular, it permit the entry, in transit to further destinations outside of Spain, of such persons to whom American immigration visas were issued on or after July 1, 1942 but who, by reason of transportation difficulties and the advent of war, have not been able to make effective use of such visas, I have the honor to enclose a copy and translation of the Ministry's Note Verbales No. 699 of September 6, 1944 in reply, in which it is stated that the Spanish Minister in Budapest has been instructed to grant transit visas to such persons and to interfere with the Hungarian and German authorities with a view towards facilitating their departure from Hungary. An official of the Ministry has stated that, although the latter realizes the difficulty, if not the impossibility, of these persons actually proceeding to Spain, it is aware that the issuance of these visas to them may serve as a means of protection and is willing to authorize the issuance of such visas on that basis.

Although, as it will be noted, the Ministry's Note Verbales makes specific reference only to the Embassy's Note Verbales No. 2908, the above-mentioned official has informed the Embassy that it was in fact intended also to refer, and to be in reply, to the immediately preceding Note Verbales No. 2907.

Respectfully yours,

[Signature]

[Declasified]

[Signature]

[By R. K. Parks Date]
Enclosure to despatch No. 3339 dated September 28, 1944 from Carlton J. H. Hayes, American Ambassador, at Madrid, Spain on subject of Entry into Spain of Jewish Refugees Proceeding from Hungary.

NOTA VERBAL

MINISTERIO DE ASUNTOS EXTERIORES
Cita esta referencia en la contestación Núm. 699

El Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores saluda atentamente a la Embajada de los Estados Unidos de América y con referencia a su última Nota no. 2908, de 11 del pasado mes de agosto, por la que solicita la cooperación del Gobierno español para facilitar la entrada en España en tránsito para otros países, de judíos refugiados procedentes de Hungría, tiene el honor de comunicar que se han curado las anteriores órdenes al Ministro de España en aquel país para que proceda al visado de tránsito de todos aquellos pasaportes de los que sean titulares los referidos judíos, se lo presentan a los expresados efectos. Ha más, se le han dado, asimismo, instrucciones para que con toda intensidad ejerzan como del Gobierno húngaro y Autoridades asemejadas de ocupación, se facilite a los indicados sujetos la salida de Hungría.

Por lo tanto, considera este Ministerio que con ello, el Gobierno español, agota todas las posibles gestiones que puedan interponerse para llegar a una favorable solución del mencionado problema, en el que ha demostrado poner su máximo interés y voluntad.

Madrid, 16 de septiembre de 1944.

A la Embajada de los Estados Unidos de América.

TRANSLATION

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
Cite this reference in reply No. 699

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs presents its compliments to the United States of America and with reference to its recent Note No. 2908 of August 11 in which it requests the cooperation of the Spanish Government in facilitating the entry into Spain in transit for other countries of Jewish refugees proceeding from Hungary, has the honor to advise that the suitable orders have been issued in Madrid to Spain in that country in order that he proceed to grant transit visas for all those passports held by the referred-to Jews which may be presented for the purposes named. Moreover, instructions have likewise been given that he approach the Hungarian Government and the German occupation authorities with all interest towards facilitating the departure from Hungary of the cited persons.

Therefore, this Ministry considers that in this way the Spanish Government exhausts all possible steps which it can take in order to arrive at a favorable solution of the mentioned problem in which it has demonstrated it is placing the greatest interest and will.

Madrid, September 16, 1944.

To the Embassy of the United States of America.
PARAGRAPH OF TELEGRAPH RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, Madrid
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: October 10, 1944
NUMBER: 3396

With reference to message of 12:00 midnight, July 1 from the Department No. 1872, quota numbers, non-preference, given as follows were allotted for the month of September 1944 for refugee children, third 25% of block, returned unused herewith.

All numbers given are inclusive: French 43-61; Czechoslovak 33-47; Polish 14; Belgian 15-21; German 310-457; and the Netherlands 41-60.

On September 8, for use of a (*) haffenkraut, No. 309, German non-preference quota number, was assigned to Lisbon.

Reference message dated August 21, 8 p.m., from the Department No. 2324; for the month of September there were returned, not used, number 42-55 inclusive, being non-preference quota numbers assigned for refugee children from Hungary.

NATOS

(*) apparent omission

DOR: LOW: HIM 10-13-44

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

100560
FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Embassy, Madrid
DATE: August 22, 1944
NUMBER: 2339

Refer Department's 2126 of July 28, paragraph dated 3.

The authorization given to consular officers in Spain and Portugal by the Department's 1008 of April 12 is hereby amended to include authorization to issue such visas to refugee children arriving in Switzerland from Hungary. For issuance through October, the additional non-preference quota immigration numbers given below were allotted to Madrid, Hungarian, 27 to 74 inclusive.

Please advise appropriate Spanish and Portuguese officials and make all appropriate efforts to arrange for release to Spain and Portugal from Hungary of children who may be eligible for the issuance of such visas.

Yours,

[Signature]

VIII: 130:09

Miss Chauncey (for the Secretary), Abrahamson, Adin, Berenstein, Cohm, Dubois, Fordy, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Huphlin, Leger, Mann, Markoff, Meier, Simache, Podell, Surpey, Hambly, Mahlstein, Gale, Control Files

DECLASSIFIED
Date: September 13, 1972
Stu. 4:9 20
SEF 13, 1972

00056
We have read with interest your despatch of August 14, No. 2903, and you may advise the Spanish Foreign Office that the offer of the Spanish Government to be of help in this matter is deeply appreciated by the War Refugee Board and the Department. In that connection, kindly point out that the essential need at the moment is to insure that the subjects of this correspondence shall remain alive in order that they may be exchanged for German nationals. Therefore, the most effective aid which the Spanish Government could render at this time would be to take the most energetic steps possible to prevent these unfortunate individuals from meeting the fate which met the victims of the Lublin mass executions.

HULL

Paraphrase: DCB:VAG:FB 9/7/44
No. 2952

Madrid, Spain, August 25, 1944.

Subject: Transmitting Copy of Embassy's Note Verbale to Ministry of Foreign Affairs Requesting Protection for Allied and Stateless Refugees in Concentration Camp of Miranda de Ebro

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose a copy of the Embassy's Note Verbale No. 2977 of this date to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressing the hope that the competent Spanish authorities will take adequate steps to ensure the protection of Allied and stateless refugees now detained in the Concentration Camp of Miranda de Ebro from possible molestation at the hands of German military refugees, large numbers of whom, according to information reaching the Embassy, are being sent to that Camp for internment.

Respectfully yours,

For the Ambassador:

W. Walton Buttersworth
Counselor of Embassy

Documents:
To Foreign Ministry,
No. 2977, August 25, 1944.

File No. 320
NMB/IC
Original to Department
(for Ozalid machine)
Copy to Barcelona
Copy to Bilbao
Enclosure to despatch No. 2952 dated August 25, 1944 from Carlton J. H. Hayes, American Ambassador, at Madrid, Spain on subject of Protection for Allied and Stateless Refugees in Concentration Camp of Miranda de Ebro.

NOTE VERBALE

The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and has the honor to refer to reports which have come to its attention to the effect that large numbers of members of the German Armed Forces who have sought refuge in Spain are being placed in the Concentration Camp of Miranda de Ebro. In the light of this information, and in view of the presence in that Camp also of a number of Allied and stateless refugees, the Embassy trusts that adequate steps will be taken by the competent Spanish authorities to ensure the protection of the latter group from possible molestation at the hands of the newly-arrived and considerably more numerous German military refugees. It would appear to the Embassy that the most efficacious form of protection would, in fact, be the transfer of these Allied and stateless refugees from the Camp in which they now find themselves to such other places of temporary sojourn as may be arranged by the Spanish authorities in collaboration with the organizations and agencies respectively responsible for their welfare.

Madrid, August 25, 1944.
No. 2905

Madrid, Spain, August 14, 1944.

Subject: Transmitting copies of Embassy's Notes Verbales to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs requesting facilities for transit through Spain of Jewish refugees proceeding from Hungary.

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

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose copies of the Embassy's Notes Verbales No. 2907 and No. 2908 of August 11, 1944, which have been addressed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in accordance with instructions contained in the Department's telegrams no. 2190 of July 22, 1944, 10 p.m. and no. 2194 of August 7, 5 p.m. requesting respectively that the Spanish Government permit the entry into Spain of persons released from Hungary in pursuance of the recent decision of the Hungarian authorities to allow the departure from that country of Jewish persons in possession of entry permits entitling them to admission to any other country, and that, in particular, it permit the entry, in transit to further destinations outside of Spain, of such persons to whom American immigration visas were issued on or after July 1, 1941 but who, by reason of transportation difficulties and the advent of war, have not been able to make effective use of such visas.

The British Embassy in Madrid has not as yet received parallel instructions and has consequently been unable to concert with this Embassy in joint representations on this subject.

Respectfully yours,

W. Walton Butterworth Charge d'Affaires ad interim

Enclosures:
1/ Note Verbale No. 2907, August 11, 1944.
2/ Note Verbale No. 2908, August 11, 1944.
The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and has the honor to inform the latter that the United States Government has been informed, through official neutral channels, that the Hungarian Government has authorized the departure from Hungary of all Jewish persons in possession of entry permits entitling them to admission into any other country, including Palestine, and that the German Government is disposed to permit the transit of such persons through territories under its control.

In order that full advantage may be taken of this decision on the part of the Hungarian Government and that no possible avenue of escape may be denied to these unfortunate persons, the Embassy has been instructed by its Government, pursuant to the latter's urgent interest in the rescue of oppressed and persecuted minorities from German-controlled areas of Europe, to express the hope that the Spanish Government will convey to the appropriate Hungarian authorities at the earliest possible moment an expression of its willingness to receive on Spanish territory Jewish refugees proceeding from Hungary, at the same time instructing its representatives in Budapest accordingly, it being understood that every effort will be made by the United States Government, in cooperation with the British Government, to arrange the prompt onward transportation of such persons from Spain to havens of refuge in United Nations territory and to contribute to their maintenance and support in whatever manner the Spanish Government may deem desirable during the period of their stay on Spanish soil.

The United States Government has taken grateful cognizance of the steps which the Spanish Government has already taken toward the rescue of Jewish refugees from Hungary and other German-controlled areas of Europe, and is confident that, motivated by the same high principles of humanity, that Government will continue to devote to this humanitarian task its active support and willing cooperation.

NWB/JK
No. 2908

The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and, with reference to its immediately preceding Note Verbale No. 2907 of this date requesting the cooperation of the Spanish Government in facilitating the entry into Spain, in transit to further destinations, of Jewish refugees released from Hungary pursuant to the decision of the appropriate Hungarian authorities to permit the departure from that country of all Jewish persons in possession of entry permits entitling them to admission into any other country, has the honor to inform the Ministry that there are known to be among these refugees a considerable number of persons to whom United States immigration visas were issued on or after July 1, 1941, the date upon which existing visa procedures took effect, but who, by reason of transportation difficulties and the advent of war, have been unable to make effective use of such visas.

In the belief that the lives of many of these persons might be saved by reason of the issuance of newly-validated visas, consular officers of the United States in Spain and other neutral countries have been authorized, subject to certain specified conditions, to issue to such persons upon personal application visas valid for immigration into the United States, and, in order that the latter may not be denied this opportunity of saving themselves from threatened persecution and possible death at the hands of Nazi authorities, the Embassy would request, on instructions from its Government, that the Spanish Government consent to the entry into Spain, without reference to customary visa requirements, of all such persons to whom United States immigration visas were issued on or after the date in question, and that it make known this consent to the appropriate German, Hungarian and other German-satellite authorities.

On its part, the Embassy can give to the Ministry the assurances of its Government that any such persons so admitted into Spain will be adequately maintained while on Spanish soil and evacuated with the least possible delay, and that any who may be found not to be qualified for admission into the United States will be removed from Spain as promptly as possible to other destinations to be arranged by the United States Government.

Madrid, August 11, 1944.
Mr. Paul J. McCormick  
War Refugee Board  
Room 301-Treasury Building  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. McCormick:

In accordance with your request, I am sending attached to this letter the report submitted by Mr. Charles McDonald on Relief Activities and Relief Problems in Spain. Since this is our only copy of this report, we shall appreciate your returning it to us promptly.

Sincerely yours,

Walter H. Delaplana  
Walter H. Delaplana, Acting Chief  
Iberian Section, Blockade Division

Attachment
No. 2027

Madrid, Spain, July 31, 1944.

Subject: Transmitting copy and translation of Note Verbale from Ministry of Foreign Affairs concerning resolution approved by Committee on Foreign Affairs of House of Representatives on subject of Nazi persecutions

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

With reference to the Embassy's despatch No. 2760 of July 19, 1944 to the Department enclosing, inter alia, a copy of the Embassy's Note Verbale No. 284 of July 3, 1944 transmitting to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in accordance with the request of the War Refugee Board contained in the Department's unnumbered circular telegram of June 28, 1944, the text of a resolution unanimously approved on the latter date by the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives expressing the deep concern of that body over the fate of the millions of persons in Hungary and other German controlled areas who stand in imminent danger of persecution and death at the hands of the Nazis, I have the honor to enclose a copy and translation of the Ministry's Note Verbale No. 543 of July 12, 1944 in acknowledgement thereof, in which it is stated that the Ministry has examined the above-mentioned resolution with the greatest interest, and taken due note thereof.

It may be mentioned that the enclosed Note Verbale was not received by the Embassy until this date.

Respectfully yours,

W. Walton Bettersworth
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

Enclosure:

Note Verbale, as stated

File No. 800-War Refugee Board
Original to Department

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date, SEP 1-3 1972
Enclosure to despatch No. 2637 dated July 31, 1944 from W. Walton Butterworth, American Chargé d’Affaires ad interim, at Madrid, Spain on subject of Resolution approved by Committee on Foreign Affairs of House of Representatives on subject of Nazi persecutions.

COPY

(GRILLO)

MINISTERIO DE ASUNTOS EXTERIORES

No. 543
B-1.- 15- E 2

NOTA VERBAL

El Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores saluda atentamente a la Embajada de los Estados Unidos de América y en contestación a su Nota n° 2684, de 3 de los corrientes, tiene la honra de manifestarle que ha examinado con el mayor interés la resolución aprobada por el Comité de Asuntos Exteriores de la Cámara de Representantes, cuya copia se adjunta en el referido escrito y de la que se toma la debida nota.

Madrid, 12 de julio de 1944.

A la Embajada de los Estados Unidos de América.

TRANSLATION

(SEAL)

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

No. 543
B-1.- 15- E 2

NOTE VERBAL

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United States of America and in answer to the latter's Note No. 2684 of July 3, 1944, has the honor to state that it has examined with the greatest interest the resolution approved by the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, a copy of which was attached to the cited communication and of which due note is taken.

Madrid, July 12, 1944.

To the Embassy of the United States of America.
Reference is made herewith to the Department's July 3
telegram No. 1887 and Embassy's July 19 despatch 2760.

To date the British Embassy has been instructed, in
connection with the proposed joint Anglo-American de marche
which cable under reference outlined, to approach the Govern­
ment of Spain only with respect to willingness of its Govern­
ment to help in providing food supplies needed in Spain in
connection with refugee relief. Assurances in that sense
have already been conveyed informally and orally by it to
the Spanish Government and no further action is contemplated.

Specific action has been postponed by the Embassy pending
receipt of similar instructions by British Embassy in view of
the fact that joint representations are envisaged in the
Department's telegram; however, points raised in that cable
have been discussed with the Spanish Government fully and
frequently in pursuance of assiduous efforts of the Embassy
to obtain greatest possible degree of assistance and cooperation
from that Government in rescue of victims of German persecution
and for

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date, SEP 3 1972
and for this reason and also in view of the fact that in response to Embassy's efforts the Spanish Government has shown its willingness to cooperate in this task by acceding to all requests made of it thus far, it is felt that formal representations to Spanish Government along lines suggested would be considered gratuitous at this time. We have the agreement of the British Embassy in this regard.

It is well known throughout Europe according to the testimony of refugees themselves, that latter are permitted to enter Spain and until such time as they can be evacuated to further destination they can count on receiving material assistance on Spanish territory, and for reasons outlined in Feb. 28 telegram No. 683 the Embassy does not consider it advisable that the Spanish Government be encouraged at the present time to call any more public attention to facilities which it is according to refugees escaping from German authority than is necessary.

Our willingness to contribute food and other supplies for relief of refugees in Spain by virtue of large quantities of such supplies which have been sent for that purpose to Spain from the U.S. during the past eighteen months, of which about two hundred tons are yet available for distribution, is fully known to the Spanish Government. The Spanish Government is in no doubt
no doubt either as regards our willingness to provide funds for this purpose inasmuch as virtually the whole financial burden of care of refugees in Spain during that period has been borne by the United States, American relief organisations and other interested Allied Governments.

Repeated assurances regarding U.S. and British Governments' efforts to provide havens of refuge for such refugees to make possible their onward movement from Spain have already been received by the Spanish Government.

The foregoing message has been repeated via courier to Lisbon for the information of our Embassy there.

BUFFESWORTH.
The Honorable Sir I Thl! Secretary of State, Washington.

I have the honor to enclose a copy of Note Noo 2809 of July 24 1944 which I have addressed to the Minister of Foreign Affairs concerning a series of frontier incidents reported to have taken place during the early part of June 1944 in the Province of Huesca, in the course of which a number of refugees of French and other nationalities are reliably stated to have been refused entry into Spain and to have been handed over by Spanish frontier officials to German border patrols.

A high official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has informed a representative of the Embassy, in this connection, that immediately upon receipt of information concerning these occurrences the Ministry issued drastic instructions countermanding the provincial order upon which the action of the frontier officials concerned appears to have been based, and that a careful investigation of the circumstances surrounding the issuance and execution of those orders is now in progress. He expressed the personal opinion that the reported incidents may, in fact, have been the result of the misinterpretation by local border officials of orders intended to apply to attempted incursions into Spain of armed Spanish dissidents, the presence of such groups on the frontier having been recently reported. (Embassy's telegram No. 2472, July 15, 1944, noon.) It was, of course, made clear to him that this circumstance, even if true, could in no way be considered as condoning or excusing the conduct of the border officials concerned.

The incidents in question have been made the subject also of forceful representations on the part of the British Embassy and the French Mission in Madrid, and it is the Embassy's opinion that the Spanish Government has been sufficiently impressed with the gravity of these incidents to do everything possible to prevent their recurrence.

It may be mentioned that a copy of the Ministry's Note Verbale No. 701 of November 17, 1943 to which reference is made in the enclosed Note was transmitted to the Department under cover of the Embassy's despatch No. 2692 of December 7, 1943.

Respectfully yours,

[Signature]

Charge d'Affaires ad interim

Enclosures:
- Note No. 2809, July 24, 1944, to Foreign Minister
- File No. 320
- WRB
- WRC
- WRD
- WRG

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 6777
By H. H. Pheu Date SEP 13 1972
Enclosure to despatch No. 2790 dated July 25, 1944, from W. Walton
Butterworth, American Chargé d'Affaires ad interim, at Madrid, Spain
on subject of Reported delivery of refugees by Spanish border officials to German patrol.

No. 2809
Madrid, July 22, 1944.

Excellency:

Although Your Excellency has, I am certain, already been fully
acquainted with the circumstances of the recent frontier incident in
the Province of Huesca, I cannot let these deplorable occurrences
pass without conveying to Your Excellency, on behalf of my Government
as well as for myself, an expression of profound shock and deep regret
that they should have been permitted to occur.

According to information which has come to my attention, an order
appears to have been issued on June 9, 1944, to frontier guards in that
Province instructing them to turn back certain categories of refugees
attempting to enter Spanish territory without proper documentation,
with the consequence that a considerable number of refugees of French
and other nationalities were, on and shortly after that date, refused
entry into Spain and turned over to the custody of the German authorities
from whom they were fleeing.

According to this information, a group of approximately 23 persons,
including a considerable percentage of women and children, arrived
at the frontier town of Sallent early in the morning of June 9, 1944,
were temporarily detained by the Spanish border authorities at that
point, and were several hours later given false directions to Canfranc
which, in fact, took them back into German-held territory. They were
prevented from falling into the hands of German patrols solely by
their chance meeting with another group of refugees travelling in
the opposite direction and, together with the latter group, returned
to Sallent where they arrived on the morning of the following day.
It is reported that the 12 men included in this party were then
placed by the border authorities at Sallent in a motor-truck and driven
back across the frontier into Germany-occupied territory, to a depth
of five kilometers, where they, together with 26 other refugees who had
had the misfortune to be encountered on route, were handed over to a
German frontier patrol. It has been subsequently reported that these
38 persons were then taken in German custody to the concentration camp
of Gusen where a number of the women and children were released
and the rest of the group sent on to the fortress at Buna on a place of
detention understood to be an habitual stopping point for such
prisoners on the way to Germany.

Other incidents of the same sort have been reported from other
border points in Huesca Province, but in these instances there appear
to have arisen circumstances which led the Spanish border authorities
to refrain from carrying out their expressed intention to return the
refugees concerned to German custody. It is reported, for example,
that a group of refugees arrived at Biescas on June 11th, and that the
order for their expulsion was rescinded by the border authorities only
in the face of public indignation on the part of residents of that
village which arose following the attempt of one of the refugees
concerned, a Netherland subject, to save himself from such a fate
by committing suicide. Frontier police at Sanjurjo, moreover, are understood to have endeavored on June 12th to send back to France a citizen of the United States and a stateless refugee, and to have been dissuaded from such action only after prolonged argument on the part of the refugees concerned.

Your Excellency, who, I am confident, has been as shocked as I at what has occurred, will not fail to recognize the grave implications of these incidents, which have amounted to open defiance on the part of Spanish border officials in the persecution and possible assassination by the German authorities of innocent persons attempting to find on Spanish soil asylum from Nazi tyranny, and, in view of the reiterated assurances which the Embassy has in the past received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, particularly in the latter's Note Verbale No. 701 of November 27, 1943, to the effect that no refugees would be delivered against their will to the German authorities or expelled from Spain except across the frontier of their own choice, I should be most appreciative of assurances from Your Excellency which I could convey to my Government that immediate and effective steps have been taken to ensure against a repetition of such incidents and to make certain that the abovementioned assurances of the Ministry will in the future be scrupulously and unfailingly respected by Spanish officials at every level of authority.

Your Excellency will understand that the grave concern which my Government is bound to feel in the face of the incidents cited herein springs not only from its determination that political and military refugees of all nationalities fleeing from the shadow of Nazi persecution shall not be denied the asylum to which the neutrality of Spanish territory entitles them, but also from its ever-present apprehension lest the denial of this right of asylum result in the delivery into enemy custody of citizens of the United States, an eventuality the effect of which on public opinion in the United States should not be underestimated.

I avail myself of this opportunity to express to Your Excellency the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) W. WALTON BUTTERWORTH
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim
His Excellency
Lieutenant General Count Jordana,
Minister of Foreign Affairs.

WNB: If
Copies to British Embassy, French Mission, Netherlands Consulate
Transmitting copies of Embassy's Notes Verbales to Ministry of Foreign Affairs concerning persecution of innocent peoples in German-occupied Europe.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington:

Sir:

With reference to the Department's unnumbered circular telegram of June 14, 1944 from the War Refugee Board concerning the efforts of the United States Government, in cooperation with the British Government, to find havens of refuge for all persecuted peoples who may be able to escape from German-controlled areas of Europe, and to its unnumbered circular telegram of June 15, 1944 requesting the Embassy to convey to the Spanish Government the contents of the President's message of June 12, 1944 to the Congress concerning his intention to provide asylum in the United States for approximately 1,000 refugees who have been forced by Nazi oppression to flee from their homelands and to seek refuge in southern Italy, I have the honor to enclose a copy of the Embassy's Note Verbale No. 2616 of June 21, 1944 addressed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in pursuance of instructions contained in those telegrams.

There is also enclosed a copy of the Embassy's Note Verbale No. 2616 of July 3, 1944 transmitting to the Ministry, in accordance with the request of the War Refugee Board contained in the Department's unnumbered circular telegram of June 26, 1944, the text of a resolution unanimously approved on the latter date by the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives expressing the deep concern of that body over the fate of the millions of persons in Hungary and other German-controlled areas who stand in imminent danger of persecution and death at the hands of the Nazis.

The text of the statement by Francis J. Spellman, Archbishop of New York, on the subject of the persecution of Jews in Hungary, contained in the Department's telegram No. 1850 of June 29, 1944, has been transmitted under cover of a personal letter to the Chief of the European Section of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Spanish official most directly concerned with the rescue and relief of refugees from German-occupied Europe.

The Madrid outpost of the Office of War Information has continued to cooperate in making known the attitude of the Government and people of the United States with respect to German and German-inspired persecution of innocent peoples in Europe by publishing in its daily and weekly information bulletins the texts of the foregoing statements.

The
The Embassy has on numerous occasions discussed with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs the question of ways and means by which the Spanish Government can assist in the rescue and relief of the victims of German persecution, and for information concerning the manner and degree in which the latter is cooperating in this respect the attention of the Department and the War Refugee Board is called to the Embassy's telegrams No. 2389 of July 9, 1944, 11 a.m., and No. 2479 of July 15, 5 p.m.

Respectfully yours,

W. Walton Butterworth
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

Enclosures:

1. To Ministry of Foreign Affairs, No. 2616, June 22, 1944
2. To Ministry of Foreign Affairs, No. 2684, July 3, 1944

File No. 800—War Refugee Board
WM/ff
Original to Department
(for Ozalid machine)
Enclosure No. 1 to despatch No. 2760 dated July 19, 1944 from W. Walton Butler, American Chargé d'Affaires ad interim, at Madrid, Spain on subject of Persecution of innocent peoples in German-occupied Europe.

No. 2616

NOTE VERBALE

The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and, with reference to its Note Verbale No. 2232 of March 28, 1944 transmitting to the Ministry the text of a statement made by the President of the United States on March 24, 1944 condemning the brutal persecution of innocent people by the Axis Powers and calling upon the free peoples of Europe and Asia to assist in their rescue, has the honor to transmit herewith the text of a message which was sent to the Congress of the United States by the President on June 12, 1944 concerning his intention to provide asylum in the United States for approximately 1,000 refugees who have been forced by Nazi oppression to flee from their homelands and to seek refuge in southern Italy. Pursuant to its determination to find havens of refuge for all persecuted peoples who may be able to escape from German-controlled territories, the United States Government, in cooperation with the British Government, is exploring every possibility for the enlargement of refuge facilities in the Mediterranean area and in other parts of the world, and confidently hopes that through the joint efforts of the Allied Governments and of the neutral nations of Europe many additional lives can be saved.

The United States Government is fully cognizant of the effective manner in which the Spanish Government has cooperated in this humanitarian task in the past and is confident that it will continue to use every means at its disposal in helping to effect the rescue and relief of ever-increasing numbers of the innocent victims of German persecution.

Madrid, June 21, 1944.

Enclosure:

Text of President Roosevelt's Message, as stated.

WRB/35

735
Enclosure No. 2 to despatch No. 2760 dated July 19, 1944 from W. Walton Butterworth, American Chargé d’Affaires ad interim, at Madrid, Spain on subject of Persecution of innocent peoples in German-occupied Europe.

No. 2582,

NOTE VERSALE

The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and has the honor to transmit herewith the text of a resolution which was unanimously approved on June 28, 1944 by the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives of the United States of America expressing the deep concern of the latter body over the plight of the millions of persons, in Hungary and other German-controlled areas, who stand in imminent danger of persecution and death at the hands of their German oppressors, and voicing its determination that the criminals guilty of the persecution of these peoples shall be brought to justice.

The Ministry, having in mind the substance of the statements of the President of the United States communicated to it by the Embassy in its Notes Verbales No.2232 of March 26, 1944 and No. 2616 of June 21, 1944, will recognize that this resolve statement on the part of the elected representatives of the people of the United States is but one more expression of the stern determination on the part of those people and of their Government that the brutal persecution of innocent persons which has characterised the German occupation of Europe shall cease, or at least that its inhuman purpose shall be defeated insofar as possible through the rescue of its intended victims.

Madrid, July 3, 1944.

Enclosures:
Resolution, as stated

NWB/3f
AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL
Barcelona, Spain, July 10, 1944.

SUBJECT: Refugee and Relief Work during the First Six Months of 1944.

THE HONORABLE
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON
CONTROL COPY

SIR:

I have the honor to refer to the Consulate General's dispatch of January 3, 1944, entitled "Summary of Refugee Work in 1943".

Military Refugees

During the first six months of 1944, the refugee work of this Consulate General consisted primarily in the release, protection, and care of American military refugees. Altogether, 139 American aviators were assisted by this office during the first six months of 1944. Of these, 20 were members of crews of American aircraft forced to land in Spanish territory and the remainder were American aviators who escaped from France. All of these men were evacuated from Spain by way of Gibraltar or are now being evacuated.

The above total does not include a few cases of American aviators who were apprehended by the Spanish Authorities in the region of Zaragoza after crossing the Spanish frontier. The Consulate General intervened in cases arising in the Zaragoza area only when, because of some difficulty, its assistance was requested by the British Vice Consul at Zaragoza, Mr. Antonio Valverde Gil, who ordinarily dealt directly with the American Military Attaché at Madrid. There is no American representative at Zaragoza which is about two hundred miles from Barcelona.

Present Procedure in Military Refugee Cases

Arrangements have been made with private individuals at frontier zones to notify this office of the arrival of American aviators and, if possible, to have the aviators themselves speak with the Consulate General by telephone. In some cases notification is received from local officials but they cannot be relied on exclusively. If it is possible to speak to aviators by telephone, their names, rank, and numbers can immediately be ascertained and sent to the Military Attaché for checking. In this case, a Consul or representative of this office can also go immediately to
the provincial capital to which the American aviators are proceeding, bearing with him the necessary letter requesting the release of the aviators and assuming responsibility for them while they are on parole pending evacuation.

Where it is not possible to talk by telephone with an aviator and therefore not possible to be sure of his identity, letters to the local authorities are nevertheless drawn up but not presented until the escaped aviator either arrives at the provincial capital and can be interviewed or is visited at some place of detention prior to reaching the provincial capital.

At the present time, the provincial Military Governors have jurisdiction in all cases of civilian and military refugees of military age (20 to 40 years of age) until such refugees are taken over by some other branch of the government or evacuated from Spain. As, however, the Military Authorities frequently request the intervention of the Civil Police, it is often necessary to make representations to both Civil and Military officials. The cases of escaped aviators remain under the jurisdiction of the local authorities until a representative of the Spanish Air Ministry reaches the provincial capital with an order to take charge of them and conduct them to Alhama de Aragón whence they are evacuated to Gibraltar. The place of internment at Alhama de Aragón is a comfortable resort hotel.

Upon the release of an aviator to the Consulate General he is immediately clothed and lodged and given the necessary instructions. If the release is effected by an employee of the Consulate General, the employee notifies this office by telephone of the time of the release so that a consular officer can visit the men personally at the earliest opportunity and see to their needs. The men themselves and the hotel owners are instructed to telephone to the Consulate General if any difficulty arises while they are in a provincial town where there is no permanent American representative.

During the first six months of 1944, it was possible to avoid the imprisonment of American aviators in almost all cases arising in this district. In the few cases where Americans were imprisoned the Consulate General obtained their release after not more than two or three days after detention.

Although many American military refugees arrived in Spain suffering from various injuries and illnesses requiring medical attention, there were only six cases requiring hospitalization in this district from January to July 1944. One of the men hospitalized was suffering from a shrapnel wound in the leg which healed in 15 days; two were suffering from exposure and minor cases of frost-bite; three men had very serious cases of frozen feet and were in a hospital in Barcelona for nearly three months before being flown to Gibraltar. It is presumed that they were taken by plane from Gibraltar to the United States. These three cases required a great deal of
personal attention and the daily visit of the consular officer in charge of refugee matters.

Civilian Refugees

Only one American civilian refugee came into this district from France during the first six months of 1944. He was evacuated to North Africa and intended to proceed to the United States from Casablanca.

The Consulate General's intervention was also necessary in many cases of stateless refugees in order to make sure that such refugees received necessary police protection and to eliminate any possibility of their being sent back to enemy territory.

The Consulate General also followed the cases of refugees of any nationality whatever who seemed to be in danger of not receiving the necessary protection or of being extradited to enemy territory.

Cooperation with Relief Agencies

The Consulate General continues to maintain close relations with the various consulates and other agencies in Barcelona handling refugees. In many cases of doubtful nationality, it was possible to obtain assistance for refugees who had not succeeded by their own efforts in obtaining the help of any relief agency. The following were the principal agencies with which this office dealt:

1) Italian Consulate General: The cases of Italian refugees were handled by this Consulate General with the assistance of the French Red Cross and the Joint Distribution Committee up until the end of 1943 when the Italian cases were turned over to the Italian Consulate General which received funds for their maintenance from the National Catholic Welfare Board in the United States. There were frequent consultations with the Italian Consulate General as to the methods of distributing relief and as to the handling of individual cases during the period under review.

2) Office of American Relief Organizations in Spain: This office is located in Madrid and administers the funds of various American relief organizations such as the Friends' Service Committee, the National Catholic Welfare Board, the Unitarian Committee and the Joint Distribution Committee. In Barcelona, the Joint Distribution Committee acts as representative of the Office of American Relief Organizations. The Consulate General is frequently called upon for advice and assistance by the Joint Distribution Committee and has cooperated with it, especially in the protection of stateless refugees and in the preparation and forwarding to North Africa of applications for admission to the Refugee Center established there.

3) United
3) **United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration:**
A representative of the UNRRA came from North Africa to Barcelona in connection with the plan to evacuate refugees from Spain to the Refugee Center in North Africa. With his assistance, forms and instructions were drawn up and made available to refugees who wished to proceed to the Center. In June 1944, a first group of approximately 450 refugees left Barcelona for the Refugee Center in North Africa. The Office of American Relief Organizations in Spain, assisted by the Joint Distribution Committee in Barcelona, handled the evacuation of this group from Spain.

4) **War Refugee Board:** In June 1944 a representative of the War Refugee Board visited Barcelona and discussed the refugee situation at some length with the Consulate General and the Joint Distribution Committee. During the stay of this representative in Barcelona it was possible to show him in detail exactly how refugee cases were being handled and he expressed his satisfaction with the methods now being employed. He was able to see for himself that every bona-fide refugee crossing the Pyrenees into Spain was taken in charge and assisted by some consulate or organization.

According to this representative, the interest of the War Refugee Board was centered especially in the question of the escape of refugees from enemy territory. Various aspects of this question were discussed with him and he was given information as to the way in which refugees in occupied territory finally reach the hands of relief organizations in Barcelona. This highly confidential matter has been discussed by the representative of the War Refugee Board with the Embassy and it is believed that the Embassy has informed the Department concerning these discussions. The War Refugee Board's representative seemed well satisfied with the way in which the Consulate General had been acting as a kind of clearing-house for refugee cases of various categories and as a liaison office between relief organizations and the American Embassy.

5) **National Catholic Welfare Board:** A representative of the National Catholic Welfare Board came to Barcelona in June 1944 to revise the administration of relief for Italian refugees and certain stateless refugees of Austrian and German origin. This representative has been in close touch with the Consulate General which has assisted her in her investigations of individual cases and in her relations with the Italian Consulate General and the Joint Distribution Committee, both of which are administering funds provided by her board.

Respectfully yours,

[Signature]

David McK. Key
American Consul General

Original to the Department (c)ozalid)
Two copies to the Embassy, Madrid.
Secretary of State,  
Washington,  
2389, July 9, 11 P.M.  
Embassy has been informed by Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs that subsequent to receipt of our note 2110 of May 11 Ministry instructed Spanish Embassies in Berlin and Vichy to endeavor to obtain return to Vettel persons reported to have been transferred to unknown German prison but no positive results have as yet been reported. Department's 1889, July 4, 3 P.M.  

High official of Ministry has also stated that all Spanish diplomatic and consular representatives in areas under German occupation or control including Hungary have been instructed to render all possible assistance to Jews and other persons in imminent danger of death or persecution regardless of nationality and that their efforts have been responsible for the saving of an unknown number of lives.  

Spanish Government has already been instrumental in saving from imminent deportation to Poland.
July 9, 11 p.m., from Madrid

approximately 500 Sephardic Jews who have been allowed to leave German concentration camps and proceed to Spain on strength of documentation provided by Spanish diplomatic and consular representatives. Majority of these persons have been transferred to Fedhala center and Spanish Government is now negotiating with German Government for similar release of additional 160 Sephardites together with group consisting of approximately 50 Jewish Rabbis and their families. It is also cooperating with representatives of Jewish organizations in Tangier in effort to bring 500 Jewish children out of Hungary to temporary haven in Spanish Morocco.

Embassy has throughout endeavored to keep Spanish Government fully informed as to attitude of United States Government in these matters as set forth in numerous telegrams from Department and War Refugee Board and can report that Spanish Government itself appears to be seriously concerned over inhuman persecution of innocent persons and disposed to cooperate in their rescue.

Repeated to Lisbon by Courier.

BUTTERWORTH

WSB RR
Subject: Transmission of Letter and Report Received from Uruguayan Consul formerly stationed in Pamplona, Spain, refuting Criticism reportedly voiced by Representative CELLER in House of Representatives over "failure" of Ambassador HAYES to aid Refugees in Spain.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to forward herewith a letter and report just received from Sr. Gabriel DE BIURRUN, Uruguayan Consul formerly stationed in Pamplona, Spain, which he prepared after calling at the Embassy recently, highly incensed over the remarks reportedly made by Representative CELLER in the House of Representatives over Ambassador HAYES' "failure" to aid the refugees in Spain. Also forwarded is a copy of the AP despatch published by El País on June 23 which attracted Sr. de Biurrun's attention and which caused him to prepare his report furnishing information designed to refute the claims attributed to Representative Celler.

It affords me real pleasure to forward this report since Sr. de Biurrun was evidently in an excellent position to judge the achievements of Ambassador Hayes and his staff in assisting refugees entering Spain over the French border and since he has only words of the highest praise for our representatives there.

Sr. de Biurrun has declared not only in his letter but in person that he has no objection to his report being made use of in any way the Department considers appropriate with a view to correcting any unfortunate impression Representative Celler's remarks may have made.

[Signature]

Needless
Needless to say the Ambassador has taken occasion to express his appreciation to Sr. de Biurrun for his great kindness in this matter.

Respectfully yours,

For the Ambassador:

Dudley G. Dwyre
Counselor of Embassy

Enclosures:
1. Letter from Sr. de Biurrun
2. Report from Sr. de Biurrun
3. AP despatch dated June 23, 1944

848
710
RJB; 1mm

To Department in single copy for Ozalid
Copy to Embassy, Madrid
y pueda dar luz si fuere preciso en esta cuestión donde, junto con Mr. Hayes y las demás Embajadas Aliadas con mi modesto concurso, pusiémos todo nuestro esfuerzo y corazón.

Tengo el honor de presentar a V.E. Señor Embajador el testimonio de mi más alta y respetuosa consideración.

GABRIEL DE BIURRUN
CONSUL

Firmado Gabriel de Biurrun
Consul del Uruguay en Navarra
En su escrito, dear Sir,

Al elevar a V.E. el presente informe, me permito significarle que mi deseo es hacerlo en forma concisa, suficiente para la finalidad que me anima, ya que cifras y detalles, de sobra obran en los altos Organismos respectivos del Estado, donde existen en este momento ademas personas tales como Mr. Charles Mac Donald, en la actualidad en el Departamento de Estado, el que por su gran capacidad técnica y alta autoridad moral y por haber colaborado con el Sr. Embajador Mr. Hayes en el planeamiento y resolución de los múltiples problemas que componían el delicado y difícil asunto de los Refugiados en España, habrá dado a su debido tiempo informe y luz sobre esta grave cuestión.

En los últimos meses del Año de 1942, comenzaron a pasar la frontera los primeros Refugiados y no existiendo en Navarra más representación Consular Aliada que el Vice-Consulado de Francia, comienzo a preocuparse sobre ello el Consulado de Gran Bretaña de San Sebastián y poco después la Embajada de Estados Unidos de América destacó a Navarra uno de sus Agergados Mr. Gilbert el que conferenció con el informante pidiéndome en nombre de su Embajada y de la de Gran Bretaña, fuera su representante para el problema que comenzaba a hacerse tangible de los Refugiados, contando para ello con la venia de mi Ministro.

Acepté gustoso por creer era un deber de caridad Cristiana y de humanidad el contestarlo, aunque nunca pude avenirme a alcanzar las promociones gigantescas que después alcanzó.

Posteriormente volvió Mr. Gilbert con el Secretario de la Embajada Mr. Le Bond y planteamos las medidas a tomar por si el problema se agudizaba, visitamos a las autoridades a las que les presenté y comenze a labor, no sin antes pedir al Vice-Consul de Francia Sr. Loord su ayuda, la que ofreció incondicional, aunque en un principio fue prácticamente negativa, a pesar de su magnifica buena voluntad, por negarse los Franceses Refugiados a que interviniere por temor a que fuera afecto al Gobierno de Vichy.

El primer problema serio llegó pronto a la vista al recibir orden el Sr. Gobernador de Navarra de que todo Refugiado que pasara la frontera ingresara en la Carcel de Pamplona; y en pocos días solo a mujeres hubo en la Carcel unas cuarenta, algunas, grandes damas de la más alta significación social de Francia e Inglaterra.
Comienza ya el trabajo intenso y de enlace de mi Representación con la Embajada Norte Americana particularmente, pues ello en un principio es la que lleva el peso de la tramitación y de la distribución de fondos los cuales fueron colocados por esta Embajada, en Pamplona en cantidades suficientes y a mi nombre.

La afluencia de Refugiados comienza a ser alarmante y los planes anteriores de organización tuvieron que ser modificados a fondo.

La Embajada de Gran Bretaña envía también sus funcionarios.

La Cárcel ha llegado a su pleno; y Mr. Hayes trabaja ante el Gobierno Español para que modifique su orden y puedan los Refugiados trasladarse a Hoteles. La Embajada Inglesa secunda este trabajo valerosamente y se logra este justo deseo, aunque condicionado, a pesar, de las grandes presiones de Alemania.

A todos se atiende; se les da ropa a los distribuidos en los Hoteles; se les paga su pensión, médico y medicinas etc., se organiza todo y por cuenta de la Embajada Americana presidida por Mr. Hayes corren toda clase de gastos, mientras sus funcionarios beneméritos sin conocer un instante de tregua ni descanso trabajan junto a mi vera ante aquel alud de Refugiados que pasan por la Frontera perseguidos por las patrullas alemánas lo que hace que muchos lleguen heridos mientras otros quedan muertos en la nieve del Pirineo.

La Cruz Roja Francesa en España, a cuya sombra están los Representantes del General De Gaulle estando en su dirección Monseñor Boyer me pide también los Representantes en su nombre el Sr. Ministro de Yugoslavia lo que como es natural acepto.

De acuerdo las Embajadas Aliadas, se comienza, como era justo una nueva distribución tanto en los enormes fondos que se gastan como en la distribución de trabajo: cada Embajada pagará a los ayudad protegidos y se hace una clasificación segun las Naciones de los Refugiados.

Mi esposa, la que desde el primer momento puso todo su entusiasmo en mi ayuda lleva junto consigo la contabilidad y distribución de fondos, cada vez más difícil por el gran número de capitulos que atender, pero aun tenemos ánimos para rechazar la ayuda que en personal nos ofrecen las Embajadas y hay veces que vemos amanecer haciendo cuentas, pero con alegría de trabajar por tan excelso Causa.

La Cárcel,
La Cárcel, y los numerosos Hoteles de Navarra están llenos.

Cada Refugiado, recibe aparte de sus gastos de manutención y cuidados sanitarios, un haber semanal para sus gastos personales, distintos según estén en el Hotel, Cárcel u Hospital, estando todos perfectamente atendidos.

Su estancia en el Hotel o Cárcel, después de vencer las Embajadas las grandes presiones Alemánas sobre el Gobierno Español, depende según sea su sexo, edad, si fue herido o prisionero, etc...

El número de Refugiados es ya abrumador, al extremo de que hubo momento en que los funcionarios de la Policía de Pamplona que hacían las fichas de los Refugiados que acababan de llegar, pasaron 48 horas sin dormir.

Los Refugiados llegaban después de una odisea por los montes perseguidos por las patrullas Alemanas, incluso con perros al efecto, en estado lamentable. A su llegada se les atendía cuidadosamente se curaban sus heridas y se les daban ropas y alimentos.

Urgía entonces el grave problema de la Cárcel donde llegaron a estar 1,200, hacinados y durmiendo en el suelo.

Planteado este grave problema, el que era agravado por la rapidez del paso de los Refugiados, ya que hubo días de pasar 180; se presentó en Pamplona Mr. Charles Eno Donald, Delegado de la Cruz Roja Norteamericana en la Embajada de Madrid y estudiamos el citado problema y el que pudiera presentarse en el futuro procediéndose inmediatamente a la organización de este serio aspecto con tal celosía y con tal acierto que a los pocos días durmieran todos los Refugiados en la Cárcel cada uno en su cama recibiendo vivres suficientes para su alimentación.

Al efecto, recibí el número necesario de camas y varios camiones de vivres, formando con estos un gran y bien organizado Deposito al que más tarde se amplió donde semanalmente se distribuían a cada Refugiado de la Prisión, una cantidad fija por persona de carne, leche, sopa en polvo, avena, mantega, jarabe de maíz y una pastilla de jabón.

De todo ello llevábamos contabilidad y controlábamos semanalmente su entrega con visitas personales a la Cárcel.

La cantidad y calidad de los vivres era tan excelente que suscitaba envidia aun en las personas más acomodadas de la Ciudad, sujetas a las restricciones alimenticias de España.

La organización
La organización era en lo que cabe humanamente perfecta, funcionando todo cuál fue previsto y cada problema que surgía lo resolvía personalmente si era posible, o en relación con las Embajadas, si era problema que hablaba que solucionar con las Autoridades Ministeriales de Madrid.

Se llegó hasta los extremos más delicados tales como a los niños pequeños traídos por las Refugiadas y a los que naufragaron en el exilio, tuvieron siempre leche y cuidados necesarios para su manutención y desarrollo, al punto que no falleció ninguno y se repusieron todos de las grandes penalidades sufridas.

Y hasta se llegó a la gentileza de que cuando hubo casamientos entre los Refugiados, que se celebraron varios, no faltó en la comida de Bodas un detalle de parte de las Embajadas que sirviera de matiz simbólico en aquel día feliz, rodeado de tantas tristezas.

Pero en el fondo de aquel insólito enjambre de Refugiados, pues por mis manos pasaron más de 5,000, había que hacer en su fondo y a la vez un grande y grave trabajo que no podía salir a la superficie.

Era el paso callado de las graves noticias sobre los diferentes aspectos de la guerra, con sus secretos militares, detalles planos emplazamientos, noticias de posiciones, Jefes de Guerra con misiones secretas, Aviadores Evadidos, gentes que a la llegada eran aparentemente apacibles comerciantes que huían y que después conocida su personalidad eran personas que había que hacer llegar a su importante destino, a dar cuenta de su alta misión.

Y si todas las Embajadas Aliadas prestandaban un tan grande asunto sus mayores atenciones, refiriéndome en este Informe a la Embajada de Estados Unidos, puesto que ahora de ella se trata, solo puedo decir que su organización y su trabajo fue maravilloso.

La presencia de persona de interés tan pronto como era señalada por mí, a cualquier hora del día o de la noche, recibía la Embajada inmediata respuesta con las órdenes debidas y enseguida, lo mismo en pleno madrugada del invierno, con lo o más frío bajo cero y temporal de nieve que en pleno mediodía con el calor sofocante del verano se ponían en camino para Pamplona y cuantas veces en mi casa, un ponche caliente en la estación fría o una limonada fría en verano, era lo primero que tomaban después de cientos de kilómetros de carrera desenfrenada y penalidades sin cuenta.

Con
Con tan grave motivo y por haberse convertido Pamplona en el centro de mayor actividad por los Refugiados y por este aspecto que estudiamos venían continuamente el Agregado Militar de la Embajada, Coronel Stephens, el Mayor Mr. Clark y el Agregado Naval Mr. Guilmaud y otros.

Pero entonces había que vencer otra gran dificultad; y era la constante vigilancia de la Policía y de la Gestapo; y eran verdaderos milagros los que se hacían de habilidad y de astucia en la Carcel, en los Montes, en los Hoteles y donde fuera preciso entrevistarse con las personas que traían alguna importante misión o entrega de documentos.

A esto debe añadirse el servicio especial organizado para la recepción de Militares y Aviadores caídos en Alemania y Paises Ocupados y evadidos después a los que se les atendía especialmente hasta que se lograba por las Embajadas respectivas trasladarlos a lugar con ventura para ser repatriados después.

Debo señalar en todo este gran trabajo la magnífica colaboración de Mrs. Stephens esposa del Coronel agregado militar y dama Americana de precioso talento y de una actividad rayana en el sacrificio, que estaba en todo consolando, animando, visitando Cárcel, Hospitales, Hoteles, Campos de Concentración, ayudando en la magnífica organización establecida por Mr. Mac Donald, en los cuidados sanitarios y reparto de víveres entre tantos miles de Refugiados.

Fue bien, Exma. Señor; en toda esta magnífica organización en pro de los Refugiados donde en todo momento se palo el resultado de la pericia rectora junto con el enorme trabajo y sacrificio de toda la Embajada de Estados Unidos en España, fue Mr. Hayes su cabeza visible y el coordinador de aquella complicadísima red de trabajos, prácticamente de tan felices resultados.

Y mucho tendríamos que decir de las veces que en situaciones graviísimas, es la intervención personal de Mr. Hayes en unión de su colega el Sr. Embajador de Gran Bretaña, la que sabe vencer la enorme presión alemana, salvando de la muerte segura a cientos de Refugiados.

En los meses de Marzo y Abril de 1943, Alemania con ánimo de invadir a España, o de ejercer una definitiva presión sobre ella, desplegaba en la frontera un inusitado alarre de fuerzas junto con una cantidad formidable de material.
Todos los que allí vivíamos pensamos y temimos a una invasión cierta.

Por entonces se organizaba el primer convoy de envío de Refugiados para África, los que a mi salida de España estaban ya organizados y en marcha.

Había ya dos grandes barcos preparados para recibir a los Refugiados de acuerdo entre las Embajadas Aliadas y el Gobierno Espanol, cuando el Embajador Alemán solicitó al General Franco ostensible ayuda en número considerable para la División Azul, de la que hasta entonces había prestado, a lo que se negó el General Franco; contestando entonces el Embajador Alemán que a su vez ellos no consentían el paso del convoy de Refugiados ya preparado; y en efecto este no tuvo lugar.

Continuaron las presiones Alemanas a la vez que aumentaban el número de fuerzas en la Frontera y esta vez lograron del Gobierno Español una medida insólita, contraria al Derecho Internacional y al Derecho de Gentes: El cierre de la Frontera al paso de los Refugiados.

Yo tuve la fortuna de enterarme de esta medida en el momento en que recibían de Madrid las Autoridades de Navarra la orden de dicha brutal disposición. Inmediatamente avísen a la Embajada Americana y pocas horas después Mr. Hayes, con el Sr. Embajador de Gran Bretaña y el Sr. Arquitecto de S. S. confesaran con el Sr. Ministro de Relaciones Españoles. Allí me consta que Mr. Hayes usó de toda su energía personal para deshacer tan barbara medida y en efecto, dentro de las 24 horas de haberse dado la orden de cerrar la Frontera al paso de los Refugiados, se dio contra orden, evitando la muerte segura de varios cientos de Refugiados que se encontraban en los Montes y que sin salida hubiera sido fácil para los Alemanes apresarlos y fusilarlos después como hacían con los que detenían a su paso.

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Me permito hacer presente a V.E. que si señalo aquí noticia como la que indico, es por que yo la sabía, no por los funcionarios de las Embajadas, los que en todo momento guardaban la mayor discreción la que yo misma trate de quebrantar, sino por ser de fuentes más propias, debidas a que desde el momento en que yo acepte el cargo que desempeñé, movilice todas mis anímatas de confianza, desde los guardas de las selvas de El Irati en la Frontera por mí conocidos, hasta las que se encontraban en los más altos medios sociales, para redundar en bien de la obra humanitaria que emprendíamos.

De todo...
De todo ello se desprende Exm. Señor, la falta de base que asiste a Mr. Emanuele Celler en la acusación que acaba de hacer contra el Exm. Sr. Embajador Mr. Hayes de haber sido remiso y haber demostrado ningún interés por las vidas y problemas de los Refugiados en España.

Mas no dudo de que el contradictor de Mr. Hayes conociendo aunque solo fuera el fondo de este sintético Informe y sea un hombre de buena y leal voluntad, será el primero en presentar a Mr. Hayes, su homenaje de respeto y reconocimiento por la acertada y magnífica labor al frente de la Embajada de Estados Unidos en España.

Y por considerarlo de estricta y elemental justicia y estimar ser yo una de las personas capacitadas para ello, precisamente por el cargo representativo de las Embajadas Aliadas que ocupé y a las que nada me une de reconocimiento material, pues de ellas no recibí remuneración alguna por mi trabajo y ella honra satisfacción de haber colaborado con ellas asistiendo al Bien y del verdadero Derecho Humano, es que hoy en plena libertad, sin consciencia de nadie, deliberadamente y por mi propia voluntad, extiendo el presente Informe en la Ciudad de Montevideo a 28 de Junio de 1944.

GABRIEL DE BIURRUN

Firmado Gabriel de Biurrun

Consul del Uruguay en Navarra

Exm. Señor

Embajador de los Estados Unidos de America - Montevideo

1º
NEED PAPER

APR 15 1944

Ref. Difficulties Encountered by the War Refugee Board in Spain

Since the date of its establishment in January, the War Refugee Board has been successful in obtaining the cooperation of the American Embassies and Legations in London, Stockholm, Bern, Lisbon and Ankara and to the extent necessary throughout Latin America. One place remains in which the Board has been able to make absolutely no progress - Madrid. Unfortunately, the failure to obtain cooperation in Spain is of crucial importance in view of the fact that under existing circumstances that country is practically the only remaining outlet for refugees from enemy territory.

1. Failure of the Embassy in Madrid to cooperate with the War Refugee Board is exemplified in part as follows:

1. Not only has Ambassador Hayes refused to ask the Spanish Government to cooperate in implementing the President's policy with respect to refugees; he has even refused to explain the President's policy on the subject to that Government although requested to do so by the Board and the State Department.

2. Ambassador Hayes has consistently refused to present to the Spanish Government for its consideration a plan for increasing the flow of refugees through Spain. This plan was carefully devised by the War Refugee Board to relieve the Spanish Government of all responsibility and burdens, the Board guaranteeing the maintenance and rapid evacuation of the refugees.

3. Ambassador Hayes has consistently refused to allow the appointment of a full time representative of the Board in Spain. This attitude of the Ambassador has not been based on the personalities involved, but upon his repeated assertion that the Board really does not need full time representation in Spain.

4. Ambassador Hayes has refused to transmit to an American relief organization in Spain a license to carry on relief and evacuation activities issued by the Treasury Department at the request of the Board and with the approval of the State Department. This license is exactly the same as licenses which have been granted to private organizations in Switzerland and under which, with the cooperation of the American Legation, the evacuation of refugees from enemy territory is being facilitated.

The actual basis of Ambassador Hayes' position in the matter is not clearly understood. The various reasons advanced by the Ambassador seem to add up to nothing more than an opinion that the refugee issue is one which should be completely buried. In other words, Mr. Hayes seems to feel that since the flow of refugees across the border has practically stopped and
since the few remaining refugees in Spain are in the process of being removed to a camp in North Africa, the whole matter should be closed and nothing should be done to encourage the entry of more refugees. This view is obviously inconsistent with the President's policy of taking all possible steps to increase the number of refugees escaping from enemy territory.

The Board has received from various sources, including the Government of Belgium and certain reputable private organizations with long experience in refugee matters, information indicating that action can be taken in Spain which would be most effective in aiding the escape of many more victims of Nazi persecution.

The fact relied upon by Mr. Hayes to indicate that the problem has become unimportant, namely his assertion that the flow of refugees into Spain has largely ceased, is a strong reason for believing that the Board will have failed in its duty if it does not send into Spain a full time representative who will be able to explore sympathetically all possibilities of saving human lives. It may be noted that at the time a full time Board representative was appointed in Turkey the situation appeared fully as discouraging as that painted by Ambassador Hayes in Spain, but that nevertheless as a result of the efforts and ingenuity of the Board's representative a substantial number of refugees have been rescued.

(Signed) J.W. Fohle
MEMORANDUM

1. Justly or unjustly, a fairly widespread impression has arisen in this country that Ambassador Hayes is not whole-heartedly sympathetic with this Government's efforts to rescue refugees, particularly the Jews, and that opportunities to save lives are being lost as a result of this attitude.

2. While Hayes may have been guided in his action in refugee matters by many considerations which could not be reported in his cables, the Board, itself, is confused as to Hayes' real attitude in the matter. Very frankly, the reasons stated by Hayes for not taking certain action requested of him by the Board have, in many cases, not been convincing. The Board is most anxious to ascertain the real facts of the case for its own information and guidance and, if possible, for the purpose of clearing up any misunderstanding in the matter which may exist in the minds of the public, press and private agencies.

3. It is particularly important to answer the following points which remain without satisfactory explanation upon the basis of the record to date:

(a) Hayes has consistently been unwilling to explain to the Spanish Government the importance and significance of this Government's new refugee policy. The very fact that the President deemed it essential to establish the War Refugee Board with its broad specific powers and authorizations was an important indication that this Government was determined to leave no stone unturned in its efforts to rescue refugees. This policy was explained in detail to Hayes on various occasions and he was requested from the outset to bring it to the attention of the Spanish Government. As far as the Board knows he has not yet done so. Even if Hayes deemed it unsafe to make any concrete requests of the Spanish Government, it was and is extremely important for him to inform that Government of the policy. Realizing the significance of the matter and the importance we attach to it, the Spanish Government for reasons of its own, might well have offered to assist either generally, or in specific instances.

What seems to be a glaring example of Hayes' disinclination even to let the Spanish Government know of the importance we attach to the saving of refugees is the apparently perfunctory manner in which he brought to the attention of that Government the President's Statement of March 24. The President's Statement was transmitted to the Spanish Government by the Embassy with a mere note of transmittal, and the use which was made of the statement is.
when compared with the play given to it by our other diplomatic missions was ridiculously limited and ineffective. It would seem that a person fully cognizant of the Government's policy and sympathetic with it, would have realized the great significance of the statement and would have made a much greater effort to bring home its significance to the Spanish Government and the Spanish people. This was effectively done in other neutral countries by other ambassadors.

The only justification of Hayes' non-action in this regard seems to stem from his opinion that our other dealings with Spain would have been prejudiced by mentioning refugee matters. It seems to the Board that in no event would a frank explanation of our humanitarian policy have interfered with other dealings with the Spanish Government. In any event, this justification, if it ever existed, certainly did not always have the same potency, and there must have been occasions when a presentation of U.S. policy on refugees would have been appropriate and effective.

Mr. Hayes apparently does not take the position that the Spanish Government has done everything possible to encourage the entry of refugees into Spain, although he does state that so far as he knows no steps have been taken actually to keep people from crossing the border. As a matter of fact, there are many indications that the Spanish Government, far from being cooperative, has been most uncooperative in refugee matters. We must exclude the question of French refugees which involved other considerations. For example, the detailed report of representatives of the Friends who visited Spain makes it clear that the Spanish Government has continually done many things to make the lives of refugees in Spain unbearable. Moreover, there is a report from a reliable source (the Belgian Government in exile) that the Spanish Government has actually impeded the entry of refugees into Spain. It seems perfectly clear that a more favorable attitude on the part of the Spanish Government would have improved and still would improve the refugee situation in Spain. It is not clear to the Board that an effort by Hayes to induce such a more favorable attitude as suggested in many cables by the Board would in any way have complicated or impaired our relations with Spain since our request would have been based purely on humanitarian grounds.

(b) Apparently Hayes is completely distanced to take any steps to increase the number of refugees entering Spain. Although Hayes attributes the fact to the attitudes of the Germans and not the Spaniards, he does recognize that only a mere trickle of refugees has been entering Spain from France in the past six months. Yet he has apparently failed either fully to explore the reasons for this fact or to cooperate in the only available measures for increasing the flow.
One obvious way to increase the number entering Spain is to do everything possible to facilitate clandestine entry from France to Spain. This the Board has attempted to encourage through the licensing of reputable private refugee organisations. Hayes has actively opposed this effort. Many of the reasons stated for his opposition appear rather nebulous. For example, the suggestion that the increase of refugee traffic would permit the Germans to get more agents into Spain appears somewhat ridiculous in view of the large diplomatic and non-diplomatic German group in Spain and the relative facilities of communication and transportation between Spain and German-occupied territory.

The most compelling argument of Hayes, at least on its face, is the suggestion that increased refugee traffic might impede the rescue of allied military personnel. If true, this is a serious matter and the Board has consistently indicated that under no circumstances should refugee rescue operations be permitted which have this effect. Hayes tells the Board that it is impossible to carry on any such refugee evacuations without interfering with military rescue. The Board has not received from Hayes or from other sources an explanation of why this is necessarily so and why the refugee traffic cannot be separated from the military traffic. In any event, so far as the Board has been informed, Hayes has made no effort to determine whether ways and means can be found for an organized refugee traffic. In view of this Government's refugee policy, it seems indispensable that before closing this channel of saving refugees a careful examination be made of all possibilities. The project certainly should not glibly be dismissed upon the assumption that refugee traffic will automatically and under all circumstances interfere with military traffic. A clear understanding of the problem with the President's policy would seem to dictate something more than automatic opposition to operations which have been facilitated by the Board in an effort to keep open one of the very few remaining channels for saving the lives of innocent people.

Another possible means of increasing the flow of refugees from France into Spain, suggested by Hayes himself as early as February 28, apparently has not been carried forward. Hayes suggested that the Spanish Government could best expedite the release of refugees by directly approaching the German Government itself with an offer to grant transit visas to such refugees. So far as the Board knows, Hayes has taken no action along this line, although the Board has repeatedly made it clear to him that he can advise the Spanish Government that refugees entering Spain will be taken elsewhere and that the Board will make financial arrangements for the care of refugees while in Spain. Certainly a person who understands and was
in sympathy with the Board's program would have followed this and any other similar possibility. The instructions given by the Board were certainly broad enough to authorize such action.

On the bare record there are indications that, for reasons not entirely apparent, Hayes does not desire to increase the number of refugees entering Spain and simply desires to liquidate the small relief business in Spain by removing the refugees now there to other areas. Hayes either unaware of the refugee problem only as a relief matter or does not desire the entry of more refugees on the theory that his dealings with the Spaniards on other matters might be complicated because of supposed opposition of that Government to refugees, or because of non-refugee considerations. In either event, Hayes' actions do not indicate an understanding of the real significance of this Government's refugee policy as established by the President and the relative importance of such policy.

(c) Upon the basis of the record to date Hayes is apparently unwilling to permit a full exploration of the possibilities of expanding refugee traffic through Spain. He has repeatedly indicated that nothing more is needed in Spain than the small relief staff now operating under the supervision of Hickenstaff. This ignores completely the question of reason. Hayes' unwillingness to have Hickenstaff act as full-time representative of the Board indicates either a lack of understanding of the problem or an unwillingness to have it opened up.

Hayes' insistence on the air-tight centralization of all refugee activities under Hickenstaff and his apparent unwillingness to have private refugee organizations operate actively in Spain also seem to indicate either lack of understanding or lack of sympathy. Hayes may seek to justify this limitation of refugee rescue and activity on the grounds of a desire to coordinate and thereby facilitate operations and also because of a supposed objection by the Spanish Government to the admission of other representatives. However, the obvious fact that no sizable refugee operations are now being carried on in Spain offers some basis for inferring that Hayes does not desire to have all possibilities explored and exploited. This possibility is lent some support by the rather inexpressive attitude taken by Hayes upon Segarra and Schwartz. In the case of Segarra, Hayes' comments are not only undocumented and tautous, but are inconsistent with other accounts from reliable sources including the Friends. Upon the basis of these facts it is difficult to avoid the inference that Hayes' main interest is to keep refugee operations as small and tightly controlled as possible rather than to exploit the full possibilities of Spain as a transit point for saving the lives of refugees now in enemy territory.
(d) The difficulty of understanding Hayes' attitude and the reasons advanced by him is increased when the operations of the Board through American diplomatic representatives in other neutral countries are examined. Our ambassadors and ministers in Turkey, Sweden, Switzerland and Portugal have certainly faced many political and economic problems as difficult as those faced by Ambassador Hayes, and yet they have not only clearly understood this Government's refugee policy but have made it clear to the Governments to which they are accredited. They have in certain cases requested and obtained from the Governments to which they are accredited action more onerous and burdensome than that which Hayes has been asked to obtain from the Spanish Government.

Some of these Governments incidentally would, it should be assumed, be less motivated by humanitarian consideration than the Christian Government of Spain. Our diplomatic representatives in these countries have on their own account, and in certain cases without receiving detailed suggestions from this Government, such as were given to Hayes, explored fully all possibilities in their area for saving the lives of refugees in enemy territory. They have cooperated most fully with private organisations and they have facilitated clandestine operations which have resulted in the saving of lives. Without incurring the displeasure of the neutral governments to which they are accredited they have done many things which Hayes has refused to do.
The Board is prepared

1. To finance reception centers for refugees which the Spanish government might agree to establish, and otherwise to assure the support of refugees while in Spain.

2. To assume responsibility for the speedy removal from Spain of refugees, especially of stateless refugees and those not under the protection of any government.
To encourage the voluntary movement of refugees to Camp Lyautéy near Fédhala in North Africa and elsewhere; if necessary, to effect the removal of refugees from Spain on a compulsory basis.

3. To appoint a full-time representative in Spain responsible to the U. S. Ambassador, with authority to carry out the Board’s policies and program, to aid in the rescue, transportation, maintenance and relief of refugees, and to assist American, foreign and international agencies, both public and private, operating in Spain in this field.

4. In order to encourage and facilitate a greater flow of refugees from France, to finance, maintain, and supervise three reception centers to be established near the Spanish border (perhaps at Figueras, Murillo and Tolosa), so as to reduce to a minimum the time during which the refugees would be on the hands of the Spanish authorities; to staff these centers either with employees of U. S. Government or with representatives of private American welfare agencies, whichever procedure is preferred locally. Refugees would be directed by Spanish authorities to proceed to nearest reception camp who would provide them with travel permits valid to that point only. From the centers, the refugees would be moved on to North Africa with a minimum of delay.

Baksin: 4/12/44
1 and 2: "With the object of establishing a moving belt which will carry refugees from occupied areas through Spain to refuge elsewhere, the following concrete proposals have been agreed upon by the Board. (1) In view of the establishment of a camp in North Africa which is ready to receive refugees, a substantial number of refugees now in Spain can be moved to such camp and the transfer should be facilitated. (2) In order to take care of new refugees, particularly stateless refugees and those lacking the protection of their government, who will arrive in the future and to effect their removal from Spain on an involuntary basis if necessary, the Spanish Government should be asked to maintain reception camps in which future arrivals will live. As a basis for obtaining the necessary action by the Spanish Government they should be advised (a) that the War Refugee Board will make the necessary arrangements for financing the maintenance of the camps in Spain and the support of the refugees, and (b) that the War Refugee Board will assume responsibility for removing as rapidly as possible from Spain the stateless and unprotected refugees in the camps, emphasizing that arrangements are presently being made for the prompt removal from Spain of a substantial number of such refugees to the camp already established in North Africa. In this connection, the recent evacuation of refugees to Palestine may also be recalled."

Draft of cable to Madrid, sent to State Feb. 10, 1944. Also see State's 463 to Madrid Feb. 18, 1944.

"War Refugee Board wishes to make clear to you that Camp Lyautey will not be the only haven of refuge to which refugees can be removed from Spain. The Board is currently carrying on negotiations for other havens, and you should assume and may advise the Spanish Government that all refugees entering Spain from occupied areas will be taken on to other places."

Draft of cable to Madrid, sent to State March 20, 1944. See also State's 799 to Madrid, of March 23.
"The Board proposes to appoint ..., representative of the American Friends Service Committee in Madrid, as the Special Representative of the Board with the designation by the Department as Special Attaché to the Embassy on war refugee matters."

"You should advise ....... that:

(a) He is charged with the duty and responsibility of carrying out the Board's policies and program in Spain;

(b) He is responsible to the Ambassador and should discuss his activities and problems with him regularly and fully;

(c) He shall work with and give all possible assistance to public and private agencies operating in Spain in this field regardless of whether such organizations are American, foreign or international;

(f) He shall develop and assist in the development of programs and implementation of measures for the rescue, transportation, maintenance and relief of refugees."

Draft of cable to Madrid, sent to State Feb. 16, 1944. Also see State's 530 to Madrid, Feb. 25, 1944.

"The Special Attaché to your Embassy would supervise under you all the Board's operations in Spain, including the establishment and maintenance of refugee camps. He will have assigned to him a small staff which might include Transportation, Supply and Finance Officer. It is planned that the attaché and his immediate staff base their operations in Madrid. In addition to the Madrid staff, should the volume of refugees so warrant, it is proposed that up to three reception centers be established along the Franco-Spanish frontier. Each of these centers would have a supervisor possessing experience in refugee work. Each supervisor would likewise have a small staff. At least one Medical Officer and possibly a small nursing staff would serve at each of the centers."
"It is tentatively proposed that reception centers be established at Figueras, Murillo and Tolosa (or such other localities as may be agreed upon) as points readily accessible to all who cross the Pyrenees. The Board considers it desirable that these centers should be in frontier zones rather than in the interior of Spain for the following reasons:

(1) The nearness of the centers to the border would reduce to a minimum the time during which the refugees would be on the hands of the Spanish authorities.

"It is proposed that the frontier officials and police authorities direct the refugees to the centers, providing them with permits to travel only from the point of apprehension to the nearest center. We hope that the refugees will be advised by the Spanish officials that their presence in Spain will be tolerated only so long as they conduct themselves in accordance with this program. After arrival at the centers, it will be explained to the refugees that the Spanish authorities have released them into the care of the centers.

"The refugees would be kept as far as possible out of the principal population centers, particularly Madrid. It is felt that the remoteness of the proposed centers would minimize attention to the presence of the refugees in Spain.

"The location of the centers near to the frontier would permit close cooperation between their staffs and Spanish frontier officials. The refugees would remain in the reception centers only so long as is necessary to assure medical officers that they were in physical condition to travel, to permit preliminary security screening and to provide refugees with the necessary travel documents.

"The Board would appreciate your recommendation whether it would be more practicable for the personnel of the centers to be known to the Spanish Government as official employees of the United States Government or as employees of private American welfare agencies."
"It is proposed that border officials and police authorities in the frontier zones direct the refugees to the reception centers and provide them with a safe conduct pass valid only for travel from the point of apprehension by these authorities to the nearest reception center. At the time of issuance of these safe conduct, it is hoped that the Spanish officials will advise the refugees that their presence in Spain will be tolerated only so long as they remain in that country pursuant to this program. On arrival at the reception centers, the officers there would explain to the refugees that the Spanish authorities have released the refugees to their care."

Draft of cable to Madrid, sent to State March 20, 1944.
Also see State's 799 to Madrid, March 23, 1944.
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 Spanish 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 Spanish 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.

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 Spanish Government in behalf of these persecuted persons in the hope that the Spanish 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 Spanish 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 Spanish 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 Spanish 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 Spain.

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

Similar
-3-

Similar joint approaches are being made to the Swedish,
Turk, Portuguese, and Swiss Governments.

HULL
My dear Mr. Latimer:

The attached is the sixth report covering the principal activities of this office in connection with civilian refugee field relief operations in Spain.

The report covers:

1) An outline of plans for the reception and maintenance of refugees who may arrive in Spain as a result of the expected United Nations military operations in France;

2) Report of funds and stocks on hand as of June 1, 1944;

3) Explanation for the request for information (page 7) as to whether the food stocks on hand at Vitoria and Cadiz are American embassy or French owned;

4) A record of the movement of refugees, and the numbers now in Spain as reported by the French mission and the American relief organizations offices;

5) Letters and reports of general interest.

Since my arrival in Spain on March 6, 1943, the only letter which has been addressed to me personally was from Mr. Hugh Jackson dated October 11, 1943, and in connection with the reorganization of the RAG, the important task of the consolidation and the reorganization of the many previously established departments into RAG has possibly not been conducive to constant direct contact with foreign representatives. However, it is advisable

Hurray Latimer, Esquire,
Acting Director,
Office of Foreign Relief and Rehabilitation Operations,
Department of State,
Washington.
advisable that the field representatives be kept advised from headquarters regarding policies and directives, changed internal organization and executive personnel and to receive literature which is helpful to harmonize field operations with the policies and desires of headquarters. I have been relieved of considerable ago and had placed myself as the forgotten representative of the FEA.

In response to the embassy’s cabled requests for my authorized return to Washington or a possible reassignment, I was informed by the embassy on May 1st that authorization for my return to Washington had been received, and consequently arrangements are active for my prompt departure via Portugal and the "clipper".

Respectfully yours,

Charles McDonald.

Enclosure:

sixth Report.
# INDEX

## SIXTH REPORT

June 1, 1944

Refugee Relief Operations - Spain

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concerned—American, British, Italian, et cetera—and does not form a part of the operation as it
affects the civilians and others listed below.

Civilians and others who may arrive in Spain:

French—Civilians—United Nations sympathizers

1) Vichy—Army deserters or Regular Army
forced over border,
2) Vichy—Officials,
3) Vichy—Civilians,

Germans

4) Civilians—pro-Nazi and anti-Nazi,
5) Army deserters,
6) Regular Army forced over border,

Spanish—Reds or/and others.

Stateless—probably 90 per cent Jews, and
undoubtedly will include men, women
and children.

Civilians—claiming the following nationalities:
British, American, Italian, Polish,
Russian, Czechoslovakian,
Yugoslav, Russian, et cetera.

Of the total possible new arrivals it is estimated
that approximately 90 per cent should and will be con-
trolled and cared for by the French Mission and French
Red Cross. Approximately 15 per cent will be the respon-
sibility of the American relief organizations office
(J. D. C. and Quakers and others), and the maintenance
of the comparatively small number of the other nationals
(except Spaniards) will be undertaken directly by each
legation so concerned.

The responsibility for those under classifications
number 1 to 6 above is now being decided in cooperation
with the Spanish Authorities.

Under the present regulations that new arrivals must
record true declarations of nationality, it appears that
there will be comparatively few civilian Americans, and
that the maintenance and clearance of these can continue
through the American relief organizations and the Ameri-
can consular offices.

Without considerable detail, the plans which are under
consideration by those representatives principally interested
are as follows. Operational understanding with the vitally
interested Spanish authorities is hoped for and expected,
and if and when accomplished will greatly facilitate the
required field action:

1) A Spanish military zone to be established,
and it is now expected that the southern boundary of
of that zone will be the following towns inclusive—

San Sebastian
SIXTH REPORT

June 1, 1944

In the previous report (March 3rd) it was suggested and with the Embassy approval that this assignment could terminate at an early date. During the interim the following matters have had my attention.

INVASION - REFUGEES

It now appears that, should an influx of several nations refugees appear in Spain as a result of the expected United Nations military operations in France, that the American Embassy, so far as the necessity for field relief operations are concerned, would be interested mainly as an advisory and/or political participant.

A study has been undertaken by the representatives principally interested to review the necessity for the care of persons, both military and civilian, who may migrate or be forced into Spain from France. While it is possible that but a few hundred civilians would arrive, it is also very likely that maintenance would have to be provided for several thousands, we expect the number would depend on the plan of attack by the military forces.

If the Pyrenees on the French side are cut off at the time of the invasion a large number of persons are not expected, but if during that time there is a corridor in France open to the Pyrenees the number of persons seeking shelter might number several thousand. It seemed wise to plan and partially to organize in advance for the larger number, and to eliminate in so far as possible the necessity for improvisation which attended the first nine months of the refugee activities which started during the late fall of 1942, and which is covered in my previous reports.

In brief the following is under consideration by the offices of the French Mission, American Relief Organizations, the British and American military Attachés, the American Embassy through my office, and other representatives who may be interested.

Classification of persons expected,

with our past experience as a basis, the following nationalities may arrive in Spain:

United Nations Military and Naval personnel:

All such arrivals will be, as at present, handled entirely by the Military Attaché offices concerned
concerned—American, Britian, Italian, et cetera—and does not form a part of the operation as it affects the civilians and others listed below.

Civilians and others who may arrive in Spain:

**French** — Civilians - United Nations sympathizers
1) Vichy - Army deserters or Regular Army forced over border,
2) Vichy - officials,
3) Vichy - Civilians,

**Germans**
4) Civilians - pro-Nazi and anti-Nazi,
5) Army deserters,
6) Regular Army forced over border,

**Spanish** — Reds or/and others.

**Stateless** — Probably 90 per cent Jews, and undoubtedly will include men, women and children,

**Civilians** — claiming the following nationalities: British, American, Italian, Polish, Dutch, Belgian, Czechoslovakian, Yugoslavian, Russian, et cetera.

Of the total possible new arrivals it is estimated that approximately 50 per cent should and will be controlled and cared for by the French mission and French Red Cross. Approximately 10 per cent will be the responsibility of the American Relief Organizations (J. D. C. and Quakers and others), and the maintenance of the comparatively small number of the other nationals (except Spaniards) will be undertaken direct by each legation so concerned.

The responsibility for those under classifications number 1 to 6 above is now being decided in cooperation with the Spanish Authorities.

Under the present regulations that new arrivals must record true declarations of nationality, it appears that there will be comparatively few civilian Americans, and that the maintenance and clearance of these can continue through the American Relief Organizations and the American Consular offices.

Without considerable detail, the plans which are under consideration by those representatives principally interested are as follows. Operational understanding with the vitally interested Spanish Authorities is hoped for and expected, and if and when accomplished will greatly facilitate the required field action:

1) A Spanish Military Zone to be established, and it is now expected that the southern boundary of that zone will be the following towns inclusive, -

San Sebastian
San Sebastian, Pamplona, Lerida, Barcelona. Incoming persons will be directed by the Spanish Military and/or civil guards within the Military Zone to several established registration and clearance centers approximate to the southern boundary. Accommodations at or near these "clearance" centers are to be arranged in a balneario or otherwise until registration, nationality, classification, etcetera is determined, which in most cases should be done promptly. It is planned in addition to the full Spanish control at the clearance centers, that authorized representatives of the nations interested will be invited to cooperate.

2) The maintenance zone is any territory outside the designated Military Zone, and where living quarters may be established. Consideration of places of temporary residence is as follows:

a) That prisons are not to be used. It is difficult for Spanish prisons, which are for political and criminal prisoners only, to adjust their standardized operations so that refugees can be treated otherwise than criminals. We understand that interested Spanish officials are in agreement.

b) The only sizable Military controlled Concentration Camp is located at Miranda de Ebro, and it is being decided whether this acceptable place, with a present normal capacity of 2000 men, will be used as in the past for refugees of military age (30 to 40) or will be confined to Spanish Republicans and others to be so confined by the Spanish authorities.

c) Balnearios (sizable summer-hotels), smaller hotels and pensions, the two latter of boarding house type, are being selected for a large percentage of the refugees. (Such a list of usable and operating places is in preparation at present.) The cost of maintaining persons in these locations is undoubtedly less expensive than would be the building and operating of camps for this purpose. Usually the rooms and food are reasonably acceptable, and the morale of the person is maintained to a much greater extent than if detained in the prisons or the concentration camp.

d) To eliminate the possibility that a number of persons of the same classification are located in several and widely scattered places, it is planned in so far as possible to assign in advance definite living quarters for such classification. That is, the French will decide on certain locations, mainly at the eastern and western portions of the entire territory (where a percentage of the men will arrive) in which to house the French, the stateless and others.
others under the care of the J. D. C. et cetera. This arrangement will permit of an improved financial and operating field control, less travelling by those in authority, a minimum of truck transport, greatly reducing the work in connection with the evacuation proceedings, et cetera.

e) The field operation of the Maintenance Zone will be as follows:

That portion of such territory, and where the refugees are housed will be divided into sections. A Section Manager is to be appointed and given authority, and will be responsible for the satisfactory operations at all resident locations within his section, to locate additional living quarters if required, to keep in personal or phone contact with the local managers, to keep Madrid headquarters advised of the clothing, medical or other needs, to check and approve authorized expenditures for living and other costs, to be responsible for the proper recording of those refugees who arrive and depart, et cetera.

The Local Manager: If possible a competent refugee should be appointed at each residence and will report directly to the section manager. He will be familiar with the financial and house-keeping agreement with the proprietor and see that it is properly performed, he will have an advance fund for the payment of all authorized expenditures, will keep financial and refugee personnel records as directed, inform the section manager of clothing, medical, food, or other needs, and when the assistance of other refugees will organize such sports, educational classes and other events as is possible for the purpose of keeping the men busy and which is very necessary in such retention places to maintain proper morale, et cetera.

3) Central control committee - Madrid. Considerable thought is being given to the formation of such an informal committee. This action will depend greatly on the number of refugees who may declare themselves under each nationality. At present it is estimated that 90 per cent of all those needing assistance will be the responsibility of the French mission and the American relief organizations offices, both of which are equipped to render the necessary service with the exception principally of transportation. The other 10 per cent, composed of various nationalities (including Spaniards and Germans) will be attended to by each respective legation or government.

Such a committee would include a local representative of each interested government, an elected chairman, an active permanent secretary, and such other person as may be necessary. Such member of the committee
committee should be active and be responsible for some definite phase of the operation.

The main functions of the C.C. C., briefly:

c) Review with the proper Spanish authorities the reason for and the functions of the committee, which when approved should result in a mutually cooperative field operation.

d) Agree on the personnel required and the method of handling all affairs at the "clearance" centers.

e) Prepare in advance a list of operating and/or available living quarters to meet an unexpected large influx of persons.

f) Agree on the field maintenance personnel required and issue instructions as to their duties and responsibilities.

g) Agree on the living quarters locations to be occupied by each nationality, and to which such persons will report when released at the "clearance" centers.

f) Establish uniform policy as to:

- rates paid to hotels for room and meals, for a reasonably well balanced diet and sanitary living quarters,
- payment of weekly allowances to refugees,
- issuance of clothing - foods - if necessary, including a cigarette ration, medical supplies, special medical treatment, et cetera.

g) Purchase of foods, clothing, toilet articles, medical supplies, et cetera - savings can be effected by anticipating combined needs, making bulk purchases - each nation to pay for the quantity it had authorized. Cooperation with Spaniards who are familiar with the markets and complicated government regulations is very important.

h) Warehouses - should be considered, if it is necessary because of a large influx, to anticipate needs and to have combined stocks on hand in a central field warehouse for prompt distribution. Certain sub store rooms should be established to receive transport.

i) Transportation - passenger and truck. The scarcity of both types of cars has made transport, when necessary most difficult. The committee member in charge of transportation should pre-arrange associated passenger or truck trips to the advantage
advantage of all. This is having consideration but even so, if sufficient local equipment is not available or cannot be obtained from North Africa, the hire of Spanish transport at high cost will be necessary.

1) Financial determination of how funds are to be handled, covering purchases, transport, the cost of operating the central office, et cetera.

4) Evacuation operations. The Embassies, Legations, et cetera, which have accepted responsibility for the care of their nationals and those who are to be evacuated, will have full responsibility for preparatory procedures, contracts with Spanish and/or other governments, transportation (usually railroad) of whatever nature, et cetera. The Section and Local managers will assist in the preparations at the residence locations by maintaining the proper individual or other records, and so forth.

b) Market possibilities - Spain. If, when the invasion takes place, we expect that shipment of supplies from the United States or England would be long delayed, if not impossible, with this premise in mind, we have reviewed the stocks on hand and investigated the possibility of buying in the local markets such supplies as may be necessary.

Foods. The British report that they have sufficient foods for their own anticipated requirements. The American Embassy has a stock of foods at Miranda City warehouse sufficient to serve 500 men in the concentration camp for a few months. In addition the foods now in customs at Cadiz could be used if they are not required for the Pentagon Camp in North Africa. (See my report dated March 3, 1944). The greatest need for supplementary feeding would be for the men if confined in prisons, but we now think the Spanish authorities will not approve the use of prisons. Other living in hotels, et cetera, have made that are not too agreeable, but sustaining, and additional foods, while most welcome, are not absolutely necessary.

It is reported that we can obtain any required foods in Spain for a balanced diet, except white flour, sugar, and tobacco, and it is possible that the Spanish authorities will request us to assist them in this respect. The French state that they may be able to obtain in a supply of these items from North Africa, and this matter is being investigated. Other local foods such as we might need appear plentiful at present but are expensive.

clothing
Clothing - Blankets. Blankets and the necessary items of clothing including shoes can be purchased locally, but are expensive. New cotton is reported scarce in Spain, and the use of a sizable quantity might require a replacement agreement.

Medicines. Preventative and ordinary treatment medicines can be purchased locally although of inferior quality to either the American or British products, but most special treatment medicines are either not available, or if so, not acceptable. A review of the British and American stock on hand and the anticipated requirements is being undertaken.

Toilet articles. All necessary items can be purchased locally, prices are high for medium quality, and especially is this true for soap.

In the consideration of the above preparations for an event which may or not happen, this office has cooperated principally with the representatives of the French Mission (Gene Brouhard) and of the J. D. C. and Quakers (David Bloomer).

The American Embassy is of the opinion that its responsibility in connection with any relief civilian operations or material assistance will be of minor character, as the few who may claim American citizenship are now and will in the future be attended through the offices of the American relief organizations (Mr. Davie Bloomer). Problems of a political character will continue to be handled through the American Consular offices as at present.

FOURTH DAY - BARCELONA

British and Americans - Germans.

At the request of Col. F. D. Sharp, Military attache, and with the approval of the Embassy, I accompanied Colonel Sharp to Barcelona (May 6th to 17th) to review with the colonial arrangements for the exchange and to assist him in the preparations for the actual exchange which took place on May 17, 1944.
### Financial Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Pesetas</th>
<th>Dollars (At 10.95)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance on hand February 29th</td>
<td>188,554.50</td>
<td>17,219.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>per report of March 3, 1944</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenditures March 1944</td>
<td>4,520.50</td>
<td>440.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenditures April 1944</td>
<td>4,341.65</td>
<td>396.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenditures May 1944</td>
<td>5,412.30</td>
<td>494.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance on hand May 31, 1944</td>
<td>173,980.05</td>
<td>15,888.59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Balance 2/29/44</th>
<th>Expenditures (March Apr. May)</th>
<th>Balance 5/31/44</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Madrid</td>
<td>154,564.00</td>
<td>11,949.95</td>
<td>142,614.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barcelona</td>
<td>29,957.40</td>
<td>2,224.50</td>
<td>18,732.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bilbao</td>
<td>13,033.10</td>
<td>400.00</td>
<td>12,633.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total pesetas</td>
<td>188,554.50</td>
<td>14,574.45</td>
<td>173,980.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total &amp; (at 10.95)</td>
<td>17,219.59</td>
<td>1,331.00</td>
<td>15,888.59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Detailed monthly reports covering the expenditures as stated above have been forwarded to Washington with the exception of May 1944, which will be submitted at an early date.
FOODS & SOAP ON HAND AS AT JUNE 1, 1944

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item and case content</th>
<th>In Pond-Cadiz (Cases)</th>
<th>In Miranda city warehouse (Cases) (Active Distribution)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corn Syrup</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 - 4 lb. 9 oz. tins</td>
<td></td>
<td>408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaporated Milk</td>
<td>2200</td>
<td>505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48 - 14.1/2 oz. tins</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meat</td>
<td>1598</td>
<td>371</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48 - 13 oz. tins</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oleomargarine</td>
<td>1387</td>
<td>197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 - 1 lb. tins</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rolled oats</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 - 1.1/4 tins</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macaroni</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8000 envelopes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prunes</td>
<td>2650</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 lbs. bulk</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cocoa</td>
<td>614</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 - 2 lbs. bags</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soup</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 - 1 lb. pkgs.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soap</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200 3 oz. cakes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Responsibility for food distribution control.

The embassy understands that all the supplies including the above foods, which have been sent to Spain from the states and for distribution to French American and other approved refugees, are the property of the American embassy until released for distribution.

The French Mission, especially in connection with the last shipment of foods (S.S. "CASTILLO BELVER" - 11428 cases - discharged at Cadiz - A.R.O. Bills of Lading #3-83-T.1022, #5-83-T.1020, #51 83-T.1021) claim that through official information received from North Africa they have learned that all handling expenses and the cost of these foods and soap were paid by the French or charged to French accounts through Lend-Lease in the United States.

This misunderstanding affects the responsibility by the embassy in connection with these supplies as to the authorization.
authorization for distribution, control of customs-cleared stocks not distributed, and control of the stocks now in bond at Cadiz. The food supplies referred to are principally those listed above. We are anxiously awaiting a reply to the Embassy's cable No. 1872, Dated May 27, 1944, which will inform the Embassy of the true ownership status.

**AMERICAN RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS (J.D.C. & QUAKERS ETC)**

The following data from the above office may be of interest:

Number of persons evacuated to date through:

- Gibraltar 55
- Lisbon 645
- Cadiz 600
- Other Spanish ports 25
- Total evacuated 1325

In addition a small number (37) were evacuated with the French refugees convoy from Malaga last summer.

Number of persons now in Spain 1300.

Definite plans are now in force to evacuate 700 of this number (1300) during June to North Africa through the southern port of Cadiz.
FRENCH MISSION - FRENCH RED CROSS

supplementing my report of March 3rd, the following, as reported by the French mission records refugee movement activities to June 1, 1944.

Attached is a statement of the past and present sanitary and other conditions at the Miranda concentration camp which is of interest.

**Summary - French Refugee Movements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period to 2/25/44 as</th>
<th>Arrivals</th>
<th>Evacuated</th>
<th>In Spain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>per report of 3/3/44</td>
<td>16,537</td>
<td>15,917</td>
<td>620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>from 2/26/44 to 6/1/44</td>
<td>901</td>
<td>1,080</td>
<td>486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals - full period to 6/1/44</strong></td>
<td><strong>17,438</strong></td>
<td><strong>17,003</strong></td>
<td><strong>486</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The evacuations have taken place through:

- **To February 25th**
  - Portugal
    - 6037
  - Malaga
    - 9070
  - Gibraltar
    - 603
  - Algeciras & La Linea
    - 207
  - Total
    - 15917

- **From 2/26 to 6/1**

  The arrivals during the latter part of May 1944 average 10 per day, a slight increase over April.

  During May 1944, 709 persons were evacuated through La Linea, Algeciras, and Gibraltar and those now remaining in Spain 486, will follow as rapidly as arrangements, now active, are completed.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Charles Virginia
Attaché - American Embassy.
Madrid, Spain, March 24, 1944.

Monseigneur Andre Royer-Mas,
San Bernardo 21,
Madrid.

Dear Monseigneur:

At the present time it appears that the principal activities in connection with the field work for the French refugees in Spain and as conducted through my office of the American Embassy can now be considered nearly terminated.

No one appreciates more than I the great difficulties which confronted you and your temporary organization during that period when the men arrived in large numbers and when the need of direct and immediate assistance was most urgent. If the problem had been one of mass care instead of a widely scattered and mostly a government-controlled prison situation, many of the difficulties would have been eliminated.

Under the circumstances we have been most fortunate that we have not had to contend with serious epidemics in the many ill-kept and overcrowded prisons. Everything considered, perhaps we can feel satisfied that with cooperative effort the field relief service has been jointly accomplished in a manner fairly satisfactory to the men themselves.

Permit me also to express my appreciation for the opportunity to associate with M. Rene Prouhard, my direct French contact, and with whom the work has been undertaken since last summer with splendid understanding and complete cooperation. You were fortunate indeed to have assigned a person familiar with similar activities and therefore able to relieve you and your associates from a considerable portion of the continuous demands from the field.
I understand that Mr. Prouhard has reviewed with you the arrival and disposition of the clothing and foods recently received from the States, and which finally were released from customs through the embassy, and also our mutual arrangement for the control and distribution of the foods and medicines now on hand. If there are any questions you wish to review relating to our past operations or present plans, I shall be pleased to confer with yourself and Mr. Prouhard at such time as may best suit your convenience.

With sincere appreciation for having had this opportunity to be of service to your organization and with personal gratitude to you for your many considerations and continued interest, permit me to remain

Most respectfully yours,

[Signature]

Charles MacDonald, Attaché.
THE DELEGATE OF THE
FRENCH RED CROSS IN
SPAIN

Madrid, March 31, 1944

Dear Sir:

You have been good enough, by your letter of
March 24th 1944 to explain me the extent of your activities
while in charge of the American Relief Institutions, which
have assisted our refugees in Spain.

I have been a daily witness of the importance of the
assistance you have given my compatriots in the name of
your country, but I wish, before all, to pay tribute to
the generosity of the gesture, distinguished by the spirit
of the most fraternal charity.

In this respect, your great country carries forward
the double struggle of the arms and of the spirit which
should animate civilization to the level on which Christ
put it and where we must maintain it.

However humble I may be among those who serve my
country, please accept this expression of gratitude as
that of France itself, and believe me personally,

sincerely yours,

Signed:

Monseigneur ROYER WAS

Charles McDonald, Esquire,
Attache American Embassy,
Madrid, Spain.
REPORT ON THE SANITARY AND OTHER CONDITIONS
OF THE MIRANDA CONCENTRATION CAMP BY THE
MIRANDA REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FRENCH MISSION

From June 1943 to April 1944 approximately 6,250
refugees passed through the Miranda Camp. The number of
refugees, which today is 1,700, was brought to its maximum
the first of August 1943, on which day there were at the
camp 3,000 French and 1,000 foreign refugees.

Regarding the variation (arrivals and departures)
the number of refugees is distributed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Number of Refugees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 1, 1943</td>
<td>2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 1, 1943</td>
<td>1,980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 1, 1943</td>
<td>2,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 1, 1943</td>
<td>1,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 1944</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 1, 1944</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1, 1944</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 1, 1944</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During this period six casualties were registered
amongst the sick refugees taken to the Vitoria Military
Hospital.

During the same period approximately 100 patients
were treated at the Vitoria Hospital: 50 per cent typhoid
fever; 40 per cent dysentery; 5 per cent tuberculosis;
and 5 per cent diverse operations, hernia, appendicitis,
fistula.

From June to December 1943, an average of 100
patients were visited daily at the French Infirmary by
the French refugee doctors; the number of hospitalized
in the official Spanish infirmary being an average of
ten a day.

The deplorable sanitary conditions in June due
to the living conditions, 2) the total lack of hygiene,
and the insufficiency of medical facilities, could be
slightly improved by the attendance of the doctors and
sanitary personnel picked amongst the refugees and by the
following measures:

a) Improvement of the sanitary and living conditions;
b) Creation of a French pharmaceutical and French
medical service;
c) Evacuation of patients to sanatoriums and
speeding the departures;
d) Increase of the French Red Cross parcel,
e) Furnishing of wood, clothing and linen to the
internees and laundering of linen.

a) Improvement of the living conditions:

In June 1943, for a total of 4,000 internees, the camp
had only 30 barracks divided into 32 compartments, 16 lower
and 16 upper bunks, lighted by a window and separated
by a board. These compartments of 1.80 by 2.50 meters had
a central corridor and were separated from one another by
various things (blankets, curtains of all kinds and all
propitious for lice nests, boards, etc...). The opening
leading to the central corridor being closed in the same way.

At this
At this period each compartment was occupied by four men lying on tickes, converted by most of the men into hammocks, due to the narrowness of the place.

The delegate of the French Red Cross was not authorized to visit the premises but was kept informed by the French office composed of officer refugees to which was attached a French doctor from the camp.

After the agreement reached in Madrid between the general delegate of the French Red Cross in Spain and the Minister of War, the following improvements were made in the camp after September:

1) Repairs of 704 windows (frames and glass) leading to the compartments above mentioned, cost 24,580.75 pesetas paid by the French Red Cross.
2) Separation of the compartments in all the barracks, suppressing the lice nests. Cost: 62,709.55 pesetas paid by the French Red Cross.
3) Reseating the floors of the huts, paid for by the military authorities.
4) Whitewashing of all the inside walls of the barracks, paid for by the military authorities.
5) Repairing the roofs, paid by the military authorities.
6) Building of new latrines. The old ones had only 38 spaces for a quantity of 4000 men at a time when diarrhoea was at its maximum.
7) Works for bringing water from the Begas river, tributary stream to the Ubro river, and constructing in camp a water depot of 50 m³ with a motor pump of 230 liters per minute. This installation, undertaken previously by the military authorities and finished in August, solved the problem of water for washing.

b) Establishment of French medical service and French pharmacy

Established at the beginning with the means at hand, the French medical and pharmaceutical service, charged with receiving and controlling the usage of pharmaceutical products furnished by the French Red Cross, is directed by medical students. Since the month of August, the constant arrival of refugees permitted the organization in the camp of a real sanitary service attended by French doctors.

This service, as established in the beginning of September was composed of three French doctors:

1) A chief doctor assuring the consultation of general medicine and the coordination of the services.
2) One doctor attached to the Spanish infirmary, assuring the daily morning consultations.

(These
3) One doctor assisting in the consultation, responsible for the hygiene of the camp and chief of the French infirmary.

The sanitary personnel was composed of:

1) One nurse (male) in charge, and five nurses at the French infirmary.

2) Five French nurses (men) attached to the official Spanish infirmary.

The sanitary personnel was engaged and could not leave their posts without a qualified replacement, and had to train the latter for a period of one week.

This organization, which functioned until the month of November and which included as well a French dentist relieving the official Spanish dentist, who was charging for his services, was put on foot by doctors Galtier de Mourgues and Depinay.

Attached is a schedule concerning this organization until September 28, 1943, and attached also are samples of daily reports submitted to the French Red Cross delegate.

The sanitary conditions of the refugees was, by these means, considerably improved since the month of September. A medical inspection of the barracks on the 18th of September by six medical missions, each one formed of a French officer and two French doctors, gave the following results:

1) unfit for military service 1914 or 62.90%
2) deficient for military service 337 or 14.60%
3) fit for military service 58 or 2.40%

The dysenteric enterocolitis, which in the month of June affected 90 per cent of the refugees, has completely disappeared.

The hygiene service of the camp is doing its best to exterminate lice which were plentiful in the camp and for which the French Red Cross furnishes the necessary medicines.

Since the 9th of October, an epidemic of influenza developed in the camp. The patients, in the number of five and then ten per day, were immediately evacuated to the Vitoria hospital.

The 15th of October, Dr. Depinay, chief doctor of the camp, accompanied by the delegate of the French Red Cross, visited the Vitoria hospital where the patients were still sick. Three cases of typhoid were confirmed.

The following measures were taken in the interior of the camp by Dr. Meznel, who succeeded Dr. Depinay, provisionally attached to the delegation:

1) Vaccination
1) Vaccination against typhoid of all the internees and Spanish soldiers of the camp.

2) Disinfection of the water.

3) Disinfection with lime of all the toilets.

The 29th of October the epidemic could be considered as defeated. Only one casualty, Mr. Labanvoie, who had an intestinal perforation.

In Miranda, as well as in Vitoria, it was the French doctors who took the necessary measures and directed the activities, under the responsibility of the French Red Cross delegate.

c) Evacuation of patients.

Being impossible for certain chronic patients to leave the camp, the French Red Cross proceeded to evacuate to the "balneario" a certain number of persons.

August 17, 1943 - 300 to Urberuaga, amongst which 125 were under 20 years of age.

September 11, 1943 - 197 to Urberuaga, including sick persons and convalescents from the Vitoria Hospital, all under 20 or over 40 years old.

September 18, 1943 - 42 to Urberuaga, amongst which were seven wounded in war and 35 sick, under 20 and over 40.

September 22, 1943 - 86 to Urberuaga and 70 to Molinar de Carranza.

October 5, 1943 - 130 to Urberuaga.

Finally a certain number of pulmonary sick were evacuated direct to North Africa, accompanied by sanitary personnel from the camp. Whereas the seriously ill patients were evacuated to the Vitoria Hospital, certain special cases had to be hospitalized in the Miranda clinic.

1) August 15, 1943: Hospitalization in the Miranda clinic of Maurice Galay (typhoid fever). Although his condition was very serious, he could be sent to Madrid on September 23 completely cured.

2) October 4, 1943: Hospitalization in the Miranda clinic of Jean Mavrel and Jean Laveque, operated on without success (fistula) and who had to go through a second operation in Miranda, performed by Dr. Calzada, chief doctor of the clinic.

At the moment of departure, some other refugees had to be hospitalized for several days in the clinic.

The evacuations to the Vitoria Hospital were always done regularly, by the Spanish Red Cross ambulance paid by the French Red Cross, or by a military ambulance placed at the disposal of the camp.
That is how the 30th of September, the French refugee, Emile Bartolomeo, wounded while trying to escape, could leave the camp ten minutes later accompanied by Dr. Herve, doctor of the camp. He was operated on one hour later and could leave for Africa 40 days later.

In this case, as well as in the others, the devotion of theimonier of the hospital, Father San Martin, the services rendered by the assistant doctors, directed by Dr. Calzada, and the medicines purchased by the French Red Cross compensated for the inefficiency of the official services.

4) Provisions from the French red cross.

1) Parcels: Apart from the weekly allowance given to the refugees (20 pratas per man per week) the French Red Cross contributes a weekly parcel, of which the contents are insufficient, being of poor quality, but which have been improved upon during the winter of 1943 until it exceeds the minimum content of 300 grams of fat as insisted upon by the French doctors of the camp.

The composition of these parcels is as present the following, per man per week:

- 2 cans of milk
- 2 cans of pork meat
- 200 grams syrup
- 200 grams chocolate
- 400 grams dried prunes
- 200 grams rolled oats
- 300 grams margarine
- 3 packets powdered bouillon
- 250 grams sardines in oil
- 200 grams biscuits
- 1 cake soap.

2) Clothing: Since October 22, the French Red Cross has given the refugees of the camp 3000 blankets of which 2535 (one per man) in proportion as the old ones and the barracks were disinfected (2 for each man).

The list of December, 1260 pairs of wooden shoes were distributed to the refugees who appreciated them greatly.

The distribution of linen and clothing was very slow. It scarcely covered the immediate and urgent needs, but from the month of November on, all refugees entering the camp were given a complete outfit of trousers, shirt, shorts and shoes.

At the present moment, the Miranda delegation of the French Red Cross has undertaken the washing of linen for all French refugees.

3) Heating: In addition to stoves furnished for the infirmary, the offices pavilion, the French office, the delegation of the French Red Cross at Miranda has furnished the following heating wood:

September
September.......... 20 tons
October............ 40 tons
November...........110 tons
December...........127 tons
January............ 24 tons
February........... 28 tons

4) Pharmaceutical products: Apart from the monthly order of pharmaceutical products sent to Madrid, the cost of urgent needs for the camp purchased from "comercial farmaceutica castellana" of Burgos, as well as from Miranda pharamacies, have amounted to 31,126.50 pesetas from September 1943 to March 1944.

During the same period the cost of disinfectants, chloride of lime, et cetera, amounted to 5,943.46 pesetas. At the present moment, the number of refugees being greatly reduced (170), the camp is using its old reserves and the purchasing of these articles is reduced to zero.

PRESENt CONDITION OF THE CAMP

No sick refugees are at the Victoria hospital at the moment, nor at the Miranda Infirmary. Two sick refugees have been evacuated today to the Miranda clinic waiting for their departure to North Africa. These are:

Manuel Pizarro, with a slight inflammation of the thyroid glands, and
Clement Toledo, who is going to be x-rayed for a probable fracture of a rib.

The sanitary condition is at present satisfactory, due to the improvement of the parcels and of the usual meals which consist now of two courses:

1) Stewed potatoes (always the same)
2) Rice and lentils or beans or macarroni (variable)

Meat, of course, is very scarce, but it depends principally on the number of men. It should not be forgotten, the problem of hygiene, which in spite of the constant efforts of the French Red Cross continues to be bad due to inefficiency of the work and the disinfection, and to the lack of hot showers.

The sanitary organization as it was established previous to the departures of December could not be maintained. A stuart, recently arrived, is in charge of this service.

Three barracks actually occupied by the French internes are under the control of a French officer in charge of the hygiene which consists principally in a campaign against lice.

After these made their appearance, all refugees were given sandstone for the cleaning of walls and floors.

The refugees
the refugees were also given lime to paint the interior walls. The vaccination against typhoid continues to be done to the newcomers. On account of the shortage of gasoline no water can be brought by truck as before. There is only one spring in town sufficient for the actual number of people, but should this increase the problem of the water has to be considered.

Miranda, April 4, 1944
AN EXPLANATION OF A PORTION OF THE GOVERNMENTAL LAWS AND METHODS OF OPERATION BY A COMPETENT SPANISH WHO HELD A HIGH POSITION IN THE REPUBLICAN GOVERNMENT AND HAS SINCE FOLLOWED CLOSELY THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PRESENT FRANCO REGIME

Preliminary Note: For a better comprehension by the reader, it must be known that Spain is under a dictatorial, national, syndicalist regime. This means that in Spain, there is a state within the state, represented by Falangism with all its inferiors: Syndicates, Auxilio Social, S. E. U. (sindicato Estudiantil Universitario), etcetera. We will thus find these organizations in almost all facets of the national life.

Social Laws. In Spain, the competent organization for social legislation is the Ministry of Labor, ruled by Comrade Giron.

The contact between the "producer" (name given to the worker) and the Ministry is through the Syndicates, the creation of the Falange, and are copies of the Italian Fascist organization of Corporations. These Syndicates constitute, through the national delegation of Syndicates, an organism which decides everything regarding the relations employer and the "producer", that is salaries, legal advice in social laws, etcetera.

Amongst the laws of social character there are the worker's retirement, the law of protected lodgings, and the recently established health insurance law.

The worker's retirement, as well as the health insurance, is carried on through the National Institute of prevision, an organization that plays the role of insurer by means of premiums deducted involuntarily from the salaries, and for which, when the worker reaches a certain advanced age, a miserable monthly sum is given him. It is important to know that the salaries paid to the workers at present are only slightly more than equal to those paid in 1936 and the cost of living in Spain is almost five times as much as it was then, and due to this and to the insufficiency of the food rations, the worker is practically starving. Rather than protecting the interests of the workers, the Syndicates perform a function of controlling the worker through what they call the "protected worker", or delegate of the syndicate, in each factory or workshop. In other words, he is the informer who will inform of any discontent or discontent against the present regime. It is also to be noted that in the urban nuclei, the death rate caused from tuberculosis due to malnutrition is increasing. The Law of protected Lodgings consists in reworking, in certain villages, the "protected worker". The Reds have no rights to the benefits of this law.

Auxilio Social. (Social relief) This organization, whose president is Pilar Primo de Rivera, was created during the civil war by the feminine section of Falange. It had as its function when created, the assistance and reclothing of the inhabitants, exhausted by almost three years of civil war and deprivations, of towns which were being conquered by Franco's troops. Later on it performed functions of public beneficence, such as public dining rooms, asylums, founding
founding hospitals, children protection, domestic works, et cetera. At present, and in order to have control over the women, the social service has been created, copying the German organization called "Work Service". Such service is for six months and must be performed by all girls from 16 to 35 years of age, and without the certificate of having served in it they cannot get a job.

Auxilio has its own organization. It disposes of trucks, warehouses, founding hospitals, special nurses schools, special schools on child care, on domestic work, and the like. It is supported principally by the funds collected for the fortnightly EMBLEM which it is compulsory for the members to sell and at a price of 50 centimes. It is estimated that approximately one thousand million pesetas are administered yearly by this organization.

Work Laws. Everything regarding work laws, which are mixed up with the social laws is the concern of the vertical syndicates of Falange and the Ministry of Labor. There are certain restrictions for foreigners who in order to work in Spain, must have special permission granted by the Ministry. It must be noted that most of the "German Tourists" who wander about through Spain find all kinds of facilities extended to them by this Ministry ruled by Comrade Giron.

Export-Import. In the system of controlled economy now in force in Spain, it is the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (Minister Demetrio Carceller, Falange) and its dependency, the National Direction of Commerce and Customs (Director General Junco) which decide in matters concerning imports and exports.

There is a system of Import and Export Licenses and Permits. To apply to the Ministry for an import or export license, one must be classified as an importer or exporter under a number or registration reference, and for this the corresponding syndicate must count the applicant amongst its authorized members.

Spanish exports during the last year were directed favorably to Germany, Italy and Argentina and consisted of oranges, apricot pulp, mercury, iron pyrites, olive oil, rice, et cetera, and the imports consisted of pharmaceutical products, chemical products, machinery and tools, motora, et cetera. A great number of transactions were made on the basis of private exchange, due to almost insurmountable difficulties in obtaining free money, and the rest by clearing.

The only free money accepted by the state were Swiss francs and Portuguese escudos. Later on they included Argentine pesos, dollars and sterling pounds.

It should be noted that the commercial relations between Spain and France are practically nil at the present time, before the war France was our best client. This change is due to the German occupation and to the little reliance for the French franc.

The official
The official figures for import and export are published monthly in the Ministry's bulletin, directed by Mr. Manuel Puentes Gragg, Commercial technicians of the State. It is to be noticed that not all the exports are officially registered in the Ministry's books. During the years following Franco's victory there were paid to Germany and Italy debts to the amounts of several thousand million pesetas for war material supplied to Franco. Such transactions and some exports still being done clandestinely, particularly wolfram and iron pyrites, are carried on under the direction of the War Ministry, section of High Command, by Lieutenant General Pidal Davila and Chief Controller, Minerals of Military Interest, General Arsenio Martinez Campos. The transport for these minerals have military priority and shipments are made at present on small boats or 150 to 200 tons from Pasajes or Bilbao to Bayonne or St. Jean au Luz at night and in a few hours. The clandestine traffic by railway or truck has completely ceased.

Money and Banking System. The official Spanish currency is the peseta and the only official bank of issue is the Banco de España. The fiduciary circulation is at present 15,000,000,000 pesetas. The gold guarantee at the market price is about 1,000,000,000 pesetas, and the silver guarantee about 700,000,000. In other words, accepting the theory of bi-metalism, acclaimed in almost every other country, the guarantee for the circulating currency is only about 10 per cent. The gold guarantee in 1936 was approximately 40 per cent and the silver guarantee was approximately 15 per cent. The Republican government took away all the gold from the Banco de España to finance the war and pay for war material.

There is in effect in Spain a controller exchange. All foreign currency proceed from exports or obtained from foreigners travelling in Spain must go to the Instituto for Foreign Currencies situated at the Banco de España (Director general of the Instituto, Elías Hute). Unofficial traffic in foreign money is strictly forbidden in Spain and the institute has its own police organization to control it.

The banking system in Spain is adjusted to the regulations set up by the State through the Finance Ministry. Generally speaking, the banker in Spain performs functions of circulating money by means of guaranteed loans (bills of exchange, accounts current, subscribing state loans, public debts, et cetera). There are few speculating banks or big commercial concerns.

Spanish commerce and industry have always suffered from a disastrous banking system and from the very restricted credit facilities. At present, the state has a very important sum, the watchword given to the bankers is to restrict the credits as far as possible in order to have in cash the maximum amounts to meet eventual government loans. Among the most important names in Spain are, the bank of Viceny, Bank of Bilbao, Hispano American Bank, and Central Bank.

An innovation in the rural bank, one hundred per cent the bank of the Falange and known as such, its functions nominally
nominally are to help the farmer, but in fact it is the organization in charge of controlling the Falange's funds.

Educational System. The educational system in Spain is characterized by the absolute negligence of the state in the primary education. The official schools are very few, inadequate and bad, for which reasons families take their children to religious educational institutions, which constitute a legion in Spain, but which, naturally, are for wealthy people. The Jesuits, Escolapios, Salesians, Hermanos Maristas, Hermanos de las Escuelas Cristianas (all religious brotherhoods) have in the country a great number of schools and luxurious pensionaires. Naturally the Catholic religion is the basis of the teaching. For secondary education there are in Spain a few official institutes supported by the state, but the well off families prefer to send their children to religious schools by which means the religious dominion over the adult is maintained.

The Minister of Education has decreed that an additional two years of Catholic religion be taught in the universities, so that the student's religious fervor will not cool down, and at the same time open to the clergy good professorships and opportunities for infiltrating into the universities.

Liberal Education is absolutely forbidden in Spain.

Let us see how the Falange divides with the clergy its influence, or better, how Falange complements it.

There is in Spain the university students' syndicate (S. E. U., Sindicato Estudiantil Universitario), membership in which is compulsory to every student and which is directed naturally by rapid and fanatic Falangists. In this way they are bringing up a new generation inoculated with ideas of religious fanaticism and totalitarianism.

In order to increase the latter, when the youth enters the university, he has to join, if he wants to get along, the university militias and other Falange organizations whose purpose is to indoctrinate the youth in lessons of courage and dissension. Nevertheless the percentage of illiterates in Spain is high. It is estimated that 46 per cent of the Spanish people don't know how to read and write, which demonstrates to what degree the state takes interest in the intellectual well being of its members.

It is to be remarked that one of the watchwords of the Falange is the surveillance and persecution of the intellectuals. As an example we can quote that of the 500 university professors which there were in Spain before the civil war, 375 had to go abroad in order to save their lives. A similar proportion exists in the liberal professions. Falange considers that most of its enemies are in this field and acts accordingly.

National Lottery. The national lottery dates back many years. It is a government controlled organization and the profit from the lottery is applied to the ordinary budget. It is, thus, a normal entry to the budget. The
percentage the state keeps is 30 per cent (approximately 3,500,000,000 pesetas a year).

Government controls. Amongst the government controls there are: ministram general de Abastecimientos (general commissariat of Supplies) and general commissariat of transport, the first in charge, as its name indicates, of the control of the supply of rationed goods, and the second everything concerning transport, with its sections of tires, tubes, gasoline, coal, et cetera. These commissariats have their own regional or provincial delegations in each region or province.

Essential raw materials are subject to a strict government control, thus wool, cotton, raw hides, certain minerals, et cetera cannot circulate within the country without the necessary "guia" (permit).

The manufacturer has to apply to his corresponding syndicate for the raw materials he needs to manufacture his product. He has no right to buy directly. When making his application, he has to forward at the same time the amount of the purchase and this remains in deposit until the manufacturer gets the raw material. Sometimes this takes a long time with a corresponding loss to the manufacturer.

By these means the syndicate has a preferential position as it is sole buyer and sole seller of raw materials with the resulting profit for its organization. In order to have an idea of the financial importance of these transactions, it should be known that in 1943, the textile syndicate received for purchases of national wools, more than 1,000,000,000 pesetas. It should be noted the profit these syndicates make for the Falange and then their investments in buildings they buy to justify their activities can be understood.

Such a state of affairs has brought as a consequence the black market business, for, owing to the allotment of raw materials, fixed by the syndicates, the manufacturer has to buy unofficially more raw material which enables him to produce a reasonable profit. Regarding the distribution, some articles are for free sale, and others under government control, such as certain cotton textiles known as "tipo unico", can only be purchased on a ration basis.