

Cooperation with Other Governments: Neutral European: Spain, Folder 2

May 16, 1944

TO: Mr. Leszer

FROM: Myles Standish

With reference to the request from Mr. Louis E. Spiegler, Counsel of HIAS, that we assist in obtaining permission for Mr. Spanien of HIAS and Mr. Fritz Lichtenstein of the Jewish Agency to enter Spain, Mr. Spiegler informs me that the former is a French national and the latter a Palestinian national.

In view of the fact that the subjects of the request are not American citizens, and in light of the reported agreement between the Spanish Foreign Office and Ambassador Hayes that no additional American welfare workers will be brought to Spain at this time, I feel that the Board should not extend the desired assistance under present circumstances.

cc: Miss Hodell

WStandish:cm 5-16-44

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 2459

Madrid, Spain, May 11, 1944.

Subject: Transmitting Exchange of Notes concerning 238
South American and American citizen internees
reported to have been removed from Vittel to
unknown German prison

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

With reference to the Embassy's despatch No. 2384 of April 24, 1944 transmitting to the Department *inier alia* a copy of the Embassy's Note Verbale No. 2336 of April 19, 1944 to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs requesting the good offices of the Spanish Government in helping to obtain the return to Vittel of 238 South American and American citizen internees reported to have been removed from there on March 31, 1944 to an unknown German prison, I have the honor to enclose a copy and translation of the Ministry's Note Verbale No. 361 of May 8, 1944, in reply, suggesting that the matter might be more properly made the subject of representations to the Swiss Government, and a copy of the Embassy Note Verbale No. 2410 of this date in further pursuance of the same subject.

Respectfully yours,

W. Walton Butterworth
Charge d'Affaires ad interim

Enclosures:

1. From Foreign Office, May 8, 1944
2. To Foreign Office No. 2410, May 11, 1944

File No. 800
WNB/jf
Original to Department
Copy to Algiers

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

cc: Mr. Abrahamson, Mr. Ankin, Mr. Bernstein, Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y),
Mrs. Cohn, Mr. DuBois, Mr. Friedman, Mr. Gaston, Miss Hodel,
Miss Laughlin, Mr. Lesser, Mr. Luford, Mr. Mann, Mrs. Mannon,
Messrs. Marks, McCormack, Murphy, Paul, Pehle, Pollak, Sargoy,
Smith, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H. V. White

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: The American Embassy, Madrid
TO: The Secretary of State Washington
DATE: April 21, 1944
NUMBER: 1517

Representations have been made by the Embassy to the Foreign Office covering the points brought up in number 992 dated April 10 from the Department, including the return of two hundred and thirty-eight internees who have been removed from Vittel according to a report. In number 1060 dated April 19 from the Department a Foreign Official says that although the Government of Spain has no information regarding the latter report it has given assurance that it will attempt to learn the facts as soon as possible with a view toward endeavoring to arrange for the return of these refugees.

That similar representations on the part of representatives of other American Republics concerned will support the demarche of the Embassy is assumed.

HAYES

DOR:MPL
4/26/44

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

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

TELEGRAM SENT

QNY
This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Government
Agency. (SC-00)

April 21, 1944

1 p.m.

AMBASSY,

MADRID

1108

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

The Spanish Government has on several occasions in the past, as the result of intercession by the Holy See whose humanitarian efforts on behalf of the persecuted refugees of Europe have resulted in the saving of thousands of lives, extended protection to groups of Sephardic Jews in Axis occupied areas and has interceded with Germany to accomplish their evacuation to Spain after release from concentration camps.

The War Refugee Board has now been informed that 400 such Sephardic Jews residing in Athens have recently been interned in a concentration camp. To forestall deportation to Poland and all certain death it is vital that these Sephardic Jews be given Spanish protection.

You are requested to approach appropriate Spanish officials to advise them of the situation of this group and to enlist the aid of the Spanish Government in the rescue of these refugees. You are authorized to give full assurance to the Spanish Government that funds will be available for the support in Spain of such of these persons as may be evacuated to Spain and that prompt action to speed their departure from Spain to other places of refuge will be taken. Kindly advise the Department of all developments in this matter.

The foregoing has been repeated to Serra for Tittman.

NULL

WHE:GLEN:MG
4/20/44

Miss Chavney (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Akshin, Bernstein, Cohn, DeBois, Friedman, Garton, Hoidal, Laughlin, Lesser, Loxford, Mann, Munson, Marks, Rosenzweig, Tsal, Fohle, Falick, Hains, Sargoy, Smith, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, R. D. White, Filer

UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 04-11-78

BY SP-11/11/87

000648

TELEGRAM SENT

April 12, 1944

ON

This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government agency. (3000)

9 p.m.

AMBASSY

MADRID

1068 X

In an endeavor to cause the Spanish and Portuguese Governments to give refuge to additional refugee children from France, the following special instructions relating to the issuance of visas to refugee children are issued pursuant to Section 59.59(a)(16) of the Regulations of November 19, 1941 as amended regarding aliens entering the United States:

Consular officers in Spain and Portugal are authorized to issue during the present quota year in the aggregate up to one thousand immigration visas to refugee children from France who shall have arrived in Spain and Portugal on or after January 1, 1944 and before July 1, 1944. This latter date may be extended by specific instruction from the Department. The visas are to be issued to the children without regard to the question of availability of means of transportation to the United States and without regard to religious, nationality or stateless status. The children covered by this instruction shall be under sixteen years of age at the time of the issuance of the visas, and are, of course, subject to the statutory immigration requirements of Section 3 of the Act of February 5, 1917, except that they may be considered to meet the public charge requirements in view of the fact that the Attorney General has found that satisfactory arrangements have been made for their support. In connection with the determination of questions under Section 59.47 of the Regulations of November 19, 1941, as amended, regarding aliens entering the United States, the existence of the relationships described in Section 59.48 thereof shall not be considered. Replace visas may be issued during the same quota year to those children who are still qualified therefor under this instruction and who are still under sixteen years of age at the date of the issuance of such replace visas. Subject to the quota laws it is the Department's intention to assign numbers from next year's quota to cover visas issued pursuant to this instruction under this year's quota. The foregoing further assumes no pertinent adverse change in present quota laws. Cases of children who have passed their sixteenth birthday in the interim desiring to obtain new or replace visas should be reported to the Department for further instructions. Children under 14 years of age need not be registered and fingerprinted.

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

000649

440 22000, April 11, 1944, P. 2. to Madrid.

to German
to Polish
to Belgian
to Netherland

531

to Czechoslovak and
to French quotas.

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

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

HILL
(120)

Cede Rosen - Please repeat the foregoing telegram to our LEGATION AT Lisbon 1017 with the following opening. Sentence - "The following was sent to WARREN Department's No. 1008 of April 12"

WR S/CR
WR:ELW:GWR
4/11/44
Cleared over phone
with Mr. Galbrunson
cc: Sec'y, Abrahamson, Akita, Bernstein, Cohn, Curtis, Friedman, Garton, Hadol, Laughlin, Lister, Lister, Mann, Manton, Martin, McCarroll, Paul, Pollak, Quinn Tamm, Sargent, Smith, Starnick, Stewart, Tolson, E. J. Connel, Felt, Files.

700650

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM BEST

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Embassy, Madrid
DATED: April 10, 1944
NUMBER: 992

War Refugee Board sends the following for the Ambassador.

1. There are interned at Vittal, Belsen-Bergen, Liebenau, Tittanning, Bergen and Gompigne and possibly at other places in enemy territory and areas controlled by the enemy a large number of persons, the majority of whom are Jews, holding consular documents, passports and other papers issued in the names of certain Latin American countries including Paraguay, Peru, Venezuela, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Chile, and Haiti.

The Germans presumably know that the Polish Jews in question have obtained these passports and other documents in an extraordinary manner. In spite of this, they have received considerably better treatment than is generally received by Polish Jews. But for the fact that they were in possession of these papers, most if not all of these internees would already have been transported to Poland to their death.

Internees has some measure of access to the camps in Vittal, Liebenau, Tittanning, and Gompigne. In Belsen-Bergen and Bergen, where Internees has no access, conditions are reported to be bad.

2. Late in 1943, the Department received reports that persons holding Paraguayan papers were threatened with the danger of deportation to Poland and death. Since these persons are generally of Polish origin, the Polish Ambassador at Washington earnestly sought our intervention in an attempt to save their lives. The Department assured the Polish Ambassador that the Department would take such steps as could be taken on behalf of these unfortunate people who are the victims of the Nazis.

During last December, the Paraguayan Government, following our demands in America, assured the Intergovernmental Committee and this Government that the passports of these Polish Jews had not been cancelled and that the Polish Government did not intend to cancel the passports issued in the name of the Paraguayan Government and held by internees. This was most important as most of these internees held papers issued by the Government of Paraguay.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Order 11175
By E. R. Pugh, Dept. SEP 13 1972

000651

On February 29, 1944, Sir Herbert Morrison, the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Committee, informed us as follows:

There seems to be little doubt that the German authorities are aware of what has been going on but heretofore they have not adopted the general policy of withdrawing the passports for reasons of their own. In many cases those who possess these documents have been afforded protection against persecution and in some of the camps possession of these documents has even obtained special treatment for them. However, in other instances, especially where the persons concerned were not interned in camps, no protection at all has been afforded. It seems that originally the German authorities had the hope that these persons with such South American passports might constitute a basis for the exchange of German nationals in South American countries and it is not improbable that they still have vague hopes of this. Other reasons have been suggested to account for the inconsistency of the action taken by the. However, they have recently been making inquiries concerning the genuineness of the documents, through some of the protecting powers of the South American governments, and lists of persons concerned have been submitted with a view to verification.

Therefore, Sir Herbert recommended that an approach be made on two points to the governments in whose names the passports held by such internees were issued: First, instructions to the effect that the passports have been confirmed should be given to the protecting power if and when the protecting power, on the request of the German authorities, submits lists of persons with such passports; and two, the governments concerned should not withdraw the passports which have been issued.

A. The following is the substance of a report now made by Minister Morrison.

We have secretly received information that authorities of the German Government have either already moved these persons elsewhere or are about to remove them primarily because of some alleged action by the Spanish Embassy in Berlin as the Paraguayan protecting power. The Swiss Foreign Interests Division has informally told us that the Germans have requested the Spanish Government to investigate the bona fides not only of those holding Paraguayan passports but of all suspected claims and further that other governments have denied responsibility and claims.

Minister Morrison also reports as follows:

It is reported that four American citizens and 214 South American internees were evacuated on March 11 from the internment camp at Fribourg to some prison, the location

000652

of which remains unknown. In this report, it is also stated that the Spanish Ambassador and the Swiss Minister in Berlin declined protective offices.

5. We have already requested the Governments of Latin America for humanitarian reasons to avoid questioning the validity of these passports and other documents until after the war and to inform the Germans through the protecting power that no question concerning these papers is to be raised. Also, our missions in the countries concerned have been requested by us to ascertain from the Spanish Government the substance of any communications it has had regarding this.

6. On the basis of the report Sir Herbert Emerson made, it is thought to be probable that it will not be possible to continue safe guarding the lives of these internees unless it is clearly understood that they are to be considered eligible for exchange against German civilians interned in countries of the Western Hemisphere.

The following is the substance of a cable which we have sent to our Legation in Bern.

We request you to seek the Swiss Government's good offices in informing the German Government that this Government is undertaking discussions with Latin American countries for a further exchange of persons in German-controlled areas for Germans in countries of the Western Hemisphere and that, in this connection, it is felt by the United States that all persons in Vittel and elsewhere who hold passports and other documents issued in the names of the Latin American countries concerned will be eligible for the above mentioned exchange.

At the same time, you should request the appropriate Swiss Government authorities to advise the Germans that in the meantime this Government expects that those people will be accorded the same privileges, immunities, and rights that the German Government expects will be extended to Germans in countries of the Western Hemisphere. It may be added that a large number of German civilians who were interned by various Latin American countries have been placed by such countries in the custody of the United States and they are in such custody within the continental United States at the present time.

Our Missions in Latin American have received cables of similar intent opening discussions on this subject.

7. In line with these steps which proceed from this Government's determination to make every attempt in this humanitarian task, you will urgently represent to the Government of Spain this Government's earnest preoccupation with this project, you will advise it of the discussions which are planned with the Latin American countries with reference to

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a further exchange of civilians with Germany, that we hold that all persons holding Latin American papers located in Vittel and elsewhere are eligible for exchange as outlined above, and that it is expected that during the time before such exchange the Germans will accord them the same treatment which the Germans expect their interned civilians to receive from Latin American countries.

At the same time, you should also make clear to the Spanish Government that this Government expects that Spain, for the good name of Spain and in the interest of humanity, will do everything possible to save those people who are threatened with death through no fault of theirs. We specifically request that you ask the Spanish Government to act accordingly in Madrid and Berlin and that instructions be given to the Spanish Ambassador in Berlin to afford these people all possible protection and that steps be taken at once by the Spanish Government to affect the impression that may have been created in Berlin with reference to the alleged absence of interest of the Western Hemisphere countries in the treatment of persons who hold papers issued in the names of countries of the Western Hemisphere.

In presenting the foregoing to the Spanish Government, it is requested that you explain that this proposal is on a level apart and entirely different from any discussions of a political or economic nature between our two governments. The issue involved concerns elementary humanitarian considerations only and is completely non-political. The United States Government is loath to believe that in an issue of this nature it would not count on Spain's wholehearted and immediate cooperation.

You should make every effort to secure the return to Vittel of the 235 who, according to the report made to Minister Harrison, have been evacuated from Vittel. Emphasis should immediately and specifically be placed on the problem of returning about 235 persons, and it is requested that in reporting this problem in subject you do not fail to make a general report.

HULL

Miss Chamney (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Akkin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Goshen, Model, Laughlin, Lassar, Luskoff, Mann, Moore, Marks, McCormack, Paul, Pells, Pollak, Quinn, Sargent, Smith, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H. P. White, Wiley

000654

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: The American Ambassador, Madrid
 TO: The Secretary of State, Washington
 DATE: April 6, 1944
 NUMBER: 1195

For reasons pointed out in my message number 974 dated March 20, I do not feel that steps should be taken toward putting into effect any such plan of operations as was proposed in Department's message number 799 dated March 23 until and unless it becomes more clearly evident that the War Refugee Board's efforts to stimulate the exodus of unprotected and stateless refugees from German occupied territories will result in fact in an increase in the number of such refugees entering Spain sufficient to tax the facilities which already exist for their care. My strong recommendation is that the Board attempt to take full advantage of the already proven facilities which are already in existence in the form of Blickenstaff's organization instead of endeavoring to set up an elaborate organization on the assumption that it will be justified by future developments, an assumption with which I am not prepared to agree as yet. Blickenstaff's organization has shown itself to be fully capable of coping with the problems which have arisen so far in connection with the care of stateless refugees and it has also already obtained the confidence of the Government of Spain. It is essential that the wishes of the Spanish Government in the matter be not disregarded inasmuch as the success of the activities of the Board in Spain would depend in a large part upon the willingness of the Spanish Government to cooperate and although it would quite willingly recognize Blickenstaff as a representative of the Board I can state with assurance that the Government of Spain would prefer that this work be left in the hands of Blickenstaff and his organization. The Government of Spain would be suspicious of and disfavor any endeavor on the part of the Embassy to set up in Spain such an organization as is envisaged by the Board so long as the problem of stateless refugees can be handled adequately without such an organization and an unsalutary effect on other more important objectives might well be caused by such an attempt. In the absence of any apparent need for the presence of the numerous personnel mentioned by the Board, a request for admission into Spain might for example prejudice the admission of other personnel whose importance to the war effort is more direct.

If the existing facilities for the care of stateless and

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

2- #1195 from Madrid

unprotected refugees should be overtaxed and if a situation should develop in the future as the Board foresees doubtless the Government of Spain would look favorably upon the expansion of such facilities but it is felt that no good purpose could be served by endeavoring to press the proposal of the Board until such time arrives

The efforts of the Board to assure further destinations to which these refugees can proceed should be of the utmost value regardless of arrangements made for their care within Spain. During the past year the most important single obstacle to the complete effectiveness of Blickenstaff's work has been the lack of such destinations. It is to be noted in this connection that the French authorities have rejected nearly one fourth of the Fedhala applications which have been submitted so far to North Africa for final approval

HAYES

DCR:MPL
4/8/44

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

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 2292

Madrid, Spain, April 5, 1944.

Subject: ^xPublicity accorded President's statement of March 24,
1944 on Nazi and Japanese persecution

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

1/ Supplementing my telegram No. 1101 of March 29, 1944, 7 p.m.
in reply to the Department's telegram No. 817 of March 24, 1944
requesting that steps be taken to obtain publicity for the
President's statement of the latter date condemning the persecution
of innocent peoples by the Nazis and the Japanese, I have the honor
to enclose a copy of the Embassy's Note Verbale No. 2232 of
March 28, 1944 transmitting to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
a copy and translation of that statement and requesting that it
be given the fullest measure of publicity in Spain.

2/ The only mention known to have been made on this subject
in the Spanish press to date was that contained in a brief
syndicated IFF despatch which appeared in Madrid newspapers on
March 26, 1944, a copy and translation of which are also enclosed.
The Embassy's Spanish-language *Boletín de Información* carried
excerpts of the President's statement in its issue of March 28,
1944 and on March 31, 1944 printed the translated text of the
statement in full.

Respectfully yours,

Carlton J. H. Hayes

cc: Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Mr. Abrahamson, Mr. Aksin,
Mr. Bernstein, Mrs. Cohn, Mr. DuBois, Mr. Friedman,
Mr. Gaston, Miss Hodel, Miss Laughlin, Mr. Lesser, Mr.
Luxford, Mr. Mann, Mrs. Mannon, Mr. Marks, Mr. McCormack,
Mr. Murphy, Mr. Paul, Mr. Pehle, Mr. Pollak, Mr. Rains,
Mr. Sargoy, Mr. Smith, Mr. Standish, Mr. Stewart, Mr.
Weinstein, Mr. H. D. White, Files

Enclosures:

1. Note Verbale No. 2232,
March 28, 1944, with
enclosures
2. Copy & translation of
news item, as stated

File No. 800
NWB/jf
Original to Department

Enclosure No. 1 to despatch No. 2292 dated April 5, 1944 from
Carlton J. H. Hayes, American Ambassador, at Madrid, Spain on
subject of Publicity Accorded President's Statement of March 24,
1944 on Nazi and Japanese Persecution

No. 2232

NOTE VERBALE

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 English text and Spanish translation of a statement made by the President of the United States on March 24, 1944 condemning the brutal persecution of innocent peoples by the Nazis and the Japanese and calling upon the free peoples of Europe and Asia to assist in the rescue of the victims of this foul oppression.

The Embassy requests, in accordance with the desires of its Government, that this pronouncement by the President be given the fullest measure of publicity through existing informational channels in Spain and that the dissemination of its message be facilitated in every possible manner.

Madrid, March 28, 1944.

Enclosure:

As stated.

NWB/jf

Enclosure to Note Verbale No. 2232 dated March 25, 1944 from the Embassy of the United States of America to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Madrid.

STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT - MARCH 24, 1944

"The United Nations are fighting to make a world in which tyranny and aggression cannot exist, a world based upon freedom, equality and justice, a world in which all persons regardless of race, color or creed may live in peace, honor and dignity.

"In the meantime in most of Europe and in parts of Asia the systematic torture and murder of civilians - men, women and children - by the Nazis and the Japanese continue unabated. In areas subjugated by the aggressors, innocent Poles, Czechs, Norwegians, Dutch, Danes, French, Greeks, Russians, Chinese, Filipinos, and many others are being starved or frozen to death, or murdered in cold blood in a campaign of savagery.

"The slaughters of Warsaw, Lidice, Kharkov and Nanking, the brutal torture and murder by the Japanese, not only of civilians but of our own gallant American soldiers and fliers - these are startling examples of what goes on day by day, year in and year out, wherever the Nazis and the Japanese are in military control, free to follow their barbaric purposes.

"In one of the blackest crimes of all history, begun by the Nazis in the days of peace and multiplied by them a hundred times in time of war, the wholesale systematic murder of the Jews of Europe goes on unabated every hour. As a result of the events of the last few days, hundreds of thousands of Jews, who while living under persecution have at least found a haven from death in Hungary and the Balkans, are now threatened with annihilation as Hitler's forces descend more heavily upon these lands. That these innocent people, who have already survived a decade of Hitler's fury, should perish on the very eve of triumph over the barbarism which their persecution symbolizes, would be a major tragedy.

"It is therefore fitting that we should again proclaim our determination that none who participate in these acts of savagery shall go unpunished. The United Nations have made it clear that they will pursue the guilty and deliver them up in order that justice be done. That warning applies not only to the leaders but also to

their functionaries and subordinates in Germany and in the satellite countries. All who knowingly take part in the deportation of Jews to their death in Poland or Norwegians and French to their death in Germany are equally guilty with the Executioner. All who share the guilty shall share the punishment.

"Hitler is committing these crimes against humanity in the name of the German people. I ask every German and every man everywhere under Nazi domination to show the world by his action that in his heart he does not share these insane criminal desires. Let him hide these persecuted victims, help them to get over their borders, and do what he can to save them from the Nazi Hangman. I ask him also to keep watch, and to record the evidence that will one day be used to convict the guilty.

"In the meantime, and until the victory that is now assured is won, the United States will persevere in its efforts to rescue the victims of brutality of the Nazis and the Japs. Insofar as the necessity of military operations permit, this Government will use all means at its command to aid the escape of all interned victims of the Nazi and Jap executioner, regardless of race or religion or color. We call upon the free peoples of Europe and Asia temporarily to open their frontiers to all victims of oppression. We shall find havens of refuge for them, and we shall find the means for their maintenance and support until the tyrant is driven from their homelands and they may return.

"In the name of justice and humanity let all freedom-loving people rally to this righteous undertaking."

Comp With Spain

March 30, 1944

MEMORANDUM

The following points should be made in an effort to secure the cooperation of the Spanish Government:

1. It is essential that the flow of refugees from France to Spain be increased. An effort should be made to see to it that the Spanish borders are less efficiently controlled, so that all refugees with or without documentation will be permitted and encouraged to enter Spain from France. The greatest single contribution that the Spanish Government can make to the refugee program at the moment is to encourage and actively to cooperate in the entry of refugees from France to Spain. At the time of relaxing border and other controls, it would be extremely helpful if the Spanish Government would see to it that an indication of its new attitude in the matter is somehow brought to the attention of the people in France.

2. The Spanish Government may be made to understand that the United States Government is tremendously interested in this whole problem and expects Spanish cooperation. The United States Government will not only make the financial arrangements for the establishment of camps to receive refugees entering Spain, but will also provide for the maintenance and support of the refugees themselves. The United States will, furthermore, see to it that refugees entering Spain from France are promptly removed therefrom, not merely to North Africa, but to other places. The Spanish Government would thus be relieved of most of the responsibility of handling the refugees.

3. Ambassador Hayes has been requested to advise the Spanish Government of all of the foregoing but up to now has consistently refused to do so on the theory that it would antagonize the Spanish Government. Therefore, it would be extremely helpful if the Spanish Government would call Hayes in and let him know that, in view of the establishment of the War Refugee Board and the issuance of the President's statement, etc., it is extremely interested in being of all possible help to the program and would like to be informed of the specific manner in which it can assist.

4. The humanitarian aspects of the program can, of course, be mentioned to the Spanish Government.

JEF:bbk - 3/30/44

COOPERATION ON THE SPANISH REFUGEE PROBLEM
BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE
AND THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
MARCH 30, 1944

March 30, 1944

at the time of

M E M O R A N D U M

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financial

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4. The humanitarian aspects of the program can, of course, be mentioned to the Spanish Government.

1066

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF WORLD TRADE INTELLIGENCE

March 25, 1944

War Refugee Board - Mr. Fehle:

Attached please find a paraphrase which I have prepared of Madrid's 997, March 22. May I call to your attention the fact that you will be receiving another paraphrase through regular channels which will in some respects differ from this one, for obvious reasons.

I would very greatly appreciate a chance to discuss this telegram with you just as soon as you have an opportunity to consider it, as I think you will agree it raises very important issues.

/s/ William I. Riegelman

WT:WIRIAMN

700664

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: AMERICAN EMBASSY, MADRID.
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: March 22, 1944
NUMBER: 997

I have not transmitted the substance of Department's 752, March 18, to Sequerra, JDC representative in Barcelona, by reason of the following considerations:

(a) David Blickenstaff is understood by me to be the principal JDC representative in Spain, and not Sequerra; all business with the JDC has been transacted by the Embassy through Blickenstaff.

(b) Sequerra's loyalty to the Allied cause is not considered to be beyond doubt although apparently this fact has not been brought to the Department's attention. Sequerra is a neutral subject (Portuguese) and although he has apparently done effective work in the field of relief of refugees, we have no basis for assuming that he would not deal with our enemies, particularly if pressure is applied. Until recently, Sequerra had a personal representative in Madrid who was a disreputable individual to whom a Palestine visa was refused by the British on the grounds that he was suspected of having given information to the Germans. It therefore appears to me to invite obvious and unnecessary risks which could have the most serious repercussions to entrust a person of this type with the responsibility of carrying out the operations described in the Department's telegram under reference.

(c) For any American charitable organization or its representatives to engage in clandestine operations of the type contemplated by the license could well jeopardize in Spain the entire position of these organizations. The work of these organizations has in the past been centralized in Blickenstaff's office, and with the Embassy's support, they have won respect and confidence of the Spanish Government, which has enabled them to do valuable work on behalf of unprotected and stateless

refugees.

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By R. H. Parks Date SEP 13 1972

000665

refugees. This has frequently caused extreme discomfort to the Germans who want the Spanish Government to suppress the activities of these organizations, and welcome every pretext to bring force to bear to this end. We must assume that the operations contemplated by license W-2188 would soon become known to the Germans and a pretext to apply such force to the Spanish Government would be provided by the participation of the organizations in such operations.

(d) On the other hand, if the Germans considered that these operations could be turned to their own advantage, they might accomplish this purpose by using these operations as an additional channel for getting their agents into territory controlled by Spain and the Allies.

(e) My most serious objection is the danger that existing underground facilities within German occupied territory for accomplishing the escape of Americans and Allied airmen who have thereby been enabled to reach the Spanish frontier without detection, may be compromised by these operations. I am firmly convinced and determined that no steps should be taken which might in the slightest measure jeopardize the chances of escape to safety of these airmen whose safety must be given first priority by our Government (prior to that of any other class of refugees) irrespective of humanitarian considerations, with which last I am, of course, in complete sympathy.

(f) In view of the inevitable military significance with must be attached at this crucial time with any activities involving communication or the passage of persons into or out of occupied France, and having in mind the above considerations, I feel that the Joint Chiefs of Staff should give prior approval to the operations envisaged by the license embodied in Department's telegram under reference, and that my views in the matter should be conveyed to the Joint Chiefs of Staff in connection with their consideration of the matter.

Pending consideration by the Department of the points mentioned above, I intend to take no action on Department's telegram 752 under reference.

This telegram has been repeated to Lisbon and London.

HAYES

WT:WIRIAMN 3/25/44

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SUMM

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: AMEMBASSY, Madrid
DATED: March 23, 1944, 5 p.m.
NUMBER: 799
x

With respect to your telegram of February 28, 1944 no. 683 we appreciate the comments and suggestions with respect to the War Refugee Board contained therein. The War Refugee Board wishes to point out that Camp Lyanter will not be the only haven to which refugees can be removed from Spain. The Board now has negotiations in progress for other havens and you should assume and may advise the Government of Spain that there will be removed from Spain all refugees from occupied areas entering Spain. The Board was pleased to learn that no restriction is being placed by the Spanish Government in the way of stateless or other refugees wishing to enter Spain from France or without proper papers and the Board hopes in the future that Government will follow a generous policy in that regard.

The Board knows that the number of stateless refugees entering Spain from occupied areas is extremely small at the present time but the Board desires to inform you that it is taking vigorous steps at the present time vis-a-vis Germany and the satellite countries which it is confidently expected will stimulate the flow of refugees into Spain and other neutral countries from occupied areas. The Board will continue to take all possible action to this end. In any event, in the coming months when the snow melts in the Pyrenees the flow of refugees into Spain is certain to increase.

The Board believes that Spain is most likely to receive substantial numbers of refugees this coming spring as a result of the pressure now being brought to bear on the Axis. The Board is extremely desirous that the Government of Spain be relieved of as many problems as possible connected with this influx, including finance, supply and supervision of refugees. Therefore the following plan of proposed operations in Spain is submitted by the Board for your consideration, advice and comment and such action as is indicated.

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

All the Board's operations in Spain, including the setting up and maintenance of refuge camps, would be supervised by the Special Attache to your Embassy under your direction. He would have assigned to him a small staff which might include transportation, supply and finance officers. As a base for operations the Attache and his immediate staff might use Madrid. It is proposed that as many as three reception centers be established along the French border should the volume of refugees so warrant. At each of these centers a supervisor with experience in refuge work should be in charge. Each supervisor would have a small staff. There would also be attached to each center a medical officer and possibly a small nursing staff. An important member of the staff of each center would be a qualified Security Officer approved by the War Department. These Security Officers would be attached to the reception centers as welfare workers instead of being assigned to the Office of the Military Attache in the Embassy. The dual responsibility of these officers would be to screen refugees in search of possible enemy agents and to obtain from bona fide refugees information of a military nature. Durillo, Tolosa and Figueras are tentatively suggested as reception centers. Other localities may be agreed upon later as points readily accessible to those crossing the Pyrenees.

The Board is of the opinion that these centers should be in frontier areas rather than the interior for the following reasons:

- (1) The proximity of the centers to the frontier would reduce to a minimum the time during which the refugees would be in the hands of the Spanish authorities.
- (2) The refugees will require immediate relief in food, clothing and medical attention once they have crossed the Spanish border as many of them will have previously been in hiding in France and have been subjected to the strenuous travel over the mountains on foot. The refugees would be kept out of the principal population centers, such as Madrid, as far as possible. The attention paid to the presence of refugees would also be reduced by the remoteness of the proposed centers.
- (3) The location of the centers near the border would result in close cooperation between the staffs of the centers and the Spanish frontier officials. The refugees would remain in the centers only so long as to assure medical officers that they are in condition to travel; to allow for preliminary security screening and to supply them with whatever travel documents might

no. 44-111

Since the basic plan is to move those refugees who may enter Spain from occupied areas to North Africa as rapidly as possible, it is hoped that the French authorities will assign to the reception centers as special details, qualified officers to screen the refugees for security and to affix to their travel documents the necessary visas. As regards the problem of screening, it is of course possible and probable that enemy agents may try to enter Spain as refugees. Therefore it is most desirable that when enemy agents are identified by the security officers, such identification not be disclosed in Spain but the agents be removed to North Africa for apprehension. This policy has been used in the past with respect to enemy agents and it is strongly preferred that they be held in restraint in United Nations territory rather than be set at liberty in a neutral country.

In a document that you report was submitted to you, which may be raised by the Spanish Government in connection with the establishment of these centers in the foregoing manner and to their financing by the Board. The funds for their operation probably will be provided by private sources in the United States. As will be noted by you, this plan reduces to a minimum the responsibility of the Spanish Government. Your comment on whether the staff of the centers should be known to the Spanish Government as official employees of the Government as representatives of American private welfare organizations will be appreciated by the Board. Incidentally, the American Red Cross is reluctant to participate in the operations of the centers at this time.

Clarification of the meaning of "involuntary removal" of refugees was requested by you in Section I of your telegram of February 28, 1944 no. 683. We anticipate that many of the refugees will wish to proceed to other areas than North Africa once they have escaped from occupied areas. However, the Board feels that it is undesirable that these refugees remain in Spain. They should proceed to North Africa where they may make arrangements for travel elsewhere with greater security for themselves and without embarrassment to the Government of Spain which might be caused should they remain there. 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. Every effort would then be made to convince the refugees that the travel of other refugees through Spain depends upon the rapid departure from Spain of those who have already entered. It might be further explained that after leaving Spain the refugees would be under the care of UNRRA officials rather than directly under French control. It is believed that such a policy will assure the quick and voluntary departure for North Africa of all refugees who may succeed in crossing the Spanish border if it is handled skillfully by the representatives of the Board.

The Board hopes that you will give your prompt personal attention to this proposal and that your comments and suggestions will be cabled as soon as possible.

War and State Departments have approved this cable.

The foregoing is for Ambassador Hayes' attention.

HULL

Miss Gwendolyn (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Ganton, Hadol, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, MacCosmack, Murphy, Paul, Pollak, Raine, Smith, Sargoy, Standish, Stewart, White, Pehle, Files, Weinstein.

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Embassy, Madrid
DATED: March 18, 1944
NUMBER: 752
X

Given below is the substance of license No. W-2155 issued to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee of New York City by the Treasury Department. It is requested that the substance of this license be transmitted urgently to Mr. Samuel Sequerra, JDC representative, whose address is Hotel Bristol, Barcelona.

(A) Notwithstanding General Ruling No. 11, authorization is hereby granted to your representative in Spain, together with such agents as he may appoint, to communicate with persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory by any means which he may deem expedient or necessary for the purpose of arranging the evacuation, to such areas of safety or relative safety as may be selected by such representative, of persons in such territory in imminent danger of their lives and to arrange for the safeguarding and sustenance of such persons until such evacuation is possible and to pursue any other action which may be appropriate for said purposes, including the payment of funds to persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory who may have provided either goods or services in connection with the foregoing. In order to acquire the necessary local currency for the purpose of financing the operations referred to above, the following three methods are authorized provided that method No. 3 should not be used if it is feasible to use either method No. 1 or No. 2 to obtain the local currency or exchange. (1) The currency or exchange of the country or countries in which the operations are to take place may be purchased in Spain if your representative is reasonably certain that the sellers have held such currency or exchange since before the date as of which such countries were frozen by the Government of the United States or, if acquired subsequent to that time, that the seller acquired such currency or exchange under circumstances which were not beneficial to the enemy. your representative to consult with the United States Embassy in Madrid when possible in such cases. The sellers of such local currency or exchange may be reimbursed in pesetas at the prevailing unofficial rates of exchange in

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

Spain. (2) The local currency or exchange of country or countries in which the operations are to take place may be purchased in enemy or enemy occupied territory provided that reimbursement is not made until after the war. Reimbursement to the seller of such local currency or exchange subsequent to the war may be insured by the establishment of blocked accounts on your books in the United States or such blocked accounts may be in a bank in the United States or Spain, provided that there shall be no assignment of any interest in such blocked accounts or payment from such blocked accounts unless specific approval is given by the Treasury Department in each case.

(3) Necessary local funds, exchange, goods, or services may be purchased in enemy or enemy occupied territory; the reimbursement therefor to be made in free currency notes or foreign exchange, provided that such reasonable steps as may be possible are taken by your representative to prevent such foreign exchange or free currency notes being acquired by persons who may give them to the enemy.

(B) The total amounts represented by claims established against any blocked account established in accordance with this license, plus the sums paid out or otherwise obligated pursuant to this license, shall not exceed \$100,000 or the peseta equivalent.

(C) A full report should be made to the United States Embassy in Madrid concerning the financial transactions completed pursuant to this license and your representative should insure to whatever extent possible that the sellers of local currency or exchange are persons acceptable to the United States Embassy at Madrid. Insofar as may be possible, your representative should be satisfied that any payments made to such persons will not be of benefit to the enemy.

(D) Periodic reports with respect to the operations consummated under this license should be filed with the United States Embassy in Madrid by your representative.

It is requested that you inform Mr. Sequerra that Dr. Joseph Schwartz, the JDC representative in Lisbon, will give him instructions with regard to beginning the operations envisaged by license W-2155 and that he should comply with such instructions. The operations envisaged by the above quoted license are approved by the Treasury, the Department and the War Refugee Board and we request you to take such reasonable steps as may be necessary to facilitate carrying them into effect. Furthermore, you are requested to report to the Department at once with respect to any difficulties, especially in connection with financial operations, that may be encountered and an indication as to progress made should be contained in your report. You should promptly forward to the Department reports filed with you pursuant to paragraph (C) of the license.

Delays are to be avoided as time is frequently of the

essence in matters of this kind. To this end you are requested to make liberal interpretations concerning the authority granted under license, reporting any such interpretations to the Department as and when made. It should be noted in this connection that license W-2155 is substantially the same as licenses issued previously to this and other private agencies for the purchase of carrying out similar operations from Switzerland. We wish specifically to call your attention to the provisions of paragraphs (A-1) and (A-3) of the license. Paragraph (A-1) has already been construed as allowing the purchase from persons in Spain of legal currency or exchange, irrespective of where the currency or exchange may in fact be located. You should note that even though under paragraph (A-3) foreign exchange may be made available in enemy or enemy-occupied territory, this method should be used if, under the circumstances, the relief and evacuation operations which the license permits can be carried into immediate execution most effectively thereby, although either one of the first two methods should be used in preference to the third method if operations will not be prejudiced in any way.

This Government considers the saving of lives to be of paramount importance, as will have been recognized from previous communications concerning the War Refugee Board's programs, and although a vital part of our economic warfare is still preventing the enemy from acquiring foreign exchange, this consideration is to be subordinated to the maximum fulfillment of the rescue programs being undertaken at the present time, of which the operations envisaged by the license discussed above are a part.

The Treasury Department has issued to the JDC a license authorizing operations from Portugal which is identical in all respects with W-2155. The JDC representative in Lisbon, Dr. Joseph Schwartz, is expected to return to Lisbon in the near future and the operations by Mr. Sequerra in Spain and the operations in Portugal are to be carried out under the general supervision of Dr. Schwartz.

HULL

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

CWDE Spain

Wm. Refugee Bd (my
Bill)

CONTROL COPY

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

DMH-53
This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Governmental
agency. (SC-00)

Dated March 22, 1944

Rec'd 1:30 p.m., 23rd

1 copy only

Secretary of State,
Washington.

RECEIVED
MAR 23 1944
STATE DEPARTMENT

997, March 22, 6 p.m.

In light of following considerations I am not (repeat
not) transmitting substance Department's 752, March 18, to
Sequerra, JDC representative, Barcelona:

One. It is my understanding that principal JDC repre-
sentative in Spain is not (repeat not) Sequerra but is David
Blickenstaff and it is Embassy's practice to transact all
business with that organization through latter.

Two. Although it has apparently not been brought to
Department's attention, Sequerra's loyalty to Allied cause
is not considered beyond question. He is a Portuguese and
therefore a neutral subject and, although he has apparently
done effective refugee relief work, there is little if any-
thing to indicate that he would be above dealing with our
enemies, particularly if subjected to pressure. Sequerra's
personal representative in Madrid, until recently, was dis-
reputable individual who was refused Palestine visa by
British because of suspicion that he had been giving infor-

mation to the
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By R. H. Parks Date SEP 13 1972

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-2- 997, March 22, 6 p.m., from Madrid

mation to the Germans. To entrust such a person with carrying out of operations described in Department's telegram would therefore appear to be inviting obvious and unnecessary risks which could have gravest consequences.

Three. Participation of any private American charitable organization or its representatives in such clandestine operations as those envisaged under authorization contained in Department's telegram might well prejudice entire position of such organizations in Spain. With Embassy's support these organizations, centralized in Blickenstaff's office, have won respect and confidence of Spanish Government and have been enabled thereby to do valuable work on behalf of stateless and unprotected refugees often to acute discomfort of Germans who would welcome pretext to force Spanish Government to suppress their activities. Their participation in operations authorized by license W-2155, which we must assume would not long remain unknown to Germans, would provide such a pretext.

Four. If on the other hand, Germans should consider it more profitable to turn these operations to their own ends they might by allowing them to continue provide themselves with an additional channel through which to send agents into Spain and Allied controlled territory.

Five. Of even

-3- 997, March 22, 6 p.m., from Madrid

Five. Of even greater importance is danger that such operations might compromise existing underground facilities within German occupied territory by means of which hundreds of American and Allied airmen have been enabled to reach the Spanish frontier without detection. It is my firm and determined conviction that, regardless of humanitarian considerations involved with which I am, of course, entirely in sympathy, no (repeat no) steps should be taken which might in even the slightest measure jeopardize the chances of escape of these airmen whose safety must have a prior claim on the efforts of our Government to that of any other class of refugees.

Six. In view of above consideration and of the inevitable military significance which we must attach at this crucial time to any activities involving passage of communications and persons into or out of occupied France, it is my feeling that any operation such as that envisaged in Department's telegram under reference should be submitted for prior approval to Joint Chiefs of Staff who shall be made acquainted with my views in the matter.

It is my intention to take no (repeat no) action on Department's 752 pending consideration by Department of points raised herein.

Repeated to London and Lisbon.

WTD

HAYES

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

Wanted
Just
DATE March 15, 1944

TO : Mr. Fehle
FROM : Miles Standish
Re : Suggested Plan of Operations in Spain.

The following plan for our future operations in Spain is submitted for your consideration.

STAFF:

The supervisor of all our operations in Spain should be the Special Attache to the Embassy in Madrid. His chief functions should, of necessity, be those of gaining the cooperation and support of the Spanish Government, the American Ambassador and the staff of the Embassy, and of the various private refugee organizations who are operating in Spain. The delicate political situation in that country, the day-to-day variations in our relations with Spain and the acute economic conditions existing there will require that the Attache be a man of great tact and diplomacy, as well as the possessor of considerable energy. While he will necessarily be called upon to travel in Spain to supervise operations there, it would appear eminently desirable that he spend most of his time in the capital. In addition to the required clerical and administrative assistants, it is suggested that his staff also include a Transportation Officer, a Supplies Officer and a Finance Officer. The titles of these three officers explain their general duties.

In addition to the Madrid staff, it is suggested that three reception centers be set up in appropriate areas along the Franco-Spanish frontier. Each of these centers would have an Administrator and should have a Medical Officer and a small nursing staff serving under his orders. It is suggested that the U.S. Army Medical Corps be requested to supply us with these doctors; the nurses can be recruited from civilian life. The Medical Officers should preferably be ones possessing a conversational knowledge of German and possibly one or more European languages. It is felt that doctors having the desired linguistic ability should be able to assist the Security Officers measurably in their work. An important member of the Administrator's staff should be a Security Officer. This officer should be obtained from either M.I.D. or O.S.S., depending upon which agency has primary responsibility for Spain. A great deal of the success of our efforts to receive and maintain the cooperation of other governmental agencies here will depend upon the choice and abilities of these Security Officers. In this connection, I feel strongly that if we can demonstrate that we are

Carefully screening for security those refugees who escape from Nazi-dominated Europe, many of the voiced and unexpressed antagonisms to our operation in official circles at home and abroad will be overcome. These officers should be chosen not only for their ability to ferret out possible enemy agents disguised as refugees, but also for their ability to obtain military information from the bona fide refugees.

RECEPTION CENTERS:

It is suggested that reception centers be established at Figueras, Murillo, and Tolosa (or such other places as may be determined upon further consideration in Spain) as three points on the principal routes across the Pyrenees. It is 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 frontier would reduce to a minimum the time during which the refugees would be in hands of the Spanish authorities.
2. Most of the refugees will have been in hiding in France and subjected to the rigors of strenuous travel on foot over mountain trails and will require, once they have crossed the Spanish frontier, immediate assistance with regard to food, medical attention and clothing.
3. The refugees should be kept, as far as possible, out of the principal centers of population in Spain and it is particularly desirable that they not be concentrated in Madrid. I feel that this remoteness is necessary to "play down" in Spain the transit of refugees through the country.
4. The location of the centers near to the frontier will permit close contact by the administrators with the Spanish frontier officials.
5. The nearness of the centers to the frontier will also facilitate contact with persons in France who may be assisting us in our work. The administrators will also have a better opportunity of obtaining for us first-hand information on conditions in France and possibly other Nazi-dominated areas.

It is recommended that the administrators make every effort, once refugees are in condition to travel, to expedite their transit across Spain to North Africa. The transportation officers of the centers should, of course, keep the principal transportation officer in Madrid currently informed of anticipated numbers of travellers. It would be the principal officer's function to make the necessary arrangements for the sea portion of this travel. The supplies officer in Madrid would be responsible for the availability of adequate quantities of food, medical supplies and clothing for distribution at the reception centers.

For their initial operations, there would seem to be no reason why these reception centers could not be financed on a pro rata basis by the several private organizations in this country.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS:

Ambassador Hayes in his telegram 683, February 28, 6 p.m., raised the question of stateless refugees. This is, of course, a complex problem but one which may be readily solved. My own experience has shown that the principal difficulty of the stateless persons is their inability to obtain adequate travel documents and, while travelling, to avail themselves of the protection of the diplomatic or consular representatives of any country. I suggest, therefore, that the Inter-Governmental Committee of Refugees become the present counterpart of the Nansen Office of the League of Nations. I enclose a very rough draft of a suggested passport which could be issued in the name of the IGC by our representatives in Spain. These passports could be issued in the name of the Attache at Madrid and signed by the Administrator at the reception centers.

I feel that it is essential that we obtain the cooperation of the IGC in this matter as we should surely encounter considerable difficulty here in Washington should we endeavor to provide stateless refugees with travel documents issued by the War Refugee Board and not by the Department of State. Once we have obtained the agreement of the IGC to its becoming a document-issuing body, I feel that we can readily gain from the Department of State and the Foreign Office in London, instructions to their diplomatic and consular officers that informal protection and assistance should be accorded where necessary in the name of the IGC. In this connection there is also attached a draft of a telegram to the American Embassy in London requesting that IGC be approached in this matter.

NORTH AFRICA:

The French National Committee of Liberation has a Delegation in Madrid which has, as far as the Spaniards are concerned, become the French Embassy in fact although not in name. With this in view, there seem to be no unsurmountable difficulties with regard to obtaining the necessary visas from the Delegation to facilitate the entry of the refugees into North Africa. The fact that each of the reception centers will maintain security control should make possible an arrangement with the French whereby they will not attempt to screen the refugees before arrival in North Africa. Even should an enemy agent be identified in Spain, it is obviously in the interests of the combined war effort of the United Nations that he be sent along to North Africa before apprehension. This has been the policy toward enemy agents in the past; it is preferable that they be in custody in United Nations territory rather than at liberty in a neutral country.

I have drafted the attached telegram to Ambassador Hayes, submitting this plan of operations to him for his approval. I should appreciate your authorization to discuss informally the question of Security and Medical Officers with the appropriate authorities in the War Department. This would permit me to carry on concurrent informal clearances with both State and War Departments and would expedite the prompt execution of this plan.

I believe that if we obtain the necessary clearances and cooperation of all concerned to this plan for Spain, we can use it as a model, with, of course, appropriate modifications for our organization in the other neutral countries.

DRAFT OF AN AIRGRAM TO THE
AMERICAN EMBASSY, MADRID

March 15, 1944

The War Refugee Board submits the following plan of its proposed operations in Spain for your consideration, advice and comment:

The supervisor of all the Board's operations in Spain will be the Special Attache to your Embassy. As stated in previous communications, his appointment and subsequent activities will be entirely subject to your approval. He will have assigned to him a staff which would include Transportation, Supplies and Finance Officers whose titles explain their general duties. It is contemplated that the Attache 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 three reception centers be established along the Franco-Spanish frontier. Each of these centers would have an Administrator possessing considerable experience in refugee work. Each Administrator would likewise have a Transportation, Supplies and Finance Officer. At least one medical officer and possibly a small nursing staff would also serve at each of the centers. An important member of the staff of each center would be a Security Officer who will be obtained from either the Military Intelligence Service or the Office of Strategic Services. These Security Officers would, of course, be assigned to the reception centers as refugee welfare workers rather than to the Military Attache's office. They would have the dual responsibility of screening refugees in a search for possible enemy agents and obtaining of possible military information from the bona fide refugees. It is tentatively proposed that reception centers be established at Figueras, Murillo (or some other

appropriate locality near the central portion of the border) and Tolosa as three points on possible main routes across 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.
2. Most of the refugees will have been in hiding in France and subjected to the rigors of strenuous travel on foot over mountain trails and will require, once they have crossed the Spanish frontier, immediate assistance with regard to food, medical attention and clothing. 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.
3. 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 continue their travels and to permit preliminary security screening and to provide refugees with the necessary travel documents.

The War Refugee Board is proposing to the Inter-Governmental Committee of Refugees that the Committee assume the functions of the Nansen Office of the League of Nations by issuing a travel document to serve in lieu of a passport to stateless refugees. It is further contemplated that

should the necessary agreement be obtained from the Committee, that the Special Attache should issue these travel documents in the name of the Committee as its agent. As the fundamental plan is to move as rapidly as possible to North Africa those refugees who may enter Spain from enemy-occupied territories, it is hoped that the French authorities will assign to their Delegation in Madrid, for special detail to the reception centers, officers qualified to screen refugees for security and authorized to affix the necessary visa to their travel documents. In this connection it is indeed possible that enemy agents may attempt to disguise themselves as refugees and enter Spain. It is eminently desirable therefore that should the Security Officers identify enemy agents, such identification would not be disclosed in Spain and that the agents should be passed along to North Africa for apprehension there. This has been the policy toward enemy agents in the past; it is obviously preferable that they be in custody in United Nations' territory rather than at liberty in a neutral country.

Do you perceive any objections which the Spanish Government might raise to the establishment of these centers in the manner suggested above, and to the financing of the centers by the War Refugee Board? The funds for their operation will probably come from private sources in the United States. This plan, as you will note, involves a minimum of handling of refugees by Spanish authorities.

In your 683 of February 28, 6 p.m. (Section I) you request a clarification of the meaning of "involuntary" removal of refugees from Spain. It is appreciated that many of the refugees will desire, once they have escaped from enemy territory, to proceed to other areas of the world than North Africa. The War Refugee Board feels, however, that it is

undesirable that these refugees should remain in Spain and that they should proceed to North Africa where they may undertake preparations for further travel with considerably greater security for themselves and with complete avoidance of any embarrassment to the Spanish Government because of their presence in Spain. It is proposed that border officials and police authorities in the frontier zones would 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 conducts, it is hoped that the Spanish officials will advise the refugees that their presence in Spain will be tolerated only so long as they are under the auspices of the representatives of the War Refugee Board. 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. Every effort would be made to impress upon the refugees that the continued passage through Spain of other refugees is dependent upon their own rapid departure from that country. Further explanation would be given the refugees that while they are proceeding to North Africa they are under the auspices of the USRA rather than under the control of the French authorities. It is believed that such a policy, if intelligently executed by the Board's representatives, will assure the ready and voluntary departure from Spain for North Africa and of all those refugees who may cross the Spanish frontier.

The War Refugee Board sincerely hopes that you will submit any criticisms or suggestions you may care to make as it fully understands that this plan is subject to your approval. The Board has also expressed its appreciation of your cooperation.

a w Refugee B
copy only

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Representative, Algiers
DATED: March 11, 1944
NUMBER: 757

CONT COPY

FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD FOR ATTENTION OF ACKERMANN.

We repeat herewith for your information the following telegram which was transmitted to Madrid, under date of February 18, 1944, as no. 463. *see: Spain*

(Paraphrase of the aforementioned telegram was distributed to you on February 23, 1944).

In reply to the foregoing message Ambassador Hayes stated that he did not find it possible to approach the British Government at this time, but is awaiting a favorable opportunity to do so. We will keep you advised regarding this matter.

HULL
(GLW)

DCR:MAS:EA
3-15-44

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

11 23 1944
REC'D
STATE DEPT.

1 0 0 6 8 5

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE

Handwritten: Files

Handwritten: [Signature]

TO Mr. Pehle

March 10, 1944

FROM Mr. Smith

On March 4 I spent approximately four hours examining in the files of the Office of Strategic Supplies, their material relating to refugees in Spain. The material examined, which had been previously segregated, covered approximately one year and was made up of several hundred intercepts. Out of these there were about twenty-five of general interest to the Refugee Board and only half a dozen of particular importance. The greater part of the pertinent intercepts consisted of communications from organized relief agencies with which the Board is at present in contact and, presumably, the information could be obtained directly from such organizations without the necessity of receiving the intercepts from OSS or Censorship.

All material at OSS is apparently separated by country and subsequently card-punched for subject matter. In order to facilitate checking by various other departments, such as State and Justice, the practice has been adopted of leaving all matter in the "country" files, separated as to days, for a period of two weeks, during which time it can be examined as a whole. It is then card-punched and put into the general files. OSS suggested that we might care to follow the plan of other agencies and make periodical, rather than daily, examinations.

In view of the fact that the material for Spain should be particularly plentiful but actually contained very little useful information, it does not appear that any further examination would serve a useful purpose.

Handwritten: R. L. Smith

Mr. Fehle

March 10, 1944

Mr. Smith

On March 4 I spent approximately four hours examining in the files of the Office of Strategic Supplies, their material relating to refugees in Spain. The material examined, which had been previously segregated, covered approximately one year and was made up of several hundred intercepts. Out of these there were about twenty-five of general interest to the Refugee Board and only half a dozen of particular importance. The greater part of the pertinent intercepts consisted of communications from organized relief agencies with which the Board is at present in contact and, presumably, the information could be obtained directly from such organizations without the necessity of receiving the intercepts from OSS or Consularship.

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In view of the fact that the material for Spain should be particularly plentiful but actually contained very little useful information, it does not appear that any further examination would serve a useful purpose.

CC: Miss Hodel, Messrs. Dubois, Friedman, Lasser, Luxford, Stewart.

RSmith: jh 3/10/44

000687

CENTRAL OFFICE

For security reasons the text of this message must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government agency. (SC00)

2-3 War
Refugee Bd
M. B. ...
JCF

CHI-146

This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government agency. (SC00)

Dated March 3, 1944

Rec'd 6:17 a.m., 4th

Secretary of State,
Washington.

378, March 3, '11 a.m.

551 Special
Representative
WAR. abroad

Before discussing with Blickenstaff contents of Department's 530, February 25, 10 p.m., I should like to be advised further as to proposed relationship between work of War Refugee Board in Spain and that of the "representative in Spain of American relief organizations". As reported in my despatch 1932, January 24, latter is joint agency representing private American charitable organizations engaged in refugee relief in Spain and is under Blickenstaff's direction.

Specifically I should like to be informed as to whether, in the event of Blickenstaff's designation as representative of the board, he would be expected to give up his present work. The agency he now heads is at present bearing virtually entire burden financial and otherwise of care of stateless and unprotected refugees in Spain and it is my recommendation that it be allowed to continue to do so and that Blickenstaff be permitted

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-74
H. Parks Date SEP 13 1972

-2- #378, March 3, 11 a.m., from Madrid

be permitted to continue as its director while serving concurrently as board's representative with designation as Attache.

As I have taken great pains to point out the problem of the care of these refugees is being very competently handled by Blickenstaff and his organization which was set up at my suggestion to unify efforts of participating private agencies and I wish to avoid any changes which might impair effectiveness of this work. I am in thorough agreement with the board that Blickenstaff is highly qualified to represent it in Spain, but I wish to make sure that his services will be utilized in the most effective manner possible.

Repeated to London by pouch to Lisbon.

HAYES

WSB

000689

Mr. Abrahamson
Mr. Akzin
Mr. Bernstein
Mrs. Cohn
② Mr. DuBois
Mr. Friedman
Mr. Gaston
② Miss Hodel
Miss Laughlin
Mr. Lesser
Mr. Luxford
Mr. Mann
Mr. McCormack
Mr. Paul
Mr. Pollak
Mr. Raines
Mr. Smith
Mr. Standish
Mr. Stewart
Mr. H. D. White
Mr. ~~Pelle~~

21
2

000690

CONTROL COPY

*5 war refugees
(Mr. Kelly)*

CORRECTION

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: AMEMBASSY, MADRID
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: February 28, 1944
NUMBER: 683

In section two of this message, page two line thirteen, delete "refuge (*)" and insert "refugees are known". The line should then read "Spanish policy toward refugees are known throughout occupied Europe".

314
WWS TT 1044

100691

CONTROL COPY

*War Refugee Bd
J.W. P. H.*

FMH-67
This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Governmental
agency. (SC-00)

Madrid

Dated February 28, 1944

Rec'd 3:32 a.m., March 1st.

Secretary of State,
Washington:

683, February 28, 6 p.m. (SECTION-ONE)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
WAR 2 1944
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

Proposals for war refugee board outlined in
Department's 463, February 18, midnight, raise two
separate questions, first that of evacuation of
stateless and unprotected refugees now in Spain,
and secondly that of the facilitation of passage of
further numbers of such refugees into or through Spain
from German occupied territories:

(1) With reference to first question there are
now estimated to be in Spain approximately 1300
refugees who might be classified as stateless and
unprotected. Of this number about 400 are Spanish
Sephardic Jews who have recently been brought to Spain
from German concentration camps under agreement between
Spanish and German governments for evacuation elsewhere
but whose travel to further destinations has not yet
been arranged; it is expected that considerable number
of these persons will apply for admission to Fedhala
center. Another 450 have already applied for evacuation
to Fedhala

000692

-2- #683, February 28, 6 p.m. (SECTION ONE) from Madrid

to Fedhala and estimated 250 have received or will soon receive visas for other destinations principally Canada. Most of remaining 200 prefer to remain in Spain for one of following reasons: (a) to be near families still in German occupied countries; (b) to await visas for destinations to which they cannot at present time proceed; (c) because of feeling based on distrust of the French, that they will be better off in Spain than at Fedhala and inability to proceed to any other destination.

Response of refugees to offer of evacuation to Fedhala center (*) astic due largely to this distrust and to fear that Lyautey will turn out to be French concentration Camps under instructions from Department we have attempted no means of persuasion beyond acquainting them with nature and conditions of proposed project. French authorities have moreover insisted on subjecting all applications to detailed scrutiny at Algiers and Rabat before allowing persons to proceed from Spain and present indications are that considerable numbers may be turned down on security and other grounds. It appears therefore that under present circumstances this project may not prove solution of problem of clearing residue of stateless

refugees

000693

-3- #683, February 28, 6 p.m. (SECTION ONE) from Madrid

refugees out of sea in and that there will remain question of destinations for those who either do not choose to accept this offer of evacuation or who are not considered acceptable by French and Allied authorities. (In this connection I should appreciate clarification of meaning of "involuntary" removal of refugees from Spain). It may be mentioned with reference Department's 512 February 24 that present delay in completing arrangements for departure of refugees for Fedhala is due principally to above mentioned requirement that applications be submitted to North Africa for prior approval.

HAYES

WSB

000694

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, Madrid
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: February 28, 1944
NUMBER: 683

SECTION TWO.

Stateless refugees in Spain, as previously reported, are at present being well cared for by private American charitable organizations represented by David Blickenstaff, who has also been instrumental in arranging during the past year the evacuation of approximately 900 such refugees. At present the number of stateless and unprotected refugees entering Spain is negligible.

(2) It should be pointed out in reference to the problem of facilitating escape of additional numbers of refugees from German occupied territory into Spain that reduced rate at which such refugees are now entering Spain is not attributable to Spanish border control, but is considered due rather than to difficulties of reaching the Pyrenees frontier from points ^{WITHIN} other than occupied Europe.

Virtually no refugees of this type, so far as is known, have been prevented from entering Spain by Spanish border control or turned back by them to German authorities—and by encouraging a further relaxation of this control there would appear to be little advantage gained. On the contrary there are definite arguments against such relaxation principally that it would

facilitate

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 13 1972

000693

facilitate the undetected entry of German agents into Spain at a time when one of our major objectives is to rid Spain of such agents and would render increasingly difficult the control of smuggling activities, which directly impair our preemptive purchase program. Moreover, it would give to the Spanish authorities convenient excuse for closing their eyes to such of these activities as they might wish to let pass without notice.

It is considered by me to be unnecessary to suggest to the Spanish Government that it facilitate spread of information to German occupied areas that Spain is prepared to grant asylum to refugees in view of the fact that any changes in Spanish policy toward refuge (*) throughout occupied Europe by means of underground grapevine almost as soon as they are known in Spain. Moreover, it can hardly be denied that a broadcast offer by the Spanish Government of asylum to persons fleeing from German authorities would have political implications over and above its primary humanitarian purpose and it is not illogical to suppose that one of primary results of such a step would be immediate tightening of German border control along the Pyrenees and increased surveillance over routes leading toward that frontier, a development which could seriously jeopardize the chances of escape of American ~~and~~ Allied air force personnel forced to land in German held territory and make escape more difficult than before ^{for} of all refugees.

(*) Apparent omission

HAYES

000696

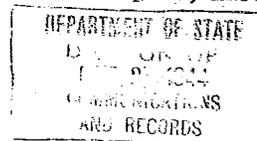
RA-415
This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Governmental
agency. (SC-00)

Madrid

Dated February 28, 1944

Rec'd 11:44 p.m., March 1

Secretary of State
Washington



683, February 28, 6 p.m. (SECTION THREE)

It is my feeling that Spanish Government could best expedite release of refugees from German controlled areas of Europe by directly approaching German Government with offer to grant transit or temporary residence visas to refugees wishing to leave those areas in much the same way that it has recently effected release of above mentioned Sephardic Jews the ultimate destinations for such refugees to be arranged by the War Refugee Board or other such organization. It should be emphasized, however, that sympathetic consideration of Spanish Government to such a proposal can hardly be expected until there is found more adequate solution to problem of destinations for these refugees than provided by Fedhala project in order that effective evacuation of stateless refugees still in Spain can be expeditiously accomplished.

000597

-2- 683, February 28, 6 p.m. (SECTION THREE) from Madrid

accomplished and assurances given Spanish Government that all refugees admitted to Spain in future under such an arrangement would be removed without delay to further destinations. ^b This would necessarily involve postponement of screening of refugees until after their departure from Spain although it is appreciated that adequate measures would have to be taken at some later point to sift out agents which Germans would be certain, as in the past, to plant among them.

I have no idea as to what reaction of Spanish Government would be to such a proposal or how successful it would be should it agree to take up matter with German Government. In view of fact that principle obstacles to escape of refugees from German held territory appear to lie within that territory rather than at the Spanish frontier, however, I feel that this approach would come closer to heart of the problem.

I am, for the present, making no approaches to Spanish Government on subject of department's

telegram

7 0 0 6 9 8

-3- 683, February 28, 6 p.m. (SECTION THREE) from Madrid

telegram pending consideration of points raised herein. I may say in this connection that it is still my opinion that present political and economic crisis with Spain is apt to have adverse effect on receptivity of Spanish Government even to proposals of purely humanitarian character.

Repeated to London and Lisbon and by pouch to Algiers.

HAYES

EDA

000699

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: AMERICAN EMBASSY, Madrid
DATED: February 18, 1944, midnight
NUMBER: 463

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The foregoing is for the Ambassador's attention.
Please refer to the Department's telegram of
January 25, 1944 no. 207 with reference to War Refugee
Board.

The Board has resolved, in formulating a program of
immediate action, that an attempt to facilitate the
evacuation from occupied areas to Spain of as many Jewish
refugees and others as possible is one of the projects
which should be pushed with the greatest of speed. It
is understood by the Board that French refugee movement
is well organized and functioning and that some thousands
have already been transferred to North Africa. Further-
more the Board understands that arrangements are being
made at the present time to transfer to North Africa
stateless refugees and those lacking protection of their
own government.

It is felt by the Board that the most feasible way
of accomplishing this extremely urgent task is: (a)
to remove refugees now in Spain from there as rapidly as
possible, thus making room for more and (b) to obtain

cc: Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Messrs. Paul, Gaston, White, Phile
E. N. Bernstein, Stewart, Lesser, Friedman, Pollak
Miss Edgel

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

PROPERTY OF
Lawrence S. Lesser
Room 162

000700

from the Government of Spain the greatest possible relaxation of the border and other controls and other action designed to encourage the entry into Spain of refugees.

The Board has agreed upon the following concrete proposals with the object of increasing the movement of refugees from occupied areas through Spain to refuge elsewhere. (1) A substantial number of refugees now in Spain can be moved to a camp in North Africa which is now established and which is ready to receive refugees and the transfer should be facilitated. (2) In order to care for new refugees who will arrive in the future, especially stateless refugees and those lacking the protection of their government, and to effect their removal from Spain, if necessary on an involuntary basis, the government of Spain should be requested to maintain reception camps in which future arrivals may remain until they are transferred to North Africa. As a basis for obtaining the necessary action by the Government of Spain, they should be informed (a) that necessary arrangements will be made by War Refugee Board to finance the maintenance and support of such stateless and unprotected refugees as arrive in Spain in accordance with these arrangements until they can be removed to North Africa and (b) that responsibility for arranging for the transfer of stateless and unprotected refugees

cc: Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Messrs. Paul, Gaston, White, Felt, Lunder, Hubert, R. N. Bernstein, Stewart, Lesser, Friedman, Poliak, Bundy, Miss Bodol.

000701

refugees to North Africa as rapidly as possible will be assumed by War Refugee Board. The Government of Spain may be reminded in this connection of the recent evacuation of refugees to Palestine and of arrangements being made at the present time for the removal of stateless refugees to the North African camp which has already been established. (3) You should request the Spanish Government in the strongest manner possible to take effective steps to encourage the entry into Spain of more refugees. Besides relaxation of border control and the taking of other actions, it will be extremely helpful if steps will be taken by the Government of Spain to facilitate the spread of information to the occupied areas that Spain is ready to grant asylum to refugees until they are removed to another country.

The commitments given above are not intended in any way to replace the French Committee of National Liberation's activities or responsibilities with respect to the flow through Spain of French refugees.

We anxiously desire to support the Board's program given above and it is requested that you approach the Spanish Government at the earliest possible moment with a view to obtaining their agreement to the plan. It is requested that you report as soon as possible regarding
practical

cc: Miss Chauncey (for the Secty), Messrs. Paul, Gaston, White, Finkle, N. Bernstein, Stewart, Lesser, Friedman, Goldik, Murray, Miss Edell

practical measures that would be necessary, including the requirements of funds, to put the proposed plan into operation in Spain.

Of course it will be appreciated by you if these negotiations with Spain are on an entirely different level than the political and economic negotiations being carried on with that Government. This Government is simply addressing to the Spanish Government a humanitarian appeal rather than a request to take certain action favorable to us at a sacrifice to them. Therefore we desire that the proposed negotiations with respect to refugees should be carried rapidly and effectively to a conclusion without becoming entangled in other pending problems being discussed with the Spanish.

Furthermore it is important to remember that it is this Government's policy to move to Camp Lyautey promptly as many stateless and unprotected refugees as facilities allow. Consequently you should make every attempt to encourage the voluntary migration to the camp of the greatest possible number of eligible persons in Spain at the present time. Of course this evacuation operation should be executed as rapidly as possible.

The progress being made in this matter should be reported to the Department as soon as possible.

STETTINIUS

Acting

cc: Miss Chauncey (for the Best), Messrs. Paul, Gaston, White, Fable, Lundy, Miss Rodol, E. N. Bernstein, Stewart, Lesser, Friedman, Pollak

000703

INCOMING CABLE

1893

LISBON

Rec'd & Stencilled Feb. 15, 1944

CUSON P0149 LISBON VIA RGA 128 7 2155 1/50
NLE LEAVITT
JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE
270 MADISON AVENUE NEW YORK CITY

640 WE HAVE BEEN OFFICIALLY INFORMED BY SPANISH AUTHORITIES THAT GROUP 574
SEPHARDIC JEWS ARRIVING SPAIN FROM GERMANY NEXT DAYS STOP GROUP CONSISTS FOLLOWING

162 MEN
178 WOMEN
49 CHILDREN

20
STOP OUR REPRESENTATIVE SAMUEL SEQUERRA PROCEEDING TO BORDEN RECEIVE ARRIVALS
STOP WE ASSUME THIS IS GROUP WHICH LEFT SALONICA SOME MONTHS AGO BUT WERE HELD
UP IN GERMANY WHILE SPANISH AUTHORITIES WERE EXERTING PRESSURE ON US EVACUATE
ORIGINAL SEPHARDIC GROUP FROM SPAIN STOP SPANISH AUTHORITIES SENDING SOME DOCTORS
AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO BORDER AND WE BEING ASKED SUPPLY NECESSARY CLOTHING SINCE
GROUP SEEMS TO BE VERY BAD SHAPE STOP VIEW THIS EMERGENCY SUGGEST YOU SEND IM-
MEDIATELY FULL AMOUNT FEBRUARY BUDGET ONE MILLION PESETAS STOP WILL KEEP YOU
FULLY ADVISED

JOSEPH SCHMANN

000704

Ingram

U.S. American Embassy

Madrid, Spain

Dated February 15, 1944

cc'd. *Feb 25/44*

Secretary of State,
Washington.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF

1-57, February 15, 1944, 12 noon.

I do not consider this an opportune ^{moment} to discuss relations with Spain to ~~discuss~~ Spanish Government in response suggested in Department's 207 January 25, midnight. Spanish Government has during past year become thoroughly familiar with our policy with regard to rescue of political and racial refugees from Nazi-occupied Europe and Department has been kept informed as to extent to which it has cooperated in this work. In this connection Department's attention is called to my confidential despatch 1967 of January 31 summarizing evacuations of Allied refugees from Spain in 1943 in which it is pointed out that Spanish Government during that year facilitated evacuation of well over 20,000 refugees and estimated 22,000 who entered Spain, most of remainder being stateless for whom destinations could not be found and of whom 567 have since departed for Palestine as reported in my airgram A-39 of January 27.

Pending receipt of separate report Department's attention is called to following despatches submitted by Embassy during past year which it is believed contain most of information desired:
34 January 16, 1940; 31, 310 June 10, 1165 August 5, 1391
October 1, 1692 December 7, 1943; 1932 January 24 and 1947 January 31, 1944.

When a better opportunity presents itself I shall speak to Foreign Minister along lines suggested in Department's telegram but formal representations at this time would be less helpful than they will be a little later when the present crisis in our relations with Spain has been successfully passed.

HAVE.

WJ:jjf
Copy (in duplicate) to Lisbon

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

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

Spain North Africa

1734 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, 6, D. C.
February 11, 1944

128
FILING AUTHORITY
TO: Mail & Files
ANS.
WEANT. REQ.
INITIAL
DATE

Mr. John W. Pehle
Treasury Department
Room 2881/2
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Pehle:

I am sending you herewith a letter which has just arrived from Mr. Beckelman from Madrid. You will notice that this is his first report to Mr. Fryer in North Africa on his experiences in Spain.

Sincerely yours,

Carolyn A. Flexner

Carolyn A. Flexner
Staff Assistant

MWBeckelman
c/o American Embassy
Madrid, Spain

Peterson Pihle

January 23, 1944

Mr. E. G. Burland
Chief, Field Operations
UNRRA
Walker-Johnson Building
1734 New York Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Burland:

As you will see from the material enclosed, I am sending you a copy of a report which I have just prepared for Mr. Fryer, setting forth the present status of our arrangements here with respect to Camp Marshal Lyautey. Since I am sure that the Washington office will want to have a copy, I have indicated to Mr. Fryer that I am sending a copy to you directly to save time.

Other than the enclosed, I have nothing yet to report. Except to add that to judge from the rate at which we are progressing thus far, the actual opening of the camp is still some distance off--I should say six weeks as a minimum.

I do hope you will get a chance one of these days to write us about the present state of UNRRA planning--it would be good for the gang in Casablanca to know a little about where they're headed. I shall be looking forward to finding some word from you waiting for me on my return to North Africa. Please give my best to everyone in the Washington office.

Sincerely,

M.W. Beckelman
Assistant Chief of Mission

Orig. Mr. Lehman
cop. Salter
Henshaw
Anderson
Greenstein
Warren
Pihle ✓
Hannigan (PMA)
Jackson ✓
Johnson

Mr. Beckelman
c/o American Embassy
Madrid, Spain

January 23, 1944

Mr. E. Rossman Fryer
Chief of Mission—UNRRA
Civil Affairs Office
Dept. of Public Welfare & Relief
American Consulate
Algiers, Algeria

Dear Sir:

First report from Spain. The process of actually getting under way here has been delayed because I arrived in the midst of the final stages of preparation of a transport for Palestine which is sailing from Cadix for Haifa early next week. It's a Portuguese boat and she will be carrying about 130 refugees from Portugal bound for Palestine and will pick up about 350 more at Cadix. The 350 come from Madrid, Barcelona and a number of camps and prisons scattered throughout the country from which refugee prisoners were released for the purpose of going to Palestine. (They were in fact accompanied by police from prison to port of embarkation.)

The deduction of this 350 leaves a still indeterminate number of stateless refugees in Spain. Blickenstaff who, as you know, represents the Quakers and the JDC in Madrid, says it cannot possibly exceed a thousand, including a scattered few who may still be living on means of their own. One could in addition include an estimated (very roughly) four to five hundred Poles, Czechoslovaks, Belgians, Dutch, etc. who thought not stateless are in a more or less exposed position here depending on the extent to which the Spanish government accords the representatives of these governments limited diplomatic recognition. My present intention is to have our announcements of the North African project sent to these people also and I believe the American Embassy concurs in the position that we ought to accept for the camp any of them who might want to go.

Until the Palestine movement was completely out of the way I made no effort to get any formal announcement of the North African project into the hands of the refugees here. Inasmuch as going to Palestine involved both the right of permanent stay and the right to work I regarded it as inadvisable to introduce in any official way the complication of the North African scheme which, objectively less desirable, might nevertheless seem more attractive because of its closer proximity to Europe. (I did in fact have a couple of visitors, nevertheless, who wanted my advice on whether they should go to North Africa or Palestine.) Consequently I employed the ten days or so following my arrival for such informal interviewing as was possible, in order to let word about the North African project get around informally and to have an opportunity to see what kinds of people were involved, what the reactions were, and what questions were most on people's minds.

Thus far I have had about sixty-five interviews involving some hundred odd people. This is roughly a 10% sample though it is not necessarily representative; first because these are all from Madrid and Barcelona may well, in refugees as in everything else, be a story for itself. Also my first interviews were with people who had previously solicited information about the North African project and may therefore be viewed as having a more than average interest in it, either positive or negative. Nevertheless "for

such interest as it may possess". I give you here my observations of the group I have seen.

There are a number of freak cases involving holders of Cuban, Mexican, Venezuelan, etc. passports. These people are at a loose end in Spain because they cannot get work permits and their consular representatives have no funds with which to repatriate them. They are prepared to come to North Africa because it is a step nearer home and on the assumption (perhaps mistaken) that the French will not treat them as stateless refugees. In my sample of 106 people, these cases total eleven, though I don't expect this percentage to be maintained for the refugee group as a whole. Then there's another group who are likewise not refugees in the sense that their present situation arises either out of Nazi policies or the military operations of the present war. They are persons stranded in Spain whose difficulties are aggravated by the fact that there's a war going on. They are of three categories essentially. 1) Adventurers who happened to be in Spain rather than somewhere else when frontiers froze; 2) Foreigners who have been in Spain for many years established in business or professions but because they were located in Loyalist territory during the Civil War can't get business licenses renewed; 3) Foreigners who actively assisted the Loyalist government during the Civil War. My sample 106 contains 14 such persons. Again I think this is a higher percentage than will be true for the total number. (Incidentally I think the adventurers among this group, if they come to North Africa, are hardly likely to remain long in the camp. My guess is they will make their own way out somehow and seek to shift for themselves.)

Of the rest (81) some 25 evince an active interest in going to North Africa, either because they have relatives there with whom they hope to be able to live, obtaining their release from the camp on this ground, or because they're fed up with Spain and feel that any change would be a change for the better, or because they hope to establish some contact with the British and Americans. Another 15 are more or less indifferent or uncertain as to whether they should stay here (or try to) or go to North Africa. They wanted very much to be guided by my advice and when I had explained why this was not a subject on which I could properly advise them, their attitude was that they would do whatever the majority of refugees would seem to do. My own guess is that this group will go. Forty-one expressed active opposition to the idea of going to North Africa, this opposition varying from the statement that they would prefer not to go if they had any choice to the assertion that they would rather return to Miranda than go to a camp on French territory. Opposition seems to rest on the following bases: 1) Other immigration opportunities. There are apparently a number of valid Ecuadorian visas in existence. I have seen three thus far. The holders have Colombian transit visas also and tell me that they have been assured that the necessary Venezuelan transit will be forthcoming in time for them to sail by Spanish boat in March. Some also have negotiations in process for Mexican visas. A number are expecting replies to applications for American and British visas and hesitate to transfer their applications to another consulate for fear that this may involve them in long delays. 2) Belief that a more or less legalized residence in Spain can be "arranged." 3) Opposition to further contact with the French based either on experience in French camps or on claims to having served in the French army during the war and having nevertheless been refused recognition or assistance by French representatives on arrival here. Category 3 has 16 persons of the 81 above mentioned.

The chief questions put to me dealt naturally with the right to work and the amount of freedom which residents of the camp might expect to have. About two items, unfortunately, my present feeling is much less optimistic than it was when I left North Africa. My first conversations with Moroccan French authorities in Rabat had led me to believe that they were prepared to interpret the terms of the

- 3 -

French-American agreement fairly liberally. Yesterday those arrived in Madrid the two representatives of the French Moroccan authorities who are to participate with the British and the Americans in the security screening of applicants here. (One of them was a chap I had previously talked with in Rabat.) I showed them the draft of the announcement and application form which it was proposed to circulate to the refugees in Spain. (Enclosure A). They objected strenuously to the second paragraph on the grounds that it predicated more than it would be possible to grant. They implied that employment would only be possible in exceptional cases and that the right of temporary absence from the camp would be severely restricted. I pointed out that this was at variance with the intent of the French-American agreement and their reply was that the French Committee of National Liberation in Algiers was not familiar with conditions in Morocco. I said that that was not a proper concern of the American government and did not seem relevant to the question. I recalled one of the two representatives that it was he himself who had indicated to me in Rabat the fairly liberal position with the French-American agreement. He acknowledged this but said that conditions in Morocco had changed since the conclusion of the negotiations between the American and British governments and the French committees of National Liberation. The French authorities, he said, were very much disturbed over current native unrest in Morocco and were fearful that apparent concessions to refugees might aggravate that unrest. Both representatives assured me that as soon as the current difficulties had subsided they were confident that it would be possible to give the refugees a larger measure of liberty and employment possibility but reiterated that it was unwise to promise in our preliminary announcement to the refugees more than it might be possible to give them upon their arrival in North Africa. I expressed my agreement with this point of view but contended that any announcement to the refugees ought to assure them of that which the French authorities and the British and American governments were in agreement that they should have. I suggested that if conditions in Morocco had changed since the conclusion of that agreement it might be well to advise the State Department of that fact and proposed taking the question up with the American Embassy. The French representatives then suggested that they might prepare a text of an announcement to the refugees and we could then compare the two to see whether we could agree on some joint statement. To this I agreed.

The draft which they prepared (Enclosure B) was a step forward from the position which they had expressed to me orally but I still felt it to be unsatisfactory on the two points of employment possibility and local liberty of movement. I told them that I would like to submit their draft to the American Embassy, which I did, discussing it with Miles Bend, Embassy Secretary who has been acting for the Embassy on refugee matters. He and I agreed that under the circumstances, probably the best course was to suggest the substitution, for the paragraph in dispute, and the relevant portions of the text of K. Masarelli's final note to Mr. Murphy on the subject, this note constituting in effect the substance of our agreement with the French. This proposal the French representatives, after some discussion to the effect that their proposed text was less restrictive than the text of the official note, accepted. Consequently Enclosure C is the text of the announcement which will be circulated in a few days to all refugees in Madrid and Barcelona and, if the consent of the Spanish authorities can be obtained, to those in camps and prisons. (Submitted to number about 30). It will appear in English, French, Spanish and German.

I have recalled in detail this discussion with the French representatives because of the tone of it seems to me more important than the text we finally agreed upon. The tone seemed to me to be definitely bad. If the French representatives who have come here from Morocco accurately reflect the feeling

of the Moroccan French authorities and if that feeling continues unchanged, I think we are in for a nasty series of quibbles on every request we shall have to make of the French authorities once the camp gets going and for hampering restrictions on every effort to give the residents of the camp any sense of being elsewhere than in an internment camp. If you think it advisable it might be as well to put the State Department in Washington and our representatives in Algiers on notice.

One point in the final announcement (Enclosure C) which the French representatives pressed for but did not insist upon was that it should be stated that the center would be administered by American, British, and French representatives. This apparently goes back to a conversation I had in Rabat in which I was asked whether I did not think it would be useful to have a French member of the staff of the camp for the purpose, as it was put to me then "of facilitating relations with the French authorities, issuing permits for temporary ten-day or two-week leaves from the camp, etc." At that time I said that I was in favor of the idea and would be ready to discuss it more concretely when I would have returned from Spain and would be getting Camp Marshal Lyautey ready for refugee occupancy. Here in Madrid I was very leath to include any reference to French participation in the administration of the camp in an announcement to be distributed to the refugees because my preliminary interviews have clearly shown that any indication will have an adverse effect upon them. Not feeling free to say this to the French representatives I fell back upon the statement that I had not yet been authorized to include French representation on the staff of the camp and consequently could make no reference to it in the announcement. It is clear however that the question will come up again on my return to North Africa. I believe it would be useful to have a Frenchman, if possible a refugee from France rather than a colonial resident, attached to the camp staff for such liaison purposes as have been suggested above. Unless I hear from you to the contrary I shall assume that there is no objection to my proceeding along these lines when I return to Morocco.

Returning now to the refugees in Spain and the likelihood of their going to North Africa, my present belief is that about half will indicate an initial willingness to go and that a substantial portion of the remainder will then follow suit. (There has thus far been no indication of any reaction on the part of the Spanish authorities which might influence this estimate.) All told, I imagine we may have up to about 600 people, including those who may want to go from among the non-stateless but not fully protected national groups I have mentioned above.

On my way here I stopped in Lisbon for a few days. In the course of my conversation there at the American Legation, the question came up as to whether stateless refugees in Portugal could be included in this North African project. I have taken the matter up with the Embassy here and it seems to us that there should be no objection in principle though the mechanics of transportation may be more difficult to work out. However, unless I hear from you to the contrary, I shall continue to keep this possibility in mind and if the opportunity for more concrete consideration presents itself I shall go into it. Though no official indication has come from the Spanish Foreign Office there have been some reports that the Spanish authorities will request future refugee convoys to embark from a Portuguese rather than a Spanish port. If this should materialize, the question of taking these refugees now in Portugal who might want to come to North Africa could perhaps be resolved simultaneously with the current undertaking.

In any case it now appears clear that the North African project, when it finally materializes, will be a much smaller-scale venture than has heretofore been anticipated. I think every possible effort should be made to liquidate it

at the earliest possible date both because of the inherently unsatisfactory situation which it seems unavoidable that the camp shall represent and because the large capital investment and large per capital outlay necessary for the kind of center we have been contemplating cannot long be justified for such a relatively small number. Such liquidation will require collective rather than individual action because the group now in Spain seems to me to have been fairly well combed through by this time from the standpoint of persons with highly specialized skills, with professional contacts or with relatives in other countries. My present impression is that the bulk of the persons who will be going to North Africa will have been former shopkeepers or small business-men whose employment outlook in North Africa will be slim, even under a liberal interpretation of the agreement. Likewise they will be by and large persons who do not have relatives in countries of immigration so that the initiative for moving onward from North Africa cannot logically be undertaken by them.

In this connection I had the opportunity of talking with Kuhlmann of the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees when he passed through Madrid recently. He told me that Patrick Malin is now making a survey of the refugee problem in the Mediterranean area and will pass through Algiers on his way back to England. At Kuhlmann's suggestion, I have telegraphed Algiers to get the date of Malin's probable arrival there to see whether we can arrange to meet, there or elsewhere as his schedule permits. Specifically what Kuhlmann proposes and what I should very much like to work out with Malin is to have some member of the camp designated to represent and maintain contact with the Intergovernmental Committee in London so as to keep as closely in touch with immigration possibilities as possible.

Finally, there is now in the wind a project to offer some refugees "duration visas" to Canada and the arrival in Madrid of a Canadian representative is expected next week. So far as I could tell from the brief conversation I had with him in Lisbon perhaps a hundred people may be able to go to Canada from here, since the Canadian government is interested only in family units.

This is the picture to date. To save time I am taking the liberty of sending a copy of this letter and its enclosures directly to Washington. If you think it advisable will you see that Tom Cope and Ray Baxter get a copy in Casablanca. For your sake, I don't know whether to hope that I still find you in Algiers when I return or to look forward to hearing that you've gone on to Cairo. It would, however, be good to see you again. My best regards to the gang. The food is better here than at Yan's but I miss the company.

Sincerely,

M. W. Beckelman

ENCLOSURE A

Draft of proposed announcement to refugees as prepared by M. W. Beckelman and approved by American Embassy)

ANNOUNCEMENT

In agreement with the governments of the United Kingdom and the United States, the French Committee of National Liberation has arranged to receive in Morocco refugees now living in Spain who are at present without nationality status and whose interests cannot consequently be represented by any of the United Nations Governments. Such persons upon their arrival in Morocco, will be housed in a Reception Center about ten miles from Casablanca. The Center is a modern army barracks, built in 1943 and until recently occupied by American troops. The Center will be administered by representatives of the American and British governments who will use every effort within the limits imposed by the physical conditions, to facilitate normal communal life on the part of the residents of the Center. The Administration will provide food, necessary medical care and necessary clothing so far as the latter is available. All able bodied residents of the Center will be expected to contribute toward the cost of their maintenance by performing such duties connected with the operation of the Center as may be suited to their abilities.

Residents of the Center will be permitted to seek regular employment and in cases where such employment is regarded as favorable to Moroccan economy, appropriate work-permits will be issued by the local authorities including residence permits in the district of employment. Those persons who do not obtain work permits will make their residence in the center. Permits will be available for temporary visits to Casablanca or other cities for varying periods of time, subject to such restrictions as security requirements and limitation of transportation facilities make necessary.

The Reception Center in North Africa is intended to provide a safe and friendly center for refugees from which efforts may be continued toward further emigration or, when circumstances permit, towards return to the country of permanent residence. In cooperation with the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees, the Administration of the Center will do everything possible to assist with such emigration or return. Inasmuch, however, as these depend essentially upon factors which are beyond the control of the Administration of the Center--such as the progress of military operations, the availability of transportation, and the immigration laws of various countries--it is impossible to give any indication of the length of time during which residents will remain at the Center.

Persons interested in being considered for admission to the Reception Center should fill out the application on the reverse side and bring it to the office of the Representation in Spain of American Relief Organizations, Calle Eduardo Dato 20, Madrid.

APPLICATION

I, the undersigned, having read the preceding Announcement, hereby make application for transportation to and admission into the Refugee Reception Center in Morocco. I accept the conditions stated in that announcement. I further certify that the information given below is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

(There follows identifying data and personal history and information.
See Enclosure C)

Signature.

ENCLOSURE B

The French Committee of National Liberation, in agreement with the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States of America, has given its consent that refugees at present living in Spain who have no diplomatic representative in that country be lodged in Morocco until such time as another destination be decided upon.

These persons will be housed in a reception center which is located about 15 km. from Casablanca. This Center is a modern military barracks, built in 1943 and occupied until recently by American troops.

This Center will be administered by official British and American representatives who will do everything in their power, within the limits imposed by the circumstances, to make possible a normal and pleasant existence for the refugees.

The British and American authorities will provide food and will attend to medical care as well as clothing insofar as that is possible.

All able-bodied refugees will contribute to defraying the expenses of their maintenance and will undertake, in accordance with their aptitudes, certain duties connected with the operation of the Center.

The refugees will eventually be authorized to seek employment, and in the event that they be considered useful to the Moroccan economy, the local authorities will supply them with work permits. They will also be enabled to obtain permission to live temporarily in the cities where they have been employed.

Those persons who do not find employment will be compelled to remain in the camp. However, they will be permitted to obtain, for duly established reasons, authorizations to leave the camp; these authorizations will be of varying length depending upon the restrictions dictated by security considerations and the available means of transportation.

The North African Center is designed to provide a safe and friendly shelter for refugees from which they may continue their efforts toward another emigration, or, when circumstances permit, toward a return to the country of their former residence.

The Administration of the Center, in collaboration with the "Inter-governmental Committee for Refugees" will do everything within its power to facilitate this emigration or return. Insofar as these plans depend on conditions beyond the control of the Administration --as, for example, military developments, available means of transportation or the various immigration laws of the different countries--it is impossible to ascertain the length of time during which certain refugees will be obliged to remain at the Center.

Persons desiring admission to the Center should fill out the enclosed application and present it at the "Representation in Spain of American Relief Organizations", Calle Eduardo Dato 20, Madrid.

ENCLOSURE C

ANNOUNCEMENT

In agreement with the governments of the United Kingdom and the United States, the French Committee of National Liberation has given its consent that refugees at present living in Spain who are without diplomatic representation be received in Morocco until such time as their further migration can be arranged. Such persons will be housed in a Reception Center about 15 km. from Casablanca. The center is a modern army barracks built in 1943 and until recently occupied by American troops. The Center will be administered by representatives of the American and British governments who will use every effort, within the limits imposed by the physical conditions, to facilitate normal communal life on the part of the residents of the center. The American and British authorities will provide food, necessary medical care and essential clothing, so far as the latter is available. All able-bodied residents of the center will be expected to contribute towards the cost of their maintenance by performing such duties connected with the operation of the center as may be suited to their abilities.

The French authorities are prepared after an examination of each particular case to grant permission to work in Morocco to refugees who can continue their occupation without disadvantage to the economy of the Protectorate. Such refugees will enjoy the right to remain in the area where it will have been possible to obtain employment for them, with the sole reservation of conforming to such controls as may be deemed necessary.

With respect to refugees who will not have been authorized to work and who as a result will have to be cared for at the Fedhala Camp, the French administration, if the occasion arises, will grant them facilities to remain

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away temporarily from the housing center, on the condition that they maintain their regular residence at the camp and observe scrupulously the laws and regulations of the country, in particular those regarding immigration. Such facilities will also be subject to restrictions imposed by the necessity of maintaining order and security in the territory of the protectorate and by limitation of available transportation.

The Reception Center in North Africa is intended to provide a safe and friendly center for refugees from which efforts may be continued toward further emigration or, when circumstances permit, toward return to the country of permanent residence. In cooperation with the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees, the Administration of the Center will do everything possible to assist with such emigration or return. Inasmuch, however, as these depend essentially upon factors which are beyond the control of the Administration of the Center, such as the progress of military operations, the availability of transportation, and the immigration laws of the various countries involved - it is impossible to give any indication of the length of time during which residents will remain at the center.

Persons interested in being considered for admission to the Reception Center should fill out the enclosed application and bring it to the office of the Representation in Spain of American Relief Organizations, Calle Eduardo Data 20, Madrid.

000716

APPLICATION

I, the undersigned, having read the preceding announcement, hereby make application for transportation to and admission into the Refugee Reception Center in Morocco. I undertake to observe all the conditions set forth in that text. I further certify that the information given below is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

DEMANDE

Je soussigné, déclare avoir pris connaissance des explications précédentes; je demande à être admis dans un convoi pour l'Afrique du Nord et à être hébergé au "Centre d'Accueil Marocain pour Réfugiés." Je m'engage à respecter toutes les conditions contenues dans ce texte.

Je certifie en outre que les indications données ci-dessous sont vraies, sincères et données de bonne foi.

000717

Coop. with Spain

February 1, 1944

Memorandum of Conversation with Mr. Leavitt of the JDC

1. According to a report received two to three months ago, there are about 8,000 to 9,000 refugees in Spain. Of this number about 2,500 to 3,000 are Jews, of whom about 1,800 are stateless.
2. There are several concentration camps for refugees which are operated by the Spanish Government. The largest camp is Camp Meranda where about 3,000 people are living in extremely crowded and under inhuman conditions. The camps are really prisons where the people are kept under strict detention. The camps are located in old prisons, barracks and vacant hotels.
3. In addition to the government-operated prison camps, some of the refugees are permitted to live in restricted residences, where the refugees have greater personal liberty than in the prison camps but the areas in which they may move around are very small. Many of the people in these restricted residences are aided by organizations such as the JDC, particularly with respect to supplemental food.
4. A small number of the refugees are permitted to live in little pensions located mainly in the cities. These refugees have somewhat greater freedom than the group in the restricted residence areas in that they are permitted to move around freely in the ~~area~~ ^{cities} in which their pensions are located. The JDC pays for many of these refugees. All of the refugees report regularly to the Spanish police authorities.
5. The Spanish Government does not maintain a strict border control with respect to refugees desiring entry into the country. It does not send any refugees back into France. Of course, many of the refugees violate the Spanish Government's customs declaration requirements and, for this reason, they become technically subject to arrest and are imprisoned in concentration camps. The Spanish Government has indicated an attitude of somewhat greater strictness with respect to Sefardic Jews in that before the latter are permitted to enter Spain, the Spanish Government requires assurances that the Sefardic Jews will be reevacuated to another country. Leavitt says that this attitude of the Spanish Government has been very discouraging and has delayed the entry of several hundred Sefardics into Spain. He states that there is some indication that there are several hundred Sefardic Jews in Germany today who could be brought into Spain if the required assurances were made to the Spanish Government.
6. The two private organizations working among the refugees in Spain are the Quakers and the JDC. The Quaker group is headed by Mr. and Mrs. Elickenstaff with offices in Madrid. The JDC office is in Barcelona. While the Quakers pay for their own administrative costs, the JDC subventions

practically all of the relief which is given to the refugees. The Quakers and the JDC have concentrated on the 1800 stateless Jews in Spain. Those Jews, ^{stateless} not stateless are receiving care and help from the consulates of their own governments. Leavitt says that the Czech, Dutch and Polish consulates in particular have been doing a lot of work among their nationals.

F. Hodel

000719

OPY

Telegram Sent

Restricted

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

January 25, 1944

Midnight

Amembassy

London. *Made ad*

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The President has instructed the Secretaries of State, Treasury and War to make action for the immediate rescue and relief of the Jews of Europe and other victims of enemy persecution. In an executive order issued January 22 the President declared QUOTE it is the policy of this Government to take all measures within its power to rescue the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death and otherwise to afford such victims all possible relief and assistance consistent with the successful prosecution of the war UNQUOTE. The order established special governmental machinery for executing this policy. It created a War Refugee Board consisting of the Secretaries of State, Treasury and War. The Board is charged with direct responsibility to the President in seeing that the announced policy is carried out. The President indicated that while he would look directly to the Board for the execution of this policy, the Board would cooperate with the Intergovernmental Committee, UNRRA, and other interested international organizations. The President stated that he expected the cooperation of all members of the United Nations and other governments in carrying out this difficult but important task. He stated that the existing facilities of the State, Treasury and War Departments would be employed to furnish aid to Axis victims to the fullest extent possible. He stressed that it was urgent that action be taken to forestall the plot of the Nazis to exterminate the Jews and other persecuted minorities in Europe.

You should do everything possible to effectuate this policy of this Government, bearing in mind that time is of the essence. You should cooperate closely with all public and established private agencies who are active in your area in this field, aiding them in the development of coordinated programs and in the effectuation of integrated measures for the rescue, transportation, maintenance and relief of victims of enemy oppression, etc.

The communication facilities should be made freely available to these private agencies for all appropriate messages for carrying out the policy of this Government herein stated, keeping the War Refugee Board advised through the Department. You should give them every assistance in obtaining and verifying information.

You are requested to render an immediate report concerning the actual situation as it exists today in the country to which you are accredited. This report should include a full statement as to what is being done to rescue the Jews and other persecuted minorities from Hitler, including particularly (a) the extent to which these war refugees are permitted to enter the country to which you are accredited (b) the extent to which such country actually encourages and cooperates

Government
Yvesp/254

Yvesp/254 (ES)
copies sent to governments
communicated to various
agencies before being
replied to what be

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- 2 -

in their entry and (c) the extent to which such refugees are not able to enter such country because of the failure of such country to cooperate in their entry. This report should cover actual cases which have come to your attention involving refugees being turned back at the border and the reasons why such refugees were turned back. You should also report periodically on cases of this character which come to your attention in the future.

You should include in your report your recommendations as to what you feel this Government can do to effectuate with all possible speed the rescue and relief of the victims of enemy oppression, including particularly what can be done to make the government of the country to which you are accredited cooperate more fully in carrying out this policy. Your report should cover any special obstacles which you feel are interfering with the rescue and relief of these victims and your recommendations as to what can be done to remove these obstacles.

You are requested to approach the Government to which you are accredited, explain the policy expressed in the President's Executive Order referred to above, and ascertain from such Government the extent to which it is prepared to cooperate.

Diplomatic and consular officers are instructed to do everything possible to carry out the policy expressed in the President's Executive Order. This cablegram has been transmitted by telegram or airgram to all diplomatic and consular offices.

Repeat to consular offices under your jurisdiction.

HULL
(ES)

CODE ROOM - Repeat to Missions at Lisbon as 200, Madrid as 207, Stockholm as 131, Bern as 251, and Ankara as 68

840.48 Refugees.

FD:RKT:RS 1/25/44 WEA A-B

ehsCopy
2-1-44

Distributed to: Secretary (Mr. E.M. Bernstein); Mr. D.W. Bell (Mr. Dietrich); Mr. Paul; Mr. White (Mr. E.M. Bernstein-Orig); Mr. Luxford; Mr. Pehle; Mr. E.M. Bernstein; Mr. Glasser/ Mr. Taylor; Mr. Ness.

From Miss E. Hynes. - Ra.225

000721

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE
20 South Twelfth Street
Philadelphia 7, Pennsylvania

Lisbon Office
Rua de D. Pedro V, 7-1,°

22nd December, 1943

LETTER NO. 672

James G. Vail
20 South Twelfth Street
PHILADELPHIA, Penna.

Re: Cost of Living in Spain

Dear James Vail:

I have just run across your No. 125, which came in six weeks ago, when I was in North Africa and I somehow missed seeing it before going to Spain. You raise the question of the Delegates' heavy requirements for living expenses in Madrid.

As I did not cover this specific detail in my report, now on the way to you, I am cabling my impression in brief. I am sorry I did not get a statement of budget detail which David probably has, but I do know that their scale of living is modest. I was in their home several times - three times to meals, and they were simple meals. The flat itself is small, and though comfortable, by no means luxuriously furnished. But it costs Pts.1,500.00 a month (\$140.00). The housing problem is acute, many of the newcomers to the official Embassy staff pay much more - up to Pts.3,000.00. When you wrote, if I remember dates, the figures were based on life in a hotel - modest hotel at that - and that is exorbitant in Madrid. They have had to buy some clothes, as they came with a meager wardrobe, and prices are all prohibitive. Of course, recently they have had heavy expenses on account of Janine's illness, but that was after you wrote.

You have had much fuller reports from Spain since you wrote, and can appraise much better the situation, but there may still be questions, which the reports have not covered. If so, please raise them with David or with me, as there is no intention of doing otherwise than keeping you fully informed.

You mentioned Dr. Leland Brubaker, and it reminded me that David was anxious you should share with him the reports sent on by him and by me.

As Dr. J. J. Schwartz now in New York knows the problems of living costs in Spain, I suggest in my cable that you might get from him illuminating details.

RECEIVED
SO. AUSTIN CASE
NUMBER C- 4577
FEBRUARY 10 1952

RECEIVED

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One element occurs to me that David may not have covered. Janine's sister is working full time in the office and living with the Blickenstaffs. I understand she fares like any other "refugee" on the staff - that is, she gets her living expenses. It is possible that in David's living expenses are included those of all three, and I think it most likely, but the sister's may be charged to staff support.

In any case, I did not see any extravagance. Both work very hard (until Janine was taken ill) and both are distressed at the excessive costs to the Committee of their maintenance.

Sincerely yours, /

/s/ P. A. Conard

Philip A. Conard

PAC/DIT

000723

7

Alphabetical
Route listing

Secy. (orig.)

Abrahamson

Bernstein

Cohn

Dubois (2)

Friedman

Gaston

Hodel

Laughlin

Lesser

Luxford

Mann

McCormack

Paul

Pelle

Poliak

Standish

Stewart

H. D. White

Files

12. Excerpts and summary of report on Spain from Philip A. Conard to James Vail dated Madrid, Nov. 20, 1943 and received Jan. 14, 1944 (Taken from State Department files)

000723

7 raw - North York

TO: JGV CEP GRC LOH MF LBJ ESC JA JJ JFR MHJ MMR MPS
MEJ NK Mrs. Philip Conrad

Excerpts and Summary of Report on Spain from Philip A. Conrad to
James Vail, dated Madrid, November 20, 1943 and received Jan. 14, 1944

For Friends in Philadelphia it may seem unnecessary to preface any report from Spain with a caution. But it is with so much hesitation that one ventures to set down anything about Spain, that he feels obliged to say with double emphasis: STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL
NOT TO BE QUOTED !!!

Some Problems of the Early Period

It will be recalled that David and Janine came to Madrid on the invitation of the Ambassador "for conference." Although he had in mind their services in the work for refugees, he wished naturally to consult with them and know not only their ability to do what was needed to be done, but also their willingness to undertake some of the tasks involved. For example, many of those who are fleeing from the terrors of war they have witnessed are determined to enter the struggle where they may against the leadership of their homeland which has robbed them of their homes, families, property and nationality. Some relief workers might hesitate on conscientious grounds to help such persons on their way. Another question was whether the Delegates would be willing to be incorporated in the official staff, should it seem wise to have the refugee work all done by "attaches" at the Embassy itself.

While these and many questions were being cleared up, time passed and it was several months before final decisions were reached and the Delegates took up definitely their responsibilities. Indeed, the official Spanish permit to open an office is dated the 10th of April.

In the meantime, work had been carried on in a small room at the Embassy, but the numbers requiring attention were such as to make proper service impossible. Waiting refugees became not a queue but a mob. The importance of the work to be done was at once apparent, as the Spanish Red Cross (which had been charged by the Spanish Government with the interests of the "Stateless" refugees) came with a lot of pending "cases." Besides, the Consulates and the Legations which had been carrying a lot of marginal cases immediately unloaded on David and Janine. Conditions were so desperate

and claims pressed with such insistence day and night that they found it necessary twice to change hotels to get away from the overwhelming throng.

An Office As a favorable Destiny would have it, in a city where the housing problem is severe, a house on the ground floor, long vacant and in bad repair, was found available next door to the Embassy on one side and next door to the Spanish Red Cross on the other. And in the nick of time it was secured (a representative from the German Embassy was looking at the place at the same time, and David beat him by a matter of seconds in saying, "I'll take it.") The place has eight rooms mostly small, and it has been well adapted for the purpose with every inch of space in use. As rents go in Madrid, the amount paid, 1,000.00 pesetas a month, is very reasonable.

As suitable new furniture is prohibitive in price, good fortune smiled again, and second-hand pieces were found at relatively reasonable prices, supplemented at a timely "sale" of filing cases. So the place is attractively though modestly furnished. Suggestive of the cost of furniture is the figure required of a badly needed safe--at least 5,000.00 pesetas !

Moving in Late in May it became possible to use the premises. Then began the process of organizing and staffing the office for the expanding and complicated services to be rendered.

As a visitor sees from 75 to 120 callers all given needed attention in a single morning here, he comes to admire the excellent and efficient staff and organization.

One serious handicap as winter comes on is the fact that the furnace for heating the place is in the unoccupied basement, which the owner (a capricious person of great wealth) has so far declined to rent. To install electric heating will be costly, but it may offer the only solution. *Added note in pencil--* Later David rented the basement for 300 pesetas a month. A fine place for handling the clothing just arrived in a Spanish port.

Appraisal of David and I called on the Ambassador soon after my Relaxation arrival, and it was evident that he had a high opinion of David, his work and his judgment. Later I was invited to have tea with Ambassador and Mrs. Hayes, and he expressed his confidence in David and Janine, saying that he thought the Committee could not have made a better or wiser choice for this difficult and delicate post. He particularly mentioned with approval David's frankness, and said the same confidence and appreciation was to be found wherever he had to meet officials - in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the British Embassy, the French Mission, and other Embassies, Legations and Consulates.

In meeting people - Red Cross Delegates, Directors of Camps and prisons, General people, the Delegates of the Lehman organization, and other friends - I have heard many expressions of the same high regard for both the character and the capacity of our Delegates.

The report also contains (page 7) a discussion of the Staff "other than Assistant" - meaning a Refugee Staff - and there is appended to the report the biographies of 13 of these Staff members. Jimmie Blotenshaft's younger sister, Luc Langston, is also devoting all of her time to the work of the office.

The relations of David Blotenshaft with the Spanish Red Cross, the American Embassy, other Embassies and Legations and the Spanish authorities are described as being very satisfactory. (pages 7-8).

A description of his relations with his Staff follows:

The work is so organized that practically all detail is handled by members of the staff, both personal laborers with those who call and correspondents. This leaves David free to deal with special cases or problems as they come up, go over briefly matters to be taken up by others, check and sign all correspondence, and make the necessary visits outside the office. This keeps him in touch with everything as he takes up with the chiefs of his staff all affairs being given attention, and yet is never overwhelmed with the great amount of detail covered in the far-reaching service constantly being rendered.

Refugee Problems After a general discussion of the cruel situation in Spain, in which refugees find themselves in Spain, there follows this paragraph.

"And so with an endless series of conditions and regulations - many of them established by different authorities and often so contradictory as to defeat their own ends. For instance, every pressure is put on the refugees to leave the country, but if he cannot get his documents in time to leave in regular form and decides to leave anyway and is caught at it, he is brought back and thrown into prison again. Or a refugee who has been here for ten years or more, having taken out citizenship, married, had children and built up a business, is suddenly stripped of his nationality and permission to work and given an expulsion order. Having done no wrong and having absolutely no place to go he finds himself in prison like a criminal and his family in want."

Financial Here details of how to be to get small figures as to numbers. The number is, of course, considerably shifting. While many are being evacuated, a stream of clandestine immigrants to enter (perhaps 100 per week), and new measures there admitted groups into the "refugee" class. On the whole the numbers

have been much reduced during the year. The present situation seems to be about as follows: the total number now probably does not exceed 2000 or 3000.

a. French

Of these some 4,000 to 5,000 are French, twice as many having been already evacuated. A French Mission (headed by a Minister), operating in relation to the Spanish authorities as the French Red Cross (headed by Monsigneur Boyer-Des), in cooperative liaison with the American Embassy, is evacuating them to North Africa as "escaped prisoners of war." The process was slow at the start in April or May, but has been speeded up recently with weekly sailings, and shortly they will all be gone. How greatly this will relieve the whole situation can be judged from the fact that of the 2300 internees in Miranda Camp over 2000 are French, and the French alone occupy several other institutions.

b. Other nationalities, by groups.

The following countries are represented by their officials who look after their own nationals. Earlier it was very difficult to evacuate these because of restrictions, even when the pressures were severe tending to force them to leave. But more recent practice has allowed them to get out, so that in many cases there are none left except as new arrivals come in - now comparatively few. There may be some, of course, who are held for common misdemeanors, but we refer to bona fide refugees against whom there is no charge of wrong doing. The numbers given in some cases are estimates and change from day to day, but this will give a general idea of the situation.

<u>Country</u>	<u>Refugees</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Refugees</u>
United States	a few new arrivals	Italian	10
Great Britain:		(On Nov. 4th the Italian Embassy took over responsibility for these from David and the American Embassy)	
English	" " " "	Austrians	75
Dominions	" " " "	(The Czech Legation is now planning to take these over from David)	
Greeks	12	Cuban	25
Polish	200	Argentine	a few
Dutch	360	Brazil	a few
Belgian	165		
Luxemburg	25		
Czechoslovacs	22		
(until recently 150)			

etc.
(These can hardly be called "refugees" as they are citizens of their respective countries living here, some of whom are being repatriated)

Stateless

1700 to 1800

Reference to report shows that these include by former Nationalities the following percentages:

Polish	27.6%	German	26.0%
Hungarian	7.2%	(Anti-Nazis, Jews, deserters, etc.)	
Austrian	10.2%	Rumanian	6.0%
Russian	5.2%	S. American	4.8%
Spanish	3.0%	Baltics	1.4%
Miscel	8.2%	Turks	0.4%

(The above chart includes a few each of Greeks, Yugoslavs, Moroccans, etc.)

Many of these "Stateless" are marginal cases of different declared nationality, who cannot prove their citizenship, or for other reasons lack protection.

Others are of earlier entry into Spain. In general those who came here in the 1930's and settled are not considered "refugees" by their officials.

c. Special groups

Besides the above, not difficult to classify, there are some groups which fall to the attention of this Office which merit special mention.

1) Sefardic (or Sephardite) Jews.

When the Jews were expelled from Spain some 400 years ago they settled in colonies in many lands. It suited Spain politically to "protect" them in their new homes as "Spanish" citizens. They constitute a "minority" for whose protection Spain could demand certain concessions - extraterritoriality in Turkey, for instance. So there have been for generations these communities of "Spaniards." Now that Germany has occupied so many of the lands where these people have lived, and applied the anti-Jewish laws of repression and extermination, Spain has found it difficult to maintain her "protection" even for those with perfectly good citizenship documentation. To cancel their claim to Spanish nationality and let writers take their course was heartless, and yet they were not wanted in Spain. It was finally proposed to give them temporary asylum by groups as "Stateless" refugees, and when one group should have emigrated another would be admitted. This problem of emigration was left to David's office, and the first group of 73 from Paris were admitted. It is proving to be delicate and complicated affair, given their antecedents and documentation. Also it was impossible to make much of a convincing plea to any other country to take them since they are "Spanish" and now in Spain.

There are some 300 still in France, Holland and Belgium, and perhaps 2500 in Greece and the Balkans. Some say get away to Palestine and some to North Africa among the "stateless." It remains to be seen whether any will survive except those already here! Some have been drafted for military service while their wives and children are pressed to leave the country! (Logic, where are they?)

Another group of 40 are in Barcelona, but the Government, so far as we know, has not made of them a test case on the emigration process.

2) Foreign residents

Since the Civil War, the authorities have been forcing into the category of "stateless" numbers of foreigners who came to the country years before the war and settled into the life of the community, with documentation, work permits and all in order. In some cases they have become citizens and have children born here. But they are set adrift as stateless with orders to leave the country. Our office is looked to for help on these cases.

3) Exiles of refugees.

There are a number of Spanish women married to refugees who with their children are stranded while the foreign husbands are in prison and camp. These naturally appeal for help to those who have in charge the interests of their men.

4) Married cases.

Many refugees come in claiming to be Americans, Canadians, Argentines or other nationality, but who can offer scant if any proof. The process of getting such proof, if indeed there is any, is long and tedious. And if the officials of the claimed nationality find the evidence insufficient, the cases fall to our Committee. Sometimes it is possible to get supplementary and convincing proof, but in the meantime the individuals must be supported and protected as stateless.

Responsibilities of Administration

While the authorities hold firmly to their present policy, the only solution for all these people is emigration. There does not seem to be the slightest inclination to give them asylum according to civilized custom or international law, nor to have Spain bear part of the burden of these harassed folk. This England has taken 80,000 or 100,000 (50,000 from Germany and Austria alone), and the United States, I suppose, some 300,000, the attitude here still seems to be limited to the demand "get out!" and "how!"

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The possibilities for these 1700 or 1800 stateless seem to be three:

1) Palestine.

Over 500 of the Jews have visas for Palestine and arrangements are being made for their transportation. The authorities have been urged to allow a Spanish ship to be chartered and leave from a Spanish port, but to date the answer is negative. The request for a Portuguese ship is still under consideration by the Junta Maritima. If this Board gives a favorable decision, it is hoped that these hundreds (increased, perhaps, by some of the Gafarde Jews) can get away by the end of the year.

2) Regular emigration

A few are getting visas and getting away by the usual channels to various countries. Our Office is studying the conditions of the Ecuador Project to see whether some of them would qualify for that field. As for migration to the United States, a recent application in the advisory approval from Washington which makes it applicable only in case the person cannot be included in the list for North Africa, has mysteriously suspended the granting of visas for the present.

3) North Africa (All references to this item is particularly confidential until the matter is made public officially)

In the proposed "Camp" or "Rehabilitation Center" in Morocco, which I discussed in my report on North Africa, it is thought to take from Spain all the "stateless". The agreement of the Government involved provided for 6,000, and it was expected that the first 1,500 would be taken over as an initial contingent. It was proposed to send a Joint Commission to Spain to make the selection. However, as there proved to be no problem of "selection" since the total number would not exceed much if any of the 1800, probably the lists will be made up with the help of David's office, where the most complete files are to be found. It is hoped, therefore that within the next few weeks arrangements may be completed, and practically the whole group given the opportunity to leave Spain.

Of course, David is anxious to make perfectly clear to the refugees, so far as his connection with the project goes, the exact conditions under which the offer is made and those under which the immigrants are to live in Africa. Responsibility remains, of course, entirely with the Allied Governmental authorities.

Other Problems Migration is but one of the problems involved in the Am. Services work of the Madrid Office. Other are mentioned in the statistical reports each month sent by cable and letter.

1) Relief

The most important is, of course, the direct help given the refugees, whether they be new comers with only the clothes they have on, or those long in prison or camp, or released into forced residence. Support for food, clothes, shelter and usual modest expenses. On pay-days--1st, 2nd, 3rd, 16th, 17th and 18th of the month--the number of callers at the Office runs as high as 190 a day. And the daily average for the recent months has been 84. Besides the relief payments made at the Office, several hundred are made by check, many of them collective for several persons.

There are about 350 persons receiving full support in Madrid. Some 20 others receive partial support. Then there are 30 in Madrid prisons for each of whom the hot food sent in and incidentals cost about 500 pesetas a month. At Miranda another 45 or 50 receive weekly allowance. All told outside of Madrid 195 receive the weekly allowance.

2) Prisons

In the report mentioned above of August 23rd, there was included a list of 54 places where prisons, camps or forced residences are established. By careful and persistent inquiry some stateless internees have been located in various places (some of them really "forgotten men"). Services to these imprisoned include the arrangement in some cases for hot food to be sent in to them, supplying them with food packages, needed clothing and blankets.

Through full conference with the Director General of Prisons David secured permission to visit these prisoners, and so personal contact has been established with many of the, and their sad lot and problems studied personally. Help is given on documentation and on their release to freedom of covenant or at least to forced residence.

3) Clothing.

The six tons of clothing last received on the lot of 50 tons bound for France arrived late in Lisbon. The navigart was modified to allow three tons to go to Switzerland and three tons to Spain. Arrangements were made to send this to Spain at the rate of 30 five-kilo packages every fifteen days. There is still a good part of this shipment to be received. But that already received, supplemented with certain purchases made locally, has been distributed to the most needy cases.

The new shipment of 27 tons is expected to arrive this month on the SS "Rotemar" at a Spanish port. Will it be released before the refugees are gone?

A purchase has just been made of 100 blankets - the most-needed shield from the winter for prisoners with no warm clothes and no beds who must sleep on the bare cement floor. But blankets are expensive - \$10.00 each. Statistics have not been kept separate as to numbers receiving clothing (though the information is all, of course, in the individual dossiers) but the number would exceed 600 persons.

In answer to the suggestion from Philadelphia, I understand David has started to furnish copies of letters of appreciation for this service of clothing distribution.

4) Medical Attention

The financial statements show that up to October 31st, there had been expended for medical service by the Madrid office, the sum of pesetas 85,720.35 (say \$7,828.30). Besides this, the attention of a refugee doctor is given gratis daily at the office, and many refugees avail themselves of his service.

5) Classes

Free classes are offered in English, Hebrew, History, etc., at the rooms during hours not open to refugee callers. The number interested has not been large, but those who come are appreciative of this help.

6) Money Transfers.

For the beneficiaries, this is a most fortunate service. It has not been extensive and its administration always raises certain questions of conscience for the recipients as well as for the Committee. What, if any, consideration in the amount of relief support furnished, should be given to the fact that a protege receives a resittance through the transfer service? If he receives regularly \$70.00 a month from the Committee for normal minimum requirements of food and shelter and then gets \$100.00 from a friend, should the Committee cut the \$70.00? It would seem just and equitable, but at a certain point the client will advise his friend to save his figs for a more favorable opportunity, and go on living on the Committee. This fact should not discourage the sending of this transfer relief as all who get it are certainly in dire need of it, and it does relieve the Committee in many unusual medical expenses, clothes for winter, etc.

7) Correspondence

The correspondence entailed in this service amounts to from 1100 to 1400 letters and telegrams received during the month and from 1300 to 2000 sent out.

4) Case histories.

Some case histories are being reported separately illustrating the kinds of problems that the refugees present and the human tragedies they represent.

Finances: The financial statements that have gone forward from month to month in recent months have given all pertinent information regarding the movement of funds. We note that the expenditures for AFSC relief and administration have increased each month as follows:

January to May	61,077.20	Pesetas
June	28,779.10	"
July	51,505.05	"
August	60,570.65	"
September	85,220.75	"
October	87,968.10	"

The latter figures will probably be maintained until the exodus is effected of some of the present progegees, and a cable is going forward suggesting this as the monthly budget - \$7,900.00. Should a considerable number of our cases get away to Africa or elsewhere, the relief load would sharply decline. However, by that time other fields of service may be open which will offer a chance for a real program of relief in Spain.

We understand that the JEC is spending over \$100,000.00 a month on relief in Spain, of which from \$27,000.00 to \$30,000.00 are handled through the Madrid office.

Three interesting items outside of Joint and Friends support may be noted:

1) The Unitarian Service Committee are sending relief to cases in Spain through our Office to the amount of from 15,000.00 to 25,000.00 pesetas a month. The office treats all these cases, of course exactly the same as any others.

2) The High Commissioner for Refugees of the League of Nations sent a fund of 1250 (10,125.00 pesetas) destined to internees at Miranda. The limitations placed on the use of these funds (for International Brigaders) made it impossible to do more than carry them on the books until their release from such restrictions is authorized. In the meantime, needless to say, no one has been allowed to suffer neglect because these funds are tied up. David is in correspondence with Mr. Fred Hoehler on the matter.

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Cost of Living: The report contains 4 1/2 pages concerning the cost of living in Spain. It is not surprising to find that the cost of living is exorbitantly high and that the Black Market is flourishing. Philip Conard considers it extremely lucky that David has to pay only 1500 pesetas for his modest apartment. He lists the official ration and price and the uncontrolled prices of various articles of food (ham is \$4.00 a kilo, sugar ranges from 30¢ to \$3.00 a kilo, etc.). There is a serious food shortage in Spain. "For many months there was practically no oil, butter, rice, potatoes, etc." A comparative study of prices from 1913 to 1942 shows that the general average of prices of leading articles of food, of coal, iron ore, electric current rose from 1913 by 250% in 1939 (at the end of the Civil War) and in 1942 by 400%.

Transportation: Though the Committee sometime ago authorized the Lisbon office to buy a car for David, by the time the permission arrived there was no suitable car available, "and before another was located, David found a good panel-type delivery truck (3/4 ton) belonging to the Quakers in France, abandoned on the frontier. After much negotiation it was finally brought in, but it now looks as if the costs for freeing it would be prohibitive.

"For knocking about and ordinary use in the city as well as for the necessary trips to the country, there should be a small car and David is still on the lookout for one. His father-in-law, Samuel Ybargoyen, when expelled from France as a Uruguayan Vice Consul, left his diplomatic car at the frontier. Negotiations are in progress for getting it in. It will probably be offered for sale, and might prove a good purchase!"

Lot of Food: When the six Delegates destined for France arrived in Lisbon a year ago they brought a quantity of food. Part of it was allowed through, but a dozen cases of meat and butter remained in the Customs House Deposit for reshipment in bond when its new destination should be determined. As time went on and no need developed where it could be used - in North Africa, for example - and with the time limit for its removal long expired, it was decided to send it to Madrid for the Delegates' personal use, and for the food package service carried on. One case each was sent on as a test, and when they arrived with no difficulty except delay, the balance was shipped. It has not yet come but will be most useful when it gets here.

Visits to Barcelona, Valencia and Alicante: Philip Conard reports in some detail the interviews with various people in these places. Some of them are refugees, some of the Spaniards

and some of them American officials. The list of the persons interviewed is as follows:

Barcelona

Sr. Ernesto Tell, Lawyer
Mr. O. Lokvik
Mrs. Elin (widow of Nils) Bengtson
Dr. & Mrs. Antonio Carreras
Sr. Pedro Gimenez
Mr. H. W. Eddy
Mr. Whitfield
Miss Richat Gozalvo
Mme. Fortunee Palomo
Sra. Carmen Vidal de Lasnik
Sra. Raquel Bence de Stinchomb
Mrs. Sophia Barzochi
Sylvan Kahn
Jose Soler Sturtiwante
Nicolas Cosci
Harry Montner

American Consulate:
Mr. Forsythe
Mr. Poole
Sra. Canela de Lopez
Sr. Florentino Pala
Sr. Isaac Ezzatty y Botton
Mrs. Dolly Avonola Vlasceanu
August Hirschler
Mrs. Dolores Strauss
Sra. Carmen Callardo de Lliteras
Johann Lammes
Israel & Tamara Ivenetsky and
Michele Vainstein
Luis Lindor
Political Prisoners

Valencia

Mr. William Galbraith
Sr. Lamotte de Grignon

Sra. Amalia C. Garcia de
Espines and daughter

Alicante

Methodist Boy's School

Relief Office
in Barcelona:

Dr. Sequira represents both the JDC and Hicem, using separate offices for each. He had very trying times for many months having no authorization to function as a Jewish Committee agent. He acted only as an individual and often under the threats of trouble or expulsion. Once the Police closed his Office and took all his files and documents and kept them for ten days. But he finally won his way until now he has a good part of one floor in his hotel and an admirable organization and staff of fifteen people, mostly refugees of ability and experience. A more cordial, fraternal and helpful reception I could not have had from anyone. His brother from Lisbon is his chief associate.

I was agreeably surprised and much impressed by his work. They have about 1200 cases of relief, of whom about 6 or 7% are non-Jewish. He says he makes no distinction because of religion. His standing with the authorities seems to be excellent, to judge by the cases of cooperation of which he told me. And he is evidently on the best of terms at the American and British Consulates.

On behalf of the Madrid Office I consulted Dr. Sequerira on a matter connected with the remittance of funds, to which he immediately consented, and on the "division of territory" - that is, the handling of cases referred to Madrid but located in the Barcelona area, and vice versa - on which point he is expecting further clearance from David.

As to former misunderstandings, he said all had been cleared up, and he had only admiration for David and his organization and work.

Visits North: As David was visiting some prisons, camps and forced residences in the north, and had the use of a car, I went along. It was really gratifying to see the cordiality and disposition to co-operate with David on the part of the Prison Directors and other officials.

1) Burgos

The prison has over 2,000 inmates, mostly Spanish, condemned to long terms. Among them there are a few foreigners and "stateless," and the Madrid office has been sending these food and pocket money. We were permitted to see all for whom we asked except one who is accused of being a "Mason" - evidently the worst "crime" in Spain. Every man has a tragic history. One was particularly interesting - an ex-German who in the other World War had been in command of a submarine that did immense damage to British shipping. But being anti-Nazi he fled when they came into power, and when he was on the point of being turned over to them with a price on his head, he was saved by the British agent accredited to Franco. He has been in prison for six years as a "dangerous man," although he says he has never been found guilty of any misdemeanor.

2) Miranda de Ebro

There are 2,300 internees in the Camp at Miranda, the one under the jurisdiction of the military authorities. Over 2,000 are French, and will probably soon be evacuated to North Africa. Some 50 are stateless. David has been able to secure the release of over 500 men from here, and on this occasion he had a list of 27 more for liberation. But a new order had come through forbidding it except on the written authorization of the Police chief in Madrid - an order said to be based on the fact that some 25 Dutch refugees recently tried unsuccessfully to cross clandestinely into Portugal. (Yet folks are persecuted because they will not leave the country!) David was able to talk to the stateless who wished to discuss their problems with him.

3) Sobron

This is a "balneario", a watering resort, "a beautiful place among the hills....accommodations for 700 people....later used as a forced residence for a few hundred French refugees."

4) Vitoria

"A very pleasant and cooperative Police Commissioner was interviewed.....He has had in prison here two German deserters who had fallen to the care of our Madrid office, and he agreed to release them to David to be taken to Murguia."

5) Murguia

Another watering resort where 17 refugees are housed in one of the good hotels - 10 stateless, 3 French, 2 Belgians, and 2 German deserters....."One of the French, past military age, told of his relations with the AFSC in Toulouse and Perpignan where he knew and cooperated with Halga Holbek, Toot van Oordt, Harriet Harple and Mary Elmes. When things got too dangerous for him, he turned over to the Swiss Red Cross the matters that had been entrusted to him by the Quakers, and fled."

.....

The Future: The situation in Spain is as precarious as in any other country - perhaps more so than in most. The future is hidden as in a dense fog. One cannot help thinking, however, of possible developments. If present plans for evacuation result in removing most of the refugees from Spain, what kind of a field, if any, will remain for American Relief Agencies? Two or three elements of a possible program suggest themselves:

1) Some cases are sure to remain. Unhappy family situations where the Spanish wife has not acquired the nationality of the husband, though losing her own, and so cannot accompany him but must stay here with the children. Or still more sad, where there has been no possibility of legal marriage, and so no way for her to get permission to go with him. Also, illness, age, disability and other reasons that make the refugee unacceptable for migration. There are likely to be a couple of hundred, at least, of such persons.

2) New cases: As mentioned above there are estimated to be still about 400 a month of new arrivals making their way across the frontier - many of them stateless.

3) A much more delicate problem, but one on which if anybody can give help, the Friends are probably in the best position to give it. This is the field of the Spanish prisons. The lowest estimate I have heard of those still in prison - of the million once incarcerated is 150,000. The Spanish Red Cross which is non-political, might be able to offer help to these people and their families, and if such service were acceptable, David, because of his fine relations with the Red Cross, might be in a position to offer important cooperation.

4) As political changes occur, it is likely that the way will open for enlarged service to other needy groups. We know, of course, that the appeal for help for Spain will not meet with much response in general, once there is opportunity to reach the folks in France or Belgium, Poland or Greece. But there are people interested chiefly in Spain and funds that are not available for others which would make possible such a service.

Recommendations: Based on my observation and impressions as recorded in this report, and in view of the particularly viriduous character of the situation here, I can make no special recommendation except to give our Delegates in this particularly delicate post, as in the past, all possible moral and spiritual support, and such financial backing as is proving necessary.

Attached are the following:

1. Biographical notes on members of the staff.
2. One set of clippings of four articles on the variations in prices.

REPRESENTATION IN SPAIN OF
AMERICAN RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS

Eduardo Dato 20
Madrid

October 25, 1943

Letter IQ-309 to AFSC, Lisbon
From David Blickenstaff

RE: General refugee problem

In anticipation of plans now being developed for the evacuation of stateless refugees from Spain, we examined 500 individual dossiers to compile the enclosed statistics marked "Stateless Refugees in Spain." I think it can be taken as representative of the total 1600 or 1800 refugees in the "stateless" group in Spain.

This is confirmed by comparison with the attached report on refugees of the MADRID area taken separately.

PI
DB/GL

enclosures

David Blickenstaff

Please send on to Philadelphia

(received, Jan. 17, 1944)

Madrid, October 1, 1943

"Stateless" refugees in SPAIN

AGE LIMITS:

	<u>total</u>	<u>men</u>	<u>women</u>
0 - 15 years	7.-%	3.-%	4.-%
16 - 20 "	7.6%	6.2%	1.4%
21 - 30 "	28.2%	20.2%	8.-%
31 - 40 "	28.2%	23.4%	4.8%
41 - 50 "	18.8%	14.8%	4.-%
over 50 "	10.2%	7.2%	3.-%
Total	100.-%	74.8%	25.2%

NATIONALITIES:

Austrians.....	10.2%	
Baltic countries.	1.4%	
Germans.....	26.0%	
Hungarians.....	7.2%	
Miscellaneous....	8.2%	
Polish.....	27.6%	
Rumanians.....	6.-%	
Russians.....	5.2%	
South Americans..	4.8%	
Spanish.....	3.-%	
Turks.....	0.4%	
Total	100.-%	

PROFESSIONS:

Without profession or profession unknown	35.6%
Children and students	14.-%
Skilled trades and professions:	
Mechanics, technicians, electricians, car drivers, carpenters, metal workers, photographers, watch makers, farmers, sailors, fishermen	12.4%
Bakers, butchers, cooks.....	2.8%
Tailors, dressmakers, furriers, shoemakers, hat makers.....	6.2%
Physicians, dentists, nurses, pharmaceutical chemists, chemists	4.4%
Manufacturers, textile and leather chemists..	4.6%
Liberal professions: Architects, sculptors, lawyers, musicians, journalists, teachers, writers, artists.....	7.-%
Merchants, bankers, agents, travel.....	9.8%
Clerks, employees, accountants.....	3.-%
Total	100.-%

RELIGION:

Jews total	90.3%	men	66.2%	women	24.1%
Non-Jews "	9.7%	"	7.4%	"	2.3%
Total	100.-%	men	73.6%	"	26.4%

TO: JGV CBP GRC LOH MF LKJ ESC JA JJ JFR MNJ MMR MPS
MEJ HK

Letter LQ-311 to AFSC Lisbon From David Blickenstaff, dated Oct. 26, 1943
Received Jan. 17, 1944.

Conditions in Miranda

Enclosed are two reports on conditions in Miranda, dated Sept. 2, 1943 and October 13, 1943 respectively.

The first report made by stateless internees released on Sept. 1st does not agree in every detail with the second, enclosed, made by a refugee released some weeks ago but who is in constant correspondence with the camp. Both reports however, are probably true. Reports on living conditions are always relative.

/s/ David Blickenstaff

2 enclosures

#1

Madrid, Sept. 2, 1943

Told by stateless persons of the group released from camp by D.B.
on September 1, 1943

The total number of internees at Miranda varies now around 2800.

Some days ago six Frenchmen broke out of camp at night by going over the wall, (apparently in agreement with guards). Three of them were later caught in Bruges.

On this occasion it was found that there were 6 index cards at the camp index in excess of the men accounted for. This has been attributed to some French manipulations on groups of 100 - 300 men. When they declared their personal datum at the office of the camp, it was arranged that several men who had already given their declarations should queue up again at the end of the file, so as to be registered a second time under another name. This made it possible for the French to get out of camp some men whose release could not be obtained and who left under the name of such nonexistent men.

About one third of the Frenchmen are Basques of rather low moral character. They created a short time ago some trouble against foreigners and Jews, but this was quickly suppressed by the French themselves.

The last week's food parcel, distributed by the French, also to the stateless consisted of:

1 tin milk
1/2 tin smoked meat
4 spoons dried milk
2 spoons flour
2 " oat flakes
1/2 package of margarine
2 - 3 spoons of syrup

Prices at the canteen are high: a medium size melon cost 7 or 8 ptas., a kilo of grapes 4,50 pesetas.

The camp kitchen is now managed by Frenchmen. Although the composition of the meals is better with a lot of additional food, quality has deteriorated, the preparation being rather careless.

The state of health is worse than before. The infirmary is full. A short time ago seventeen men were sent in one day to Victoria hospital; some days later another seven men. The cases of illness are mostly of digestive troubles.

The camp commander had a new water conduct installed with a water tower on the river. The river being dry, there is no water at the camp. The showers are accessible only to the camp employees. The camp fountain runs three hours a day. Other water needs are covered by water brought from the town of Miranda by carts.

#2

Madrid, Oct. 13, 1943

(Conditions during September-October)

Food: While this summer was marked by more or less satisfactory food conditions, a gradual deterioration started with the mid-September days. The meat ration (not even considering the effects of an uncontrolled and partial distribution) hardly amounts to 100 grs. per head per week. Potatoes nearly disappeared, while rice ceased altogether to be part of the meals which consist of watery soups, beans and poorly cooked peas, since the kitchen plant (being calculated to cater for 2000) cannot supply well prepared meals for a camp population varying from 3000 to 4000. During summer eggs, tomatoes, bananas and other fruits were supplied in order to balance somewhat the diet from the viewpoint of proteins and vitamins. These additional supplies disappeared. The only reliance of the camp inmates (who all arrive deeply affected and weakened by several months' prison stay) are the Red Cross Food Parcels the composition of which appears to be well selected and adequate. Unfortunately a certain percentage of meat cans arrive damaged.

Health: The gradual deterioration of food conditions inevitably affects the health. Various forms of "TBC" infiltrations and "mirandite" (a heretofore unexplored manifestation of gastric enteritis) constitutes 80% of the hospital cases. In the light of these conditions the practical lack of special hospital diets ~~that~~ could be

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considered as such, is fatal. The camp hospital received the ordinary "rancho" (this is the Spanish name for the vegetable soup served at the camp) and a specially prepared potato mash, as well as one liter of milk for the "white coffee" of forty patients. Fruit or any other additional supply is only available at the expense of the sick. Medicines continue to be scarce. The absence of death cases in the hospital statistics is explained by the transfer of death candidates to Victoria.

Hygienic Conditions: The hygienic conditions hardly improved with the slight betterment of the drinkwater supply. Water for washing and bathing is still scarce. The only lavatory consequently continues to be a horrifying demonstration of the effects of overcrowding. Cleanliness lacks badly in the kitchen too. Lavatory and kitchen remain to be the main infection center.

Housing: Housing is also a source of many ills. The barracks are cold, overcrowded and vermine infested. Blankets are lacking. ("Old timers" still use them lavishly for the partitioning of little spaces that would afford protection against the draught). The consequence is that the newcomers only get rags instead of blankets.

Clothing: Generally speaking there is a need for warm winter clothing and waterproofs. Only few have good shoes. People wear their shirts during day and night.

Cultural Activities: Cultural activities could make bearable to some extent bad material conditions. All facilities (space for reading and conference rooms, books, games etc.) are lacking however. The absence of Protestant services should be noted.

sp. Copy of letter to Mr. Allen from L. M. Mitchell, Director, Insular and Foreign Operations - July 13, 1943 - re refugee relief in Spain (Taken from State Department Files)

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COPY

Mr. Allen

July 13, 1943

Mr. Mitchell

There are attached two letters from Mr. Jackson of OFRRO, as well as certain reports submitted by Mr. McDonald in regard to refugee relief in Spain, dated March 25th and May 1st.

On June 14th, Mr. Jackson referred to this office a request received by cable from the Ambassador to Spain for the shipment of additional food supplies and requesting that the American Red Cross give consideration to the shipment of such additional supplies, thus continuing Red Cross participation in the present operations for the relief in Spain of refugees who have come out of France.

At the time the Red Cross withdrew from direct responsibility for the relief operations in Spain, Governor Lehman was advised that the Red Cross was prepared to assist in such operations by the shipment, for distribution by the Embassy, of food supplies purchased with government funds. It is this understanding to which Mr. Jackson refers in his communication. In response to our inquiry, there has not been received a specific request for certain food supplies, presumably sufficient to supplement local resources in meeting essential needs of the refugees. It would appear that the Red Cross should now proceed with the procurement and shipment of the requested food as soon as possible.

Referring to Mr. McDonald's reports, it is apparent that there is general distress among the refugees in Spain, but that relief operations on their behalf are greatly handicapped as of the date of McDonald's reports by lack of cooperation on the part of the Spanish Government and by lack of coordination between the various foreign agencies attempting to deal with the problem. It also appears that the present relief operations are relatively expensive, involving the maintenance of a considerable number of refugees by cash grants. Mr. McDonald estimates a monthly cost of \$500,000 to meet the needs of approximately 10,000 refugees, including so-called American citizens, French, Jews, Stateless and others. Mr. McDonald advises that the number of bona fide citizens is negligible. Mr. McDonald further points out that relief through the American Embassy on the present basis will cost about \$150,000 per month.

The relief operations in Spain according to last reports were, therefore, not well organized, were very expensive, and no early solution of the problem by the movement of the refugees onward from Spain was in sight. Bearing in mind the commitment implied in our early discussions with Governor Lehman, I believe the Red Cross should undertake the additional commitment to supply a quantity of food to meet needs of refugees under the care of American authorities for the next three months. In undertaking this additional commitment, I believe the Red Cross should also advise OFRRO that it is assumed that a more specific understanding as to responsibility for continuing relief operations in Spain should be reached prior to the time when the Red Cross may be requested to undertake additional commitments.

The procedure by which the Red Cross, acting as a distributing agency for government supplies, has consigned such supplies to the Ambassador in Spain for distribution under his supervision is not inconsistent with the legislation and Executive Orders governing the purchase of relief supplies for foreign distribution with government funds. It is clearly understood the Ambassador has assumed responsibility for securing the necessary accounting reports indicating the final disposition of relief supplies placed at his disposal by the American Red Cross.

I. M. Mitchell
Director
Insular and Foreign Operations

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Spain

PAPER FILE OF TELEGRAM

To: Secretary of State

From: Madrid

Dated: December 22, 1942

Rec'd: 12:45 a.m.; 23rd

~~SECRET~~

No. 2104 (SECTIONS ONE AND TWO)

Several thousand French and other Allied refugees many of whom have entered Spain illegally since the complete occupation of France are in Spanish prisons and concentration camps. The objective of most of them is to join the Allied forces in North Africa. A large number of these people are being assisted by the British Embassy which however finds the problem too great for its facilities. It has accordingly asked our help particularly with respect to the French who tend to look to us for assistance. The British Foreign Office has asked the British Embassy to refer them to us.

Because of lack of proper clothing, cold, hunger, and absence of normal conveniences in overcrowded prisons and camps these refugees are suffering greatly. There is danger of epidemic reaching acute stage. Pending possible release by Spanish authorities, I think our Government should do everything possible to ameliorate their condition.

Problem which likely will become increasingly acute is one of mass relief which should be under direction of professional workers. For the purpose of setting up a system of relief for these people, I recommend the Department request the American Red Cross to send a representative possibly Colonel Crockett to Spain. The American group at Lisbon might supply additional personnel for this work.

It would be helpful notwithstanding the above if prepared food for distribution of rations to these refugees could be sent to Spain by Red Cross. It might be preferable considering time saved to make arrangements for 2,000 prepared daily rations to be supplied by the United States Army in French Morocco and shipped to a Spanish port or

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

(over)

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 13 1972

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Circular for the account of the Army or of the Red Cross.

Two passenger automobiles and at least three medium sized trucks for use in distribution as well as a generous supply of serums and medicines should also be shipped by the Red Cross.

I shall request the Spanish Government for permission for this work to be undertaken if Red Cross is agreeable to above. Shipments of medicines, motor vehicles, and food should be made in any case and very promptly.

Subject to later repayment the USBC has agreed to supply at once in the amounts needed sweaters, fleece-lined gloves, and scarfs. Authorization is requested for such deliveries. The purpose for which these articles are requested is useful to our war effort and articles themselves are of a preclusive nature.

It is requested also that shipments of automobiles to all our consulates as well as to the Embassy be facilitated. Since departure of Benazker and Prost from Barcelona the Consulate General has no private or publicly owned automobile. This situation should be remedied immediately.

The most urgent and favorable consideration is requested for above recommendations. If we do not do everything we can for these refugees of allied countries who have no one else to look to we would be open to criticism not only serious but merited.

- cc The Chairman
- Mr. Allen
- Mr. Mitchell
- Mr. Ryan

HAYES