Cooperation with the Government of China: Tangier
Information contained in your A-199 of September 12 is thoroughly appreciated. For your information, the following has been cabled to Legation Bern:

Unquote: Embassy Madrid advised that Spanish visas have been granted to 500 Jewish children and 70 accompanying adults in Hungary, but that their departure is being held up by refusal of German authorities to grant transit visas. It is reported that pending departure these persons have been placed under Intercross supervision. Please verify this report and, unless confirmed, request Intercross to undertake such supervision of these beneficiaries of Spanish visas, to prevent their deportation or persecution.

You may also inform Intercross that another fifteen hundred Spanish visas have been authorized for Jews in Hungary. To ensure their safety, Intercross representation in Hungary is requested, likewise to assume supervision of the beneficiaries of these additional visas as soon as feasible.
CABLE TO AMERICAN LEGATION AT YAMOUSSOUKRO, IVORY COAST

Information contained in your A-199 of September 12 is thoroughly appreciated. For your information, the following has been cabled to Legation Bern:

QUOTE: Embassy Madrid advises that Spanish visas have been granted to 500 Jewish children and 70 accompanying adults in Hungary, but that their departure is being held up by refusal of German authorities to grant transit visas. It is reported that pending departure these persons have been placed under Interross supervision. Please verify this report and, unless confirmed, request Interross to undertake such supervision of these beneficiaries of Spanish visas, to prevent their deportation or persecution.

You may also inform Interross that another fifteen hundred Spanish visas have been authorized for Jews in Hungary. To ensure their safety, Interross representation in Hungary is requested, likewise to assume supervision of the beneficiaries of these additional visas as soon as feasible. UNQUOTE

5:15 p.m. September 28, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, DeBois, Friedmann, Hodel, Lauglin, Lesseny Mannon, McCormack, Cable Control Files

Bakzin 9/28/44
Tangier, Morocco, September 19, 1944.

No. 236I

Subject: Departure of Jewish Refugees from Tangier.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit herewith, as of possible interest to the Department, an article which appeared in the local Spanish newspaper, España, on September 13, 1944, entitled "Refugees in Tangier Have Started to Leave in Large Groups", together with an English translation thereof. For background on the question of refugees in Tangier, attention is invited to the Legation's airgram No. 48 of March 7, 1944, 6 p.m. The incident prompting the writing of this article was the departure on September 8, 1944, of a group of 64 Jewish refugees from Europe to Canada via Spain and Lisbon, a group of seven having departed earlier by plane to Lisbon. It might be stated parenthetically that United States transit visas were issued by this Legation to all of these persons after careful examination of each case and after receipt of the Department's approval.

In brief, the article enclosed states that shortly prior to the outbreak of war in September 1939, and subsequently during the Spanish occupation of the city, Tangier has acted as a haven for thousands of European refugees. A glowing tribute is paid to the Spanish regime in Tangier which, it is alleged, has afforded security, protection and prosperity. Mention is made of the fact that the American Joint Distribution Committee has provided the necessities of life to a number of impoverished Jewish refugee families in Tangier.

As stated in the airgram under reference, some 3000 refugees, virtually all of whom Jewish, were admitted to Tangier between 1938 and 1940. About 1000 of these persons had departed by the middle of this year. Until recently the Spanish authorities displayed little, if any, desire to permit the entry into Tangier or Spanish Morocco of refugees from Europe. Recently, however, chiefly at the instance of the American Joint Distribution Committee and local Jewish groups, assisted by informal representations of the Legation, the Spanish High Commissioner at Tetuan has displayed a commendable interest in permitting Jewish refugee children to enter the Spanish-controlled section of Morocco. Developments in this regard have been reported to the Department by telegram.

The Legation
The Legation is informed by the American Joint Distribution Committee that about the end of September it is expected that a Spanish ship sailing from Barcelona to Haifa will call at Tangier to evacuate about 250 Jews who are holders of Palestine certificates and an equal number who are at present in Spain. Shortly after this, it is hoped that a Portuguese vessel will transport approximately 170 persons (some of whom are in the UNRRA camp at Fedala, French Morocco) who are expected to obtain Palestine certificates. Upon the departure of these groups, some 500 Jewish refugees will have left Tangier for Canada and Palestine. Some of the remaining refugees will probably proceed to liberated countries of Europe after the termination of hostilities, but a substantial number may remain in Tangier where they have found opportunities to employ their skills and make a livelihood.

Reverting to the enclosed article, it is true that the Spanish authorities in Tangier have in general not discriminated against Jewish refugees, although they have, by means of several deportations, inspired sufficient fear to deter them from undertaking any sort of political activity. It is equally true that, with the exception of the recent attitude of the Spanish High Commissioner on the subject of Hungarian Jewish children, the Spanish authorities have acted in no way to ameliorate the lot of the Jewish persons who have taken refuge in Tangier from the persecution they suffered in Nazi-controlled Europe.

Respectfully yours,

J. Rives Childs
Charge d’Affaires ad interim

Enclosures:
1. Newspaper clipping.
2. Translation.

In Ozalid to the Department.
Copy to American Embassy, Madrid.
Enclosure No. 2 to despatch No. 2351
from the American Legation at Tangier, Morocco, dated Sept. 19, 1944, on the subject of departure of refugees from Tangier.

(The following article appeared in the newspaper España of Tangier on September 13, 1944)

*****

TRANSLATION

REFUGEES IN TANGIER HAVE STARTED TO LEAVE IN LARGE GROUPS. THOUSANDS OF REFUGEES HAVE LIVED WITHIN THE PEACE PROVIDED BY TANGIER'S NEUTRALITY, ENSURED BY SPAIN, WHICH HAS BEEN THE GUARDIAN OF THEIR TRANQUILITY

Even before the declaration of war, in September 1939, Tangier was the port of refuge and salvation for thousands of refugees from nearly all European countries. Every political event within Europe, every annexation, every change of regime was reflected in our city by successive waves of refugees of the following nationalities: Austrians, Czecho-Slovaks, Sudetens, Poles and Hungarians, who arrived here with the terror of escape in their eyes, and here they became calm and lived happily. After them came refugees from countries occupied by German troops, some in transit, others for permanent residence. Even from Gibraltar, which had suffered some air raids, a large number of families were evacuated to Tangier, apart from those taken to the Madeira Islands, Spain and England. For these Britons also, Tangier has been a haven of peace. For all these - of a thousand peoples and races - Tangier's neutrality which has been ensured by Spain, and which would have been an impossibility under the former regime, has been of immense value, and this they must acknowledge unless they want to be unjust. The distance from the scene of battle, which acts like time in assuaging grief, the temperate and beneficial climate, the brilliant pageantry of an exotic country, for most of them unknown, engaging and seductive, have contributed to the spiritual peace based on the security afforded by the Spanish authorities. This was not an easy task for the authorities, because the sudden influx of refugees created certain problems, such as that of supplies - sometimes very delicate problems and the inevitable concomitant fluctuations in production, markets and transport. However, all these problems were satisfactorily solved owing to the perseverance and intelligence employed, and in general it may be asserted that the temporary population of Tangier has enjoyed a prosperity as great as that existing in any country during the war.

Many refugees have left individually. Now they are leaving in large groups. The exodus was begun by the residents of Gibraltar who received permission to return to the Rock. On August 8th, 100 women and children departed, and this contingent was followed two days later by another of 140 women and children, whose heads of family had remained in Gibraltar throughout the war. Many of these families are retaining their homes in Tangier, which is a sure sign that they like Tangier.

Last Friday began the departure of refugees for Canada. That day seven left on the Lisbon plane, and on Monday 64 left on the Algeciras ferry-boat on their way to Lisbon where they will take ship for Canada. During the next few days, another small group will leave by plane for Lisbon, and a boat is expected to arrive at Tangier to pick up more than 200 refugees who are going to Palestine.

As we
As we said yesterday, this emigration has been organized by the "American Joint Distribution Committee", established before the war; the HICOM and the local Refugee Committee in agreement with the Government of Canada. Formerly, no immigrants except agricultural laborers were allowed into Canada, but now people of other professions are allowed entry. One of the conditions is that the whole family must leave, and for this reason not all the Tangier refugees have been able to go. The expenses of transportation are being paid by the American Joint Distribution Committee which had already paid subsidies to many refugees who were without means of livelihood of their own during their stay in Tangier. In the beginning, public kitchens were installed and house rents were paid with local and foreign subsidies. Later, families were paid 800 pesetas. The refugees had, moreover, free doctors and dentists (who were refugees themselves) who received payment from the Committee. Not many, however, lived under these conditions. Some had funds of their own, and others, by their profession and industry, soon made their living in Tangier and became part of the life of the city.

We have seen them at the quay display a mixture of happiness and sadness. Sadness to leave Tangier where they had, after their sufferings, been able to make for themselves a comfortable living; happiness because they were leaving, after several years of improvisation and routine, for new lands whose vastness and half exploited wealth opens new vistas and horizons for them.
From American Legation
Tangier, Morocco
Date: September 12, 1944
Re: No. 47, 5 P.M.

Reference Legation's telegram No. 187 of June 2, 10 a.m. 1944, and subsequent correspondence concerning the departure from Hungary of 500 Jewish refugee children. The following developments may be of interest to the War Refugee Board.

A telegram dated August 31, 1944, addressed by the International Red Cross at Budapest to the President of the local Jewish community, a copy of which was exhibited to the Legation, read in translation partially as follows:

"Government authorized departure 500 children and 70 adults accompanying staff transit visas at present unobtainable stop gathering children in special camp under protection International Red Cross Committee around Spanish Legation here daily count about 4,000 persons stop cable agreement stop..."

In reply to this telegram the local office of the American Joint Distribution Committee cabled on September 3, 1944, agreeing to accept responsibility for the maintenance of this refugee group.

The local representative of the American Joint Distribution Committee has informed me that in his belief that the 500 children and 70 adults will remain in Hungary under the protection of the Spanish Legation in Budapest pending the conclusion of hostilities when they will be free to resume their normal mode of living. He adds
add that in conversation with Señor Sumer, Spanish Consul General at Hanover, the Consul General expressed his interest in having the number of Jewish persons in Hanover under Spanish protection substantially increased and that he intended to make such a proposal to the Spanish Foreign Office. The Department will be informed of any developments in this direction.

C:\IL38
350.1
Ref:

Copy to: American Embassy, Madrid
SECRETARY OF STATE,
Washington,

251, August 12, 2 p.m.

FOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Reference my 220, July 11, 11 a.m.

Mrs. Reichman states that she has just inter-
viewed General Orgaz on the question of substantially
increasing the number of Hungarian Jewish refugee
children for whom a temporary haven in Tangier and
Spanish Morocco had been originally planned and that
the High Commissioner stated he agreed in principle
to the admission of any number of such children pro-
vided adequate accommodations could be found. Mrs.
Reichman intends to discuss with the French Consul
here the feasibility of transporting lumber from
unused barracks in Casablanca to construct a temporary
shelter for these children. The Department will be
informed of further development. Copy to Madrid.

CHILDS

WTD
Department of State

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

KD-444
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. (1)

Secretary of State
Washington

2670, August 2, Noon
Department's 2142, July 29, 9 p.m. crossed the
Embassy's 112, July 29, 6 p.m. to Tangier, repeated

From Department for War Refugee Board as 2624, which
answers it.

BUTTERWORTH

RR

TSB

CONTROL COPY

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

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 14 1972

000458
Secretary of State
Washington
2670, August 2, Noon

Department's 2142, July 29, 9 p.m. crossed the Embassy's 112, July 29, 8 p.m. to Tangier, repeated
to Department for War Refugee Board as 2624, which answers it.

RR
USB
INCOMING TELEGRAM

KD-444
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement. (SECRET) 

Secretary of State
Washington

2670, August 2, Noon

Department's 2142, July 30, 9 p.m. crossed the Embassy's 112, July 28, 8 p.m. to Tangier, repeated to Department for War Refugee Board as 2624, which answers it.

RR
USB
Reference your 2479 to Department of July 15. Childs Tangier cables that telegram from Jewish Community Budapest indicates Spanish Minister there not (repeat not) instructed to issue visas. Childs advises that Tangier Jewish Community requests American assistance in accelerating issuance of such instructions. You are authorized and requested to take all appropriate steps in this regard.

STETTINIUS (Acting) (G/L7)

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 14 1972
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED


TO: Secretary of State, Washington.

DATED: July 28, 1944.

NUMBER: 2524.

The following, for the War Refugee Board, is submitted:

Message, as follows, has been sent as Number 112 to Tangier, and is repeated to the Department, herewith.

We refer to your message of July 25 to the Department, Number 220, for the War Refugee Board, and to your Number A-12 to the Embassy, dated July 25.

It is stated by the Foreign Office that on July 15 a telegram was drawn up which authorized the issuance of visas to 500 Jewish children in Hungary (see Embassy's message of July 15, Number 2479); however, it was the 20th of July before the telegram left the Foreign Office.

BUTTERWORTH.

DCR:LCW 7/31/44

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 14 1972
Tangier
Dated July 25, 1944
Rec'd 12:56 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

220, July 25, 11 a.m.

My 157, June 2 for War Refugee Board.

Tangier Jewish Community has followed up in Madrid with Spanish Red Cross matter of evacuating 500 Jewish refugee children from Hungary. Mrs. Reichmann who proceeded to Madrid 10 days ago for this purpose states that Spanish Foreign Office informed her that instructions would be sent to Spanish Minister, Budapest to issue visas to this group. She adds that Spanish Red Cross agreed to communicate with International Red Cross, Geneva, requesting that body to assist transit of children. Mrs. Reichmann has now shown me (One) copy of telegram from Jewish Community, Budapest stating that Spanish Minister has received no instructions; (Two) telegram from Bickenstaff of American Relief Organization, Madrid, stating that cannot request Geneva, organization to assist until (2) to issue
-2- #220, July 25, 11 a.m., from Tangier

to issue visas are sent to Budapest; (Third) telegram in similar sense from Spanish Red Cross and (Fourth) telegram from Geneva indicating willingness International Red Cross to assist if requested. Tangier Jewish Community requests assistance our Government in securing transmission authority to issue visas to Spanish Minister, Budapest. Copy to Madrid.

CHILDs

(s) apparent omission

WMB JJM
Dear Mr. Leavitt,

The following message for you from Mr. Pilpel has been received through the American Embassy in Lisbon under date of July 17, 1944:

"Grant for June has been received by Mayer and his receipt of three hundred thousand dollars for July has been approved by Swiss Government.

Information has reached me to effect that the Spanish diplomatic representative at Budapest has been instructed by his Government to grant Spanish visas to five hundred Hungarian (?) children whose admission to Tangier is approved. Saly Mayer has been requested to investigate and any additional information will be forwarded to you."

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

J. W. Feible
Executive Director

Mr. Moses A. Leavitt
American Joint Distribution Committee
270 Madison Avenue
New York, N. Y.

J. H. Rodell Address 7/22/44
From: American Embassy, Lisbon
To: Secretary of State, Washington
Date: July 17, 1944

SECRET

The following JW-31 is sent to Leavitt by Phil.

WRB-104.

Grant for June has been received by Mayer and his
hundred
receipt of three thousand dollars for July has been
approved by Swiss Government.

Information has reached me to effect that the
Spanish diplomatic representative at Budapest has been
instructed by his Government to grant Spanish visas to
five hundred Chinkin children whose admission to Tangier
is approved. Sal Mayer has been requested to investigate
and any additional information will be forwarded to you.

Nelsen

7/17/44

[Signature]

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 14 1972
The War Refugee Board requests that you deliver the following message to Samuel Reichman, 25 Rue Moliere, Tangiers, from Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee, Rabbis Aron Kotler, Abraham Kalmanowitz:

"Referring your message to Stephen Klein our organization ready support any project rescue children from Hungary. Please advise us all details through American Legation."

HULL
CABLE TO AMERICAN CONSUL, TANGIERS, MOROCCO

The War Refugee Board requests that you deliver the following message to Samuel Reichman, 25 Rue Moliere, Tangiers:

"Referring your message to Stephen Klein, our organization ready support any project rescue children from Hungary. Please advise us all details through American Legation."

VAAD HAYTZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE
RABBIS ARON KOTLER  ARABAH ZALMANOWITZ

1:00 p.m.
July 15, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Stewart, Central Files, Cable Control Files

Of - Cleared

Model 3 Dec 7/15/44 With horses
July 14, 1944

War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Att: Miss F. Rodell

Dear Miss Rodell,

We enclose a copy of a message which we would ask the Board to please transmit at the earliest moment as addressed.

Will you please advise us whether our application for a license to transmit $3000.00 to Tangiers has been approved?

With deepest appreciation,

Very respectfully yours,

Rabbi Jacob Karinsky
Executive Secretary

P.S. - We enclose also copy of the message which Mr. Klein received and on which our request is based.

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To rescue, save and preserve from war destruction the Torah values
(Yeshivot, Rabbinical, Scholars and Communal Leaders)

To utilize the possibilities for rescue of European Jewry where the
VAAD HAHATZALA program is especially needed.
July 14, 1944

MESSAGE TO SAMUEL REICHMAN
25 RUE MOLIERE
TANGIER, MOROCCO
Through AMERICAN LEGATION TANGIER

REFERRING YOUR MESSAGE TO STEPHEN KLEIN OUR ORGANIZATION READY SUPPORT ANY PROJECT RESCUE CHILDREN FROM HUNGARY PLEASE ADVISE US ALL DETAILS THROUGH AMERICAN LEGATION

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE
HARRISON KOTLER ABRAHAM KALMANOWITZ

To rescue, save and preserve from war destruction the Torah values (Talmud, Rabbi, Scholars and Commanded Leaders)
To utilize the possibilities for rescue of European Jews where the Vaad Hahatzala program is especially needed.
MESSAGE TO STEPHEN KLEIN

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WE RECEIVED VISAS FOR 500 HUNGARIAN JEWISH CHILDREN TO ENTER SPANISH MOROCCO. RENEE REICHERMANN ACTUALLY IN MADRID WITH INTENTION TO ORGANIZE EVERYTHING POSSIBLE CHANCES WILL ASK YOUR HELP CABLE IF WE CAN COUNT ON IT

SAMUEL REICHERMAN
Yesterday while discussing with Orgos the purposes of War Refugee Board and the activities of the American Jewish Committee in Sana'a we expressed our satisfaction of the favorable consideration given by Orgos to the appeal of the Jewish Communities in Sana'a and Yemn to permit 200 refugee children to enter Sana'a from Hungary temporarily. The High Commissioner was informed by me that Eszler was spending $12,000 per month for refugees in Sana'a at the present time, for some of whose arrangements are being made for entry into Palestine and Cana. Eszler was willing to assume the expenses incident to relief of a additional 600 children whether from Hungary or other countries that are occupied.

It was stated by Orgos that Nadrid would have to make the final decision and that request had been forwarded with favorable recommendation by him. The important question was not so much a financial one as finding for the children necessary supplies in Sana'a. It was stated by Orgos that because of this it would facilitate matters if the departure of the refugees in Sana'a at the present time, in which Eszler is now occupying himself, could be facilitated before the 600 children arrive as the one had not necessarily been made contingent upon the other by him. It was stated by me that he could count on Eszler's cooperation and my own and that the United States would welcome Orgos' interest.

The foregoing message was repeated as No. 96 to Nadrid for the information of our Embassy there.
AIRHEAD

From: American Legation
Tangier, Morocco

Date: March 7, 1944

Secretary of State
Washington

Department’s circular airgram of January 26, 7 P.M.

March 7, 1944 6 P.M.

Since the Spanish occupation of Tangier in June, 1940, no
refugees have entered Tangier. Some 3500 refugees were admitted
to Tangier between 1939 and 1940. About 1000 of these have
since departed. Refugees have never been permitted to enter the
Zone of the Spanish Protectorate.

The Spanish occupying authorities in Tangier do not encourage
or cooperate in any way either to permit the entry of refugees or
to succor those who are here. After the occupation, Spanish Repub-
licans who had taken refuge in Tangier were of course mercilessly
persecuted if caught, but, generally speaking, other refugees whom
the Spanish found here upon their arrival were tolerated. Several
stateless persons, among them former Hungarian nationals, have
been expelled without any reason being given despite energetic pro-
tests by the honorary Swedish Consul General who is in charge of
Hungarian interests. (Confidential: The Legation has reason to
believe
believe that at least some of these persons were expelled on suspicion of being Allied agents.

For all practical purposes, it is impossible for war refugees to enter either Tangier or Spanish North Africa at the present time. Certain refugees, belligerent nationals of military age, have also experienced difficulty and delay in securing exit permits from the Spanish authorities to enable them to proceed to Great Britain and America, but no instance is known to the Legation of such permits being refused permanently.

Mr. Lordecai KESELOR, a member of the overseas staff of the American Joint Distribution Committee, has been in Tangier for some weeks. Several members of the same group and a representative of the Friends' Service Committee had previously visited Tangier in connection with the refugee situation. The "Refugee Aid Committee" of the Tangier Jewish community is at present assisting some 571 individuals with cash grants, clothing, food, or medicines. This represents an expenditure of more than $10,000 per month and is met entirely by remittances from the American Joint Distribution Committee in New York. Mr. Kesselor is examining the 93 family groups and 82 individuals who have evinced an interest in emigrating to Palestine, and is hopeful of obtaining permission for a few to proceed to Canada.
Although the local Jewish community is powerful and wealthy, its members have manifested slight willingness to assume the responsibility of assisting the less fortunate among their co-religionaries who have sought refuge here.