

Cooperation with the Government of the United States - Tangier

000446

*I was R.H. H. H. H.*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Legation, Tangier  
DATED: September 29, 1944  
NUMBER: 144

**CONTROL COPY**

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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

QUOTE Amembassy 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 beneficiars 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.

UNQUOTE

HULL

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date **SEP 14 1972**

000447

MOROCCO  
IT/JOHN  
MORRIS  
DUNN  
Lc  
WYNN  
SECRETARY  
AMERICAN LEGATION  
TANGIER  
OBLIQUE

CABLE TO AMERICAN LEGATION AT TANGIER, MOROCCO

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

QUOTE Amembassy 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 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.  
UNQUOTE

5:15 p.m.  
September 28, 1944

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

*P. G. Z. S. Z.*  
BAkzin:ar 9/28/44 *Jot* ✓

000448



THE FOREIGN SERVICE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

3 War Refugee Board (Jews)

AMERICAN LEGATION

~~RESTRICTED~~

Tangier, Morocco, September 19, 1944.

No. 2351x

CONTROL COPY

~~RESTRICTED~~

Subject: Departure of Jewish Refugees from Tangier.

The Honorable  
The Secretary of State  
Washington.

3 WAR R B  
3 War Refugee Board (Jews)  
1 War (in London)

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 them 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

RECEIVED

000444

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.

840.1

ADF/EP/spk

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 FOREIGNERS HAVE LIVED WITHIN  
THE PEACE PROVIDED BY TANGIER'S NEUTRALITY, ENSURED  
BY SPAIN, WHICH HAS BEEN THE GUARANTEE 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; then 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 Britishers 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 Algeiras 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

0000451

As we said yesterday, this emigration has been organized by the "American Joint Distribution Committee", established before the war; the HICEM 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.

Translator: FP

spk

11 11 11 4 5 12

*5 - Mr. G. B. P. P. P.*

AIRGRAM  
NO 53

**CONTROL COPY**

From: American Legation

Tangier, Morocco

Date: September 12, 1944

Rec'd: September 19, 1944

UNRESTRICTED

Secretary of State

Washington

A-199 September 12, 1944 6 P.M.

Reference Legation's telegram No. 157 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 cost about 4,000 pengoes 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 it is 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

000453

6-199, Tangier

adds that in conversation with Senor Suner, Spanish Consul General at Tangier, the Consul General expressed his interest in having the number of Jewish persons in Hungary 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.

CHILDS

840.1

ADF:gp

Copy to: American Embassy, Madrid

000454

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

CONTROL COPY

*File*

MS-991

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

Tangiers

Dated August 12, 1944

Rec'd 10:36 a.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

X  
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 interviewed 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 provided 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

1944 AUG 12 AM 9 40  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

000455



DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

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

Madrid

Dated August 2, 1944

Rec'd 3:36 a.m., 4th

Secretary of State  
Washington

2670, August 2, Noon

Department's 2142, July 29, 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.

COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS  
(LIAISON)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF  
1944 AUG 5 AM 9 50

RR  
WSB

BUTTERWORTH  
FOR SWITZERLAND  
1944 AUG 2

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

000457

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

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

Madrid

Dated August 2, 1944

Rec'd 3:36 a.m., 4th

Secretary of State  
Washington

2670, August 2, Noon

Department's 2142, July 29, 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.

COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS  
(LIAISON)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF  
1944 AUG 5 AM 9 50

RR  
WSB

BUTTERWORTH  
FOR SWITZERLAND

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

000457

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

OUTGOING  
TELEGRAM

*5- War Dept. P. H.*  
DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

HIS-  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. (~~SECRET~~ W)

July 29, 1944

9 p.m.

AMEMBASSY,

MADRID

X  
2142

**CONTROL COPY**

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.

SPETTINIUS  
(Acting)  
(GLW)

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

WRB:MLV:GMH WE SE S/CR

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

000458

*J. Van Dyke*  
*Adler*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, Madrid.  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington.  
DATED: July 28, 1944.  
NUMBER: 2624.  
x

*File*

**CONTROL COPY**

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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

000460

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

FBM-421  
This telegram must be  
paraphrased before being  
communicated to anyone  
other than a Government  
Agency. ~~(RESTRICTED)~~

Tangier

Dated July 25, 1944

Rec'd 12:56 p.m.

CONTROL COPY

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 Blickenstaff of American Relief Organization, Madrid, stating that cannot request Geneva, organization to assist until (\*)

to issue

000461

-2- #220, July 25, 11 a.m., from Tangier

to issue visas are sent to Budapest; (Three) 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

(\*) apparent omission

WMB JJM

000461

JUL 22 1944

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 Chungking (?) 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,

(Signed) J. W. Fehle

J. W. Fehle  
Executive Director

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

F.Hodel:AA:bs 7/22/44

000463

**CONTROL COPY**

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, Lisbon  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATE: July 17, 1944  
NUMBER: 2194

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The following JDC-31 is sent to Leavitt by Pilfel.  
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 Chungking children whose admission to Tangier  
is approved. Saly Mayer has been requested to investigate  
and any additional information will be forwarded to you.

**NORWEE**

7/22/44  
Message sent to Beirut  
Jlt

EGH  
DJR:LEH  
7/20/44

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

000464

**CONTROL COPY**

*2 - War Refugee Bd.  
7 m. Public*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT  
FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Legation, Tangiers  
DATED: July 19, 1944  
NUMBER: 96 X

*7/19/44*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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:

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

HULL

RECEIVED  
SEP 11 1944

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date ~~SEP~~ 14 1972

000465

NOV 1944  
DIVISION  
NOV 1944

СОНТВОГ ГОРА

CABLE TO AMERICAN CONSUL, TANGIERS, MOROCCO

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

QUOTE 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  
RABBIS ARON KOTLER ABRAHAM KALMANOWITZ  
UNQUOTE

1:00 p.m.  
July 15, 1944

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

*copy sent to Vaad Hahatzala 7/15 FH/dll*

*JH - Cleared*  
FHodel; *and 7/15/44 with losses*

*d*

000466

ועד ההצלה

**VAAD HAHATZALA**

(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)

132 NASSAU STREET  
(ROOM 819)

NEW YORK 7, N. Y.

PHONE RECTOR 2-4235

July 14, 1944

War Refugee Board  
Treasury Building  
Washington, D. C.

Att: Miss F. Hodell

Dear Miss Hodell,

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? *pending*

With deepest appreciation,

Very respectfully yours,

  
Rabbi Jacob Karlinsky  
Executive Secretary

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

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

To utilize the possibilities for rescue of European Jewry where the  
Vaad Hahatzala program is especially needed.

000467

ועד ההצלה

**VAA D HAHATZALA**

(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)

132 NASSAU STREET  
(ROOM 819)  
NEW YORK 7, N. Y.  
PHONE RECTOR 2-4235

July 14, 1944

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

*cable prepared  
7/15/44  
EH/dk*

VAA D HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE  
RABBI ARON KOTLER ABRAHAM KAIMANOWITZ

*To rescue, save and preserve from war destruction the Torah values  
(Yeshivot, Rabbis, Scholars and Communal Leaders)  
To utilize the possibilities for rescue of European Jewry where the  
V a a d H a h a t z a l a program is especially needed.*

000468

MESSAGE TO STEPHEN KLEIN

-----

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

SAMUEL REICHMAN

000469

2 war Ref Bd - Pille  
DIVISION OF

Add  
ref in  
passent  
circle

1

000470

STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

TO: American Legation, Tangier  
 FROM: Secretary of State, Washington

DATE: June 1944

CLASSIFICATION: X

Yesterday while discussing with Orgaz the purposes of War Refugee Board and the activities of Kessler American representatives of the American Joint Distribution Committee in Tangier, we expressed our appreciation of the favorable consideration given by Orgaz to the request of the Jewish communities of Tangier and Tetuan to permit 500 refugee children to enter Tangier from Hungary temporarily. The High Commissioner was informed by me that Kessler was spending \$12,000 per month for refugees in Tangier at the present time, for some of whom arrangements are being made for entry into Palestine and Canada and Kessler was willing to assume the expenses incident to relief of an additional 500 children whether from Hungary or other countries that are occupied.

It was stated by Orgaz that Madrid 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 Tangier. It was stated by Orgaz that because of this it would facilitate matters if the departure of the refugees in Tangier at the present time, with which Kessler is now occupying himself, could be facilitated before the 500 children arrive but the one had not necessarily been made contingent upon the other by him. It was stated by me that he could count on Kessler's cooperation and my own and that the United States would welcome Orgaz' interest.

The foregoing message was repeated as No. 76 to Madrid for the information of our Embassy there.

CHILE

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

cc: by Abrahamson, Akzin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McDermack, Sargey, Smith, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H. D. White, Fehle, Files.

*(wa) Lopez Bk  
Mr. Pflie*

AIRGRAM

From: American Legation

Tangier, Morocco

Date: March 7, 1944

Rec'd: *Mar 13*

Secretary of State

Washington

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

A-48 March 7, 1944 6 P.M. MAR 14 1944

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

Since the Spanish occupation of Tangier in June, 1940, no refugees have entered Tangier. Some 3000 refugees were admitted to Tangier between 1938 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 Republicans 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 protests by the honorary Swedish Consul General who is in charge of Hungarian interests. (Confidential): The Legation has reason to

believe

11 11 47 3

-2-

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. Mordecai KESLER, 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. Kessler is examining the 93 family groups and 52 individuals who have evinced an interest in emigrating to Palestine, and is hopeful of obtaining permission for a few to proceed to Canada.

Although

000474

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.

ELBRICK

840.1

PEG:EP

000475