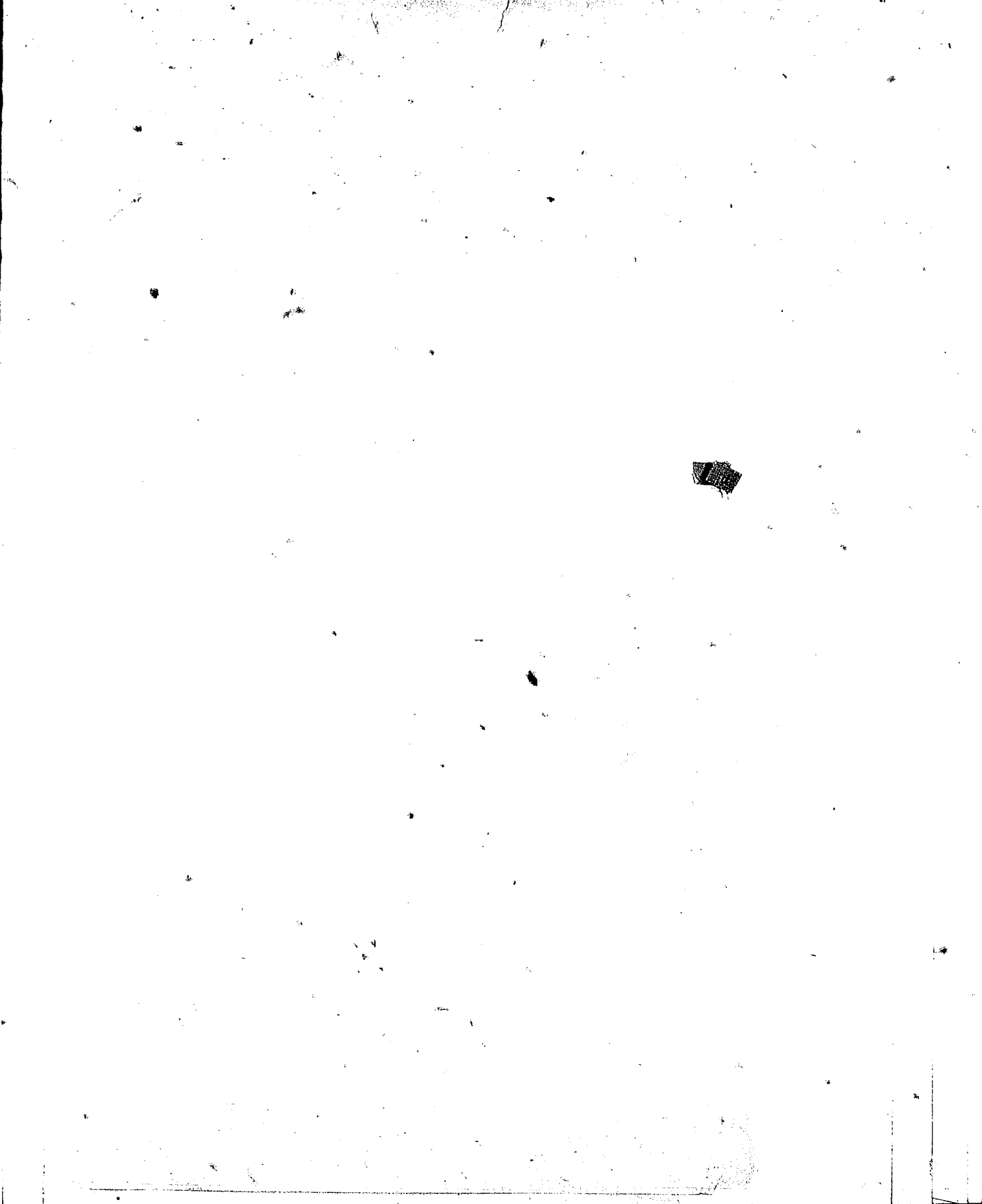


Measures & Facts Toward Ending Persecution: Hungary, Vol 2, d

7 0 0 6 8 1

2d

00058



1068

February 10, 1945

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Harold Trobe was received through the American Legation in Lisbon under date of February 9, 1945:

"JDC 164. Passman Jerusalem advises 'General informs that Hungarian Jews from labor corps rewarded. War prisoners in Russian camps are now being released if they join the new Hungarian Army.' "

Very truly yours,

(s) Florence Hodel

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

Mr. M. A. Leavitt, Secretary,
American Jewish Joint Distribution
Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,
New York, New York.

RS ✓
RDrury 2/10/45

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

PEM-597

CONTROL COPY

Sent 2/10/45

Lisbon

Dated February 9, 1945

Rec'd 11:40 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

293, Ninth

WRB 308 JCD 164 FOR LEAVITT FROM HAROLD TROBE

Passman Jerusalem advises "Teheran informs that
Hungarian Jews from labor corps rewarded. War prisoners
in Russian camps are now being released if they join the
new Hungarian Army".

NORWEB

RB

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

FEB 10 1945

DC/L
LIAISON OFFICE

1068

1 Hungary
2d
No. 10437

W. H. B.
Treasury
FILE COPY

Via Air Mail Pouch

UNRESTRICTED

Bern, January 3, 1945.

CONTROL COPY

Subject: American Interests - Hungary.
Forwarding report of the Swiss
Legation at Budapest concerning
difficulties encountered in the
protection of Jews.

The American Chargé d'Affaires a.i. at Bern has the honor to refer to the Legation's despatch No. 10160 of December 11, 1944 regarding the treatment of Jews in Hungary, and to enclose, for the Department's information, a report from the Swiss Legation at Budapest concerning certain difficulties which it has experienced in the protection of Jews under its protection.

The report, which is dated December 9, 1944, was transmitted to the Legation under cover of a note verbale from the Swiss Foreign Office dated December 29, 1944.

Enclosures:

No.1 Report, Swiss Legation Budapest, December 9, 1944;

No.2 English translation of Enclosure No. 1.

File No. 840.1

GT/DMA/mep

Original and hectograph to the Department.

1068

COPY
mep

Indicateur No. 1 to report No. 1437
dated January 3, 1945 from the American
Legation, Bern.

R A P P O R T

En son temps la Légation de Suisse à Budapest avait été chargée de prendre les mesures nécessaires en vue de l'émigration des Juifs à destination de la Palestine, et le Gouvernement britannique lui avait fait transmettre des listes de personnes au bénéfice de certificats d'immigration en Palestine (il s'agissait d'environ vingt mille familles) que la Légation devait donc prendre sous sa protection.

La Légation de Suisse fut autorisée, dans certaines limites, à établir des passeports collectifs pour des groupes de ces personnes.

Après que la Légation de Suisse eut entrepris de nombreuses démarches en faveur de cette catégorie de Juifs, les Gouvernements hongrois et allemand se déclarèrent - vers le début de novembre 1944 - disposés à autoriser l'immigration d'environ 7800 personnes de race juive, mais ils n'ont pas reconnu à la Suisse le droit d'accorder une protection complète au reste des Juifs autorisés à entrer en Palestine.

Au cours des dernières semaines, les Juifs admis à émigrer ont été concentrés dans environ 25 immeubles qui sont sous la protection de la Légation de Suisse.

Tous les Juifs entre 16 et 60 ans sont astreints au service du travail, que ce soit en Hongrie ou à l'étranger; étant donné le manque de matériel roulant en Hongrie ceux d'entre eux qui doivent travailler à l'étranger sont envoyés en direction de la frontière - se trouvant à environ 200 km. - à pied. Un pourcentage considérable de ceux-ci sont abandonnés en route, épuisés ou mourants. Ils doivent généralement passer la nuit en plein air, par le froid et l'humidité, subvenir à leur propre nourriture pendant la marche qui dure plusieurs jours.

En raison de ces circonstances les habitants juifs de la Hongrie tentent, par tous les moyens, d'obtenir des visas suisses qui les libèrent du service du travail. Ceci contribue évidemment à la fabrication sur une vaste échelle de faux documents.

Depuis des semaines les fonctionnaires de la Légation s'efforcent de vérifier les documents d'identité des Israélites internés dans les camps de concentration, ou retenus dans les tuileries, les gares et les fabriques,

etc.

Despatch No. 10637, January 3, 1945
Enclosure No. 1

-2-

etc. Cette activité ne peut avoir lieu que sous une forte protection de police et se heurte constamment aux interventions du parti des Croix Fléchées, qui force délibérément l'entrée des maisons placées sous la protection de la Suisse, retire aux Juifs les pièces d'identité délivrées par la Légation, et, en outre, emmène certaines de ces personnes ou leur font subir des voies de fait.

Les employés de la Division Spéciale de la Légation de Suisse sont donc constamment l'objet de provocations de la part des membres des Croix Fléchées. Par exemple, un fonctionnaire de la Légation fut menacé d'un revolver par l'un d'entre eux à l'occasion d'une inspection au Parc de St. Etienne où se trouvaient cinq mille Juifs, et réussit tout juste à atteindre la voiture qui l'avait amené. Il avisa le Chef de Cabinet, M. Bagossy, de ce qui s'était produit et, lorsque ce dernier - lui-même un membre influent des Croix Fléchées - apparut sur les lieux, il fut à son tour menacé avec des mitraillettes par des membres du parti qui lui arrachèrent son revolver et ses papiers de légitimation; il fallut assez longtemps avant que l'ordre soit rétabli.

Un autre incident se produisit lorsque la voiture de la Légation de Suisse, prise dans un arrêt du trafic en ville, fut immédiatement entouré d'un attroupement qui proféra des injures à l'égard des Autorités suisses en leur reprochant leurs interventions en faveur des Juifs.

A une autre occasion, qui, elle aussi, fait ressortir les difficultés que rencontre l'activité de la Légation de Suisse au profit des Israélites, un des fonctionnaires de la Légation fut appelé à venir constater la présence de trois cents Juifs, munis de documents d'identité fournis par la Légation de Suisse, dans un bâtiment où, privés de nourriture et entassés dans deux chambres dépourvues de moyens d'aération, ils allaient au devant de la mort par suffocation. Le représentant suisse se rendit auprès du Chef de Cabinet, M. Bagossy, qui l'accompagna sans tarder dans la maison en question, où ils trouvèrent effectivement les trois cents personnes dans les conditions décrites ci-dessus. Le représentant de la Légation obtint le transfert des intéressés dans un plus grand appartement, mais lorsqu'il revint le lendemain, ainsi qu'il avait été entendu avec M. Bagossy, accompagné de fonctionnaires de la Légation afin d'examiner les papiers d'identité de ces Juifs et de leur fournir un minimum de subsistance, le groupe tout entier avait déjà été éloigné par des membres des Croix Fléchées.

Budapest, le 2 décembre 1944.

Enclosure No. 1 to Dispatch
O. 10437 dated January 3, 1945
from the Swiss Legation, Bern.

TH. 13111

REPORT

In due time the Swiss Legation at Budapest was charged with taking the necessary measures to enable the migration of Jews to Palestine, and the British Government had transmitted to it lists of persons for whom immigration certificates to Palestine were authorized (twenty thousand families were involved) and whom the Legation had to take under its protection.

The Swiss Legation was authorized, within certain limits, to establish collective ports for groups of these persons.

After the Swiss Legation had undertaken numerous representations in favor of this category of Jews, the Hungarian and German Governments - at the beginning of November, 1944 - declared themselves disposed to authorize the immigration of about 75,000 persons of Jewish race, but they did not recognize the right of Switzerland to accord complete protection to the other Jews authorized to enter Palestine.

During the course of the last weeks, the Jews whose emigration was permitted were concentrated in about 25 buildings which are under the protection of the Swiss Legation.

All Jews between 16 and 60 years of age are subject to compulsory labor service, in Hungary as well as abroad. In view of the lack of rolling stock in Hungary, those who have to work outside of Hungary are sent on foot toward the border - a distance of about 200 km. A considerable part of them are abandoned on the way, exhausted or dying. Generally they have to spend the night in the open, in the cold and the darkness, provide their own subsistence on the journey which lasts several days.

In view of these circumstances, the Jewish inhabitants of Hungary are trying, by all possible means, to obtain Swiss visas which free them from the labor service. This fact evidently contributes to the preparation of false documents on a large scale. For many weeks employees of the Swiss Legation have been trying to verify the identity documents of Jews interned in concentration camps, or detained in the tilt-kilns, stations, factories, etc. This activity can take place only under heavy police protection and conflicts constantly with the intervention of the Arrow Cross Party, which deliberately forces an entrance to the houses but under the protection of Switzerland, take away from Jews the identity documents issued by the Legation, and, moreover, removes certain of these persons or detains them.

The employees

Despatch No. 10437, January 3, 1945
Enclosure No. 2.

The employees of the Social Division of the Swiss Legation are constantly the object of provocations on the part of members of the Arrow Cross. As an example, an employee of the Legation was threatened by a revolver by one of them on the occasion of an inspection in it. Stephen's car had five thousand Jews were assembled, and just managed to reach the car which brought him there. He informed the Chief of the Cabinet, Mr. Bagossy, of what happened, when the latter himself as influential member of the Arrow Cross - appeared on the spot. He was threatened with machine-guns by members of the party who took away his revolver and identity papers. It was a long time before order was restored.

Another incident occurred when the car of the Swiss Legation, caught in a traffic jam in the city, was immediately encircled by a group who shouted injuries at the Swiss authorities reproaching them for intervening in favor of Jews.

On another occasion, which also shows the difficulties encountered, the activity of the Swiss Legation on behalf of Jews, a functionary of the Swiss Legation was called to verify the presence of three hundred Jews, bearers of identity documents issued by the Swiss Legation, in a building where, deprived of food and crammed into two rooms without any means of ventilation, they were nearly dead from suffocation. The Swiss representative went to the Chief of the Cabinet, Mr. Bagossy, who accompanied him without delay in the house in question, where they actually found the three hundred persons in the condition mentioned above. The representative of the Legation obtained permission for the transfer of the interested persons to a more spacious building, but when he returned the following day, as was arranged with Mr. Bagossy accompanied by employees of the Legation, to examine the identity papers of these Jews and furnish them with minimum subsistence, the entire group had already been sent away by members of the Croix Fléchées.

Budapest, December 9, 1944.

ep-ob

10069

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

INTER OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE 1/2/45

TO Miss Hodel
FROM B. Akzin

The attached 10132 from Bern which you sent up to me does not seem to call for any action.

However, it contains the following most important sentence taken from a Hungarian note of November 8th (this sentence is inadequately translated in the attached translation, and I therefore translate it anew): "The Hungarian Government has expressed its readiness to the delegate of the International Red Cross -- as did also the German Government with reference to the Hungarian Jews situated in Germany in connection with the war labor mobilization -- to permit the inspection of these camps and the care for the mobilized in an appropriate manner and in accordance with the requirements of the labor service". (Pages 1 and 2 - marked passages)

This information that the German Government has expressed to Intercross its consent that Hungarian Jews in labor service in Germany be visited by Intercross delegates is most important in connection with the chances of survival of the one hundred to two-hundred thousand Hungarian Jews thus reported.

You may wish to add a reference to this information to the draft of a cable to Bern which I prepared in accordance with your instructions a few days ago.

Be.

UNRESTRICTED

No. 10132
X

3 2 1 15
(Kress)
CONTROL COPY

Via Airmail Pouch.

Bern, December 6, 1944.

Subject: Reply of Hungarian Government to
quoted message delivered Hungarian
Foreign Office concerning removal
Jews from Budapest to punitive
work camps in the provinces.

The American Chargé d'Affaires a.i. at Bern has
the honor to refer to the Legation's telegram No.
7973 of today's date, which is in reply to the Dep-
artment's telegram No. 3435 of October 6 - 9 p.m.
concerning the plan of the Hungarian authorities to
remove Jews remaining at Budapest to punitive work
camps in the provinces.

For the completion of the Department's records,
the Legation encloses a copy, together with its
English translation, of a Swiss Foreign Office note
dated November 25, 1944.

Enclosures:

1. - Copy of Swiss Foreign Office
note dated November 25, 1944;
2. - Translation of Enclosure No. 1.

File No. 840.1

GT/dmh

Original and hectograph to Department.

Enclosure No. 1 to despatch No. 10132
dated December 6, 1944, from the
American Legation, Bern.

COPY
amh

DEPARTEMENT POLITIQUE FEDERAL
Division des Interêts étrangers

B.24.25.A.-JJ/Gk
No. 59712

Le Département politique fédéral, Division des Interêts étrangers, a l'honneur de se référer à la note No. 9755 du 11 octobre que la Légation des Etats-Unis d'Amérique lui a adressée au sujet du traitement des Juifs en Hongrie, note dont la teneur a été portée à la connaissance du Ministère hongrois des Affaires étrangères, le 28 octobre.

Il a l'honneur de communiquer ci-après à la Légation des Etats-Unis le texte de la réponse hongroise qui a été notifiée à la Légation de Suisse à Budapest le 8 de ce mois:

"Unter Bezugnahme auf die geschätzte Verbalnote No. 401 s/b. vom 23. Oktober 1944 betreffend eine Mitteilung der amerikanischen Regierung bezüglich der jüdischen Arbeitslager in Ungarn beehrt sich das Kgl. Ung. Ministerium des Aussern der schweizerischen Gesandtschaft folgendes mitzuteilen:

"Im Laufe der Kriegsanstrengungen Ungarns wird eine totale Mobilmachung durchgeführt, in deren Rahmen auch die jüdischen Arbeitskräfte in Anspruch genommen werden. Die Konzentrierung der arbeitsfähigen Juden in Arbeitslagern ist nicht diskriminativ, weil auf Grund des einschlägigen Gesetzes vom Jahre 1939 alle arbeitsfähigen Personen, ohne Unterschied von Masse, Volkszugehörigkeit und Religion und ohne Rücksicht auf die Jahreszeit für Zwecke des militärischen Arbeitsdienstes in militärischer Disziplin in Anspruch genommen werden können. Die Konzentrierung von Juden in Arbeitslagern im Rahmen der Kriegsanstrengung kann nicht als "Straflager" betrachtet werden und die Konzentrierung bedeutet also überhaupt nicht ihre Vernichtung. Die ungarische Regierung hat sich übrigens gegenüber dem Herrn Delegierten des Internationalen Roten Kreuzes - ebenso wie auch die deutsche Reichsregierung bezüglich der im Kriegseinsatz in Deutschland befindlichen ungarischen Juden - bereit

A la Légation des Etats-Unis
d'Amérique,
BERNE.

explort,

erklärt, eine Besichtigung dieser Lager und eine Betreuung der eingesetzten Juden in geeigneter Form und nach Massgabe der Arbeits-
erfordernisse zuzulassen.

"Die Lösung der Judenfrage in Ungarn erfolgt ausschliesslich unter Berücksichtigung der Interessen der ungarischen Nation. Drohungen ausländischer Staaten gleich in welcher Form vermögen an diesem Grundsatz nichts zu ändern und müssen nachdrücklich zurückgewiesen werden.

"Die jüdischen Arbeitskräfte bilden einen Teil der Arbeitskräfte des ungarischen Staates und sie werden im Rahmen der ungarischen Kriegsanstrengungen in einer der ungarischen Regierung geeignet erscheinenden Form nutzbar gemacht.

"Die ungarische Regierung beabsichtigt im übrigen, die Juden gerecht und human zu behandeln. Die diesbezüglichen Massnahmen werden jedoch ausschliesslich von der Haltung der Juden selbst und von dem Umstande abhängig sein, ob weiterhin feindliche Terrorangriffe auf die ungarische Zivilbevölkerung erfolgen, die geeignet sind, die Judengegenschaft der ungarischen Bevölkerung zu verschärfen. Der allgemeine Lebensstandard der Juden wird schliesslich nicht niedriger sein als der Lebensstandard der arbeitenden Massen.

"Im Zusammenhang mit den von ausländischen Missionen in Budapest an ungarische Juden zur Ermöglichung der Auswanderung nach dem neutralen Ausland oder nach Palästina ausgestellten Pässen, Schutzpässen, provisorischen Pässen, Einwanderungszertifikaten, Visumszusagen, usw. erklärt die ungarische Regierung erneut, dass sie nach Massgabe der seinerzeit getroffenen Vereinbarungen nach wie vor bereit ist, diese anzuerkennen und den in Betracht kommenden Juden im Rahmen der seinerzeit von der deutschen Reichsregierung zugesagten und neuerdings bestätigten Sichtvermerkskontingente zur Durchreise durch deutsches Gebiet die Ausreise zu ermöglichen, falls dies ein normaler diplomatischer Verkehr mit den betreffenden Staaten es ermöglicht.

"Budapest, den 8. November 1944."

Le Département saisit cette occasion pour renouveler à la Légation des Etats-Unis d'Amérique les assurances de sa haute considération.

Berne, le 25 novembre 1944.

Enclosure No. 2 to despatch No. 10132
dated December 6, 1944, from the
American Legation, Bern.

TRANSLATION

FEDERAL POLITICAL DEPARTMENT
Division of Foreign Interests

B.24.25.A.-JJ/gk
No. 59712

The Division of Foreign Interests of the Federal Political Department has the honor to refer to note No. 9735 of October 11, which the Legation of the United States of America addressed it concerning the treatment of Jews in Hungary. The contents of this note has been transmitted on October 28 to the Hungarian Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

The Division of Foreign Interests has the honor to communicate below to the Legation of the United States of America the text of the Hungarian reply which has been notified on November 8 to the Swiss Legation at Budapest:

"With reference to its kind note verbale No. 401 s/b. of October 28, 1944, concerning a communication of the United States Government with regard to Jewish work camps in Hungary, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs has the honor to inform the Swiss Legation of the following:

"In Hungary's war effort total mobilization has been carried out, within the framework of which Jewish workers are needed. The concentration in work camps of Jews fit for work is not discriminatory since on the basis of the appropriate Law of 1939, all persons fit for work, without distinction as to race, nationality or religion and without regard to time of year, may be called upon for military labor service under military discipline. The concentration of Jews in work camps within the framework of the war effort can not be considered as "Straflager" (punitive camps) and, in fact, the concentration does not at all mean their extermination. In this connection, the Hungarian and German Governments have given their consent that such camps be visited by the delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Furthermore, the protection of these Jews is appropriately provided

To the Legation of the
United States of America,
BERN.

for

For according to the nature of the work performed.

"The solution of the Jewish question in Hungary is determined solely by considering the interests of the Hungarian Nation. Threats of foreign countries of whatever kind can not change this principle and must be energetically rejected.

"The Jewish workers represent a part of the workers of the Hungarian Nation and they are used within the framework of the Hungarian war effort in a form which appears appropriate to the Hungarian Government.

"As a matter of fact the Hungarian Government intends to treat the Jews in a just and humane manner. The respective measures will, however, depend exclusively upon the attitude of the Jews themselves and upon the circumstance whether further enemy terrorist attacks on the Hungarian civilian population take place, which provoke a more intensified opposition of the Hungarian population against the Jews. The general standard of life of the Jews will finally not be lower than that of the working classes.

"With regard to the issuance of passports, protective passports, provisional passports, immigration certificates, promises of visas, etc. by foreign missions in Budapest to Hungarian Jews for their emigration to neutral countries or to Palestine, the Hungarian Government reiterates that, according to the arrangement agreed upon, it is still prepared to recognize these and to accord emigration to the Jews concerned within the framework of the number of visas agreed upon by the German Government and recently confirmed, for transit through German territory, in case normal diplomatic relations with the interested country permit it."

"Budapest, November 8, 1944."

The Division of Foreign Interests avails itself of this occasion to renew to the Legation of the United States of America the assurance of its highest consideration.

Bern, November 25, 1944.

DMH

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

RP-883
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. [REDACTED] (W)

Bern

1944-DEC-9 1944
Dated 10:18 AM

Rec'd 8:45 p.m.

COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS
(LIAISON)

Secretary of State

Washington

8052, December 9, 2 p.m.

FOR WRB FROM MCCLELLAND

Have received following supplemental information re-

garding dispositions being taken with Jews remaining in
Budapest from trustworthy private source.

Some 80,000 Jews are being concentrated in a ghetto
located in seventh "arrondissement" of city in area of
Wsselenyi and Dohanyutcas. This section comprises about
162 Jewish 133 Christian and 101 "mixed" houses.
Hungarian officer in charge of this concentration estimates
number of rooms available for 80,000 Jews at 10,000.
About 20,000 Jews will be left in other parts of
Budapest.

The former Jewish Senate "de facto" no longer
exists having been dissolved toward end of November. A
smaller group headed by a Dr. Karl Wilhelm has taken
over Jewish representation within narrow limits left
them by Szalasy regime and Gestapo.

HUDDIE

RR

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

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

CONTROL COPY

DEPARTMENT

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

OUTGOING

TELEGRAM

December 9, 1944

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

1944 DEC 11 PM 2 53

1944 DEC 11 PM 2 53
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS
(LIAISON)

CONTROL COPY

AMLEGATION

BERN.
4163

The cable below for McClelland is WRB 319.

Greatly appreciate information contained in your letter of November 27 and enclosure. It is noted that no mention is made of special treatment of 2300 Budapest Jews to whom, according to Amembassy Madrid, Spanish letters of protection have been issued, and of 570 Jews, including 300 children, in possession of visas to Spain and Spanish Morocco. Since then, Spanish Legation in Budapest was authorized to grant visas to 700 more Budapest Jews.

Please ascertain through available channels reasons for such omission of Jews with Spanish protective documents and visas from the exceptional treatment reserved to holders of similar papers issued by other governments. Amembassy Madrid is being instructed to take appropriate steps.

Please advise Board of any information you can obtain in this matter.

STETTINIUS
(GLW)
SE

WRB:MMV:KG
12/9/44

WE

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

CABLE TO AMLEGATION BERN FOR MCCLELLAND

Greatly appreciate information contained in your letter of November 27 and enclosure. It is noted that no mention is made of special treatment of 2300 Budapest Jews to whom, according to Amembassy Madrid, Spanish letters of protection have been issued, and of 570 Jews, including 500 children in possession of visas to Spain and Spanish Morocco. Since then, Spanish Legation in Budapest was authorized to grant visas to 700 more Budapest Jews.

Please ascertain through available channels reasons for such omission of Jews with Spanish protective documents and visas from the exceptional treatment reserved to holders of similar papers issued by other governments. Amembassy Madrid is being instructed to take appropriate steps.

Please advise board of any information you can obtain in this matter.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 319.

5:00 p.m.
December 8, 1944

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

BAKzin:ar 12/8/44

Ba. *checked with des. Friedman*

DEPARTMENT
PERIOD
STATE
special announcement

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

December 24
10 p.m.

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

AMLEGATION

BERN
4016

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

The following for McClelland is WRB 336.

Reference your 8110 of December 13. No information
has reached Board from Stockholm.

COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS
(LIASCO)

1944 DEC 24 10 39

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF

STETTINIUS

CONTROL COPY

WRB:MLV:BM
12/22/44

WE

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

10070

CABLE TO AMLEGATION BERN, SWITZERLAND, FOR MCCLELLAND

Reference your 8115 of December 13. No information has reached
Board from Stockholm.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. ~~996~~

11:30 a.m.
December 22, 1944

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

BAK:istmh 12-31-44

BA. *BA*

100700

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

EK-1952

Distribution of true
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arrangement.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Dated December 13, 1944

1944 DEC 14 PM 5:50 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

COMMUNICATIONS
RECORDS
(LIAISON)

CONTROL COPY

8115, December 13, 5 p.m.

FOR WRE FROM MCCLELLAND.

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

Legation's 7845 November 30.

According to trustworthy reports received
lately from Kastner and ICRC's Budapest delegate,
there is fair chance of 2 trains of emigrating
Hungarian Jews each containing from 700 to 1000
persons, being able to leave Budapest at this time.
As reported in our 7845, one train will come to
Switzerland bringing, as main categories, Swiss visa
holders (close relatives in Switzerland) and holders
of Palestine emigration certificates. Other train
will go to Sweden with holders Swedish entry visas
and protective passports.

Would you kindly let me know whether you have
received any confirming report of such departure
for Sweden from board representative in Stockholm
as it seems a rather long haul to me.

Meanwhile, Jewish elderly, ill, women with small
children are reliably reported still unmolested in
Budapest.

WMB

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

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

ASB-260

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

Bern

DEC 15 1944
APR 10 1943
December 15, 1944

Rec'd 5:49 p.m.

COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS
(LIAISON)

Secretary of State,

Washington

8114, December 13, 4 p.m.

FOR WRB FROM MOJLELLAND

Department's 4163, December 9, WRBS 311

We have asked both Swiss authorities and IICG
to kindly obtain through their respective represen-
tations in Budapest whatever information they can
regarding present status of Spanish protectees and
entry visa holders in Budapest, especially question
of permission for their departure, from German and
Hungarian authorities. Will communicate any infor-
mation received promptly.

HUDDLE

WTD

[REDACTED]
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

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

LEF-223

Distribution of this message only by special arrangement. ()

Bern

DEC 8 PM 4 47

Dated December 7, 1944

COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS
()

Secretary of State,

Washington.

CONTROL COPY

7973, December 7, 2 p.m.

Foreign Office note November 25 quoted Hungarian response (your 3435, October 6 1943) delivered Swiss Legation Budapest November 8. Following is substance note:

Jewish workers needed within frame work Hungary's total war mobilization. Concentration Jews fit for work not discriminatory as on basis law 1939 all physically fit persons without distinction race nationality or religion subject military labor service under military discipline. Concentration Jews work camps can not (repeat not) be considered as punishment camps. Actually Hungarian and German governments have consented visit intercross delegate camps where Hungarian Jews performing labor in Germany. Furthermore the protection of these Jews is appropriately provided for according to nature of work performed.

Solution of Jewish

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

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

-2- 7973, December 7, 2 p.m., from Bern

Solution of Jewish question Hungary decided solely in light interests Hungary. Foreign threats of whatever kind cannot (repeat not) change this principle. Jewish workers represent part all Hungarian workers and are used within framework Hungarian war effort in a form which appears appropriate Hungarian Government.

Government intends treat Jews in just and humane manner. Such measures depend, however, upon attitude Jews themselves, and upon whether further enemy terroristic attacks on Hungarian civilian population occur since these provoke increased opposition Hungarian population. General standard life Jews will not (repeat not) be lower than working classes.

Regarding issuance passports and other documentation by Foreign Mission Budapest to Hungarian Jews for their emigration neutral countries or Palestine Hungarian Government reiterates it is still prepared to recognize these papers and accord immigration Jews concerned within frame-work number visas agreed upon by German Government for transit through German territory in case normal

diplomatic

-3-77973, December 7, 2 p.m., from Bern

Diplomatic relation with interested country so permit.

Despatch follows.

MUDDLE

MB

100700

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: October 6, 1944
NUMBER: 3435

TO MINISTER HARRISON AND MCCLELLAND,

Reference your 6447 of September 28.

- (1) The O.W.I. is informed of the situation.
- (2) Please request the cooperation of the Swiss Foreign Office in conveying the sense of the following message to appropriate Hungarian authorities. You should also employ such unofficial channels as may be available to you to the same end.

QUOTE The Government of the United States has learned of the plan of Hungarian authorities to remove the Jews still remaining in Budapest to putative work camps in the provinces. In view of the fate of Jews who were removed in previous months from other cities to similar camps, and in view of the approach of winter, the Government of the United States has good reason to regard the present plan as a further measure of mass extermination, for mass extermination may be accomplished either by the methods employed at camps of final destination in Poland, or by subjecting large numbers of people to under-nourishment, hard physical labor and unhygienic living conditions in improvised camps. Consequently, the United States Government considers it appropriate to remind Hungarian authorities of its determination, as expressed by the President of the United States on March 24, that ~~INNERQUOTE~~ none who participate in these acts of savagery shall go unpunished. All who share the guilt shall share the punishment. ~~CLOSE INNERQUOTE~~. This determination was publicly reaffirmed on May 31 and June 28 by members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, respectively.

QUOTE The Government of the United States, however, recognizes the possibility that the present plan may in fact have been evolved to achieve genuine humanitarian ends as has been claimed by various Hungarian authorities. To the extent that the plan, if put in operation, may achieve such ends, the Government of the United States will, of course, recognize the validity of such claims. On the other hand, should the removal of the Jews from Budapest to provincial camps be but a prelude to their further removal to extermination centers, or otherwise result in their deaths, Hungarian authorities are fully

APPENDIX

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 1-11-78
SEP 14 1972

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

- 2 -

apprised of the attitude of the people and Government of the United States. UNQUOTE

(3) Please advise the Department and Board of the action taken by you.

For your information, Ambassy Lisbon and Ampolad Caserta are being requested to convey a similar message to Hungarian authorities through such channels as are available to them.

THIS IS WHN CABLE NO. 198.

HULL

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamsen, Akain, Cohn, Drury, DuBois,
Friedman, Gaston, Hodal, Laughlin, Lesser, Mannon, Marks, McCormack,
Pohle, Files.

00070

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

LC - 1910
Distribution of
true reading only by
special arrangement.
[REDACTED] W)

Bern

Dated November 30, 1944

Rec'd 9:50 a.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

7845, November 30, 11 a.m.

FOR WRB FROM MCCLELLAND.

Legation's 7716, November 24.

security reasons the
[REDACTED] message must

Wire dated November 27 received by Swiss Political
Department from Hungary reports that Swiss Legation
at Budapest is assembling a first train group of 700
Hungarian Jews possessing Swiss entry visas (close
relatives of persons in Switzerland) and Palestine
certificates. Swiss are now in pour parlar with Wehrmacht
officials with view to obtaining necessary rolling
stock. We have urged them to do their best to get at
least this first convoy off.

JMB

HUDDLE

CONTROL COPY

RECEIVED
DEC 1 1944

RECEIVED
DEC 1 1944

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

21
DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

VN-104
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. (T W)

Bern

Dated November 24, 1944

Rec'd 10:41 a.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

CONTROL COPY

7716, November 24, 9 a.m.

FOR WRB FROM MCCLELLAND.

Legation's 7541, November 14.

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

According to latest news from Swiss Legation
Budapest brought by Minister Jaeger who is at present in
Bern, some 7,000 persons (composed of family groups)
holding Palestine certificates are ready to leave for
Switzerland. They have all necessary papers including
German transit visas but are unable to depart for lack
of transportation. Meanwhile they are relatively un-
molested and are exempted from forced labor service as
are all persons possessing Swiss "protective" documents
in view of military situation it seems unlikely that
Germans will choose to allot rolling stock for their
transportation. Essential thing is, however, they are
not (repeat not) being deported.

Departure of 4,500 or more persons holding Swedish
protective papers is even more doubtful as they are
reported not to have been granted German transit visas yet.

Will keep you posted on any new developments in this
situation.

BB

HUDDLE

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 4-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 14 1972

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

DCG-784

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

Bern

Dated November 10, 1944

Rec'd 9:20 a.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

7441, November 10, 10 a.m.

FOR WRB FROM MCCLELLAND.

In line with Department's 3710, October 30,
reliable information has been received from Bucharest
that of 5 to 6,000 Hungarian Jews sent to work copper
mines at Borin some 400 have reached Bucharest and
700 Timisoara, Transylvania. 700 Hungarian Jews also
said to have been deported for labor to Ukraine have
succeeded returning as far as Timisoara.

HARRISON

RR

CONTROL COPY

NOV 11 1944
RECEIVED
NOV 11 1944
RECEIVED
NOV 11 1944
RECEIVED

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

PEM-216

This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Government
Agency.

Bern

Dated November 10, 1944

Rec'd 1:03 p.m., 11th

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

NOV 12 1944

Secretary of State, DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS & RECORDS

Washington

For 37464, November 10, 8 p.m.

text of persons, the
be closely guarded must

One. Expression of appreciation and assurances con-

CONTROL COPY

tained in paragraph one your 3786, November 7 have been
conveyed to Mr. Pilet. Information requested in para-
graph two is being collected and will be wired shortly.

Two. On November 8 Swiss Political Department
still had no news from its Budapest Legation regarding
composition or departure of group of 8,000. A third
wire requesting clarification was sent on November 7.

Situation in Budapest is most unsettled so that it
is doubtless increasingly difficult for Swiss Legation
to supply precise information concerning possibility
departure those persons. Communications with Budapest are
also becoming uncertain. It now seems most unlikely
operation can be effected by November 15.

Three. We have credible intimations that balance of
Hungarian-Jewish group from Bergen-Belsen some 1,300 souls
will be sent to Switzerland shortly.

RB

HARRISON

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 14 1972

*I saw Lyle
Pelle*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: November 7, 1944
NUMBER: 3786
X

CONTROL COPY

To Minister Harrison and McClelland, Bern.

Reference your 7269 of November 1.

Please transmit to Swiss Government this Government's appreciation of Swiss action reported therein. You may assure Swiss officials that this Government will do everything possible to assist them in every way in connection with the reception and evacuation of the contemplated refugees from Hungary.

In this connection, please ascertain and advise the Board of total number of refugees now in Switzerland, and of the numbers holding (1) Palestine certificates, (2) valid visas to any other countries, or (3) valid passports of countries to which they can safely return.

This is WRB Bern cable No. 264.

STETTINIUS
ACTING

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-17-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 14 1972

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AND MCCLELLAND, BERN, SWITZERLAND

Reference your 7289 of November 1.

Please transmit to Swiss Government this Government's appreciation of Swiss action reported therein. You may assure Swiss officials that this Government will do everything possible to assist them in every way in connection with the reception and evacuation of the contemplated refugees from Hungary.

In this connection, please ascertain and advise the Board of total number of Jewish refugees now in Switzerland, and of the numbers holding (1) Palestine certificates, (2) valid visas to any other countries, or (3) valid passports of countries to which they can safely return.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 264.

2:50 p.m.
November 6, 1944

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

BAK:ms:tl:Lesser:tlh 11-6-44

Re. L.S.L. 24

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

DCG-826

PLAIN

Bern

Dated October 25, 1944

Rec'd 7:50

DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS
(LIAISON)

1944 OCT 26 PM 4 01

DEPARTMENT OF
STATE

Secretary of State,
Washington.

7093, Twenty-fifth.

Budapest despatch October 19 states Szalasi

Government will place Jewish questions in competence
of Justice rather than Interior Ministry treatment
Jews will depend on their attitude and Allied
airraids on Budapest and Jews will be compelled to
emigrate following victorious conclusion war.

HARRISON

EH

CONTROL COPY

OCT 26 1944

RECEIVED
OCT 26 1944

*I was killed
File*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: October 24, 1944
NUMBER: 7049

CONTROL COPY

This Legation desires to report, in connection with its message of October 20, No. 6950, that it has received information that the new Minister of Interior in Szalassy's Hungarian Government, Vajna, stated on October 17 in a radio broadcast that all anti-Jewish laws would be ruthlessly and strictly enforced, and that the Jewish problem would be liquidated without mercy. In addition, he is reported to have said that no protective documents of any kind and no foreign passports would be honored and that no interference either external or internal, would be tolerated, in particular.

An urgent request was made by the Legation on the 20th of October of the Swiss Foreign Office asking them to endeavor to confirm the above and to make vigorous protest with authorities of Hungary and take such steps as conditions at present warrant to accord suitable protection to Swiss protected nationals, if the above is found to be substantially true.

On October 9 the Swiss Foreign Office was requested informally to communicate to the German Legation in Bern, either officially or in an informal manner, the contents of message of October 7 from the Department, No. 3461. On October 20 a ranking official of Swiss Division Foreign Interests informed Legation Secretary that the chief of that

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

division

000711

division had called in the German Minister in charge of German Interests in Bern and informed him of the contents of message No. 3461 from the Department, orally. A few days later, evidently after having been in communication with the German Foreign Office, he stated that the German representative made statement as follows, in translation, to the chief of the Swiss Division of Foreign Interests which the latter has included in an informal communication to the Legation; it follows: The possibility of acceptance of such a communication from the Government of the United States with a view to its transmission to the Government of Germany is not envisaged by the German Legation in Bern. It is not necessary to observe that protecting power can at all times, through the intermediary of its representation at Berlin, address itself to the German Foreign Office, to the extent that the communication in question concerns people who are citizens of the United States. (The statement ends here)

It is the opinion of the Legation, that the purpose desired may have been accomplished in view of its message dated October 12, No. 6818. The Bern representative of OWI is taking the steps necessary for suitable dissemination, nevertheless.

At present it is believed to be desirable to emphasize that the Foreign Office of Switzerland is most reluctant to have its representative in Berlin associated unofficially with messages which are in the nature of threats to officials of Germany inasmuch as the Germans might jeopardize seriously the position of Feldscher at the Foreign Office in Germany and might consider these messages as an affront by the Swiss.

The above

- 3 -

The above attitude of the Swiss may be looked upon as being applicable both to the third paragraph of message of July 21 from the Department No. 2490 and to message No. 3461 from the Department, which the Swiss Foreign Office declined to pass on to Feldscher, on two occasions, August 5 and October 11. After the initial Swiss refusal, OWI representative took steps for suitable dissemination.

HARRISON

PLW
DCR:LCW:MLM 10-27-44

Executive Office of the President

WAR REFUGEE BOARD

FROM: *7 Hodel*

TO: ☐ Mr. Peble

☐ Mr. Abrahamson

☐ Mr. Markai

☒ Mr. Aksin

☐ Mr. McCormack

☐ Mrs. Cohn

☐ Mr. Parke

☐ Mr. DuBois

☐ Mr. Sargoy

☐ Mr. Friedman

☐ Mr. Smith

☐ Miss Hodel

☐ Mr. Standish

☒ Miss Laughlin

☐ Mr. Stewart

☐ Mrs. Towler

☐ Mr. Luxford

☐ Mr. Weinstein

☐ Mr. Mann

☐ Mr. White

☐ Mrs. Mannon

What's this about

000720

FROM: ALLEGATION, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: October 24, 1944
NUMBER: 7048

Legation's 8748, October 10, 1944

It is reported by Swiss that delivery of notification
was made to Hungarian Foreign Office the eleventh of October.

HARRISON

CONTROL COPY

10-26-44

DCH:EMS

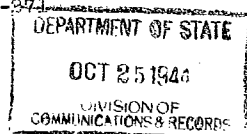
DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 14 1972

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

GER-371



FLIN

Bern

Dated October 24, 1944

Rec'd 2:31 a.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

CONTROL COPY

* 7045, Twentyfourth

German press commenting on Hungarian changes states Szalasi and Pfeilkreuz party stand without hesitation against so-called Jewish contamination of Hungarian race and predicts privileges maintained for certain Hungarian Jews particularly Jews married to Christians will shortly be abolished. Interior Minister Vejsa declared he advocates radical solution Jewish problem and that anti-Jewish laws will be administered with Draconian severity should necessity so demand. Program new puppet government calls for intensive exploitation Jewish labor but retention Jews in Hungary.

HARRISON

RB

000720

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: October 23, 1944
NUMBER: 3607
X

FOR MCCLELLAND FROM PEHLE.

For your information the Swiss Minister in Washington recently asked the Board how his government could be of any help in the serious Jewish situation in Hungary and at Oswiecim and Birkoneau. He was advised confidentially of the steps which have been taken by the Swedes. He has promised to notify his government of this and to suggest to the Swiss Government that it take action parallel to that taken by the Swedes.

Please support this matter to the extent possible.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 230.

STETTINIUS
(Acting)

Miss Chauncey (for the Soc'y) Abrahamson, Akzin, Cohn, Drury, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Lesser, Marks, Mannon, McCormack, Pehle, Files

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73

By R. H. Parks Date

SEP 14 1972

FROM: AMLEGATION, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: October 18, 1944
NUMBER: 6913
X

PARAGRAPH 100 TELEGRAM RECEIVED

WFO ~~NY~~
JW Peller

Files

CONTROL COPY

There is transmitted in Swiss note of October 13 a copy of a note dated September 26 addressed to the Swiss Legation for the Hungarian Foreign Office which contains a summary translation of the reply given below to the following:

A. Department's 2863, dated August 19, paragraph three.

A workers Supervisory Office has been established by the Hungarian Legation at Berlin to take care of Hungarian Nationals who as workers were placed at the disposal of the Government of Germany. To every male and female worker of Hungarian nationality, regardless of religion or race the competence of this office extends.

In addition, Dr. Robert Schirmer, permanent delegate of the International Red Cross at Berlin, was, pursuant to his request during his visit to Budapest in early August, informed that International Red Cross relief and humanitarian activity for those Jews placed as workers at the disposal of the Government of Germany was ^{also} authorized by Government of Hungary.

The proposal to the Government of Germany that a representative of the International Red Cross be allowed to visit Hungarian Jews working in Germany was made by the Government of Hungary itself.

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

B. Department's 2900, August 23, paragraph two, point one.

It was ordered as soon as August 1944 that the transfer of Jews of Jewish faith for labor service abroad must definitely cease and no Jews have been put at the disposal of the German Government since that time.

The Government of Hungary is ready to give authorization to emigrate to all categories of Jews. During Dr. Schirmer's above mentioned visit he was so advised of this.

Consent has been given by the Government of Hungary for the International Red Cross organs to observe treatment of Jews and their living conditions. During the last of July and the beginning of August of 1944, Dr. Schirmer has exercised this control and since then the International Red Cross delegate at Budapest, Dr. Friedrichborn has done so.

HARRISON

10-3-44

DCR:EMS

1072

*2 and Ref Bk
Pills*

PARAFRASEL OF TELETYPE RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: October 10, 1944
NUMBER: 6948 Y

CONTROL COPY

Reference is made herein to your October 3 cable No. 3404.

We have been advised through notice from Foreign Office October 9 that as result of more precise information on facts they have transmitted to Swiss Legation for notification of Hungarian Foreign Office quoted message which your August 25 cable No. 2933 contained.

HARRISON

634
DOR:EBH 10/11/44

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

10072

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATE: October 3, 1944
NUMBER: 3404

To Minister Harrison and McClelland

Reference is made to your 6445 of September 23.

You may state that our information contained in Department's 2933 of August 25 was received from a person connected with a neutral legation in Budapest. The place of the specific instance cited was an old brick yard in Budakalasa. The time of the occurrence is unknown, but seems rather immaterial, since the Hungarian Government denied that Hungarian officials ever participated in cruelties in connection with the deportations.

For your confidential information, the legation concerned is that of Sweden, and the incident was related to Olsen by Count Bernadotte, Chairman of Swedish Red Cross.

THIS IS WRS MEM CABLE NO. 177.

HUMK

Miss Chauncy (For the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Akim, Cobb, Drury, DuBois, Friedman, Gustin, Hodel, Laughlin, Lasser, Nathan, Marks, McCormack, Pahl, Files.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 1-11-78
By: R. E. Parker Date: SEP 14 1972

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

DSH-507

This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Government
Agency. (T-O)

Born

Dated October 5, 1944

Rec'd 2:10 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

6619, October 5, 8 a.m.
FOR MRB FROM MCCLELLAND.

CONTROL COPY

I have received a number of reports lately dealing
with most recent developments in situation of Jews in
Slovakia and Hungary of which I consider following
pertinent details would interest you.

Report from Bratislava dated September 27 states
that due to cooperation of various Jewish youth groups
with Partisan Gostapo has instigated general concentra-
tion of all Jews in provinces. They are being mainly
assembled at camp of Serec which was taken earlier in
month by Partisans. About 500 Jews were liberated (but
later recaptured by Germans. Germans are also said to
be concentrating Jews at Troncsin. About 1700 Jewish
internoes from camp at Novaky were recently liberated
by Partisans who still control this region. All Jews
capable of bearing arms from Novaky have been enrolled
in resistance units.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 1-11-73
By R. H. Parks Date

According to

SEP 14 1972

-2-, #6619, October 5, 8 a.m., from Bern.

According to report from Czech resistance operating in Slovakia dated September 19 Tito declared he had received "assurances" from Germans that Jews in provinces were simply being concentrated but would "not be removed from Slovak territory". This can scarcely be relied upon and telegram from responsible Jewish circles in Bratislava dated October 3 indicates that deportations from provinces (scale unknown) are already taking place.

Situation in Bratislava itself while tense appears quiet as far as deportations are concerned and central Jewish office under direction Mrs. Fleischmann continues to function. Rescue activity now consists mainly in procuring false "Aryan" papers for and in hiding Jews. There is a certain volume of flight back to Hungary.

I sent a further sum of 100,000 Swiss francs from WRB funds to support all such practical rescue activities with Coujier who left October 4 for Bratislava and Budapest.

During his most recent interview with Kasztner, Biolitz and a now Gestapo agent at Swiss German frontier on September 29 Saly Mayor elicited unwilling assurances from German that no deportations from Slovakia would

take place.

000720

-3-, #6619, October 5, 8 a.m., from Bern.

take place as long as "negotiations" continued. This seems to have been successful to date in any event as far as Jews in Bratislava are concerned.

Status of Mayer's negotiations with Germans remains very much as reported in Legation's 6110, September 16. Claiming that he did not have necessary technical qualifications for compiling list of goods Germans desired in Switzerland, Mayer again invited them to send representatives for this purpose here. It is however still most doubtful that Swiss authorities will grant such visas, as presence Gestapo men Switzerland is highly distasteful to them. I have discussed matter informally with Swiss and Mayer is taking it up once more this week. By bluffing it has happily been possible to draw matters out another time although whole affair is becoming very strained.

During this recent interview Kasztner reported that as yet no movement of Jews out of Budapest (Legation's 6447, September 28) had begun. However notorious SS "Obersturmbann Fuehrer" Eichmann formerly of Lublin who along with his henchman "Hauptsturmfuehrer" Wisliceny was responsible from German side for organization of mass deportation of Jews from Hungary in

May and June

-4-, #6619, October 5, 8 a.m., from Bern.

May and June has been transferred back to Budapest from Temesvar. His return at this time is most disquieting ign.

Another report from Budapest dated September 13 received through representative of Hungarian resistance movement in Zurich indicates that it was possible during July and August (Legation's 4394, July 11) to organize evacuation of some 7,000 Jewish men including the families of 400 from southern Hungary to partisan controlled Yugoslav territory. Men capable bearing arms have been enrolled Partisan forces those physically unsuited, women and children have been moved to interior but are living under extremely primitive conditions. In attempt alleviate this shipment have recently financed shipment of medical and sanitary supplies for these refugees.

HARRISON

MEV

10073

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATE: October 3, 1944
NUMBER: 3404
X

*was by [unclear]
Pah*

CONTROL COPY

To Minister Harrison and McClelland.

Reference is made to your 6445 of September 28.

You may state that our information contained in Department's 2933 of August 25 was received from a person connected with a neutral legation in Budapest. The place of the specific instance cited was an old brick yard in Budakalaszi. The time of the occurrence is unknown, but seems rather immaterial, since the Hungarian Government denied that Hungarian officials ever participated in cruelties in connection with the deportations.

For your confidential information, the legation concerned is that of Sweden, and the incident was related to Olsen by Count Bernadotte, Chairman of Swedish Red Cross.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 197.
X

HULL

NOV 10 1944

RECEIVED
NOV 10 1944

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73
By R. H. Parks Date **SEP 14 1972**

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AND MCCLELLAND, BERN, SWITZERLAND

Reference is made to your 6445 of September 28.

You may state that our information contained in Department's 2933 of August 25 was received from a person connected with a neutral legation in Budapest. The place of the specific instance cited was an old brick yard in Budakalass. The time of the occurrence is unknown, but seems rather immaterial, since the Hungarian Government denied that Hungarian officials ever participated in cruelties in connection with the deportations.

For your confidential information, the legation concerned is that of Sweden, and the ~~source of our information is~~ Count Bernadotte, Chairman of Swedish Red Cross. /incident was related to Olsen by

197

10:15 a.m.
October 3, 1944

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

BAKzin:ar 9/30/44

BA.
P.S. 2.

100731

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

LFG-427

Bern

This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Government
Agency. (S) (C)

Dated September 28, 1941

Rec'd 7:22 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

5417, September 23, noon

FOR MR. PROL McCLELLAND

Legation's 6093, September 15.

Responsible Jewish organizations in Switzerland
are becoming increasingly anxious regarding announced
intention of present Hungarian Government to move
Jews remaining concentrated in Budapest out of city.
These organizations supported by Dr. Wilsonkhan, former
member of Hungarian Jewish Senate (Judenrat) who reached
Switzerland with group of 318 from Bergen Belsen
(Legation's 5517, August 23) regard such a move as
greatly endangering situation of Budapest Jews and
have laid following considerations before me which
I feel should be communicated to WRB.

One. Past experience has demonstrated that pogroms
are much more difficult to carry out in capital cities
where public

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 14 1972

Security personnel must
text of this message must
be closely guarded.

CONTROL COPY

-2-5417, September 23, noon, from Bern

where public sentiment reacts more energetically, foreign diplomats are located and government which will be held directly responsible for such excesses has its seat.

Two. In last minute deterioration of Hungary's military situation it could be far easier for Germans or certain Hungarian elements to "liquidate" Budapest Jews if they were scattered throughout provinces and located in isolated camps rather than in some 2600 separated dwellings in Budapest.

Three. Erection of barracks in camps to house 120,000 Jews would require several hundred railroad cars of lumber which under present circumstances is not available. Further financial means which Jewish Committee in Budapest still possesses would be inadequate to pay for construction of such camps present Lakatos Government having made no move to unblock confiscated Jewish funds for this purpose. As a result of these prospects it is feared that most Jews whose evacuation from Budapest is envisaged would be concentrated in thoroughly primitive and unhygienic "camps" similar to those used for assembling

Jews in provinces

RECEIVED
SEP 24 1944
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE

-5-6417, September 28, noon from Bern

Jews in provinces prior to their deportation during May and June. Such "ad hoc" camps were terribly crowded and afford insufficient shelter.

Four. Task of supplying such camps with food which would fall to Central Jewish Senate in Budapest would be exceptionally difficult. Necessary equipment for such camps (kitchens for instance) is lacking and it is very hard in provinces to find adequate supplies locally for large concentrations of persons.

Five. Jews in Budapest despite confiscation and plundering still possess a minimum of clothing and household belongings which would undoubtedly have to be left behind and also be confiscated and stolen.

In view of above pertinent to observations which have also been brought to attention of ICRC I recommend that you seriously consider addressing a formal protest to Hungarian Government against this projected move. Immediate radio broadcast covering situation might be considered. Although it is not yet confirmed that Hungarian Government has begun execution this plan it has stated that contemplated move is designed to bring Jews under exclusively Hungarian control and "preserve them from outside interference".

HARRISON

RB

100730

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

FEB-262

This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Government
Agency. [REDACTED] -0)

Bern

Dated September 28, 1944

Rec'd 9:15 a.m.

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

Secretary of State,
Washington.

CONTROL COPY

6445, September 28, 10 a.m.

FOR INFO FROM MCCLELLAND.

Department's 3255 September 21, and 2933 August

25.

With reference to third paragraph your 3255
we should appreciate receiving from person mentioned
in opening sentence your 2933 as precise information
as possible concerning date and place of inhuman
treatment of Hungarian Jews described. Did this occur
after Hungarian Government's official declaration to
ICRC that deportation of all Jews from Hungary had
ceased? With such additional information on hand the
Swiss would undoubtedly be able to approach Hungarian
Government more effectively. If desired data can-
not be furnished, however, please advise, whereupon
we will again request Swiss to act on basis material
available.

DECLASSIFIED
HARRISON State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 14 1972

MEV

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

Was Ref Bd (Mr. Bell)

CORRECTION

DSH

PLAIN

September 24, 1944

In cable from Bern 6170, September 18-Budapest
press of eighth delete serial number "6170" and insert
"6171".

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

CSB

CONTROL COPY

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: September 21, 1944
NUMBER: 3255

FOR MOORELLAND.

1. With reference to earlier communications regarding admission of Jewish children from Hungary, Embassy Habana reports that by note of August 14 Cuban government agreed to lodge 1,000 refugee children now in France and Hungary. Embassy London advised by IGC that Brazilian government is ready to accept 500 Jewish refugee children from Hungary.

2. With reference to your 5796 of September 3, clarification is desired, since Department's 2853 (erroneously given as 2863) of August 19, WMB's 130 was aimed at Swiss government rather than Intercross action. Nevertheless, Intercross attitude is regretted and you are requested to convey to Intercross Board's feeling that fear of misinterpretation should not be allowed to stand in the way if supervision of deportations can alleviate sufferings of deportees. The very presence of Intercross observers might have a salutary effect beyond mere humanization of treatment during deportation. Refer to Department's 1806 of May 25.

3. With reference to your 5808 of September 7, regret is expressed at the inability of Swiss authorities to transmit message contained in Department's 2933 of August 25. In the opinion of the Board, the purpose would be accomplished by the mere awareness of Hungarian government that outside world is informed of abuses occurring in Hungary, whether or not they would accept the message in a formal sense.

4. With reference to your 5805 of September 4, paragraph two, it is considered here that documents in question may be deemed to be covered by Salvadorian declaration reported in paragraph six of your 3871 of June 17. Accordingly, if in your judgment delivery of such documents would assist victims of enemy persecution, you may do so, simultaneously advising Board indicating numbers of documents delivered and persons covered. It is also suggested that these persons be included in lists which you will present to Swiss authorities pursuant to Department's 2407 of July 13 paragraph numbered six and Department's 3180 of September 14 paragraph numbered one.

- 2 -

5. In the same connection, the wisdom of using the term "fraudulent" in any communication is seriously questioned, as being inconsistent with the stand taken by Department and Board and the Inter-American Emergency Advisory Committee for Political Defense.

6. With reference to your 5894 of September 7, please thank Swiss authorities for information reported therein and request them to continue pressing German government on basis of Department's 3180 of September 14, WRB's 164, and Department's 2490 of July 21.

7. Department's and Board's attention has been called to the case of Emil-Henryk Wilner, reported to be the son of an American citizen, and last known to have been in Pilsenbergen.

Pursuant to Department's 1269 of April 13, 1944, please advise Swiss government that Wilner's claim to American citizenship, based on the citizenship of his father, is under investigation by the Department and that until the Swiss Government is specifically advised to the contrary by the Department, Wilner must be presumed to be a citizen of the United States in accordance with aforementioned Department's 1269. If necessary to protect Wilner, and consistent with protection of other claimants to nationality of any American Republic, Swiss may of course advise German authorities of the foregoing.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 175

HULL

Miss Chauncey (for the Secy) Abrahamson, Akain, Cohn, Drury, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Piles

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

1 was Ref BH-Edle
DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

FMH-245

03 PLAIN

Bern

Dated September 18, 1944

Rec'd 8:19 a.m., 19th

Secretary of State,
Washington.

CONTROL COPY

^X
6170, eighteenth

Budapest press eighth gives following propaganda description mobilization Jewish labor: mixed commission examines Jews at place of residence and enrolls them according to their training. Jews receive legal and customary wages. Budapest Jews not suited for military service no offense labor are transferred to provinces. Jewish organizations will collaborate with Red Cross in arranging quarters where such Jews can be employed mainly in home industries including feather plucking basket weaving corn husking. Jews enrolled in Honved labor service will be used in industry and lodged in nearby Jewish houses. Hungarian Red Cross will look after their welfare and health. Jewish persons not suitable for work aged sick and weak will be placed in Jewish hospitals in Budapest. Privileged Jews are subject

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-2- #6170, eighteenth from Bern

subject compulsory labor. Under age Jewish children will be placed in care of Red Cross. Jews in Honved labor service sent outside Budapest may have families join them with transfer and maintenance arranged by competent offices. Labor and transfer conditions meet all modern requirements and defy any criticism.

HARRISON

RR

W. R. H. Hille

EMBASSY OF AMERICA RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: September 15, 1944
NUMBER: 6093
X

CONTROL COPY

The following message is from McClelland for WRS.

With reference to my 6013, dated September 12, 1944, during the past fortnight we have received reports, which have been confirmed by Kasztner in late talks with Szily Mayer, that the Government of Hungary is planning to take the dispositions given below with respect to about 200,000 Jewish individuals remaining in Hungary, in Budapest mainly.

1. Every physically able bodied man and woman will be placed in compulsory work in agriculture and industry in various parts of the nation in the interests of national defense.

2. As early as August 24, preparations were being made to establish two large camps having a combined capacity of 120,000 individuals for all Jews from Budapest who were not suited for work from a physical standpoint. In this connection, Kasztner declared that such camps were to be placed under military control, while late press reports issuing from Budapest write of supervision by the Red Cross. It is not specified whether such supervision is international or Hungarian, although on September 12 ICHQ informed me they possessed no details with respect to this arrangement. However, it appears improbable

that

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

that ICRC will be in a position to exercise any effective degree of control over these camps, because of continued failure on the part of the Germans to issue transit visas for ICRC personnel from Switzerland, even though both Saly Mayer and I have made the suggestion that they contemplate appointing as their delegates certain responsible Swiss citizens living in Budapest. It seems that there is little doubt that the Jews themselves in Hungary will be asked to render financial assistance in establishing camps under this plan.

3. Every infirm and old person who is not able to even go to camps will be grouped in unspecified localities in "Jewish hospitals".

The following is for your confidential information: Kasztner declared that about 200,000 Jewish persons stayed in Hungary, in Budapest principally; 360,000 others had been deported and the Gestapo in Budapest admitted they had been exterminated; and finally 150,000 were in labor service outside Hungary (alive presumably) at several localities in German controlled territory (Lobau Mauthausen, Strasshof and Reschvi in Austria were mentioned.

HARRISON

DCR:MED:CR

2-18-44

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I was Ref. Bd. - Pella

Files

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: September 7, 1944
NUMBER: 5258

CONTROL COPY

FOLLOWING IS WRB 142.

Legation's note conveying Department's cable of August 25, No. 2933, was discussed with Legation's Secretary by a ranking Swiss official and he indicated that the Swiss were not able to request the Swiss Legation in Budapest to present the matter to the Hungarian authorities without information concerning time place nationality of Jews involved. He added that the Hungarians might possibly refuse to accept the communication from the Swiss unless such specific information were included. As the purpose might thereby be defeated, the Swiss are naturally anxious to avoid such possibility.

HARRISON

DCR:VAG:MLM

9/8/44

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-75
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 14 1972

10074

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

GEK-821

PLM:IN

Bern

Dated September 7, 1944

Rec'd 8:30 P.M.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

5901, 7th.

CONTROL COPY

Budapest FESTER LLOYD 3rd reports following
statement by Premier L. on Jewish policy new
Hungarian Government.

I know exclusion from public life of those
Hungarian speaking but racially alien elements who
endangered Hungarian community particularly our just
war has not yet been completely achieved. I can
assure public opinion we wish to make spiritual and
economic superiority of Hungarian race secure but in
traditional Hungarian humane manner; however important
Jewish problem may be its solution in present dangerous
times cannot be exclusive aim of Government.

HARRISON

HRH

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED
FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: September 5, 1944
NUMBER: 5820

J. Ward R. R.
P. H. H.
CONTROL COPY

Given below is the substance of the Foreign Office's September 4 note: It is the belief of the Swiss Legation at Budapest that authorization will be granted shortly for the departure Palestine group of 2,000 Hungarian Jews. In addition the Swiss Legation states that the only present means of transport is the Danube.

Inquiry submitted by the Foreign Office as to whether the American Government is disposed to grant safe conduct for transportations Jews to Bulgarian frontier from Budapest by Danube steamers. Balance of the journey to Istanbul will be made by rail.

Similar safe conduct requests have been made to the Germans and the British by the Foreign Office.

The foregoing refers to my July 19 cable No. 4664.

HARRISON

Paraphrase: DCR:EBH:MM

9/5/44

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 14 1972

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: August 29, 1944
NUMBER: 2979

Cable to McAllelland.

Reference is made to your 5068 paragraph two. We assume that your reference to Italian Slovakian rescue plans refers to your 4666 of July 21 and 5079 of August 7. If assumption incorrect, please clarify.

We approve of your support (including financial aid) of project described in your 4666 and you are authorized to continue such support at your discretion.

Regarding your 5079 please refer to Department's 2817 of August 16.

This is WRB Bern Cable No. 120.

HULL

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Aknin, ~~McAllelland~~ Cohn, DuBois, Drury, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mannen, Marks, McCracken, Pehle, Sargey, Standish, Weinstein, Cable Control Files

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 1-11-78

SEP 14 1977

I was by Ed-Like

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: August 25, 1944
NUMBER: 2933

CONTROL COPY

This is the substance of information received by this Government from a thoroughly reliable eye-witness:

QUOTE Approximately 20,000 Hungarian Jews, children, men and women, had been concentrated in the open air for 4 or 5 days with nothing even to sit on except the ground. Then they had been herded into boxcars 80 persons per car, the car then nailed up and sent off to foreign destinations. The people are packed in the cars like sardines with no possibility of sitting or even moving. Many must have been dead on arrival. The people handling this affair were not Germans but Hungarian Gendarmes.

UNQUOTE

This report bears out others coming to this Government from different sources that in the main the Hungarian Police have themselves been the instrument for arresting and deporting Jews from Hungary under conditions which are tragically cruel.

Please convey this information to Swiss Government for transmission to Hungarian authorities. These authorities are

to be
DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-78
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 14 1972

2.

to be informed that their comment regarding these reports, which this Government regards as authentic, is awaited with interest.

For your confidential information, above reports reached Department from Amlegation Stockholm.

This is WRE Bern Cable No. 142.

HULL

10075

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AND McCLELLAND, BERN, SWITZERLAND

This is the substance of information received by this Government from a thoroughly reliable eye-witness:

QUOTE Approximately 20,000 Hungarian Jews, children, men and women, had been concentrated in the open air for 4 or 5 days with nothing even to sit on except the ground. Then they had been herded into boxcars 80 persons per car, the car then nailed up and sent off to foreign destinations. The people are packed in the cars like sardines with no possibility of sitting or even moving. Many must have been dead on arrival. The people handling this affair were not Germans but Hungarian Gendarmes. UNQUOTE

This report bears out others coming to this Government from different sources that in the main the Hungarian Police have themselves been the instrument for arresting and deporting Jews from Hungary under conditions which are tragically cruel.

Please convey this information to Swiss Government for transmission to Hungarian authorities. These authorities are to be informed that their comment regarding these reports, which this Government regards as authentic, is awaited with interest.

For your confidential information, above reports reached Department from Amlegation Stockholm.

THIS IS WMB BERN CABLE NO. 142

9:30 a.m.
August 24, 1944

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

BA. JB7
BAK:nim:tmh 8-23-44

see 3166 ST. K.H.
8/14

10075

26-11-1944
Mr. R. H. Parkes
Files

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern

TO: Secretary of State, Washington

DATED: August 24, 1944

NUMBER: 5527

CONTROL COPY

We refer herewith to Legation's previous cable dated July 14, 1944, No. 4502.

The following supplemental information from the Swiss Legation in Budapest regarding treatment of Jews in Hungary was contained in the Foreign Office notice of August 17.

The Hungarian Ministry stated, in reply to request by Swiss Legation for additional information regarding "schutzhaft" as applied to Jews claiming foreign nationality, that schutzhaft is different from internment in that the Jews are not placed under schutzhaft as hostile manifestation but in ^{their} own interests and that authorities of Hungary are unable to guarantee their security without assembling them under police control. When there are private or professional affairs to regulate, Jews under schutzhaft are allowed to leave detention unaccompanied by police which is not allowed if they are interned.

Seven American citizens entitled to protection and thirty affected by "rules" as well as alien relatives of American citizens are among the Jews affected. (It is parenthetically stated in the notice that this statement was made before the receipt of the Department's ruling in its cable of July 27,

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

1944,

By R. H. Parkes Date **SEP 14 1972**

1944, No. 2584).

Two vast premises, one for men and the other for women, at deaf and dumb institute Festetich-Utica Budapest are used to lodge the persons affected. Mattresses and bedding placed partly on iron frames and partly on the floor are utilized as sleeping accommodations. Persons having means are permitted to buy foodstuffs but must purchase on black market since no ration cards are received by them. Those persons without resources are cared for by Jewish Council.

Following a recent inspection, Swiss Legation representative in Budapest accompanied by Dr. Schirmer, Intercross delegate, found the subsistence which the Jewish Council provides to be insufficient especially for children who receive no milk and sanitary installations were found to be satisfactory although there were only four waterclosets which were odorous and insufficient in number.

It was stated by Red Cross delegate that although inmates are permitted to leave the premises and exercise in the courts, the conditions are the worst he had recently encountered among European civilian internees.

It was also stated in the notice that it is possible that the situation is due to the attitude of the authorities and local functionaries who are of the opinion that conditions at Festetich-Utica are excellent compared with other Hungarian camps to such extent that it is hard to persuade them to improve conditions
and


-3-

and delegates of the Red Cross and the Legation agree that, except for freedom to leave premises in the case of schutzhaft, it is impossible to distinguish between schutzhaft and internment.

It is reported by the Swiss Legation that a certain number of American citizens in the provinces liberated from ghettos following its intervention are held in local prisons at the present time but must be transferred to Budapest shortly and that every attempt to ameliorate conditions at Festetich-Utca is being made by the Red Cross and the Legation.

Arrangements have been made by the Red Cross delegate to deliver to all internees having rights of Swiss protection weekly parcels of food.

HARRISON


ECM:DB:FB

8/26/44

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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: August 24, 1944
NUMBER: 2918

CONTROL COPY

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AND McCLELLAND FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD:

(1) Reference your 4983 of August 3, Section 2. It is not the policy of this Government to deal in specific numbers. You may in your discretion, however, authorize the Swiss Foreign Office to reply to inquiry of German Legation, Budapest, by referring to the position of this Government as indicated by items 2 and 3 of Department's 2605 of July 28, WRB's 94, Department's 2977 of August 21, WRB's 122, and Department's 2657 of August 2 and item 3 below.

(2) Notwithstanding recent developments as indicated in your 5197 of August 11, this Government intends to pursue further the reported offers of Hungarian authorities as typified by your 4604 of July 19.

(3) Accordingly, please request appropriate officials of the Swiss Government to advise enemy governments, particularly Germany and Hungary, that American consular officers in neutral countries have been authorized to issue an immigration visa

to the

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

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- 2 -

to the alien husband, wife, parent, and unmarried minor child of an American citizen, and the wife and unmarried minor child of an alien resident of the United States who has been in an area controlled by Germany or any of Germany's allies, provided that such person presents himself to an American consular officer and is found not to be disqualified for a visa. At the same time, please attempt to secure the prompt agreement of the Swiss Government to advise enemy governments of Switzerland's willingness to permit the entry into Switzerland of persons falling within the categories described above. You may assure Swiss officials that any such persons so admitted will be adequately maintained and that any who may be found not to be qualified for the issuance of a visa will be evacuated as promptly as possible. Similar requests are being made of Sweden, Spain, Turkey, and Portugal.

(4) Consular officers in Switzerland are hereby authorized to issue immigration visas to any alien who is the husband, wife, parent, or unmarried minor child of an American citizen and on whose behalf nonquota or first preference status has been established by the approval of the Department of Justice of a petition filed by such citizen relative, or who is the wife or unmarried minor child of an alien lawfully admitted into the United States for permanent residence and as such is entitled to second preference immigration status. The issuance of visas is subject to the proviso, however, that (a) such person

Other

- 3 -

other than a child under 16 years of age is found upon telegraphic reference to the Department for security check not to be the subject of an adverse report or to be open to reasonable suspicion because of the circumstances of the case such as those attending the release of a male applicant of military age,

- (b) such person is not affirmatively found by the consul to be inadmissible into the United States under the law, or
- (c) the consul does not consider that the case is one which should be recommended for consideration under the committee procedure.

Appropriate private agencies are being advised of the foregoing so that the filing of petitions by citizen and resident alien relatives of victims of persecution may be expedited, and names of persons whose status within the categories mentioned above is established will be cabled to you from time to time. If any persons within such categories should arrive in Switzerland after Swiss have advised enemy governments in accordance with item 3 above, but prior to any notification to you of the establishment of their status, please advise Board promptly of their names and of the names and addresses of relatives claimed in the United States.

(5) Please keep Department and Board advised of any developments in this program. Reference your 5042 of August 5 and your 5248 of August 12.

10075

- 4 -

Please express to M. Pilet Golaz the appreciation of
Department and Board.

HULL

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 133.

WRB:MMV:KG

Paraphrase: DCR:VAG:MK 8/26/44

000758

1

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AT BERNE AND McQUELLAND FROM THE DEPARTMENT AND THE
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

(1) Reference your 4983 of August 3, Section 2. It is not (repeat not) the policy of this Government to deal in specific numbers. You may in your discretion, however, authorize the Swiss Foreign Office to reply to inquiry of German Legation, Budapest, by referring to the position of this Government as indicated by items 2 and 3 of Department's 2605 of July 28, WEB's 94, Department's _____ of _____, WEB's 182, and Department's 2657 of August 2 and item 3 below.

(2) Notwithstanding recent developments as indicated in your 5197 of August 11, this Government intends to pursue further the reported offers of Hungarian authorities as typified by your 4604 of July 19.

(3) Accordingly, please request appropriate officials of the Swiss Government to advise enemy governments, particularly Germany and Hungary, that American consular officers in neutral countries have been authorized to issue an immigration visa to the alien husband, wife, parent, and unmarried minor child of an American citizen, and the wife and unmarried minor child of an alien resident of the United States who has been in an area controlled by Germany or any of Germany's allies, provided that such person presents himself to an American consular officer and is found not to be disqualified for a visa. At the same time, please attempt to secure the prompt agreement of the Swiss Government to advise enemy governments of Switzerland's willingness to permit the entry into Switzerland of persons falling within the categories described above. You may assure Swiss officials that any such persons so admitted will be adequately maintained and that any who may be found not (repeat not) to be qualified for the issuance of a visa will be evacuated as promptly as possible. Similar requests are being made of Sweden, Spain, Turkey, and Portugal.

(4) Consular officers in Switzerland are hereby authorized to issue immigration visas to any alien who is the husband, wife, parent, or unmarried minor child of an American citizen and on whose behalf marriage or first preference status has been established by the approval by the Department of Justice of a petition filed by such citizen relative, or who is the wife or unmarried minor child of an alien lawfully admitted into the United States for permanent residence and as such is entitled to second preference immigration status. The issuance of visas is subject to the proviso, however, that (a) such person other than a child under 16 years of age is found upon telegraphic reference to the Department for security check not to be the subject of an adverse report or to be open to reasonable suspicion because of the circumstances of the case such as those attending the release of a male applicant of military age, (b) such person is not affirmatively found by the consul to be inadmissible into the United States under the law, or (c) the consul does not consider that the case is one which should be recommended for consideration under the committee procedure.

000754

Appropriate private agencies are being advised of the foregoing so that the filing of petitions by citizen and resident alien relatives of victims of persecution may be expedited, and names of persons whose status within the categories mentioned above is established will be cabled to you from time to time. If any persons within such categories should arrive in Switzerland after Swiss have advised enemy governments in accordance with item 3 above, but prior to any notification to you of the establishment of their status, please advise Board promptly of their names and of the names and addresses of relatives claimed in the United States.

(5) Please keep Department and Board advised of any developments in this program. Reference your letter of August 10, 1944, and your letter of August 11, 1944. Please express to M. Fillet Gelaz the appreciation of Department and Board.

THIS IS WRB BARN CABLE NO. 133.

August 18, 1944
3:50 p.m.

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Abrahamson, ~~AKKINX~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Cohn, ~~BRXXY~~, DuBois, Friedman, ~~SKKXSK~~, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, McCormack, Cable Control Files

LSLesser:tmh 8-17-44 *L.S.L.*

000760

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: August 23, 1944
NUMBER: 5517
X

MCLELLAND SENDS THE FOLLOWING FOR WRB.

We refer herewith to Legation's telegram of August 11, 1944, No. 5197.

On August 21 there arrived in Switzerland 320 of 500 Hungarian Jews transferred to camp of Bergenbelsen who were to be unconditionally released by the Gestapo. On August 22 or 23, 200 more are due to arrive. These people appear to be principally from Budapest and Kolosvar and are mixed group of both sexes ranging from two to eighty-two in age. Among the 320 who have reached Switzerland are certain rabbis and other members of the original convoy of 1200 (see Department's cable of August 17, 1944, No. 2834) which actually turned out to be composed of 1690 persons.

HARRISON

DCR:IDB:FB 8/24/44

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Drury, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Marks, Mannon, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Weinstein, Cable Control

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 14 1972

00076

I was by Ch. B. H.

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: ~~Secretary of State, Washington~~
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATE: August 23, 1944
NUMBER: 2900

CONTROL COPY

CABLE TO McCLELLANE.

Reference is made to your 4604 of July 19 and 5040 of August 2.

1. In addition to taking action requested in Department's 2715 of August 7, please express to the Foreign Office the appreciation of this Government for the information contained in your 4604 and 5040. In order that the Swiss Government may be fully advised as to the attitude of this Government on this subject, you may make available to appropriate officials of the Foreign Office the text of the reply given by this Government on August 11 to Intercross in accordance with Department's 2657 of August 2 and 2715 of August 7.

Please request the Swiss Foreign Office to inform Hungarian authorities that although this Government has taken note of the communication reported in your 5040, it does not accept the reasoning therein contained and reserves the right to return at a later date to the purported facts therein related. Hungarian authorities should further be informed that the limited assurances contained in each communication serve only to prompt a reiteration of this Government's warning that all those who share in the responsibility for the

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

- 1 -

persecution

000762

permission

1 of Jews and other minorities will be brought to justice.

Hungarian authorities should also be informed that it is the Government's strong view that the deportation of any category of Jews comes within the foregoing and that permission freely to emigrate and Red Cross supervision of treatment and living conditions must as a minimum be extended to all categories of Jews.

2. A wide discrepancy is noted to exist between various communications and reports regarding Hungarian Government's offer relating to treatment of Jews. For obvious reasons, this Government bases its position on version communicated through Swiss Foreign Office and contained in your 4604, and proposes to continue to do so. Nevertheless, it is anxious to ascertain the precise nature of the Hungarian offer and attitude. Please, therefore, without departing from the above stated position of this Government, make discreet and informal inquiries from such sources as are available to you concerning following principal uncertainties:

Have deportations been definitely stopped for all categories or only suspended, and if so, for how long and for what categories?

To what extent will Jews in Hungary be permitted and in fact enabled to procure food and other necessities through ordinary, commercial channels and aside from Intercross action?

To what extent is it possible to expect that stoppage of deportations

000763

of deportations and other forms of actual danger to life would continue even in the absence of actual sizeable emigration of Jews from Hungary during hostilities?

To what extent is emigration to countries other than Palestine permitted to Jews over ten years of age?

Could emigration be conducted in such a way as to prevent breaking up of families, with children under ten separated from parents?

To what extent, in view of internal situation in Hungary, is it possible to count on Hungarian promises being made effective and continuing up to the termination of hostilities?

Please advise Department and Board as soon as possible of answers to any of above questions.

3. In the light of military and political situation, it appears here that main emphasis should be placed now on inducing appropriate Hungarian circles to maintain and strengthen the newly reported relaxation of Jewish regime in Hungary and to apply such relaxation to all categories of Jews in Hungary. Preventing deportations and assuring tolerable living conditions for all Jews in Hungary, if feasible, seems more important than assistance in clandestine escape of individuals and groups. Please advise of any information and developments on this point.

4. With reference to 230 from Amembassy London to you, the broad program envisaged above and in Department's 2657

might be

000764

might be jeopardized by limited scope of approach suggested
by said 230 from London. Therefore, it is not (repeat, not)
thought advisable that you limit any of your demands to
children under ten and the supply problem which are the only
items dealt with in 230 from London. But you are authorized,
of course, to give the assurance concerning availability of
supplies for Hungarian refugees through blockade in line
with 230 from London.

Repeated to Ambassador London as to 6726 with this
opening sentence: For your information, cable of August
23, No. 2900, to Bern repeated below.

THIS IS WIRELESS CABLE NO. 129

1/21/44

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AND McClelland, Bern, Switzerland

Reference is made to your 4604 of July 19 and 5040 of August 5.

1. In addition to taking action requested in Department's 2715 of August 7, please express to the Foreign Office the appreciation of this Government for the information contained in your 4604 and 5040. In order that the Swiss Government may be fully advised as to the attitude of this Government on this subject, you may make available to appropriate officials of the Foreign Office the text of the reply given by this Government on August 11 to Intercross in accordance with Department's 2657 of August 2 and 2715 of August 7.

Please request the Swiss Foreign Office to inform Hungarian authorities that although this Government has taken note of the communication reported in your 5040, it does not accept the reasoning therein contained and reserves the right to return at a later date to the purported facts therein related. Hungarian authorities should further be informed that the limited assurances contained in such communication serve only to prompt a reiteration of this Government's warning that all those who share the responsibility for the persecution of Jews and other minorities will be brought to justice. Hungarian authorities should also be informed that it is this Government's strong view that the deportation of any category of Jews comes within the foregoing and that permission freely to emigrate and Red Cross supervision of treatment and living conditions must as a minimum be extended to all categories of Jews.

2. A wide discrepancy is noted to exist between various communications and reports regarding Hungarian Government's offer relating to treatment of Jews. For obvious reasons, this Government bases its position on version communicated through Swiss Foreign Office and contained in your 4604, and proposes to continue to do so. Nevertheless, it is anxious to ascertain the precise nature of the Hungarian offer and attitude. Please, therefore, without departing from the above stated position of this Government, make discreet and informal inquiries from such sources as are available to you concerning following principal uncertainties:

Have deportations been definitely stopped for all categories or only suspended, and if so, for how long and for what categories?

To what extent will Jews in Hungary be permitted and in fact enabled to procure food and other necessities through ordinary, commercial channels and aside from Intercross action?

To what extent is it possible to expect that stoppage of deportations and other forms of actual danger to life would continue even in the absence of actual sizeable emigration of Jews from Hungary during hostilities?

To what extent is emigration to countries other than Palestine permitted to Jews over ten years of age?

Could emigration

770766

Could emigration be conducted in such a way as to prevent breaking up of families, with children under ten separated from parents?

To what extent, in view of internal situation in Hungary, is it possible to count on Hungarian promises being made effective and continuing up to the termination of hostilities?

Please advise Department and Board as soon as possible of answers to any of above questions.

3. In the light of military and political situation, it appears here that main emphasis should be placed now on inducing appropriate Hungarian circles to maintain and strengthen the newly reported relaxation of Jewish regime in Hungary and to apply such relaxation to all categories of Jews in Hungary. Preventing deportations and assuring tolerable living conditions for all Jews in Hungary, if feasible, seems more important than assistance in clandestine escape of individuals and groups. Please advise of any information and developments on this point.

4. With reference to 230 from Embassy London to you, the broad program envisaged above and in Department's 2687 might be jeopardized by limited scope of approach suggested by said 230 from London. Therefore, it is not (repeat not) thought advisable that you limit any of your demarches to children under ten and the supply problem which are the only items dealt with in 230 from London. But you are authorized, of course, to give the assurance concerning availability of supplies for Hungarian refugees through blockade in line with 230 from London.

Repeat to Embassy London.

THIS IS WWD BERN CABLE NO. 129

9:30 a.m.
August 18, 1944

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

Re. 154 JB7
EAK:sim:ml 8/18/44

was by Ed-Robb

*100-130
9(1)*

CORRECTION ON
ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT
FROM: Secretary of State, Washington

TO: American Legation, Bern

DATED: August 22, 1944

NUMBER: 2853

CONTROL COPY

This telegram No. 2853 was erroneously distributed as
No. 130. It should have been No. 2853.

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

100-130

RECEIVED
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS
AUG 23 1944
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS
AUG 23 1944

Ward R. Bell - Pika

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: August 19, 1944
REF ID: ~~100~~ 2853X

CONTROL COPY

FOLLOWING FOR McJILLAND;

1. Reference is made to your 5040 of August 5 section 3 near end.

The following is the substance of similar information contained in note of Hungarian Legation, Stockholm, to Swedish Foreign Office: QUOTE It was further ordered that future deportees for labor service will have right of supervision by Hungarian Red Cross representatives in order to avoid further charges of brutality. UNQUOTE

2. In view of issue involved, i. e. possible extermination of 400,000 Jews already said to have been deported, please suggest to Intercross the urgency of contacting Hungarian authorities and Hungarian Red Cross with a view to establishing immediate supervision of Red Cross over all camps to which Jews from Hungary have been deported in the past as well.

3. Please request Swiss Foreign Office to transmit to appropriate Hungarian officials a message in the following vein: QUOTE With further reference to Hungarian communication (referred to in your 5040 of August 5), the Government of the United States notes the explanation contained in said communication regarding Jews deported from Hungary to the effect that they have been INNERQUOTE placed at disposal of German Government as workers

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

000763

- 2 -

as was case for years for tens of thousands of workers of
Hungarian nationality and Christian faith. END OF INNERQUOTE

In view of the policy of the German Government with re-
gard to Jews, which, the U. S. Government assumes is well-known
to Hungarian Government, the Government of the United States
would appreciate a statement of such measures which have been
taken and are being taken by Hungarian authorities to insure hu-
mane treatment of Jews placed at Germany's disposal and to safeguard
them against starvation and other forms of persecution.

The Hungarian authorities will readily perceive that unless
such measures are taken with respect to all Jews INNERQUOTE
placed at disposal of German Government END OF INNERQUOTE the
explanation offered would appear to be at utter variance with
the facts and any cases of abuse will be imputed to those
Hungarian authorities responsible for placing such Jews at Ger-
many's disposal.

Prompt response to the inquiry herein made is being
awaited by the Government of the United States with extraordinary
interest. UNQUOTE you may, of course, in transmitting the
foregoing to Swiss Foreign Office adjust language in your dis-
cretion.

THIS IS WRI CABLE TO BERN NO. 130^X

HULL

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1942
1942

000770

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AND McCLELLAND, BERN, SWITZERLAND

1. Reference is made to your 5040 of August 5 section 3 near end.

The following is the substance of similar information contained in note of Hungarian Legation, Stockholm, to Swedish Foreign Office: QUOTE It was further ordered that future deportees for labor service will have right of supervision by Hungarian Red Cross representatives in order to avoid further charges of brutality. UNQUOTE

2. In view of issue involved, i. e. possible extermination of 400,000 Jews already said to have been deported, please suggest to intercross the urgency of contacting Hungarian authorities and Hungarian Red Cross with a view to establishing immediate supervision of Red Cross over all camps to which Jews from Hungary have been deported in the past as well.

3. Please request Swiss Foreign Office to transmit to appropriate Hungarian officials a message in the following vein: QUOTE With further reference to Hungarian communication (referred to in your 5040 of August 5), the Government of the United States notes the explanation contained in said communication regarding Jews deported from Hungary to the effect that they have been INNERQUOTE placed at disposal of German Government as workers as was case for years for tens of thousands of workers of Hungarian nationality and Christian faith. END OF INNERQUOTE

In view of the policy of the German Government with regard to Jews, which, the U. S. Government assumes is well-known to Hungarian Government, the Government of the United States would appreciate a statement of such measures which have been taken and are being taken by Hungarian authorities to insure humane treatment of Jews placed at Germany's disposal and to safeguard them against starvation and other forms of persecution.

The Hungarian authorities will readily perceive that unless such measures are taken with respect to all Jews INNERQUOTE placed at disposal of German Government END OF INNERQUOTE the explanation offered would appear to be at utter variance with the facts and any cases of abuse will be imputed to those Hungarian authorities responsible for placing such Jews at Germany's disposal.

Prompt response to the inquiry herein made is being awaited by the Government of the United States with extraordinary interest. UNQUOTE You may, of course, in transmitting the foregoing to Swiss Foreign Office adjust language in your discretion.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 130

9:30 a.m.
August 18, 1944

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

RAK:msl 8/17/44

L.S.L.

CONTROL COPY

Ref Bd
(Mr. Bohle)

PARAGRAPH OF TELETYPE MESSAGE
FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: August 17, 1944
SUBJECT: L243
X

8/21/44
Subscribed with
L-243
JDC
L-243
L-243

Belleville sends the following for WRE.

During the past few months regular reports have been received (the most recent dated 28th of July from Budapest) relative to underground rescue work which Jewish Mechuluz organization is carrying on intensively, working out of Bucharest, Bratislava, and Budapest, the latter city in particular. ^(Dip. Telegram of July 26, 1944, no 2623) One hundred thousand Swiss francs from WRE funds in early July (*) routed to WRE from the Department and similar amount to this program on August 10, which has yielded positive results satisfactorily, although it is an expensive mode of rescue costing from one to two thousand Swiss francs to evacuate one person. Have sent this money to Slovakia, Hungary and Rumania. By taking advantage of the willingness of certain Hungarian officials, non-commissioned officers and soldiers in army units along borders of Rumania and Hungary, for example, to help with flight of imperiled Jews, the uneasy breathing spell in Hungary since the July 5 suspension of deportations has been utilized by Mechuluz to the utmost. July 20 report.

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

from

from Bucharest places at 1650 the number of persons evacuated to Rumania already, with 210 waiting to cross the border in the Arad region. On either side of the border at Segesvar and Brasso, and Temesvar and Arad relay points have been set up. Assistance has been given to flight of all categories of endangered Jews, including orphaned children and especially to those who have escaped from Ghetto prisons and military forced labor battalions in the provinces of Hungary. Hechalutz uses funds to obtain collaboration of minor Rumanian and Hungarian officials and to pay transportation maintenance, administrative personnel, and false papers "passeurs". The Rumanians appear to be making no difficulties according to all reports. As long as this program produces results and the fate of Jews in Hungary is uncertain, I will continue to support program if you approve.

Also promoting flight of smaller groups (particularly those who had been there previously) to Slovakia where the situation is less critical.

HARRISON

(*) Apparent omission (serviced)

ECR:EBH 8/19/44

I was R. B. - Mr. Phe

CORRECTION OF
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

CONTROL COPY

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: August 17, 1944
NUMBER: 5343

In lines seven, eight, and nine delete, "One hundred thousand Swiss francs from MRB funds in early July (*) ibuted No. 260 from the Department," and insert, "(Department's telegram of July 28, 1944, No. 2603). Early in July contributed one hundred thousand Swiss francs from MRB funds." The lines should then read: "(Department's telegram of July 28, 1944, No. 2603). Early in July contributed one hundred thousand Swiss francs from MRB funds and a similar amount to this program . . ."

DCR:IDB:EFR 8/24/44

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

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: August 11, 1944
NUMBER: 5197

2688 Rf 31
ms. Pille
7H
CONTROL COPY

McClelland sends the following for the War Refugee Board.

Reference is made herewith to Department's cable of August 2, no. 2656, and Legation's messages of August 3, nos. 4972 and 4974, and of August 5, no. 5043.

There has just reached Switzerland several reports dated the end of July from reliable Jewish sources in Budapest (Kasztner, Komoly and Perez) which shed additional light on the present situation of Jews in Hungary with regard especially to ransom and emigration aspects of the problem. In spite of the preliminary reassuring news of the agreement between the ICRC and the Hungarian Government to allow Jewish emigration to Palestine and elsewhere and relief to Jews remaining in Hungary it now seems that ranking Gestapo agents of so called "Sonderaufsatz Kommand" specially sent to Budapest to direct the deportation of Jews have no intention of permitting them to emigrate freely, especially to Palestine, if they can prevent it. After the attack on Hitler and following the rapid worsening of the German military situation, the Gestapo in Budapest shifted their interest from the ideological aspect of Jewish extermination to the purely material benefits in goods, labor and money to be derived therefrom. The essence of their present attitude is contained in declaration of Gestapo Head to Kasztner to the effect that he wished

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

-8-

wished to pump out the necessary labor from Hungary Jewry, and sell the balance of valueless human material against valuable goods.

On the other hand, the Hungarian Government led by Horthy apparently has been frightened not only into stopping deportation (July 8) but also into trying to make up for the unsavory role it has already played in the persecution and deportation of Jews by favoring their emigration and relief to them under the supervision of IORC. Krauss of the Jewish Agency for Palestine accordingly has been permitted to set up an office in the Swiss Legation where they are actively preparing the emigration to Palestine of 8700 families previously mentioned.

HARRISON

Hungary
CONTROL COPY *I was Ref. Bk. File*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: State Department, Washington
DATED: August 7, 1944
NUMBER: 5068
X

McClelland sends the following for WRB.

Replying to your message regarding Jews of non-Hungarian citizenship, you are advised that the suspension of deportation measures applies to all Jews in Hungary regardless of nationality, according to our information. We have already insisted at ICRC on the principle of non-discrimination on the 21st of July and repeated this the 3rd of August. However, you must understand that in spite of our repeated efforts for two years assimilation of Jews to status of civilian internees in conformity with the Geneva Convention is not obtainable.

It is extremely difficult to dispatch safely refugee lists which should not pass German censorship. We are renewing our attempts. Your answer on Italian-Slovakian rescue plans are being urgently awaited.

2 With respect to your message regarding Joint Relief Committee London, we conferred once again with ICRC headquarters on this question yesterday. It is affirmed by ICRC that they have repeatedly submitted a precise scheme concerning various regions and camps in which it is possible to distribute food

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-78
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 14 1978

2.

parcels under the supervision. This affirmation by them implies that they possess an adequate staff in the camps indicated. ICRC would appreciate a definite decision and are unwilling to have negotiations repeatedly drawn out by subsidiary inquiries. We are of the opinion that British authorities are responsible for the difficulties.

HARRISON

DCR:LEB:LEF 8/9/44

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

DMH-390

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF

PLAIN

Bern

Dated August 7, 1944

Rec'd 6:19 p.m.

CONTROL COPY

AUG 8 AM 9 22

COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS
(LIAISON)

Secretary of State
Washington

5072 7th

Axis press reports Hungarian authorities have reduced (1) number motor vehicles in operation August 16 to 4,000 private cars and 5,000 taxis and (2) allotment mixed fuels to passenger cars and trucks by 25-50 and to taxis by 17-50 percent. Many cars permitted after August 16 will operate on generators or gas equipment. Reduction due introduction German traffic regulations anti-Jewish measures and increased military requirements.

HARRISON

DU

CONTROL COPY

RECEIVED
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.
CORRECTION

LFG 1944 AUG 8 AM 11 16 August 6, 1944
This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Government
Agency. (RECORDED)

In telegram from Bern 5040 August 5, 6 p.m.
re treatment of Jews, at beginning after date
insert (SECTION ONE)

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

MSB

COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS
(LIAISON)

1944 AUG 7 AM 9 30

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

To: Mr. White 4405th
(1) (Room) (Bldg.)
(2) (Room) (Bldg.)
(3) (Room) (Bldg.)

From: EBT
2414 (Date)
(Room) (Bldg.)

70078

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

CONTROL COPY

LFG-92

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

Dated August 5, 1944

Rec'd 11:15 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

5040, August 5, 6 p.m. (Section One)

With reference to note verbale number No. 257,
June 26, 1944, concerning a communication regarding
the inquiry of American Government with respect to
treatment of Jews in Hungary, Royal Hungarian Ministry
has the honor to inform the Swiss Legation of the
following: As in most European states Jewish question
has particularly in recent decades also become one of
the greatest economic, social and political problems
in Hungary. Jewish problem became especially difficult
as Jewry, thanks to liberal organization of the State,
had been able secure prominent position in economic,
political and cultural life. Also in those large states
where race problem was far less important-as for instance
negro question in the United States- government was
obliged to take corresponding measures for the protection
of its own race. In consequence various governments of

Hungary were

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF

COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS
(LIAISON)

1944 AUG 7 AM 9 30

1078

-2- #5040, August 5, 6 p.m., from Bern

Hungary were obliged to strive against excessive influence of this foreign race as Hungarian Jewry constitutes far greater danger for Hungary than for instance Negroes or Japanese for white population of United States. Jews not only possessed most important economic positions in Hungary but thereby exerted very strong influence on national life of the country as a whole which threatened degenerate foundations of the national character of the people.

Recognizing this danger as in other European states the Hungarian Governments of the time also undertook solution of Jewish question. Articles of law XV of 1938 IV of 1939 and XV of 1941 formed legal basis for measures which tended toward solution Jewish question.

Military events on eastern front and approach of Soviet Army to Hungarian frontier made it necessary fully to mobilize all military material and moral forces of country for defense of nation's existence. This also meant elimination of everything that would undermine or diminish the country's resisting power. As defeatist propaganda and agitation of Jews-as in 1918-became more and more perceptible in this decisive phase of

-3- #5040, August 5, 6 p.m., from Bern

phase of the war and in order to prevent repetition of tragic events of 1918-1919 government was obliged to eliminate on increased scale influence of Jews. They were consequently separated from rest of population and put to more useful work-either in country itself or abroad. In so doing Government and its functionaries did not fail consider laws of humanity and justice. If individual cases of injustice occurred they were always due to sporadic of some subordinate organs which in each case responsible.

Numerous Jews were placed at the disposal of German Government as workers as was case for years for tens of thousands of workers of Hungarian nationality and Christian faith.

Treatment of Jews working in Hungary is similar to that accorded other workers in work camps (for example students, et cetera).

With respect to food rationing non-working Jews do not receive certain more or less luxury articles (such as rice, fowl, butter, poppy); concerning basic necessities however they are on same basis as rest of population.

It may be added in supplement that during recent weeks

situation of

-4- #5040, August 5, 6 p.m., from Bern

situation of Jews has been notably improved. Enclosed note gives details regarding these concessions. At the instance of some foreign organizations (International Red Cross, War Refugee Board) Hungarian Government has made it possible for Hungarian Jews to receive material help and for a considerable number of Jews to emigrate to neutral states, respectively, to Palestine.

Two. Translation from French of enclosure to above follows: present status of action taken by Hungarian Government regarding Jews is following:

HARRISON

WSB

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
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DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

MS-90

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

Bern

Dated August 5, 1944

Rec'd 11:44 p.m.

Secretary of State
Washington.

PRIORITY--

5040, August 5, 6 p.m. (SECTION TWO)

I

1. Deportation of Jews for work abroad temporary suspended.

2. View proposals presented by Swedish Red Cross by Swiss Legation acting behalf Palestine Immigration commission as well as by War Refugee Board, Hungarian Government authorized emigration Jews Sweden, Switzerland, Palestine and other countries.

A. Jews who obtain from King Swedish nationality can emigrate Sweden in accordance with action of Swedish Red Cross.

Jews who have relatives Sweden or who have commercial contact for certain time with that country can emigrate Sweden or Palestine. This category includes about 400 or 500 persons.

B. Several thousand Jews are authorized emigrate
Palestine

-2- #5040, August 5, 6 p.m. (SECTION TWO), from Bern.

Palestine aided by Palestinian Immigration Commission through intermediary Swiss Legation Budapest.

Persons indicated above can emigrate Palestine if bearers "Certificate D' Immigration" delivered by British authorities.

C. On basis of proposals mentioned above from War Refugee Board, Hungarian Government authorized Inter-Cross to arrange sending Jewish children under 10 years age to Palestine. War Refugee Board will be authorized materially assist Jews interned Hungary.

II.

In addition concessions above mentioned following mitigations accorded in treatment Jews:

1. Deportation baptized Jews for work abroad stopped.
2. A. Administration behalf baptized Jews entrusted "Council for Baptized Jews" established July 6, 1944;
B. Jews baptized prior to August 1, 1941, remain in the country but their segregation from non-Jewish persons will be ordered;
C. They are obtaining all facilities in exercise of their religion.
3. A. Facilities ordered for baptized residing Budapest will be extended to Baptized Jews outside of capital
B. Revision

-3- #5040, August 5, 6 p.m. (SECTION TWO), from Bern.

B. Revision of situation of Baptized Jews sent to
work in Germany foreseen.

HARRISON

WMB JJM

078

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

CONTROL COPY

LP -172
This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Government
Agency. (RESTRICTED)

Bern

Dated August 5, 1944

Rec'd 12:56 p.m., 6th

Secretary of State,
Washington.

5040, August 5, 6 p.m. (SECTION THREE)

Four. It will be decided as soon as possible who
are to be considered as converted Jews and such action will
affect not only Jews aged 16 to 60 but Jews all ages.

Five. Following exempted bear Jewish star: A. Family members of ministers of Christian religion (parents, brothers and sisters, wives and children of Protestant ministers); B. Bearers ecclesiastical (Papal) decorations; C. Members of Order of Holy Sepulchre.

One. (A) Discretionary right reserved for regent in exemption certain number of Jews. There will be exempted: B. Jews living in marriage with persons of Christian origin.

C. Jews bearing certain war decorations (golden medal military bravery, et cetera); D. Jews of certain special merits; E. Ministers of Christian religions.

Two. Departures

-2- 75040, August 5, 6 p.m. (SECTION THREE); from Bern

Two. Departures Jews for work abroad will take place under conditions accordance humanitarian laws and Hungarian Red Cross will have possibility exercise control.

Three. It will be permitted to send via Red Cross food parcels to persons interned concentration camps.

(END OF MESSAGE)

HARRISON

RB CSB

079

Handwritten: 24

Handwritten: *W. B. Ed.*
W. K. Ed.

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: August 5, 1944
NUMBER: 5037

CONTROL COPY

Handwritten: *Files*

Reference is made herewith to my cable of July 5, no. 4260.

There follows in my 8040 today a translation from the German of the Hungarian Foreign Office note of July 18 to the Swiss Legation in Budapest.

HARRISON

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 14 1972

00079

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File
PARTIAL COPY OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

CONTROL COPY

FROM: American Legation, Bern.
TO: Secretary of State, Washington.
DATED: August 3, 1944.
NUMBER: 4331.
X

In my message, Number 4933, will be found a continuation of the following cable.

It is requested that you refer to message dated July 5 from the Legation, Number 4260.

1. Our note dated June 13, which was delivered on June 27 to the Hungarian Foreign Office, was not replied to in message of July 13, Number 4304, from the Legation. In this connection we refer to the first paragraph of your message of July 28, Number 2595.

HARRISON.

DCR:LCW 8/5/44

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

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

CONTROL COPY 2

FBM-400

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

Bern

Dated August 3, 1944

Rec'd 11:22 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AUG 6 1944

RECEIVED

Secretary of State,
Washington.

4983, August 3, 8 p.m.

Two. Division of Foreign Interests of Federal
Political Department informs me by note dated August
2 of receipt of telegram from Swiss Legation Budapest
stating that according to communication from German
Legation Hungary German Government desires that part
of Jewish emigrants from Hungary be accepted by the
United States. Note states that these emigrants
could be evacuated Lisbon via France and that Swiss
Legation Budapest desires to be informed how many
of these immigrants may be accorded permits enter the
United States.

Three. Hungarian answer to our note June 13th
received today.

HARRISON

RR

2-10-11-72
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SEIT

2(d)
FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: AMLEGATION, BERN
DATE: August 2, 1944
NUMBER: 2657. [REDACTED]

X
With reference to offer of Hungarian Government to permit departure of Jews from Hungary (your 4604 July 19) you are advised that the British Embassy here presented on July 26 two cables from the British Foreign Office suggesting that the matter of surveying and coordinating possible places of refuge for the Jews from Hungary be referred to the Inter-governmental Committee. The cables also stated that the possibility of receiving refugees in Palestine were limited and would have to be reviewed and also that the capacities of the camps at Casablanca and Phillipville in Algiers would need to be re-studied. The Department and the War Refugee Board on July 31 presented a memorandum for the British Embassy suggesting that the responsibility for dealing with the Hungarian offer rests on the British and United States Governments particularly and expressing the judgement that the Intergovernmental Committee cannot act in time to be effective because of the need of consulting other governments. Included in the memorandum to the British Embassy was the following draft of a proposed cable to Bern with the request that the British Government concur in its transmission to Bern by August 7, 1944 at the latest.

QUOTE Amlegation Bern. The following communication has been received by the Department from the delegate in the United States of the International Committee

of

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

- 2 -

of the Red Cross. INNERQUOTE We have received today the following communication from ICRC in Geneva:

The Hungarian Government is willing to make possible the emigration of certain categories of Jews and has advised the ICRC of its readiness in this respect.

Very obviously from the viewpoint of maintaining the principle of neutrality, which in effect is based on reciprocity, the ICRC feels that the number of emigrant Jews to be admitted to the United States should be substantially increased, and that a corresponding number of entry permits should be accorded.

It would, furthermore, be desirable if the United States Government would make a public statement on this subject, indicating the number of entry permits accorded. The ICRC is of the opinion that such a statement would impress the Hungarian Government as the visible sign of a favorable reaction to their decision to cease the persecution of the Jews also on this side. Moreover, the possibility of an eventual withdrawal of the concession granted would be made difficult by a public declaration, as suggested above, which would at the same time also forestall an attempt on the part of the countries of emigration to throw the blame for an eventual failure on the countries of immigration..

The ICRC would like to be informed whether the United States Government would be willing to transmit and support this proposal to the Governments of the South American Republics or whether the ICRC should do so directly.

The

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- 3 -

The ICRC reserves the right to issue a communique concerning this proposal, which has simultaneously been submitted to the Government of Great Britain. END
INNERQUOTE.

You should at once request the International Committee of the Red Cross to advise the Hungarian Government as follows:

INNERQUOTE The United States Government has learned through the ICRC of the Hungarian Government's willingness to permit the emigration from Hungary of certain categories of Jews. This Government, despite the substantial difficulties and responsibilities involved, has consistently made clear its determination to take all practicable steps to rescue victims of religious or political oppression. In view of the overwhelming humanitarian considerations involved concerning the Jews in Hungary, this Government now repeats specifically its assurance that it will arrange for the care of all Jews permitted to leave Hungary in the present circumstances who reach neutral or United Nation's territory, and will find for such people temporary havens of refuge where they may live in safety. These assurances have been communicated to the governments of neutral countries who have been requested to permit the entry of Jews who reach their borders from Hungary. This Government now awaits information concerning the concrete steps to be taken by the Hungarian Government to carry out its proposal.
END INNERQUOTE.

The above mentioned proposal has also been addressed to the British Government which is taking parallel action.

7 0 0 7 9

Accordingly, you may wish to join with your British colleague in conveying to the International Committee of the Red Cross this expression of joint action.

You should indicate to the International Committee of the Red Cross the opinion of this Government that in view of the above assurances it is considered unnecessary to consult the governments of the South American Republics at this time.

It is urgent that the International Committee of the Red Cross convey the foregoing representations to the Government of Hungary without delay. The cooperation of the International Committee of the Red Cross in this matter is appreciated.

Please advise promptly of the results of the action taken by you. UNQUOTE.

In order to prevent any possible misunderstanding it is repeated that the foregoing draft cable to Bern is now before the British Government for clearance and concurrence and is sent to you solely for your information and understanding at this time. Until you are specifically requested to do so, you are not (repeat not) to take the action suggested in the cable. However, in the meantime you are authorized to advise the ICRC informally that the British and United States Governments are in consultation on the matter and that a reply will be forthcoming shortly to the ICRC note.

Repeated to London, as 6096, referring to Embassy's 5956 July 27.

STETTINIUS
(Acting)

10079

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: August 2, 1944
NUMBER: 2656

FOR McCLELLAND, BERN, FROM THE DEPARTMENT AND WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Reference Legation's No. 4802 of July 26, 1944.

We rely entirely on your judgment in this matter and accordingly, and in view of the pending consideration of the reported Hungarian offer to permit emigration, we concur in your view that it is not (repeat not) feasible to undertake the transaction in question at this time. We assume that if further information is received you will keep us fully advised. We also assume that you will continue to make all possible efforts to rescue refugees from Hungary and other German-occupied areas.

The foregoing has been discussed with the JDC and it is in accord with the views expressed.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 106.

STETTINIUS
(Acting)

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 14 1972

CABLE TO HARRISON FOR McCLELLAND, BERN, FROM THE DEPARTMENT AND WAR
REFUGEE BOARD.

Reference Legation's No. 4802 of July 26, 1944.

We rely entirely on your judgment in this matter and accordingly, and in view of the pending consideration of the reported Hungarian offer to permit emigration, we concur in your view that it is not (repeat not) feasible to undertake the transaction in question at this time. We assume that if further information is received you will keep us fully advised. We also assume that you will continue to make all possible efforts to rescue refugees from Hungary and other German-occupied areas.

The foregoing has been discussed with the JDO and it is in accord with the views expressed.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 106

11:00 a.m.
August 1, 1944

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

PH:lab 8/1/44

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

CONTROL COPY
DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

KEH-331

PLAIN

Bern

Dated July 31, 1944

DEPARTMENT OF STATE: 14 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

AUG 6 1944
VS

4907, Thirty-first.

Berlin DAD and Budapest PESTER LLOYD-21st feature following propaganda exposition of German anti-Jewish policy by Sunderman before foreign correspondents in connection with Hungarian deportation Jews.

One. Germany concluded from authoritative statements by prominent foreign Jews that Jews of all countries must be considered as forming belligerent anti-German race against which from legal viewpoint Germany is entitled to take protective measures.

Two. Germany implements this right now by isolation Jews in all territories controlled by Reich. Formerly emigration was encouraged and facilitated but attitude emigrated Jews made continuation that policy impossible. Isolation is characterized by introduction yellow star as distinctive mark Jewish race, separation Jews from other elements population and finally their employment in special labor service.

Three. Jews thought

-2- #4907, July 31, from Bern.

Three. Jews thought fit for labor are first place in large assembly camps where their labor qualifications are determined. Those found unsuitable for work are placed in so-called family ghettos. Those qualified are employed in accordance with their training experience on basis of non-separation married couples. They are assigned to individual enterprises requiring labor organization TODT agriculture et cetera.

Four. Elderly Jews and those who have contributed special services to Germany and other countries are exempted from labor. They with certain numbers of their families are placed in special Jewish community located at Theresienstadt in Protectorate which was visited recently by International Red Cross delegates.

Theresienstadt is Jewish administered and labor is not compulsory there. Postal connections with outside world are enjoyed and in June 20,000 food packages were received from Portugal alone. Negotiations are now in course with Red Cross for food packages for other Jews in Germany.

Five. All above facts are fully known to responsible Jewish organizations through world.

HARRISON

HTL

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J. Van R. G. R. R. R.

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: July 28, 1944
NUMBER: 2603

CONTROL COPY

FOR McCLELLAND.

Reference your 4257 of July 5.

There follows for your guidance the substance of a message from Amembassy Ankara:

QUOTE There is now in active operation an organized underground movement for transportation of refugees across the border from Hungary into Rumania. No figures regarding the actual number who have crossed into Rumania by this method are available for obvious reasons, but we are reliably informed that 600 to 700 refugees from Hungary are now in Bucarest. In addition, refugees from Hungary estimated to number 700 to 800 are now hiding in frontier towns.

After the arrival of these refugees in Rumania, Baron von Killinger, German Minister to Rumania, brought pressure to bear on the Rumanian Government to enact a decree to the effect that anyone escaping across the Rumanian border would be executed by the Rumanians forthwith. This decree was enacted and actually published in Rumania.

We are informed that the Rumanian Government has not enforced the decree but is requesting the Jewish organizations

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

-2-

in Rumania to arrange for the evacuation of the refugees from Hungary at the earliest possible moment.

The Rumanian Government is reported not to be interfering at the present time with the escape of refugees from Hungary into Rumania in the manner referred to above. From my observations here, this escape route, while fraught with dangers, offers at the moment the best means of evacuation of appreciable numbers of refugees from Hungary. The requisites for the utilization of this route are: One, carefully chosen personnel; two, tacit acquiescence of Rumanians; and three, funds for the documentations, feeding and clothing of the refugees and the subsidizing of INNER QUOTE agents END OF INNERQUOTE. UNQUOTE
THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 102.

HULL

1343-amb
CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AT BERN AND McCLELLAND

Reference your 4257 of July 5.

There follows for your guidance the substance of a message from
Ambassy Ankara:

QUOTE There is now in active operation an organized underground movement for transportation of refugees across the border from Hungary into Rumania. No figures regarding the actual number who have crossed into Rumania by this method are available for obvious reasons, but we are reliably informed that 600 to 700 refugees from Hungary are now in Bucharest. In addition, refugees from Hungary estimated to number 700 to 800 are now hiding in frontier towns.

After the arrival of these refugees in Rumania, Baron von Killinger, German Minister to Rumania, brought pressure to bear on the Rumanian Government to enact a decree to the effect that anyone escaping across the Rumanian border would be executed by the Rumanians forthwith. This decree was enacted and actually published in Rumania.

We are informed that the Rumanian Government has not enforced the decree but is requesting the Jewish organizations in Rumania to arrange for the evacuation of the refugees from Hungary at the earliest possible moment.

The Rumanian Government is reported not to be interfering at the present time with the escape of refugees from Hungary into Rumania in the manner referred to above. From my observations here, this escape route, while fraught with dangers, offers at the moment the best means of evacuation of appreciable numbers of refugees from Hungary. The requisites for the utilization of this route are: One, carefully chosen personnel; two, tacit acquiescence of Rumanians, and three funds for the documentation, feeding and clothing of the refugees and the subsidizing of INNER QUOTE agents END OF INNER QUOTE. UNQUOTE

1:15 p.m.
July 27, 1944

THIS IS WND BERN CABLE NO. _____

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

LSLesser:tmh 7-28-44

Hungary 2d

2 - War Ref Ad

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: July 28, 1944
NUMBER: 2595

CONTROL COPY

FOR McCLELLAND.

1. Even if the information reported in your 4604 of July 19 was intended as a response to the June 13 note, there is no objection to proposal contained in last sentence of your 4506 of July 14. Hungarian acquiescence in departure of Jews holding entry permits to other countries can not (repeat not) be considered satisfactory since under the circumstances it carries with it the implied threat to continue the persecution and deportation of those who remain. Since it is not (repeat not) probable that mass emigration of Jews in Hungary numbering hundreds of thousands can be arranged under war conditions, the Hungarian attitude reported in your 4604 is not (repeat not) likely to be of any real assistance to any substantial number. For this reason, your proposal commends itself to both the Department and Board.

2. Reference Department's 1946 of June 6, WRB's 33, Department's 2142 of June 23, WRB's 55, and your 3869 of June 17 to the Department. The Board would appreciate knowing to what extent, if any, Lecher, Perry, and Kanitz have been able to be helpful and whether the services of Peyer and the former Loew Angren representative

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

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-2-

representative have been utilized. Also whether Popper and
Grimm have been helpful in any way.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 101.

STETTINIUS
Acting

000000

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AT BERN AND McCLELLAND

1. Even if the information reported in your 4604 of July 19 was intended as a response to the June 13 note, there is no objection to proposal contained in last sentence of your 4605 of July 14. Hungarian acquiescence in departure of Jews holding entry permits to other countries can not (repeat not) be considered satisfactory since under the circumstances it carries with it the implied threat to continue the persecution and deportation of those who remain. Since it is not (repeat not) probable that mass emigration of Jews in Hungary numbering hundreds of thousands can be arranged under war conditions, the Hungarian attitude reported in your 4604 is not (repeat not) likely to be of any real assistance to any substantial number. For this reason, your proposal commends itself to both the Department and Board.

2. Reference Department's 1948 of June 6, WKB's 33, Department's 2142 of June 23, WKB's 46, and year 3369 of June 17 to the Department. The Board would appreciate knowing to what extent, if any, Lecher, Perry, and Kanitz have been able to be helpful and whether the services of Peyer and the former New Angern representative have been utilized. Also whether Pepper and Grimm have become helpful in any way.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. _____

101

July 27, 1944
9:25 A.M.

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

LSL:unr:tnh 7-26-44

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ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: July 22, 1944
NUMBER: 2510

FOR McCLELLAND FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

New York Times of July 19 carries article datelined Bern to effect that Intercross has received Horthy assurances that deportation of Hungarian Jews is suspended, that Intercross may assist detained Jews and collaborate in the evacuation of Jewish children. Please advise the Board promptly of the accuracy of this report and of any pertinent information in connection therewith. Subsequent cable will discuss points contained your 4599 of July 18.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 89.

HULL

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

Spec. Interoffice
New York Times of July 19
and RECEIVED FROM NEW YORK
JUL 20 1944
American Republics
Secretaria of State
ORIGINAL TEXT OF
TO: [redacted]
FROM: [redacted]

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AT BERN FOR McCLELLAND FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

New York Times of July 19 carries article datelined Bern to effect that Interoross has received worthy assurances that deportation of Hungarian Jews is suspended, that Interoross may assist detained Jews and collaborate in the evacuation of Jewish children. Please advise the Board promptly of the accuracy of this report and of any pertinent information in connection therewith.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 898.

4:45 p.m.
July 20, 1944

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

LSLesser:tnh 7-20-44 X.S.L.

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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern.
TO: Secretary of State, Washington.
DATED: July 21, 1944.
NUMBER: 4665.
X

CONTROL COPY

In view of the information with reference to Uruguay and Chile which was contained in messages from the Legation of July 14th, Number 4518 and Number 4502, the inquiry which was contained in the last paragraph of message of July 13, from the Department, Number 2407, was not forwarded to the Swiss.

HARRISON

DCR:LCW 7/22/44

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

*2-man Refugee Rel.
m. Kelle*

CONTROL COPY

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED JUL 19 1944

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington JUL 19 1944
DATE: July 19, 1944
NUMBER: 4604

Hacc Files

Reference is made herewith to Legation's July 5 cable No. 4280 and to the Department's July 6 telegram No. 1945.

a/ A note from the Foreign Office, dated yesterday, states that according to a telegram from the Swiss Legation at Budapest, authorization has been given by the Government of Hungary for the departure of all Jews from Hungary who hold entry permits for another country, including Palestine.

This same message states that transit through occupied territories will be permitted by the German Government. As soon as possible the Swiss Legation, in collaboration with the Palestinian Bureau, Budapest, will take necessary measures for evacuation. It is probable that Hungarian police passports will constitute travel documents. */a*

HARRISON

DOR:EBH
7/20/44

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

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7/19/44
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2- run to file
ml. rhl

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: July 19, 1944
NUMBER: 4616

CONTROL COPY

Reference is made herewith to Legation's June 26 telegram No. 4066; the Department's July 17 cable No. 2439; and Legation's cable No. 4610 of today. *Being ditto-ed*

It is requested that you refer to WRB No. 85 transmitted in cable under reference from the Department and to first cable under reference from Legation in connection with note contained in last reference cable.

HARRISON

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 14 1977

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DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

War Ref Bank File
DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

SFG-874

Bern

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

Dated July 19, 1944

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS
JUL 20 1944 5:49 p.m.

CONTROL COPY
Files

Secretary of State

Washington

X
4610, July 19, 3 p.m.

Following is text of Legation's note No 8663, June 13:

"The Legation of the United States of America presents its
(compliments?)
compliments to the Division of Foreign Interests of
the Federal Political Department and with reference to
reports which have come to the attention of the Department
of State regarding the condition of persons of the Jewish
race in Hungary, has the honor to inquire whether the
Division would be disposed to convey informally to the
Hungarian Government on behalf of the Government of the
United States a message in the sense of the following text:
'The Government of the United States requests that the
appropriate authorities in Hungary state their intentions
with regard to the future treatment to be accorded to Jews
in ghettos and concentration camps particularly whether
the Hungarian authorities contemplate the imposition of
discriminatory reduction in food rations, forced deporta-
tions to Poland or elsewhere, or the adoption of other
measures

d

-2-#4610, July 19, 3 p.m., from Bern

measures which, like those mentioned will be tantamount to mass execution.

'The Government of the United States desires to remind the appropriate Hungarian Authorities of the grave view which the United States Government takes concerning the persecution Jews and other minorities, and of the determination of the United States Government, to see to it that all those who share the responsibility for such acts are dealt with in accordance with the warning issued by the President of the United States on March 24, 1944.'

"The Legation avails itself of this occasion to renew to the division the assurance of its highest consideration."

Additionally extract of President's statement of March 24 beginning "The United Nations are fighting" and concluding "to this righteous undertaking" enclosed with note.

HARRISON

EEC
WMB

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: July 17, 1944
NUMBER: 2439

CONTROL COPY

FROM THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD FOR MCCLELLAND, BERN,
SWITZERLAND.

Note referred to in your 4066 June 26 not (repeat not)
received. Urgent you cable at once full text thereof.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 85

HULL

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DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 14 1972

Note referred to in your 4066 June 26 not (repeat not) received.
Urgent you cable at once full text thereof.

11:10 a.m.
July 17, 1944

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

BA: PJM:ar 7/15/44

Raw
DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

EAG-552

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

was Ref. Bl - Rable
DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

PLATE

Bern

Dated July 14, 1944

Rec'd 5:55 p.m.

copy to
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Secretary of State,
Washington.

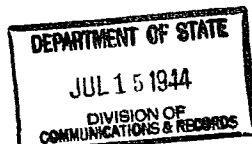
4509, fourteenth

Budapest PESTER LLOYD seventh publishes report

Budapest municipal authorities that by middle June
196,241 Jews, or over one-half pre-April Jewish popula-
tion city had received special ration cards with others
expected to apply therefor. Report adds 2,639 buildings
with 33,294 apartments of 70,197 rooms assigned to Jews
as compulsory residence quarters.

HARRISON

JT



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100811

*2 - given Refugee Rel.
Mr. Pilet*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: ALLEGATION, BERN
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: July 14, 1944
NUMBER: 4506

CONTROL COPY

I called on Mr. Pilet-Golaz, as forecast in my 4324, July 6, and conveyed expression of appreciation as directed in your 2221, June 30 and the entire War Refugee problem was reviewed.

1. Stating that he had received from President Haber a copy of the latter's reply to my letter of May 22, my 3144 and 3147, Mr. Pilet felt that any approach to the Germans along the lines indicated in your 1498, April 29, would be resented and might jeopardize ICRC's present efforts to furnish relief to the persecuted in which he would continue to put forward every assistance possible.

2. In regard to the havens of refuge (my letter of June 16 mentioned in my 3955, June 2), Mr. Pilet recalled the Swiss policy as previously stated respecting acceptance of refugees who are continually arriving. Likewise, Mr. Pilet referred to his efforts which have so far been unsuccessful in obtaining permission for children to come to Switzerland from German occupied territory and Germany. I was informed by Mr. Pilet that the interested services of his government had now under consideration a proposal to the Hungarian Government to take five thousand children and expectant mothers.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date **SEP 14 1972**

It was

It was his expectation that suitable arrangements be made so that they would not remain in Switzerland permanently if the proposal was successful.

3. Mr. Pilet stated, in regard to reports of deportation of some 400,000 Jews from Hungary, that to know exactly what had happened to those poor people was difficult. So far 250,000 had been taken as indicated by his reports. It is known that those capable of working had been moved to labor camps but it is not known what happened to the others. In Hungary arrest of Jews was affected by Hungarian authorities who then turned them over to the Gestapo and it is claimed that to this outrageous action 80% of the Hungarians were opposed. In many instances Hungarians had been punished for endeavoring to assist and protect the Jews. It was stated by Mr. Pilet that he had been told there were in Hungary about 800,000 Jews.

4. The interest and concern of the government and people of Switzerland for the fate of the Jews in Hungary was stressed by Mr. Pilet and he gave me in strictest confidence the following information:

(A) In close touch with interested Swiss Jewish organizations the Federal government is facilitating communications between organizations in Switzerland and Jewish organizations in Hungary and in this connection Mr. Saly Mayer's name was mentioned by him.

(B) Close

(B) Close contact is maintained with and assistance rendered to ICRC. A direct appeal has been transmitted by him from President Huber to Regent Horthy.

(C) Now under active consideration is a proposal to obtain permission for 5000 children and expectant mothers (see above).

(D) Instructions have been issued to the Swiss Minister in Budapest to leave the Hungarian Government in no doubt as to the attitude of the Swiss Government and Swiss people with regard to these persecutions and to make it clear to the Hungarian Government that undoubtedly the good relations and high regard which the Swiss Government and people had for Hungary would be adversely affected by continuance of this policy. In similar terms Mr. Pilet has spoken to the Hungarian Chargé in Bern.

5. Although the Regent has "washed his hands" of all responsibility, I was told by Mr. Pilet that he professed to be opposed to the persecution of Jews. It is apparent that to be named as one of those responsible is feared by Horthy. I propose to ask the Swiss, unless you perceive some objection, to press the Hungarians for a reply to our note of June 13 and in doing so call their attention to warning to leaders as well as functionaries and subordinates in the statement of March 24 issued by the President.

HARRISON

DCR:LAS:JC 7/19/44

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*2 - war Refugee Bd.
arm. R. H.*

RECEIVED
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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM
FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: July 14, 1944
REF ID: 4802

Reference is made herewith to Department's May 23 telegram No. 1786 and Legation's May 31 telegram No. 3467.

From WRE No. 24.

Pursuant to cable under reference from the Department, the Legation, as indicated in its cable under reference, has requested the Swiss to obtain detailed information concerning treatment of Jews in Hungary. At the same time it requested information as to fate of Jews holding Latin American documentation in particular.

July 6 Swiss notice states that since in Hungary Switzerland is charged only with protection of Uruguayan and Chilean interests, it will not be able consequently to seek information desired except as regards Jews possessing documentation from Uruguay or Chile. The following is reported by Swiss Legation at Budapest.

Thus far it appears that Hungarian authorities are disposed at least to accord to foreign nationals under protection of Swiss exceptional treatment foreseen for Jews of foreign countries. Obligation to wear Jewish star and to declare property is thus dispensed with and reduction in food rations

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-14-74
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 14 1972

avoided

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avoided also. These persons subjected however to system of protective custody (Schutzhaft) which is not to be confused with internment according to the Hungarians.

Swiss Legation in Budapest knows of only two Jewish cases in which protection of Uruguayan and Chilean interests are involved. Of these the first concerns Jew resident in Budapest who only recently received Chilean passport from Chilean Bern Legation. The other known case involves minor female not in possession of a valid passport interned as Uruguayan citizen. Thus far latter's relatives by avoiding foreign control have been able to avoid internment. Uruguayan passports are no longer in their possession. It is belief of the Swiss Legation that Uruguayan nationality of these Jews will be recognized by Hungarians. Moreover it is expected that all Jews able to prove foreign nationality will be spared anti-Semitic action on basis request of their protecting power. View of Swiss Legation that Jews of Latin American origin who are able to prove their nationality will not be exposed to danger of deportation, is stressed by it. In case the U.S. authorities do not decide to validate letters of protection which interested persons hold, such danger exists for all Americans who are affected by rule G of 1940 Nationality.

Instructions from you concerning protection by Swiss of persons in whose cases it has already been held by the Department that applicants are not entitled to documentation while living abroad and entitled to documentation for return to U.S. only, would be appreciated in view of the foregoing.

DCR:EBH 7/17/44

HARRISON

000822

*4-war Ref. Bl-
Pelle*

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS AND
RECORDS

CONTROL COPY

AHC-401

PLAIN

Bern

Dated July 13, 1944

Rec'd 4:55 a.m., 14th

Secretary of State,
Washington.

4468, thirteenth.

AMERICAN INTERESTS HUNGARY.

FESTER LLOYD article July 6th states on request
Central Jewish Council, American and British Jews
detained near central station moved to six villas in
wooded suburban district; there bombed July 2. Legation
awaiting detail Swiss report.

HARRISON

JJM

HTM

000823

*Under Refugee Bd.
Mr. Pable*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern.
TO: Secretary of State, Washington.
DATE: July 8, 1944.
NUMBER: 4303.
X

Files

The following information is from McClelland for
WRB.

1. Through underground Reich channels two reports of eye witnesses reached Switzerland recently, with regard to concentration and extermination camps of the Nazis in Eastern Upper Silesia, at Auschwitz (referred to as A hereinafter) and Birkenau (referred to as B hereinafter).

The experiences of two Slovakian Jews who were interned in the above-mentioned camps from April, 1944, when they managed to escape, and the experiences of a non-Jewish political major who was imprisoned in the camp at A for a year and a half, are the bases for these reports, which are independent. No hearsay is given; only direct personal experiences are here reported. Since these reports have a tendency to corroborate information in fragmentary form received by various organizations and individuals in Switzerland during the past two years, particularly the composition of transports of Jewish deportees, and their dates, which came from all over Europe to the camps at A and B, there is every reason to believe that these accounts

DECLASSIFIED **are authentic.**
State Dept. Letter 1-11-79
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 14 1972

77082

are authentic. Trustworthy people, furthermore, closely cross-questioned the two Jews (who will be referred to as "authors" hereinafter) before the compiling of this report. (Here insert text of my message of July 6, Number 4295).

14. The following names were given, among others, as being the names of individuals responsible for the acts which took place in camps A and B: Head of Gestapo Political Section, Lagerfuhrer Grabner; Commandant of B, Untersturmfuhrer Schwarz Huber from Tyrol; Lagerkommandant and Anthosess (of both camps); Camp Physician Entrest; SS-Scharfuhrer Kuleff; Oberschar Fuhrer Palitsch; Scharfuhrer Stiwetz; SS-Mannkier. Also responsible for murder of many Jews in cold blood were a number of the Reich's German professional criminals interned in A and B. Among these should be listed the following: Rudio Steringer; Albert Haemmerle; Alexander Neumann; Arno Boehm; Rudi Berchert; Zimmer; and political prisoners; Alois Stahler and Alfred Klein.

For whatever use the WRB considers it most effective, this report is submitted. When the facilities of the mails permit, microfilm copies of the two reports in full will be sent.

HARRISON.

DCR: LGW 7/10/44

100823

DEPARTMENT

BJR - 265

7 Wm Dr Cl-Rille
RECEIVED

TELEGRAM

PLAIN

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

Berlin

CONTROL COPY

Dated July 6, 1944

Rec'd 11:59 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

4295, Sixth

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JUL 8 1944

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS & RECORDS

Two. The two camps apparently straddle main railroad line from Dziedzitz to Chrzanow about two kilometers to southwest of Oswiecim (German name Auschwitz). Camp of A is located between Sola River and railroad line while camp of B lies about two kilometers northwest of railroad and slightly south of village of Brzezinka. Their southern limit is village of Rajsko. Each camp is encircled by outer chain of 50 to 60 watchtowers at radius of two kilometers. These circles of towers almost touch at one point with only railroad line running between. Two camps thus about four kms. apart. Inner compound of A is 500 by 300 meters and consists of three rows of barracks surrounded by double fence carrying charged wires with five meter high watchtowers at 150 meter intervals

000820

-2- #4295, Sixth, from Bern.

intervals between fences. Between compound and outer circle are clustered to north three factory buildings of Deutsches Aufbruchswerke, Krupp and Siemens; to west staff building.

Compound of B is 1600 by 850 meters. Northeast end of camp is distinguished by high smokestacks of four crematoria. To northwest is small birch forest called Birkenwald while two one-half kilometers to west a farm camp called Harmense.

For geographical orientation see 1,200,000 scale map of Upper Silesia plebiscite zone.

Three. A was originally solely a concentration camp and in April 1942 housed about 15,000 political prisoners mainly Poles with a few Germans and Russians including criminals anti-socials, homosexuals and members of Bibelforscher religious sect; also Jews from all occupied countries. Over entrance gate are inscribed words Arbeit Macht Frei.

B primarily used for Jews was constructed by 12,000 Russian war prisoners brought there as punitive measure during December 1941. By May 1942 all but few hundred had died from exposure and undernourishment. Authors state that their bodies which had been shallowly buried by

-3- #4296, Sixth, from Bern.

buried by thousands had to be later exhumed and burned due to frightful odor they spread. When authors arrived there were about 2,000 men in B.

Four. Treatment and working conditions in A and B are vicious. On arrival all possessions and clothing are confiscated, heads shaved to make escape more difficult and camp number tattooed, in case of Jews during 1942, on left side of chest and after beginning of 1943 for all prisoners on left forearm. Ragged and filthy Russian uniforms and wooden shoes are distributed. In B each block or barrack 30 by 10 by 5 meters high houses 400 to 500 internees in cell-like rooms too cramped to permit either standing or lying down. Food for Jews consists of tepid ersatz coffee in morning one liter soup generally turnip at noon and 300 grams bad bread at night. Non-Jews receive more. Working hours are in summer from 5 to 12 and 13 to 18, in winter from 7 to 15 without interruption, men are worked outdoors irrespective of weather or season working conditions for Jews are calculated to bring them to state of collapse within two weeks. They are beaten or shot for slightest slowness awkwardness or infraction, heavy physical labor is

-4- #4295, Sixth, from Bern.

labor is demanded road construction gravel pit cement work house demolishing or work in various factories particularly the Buna synthetic rubber plant near B. When working outside second circle of watchtowers each group generally assigned 10 by 10 meter area anyone accidentally overstepping line or falling out of march column returning from work is shot for attempting to escape. Any internee who actually tries to escape if caught alive is publicly hung before whole camp; if only body is brought back it is placed at entrance gate of camp with sign reading Hier Bin Ich.

Authors report mortality among group of 1,000 Slovakian Jews which arrived in mid-April 1942 at 30 to 40 per day three weeks after arrival only 150 were alive. Similar transport of 300 naturalized French Jews from Paris which arrived early in April 1942 were all dead within month.

Five. Those too weak to work are placed in ill-famed block 7 in B the so-called Krankenbau here an operation called selektion is practiced consisting of sorting out by camp doctor each Monday and Thursday of worst

-5- #4295, Sixth, from Bern.

of worst cases who are then transported in trucks to the Birkenwald where they are gassed in a special barrack; bodies being burned afterwards. In block 7 about 800 died by selektion and 1200 of so-called natural death each week, death certificates for latter category are regularly drawn up and sent to Oranienburg. Authors worked in block 7 Krankenbau between May 1942 and January 1943 and from direct observation estimate total such deaths during this period at 5,000.

Six. According to Polish Major Krankenbau in A in March 1942 consisted of blocks 28, 20, and 21 later three other blocks 19, 9 and 10 composing so-called hygienic institut were attached to it. In latter various medical experiments were performed: sterilization by X-rays, artificial insemination, blood transfusions using male and female prisoners from camp. One example: out of family transport of 4000 Jews from Theresienstadt which arrived on September 7, 1943, all were gassed in Birkenwald on March 7, 1944, except 11 pairs of twins delivered to this hygienic institut.

No one

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-6- #4295, Sixth, from Bern.

No one was admitted to Krankenbau in A unless he had a fever of at least 38.6 centigrade. Patients were divided into two groups Jews and non-Jews. 80 to 90% of former were killed outright by fenolin injections in heart region many Jews voluntarily submitted to this rather than Birkenwald to be gassed.

In A great many political prisoners were regularly executed by shooting against wall in court between blocks 10 and 11. This reached high point in May 1942 when two or three times weekly at morning appel 40 to 60 men were separated out and commit suicide on high tension wires non-Jews were divided into curables and those whose recovery would take several weeks latter if still ailing after months along with many political prisoners condemned to death were killed by fenolin injections. To further make room for new patients German doctor checked over everyone in Krankenbau once a month and drew up list of 200 to 400 who were killed by same method those destined for the Spritze (as it was called in camp jargon) were sent naked from block 28 to block 20 where operation was performed early in 1942 by SS

man Kler

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-7- #4295, Sixth, from Bern.

man Kler shoemaker by profession. For services rendered to Fuehrer Kler was promoted to Oberscharfuehrer given extra rations and Iron Cross. Later when Kler's nerves began to fail him he was assisted by a Pole named Panszczyk (prisoner No. 607) from Cracow still, later this killing done by another Pole named Jerzy Szymkowiak No. 15490 who volunteered. He is said to have died in summer of 1943.

Delousing as anti-typhus measure was also frequently used by German doctor as pretext to weed out additional ill and weak for execution. Any Jew suspected of typhus was automatically sent to await execution in cells of block 11.

Seven. Jews who were brought to A toward end of 1941 were for most part Polish political prisoners and killed by various methods as such. Not until spring of 1942 were transports of Jews en masse sent to B (constructed principally for them) to be exterminated on purely racial grounds.

First large Jewish transport to arrive in A March 1942 consisted of 7,000 Slovakian girls. By spring of 1944 only 400 of them were still alive in B they had been numbered from 100 to 8000. Men on other hand

-8- #4295, Sixth, from Bern.

other hand were numbered at time of arrival of authors from roughly 27,500 on. Only those admitted to camp received numbers, no number was used twice except in case of Russians POWs who were always numbered from 1 to 12,000. By April of 1944 when authors escaped number series for men had reached 174,000. Approximately 146,500 persons had entered camps of A and B effective of B when authors left was about 34,000 composed of 16,000 Jews and 1800 Aryans. 13,000 of this total were women and 4500 Gypsies; remains of group of 1600, who died off very quickly.

Effective of A in spring of 1944 is not given.

Of 146,500 persons who had entered camps during author's stay some 2000 were Aryans mainly Polish political prisoners plus group of 700 Czechs and 200 French Communists, among latter was Thorez, brother and Leon Blum's younger brother who was tortured and gassed.

Eight. As first large transports of Jews began to arrive in spring of 1942 process was to admit about 10% of more able-bodied men and 5% of women into

B. This

-9- #4295, Sixth, fl. A. Bern.

B. This selection was made by Gestapo political commission at unloading of trains. Balance including elderly people, women with small children, those ill or otherwise unsuited for work and abandoned children were taken directly to Birkenwald in trucks and gassed. At first the bodies were thrown into immense graves but in fall of 1942 they were exhumed and burned (with gasoline) in great piles in the open fields a burning pit was then instituted the ashes from it were always sifted and spread far and wide.

Nine. Authors were in regular contact with Jewish work group called the Sonderkommando charged with emptying gas barack and burning corpses so they were in position to obtain reasonably accurate information as to numbers exterminated. They could also control those admitted to camp who received numbers. A large part of their report consists of frightful statistical record of vast number of Jews destroyed while they in B a few examples should be given.

From July 1 to September 15, 1942 huge family transports of Jews from France, Belgium and Holland constantly

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-10- #4295, Sixth, from Bern.

constantly arrived. At one point in July 15,800 (numbered 49,000 to 64,000) were admitted to camp. This represented barely 10% of convoys so that over 100,000 were gassed, a few weeks later 9,000 were admitted to B (numbered 71,000 to 80,000) with estimate of those directly gassed set at 65 to 70,000 persons. With number 80,000 systematic annihilation of Polish ghetto began. During December 1942 and January 1943 transports arrived daily with Jews from Mljava, Makow, Zichenow, Lomza, Grodno, Bialostok and Krakau. Only 5,000 of them ever entered B. At least 90 to 100,000 were destroyed authors speak of Sonderkommando working day and night in two twelve hour shifts. About 400 Jews murdered daily. In middle of January three transports of 2000 persons each arrived from Theresienstadt, their baggage was labelled CU CR and R. From these 6000 only 600 men and 300 women entered camp. During whole months of February 1943 an average of two convoys daily arrived with Polish Dutch and French Jews. The number who perished was around 90,000.

Ten. At end February 1943 four newly constructed crematoria and gassing units were put into operation

in B

-11-#4295, Sixth, from Bern.

in B two larger and two smaller the larger type consisted of vast central hall flanked on one side by furnace room and on other by long narrow gas chamber. About 2000 persons at once were crowded into central hall which was camouflaged to resemble bathing establishment made to undress given piece of soap and towel and then herded down a short stairway into adjoining lower gas chamber this is hermetically closed and SS men wearing gasmasks mount to roof and shake down into room from three openings in ceiling a powdered cyanide preparation labelled cyklon manufactured in Hamburg. Within a few minutes everyone in gas chamber is dead, latter is aired and Sonderkommando proceeds with gruesome work of transporting bodies on small flat cars running along track passing under central hall to furnace room here there are nine ovens each with four openings with high smokestack rising in middle each opening can incinerate three normal bodies within one one-half hours. Daily capacity of larger crematoria is 2000 of two smaller about 1000 each, total for all four units is some 6000 daily.

At this time

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-12-#4295, Sixth, from Bern.

At this time gas barrack and burning pit in Birkenwald were abandoned all traces being completely obliterated. It should be recalled in this respect that two similar extermination camps in Poland were functioning a few months ago Malkini Treblinka near Bialostok and Belzec near Bug. It is confirmed that Belzec was completely eradicated early this year, the same is said concerning Treblinka doubtless Nazis plan to destroy A and B when they have served their terrible purpose. This desire to cover up their tracks from posterity is further emphasized by arrival early in 1943 of 500,000 liberation forms which were carefully filled out with data on those gassed and filled in archives.

Further illustrative of this preoccupation is postcard episode early in September 1943, a family transport of 4000 souls from Theresienstadt arrived in B. This transport was officially designated as SB-Sonderbehandlung-Czech Jews with six months quarantine. On March 1, 1944, these people were forced to write postcards to relatives in foreign countries dated March 23 to 25 stating they were in good health and asking for

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-13- #4295, Sixth, from Bern.

asking for packages, on March 7, 3791 persons from this group were gassed the balance mostly old people (with exception of 11 pairs twins already mentioned) having died during quarantine. Several of these cards were received in Switzerland.

Eleven. For inauguration of new crematoria in B at beginning of March 1943 8,000 Jews from Krakau were destroyed. For this occasion prominent civilians and high army officers arrived from Berlin and declared themselves satisfied with performance after having elbowed one another to use peephole looking into gas chamber.

Twelve. Mid-March 1943 45,000 Jews from Saloniki arrived 10,000 entered camp (numbered 109,000 to 119,000) the rest outside few women went into the crematoria the 10,000 in camp died rapidly from malaria, typhus, mistreatment and injections so that when authors left B not a single Greek Jew was alive.

During December 1943 more large transports of Dutch, French and Belgian Jews arrived including for first time Italian Jews from Fiume, Trieste and Rome. 5,000 men entered camps (numbers 160,000 to 165,000) at least

-14-#4295, Sixth, from Bern.

at least 30,000 persons were gassed (so these extraordinary figures continue.)

Thirteen. Authors set number of Jews gassed and burned in B between April 1942 and April 1944 at from 1.5 to 1.75 million about half of them Poles the others (in thousands followed by country of origin) 150 France, 100 Holland, 60 Germany, 50 Lithuania, 50 Belgium, 50 Yugoslavia, Italy and Norway, together 30, Slovakia, 30; Bohemia, Moravia and Austria together 300 from various camps for foreign Jews in Poland.

HARRISON

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m. Pable*

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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: July 5, 1944
NUMBER: 4260
X

Reference is made herewith to my messages of June 16,
no. 3843, and of June 26, no. 4066.

According to a cable from the Swiss Legation, Budapest,
it is advised by Foreign Office note dated July 4, that this
Legation's note of June 13 was delivered to the Hungarian For-
eign Office on June 27.

HARRISON

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

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TRANSMISSION OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern.
TO: Department of State, Washington.
DATED: July 5, 1944.
NUMBER: 4257.

CONTROL COPY

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The following communication is from McClelland

for WRB.

A message in code, received by air on June 2 from the Prime Minister of Rumania, was the basis for the information given in Paragraph 2 of our message of June 17, Number 3887.

Statement was made by the Rumanian delegate to ICRC, Soneriu, that he was able to give formal assurance (it is presumed for the ears of the Allies) that Jews coming from Hungary into Rumania would not only be allowed to cross the border secretly but that their safety would be looked out for by the Rumanians.

The fact that the few Jews who are able to reach the frontier of Rumania do not seem to find the Rumanians making things difficult for them is born out by word received from Jewish sources in Budapest.

The above is with reference to message from the Department on June 29, Number 2206.

HARRISON.

DCR: LCW 7/6/44

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

10084

*War Refugee
File*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT
FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: AMLEGATION, BERN
DATED: July 4, 1944
NUMBER: 2276

copy

CONTROL COPY

FOR MCCLELLAND AND MINISTER HARRISON AT BERN.

A neutral government is about to dispatch new attache to its Legation Budapest as result of message similar to that contained in Department's 1805 of May 25, War Refugee Board's 26. He is generally familiar with Board's program and has had extensive conversations with Board's representative concerning immediate problems, which he is prepared to attempt to deal with through any available channels on practical basis. He is prepared also to operate on specific projects suggested by Board. In line with your 3390 of May 27, you may desire that he contact specific persons or undertake specific projects. If so, please advise the Board promptly.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 68.

HULL

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73
By R. H. Parks Date **SEP 14 1977**

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CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AT BERN AND McCLELLAND

A neutral government is about to dispatch new attache to its legation Budapest as result of message similar to that contained in Department's 1805 of May 25, War Refugee Board's 26. He is generally familiar with Board's program and has had extensive conversations with Board's representative concerning immediate problems, which he is prepared to attempt to deal with through any available channels on practical basis. He is prepared also to operate on specific projects suggested by Board. In line with your 3390 of May 27, you may desire that he contact specific persons or undertake specific projects. If so, please advise the Board promptly.

THIS IS WEB BERN CABLE NO. 68.

1:40 p.m.
July 3, 1944

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

L. S. L.

LSLesserials 7/3/44

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 14 1972

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Control Copy
ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT
FROM: SECRETARY OF STATE, WASHINGTON
TO: AMLEGATION, BERN
DATED: JUNE 29, 1944
NUMBER: 2206

CONTROL COPY

FOR MCCLELLAND AND MINISTER HARRISON AT BERN

Please advise whether information contained your
3914 of June 19 or information contained first sentence
paragraph marked two your 3867 of June 17 is considered
by you more reliable.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 61.

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

RECEIVED
RESERVED BOARD
WASHINGTON D.C.
JUL 1 PM 3:41
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CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AT BERN AND McLELLAND

Please advise whether information contained your 3914 of June 19 or information contained first sentence paragraph marked two your 3867 of June 17 is considered by you more reliable.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 61

10:05 a.m.
June 28, 1944

L.S.L.
LSLesser:als 6/27/44

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

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Via Airmail Pouch.

No. 8599

Bern, June 26, 1944.

Subject: American Interests - Hungary
Treatment of Jews and other
minorities.

File

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

CONTROL COPY

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's telegrams Nos. 1945 of June 6 - 8 p.m. and 2128 of June 22 - 4 p.m., and to the Legation's telegram No. 4066 of today, with reference to the treatment of Jews and other minorities in Hungary.

In accordance with the Legation's telegram cited above, there is quoted below the text of the Legation's note A.I. No. 8663 dated June 13, 1944, together with a copy of its enclosed extract of the President's statement of March 24, 1944:

"The Legation of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Division of Foreign Interests of the Federal Political Department, and, with reference to reports which have come to the attention of the Department of State regarding the condition of persons of the Jewish race in Hungary, has the honor to inquire whether the Division would be disposed to convey informally to the Hungarian Government, on behalf of the Government of the United States, a message in the sense of the following text:

"The Government of the United States requests that the appropriate authorities in Hungary state their intentions with regard to the future treatment to be accorded to Jews in ghettos and concentration camps, particularly whether the Hungarian authorities contemplate the imposition of discriminatory reductions in food rations, forced deportations to Poland or elsewhere, or the adoption of other measures which,

like

540.48 Refugee Board/6-26-44

-2-

like those mentioned, will be tantamount to mass execution.

'The Government of the United States desires to remind the appropriate Hungarian authorities of the grave view which the Government of the United States takes concerning the persecution of Jews and other minorities, and of the determination of the Government of the United States to see to it that all those who share the responsibility for such acts are dealt with in accordance with the warning issued by the President of the United States on March 24, 1944.'

"The Legation avails itself of this occasion to renew to the Division the assurance of its highest consideration."

Respectfully yours,

Leland Harrison
American Minister

Enclosure:

Copy of extract of President's statement of March 24, 1944, which was attached to the Legation's note A.I. No. 8663.

File No. 840.1
GT/dmh
In quintuplicate to Department.

Enclosure to despatch No. 8599
dated June 26, 1944, from the
American Legation, Bern.

COPY
dmh

Extract of President Roosevelt's statement of March 24,
1944.

"The United Nations are fighting to make a world in which tyranny and aggression can not 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 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 purpose.

In one of the blackest crimes of all history - begun by the Nazis in the day 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

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 guilt 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 pursued 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 intended 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 them 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."

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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: June 24, 1944
NUMBER: 4041

2. War Rel. Board
Mr. Keller
File
CONTROL COPY
copy sent with
memo by FH to
McCloy 6/29

McLelland sends the following for the War Refugee Board.
Reference is made herewith to Legation's message dated
June 17, No. 3667, paragraph three.

Now there is no doubt that the majority of the Jewish
population east of the Danube especially in eastern northern,
and north eastern Hungary has been deported to Poland. Further
reliable information confirming this fact has come in in the
course of the past two weeks from the following independent
sources: (a) Swiss official employee just returned from
Budapest; (b) Railway workers in Czech resistance movement,
(c) other reliable secret source regard information as to
sources as absolutely confidential since any publicity
regarding them would endanger lives.

Prior to the deportations, there were two weeks to a
month of brutal concentration during which thousands of Jews
were crowded together in primitive quarters with insufficient
food, clothing and water, regardless of state of health, sex
or age. The Hungarian gendarmerie on László Endre's orders
largely carried out this action.

Apparently the actual large scale deportations began about
May 16 and lasted until the middle of June. The movement

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

involved

involved 12,000 persons per day: about 7,000 through sub-Carpatho-Russia and 5,000 through Slovakia. Characteristic of such actions, people were deported 60 to 70 per sealed freight wagon for a trip of two to three days without adequate water or food probably resulting in many deaths en route.

Particularly used were the following stretches of rail-road:

(1) Csep-Kaschau-Trenov-Lubotin-Nowyecz in direction of Oszwiecim; (2) Batoraljauboly-Leginskich Wlany-Michaloves-Medzilaborce. Also many thousand troops to and from the Polish front were transported daily over this line; (3) Munkacs-Layocse; (4) Galanta-Sered-Leopoldstadt-Novozasto-Trencin; (5) Vruty-Milina.

It is urged by all sources of this information in Slovakia and Hungary that vital sections of these lines especially bridges along one be bombed as the only possible means of slowing down or stopping future deportations. (This is submitted by me as a proposal of these agencies and I can venture no opinion on its utility).

At least 335,000 Jews already have been deported from the following regions according to figures received.

Approximately 130,000 in sub-Carpathia and Ruthenia mainly from the towns of Beregszasz, Felsosivo, Huszt, Nagyszollos, Maramorosziget, Munkacs, Tassar and Ungvar.

Approximately

Approximately 80,000 in Transylvania from Bistretes, Bcs, Kolosvar, Maros Vasarhely, Nagybanja, Nagyvarad, Szaszregen, and Szilagy. ^{Som/}go.

In northern Lincsechau, Gyongyos, Sator Aljaujhely and Sarosvatak.

Approximately 75,000 in the Tisz region from: Kisvarda, ^{and} Mateszalka, Nagykaroly, Kysregyhaza, Szatmar, Keneti.

It is also reported by one source that deportations of approximately 20,000 have taken place from certain towns in southern Hungary such as Bacs (*)ya, Baja, Nagykonyar, Jivsek and Keszthely and further exi (*)tions also being made deport Jews from towns of Dunaszerdahely, Gyosr, Komarom, Miskolc, Pecs and Szombathely where persons are already concentrated.

Some 350,000 Jews have already been concentrated in Budapest and environs. This began around June 16 ^{on} and the 21st it was to be finished. In the city proper they have been settled in requisitioned blocks of houses in a chess board pattern so that they will not escape bombardment.

Some 15,000 Jews have been crowded into a ghetto in the factory zone along the Danube in Ujpest near Budapest.

The principal individuals in the Satfay Government responsible for this persecution of Jews are as follows: Lasko Szere, former sub-prefect of country of Pest now in Ministry of Interior; Lasko Bak, also Interior and Andre Jaross, Minister of Interior.

In an effort

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In an effort to check such continued deportations Ternencezov (*) from the United States, we recommend British and Soviet (†) broadcasts and especially leaflets. If it is possible, the Vatican should be prevailed upon to associate itself with such protest.

There is little doubt that many of these Hungarian Jews are being sent to the extermination camps of Auschwitz (Oswiecim) and Birke Nau (Rajsko) in western upper Silesia where according to recent reports, since early summer 1942 at least 1,500,000 Jews have been killed. ^{There} is evidence that already in January 1944 preparations were being made to receive and exterminate Hungarian Jews in these camps. — Soon a detailed report on these camps will be copied.

HARRISON

(*) apparent omissions

DOR:VAG:HL

6/26/44

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*2-man Refugee Bd.
Mr. Peble*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: June 23, 1944
NUMBER: 2142

CONTROL COPY

FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD FOR MCGLELLAND

(1) Further reference your 3869 of June 17. It has been suggested that George de Ghika who probably lives in Ascona, Switzerland, might be helpful in securing contacts.

(2) Reference Department's 1946, WRB's 33 of June 6. Telegram dated June 20 received by one Tennenbaum, New York, from Cerealia Ltd., presumably Jacques Locher reads: "Refer our 19/6 Murry answer quick decision essential afterwards no more chance to save lives". Previous telegram referred to not received by addressee, but message may indicate Locher has special channels desired. Addressee whose name can be used with Locher is among larger group who suggested names transmitted in Department's 1946.

(3) An informed source suggests that ships and barges going down the Danube are generally empty and may afford a means of escape for a limited number of refugees in the guise of seamen or otherwise. Same source suggests that skippers can be approached on financial basis and crews through so-called communist channels.

Board is also advised that railroad line from Budapest to

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

Mohacs,

By R. H. Parks Date

SEP 14 1972

-2-

Mohacs, said to be about ten miles from partisan-controlled Yugoslav territory, might afford similar opportunities if contacts made with trainmen through what are termed communist channels. In this connection you might also consider consulting Robert Bratschi, Union of Railwaymen, Effingerstrasse 19, Bern, who has already received general request to assist Board from J. Stolz, New York. Board further advised that Transylvanian Unitarian Church, socialist and partisan groups are in a position because of geographical situation and absence of real occupation to shelter refugees if they can reach that area.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 55X.

HULL

RECEIVED
U.S. DEPT. OF
STATE
JAN 11 1945

1005

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AT BERN FOR McCLELLAND FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

(1) Further reference your 3869 of June 17. It has been suggested that George de Ghika who probably lives in Ascona, Switzerland, might be helpful in securing contacts.

(2) Reference Department's 1946, WRB's 33 of June 6. Telegram dated June 20 received by one Temmenbaum, New York, from Cerenia Ltd., presumably Jacques Locher reads: QUOTE Refer our 19/6 Hurry answer quick decision essential afterwards no more chance to save lives UNQUOTE. Previous telegram referred to not received by addressee, but message may indicate Locher has special channels desired. Addressee whose name can be used with Locher is among larger group who suggested names transmitted in Department's 1946.

(3) An informed source suggests that ships and barges going down the Danube are generally empty and may afford a means of escape for a limited number of refugees in the guise of seamen or otherwise. Same source suggests that skippers can be approached on financial basis and crews through so-called communist channels.

Board is also advised that railroad line from Budapest to Mohacs, said to be about ten miles from partisan-controlled Yugoslav territory, might afford similar opportunities if contacts made with trainmen through what are termed communist channels. In this connection you might also consider consulting Robert Bratschi, Union of Railwaymen, Effingerstrasse 19, Bern, who has already received general request to assist Board from J. Stolz, New York. Board further advised that Transylvanian Unitarian Church, socialist and partisan groups are in a position because of geographical situation and absence of real occupation to shelter refugees if they can reach that area.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 35

June 22, 1944
8:30 p.m.

LSL:esserie: 6/22/44

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

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ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: June 23, 1944
NUMBER: 2141X

War Rel. Board
Mr. Eddy
Copy only

CONTROL COPY

FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD FOR MINISTER HARRISON AT BERN FOR McLELLAND

Reference your 3869 to Department of June 17.

The following have been suggested as possibly reliable and resourceful contacts to be made within the country for purposes indicated. Board cannot guarantee correctness of descriptions but they were given by persons deeply interested in problem and doubtlessly in good faith. Names and descriptions follow: In or near Budapest: (a) Dr. Sandor Ember, member of Parliament who is said to have good connections with various members of present government and to be ready to intervene if well compensated; (b) Kalman Konkoly-Thege, member of Parliament, and wife. Same description minus reference to compensation; (c) Count or Baron Anton Szigrol or Szigray, said to be aristocrat with substantial means who probably is not in sympathy with excesses; (d) Graf Lajos Kalman Tisza said to be broad-minded aristocrat, related by marriage to Horthy and stepson of Ivan Rakovsky, former Interior Minister whom he dislikes; (e) Count Andor Teleki unless recently removed, said to be Chairman Office for Foreign Trade. Said to possess personal influence in many quarters

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

-2-

quarters; (f) Margit Schlachta, said to be member of Parliament high in Catholic councils and with much influence in Catholic quarters; (g) Dr. Lajos Huszovsky, said to be member of present government who may be helpful for consideration; (h) Jeno Vasarhelyi, said to be president Kisepest Textile Works Co., in close collaboration with Germans but probably willing to help for compensation and future security assurances; (i) Dr. Bertalan Geocze, said to have good connections with many government people including some ministers and to be trustworthy; (j) Dezso Vilmanyi, said to be former official in the Police Headquarters in Budapest, in 1939 transferred to the Police Department in the Ministry of Interior, in charge of passport matters and to have granted many persons passports for consideration. Also said to have ingratiated himself with the Arrowcross Party and was counted among their fellow travellers by them, but that Jews could always count on his favors if they met his terms, in cash; (k) Zoltan Timko, said to be Chief Prosecutor, Superior Court of Hungary, a chauvinist and reactionary, but opposed to the Nazis. It is said that he can be depended on to help Jews of reactionary and financial-commercial background; (l) Colonel Denes Deak-Horvath, said to be wealthy, independent, and politically unaffiliated. It is said that he is Chairman of Bares Farmers' Granary Cooperative, General Manager of Hungarian Food Supply Co. It is also said that since 1940, he has been one of the leaders of the action protecting

protecting Polish refugees in Hungary and that he was for violation of the anti-Jewish laws. He is also said close connections with certain members of the present Hungarian government through which he may render useful services to our cause, notably with Anthony Kunder, the present minister of commerce; (m) Rezső Kosszeghy, said to be 49 years of age, a native of Hungary of German-Swabian descent, and a former official of the National Bank of Hungary who is now general manager of a textile and fur concern. Said to be trustworthy as assistant and go between and to have a student son in Switzerland. Said to have good contact with rank and file in government officers; (n) Dr. Jenő Bozoky, said to be a lawyer who for a number of years very skillfully played the role of an ardent Nazi and anti-Semite, with the objective of helping distressed or endangered Jews and liberals. In or near Győr: (a) László Fejes, executive Magyaróvár Manure Manufacturing Company, said to know many farmers and to be agile organizer. Said to have operated Jewish labor camp on humanitarian basis and likely to be willing to organize secret refugees for compensation. In or near Szolnok: (a) György Vitez Sebo, said to be agent of Shell Oil Co., a good organizer and favorably known to civilian and military officials in district; (b) Dr. Imre Hunyadi, said to be lawyer with close connections with present government. In or near Miskolc: (a) Dr. János Soltesz, said to have good connections with present government although probably not in accord with excesses.

You should, of course, check the foregoing against any information

information available to you. We have additional names and descriptions which we will forward to you from time to time possibly with no other message.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 52.

HULL

85 E 10 15 HULL

RECEIVED
JUL 15 1941
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

0 8 6

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AT BERN FOR McCLELLAND FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

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

- 2 -

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You should, of course, check the foregoing against any information available to you. We have additional names and descriptions which we will forward to you from time to time possibly with no other message.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 52.

June 21, 1944
10:20 a.m.

LSLessertals 6/20/44

cc: Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y.), Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Model, Laughlin, Lesser, McCormack, Stewart, Central Files, Cable Control Files.

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: June 22, 1944
NUMBER: 2128

CONTROL COPY

FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD FOR MINISTER HARRISON, BERN, AND
MCCLELLAND.

Reference your 3843 to the Department of June 16.

Department and Board are exceedingly gratified by the success of your efforts. It is assumed that in view of the gravity of the situation, you will use all appropriate means to accelerate action on the part of the Swiss Foreign Office. The Board would appreciate receiving as soon as possible the text of the note presented to the Foreign Office and which the latter will transmit verbatim. Your recommendation that no publicity be given pending receipt of information of delivery of the note to the Hungarians and to omit reference to Swiss intermediation will be followed.

Department and Board would appreciate being advised as promptly as possible of the date of the delivery of note by the Swiss.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 53.

HULL

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks, Date SEP 14 1973

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: June 19, 1944
NUMBER: 2103

Reference your 3731 of June 11. Board extremely disappointed with Interzone's inability substantially to augment its staff in Hungary. It is assumed that you will continue your efforts in every way to accelerate action by Interzone. It is also assumed that info report will be made available to you.

This is WFO Cable to Bern no. 41.

1934

Adison's, Altkhanech, Anin, Barstein, Bane, Belsky, Friedman, Gansky, Engel,
Langhin, Loeber, Marver, Nuss, Kanan, Karm, Koberman, Margay, Smith, Shustan
Flower, Weinsteins, J. D. White, White, White

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DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

LL-780

CONTROL COPY

Secretary of State,
Washington.

3914, Nineteenth.

Berlin OSTEXPRESS eighth states Rumanian Justice
Minister due recent influx Jews presumably from
Hungary and Poland issued decree providing death sentence
as punishment for illegal entry Rumania by foreign
Jews with similar punishment for persons making possible
such entry.

PLAIN

Bern

Dated June 19, 1944

Rec'd 5:10 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JUN 21 1944

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS & RECORDS

HARRISON

CSB

70096

Executive Office of the President

WAR REFUGEE BOARD

FROM:

~~Mr. A. L. L. L.~~ *Levin*

TO:

Mr. Pehle

<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Abrahamson	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Marks
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Aksin	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. McCormack
<input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. Cohn	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Parke
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. DuBois	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Sargo
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Friedman	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Smith
<input type="checkbox"/> Miss Hodel	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Standish
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Miss Laughlin	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Stewart
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. L. L. L.	<input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. Towler
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Luxford	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Weinstein
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Mann	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. White
<input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. Mannon	

*Prepare reply
and cable to El Salvador.*

700866

2-0 w/Ref/BA-Pile

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: June 17, 1944
NUMBER: 3867
X

CONTROL COPY

Following is for War Refugee Board from McClelland.

The following recent developments on the situation of Jews in Hungary are called to your attention:

1. Notwithstanding previous experience in Germany, several hundred "nationality" certificates which the Consul General of El Salvador in Geneva issued have been sent into Hungary during the past two months by individuals and organizations principally Jewish; unaware that El Salvador had no protecting power in Hungary. Subsequently the Salvadorian Consul General at Geneva has made attempts to induce the Swiss Government to accept this responsibility but I have been advised that the Swiss Government has informed him that it is not in a position to consider the proposal unless his Government presents it officially. Any steps in this direction could help as Switzerland's role as protecting power for Salvador in Hungary, if indeed the Hungarians would agree to it, might conceivably forestall or impede the deportation of several hundred persons holding such documentations.

2. From reliable sources we learn that the Rumanian Government has issued confidential instructions to border

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 14 1972

control

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control authorities to facilitate the admission of Jewish refugees from Hungary for transit ^{QHA08 370-117 8} Romanian territory.

According to repeated reports, toward the end of May the actual deportation in the direction of Poland of Jews from northeastern Hungary began over the Kaschau-Pressov railway line. Reports state that 4,000 persons departed from Kaschau (Kassa) and 75% of Jewish population from the districts of Beregszasa, Munkacs, Ungvar. However, it is very difficult to obtain confirmation of such reports. Next week we hope to have additional information from returning ICRC Joint Relief Commission purchasing agent.

HARRISON

J. W. Wright
CONTROL COPY

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: June 17, 1944
NUMBER: 3869

McClelland sends the following for the War Refugee Board.

Reference is made herewith to Department's cable dated June 6, no. 19461

The persons suggested will be contacted after some preliminary investigation of their capacities. We are already in close and regular contact with Sternbuch, Salymayer and Riegner, and well acquainted with their projects and plans. All of them are sending in funds to Hungary but they lack really active reliable and resourceful contacts within the country through whom they could carry on relief and rescue operations. We are already in touch with Grimm and Popper. For helping persecuted Jews in Hungary, no special channels seem to be had by the latter.

HARRISON

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

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2. From reliable sources we learn that the Rumanian Government has issued confidential instructions to border control authorities to facilitate the admission of Jewish refugees from Hungary for transit Rumanian territory.

According to repeated reports, toward the end of May the actual deportation in the direction of Poland of Jews from northeastern Hungary began over the Kaschau-Prosov railway line. Reports state that 4,000 persons deported from Kaschau (Kassa) and 75% of Jewish population from the districts of Bereghasza, Munkacs, Ungvar. However, it is very difficult to obtain confirmation of such reports. Next week we hope to have additional information from returning ICRC Joint Relief Commission purchasing agent.

HARRISON

cc: Sec'y, Abrahamson, Azzin, Bernstein, Coh, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Sargoy, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H. D. White, Pehle, Files.

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

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HARRISON

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State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 14 1972

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Aksin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Smith, Sandish, Stewart, Weinstein, H. D. White, Files.

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: June 16, 1944
NUMBER: 3843

CONTROL COPY

Reference is made herewith to No. 37 from WRB, your cable of June 6, 1944 No 1945.

1. A note requesting transmission of inquiry to Hungarian Government, as suggested, has been delivered to the Swiss Foreign Office. This note requests an indication of the intentions of Hungary as regards further treatment of Jews with special reference to forced deportations, discriminatory reductions of food rations or adoption of similar measures that amount to mass execution and reminding them of the grave view which the United States takes regarding persecution of Jews and other minorities and the United States' determination to punish those sharing the responsibility in accordance with the March 24 warning by the President.

The Foreign Office has accepted the note as presented and will transmit verbatim as annex to the note to the authorities of Hungary. It has been agreed by the Swiss to report the date of the delivery of the note.

2. It is recommended that the foregoing be given no publicity pending receipt of information of delivery of the note by the Swiss to the Hungarians and that no mention of Swiss intermediary be made should publicity then appear to be

advisable.

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

advisable.

3. Considering the extremely small number of radio receiving sets in Hungary, dropping pamphlets by plane would be the best method of achieving publicity in Hungary.

HARRY DICK

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: June 16, 1944
NUMBER: 3843

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2. It is recommended that the foregoing be given no publicity pending receipt of information of delivery of the note by the Swiss to the Hungarians and that no mention of Swiss intermediary be made should publicity then appear to be advisable.

3. Considering the extremely small number of radio receiving sets in Hungary, dropping pamphlets by plane would be the best method of achieving publicity in Hungary.

HARRISON

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

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

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

MJB-186

PLAIN

Bern✓

Dated June 7, 1944

Rec'd 6:29 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

CONTROL COPY

3637, Seventh

Budapest third reports Honved Decree mobilizing
all male Jews born 1896/1926 into military auxiliary
labor battalions.

HARRISON

EDA EMB

10087

Doc

*War Ref Bd (m)
Perle
10/1/44*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

TO: Secretary of State, Washington
FROM: American Legation, Bern
DATE: June 6, 1944
RE: 1946

CONTROL COPY

To Minister Harrison

The following is from War Refugee Board for McClelland.

Recent developments in Hungary make it increasingly clear that efforts must be made to arrange for the prompt departure from Hungary of persons belonging to those classes which are likely to be the initial victims of Nazi plans to deport and exterminate Jews in that country. To this end, please consult with Galy-Wayer, Sternbuch and Riegner and such of their colleagues as they may suggest. You should also consult with Jao von Locher, c/o Cerealis Ltd., Telstrasse, 87, Zurich; Julius Perry, Nusschelerstrasse 49, Zurich; Jacques Konitz, Bundesplatz 2, Bern; Kurt Grinvald, Uetoway 47, Zurich; and Hans Popper, Quai Gustave Ador 67, Geneva. You should inform the five last named that their names were suggested respectively by Mrs. Anny, Joe, Victor Lazlo, Emil and Gabor. Please also inform the five that the persons who suggested consulting them requested that they consider the advisability of enlisting the assistance of Otto Peyer, Bahnhofstrasse 70, Zurich, and through him of securing the services of the former representative of Loew Angern. Such persons are prepared to remit funds necessary to cover

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

to cover fees and expenses incident to efforts of the five, of Peyer and of former Loew Angern representative to effectuate departures. In order to assure this, however, you should advise the Board promptly of their estimate of needs for initial experimental operations and of the name and address of the person to whom remittance should be made.

After consulting with each of the indicated groups separately with respect to the means thought to be available to each to effectuate departures and their views as to the probability of success, you should hold a joint meeting with representatives of each group able to be of assistance, bearing in mind that the coordination of such activities is essential if duplication of effort, confusion and failure are to be avoided.

If you should be of the opinion that any of the groups has nothing to offer, or if any of the five should indicate that he has no way of being of assistance, or if you should conclude that the plan or plans proposed are not feasible, or if complete coordination and cooperation do not appear probable, please advise the Board in detail promptly. You might also consider conferring with each of the five separately, informing him of the person who suggested his name, before calling them together as a group.

You are being given the foregoing detailed suggestions only because the groups indicated represent widely divergent groups and it is essential that in this matter all cooperate closely.

Prior to communicating with the five whose addresses are given above, you should consult appropriate officers of the Legation and

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-2-
legation and such other appropriate Americans as may be known to you to ascertain such information as may be available concerning them. If there is any seemingly adverse information concerning any such individual, do not communicate with him, advising the Board correctly of the individual involved and of the nature of such information.

You will realize the urgency of this matter and will impress upon those consulted the necessity for avoiding all conflict of action. Please keep the Board fully advised with respect to all developments as promptly as possible.

This is WAB Bern Cable No. 33.

STETTINIUS
(Acting)

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RECEIVED
JUN 15 1941

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CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AT BERN

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You will realize the urgency of this matter and will impress upon those consulted the necessity for avoiding all conflicting action. Please keep the Board fully advised with respect to all developments as promptly as possible.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 33

June 2, 1944
4:25 p.m.

LSL:serials 6/1/44
L.S.L.

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: June 6, 1944
NUMBER: 1945

CONTROL COPY

To McClelland and Minister Harrison

1. Legation Stockholm reports that it is informed that German authorities have evacuated all Jews from the southern and northern frontiers of Hungary and have concentrated them in ghettos located in the following places: Beregszasz, Beszterce, Debrecen, Des, Kassa, Marmarossziget, Miskolc, Kolozsvár, Nagyszabolcs, Nyíregyháza and Szeged.

2. Consulate-General Jerusalem reports that it is informed that the following Hungarian officials are closely associated with Germans in persecution of Jews: Yarus Andor, Minister of Interior; Andre Laszlo, Chief and Baký Laszlo, Deputy Chief, Jewish Department Ministry of Interior; Dovenyi Magyilagós, Liaison Officer between Hungarian and German Armies; Zrnokol Oszvári, Head of Central Police and Keledý Tibor, Mayor of Budapest.

For Minister's personal attention and McClelland's information

3. In view of consistent neutral press reports carrying Berlin and Budapest datelines and other information to the effect that the eight hundred thousand Jews in Hungary are being segregated in ghettos and concentrated in camps, there seems little doubt that the pattern heretofore set in Poland

and repeated

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 14 1972

and repeated elsewhere is again being followed. In an effort to develop means to forestall the effectuation of the ultimate ends of such program, that is mass-executions either before or after deportation, consideration has been given to the advisability of requesting the Swiss Government to address an inquiry on behalf of this Government to appropriate authorities in Hungary asking them to state their intentions with respect to the future treatment to be accorded to Jews in ghettos and concentration camps and specifically whether they contemplate forced deportations to Poland or elsewhere or the imposition of discriminatory reductions in food rations, or the adoption other measures which like those mentioned will be tantamount to mass-execution. At the same time, the Swiss government would be requested to remind the same authorities of the grave view that this Government takes with respect to the persecution of Jews and other minorities and of the determination of this Government to see to it that all those who share the responsibility for such acts are dealt with in accordance with the President's statement of March 24, 1944. Also at the same time the fact of this Government's request of the Swiss Government and the nature thereof would be given the widest possible publicity in Hungary through broadcasts in the Hungarian language and such other means as may be practicable.

Please give the foregoing your most careful consideration and unless you are of the opinion that to do so would involve positive disadvantages you should proceed promptly to make the requests outlined above. If you address such requests to the

Swiss Government,

-3-

Swiss Government, please advise the Department thereof without delay and any views you may have with respect to the proposal to publicize in Hungary the fact and nature of such requests would be appreciated. If you are of the opinion that such requests should not be made, please inform the Department of your reasons therefor.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO 37.

STETTINIUS
(Acting)

RECEIVED
MILITARY DIVISION
JAN 3 1945

JAN 3 1945 3 32

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON, BERN, AND McCLELLAND

For Minister and McClelland

1. Legation Stockholm reports that it is informed that German authorities have evacuated all Jews from the southern and northern frontiers of Hungary and have concentrated them in ghettos located in the following places: Beregszasz, Beszterce, Debrecen, Des, Kassa, Marmarosziget, Miskolc, Kolosvar, Nagyszeclloos, Nyiregyhaza and Szeged.
2. Consulate-General Jerusalem reports that it is informed that the following Hungarian officials are closely associated with Germans in persecution of Jews: Karos Andor, Minister of Interior; Andre Laszlo, Chief and Baký Laszlo, Deputy Chief, Jewish Department Ministry of Interior; Dovenyi Magyilagós, Liaison Officer between Hungarian and German armies; Zinskol Szavari, Head of Central Police; Keledy Tibor, Mayor of Budapest.

For Minister's personal attention and McClelland's information

3. In view of consistent neutral press reports carrying Berlin and Budapest datelines and other information to the effect that the eight hundred thousand Jews in Hungary are being segregated in ghettos and concentrated in camps, there seems little doubt that the pattern heretofore set in Poland and repeated elsewhere is again being followed. In an effort to develop means to forestall the effectuation of the ultimate ends of such program, that is mass-executions either before or after deportation, consideration has been given to the advisability of requesting the Swiss government to address an inquiry on behalf of this Government to appropriate authorities in Hungary asking them to state their intentions with respect to the future treatment to be accorded to Jews in ghettos and concentration camps and specifically whether they contemplate forced deportations to Poland or elsewhere or the imposition of discriminatory reductions in food rations, or the adoption other measures which like those mentioned will be tantamount to mass-execution. At the same time, the Swiss government would be requested to remind the same authorities of the grave view that this Government takes with respect to the persecution of Jews and other minorities and of the determination of this Government to see to it that all those who share the responsibility for such acts are dealt with in accordance with the President's statement of March 24, 1944. Also at the same time the fact of this Government's request of the Swiss government and the nature thereof would be given the widest possible publicity in Hungary through broadcasts in the Hungarian language and such other means as may be practicable.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 37

cc: Sec'y, Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Stewart, Central Files, Cabal Control Files.

LSLesser:als 6/1/44

File *L. War Ref Bd*
Em.
Gehle
TELEGRAM RECEIVED
Bern
Washington
1 Copy only

CONTROL COPY

Please refer to your message of May 23, number 1786.

Assurances were obtained orally that action would be taken

HARRISON

104 JUN 10 1964
WASHINGTON, D.C.
MARRIENGE BOARD
RECEIVED

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

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

CONTROL COPY

2 - War Ref
Bd

LC - 967

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

Bern

Dated May 27, 1944

Rec'd 3:30 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

3405. May 27, 3 p.m.

Reliable source states Hungarian authorities
are considering memorandum allegedly prepared and
submitted by Jewish leaders that Jews in Hungary
be exchanged against Hungarian prisoners of war in
Russian hands and Hungarians residing in overseas
countries. This proposal statedly involves the
creation of a mixed commission including representa-
tives of Hungarian Government, the Jewish Agency in
Hungary and International Red Cross which would be
requested to aid in the exchange. The Commission
likewise would be (*) with carrying out deportation
of Hungarian Jews now Hungarian areas.

HARRISON

EDA-EMB

(*) apparent omission.

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT
FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: May 27, 1944
NUMBER: 1841

*War Ref Bd (m)
D. H.
Kopyan*

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF THE
DIRECTOR OF
IMMIGRATION
AND
NATURALIZATION
SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.
MAY 30 1944

CONTROL COPY

Reference your #181, May 16. Please report any information regarding destination deportees and whether non-Jewish civilians also being removed from militarized area.

THIS IS THE ONLY COPY OF... 29...

HULL

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

009

PROPOSED CABLE TO AMERICAN LEGATION, BERN

Reference your 3181, May 18. Please report any information regarding destination deportees and whether non-Jewish civilians also being removed from militarized area.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 29

May 27, 1944
10:55 a.m.

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

Handwritten: *J. L. S.*
 Ständisches 5/24/44

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: May 25, 1944
NUMBER: 1808

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

RECEIVED
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.

30 11 AM
COPY

CONTROL COPY

Attention of McStelland and Minister Harrison

Please represent to the Swiss government that, according to persistent and seemingly authentic reports, systematic mass-extirpation of Jews in Hungary has begun. The lives of 800,000 human beings in Hungary may well depend on the restraint that may result from the presence in that country of the largest possible number of foreign observers. To this end, please urge appropriate authorities in the interest of most elementary humanity to take immediate steps to increase to the largest possible extent the numbers of Swiss diplomatic and consular personnel in Hungary and to distribute them as widely as possible throughout the country.

It is hoped, of course, that all such diplomatic and consular representatives will use all means available to them to persuade individuals and officials to desist from further barbarisms.

Please inform Department forthwith of extent to which Swiss Government is cooperating in this matter.

THIS IS WRD BERN CABLE NO. 26.

HULL

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

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AND McCLELLAND, BERN, SWITZERLAND

Please represent to the Swiss government that, according to persistent and seemingly authentic reports, systematic mass-extermination of Jews in Hungary has begun. The lives of 800,000 human beings in Hungary may well depend on the restraint that may result from the presence in that country of the largest possible number of foreign observers. To this end, please urge appropriate authorities in the interest of most elementary humanity to take immediate steps to increase to the largest possible extent the numbers of Swiss diplomatic and consular personnel in Hungary and to distribute them as widely as possible throughout the country.

It is hoped, of course, that all such diplomatic and consular representatives will use all means available to them to persuade individuals and officials to desist from further barbarisms.

Please inform Department forthwith of extent to which Swiss government is cooperating in this matter.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. —26—

May 22, 1944
11:30 A. M.

Ba, L.S.L.
BAKain
LSLesser :jp 5/20/44

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: May 23, 1944
NUMBER: 1786

W. V. R. R. R.
W. V. R. R. R.
Copy only
CONTROL COPY

For Minister Harrison and McClelland, Bern, Switzerland

*RECEIVED
MAY 24 1944
AMERICAN LEGATION
BERN*
This Government gravely concerned by reports of measures looking
toward mass extermination of Jews in Hungary.

Please request Swiss authorities to obtain as speedily as possible
detailed information from Swiss mission in Budapest concerning treatment
of Jews in Hungary and to inform you of results of inquiry. Advise
Department of results without delay.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 24

HULL

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

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URGENT TO THE UNITED
NATIONS

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AND McCLELLAND, BERN, SWITZERLAND

This Government gravely concerned by reports of measures looking to mass-extermination of Jews in Hungary.

Please request Swiss authorities to obtain as speedily as possible detailed information from Swiss mission in Budapest concerning treatment of Jews in Hungary and to inform you of results of inquiry. Advise Department of results without delay.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 24

May 20, 1944
2:30 P. M.

L.S.L.
LBSerials 5/20/44

CONTROL COPY

4 - War Refugee
Bd (Mr
Pelle)

HCB-71

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

Born

Dated May 2, 1944.

Rec'd 2:12 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
MAY 3
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

2770, May 2, 3 p.m.

Swiss committee for aiding Jews in Hungary
requests following be transmitted for information
War Refugee Board:

"Hungarian Government recently issued a decree
designed completely ruin Jews. Real estate bank
deposits safes and all valuables must be reported
eventually deposited businesses have been closed and
stocks confiscated. Expected next step will be that
confiscated goods will be taken possession of by
others.

In committee's opinion all who obtain possession
such confiscated goods are under Hungarian law guilty
of receiving stolen property and will after the war
not only have to restore goods but also to suffer
legal consequences.

Committee

-2-7270, May 2, 3 p.m. from Bern.

Committee is firmly convinced that repeated
broadcasting of this would have deterrent effect and
requests consideration of recommendation by
appropriate authorities with a view to immediate
action."

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RCP

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CONTROL COPY

RECT-830

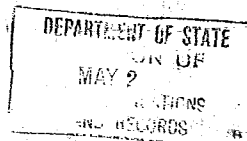
PLAIN

Bern

Dated May 1, 1944

Rec'd 5:30 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.



2758, first.

Axis press and agencies report following developments Hungarian Jewish situation:

One. Internment in concentration camps 300,000 Jews residing sub-Carpathian Russia and other declared military operations districts including both sexes all ages except doctors, druggists, and workers in war industries. Internment commenced late March now completed with largest camps located neighborhood Munkacs and Ungvar.

Two. Establishment legal basis for creation Jewish ghettos throughout Hungary by decree providing Jews in communities under 10,000 population may be compelled move other communities and Jews in communities over 10,000 may be forced live specified residential areas closed to non-Jews.

Three.

-2-#2758, first, from Bern.

Three. Institution effective May 3 of restrictions on consumption meat, fats, and sugar, by Jews with special rations meat only for Jewish heavy workers in war industries.

HARRISON

CAW
WTD

0 1 3 4

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CONTROL COPY

AGK-741

PLAIN

Bern

Dated April 24, 1944

Rec'd 5:55 p.m.

pls

Secretary of State,
Washington.

2600, Twenty-fourth

Budapest despatches 20-21 reports decree creating union of Hungarian Jews to contain all Jews required wear Yellow Star and appointment by Jaross provisional Jewish committee nine members to organize union on countrywide basis. Central council Jews on Warsaw Bucharest model under Presidency Samuel Stern already active at Budapest on evacuation and resettlement measures. Numerous Jews reportedly now being settled near factories and railway installations and several city districts including region around Dob-
Ucca designated for residence exclusively by Jews in Ghetto style.

HARRISON

EJH

1090

CONTROL COPY

GHY-998

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

Bern

Dated April 21, 1944

Rec'd 5:41 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF

APR 22 1944

COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

Secretary of State,
Washington.

2550, April 21, 3 p.m.

My telegram No. 2,320 of April 14.

It is reported from Budapest that Hungarian Jewish Commissioner Endre declared there April 18 that while Jews are not now to be concentrated into a ghetto they will be accommodated in districts where "terroristic aviation attacks are to be expected". Hungarian press early in April announced the evacuation of residential quarters in the exposed factory and other districts of the capital and its suburbs. Endre's statement which has been publicized in the German press apparently refers to such areas and is intended to make propaganda use of the some 400,000 Jews now resident in the Hungarian capital.

EMB

HARRISON.

4-17 am Refugee
Bel (Mr. Dehli)

files

1040

COPY

RMN-882
This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Government
agency. (BR)

copy only.
Bern

Dated April 14, 1944.

Rec'd 6:20 p.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

CONTROL COPY

2320, April 14, 9 a.m.

Reliable source here gives the following information on
recent developments in the Jewish situation in Hungary:

One. The Hungarian personalities actively carrying out
the German influenced anti-Semitic campaign of the Sztojay
Government are Imredy Interior Minister, Jaross, his special
assistant Laszlo Endre, Interior Under Secretary Laszlo Bak,
and Government Commissioner for intellectual professions Stefan
Kultsar, with Endre and Kultsar in direct charge. The Hungarian
military authorities support the program, the army definition of
Jew has been made of General application, and the restrictions
relating to the use of the motor car and telephone, prohibition
to travel except on urban transportation facilities and prohibi-
tion to leave Budapest or cross the frontier are enforced as
military measures authorized by Hungarian National Defense Act.
Other restrictions relating to public and professional activities
Yellow Star, exclusion from press, radio, theatrical and motion
picture enterprises are based on the racial laws of 1939 and
1941, and the program thus finds its legal basis in legislation
enacted prior to the accession of the present Government.

-2- 2320, April 14, 1944 From Bern

Two. Kultsar began on April 1 to place pressure on banks and large commercial and industrial enterprises to force them to discharge immediately at least one half of their Jewish personnel with the remainder to be dismissed by September 30. Aryanization of the smaller private enterprises is expected to take some time and to require new legislation. It is to be carried out on the French, Dutch and Polish models. Establishment of Ghettos in the Polish style or internment centers in the protectorate is foreseen but mass deportations eastwards will depend upon military developments.

Three. Jews have been forbidden to leave Budapest despite the official evacuation of the city. However, many are being evicted from their apartments to furnish living quarters for bombed out Hungarians. Those among the 800,000 refugee Jews who seek to return to their original homes in Slovakia, Servia, and Croatia are not permitted to cross the frontier. It is expected that younger Jews of both sexes will be drafted into military labor battalions for auxiliary service under the discretion of the army. Such service has been required on a relatively small scale during the war years but may not be greatly expanded.

HARRISON

MEV

0 9 0