Measures Directed Toward Halting Persecutions: Rumania, Vol. 1, Folder 1

RUMANIA

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WAR REFUGEE BOARD RECORDS

FOREIGN FUNDS CONTROL

To:

(1) ..... (Room) ..... (Bldg.)

(2) Mr. J. P. Fuchman ..... (Room) ..... (Bldg.)

(3) Mr. Lesser ..... (Room) ..... (Bldg.)

From: ..... (Date)

..... (Room) ..... (Bldg.)

TO:

____MR. PAUL	✓ Mr. Lesser
____Mr. Aarons	____Mr. Luxford
____Mr. E.M.Bernstein	____Mr. O'Connell
____Correspondence	____Mr. Olsen
____Files	____Mr. Reeves
____Mr. Fox	____Mr. Schmidt
____Mr. Hoffman	____Mr. Stewart
____Mr. Lawler	____Mrs. Taylor

Let DuBois and Friedman read.

JWP

J. W. PEHLE
DIRECTOR, FOREIGN FUNDS CONTROL

000072

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

INTER OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE March 2, 1944

TO Mr. Pehle

FROM L. S. Lesser

The annexed purports to be a translation of correspondence between Antonescu, the Rumanian fuehrer and one Dr. Filderman, one of the principal leaders of the Rumanian Jews. It is said that the originals of these letters are in New York. The subject matter of the correspondence is the forced emigration of Jews from Rumania. Unfortunately, none of this material can be used for propaganda purposes because Dr. Filderman is still in Rumania, having been brought back from Transnistria upon the insistence of the Vatican whose limited protection he is said now to enjoy. It is interesting to note that as late as October 25, 1941, Filderman believed that German Jews and the Jews in the Ghetto of Lublin were being "put to work for the army and for civilian needs."

COPY

Translated from Roumanian

(1)

F. U. of C.
No. 1347

October 9, 1941

To His Excellency
Marshal Antonescu
Leader of the State and
President of the Council of Ministers

Mister Marshal:

I have been told that Jews of Bucovina will be sent to Besarabia: that those of Besarabia are to be deported to the Ukraine and that this deportation means for them death under the present circumstances.

I implore you to stop this exodus, if it is possible and if the deportees are not guilty of anything.

Accept, Mister Marshal, the assurance of my profound respect.

The President
(Dr. W. Filderman)

P.S. The distinguishing mark of the Jews has not yet been suppressed in Bucovina.

Translated from Roumanian

October 11, 1941

Federation of the Unions of
Jewish Communities of Roumania
No. 1356
Continuation to No. 1347

Mister Marshal:

I received today a desperate appeal from the director of the ghetto of Chisinau.

In the morning of the 8th inst. 1500 left, mostly on foot, taking with them only what they could hold in their hands therefore most of them are doomed, as the weather is cold and they are without appropriate clothing, without food, and without any possibility of finding provisions during their journey which will last at least eight days, in the rain, the cold and in the snow.

Only the ill, the aged and the children were given carriages.

The deportation measure did not even spare the ill, and even the women had to leave on foot.

This is death, death, without any guilt, without any other guilt than being Jews.

I implore you again, Mister Marshal, to prevent such a terrible tragedy.

Accept, I pray you, Mister Marshal, the assurance of my profound respect.

The President

Dr. W. Filderman

To His Excellency
Marshal Ian Antonescu
Leader of the State and
President of the Council of Ministers

Translated from Roumanian

Bucarest, October 19, 1941

Federation of the Unions
of Jewish Communities of Roumania
No. 1387

Mister Marshal:

1. Deportation of Jewish Roumanian citizens of Bucovina & Besarabia.

2. Expulsion from the Old Kingdom of Jewish Roumanian citizens, natives of Bucovina and Besarabia.

A clamor of despair hitherto unheard shakes the air everywhere in the country. It makes me tremble on account of the terrible responsibility which I assumed, and it forces me, in these days of great national celebration and glory for Your Excellency, to impart to you my torments.

1. Deportation of Jewish Roumanian citizens of Bucovina & Besarabia

A few days after an appeal to us by the Governor of Besarabia to help our brethren of faith of that province--a decree ordered the immediate deportation of all the Jews of Besarabia and Bucovina. His Excellency, the Vice-President of the Council of Ministers in the audience granted to me on October 14th;

1. Had consented to exempt from deportation, the intellectuals, workers, merchants and proprietors.

2. Had reserved his decision concerning my request to postpone the deportation of all until the spring and to bring back those already deported in order that they be selected according to No. 1.

The above order pursuant to paragraph No. 1 was immediately executed in Bucovina, but in Besarabia, although it seems to have been sent there, it has not been executed, since the Military Commandment does not know

anything about it. Thus, a few transports of deportees left Chisinau, and we received information that the corpses of all those who belonged to the first transport lie between Orbei and Rezina. Concerning the other transports shipped away on October 14th, 16th and 18th, no news is available other than that they were stripped at Orbei of everything they had on them.

Where are they? Are they still alive, or did they share the fate of those corpses that lie-according to rumors-between Orbei and Rezina?

What will become of those who were designated to leave on the morning of October 20th and the days following that date?

Approximately 300 Jews, natives of Balti and residing in Glurgin, were sent to Besarabia, in sealed wagons, without air or light, and travelers who arrived from R. Sarat, informed us that they nearly went insane when they heard the screams and cries of the desperate and the moans of the dying.

"A man is a man, to whatever faith he belongs."

"Justice must be granted to everyone whether he enjoys it or applies for it."

These are the principles upon which Your Excellency declared that the State would have its new foundation.

Allow me to ask you to order that the Jews, too, be treated like men, and that Justice be rendered to those of them who have the right for themselves and in whose name I am applying to your Excellency.

Indeed, Decree No. 793 of September 3, 1941, regulating the citizenship of the inhabitants of Besarabia and North Bucovina, declares:

"Have been and are Roumanians" all the inhabitants of the liberated territories, who, pursuant to the laws in effect on June 28, 1940, are enjoying Roumanian citizenship" (Art. 1) with the exception of those who have applied, after June 28, 1940, for authorization to return to the invaded territories." (Art. 2).

Thus, on September 3, 1941, you established the rule that a Roumanian citizen is one who in any manner and by any reason is able to prove his citizenship.

Notwithstanding this law, a few days later, Roumanian citizens of Jewish faith were forced to quit their houses within three hours, that is to say without being able to take anything with them, and a few days later, they were deported to foreign countries in spite of the law which recognized their right of citizenship and even more their human right and also their right to reside in the country whose citizens they had been recognized to be.

Mister Marshal,

In the audience of April 1st, 1941, I had the honor of handing you a memorandum--the memorandum No. 212/25 March 1941--concerning expulsion from the country where they had been residing for several decades; many of them who even had become Roumanian subjects. In the aforementioned memorandum I complained about the fact that to these Jews only a few days had been given to leave the country while others, who had entered Roumania clandestinely had obtained two months to leave. I said in the aforementioned memorandum:

"What is more serious, many of these Jews who are Polish subjects, have consulted us about the liquidation of their industry and they

have for our sake given up the idea of liquidation. Indeed, pursuant to the obligation taken before Your Excellency, namely that the Jews will not sabotage the government of Your Excellency, pursuant to the decision of Your Excellency, which was again made public by the address of the President of the Council of Ministers, on September 18, 1940, pursuant to the law of April 3, 1930, which assures to the Jews the right to work; pursuant to the communication of the Government, of October 4, 1940, concerning illegal immigration; pursuant even to the law of November 16, 1940, referring to the status of the Jews engaged in enterprises, which guarantees the keeping of the employers; pursuant to the decree of the Minister of Labor, dated March 22, 1941, which withdraws the working papers of foreign Jews but upholds the right to work of those of them who are owners of enterprizes; and finally, pursuant to the law on sabotage which punished the employers who dismiss their personnel and reduce thus their activity, I advised the men to refrain from liquidating their business."

Your Excellency has recognized the justness of the cause and ordered suspension of the expulsions.

Since you recognized, Mister Marshal, that foreigners residing in the country cannot be treated worse than those residing there illegally, I cannot believe that you will not agree with me in declaring that citizens of Roumania cannot be treated worse than foreigners; that the law forbids their deportation, th at this measure lacks any legal basis, and that, in fact, the way they were driven out of their houses and

the fate reserved to the deported are incompatible with the fundamental principle that a man is a man to whatever faith he belongs and that justice must be rendered to everybody whether he enjoys it or applies for it.

Allow me to believe that the aforementioned measure has ceased to be urgent today when the war is over, and when danger no longer exists for Roumania. But the present measure of deportation is all the more serious and illegal because it is applied not only to the liberated provinces, but also to South Bucovina and even to the country of Dorohoi recently incorporated into Bucovina.

II. Expulsion from the Old Kingdom of the Jews, natives from Bucovina and from Besarabia.

A decree of the Minister of Interior ordered the departure of all the Jews, natives of Bucovina and Besarbia from their native country--together with their families, wives, or children--who were born in the old Kingdom.

There are Jews who have lived for decades in the Old Kingdom, many with their wives or children born here; all of them are Roumanian citizens whose citizenship was recently examined and proved; they have served in the Roumanian Army or are now performing useful work in the army; they have subscribed to the Loan or are waiting to be invited to subscribe to it after having given plenty for hospital needs; others have entered the Old Kingdom after June 28, 1940 fleeing the Soviet regime and proving thus their attachment to Roumania. And all these Jews--those of the Old Kingdom as well as those of South Bucovina or Dorohoi and those of the liberated provinces--are being treated worse than the foreigners who entered the country legally or illegally, they are ruined because they have been given no time to liquidate their businesses--they will be sent in a

few days or hours to death, without any legal ground or personal guilt, without any other guilt than that of their origin, a descrimination being thus made between man and man, depending on the religion to which he belongs.

Mister Marshal, you mentioned to me, during the audience of Butiman, the bad conduct of a few Jews, but you also mentioned the bad conduct of a few Roumanians. Isn't it a fact that innocent people have suffered--intellectuals, merchants, industrialists, proprietors, etc.--whether they be Jews or Gentiles--under the bolshevistic regime, and that not only Roumanians but thousands of Jews have been deported to Siberia?

I did not defend and am not defending the guilty ones; the latter should take their punishment.

I am only defending the innocent, those whom an administrative measure deprives of their right of citizenship as well as of their human rights, which the text of the law clearly recognizes to them.

Mister Marshall:

If I and I alone, bear all the responsibility, I and I alone, should get all the blame, because I and I alone prevented the Jews of the Old Kingdom and of South Bucovina from liquidating their enterprizes as I respected the word given to Your Excellency, namely that I would prevent sabotage toward the government, and as Your Excellency repeated to me the words stated to the newspaper "Stampa":

"The Jews will no longer be the beneficiaries of the resources of the State, but they will be allowed to live in Roumania."

Only two months have elapsed since General Stonescu transmitted to me the message of Your Excellency in which you guaranteed the physical existence of the Jews.

At present, Mister Marshal, not one of the Jews of the country enjoys any tranquillity of mind. Unprecedented panic and boundless despair prevails among them, and the are haunted by a horror which provoked many suicides at Cernauti, which might provoke, God knows what tomorrow, but for which, I know, the responsibility is laid to me.

You suffered very much, Mister Marshal, until you could see the triumph of justice for yourself for Roumania and the Roumanian people.

I am profoundly, very profoundly convinced that you will not tolerate the glory of Roumania and of Your Excellency to become tarnished; that the respect of human rights and of the laws be suppressed. You will order that the generous decision of the Vice-President of the Council of Ministers should immediately be also extended to Besarabia; otherwise this very morning and on the following days new transports will be sent to Death. You will order that those who have been deported be brought back for selection; the guilty ones should be punished, and the innocent should not be taken for deportation; the Jews of South Bucovina and of the Old Kingdom should not be affected in any way.

If it would not be possible to reach a definite decision now, even a deferment until the Spring, could be, it seems to me, of great significance, all the more because many Jews would leave the Country in the meantime and many even now are leaving it, several among them being in possession of visas so that their departure is only a question of days.

I must also mention that I'll immediately summon to Bucarest Messrs. Jacobsohn & Bloom, representatives of the Joint Distribution Committee, in order to ask them to accelerate the departure of as many Jews as possible.

The panic that seized all the Jews after the Decree which expropriated them of their outstanding credits on mortgages, of their shares in incorporated firms, and so on, which chased landlords out of their apartments a few days before October 26, which not only obliges them to transfer to the Treasurer the rent received by them from their tenants, but also to pay themselves a rent immediately--although they did not yet receive the money for the expropriation,--the ghettos and also the deportation of the Jews not only from the liberated countries but also from South Bucovina,--measures which spread terror all over the rest of the country, ought to be, I believe, suppressed in the interests of Roumania.

The Vice-President of the Council of Ministers confirmed to me that he was working on a statute, whose general lines--insofar as Jews were concerned--Your Excellency was kind enough to repeat to me during the audience at Butiman. It is of the greatest importance--it seems to me--that the statute in question should be promulgated without delay and that an end should be put to the panic and to the instability of the political civil and juridical status of the Jews, because everything will crumble without stability.

I dare hope, Mister Marshal, that you will believe my assumption, namely, that I was guided by the purest Roumanian patriotic sentiments in exposing the above facts, and I hope that they will receive the special attention of Your Excellency.

I beg of Your Excellency to accept my most respectful consideration.

The President:

Dr. W. Filderman.

Translated from ROMANIAN

Escutcheion of Romania
Leader /Conducator/ of the
Roumanian State.

Mr. Filderman:

You wrote me in two successive petition about the "shocking tragedy" and "implored" me in impressive terms, reminding me of my "conscience" and of "humanity" and emphasized that you are "compelled" to appeal to me and "only" to me in behalf of the Jews of Romania who left for ghettos prepared for them on the Bug.

In order to also include tragedy into your intervention, you stress the fact that this measure "is death, death, death without guilt, without any other guilt than that of being Jews."

Mr. Filderman, no one can be more sensible than I, to the sufferings of the lowly and of the defenseless. I understand your pain, but you should understand, or better, you too, all of you should have understood my suffering of the last year, which was that of a whole people.

Do you think, did you think of how we feltat that time, at the evacuation of Besarabia, and how we feel now when every day, and even every hour we are paying with magnanimity and blood, with very much blood, for the hatred with which your fellow Jews of Besarabia treated us diring the time of the evacuation of Besarabia, the way they received us during our retreat and behaved toward us from the Dniester to Odessa and to the region of the Sea of Azov?

But faithful to a tradition, you would today reverse the roles and turn from accused into accuser, forgetting the reasons which caused the situation which you are bemoaning. Allow me to ask you and through you all your fellow-

Jews who cheered all the more frantically, the heavier were the blows we received:

What did you do last year when you heard about the behavier of the Jews of Besarabia and of Bucovine towards retreating Romanian troops who until then, had protected the security and wealth of those same Jews? I remind you of this:

Even before the arrival of the Soviet troops, it appears that the Jews of Besarabia and of Bucovine spit on our officers, snatched their epaulettes, tore their uniforms and whenever they could, they killed our soldiers villaneously with clubs. We possess proof.

Those ingrates received the Soviet troops with flowers and celebrated their arrival with great joy. We possess photographs that prove this fact.

During Soviet occupatioh, those whom you are now pitying, betrayed good Romanians, denouncing them to the Communists, and caused grief and sorrow in many Romanian families.

From the cellars of Chisinau, numerous corpses are taken out every day, horribly mutilated corpses of our martyrs who had been thus repaid for having extended a friendly hand to those ingrates for twenty years.

There are well-known facts, certainly known even by you, and you may convince yourself at any moment as to all their details.

I ask you: why did the Jews of Besarabia set their houses afire before retreating? Can you explain to me why we found upon our return Jewish of 14-15 years, whose pockets were full of hand-grenades?

I ask you: how many of our people were villaneously killed by your fellow-Jews, how many of them were buried alive? If you wish to have proof of these facts, you may have them.

These were acts of hatred, a hatred that was close to madness which your Jews have showed against our people, so tolerant and hospitable, but who today is conscious of its rights.

To repay the generosity with which they were received and treated in our midst, your Jews, who had become Soviet Commissaries, caused the Soviet troops of the region of Odessa to put up a regime of unequaled terror, witnessed by Romanian prisoners, and organize a useless massacre, only in order to increase our losses.

In the region of the Sea of Azov, our troops were temporarily retreating and they left behind numerous wounded officers and soldiers. When they resumed their advance, they found their wounded horribly mutilated.

Men who could have been saved, died in atrocious sufferings.

Their eyes had been torn out, their tongue cut, as well as their nose and ears.

Can you imagine the scene, Mr. Filderman:

Do you feel shocked? Do you pity the victims:

I ask you: why this hatred on the part of the Russian Jews with whom we had nothing to do?

Your hatred is the hatred of all, it is your hatred.

If you really have a soil, do not pity those who do not deserve it, but pity those who deserve it.

Mourn with the mothers who lost their children in such pains, and not with those who caused them so much wrong and will also cause so much wrong to you.

/Signed/ Marshall Antonescu

10/19/41.

P.S.

A wounded soldier from

Pietra Neamta was buried alive ... /several illegible words/

of the Soviet Commissaries...his tomb;

he implored not to be buried.../several illegible words/.....4 children.

Translated from Roumanian

October 25, 1941

To His Excellency
Marshal Antonescu, esq.
Leader of the State

Mister Marshal:

Your letter of the 19th inst. was handed to me in the evening of the 21st inst.

Although it crossed my petition forwarded in the morning of October 19, and although in this petition can be found-short but clear- the answers to several questions put by Your Excellency, I feel obliged not to limit myself to the mere expression of my thanks, but to also answer your questions with the same loyalty which I evinced ever since the first day of your advent.

I was certain that no one could be more sensible than Your Excellency to the sufferings of the humble and the defenseless; that was the reason that I applied to your Excellency.

As you know very well, Mr. Marshal, I, too, have devoted my life to the humble and the defenseless since my early childhood.

"Under a gloomy, leaden sky
A pitiful crowd of men-behold!-
In the snow-covered field nearby
Drags itself sadly, half-dead with cold."

These verses of the poem "March to Siberia" have decided my way of life. They were the cause of my using the minutes of recreation in High School and the hours of night- while my schoolmates played or slept- to publish those "Lessons of practical agriculture" which helped the peasants' children learn agriculture in the gardens established by the village of Spiru Ilaret.

These versed induced me to study the problem of the peasants and to make proposals for the raising of their standard, proposals, some of which I had the pleasure to see, were taken into consideration. They made me declare, while defending my fellow-Jews--that I would never defend them against and beyond the interests of the Roumanian people.--and my relations with the Kings, the Regency and with all the leaders of the country for twenty-five years were, I believe, the best recognition of this attitude,--in spite of the search made in my house in 1927 by the Military Public Prosecutor, by order of the Minister Octavian Goga, Esq., and in spite of the two ineffective searches ordered by the Secret Police and the Legionary Police who looked for proofs of my working against the country or the regime.

These verses made me decide at a time when Jews of other countries--fighting National-Socialism--proclaimed the boycotting of German goods--to ask the German envoy for an audience in order to assure him that as long as Roumania would be linked to Germany by a commercial agreement, the Roumanian Jews would not support the boycott,--a declaration that was broadcast by all the broadcasting stations of Germany,--and when you concluded an alliance with Germany, to restate to the Jews my advice of absolute loyalty.

On the other hand, those same verses incited me, Mister Marshal, to intervene in behalf of the Jews, natives of Bucovina and of Besarabia who are at present in the Old Kingdom, and also in behalf of the residents of South-Bucovina and of Old-Dorohoi, incorporated in Bucovina--whom I cannot consider, in any case, but as anti-bolshevik,--as well as in favor of those Jews of Bucovina and of Besarabia who proved to be innocent of any anti-Roumanian action. I was interceding for those Jews and only for those.

I therefore did not insist so much upon the withdrawal of the order as upon the postponement of its execution to next Spring and upon the selection of the men, and I did not think that such a measure could provoke any discontentment.

At the time of my intervention, I was well aware, Mister Marshal, of the accusations which are the subject of your letter. You communicated them to me at Butiman through the Vice-President of the Council of Ministers and through Dr. N. L. Lupu.

I replied to you then, Mister Marshal, and I am replying again today, that the guilty must be punished without pity but that one cannot punish ten thousand innocent for the crimes which other people committed.

What encouraged me to write you again was the fact that a few days after the audience of the 8th of September, a decree was published, which mentioned the rights of citizenship of Jews of North-Bucovina and of Besarabia, under the restriction that the same rights could be withdrawn in individual cases,--a law which in my opinion excluded mass deportation and strengthened me in my belief that my request was in conformity with the motto of Your Excellency:

"Justice is given to anybody who possesses
it or who applies for it."

Thus, justice for the Jews cannot be different than justice for other people, and it is not possible to say that, because a few Jews are contemptible, all the Jews are contemptible, blending the good and the bad.

There cannot be two kinds of justice. The Russian Jews are Russians and not Roumanians and consequently, we cannot be held responsible for their actions, just as the Jews of Besarabia and Bucovina,--amongst the families

of whom many have been sent to Siberia--cannot be held responsible for the deeds of those of their relatives who had become Communists. This is all the more true since the Jews of the entire world had disavowed Communism and the Communist Jews.

So did the Rabbis of United Roumania a few years ago under the presidency of the late Great Rabbi Dr. I. Niemirower, and so did I in my lectures and in a pamphlet which I published in 1922; so did also the American Jews through the proclamation of the American Jewish Committee, which declared that the triumph of bolshevism "would inevitably lead to destruction of Judaism."

It can still less be conceived that the whole of Roumanian Jewry, should be held responsible for the acts of the Russian Jews.

If the Roumanians--Jews or Gentiles, soldiers or civilians--committed such barbarous acts, the culprits must take the consequences thereof,--for the soldier, even the enemy soldier, is a martyr who defends his country,--and he who touches him otherwise than in open combat or tortures him, is the most abject of criminals.

Your Excellency cited examples. Allow me to give in my turn one example. At the departure of the Roumanian troops from Chisinau and Cernauti, all the Jewish stores of the center of these two cities were devastated by Jewish Communists. Just as the rebellious extremist Legionaries intended to exterminate the leading Roumanians in order to secure definite mastery over the country, the communist Jews prepared themselves to exterminate Jewish bourgeoisie. And just as the Roumanian people cannot be responsible for the murders perpetrated at Jilava or for the assassination of Jews, in the same way no Jew of the Old Kingdom or of Transylvania or the innocents of Bucovina can be held responsible for acts initiated by a few among them.

Moreover, in the audience at Butiman, Your Excellency expressed to me verbally a few of the arguments which appear in your letter and yet you added that a few Roumanians who had looted the Jews of Besarabia had been punished by death penalty; you also told me of the possibility of authorizing, after the fall Odessa, the Jews in rural communities, to return to their residence, and Your Excellency also spoke to me about the situation of the Jews of the Old Kingdom whom you trusted, and who would be given a privileged position.

I did not imagine that, under these circumstances, my intervention ould irk Your Excellency. I even thought to serve a major national and governmental interest, because the Jews--as "Universal" recognizes them--played an outstanding part in Besarabia and formed, together with the Germans, the "economic foundation of Besarabia" and because, according to the newspaper, Jews and Germans could not be replaced:

"in a twinkling by improvesed* elements, unfamiliar with surroundings, with the spirit and local work-conditions." (Reconstruction of Besarabian economy, Universal, October 21, 1941.)

Their deportation would consequently hamper the economic reconstruction of that province and of the rest of the country which depends on Besarabia for a number of products.

I thought finally that it would have been more useful that all Jewish workers should be put to work for the army and for civilian needs just as German Jews are used and as Germany uses the Ghetto of Lublin.

My intervention was all the more justified because I knew that when a few Legionaries introduced the Law about Roumanization, the German envoy

*Exact spelling on material this was copied from.

at Bucarest told them himself that this was not a clever political measure and that the law in question was bound to disrupt the economy of the country. The total and immediate deportation of the Jews of Besarabia and of Bucovina must even more quickly have the same effect.

The selection and the postponement appeared to me to be in the interest of the country and of Your Excellency. This was my deep conviction without which I would not have appealed to your Excellency.

And now, I will give precise answers to the questions of Your Excellency.

Yes, Mister Marshal, we did speak about territorial cession, as well as about the questions of refugees and the bad behavior of a few Jews of Besarabia and of Bucovina (Enclosures 1-3)

No, Mister Marshal, we do not wish to reverse the roles from accused into accusers as we did not accuse anybody. There is nothing in the two letters to which you refer which resembles an accusation. We could not do it, as we disapprove of the facts related by you.

No, Mister Marshal, I cannot explain either the setting afire of houses by Jews of Besarabia or the profanation of the children's minds by the filling of pockets of 14 to 15 year olds with grenades.

I can imagine, Mister Marshal, the sufferings of those mothers, wives and children, and I feel horror and sorrow at the mere thought of those sufferings. I therefore understood the collection from Jews, thousands of blankets, mattresses and tens of thousands of bedsheets, pillows, pillow-cases, etc. for the hospitals of the wounded.

I also initiated a drive among Jews in favor of subscriptions to the Loan. If this drive did not succeed, it was not my fault; because not

until the end of September, did the Collectors of Internal Revenue--and not even all of them--send us in the returns showing the financial situation of the Jews. I assure you that my appeal will be followed with enthusiasm, if only the Jews could get a little relief, if each day did not bring them new hardships and if the date of expiration of the Loan would be extended two more months.

I certainly am mourning, Mister Marshal; I assure you that I am mourning because no human suffering is indifferent to me; and so are not the sufferings of all of us Roumanian Jews.

I am not mourning for those who have done themselves so much harm. These people should be punished, but only these people.

I, Mister Marshal, have remained and will remain faithful to my given word. I gave you unceasing proof of Jewish loyalty, by means of memoranda or through Major Marin. Your Excellency has repeatedly recognized this loyalty.

Yet, the most convincing proof is that since your advent to power, not one Jew of the whole of Roumania has been found guilty of working against the regime: that since the beginning of the war the Jewish populace maintained the same loyalty toward the German army and toward our army, and before all, my written request--two days after mobilization, to the effect that Jews should be re-inducted into the army, that they might follow their predecessors of the War of Independence, of the Balkanic War and of the War of union, and that they might give their lives, side by side with the Roumanian soldier, for the triumph of the Roumanian cause, for a great and powerful Roumania.

I hope, Mister Marshal, that these lines will definitely enlighten you and that pursuant to my request of the 19th instant, concerning the acceleration of the statute of the Jews, about which I spoke with the Vice-President of the Council of Ministers, you will be kind enough to grant me an audience as without an immediate stoppage of the avalanche of laws and decrees, the latter will no more be able to work, being completely ruined, which would upset the whole economic structure of the country.

In the meantime, I beg of you to believe that Doctor Felderman* remains the same loyal and moderate man, and that he did not and will never do anything that might render more difficult the situation of the country in these painful and hard time, and that he is at the orders of Your Excellency with all his energy and all his affection for his country.

Accept, Mister Marshal, the assurance of my deep respect.

(Dr. W. Filderman)

*Exact spelling on material which this was copied from.

COPY

Translated from Roumanian
Bucarest, November 3, 1941

Mister Marshal:

The letter of Your Excellency of October 19th, predated the evening of October 21st, was answered by me on October 25th; but as my reply did not reach you and as I cannot bear the idea that you could believe me capable of a lack of tact vis-a-vis the leader whom destiny entrusted with the fate of the State, and that I refused to answer the questions of Your Excellency, I have the honor to inform you of the following:

1. Roumanian Jews have disavowed through me the facts mentioned by Your Excellency, declaring among others that "With all we are and with all we have, we are ready for any sacrifice in order to fulfill our duty toward the Throne and the Country" (Enclosure No. 1): asking all the Jews to embrace with fraternal affection the Roumanian refugees from the provinces temporarily yielded. (Enclosure No. 2): disapproving severely the crimes related by the press, committed by a few Jews at the time of the retreat of our troops, and declaring that not only did they not approve them but that they qualified them "acts of savage madness" (Encl. No. 3) and requesting you the second day after the mobilization, to re-induct us into the army so that we might be able to take part in the reconquering of Roumanian territories for whose conquest our fathers, brothers, children, and we had fought. Public declarations in the same sense were made by Spanish Jews as well as by different Jewish general and local institutions.

2. I formulated my petition enclosed in my letters of October 9th and 11th, under a double reserve:

(a) "If the Jews in behalf of whom I pleaded, were not guilty of anything," and

(b) "If it was possible."

Thus, I still acted this time within the border of patriotism and of honor,

as I have not excused any fault, whatever would have been at stake. Moreover, I stated clearly that I tried to intervene even in favor of the innocent only under the condition that "It was possible," that is to say that it was not contrary to the interest of the State.

Besides, His Excellency, the Vice-President of the Council of Ministers, when receiving me on October 14th, gave a favorable reply to my request and ordered the selection of the deportees--an order for which I thanked him in writing; it only remained then to reach a decision concerning those who had been deported prior to their selection.

3. My attitude on that occasion was not inspired by circumstances. Indeed, since I took in hand the direction of Jewish affairs, I declared repeatedly that I did not want to defend the Jews neither beyond nor against the interests of the State and of the Roumanian people.

Thus can be explained, I think, the fact that I had the supreme honor to be received by the Kings, by the Regents and by all the Governments of the country for more than twenty-five years.

Permit me to remind you of the two searches made in my house on January 3rd and 5th, 1941, upon orders of the "Siguranta" and of the Legionary Police who went through all my files without finding the slightest indication of any activity against the country or the regime.

Thus can also be explained the fact that while Jews of other countries decided to boycott German goods--to fight National-Socialism--I presented myself at the office of the office of the German envoy at Bucarest and declared to him that as long as a commercial agreement would exist between Roumania and German, we would not support the boycott,--a declaration broadcast by all the German posts--and when Your Excellency concluded a treaty of alliance with

Germany, we renewed our pledge of absolute loyalty.

Besides, I turned over to you personally and also through Major Marin the memoranda and statistics which proved the absolute loyalty of the Roumanian Jews and my own loyalty.

4. In spite of this, Mister Marshal, and in view of the fact that the press is attacking me and demands my elimination from the bar, I decided to retire voluntarily, having the impression that I lost Your Excellency's confidence that I had been honored with for a year, and although on October 14th, the Vice-President of the Council of Ministers also expressed his confidence in me.

On October 28, I was even summoned in audience by the Minister of Finance who was kind enough to extend for one month the expiration date of the subscription by Jews to the loan, so that I withheld my resignation lest the latter should be interpreted as an act against the Government.

The decision remains with Your Excellency.

In the meantime, kindly believe that Dr. Filderman remains the same loyal patriot he has always been, and that he will not undertake anything that could be detrimental to the country's interests. On the contrary, he is, as he has been for more than a year, at the disposal of Your Excellency with all his energy, his affection for the country and all the veneration and respect for Your Excellency.

Dr. W. Filderman

COPY

F.U.C.
No. 1439

Translated from Roumanian

November 3, 1941

Enclosure No. 1

"CURIERUL ISRAELIT" No. 22
of JULY 10, 1940

In these stormy times of trial, which weigh so heavily upon our dear Fatherland, the Roumanian Jews express their homage to the Throne and wish to proclaim their firm solidarity with the destinies of the Roumanian people. They share the fate of the country, and their sufferings and hopes are Roumanian sufferings and Roumanian hopes.

The Jews of the Old Kingdom--Jews of Roumanian land--born and brought up for generations in Roumania, are and remain attached with all the affection of their heart to the soil of Roumania, soil of abundance, fertilized by the blood of their noblest sons, fallen in the War of Independence of 1877, in the war of 1913 and in the War of Reunion of 1916-1918. Their ideals were always intermingled with those of all the Roumanians and whatever would happen and whatever they would suffer, they were and they are eternally unified with the Roumanian people, and they conveive their destiny as being indissolubly attached to this earth.

And the Jews of the annexed territories have, too, proved their attachment to the Fatherland, fulfilling with an entire devotion their debts and obligations of Roumanian citizens.

At the appeal of the Fatherland, all their sons responded with the same patriotic enthusiasm inspired by the same consciousness of their civic duties and the same santiment of Roumanian national solidarity. With everything they are and with everything they have, the Roumanian Jews are ready for every sacrifice in order to fulfill their obligations toward the Throne and the Country.

We recall the blessed memory of generations who repose in the holy ground of the Fatherland and we kneel down humbly at the tombs of the heroes.

With their unshakable resolution and their will, as hard as steel, the Roumanian Jews feel themselves united with the Roumanian people, in their national solidarity and discipline, in their profound patrictic faith and devotion toward the King and the Country.

Long Live His Majesty!

Long Live His Royal Highness, the Great Voived Mihai!

Long Live Roumania!

The Federation of Unions of Jewish Communities

The Federation of Unions of Jewish Communities

The President: Dr. W. Filderman

The Chief Rabbi: Senator: Dr. Al. Safran

The Secretary General: Dr. I. Brucar

COPY

November 3, 1941

F.U.C.
No. 1439

Enclosure No. 2

CURIERUL ISRAELIT NO. 22

of JULY 10, 1940

A circular of the Union of Jewish Communities

The Union of Jewish Communities of the Old Kingdom forwarded the following circular to all the (Jewish) communities:

Mister President:

The Jewish population of our dear Fatherland, deeply afflicted, shares the mourning of the country.

In the Friday-evening and Saturday-morning sermons of July 5th and 6th of the present year, the Rabbi of your community will emphasize the mourning of the Roumanian Jews which merges with that of the Roumanian people.

You will particularly address an ardent appeal to the faithful in favor of their contribution with all their means to the help of refugees from Besarabia and North Bucovina.

Sincerely

The President: Dr. W. Filderman

The Chief Rabbi: Dr. Al. Safran

The Secretary General:

Dr. I. Brucar.

COPY

F.U.C.
No. 1439

November 3, 1941

Enclosure No. 3

CURIERUL ISRAELIT NO. 22
of JULY 10, 1940

- - - - - - - - - - -

Whatever will be told, whatever we will have to suffer, we still remain united in deep affliction with our country in its mourning, in these times of changing laws and changing beliefs.

We know only by hearsay the villainous acts which some residents of Besarabia and North Bucovina are said to have committed on the occasion of the evacuation of these provinces of the Roumanian troops,--among which residents, were also a few Jews. We do not know to what extent rumors referring to these acts are true or to what extent Jews of Besarabia have taken part in the reprehensible acts which have been committed there. But whatever the truth may be, what guilt do we have in these crimes of mad savagery, committed by people born and brought up under another regime, who had no time to attach themselves in their heart to the people and to the country? We cannot have any solidarity with those facts which have nothing in common with our faith or our historical traditions, in any place and at any time of our destiny.

For one hundred and twenty years we have been refugees, attached to the Roumanian people and the Roumanian country, and we remained the same in 1821 as in 1848, in 1877 as in 1913 and 1916-1918.

All these are facts that speak the truth about our devotion and our gratitude, facts that cannot be erased from one day to the other. They are deeply penetrated in our souls. And whatever might happen, we shall be animated by the same sentiments that are so deeply imprinted upon our conscience, as the result of our unshakable faith in our country.

Translated from Roumanian.

Bucarest, November 11, 1941

Roumania
Escutcheon of Romania
Office of the Prime
Minister.

No. 16343 c.c.

Mr. Filderman:

Marshall Antonescu entrusted me with transmitting the following answer to your petition of November 3, of this year:

"I am surprised at the way in which you endeavor to prove that in the year of 1940 the Romanian people were close to your heart during the tragic events with which they were overwhelmed.

In fact, the arguments which you are presenting in the enclosure of your petition, are nothing else but a clever display of the "sacrifices" made by Jews for "their Romanian fatherland", from the War of Independence to 1940, as though Romania had been founded and built up thanks to Jewish gallantry and Jewish blood lavisly shed in the course of times on our battlefields. (Enclosure 1.)

In the circular of the Union of Jewish Communities (Enclosure 2) you do not beg of all the Jews, as you claim in your petition, "to embrace with fraternal love the Romanian refugees coming from the provinces temporarily turned into battlefields", but you ask them to "contribute with all their means to the aid of the refugees coming from Besarabia and from North Bucovina"; as this appeal has been addressed by your Rabbis in their Friday night and Saturday-morning preachings, it means that it was only a question of contribution for the help of the Jewish refugees, since it is usual to collect contributions through the synagogue. Your interpretation was therefore misleading.

Likewise, the truncated reproduction of an article published by the "Curierul Israelit" (No. 22 of July 10, 1940) was nothing but a vague disapproval of the abject misdeeds of the Jews of Besarabia and North-Bucovina, since, Mr. Filderman, it has been established that it was the Jews who had committed those ignoble horrors.

In enclosure No. 3, it is said, "The facts were perpetrated by inhabitants of the evacuated provinces, among whom there were also Jews. We do not know, to what degree the rumors are true, nor to what degree Jews of Besarabia participated in the reprehensible acts that were committed there. But whatever may be the truth, whatever guilt we may have in those acts of savage madness, perpetrated by people born and brought up under another regime who did not have time to be united in their soul with the people and the country, etc."

Thus, your disapproval was much more a whitewashing and a justification of the crimes of the Jews of Besarabia, since first you expressed doubt about the fact that those crimes had been actually committed by Jews, and, at the same time, you tried to vindicate them in the same way by saying that they had been committed by men born and brought up under another regime, etc.

Consequently, we too were aware of that and precisely for this reason, we felt the impulse to defend ourselves and so the measures of deportation to ghettos of those Jews "born and brought up under another regime, etc." are justified.

Moreover, in that same enclosure you do not forget to display "the sacrifices" made by Jews for Romania, going back as far as 1821.....

This is ridiculous, Mr. Filderman! You see to what has been reduced your "approval" and "disapproval". And it is useless to employ toward

Marshall Antonescu this cleverness of a lawyer, which is specifically Jewish.

Marshall Antonescu has said his word.

All the Jews will have to leave who came to Romania after 1914and all those of the liberated provinces, without exception.

The Jews of the Old Kingdom will be allowed to remain, who resided there before 1914, provided they comply with the laws of our country. But among them, all those will also have to leave who are communists or those who will make subversive propaganda or associate themselves with the enemies of our country and all those who will try to sabotage in one way or another the interests of the Romanian State and the Roumanian People.

Now, we have to come to defend our Romanian rights and our country, since our hitherto too indulgent hospitality, of which the Jews particularly took advantage, facilitated the substitution of foreigners, especially Jews, for Romanians in those rights. In spite of this substitution, they did not show any gratefulness, on the contrary many of them repaid our kindness and hospitality with hatred and hostility.

We are determined to stop this situation. We cannot jeopardize the existence of our people, which has hammered out its history and sealed its rights on this soil with a lavishness of sacrifice and of blood in heavy fighting against all kinds of invaders -- We cannot jeopardize our rights for the sake of a few hundred thousand Jews or to save the principle of a humanitarian democracy, wrongly understood and repaid with hatred, crimes and hostility.

On this Romanian soil Romanians are and will remain the masters, because this must be. The others might be tolerated if they do not try to steal our rights, if they submit without a murmur to the laws of our country and do not stand in the way of our national aspirations.

You and your Jews must understand this, Mr. Filderman, and those who will not understand it, will have to leave."

Seal of the
Prime Minister's
Office.

The Secretary General
Ovidiu Al. Vladescu
(Signed) Vladescu

FFC-76
(11-42)

CROSS REFERENCE ON RUMANIA (1)

FOR:

Amendment to this License . . . . . ☐

Extension of this License . . . . . ☐

Renewal of this License . . . . . ☐

Correspondence concerning this application ☐

Other (Specify)

1. FOR MATERIAL CONCERNING MEDICAL NEEDS IN RUMANIA.

SEE: 1. BULGARIA (1)

Rumania (1)

May 12, 1945

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Harold Trobe was received through the United States Embassy in Lisbon under date of May 10, 1945 as your no. 238.

"Reference your cable to Saly regarding medicaments Rumania wish advise he unable contact Rumania due cessation communications. We attempting contact our committee through Bertrand Jacobson to get necessary information regarding possibilities Black Sea port. Also requested he do necessary relative narcotics. Will advise soonest."

Very truly yours,

[Signed] Florence Hodel

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

Mr. M. A. Leavitt, Secretary,
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,
New York 16, New York.

RBH
RBHutchison: 5/12/45

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

MB-338

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES
1945 MAY 12 AM 9 16

DC/L LIAISON

PLAIN

Lisbon

Dated May 10, 1945

Rec'd noon, 11th

Secretary of State,

Washington.

CONTROL COPY

1026, Tenth

WRB 410 JDC 238 FOR LEAVITT FROM TROBE

Reference your cable to Saly regarding medicaments Rumania wish advise he unable contact Rumania due cessation communications. We attempting contact our committee through Bertrand Jacobson to get necessary information regarding possibilities Black Sea port. Also requested he do necessary relative narcotics. Will advise soonest.

BARUCH

WFS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MB-1972

INCOMING TELEGRAM

PLAIN

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

RECEIVED DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES

1945 APR 10 PM 1 55

Bucharest

Dated April 9, 1945

Rec'd 3:31 a.m., 10th

War Rep Bd (O'Malley)

DC/L LIAISON

Secretary of State,

Washington.

CONTROL COPY

254, Ninth

In reply to Department's 161 of March 28 Rumanian law of December 18, 1944 repealing all anti-Jewish measures does not (repeat not) specifically restore citizenship to Jews denationalized by Rumanian decree of January 20, 1938. The Justice Ministry since January has been drafting law restoring citizenship to Jews denationalized under decree of 1938 to apply to Jews at home and abroad. Latest available draft of this law being transmitted by pouch. No (repeat no) Rumanian law denationalized Rumanian citizens of ethnic German origin serving in German army but individual cases of denationalization have been made under Rumanian law of 1939 regulating acquisition and loss of Rumanian citizenship and on Council of Minister reports General law on subject is being drafted by Justice Minister.

BERRY

WMB

Rumania (1)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

GEM

PLAIN

CONTROL COPY

March 2, 1945

Department

AMLEP

BUCHAREST

161, Twenty-sixth

Kindly advise whether the Rumanian law December 15, 1944 entitled Suspension of Anti-Jewish Measures specifically restores citizenship to Jews denationalized by the Rumanian citizenship revision decree January 20, 1938.

Also report any other action taken by the Rumanian Government with respect to the citizenship status of Jews remaining in Rumania and those who have left the country.

Kindly also supply text and exact reference to law by which Rumanian citizens of German ethnic origin who served with the German army were denationalized.

GREW
(Acting)

WHB:GLW:BM
3/28/45

SE

Responsive cable not located in files 4/27/45

February 23, 1945

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Harold Trobe was received through the American Legation in Lisbon under date of February 21, 1945:

> "Saly advises that reliable source informs him approximately 114,000 Jews survived (*) Budapest and that Fildermann has shipped 36 tons food from Bucharest to Budapest."

* Apparent omission, correction to follow.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Florence Hodel

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

Mr. N. A. Leavitt,
Secretary,
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,
New York 16, New York.

RBH
RBHutchison: 2/23/45

PARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

JLM-473

PLAIN

Lisbon

Dated February 21, 1945

Rec'd 1:40 p.m., 22nd.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
CONTROL COPY
LIAISON OFFICE

Secretary of State

Washington

406, twenty-first.

WRB 337, JDC 188 FOR LEAVITT FROM TROBE.

Saly advises that reliable source informs him approximately 114,000 Jews survived (*) Budapest and that Fildermann has shipped 36 tons food from Bucharest to Budapest.

CROCKER

(*) apparent omission, correction to follow.

BB

C
O
P
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ORIGINAL OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington

TO: American Consulate General, Jerusalem

DATED: Februeary 14, 1945

NUMBER: 35

[redacted]

FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Please deliver following message to JudahMagnes from M.A. Leavitt of American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

We completing arrangements cooperation UNRRA shipment end February Rumania and Bulgaria medicaments costing $80,000 to help combat epidemic nonsectarian basis areas predominatly Jewish. as experiment we included on thousand ampoules penicilin which requires continuous refrigeration. Please investigate possibilities arranging air transport from Alexandris for penicilin and advise.

GREW
(Acting)

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

1945 FEB 17 PM 12 11

COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS (LIAISON)

[redacted]

February 17, 1945

2 p.m.

War Ref Bd.

Gen. O'Dwyer

CONTROL COPY

ADMINISTRATIVE

Limited

DSC

The cable below is UNCLASSIFIED.

Please deliver paraphrase of following message to Herman Frank from L. A. Cornfeld of American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

BEGIN Please notify Schwartz we completing arrangements cooperation UNRRA shipment end February Rumania and Bulgaria supplements costing $60,000 to help combat epidemic nonsectarian basis areas predominantly Jewish. Request Filderman obtain narcotic import license required by USA Commissioner of Narcotics who will accept following statement MILLER BEGIN Rumanian Government will permit distribution requested in JDC program END MILLER END. This statement should be given to American Mission Bucharest. END BEGIN

CREW (ACTING)

URB:ARV:KG WE CE SMP

2/12/45

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972

CABLE TO AMERICAN LEGATION, LISBON, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Please deliver following message to Harold Trobe from M. A. Leavitt of American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

QUOTE PLEASE NOTIFY SCHWARTZ WE COMPLETING ARRANGEMENTS COOPERATION UNRRA SHIPMENT END FEBRUARY RUMANIA AND BULGARIA MEDICAMENTS COSTING $60,000 TO HELP COMBAT EPIDEMIC NONSECTARIAN BASIS ANYAS PREDOMINANTLY JEWISH. REQUEST FILDERMAN OBTAIN NARCOTIC IMPORT LICENSE REQUIRED BY USA COMMISSIONER OF NARCOTICS WHO WILL ACCEPT FOLLOWING STATEMENT INNERQUOTE RUMANIAN GOVERNMENT WILL PERMIT NARCOTICS REQUESTED IN JDC PROGRAM END INNERQUOTE. THIS STATEMENT SHOULD BE GIVEN TO AMERICAN MISSION BUCHAREST. UNQUOTE

THIS IS WRB LISBON CABLE NO. 139.

3:00 p.m.
February 9, 1945

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Akzin, Cohn, Drury, DuBois, Gaston, Hodel, McCormack, O'Dwyer, Files

copy sent JDC 2/12/45

RD

RDrury 2/8/45

Rumania (1)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
1945 FEB 2 PM 1 44
COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS (LIAISON)

DCG-331

PLAIN

Bern

Dated February 1, 1945

Rec'd 2:20 a.m. 2nd.,

Secretary of State,

Washington.

CONTROL COPY

733, First.

FOR WRB FROM MCCLELLAND

With reference to general question of surviving Jews in Balkan area following information was received two days ago by wire from ICRC delegates in Bucharest;

"Actual number of Jews at present in Rumania is about 285 thousand of whom 3500 in southern Bukovina, 39,500 in southern Transylvania, balance in former kingdom Rumania, that is Walachia and Moldavia with about 110 thousand in Bucharest itself.

1939 census placed number Jews in northern Transylvania at about 150 thousand. Recent investigation situation this area by ICRC mission reveals about 6000 Jews almost exclusively escapees from forced Hungarian labor camps. Further reports coming in indicate this figure may rise to 8000."

HUDDLE

JMS

Rumania (1)

February 1, 1945

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Harold Trobe was received through the American Legation in Lisbon under date of January 30, 1945:

"JDC 156. Reference your 24th, medicaments should be consigned to Filderman Bucharest, Maurice Marcus, Sofia."

Very truly yours,

Florence Hodel

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

Mr. M. A. Leavitt, Secretary,
American Jewish Joint Distribution
Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,
New York 16, New York.

RDrury 2/1/45

.ATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

MS-1546

PLAIN

Lisbon

Dated January 30, 1945

Rec'd 10:20 p.m.

Sent 2/1/45

Secretary of State,

Washington.

226, Thirtieth

WRB 298 JDC 156 FOR LEAVITT FROM HAROLD TROBE.

Reference your 24th medicaments should be consigned to Filderman Bucharest Maurice Marcus Sofia.

CROCKER

MRM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS
(LIAISON)
1945 JAN 31 AM 10 05

CONTROL COPY

JAN 25 1945

Dear Mr. Handler:

I wish to thank you for your letter of January 20, 1945, concerning the plight of the Jews in Bulgaria and Rumania.

We, too, have been deeply concerned with this problem and I assure you that even within its limited terms of reference the War Refugee Board has made every effort to have assistance brought to these people. Until such time as the problem can be handled on a more permanent basis, the Board has facilitated in all possible ways the sending of relief into these areas.

If you should desire to discuss this matter in more detail, we shall, of course, be glad to arrange to see you in Washington.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) H. Morgenthau, Jr.

Secretary of the Treasury.

Mr. Milton Handler,
Columbia University,
New York, N. Y.

original on file in "Handler, Milton"

FH:hd 1/24/45

C
O
P
Y

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK
School of Law

January 20, 1945.

Honorable Henry Morgenthau, Jr.
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington, D. C.

Dear Secretary Morgenthau:

I wonder whether you have seen the various news dispatches of Joseph M. Levy concerning the plight of the Jews in Bulgaria and Rumania, which have been published in the New York Times in recent months. His latest piece appeared in today's Times and I am taking the liberty of enclosing a clipping herewith.

From the conversations I have had with persons in and out of government I get the impression that very little is being done to save the lives of these unfortunate people. Of course, there are always the defeatists who say that nothing can be done. Where would we be in the conduct of the war if the same attitude had prevailed? Certainly something can be done for these people if there is the will to help them.

I appeal to you, Mr. Secretary, to give this most important matter your personal attention just as you did in the case of the establishment of the War Refugee Board. The terrible plight of these people demands bold and quick action if they are to be saved.

Respectfully yours,

/s/ Milton Handler

MH:er

JAN 24 1945

Secretary Morgenthau

J. W. Pehle

In addition to the attached letter from Milton Handler, criticisms from other sources have reached us regarding the plight of Jews in liberated Balkan countries and this Government's alleged lack of action in dealing with the situation.

Although the anti-Jewish laws have been abolished in Bulgaria and Rumania, reports from Jewish sources and the press indicate that adequate measures designed to implement the revocation of these laws have not been taken and that several hundred thousand Jews in those countries remain in dire need.

All critics in this country insist on the need to hasten emergency relief to Bulgarian and Rumanian Jews, and on speedy measures designed to restore Jews to their former property and occupations. One group of critics hopes that these measures will bring about the permanent reintegration of all Jews in the economic and social life of Bulgaria and Rumania. Another group believes that such a reintegration can only be successful in the case of part of the Jewish populations, and early preparations should be made to enable considerable numbers of Jews from these countries to emigrate, preferably to Palestine. Finally, part of the critics openly or covertly blame the continuing plight of the Jews in those countries on the Soviets.

For your information, the following is a brief outline of the action which we have taken with respect to the situation in Rumania and Bulgaria:

(1) Early in October, we attempted to have the Board's representative in Turkey, Herbert Katzki, go into Bulgaria and Rumania with a view to ascertaining the facts of the situation and with a view to facilitating further escape of Jews from Hungary into Rumania. We pushed State very hard on this and were finally advised on January 1st that

Soviet authorities in Moscow had refused to grant permission for Katzki's entrance into Rumania for the following reasons: (a) Rumania is considered a theater of military operations; (b) a Jewish representative is at present in Rumania to look after Jewish refugees; and (c) it is undesirable at this time to have a large number of civilians entering Rumania.

(2) We also attempted to facilitate the entrance of a JDC representative into these areas in order that this organization might have a man on the spot to develop and put into operation various relief programs that had been reported urgently needed. Permission for this JDC representative to enter Rumania was likewise refused by the Russians.

(3) Meanwhile, as a temporary measure, we have been facilitating the issuance of the necessary licenses to JDC for the transfer of large sums to Rumania via the JDC representative in Switzerland and we obtained the necessary Swiss francs. These funds are in turn transferred to William Fildermann, a well known leader of Rumanian Jewry, who has been doing JDC work in Rumania for many years. The money is used by him for urgent relief but is reported to be very inadequate.

(4) Our representative in Turkey has been supplying us with numerous reports, mainly from Jewish sources, on the condition of the Jews in Bulgaria and Rumania. These reports have been sent on by us to interested private agencies and to the Intergovernmental Committee.

(5) We have pressed the Intergovernmental Committee for action on its part in Rumania and we have facilitated approval by this Government of the Intergovernmental Committee's two specific proposals for assistance in Rumania. First, we approved their proposal to use the JDC as its operating agent under a scheme whereby the Intergovernmental Committee would reimburse the JDC for local borrowings made in Rumania. Second, we have just rushed through Treasury and State approval of the Intergovernmental Committee's proposal to transfer funds to Rumania via Switzerland. In the interest of speed, this was done without prior clearance with the Russians.

(6) The British and American Governments are now instructing their representatives on the Allied Control Commission in Rumania to take up with the Commission the matter of rehabilitating Jews in that country and to request that an approach on this question be made by the Commission to the new Government of Rumania. The Intergovernmental Committee hopes to send a representative into Rumania at a later date when feasible.

(7) Our facilities have been made available to various Jewish organizations in and out of Bulgaria for the exchange of information and for the purpose of organizing relief for the Jewish population in that country.

(8) Apart from what we have done since the liberation of Rumania and Bulgaria, it should not be forgotten that Ambassador Steinhardt and Hirschmann were directly responsible for the revocation of the anti-Jewish laws in those countries and for the migration to Palestine of thousands of Jewish refugees from those areas while still occupied by the enemy.

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

FH:hd 1/24/45

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

From: Secretary of State, Washington

To: Amembassy, London.

Dated: January 20, 1945.

[redacted]

Reference is made to your 534 of January 16 and 11434 of December 25. American representative at Bucharest has been requested by Department to discuss with United States representative of Allied Control Commission Rumania possibility and manner of raising the question of an approach to the Rumanian Government with a view that that Government might expand action in the rehabilitation of Jews. Department concurs in suggestion of Foreign Office as matter has been under consideration in Department prior to receipt of your cables under reference.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972

(1)

January 18, 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

I telephoned Mr. Warren regarding cable No. 534, dated January 16, from London, requesting an urgent reply to cable No. 11434 of December 25 from London.

Mr. Warren advised me that a cable is now in preparation in the State Department indicating the general agreement of this Government with the British suggestion that the question of rehabilitation of Rumanian Jews be taken up with the Allied Control Commission in Rumania by the British and American representatives on that Commission. According to Mr. Warren it is suggested in the cable being prepared that paragraph 5 of the Rumanian Armistice Agreement be used as a means for pressing the Rumanian Government to take further action.

Mr. Warren then referred to Filderman's report which was cabled to the Department by Berry. It will be recalled that Filderman criticized as inadequate the recent Rumanian legislation instituting a rehabilitation program for the Jews of Rumania. If Filderman is correct in his observation that the recently enacted legislation has Communist support, then Mr. Warren has little hope that the British and American Governments will succeed in pushing the Rumanians to furnish additional relief to the Jews.

It will be recalled that the Russians refused permission to Katzki and Passman to proceed to Rumania on the ground that there was already a representative of Jewish interests in that country. Mr. Warren advised me that an inquiry is now being made of the Russians as to the identity of the Jewish representative whom they recognize as representing Jewish interests in Rumania. He feels that this Government is entitled to clarification on this point, inasmuch as Filderman is a Rumanian citizen, and Klarman of the Vaad Hahaatzala and Jacobsen of Hias, both of whom are in Rumania, are in no position to supply the required relief.

Mg Marks

2 WDN Ref BA
(Pub)

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: AMERICAN EMBASSY, LONDON

TO: Secretary of State, Washington

DATED: January 16, 1945

NUMBER: 534

CONTROL COPY

US URGENT.

Since the Foreign Office must answer requests made some time ago for aid to Jews in Rumania, the Foreign Office is anxious to learn the views of the Department with regard to paragraph three of Embassy's 11434 of the twenty fifth of December.

WINANT

DC/L:MLG mh
1-17-45

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972

2 War Ref. Bd.
(Pehle)

ORIGINAL TEXT OF PALCOR SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington

TO: American Consul, Jerusalem

DATED: December 30, 1944

NUMBER: 220

CONTROL COPY

[redacted]

From War Refugee Board.

Please deliver paraphrase copy of the following message to Judah Magnes from B. A. Leavitt, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

UNRRA discussed with us your cable to them requesting medical supplies for Rumania Bulgaria to combat typhus malaria other epidemics. View emergency situation and unavoidable delays that must ensue before UNRRA can operate these countries we prepared purchase from UNRRA such supplies for shipment for our account. In order do so we must have assurances from you that arrangements can be made for shipping supplies from Cairo to Rumania Bulgaria. Please cable us soonest that transportation facilities available also to whom in Cairo supplies should be consigned. Naturally supplies must be used on non-sectarian basis wherever epidemic exists.

STETTINIUS

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972

CABLE TO AMERICAN CONSULATE, JERUSALEM, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Please deliver the following message to Judah Magnes from M. A. Leavitt, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

QUOTE UNRRA DISCUSSED WITH US YOUR CABLE TO THEM REQUESTING MEDICAL SUPPLIES FOR RUMANIA BULGARIA TO COMBAT TYPHUS MALARIA OTHER EPIDEMICS STOP VIEW EMERGENCY SITUATION AND UNAVOIDABLE DELAYS THAT MUST ENSUE BEFORE UNRRA CAN OPERATE THESE COUNTRIES WE PREPARED PURCHASE FROM UNRRA SUCH SUPPLIES FOR SHIPMENT FOR OUR ACCOUNT STOP IN ORDER DO SO WE MUST HAVE ASSURANCES FROM YOU THAT ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE FOR SHIPPING SUPPLIES FROM CAIRO TO RUMANIA BULGARIA STOP PLEASE CABLE US SOONEST THAT TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES AVAILABLE ALSO TO WHOM IN CAIRO SUPPLIES SHOULD BE CONSIGNED STOP NATURALLY SUPPLIES MUST BE USED ON NON-SECTARIAN BASIS WHEREVER EPIDEMIC EXISTS UNQUOTE

11:45 a.m.
December 28, 1944

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

JA — copy sent J&C 12/30/44 RB

FH:hd 12/27/44

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

To:
(1) ~~Mr. Marks~~ 2314 (Room) (Bldg.)
(2) ~~Miss Hodel~~ 2410 (Room) (Bldg.)
(3) Files 4405A (Room) (Bldg.)

Florence:

I assume you will want to initial the memorandum. MMM

From: J. Hodel 12/27 (Date)
(Room) (Bldg.)

December 28, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

Re: Cable No. 11434 of December 25, 1944, from London

I spoke with Mr. George Warren about cable No. 11434, dated December 25, from London regarding the recommendation of the IGC and the British Foreign Office that the British and American representatives on the Allied Control Commission in Rumania be requested to take up with the Commission the question of rehabilitation of Rumanian Jews.

I pointed out to Mr. Warren that inasmuch as this was a matter concerning liberated territory, it fell within the jurisdiction of the Department of State, rather than the War Refugee Board. I stated to him that I had discussed the matter with Miss Hodel and that we were in general agreement with the recommendations made in the cable.

Mr. Warren stated that he would follow the matter up and ascertain whether the State Department would be willing to send a reply cable.

Ivy Marks

December 28, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

Re: Cable No. 11434 of December 25, 1944, from London

I spoke with Mr. George Warren about cable No. 11434, dated December 25, from London regarding the recommendation of the IGC and the British Foreign Office that the British and American representatives on the Allied Control Commission in Rumania be requested to take up with the Commission the question of rehabilitation of Rumanian Jews.

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Mr. Warren stated that he would follow the matter up and ascertain whether the State Department would be willing to send a reply cable.

M.Marks:nlf 12-28-44

2 - War Ref Bd
Pehle

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, London

TO: Secretary of State, Washington

DATED: December 25, 1944

NUMBER: 11434X

CONTROL COPY

[redacted]

The following is for WRB and Department.

Recently a meeting was held informally to discuss the position of Jews in Rumania between representatives of WRB and the Embassy, Mason, head of Refugee Section of Foreign Office and Emerson, Director of IGC. The latter noted that strictly speaking, helping Rumanian Jews in Rumania (which is liberated territory now) was not within IGC mandate but that enabling Rumanian Jews to earn a living in Rumania, thus preventing their departure and becoming a grave problem of IGC (and possibly the major one) was a matter of very real interest to IGC.

Around 450,000 Jews are in Rumania, according to data of Emerson, and there is no means of earning a living now open to around 200,000 of them. The majority of these destitute individuals are Jews were previously dealt in commerce and who have no means of livelihood because they lost their property. Most of the remaining 250,000 are artisans, professional men, et cetera who can now earn their living through their services. It is calculated that there are 30,000 ardent Zionists who, in any case, will desire to leave Rumania. However, those of the 200,000 destitute Jews who are not Zionists will also try to leave the country unless some way to rehabilitate them can be discovered.

Foreign Office

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972

Foreign Office is prepared to instruct the British member of Commission to take the matter of rehabilitating Rumanian Jews up with the Commission, provided Department deems it advisable to instruct American member of Allied Commission to take similar action. It is the belief of the Foreign Office that with a view to facilitating and expanding action in the rehabilitation of Jews, an approach should be made by the Commission to the new Government of Rumania. Since new government apparently has begun action to relieve Jews' plight, this action should be taken as means of aiding such relief measures, rather than by way of complaint. In addition, the restoration of Jews' property (insofar as is practicable) and their rehabilitation can be connected with armistice terms, the Foreign Office believes. Mention now of IGC interest in this question to Commission is considered inadvisable by Foreign Office. It is the hope of IGC to be able to send a representative to Rumania to look into Jews' position, at a later date, when feasible.

The request was made by Emerson that Foreign Office and State have their members of Allied Control Commission and their political representatives make a report on the Jews' Position in Rumania at regular intervals. Emerson hoped that IGC would be given as much of this data as possible.

It is requested that Department's instructions be cabled.

WINANT

DCR:GFW

12-26-44

Rumania

No. 39 3 War Refugee Board (Original)

THE UNITED STATES MISSION
BUCHAREST, RUMANIA

December 22, 1944

[redacted]

SUBJECT: The Position of Jews in Rumania

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

CONTROL COPY

SIR:

I have the honor to report upon present conditions for Jews living in Rumania as described by the Jewish leader, Dr. Fildermann, and to report upon the reception of the new government bill repealing the racial laws, together with the unfavorable local Jewish reaction.

An Interview With Dr. Fildermann

Dr. Fildermann, head of the Jewish Association in Rumania, told one of my staff recently that at present his organization estimates there are 150,000 Jews without sufficient food or clothing of the approximately 300,000 Jews now remaining in the country. This, of course, excludes those in Northern Transylvania, Northern Bucovina and Bessarabia. He claims that is because of the 80,000 Jews that were sent to work on forced labor and who are in Transylvania, because of some 20,000 persons evacuated from villages during the war, and another 18,000 remaining of those sent to Transnistria who have returned to Rumania, and about 25,000 Jews now in the area of Iasi in Moldavia. He emphasized that their needs were quite large, and the funds available by the Joint Distribution Committee are completely insufficient.

Dr. Fildermann stated at the time of the interview that the restrictions imposed by the Antonescu regime still remained in full force and cited the plight of some 18,000 families, formerly dependent upon official positions in Rumania for their livelihood, who were lacking in funds since for a number of years they had

been

WASHINGTON D.C.
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
RECEIVED

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 11-1-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972

been deprived of their livelihood as state employees. He urged that these Jewish officials should be paid for the full period of the restrictions imposed against them.

Old employees of firms that were forced to leave their jobs because of anti-Semitic laws should be obliged to be taken on by their own firms, according to Dr. Fildermann. The "ethnic" Rumanians now holding these jobs would not all be displaced, for an arrangement on the basis of reason could be evolved, if the government so desired, to have some of the displaced Jews and Rumanians who would now be displaced, placed in position of a similar type with kindred businesses and industries. To show the practical nature of this plan, Dr. Fildermann cited the example of the Bank of Rumania which he stated had accepted his formula.

Another problem discussed confronting the Jews was the matter of restitution of all their properties, both movable and immovable, that had been expropriated. Dr. Fildermann pointed out, without giving further details, that at present Rumanian Orthodox Church officials were living in and utilizing many of the homes owned by Jews that were expropriated and that the Church had as yet made no gesture to return them. He claimed that within Bucharest there were 80,000 apartments that had been occupied by Jews and from which they were driven. He suggested that an arrangement be made whereby the Jews gradually would be able to secure their apartments once again by switching their present habitations with those who are occupying their former homes. Also, he maintained the Jews should be obliged to pay only rents prescribed for other Rumanians and not the extremely high ones that landlords had been permitted to charge Jews.

For reimbursing Jews for properties that had been confiscated, excluding land, Dr. Fildermann suggested that Jews be paid at least 20 percent in cash, another 20 or 30 percent in coupons to be accepted for tax payments and 50 percent in State loan bonds.

In a recent meeting with General Radescu, the head of the Government, Dr. Fildermann discussed all of the ideas expounded above with the General, who agreed that drastic changes were needed to adjust the present plight of the Jews, but stated that he needed more time to study the entire matter. Dr. Fildermann argued with the General that, if Rumania failed to satisfy legitimate Jewish claims, it would be failing in one of the fundamental terms of the armistice to which General Radescu's government was pledged to fulfill completely.

Dr. Fildermann

Dr. Fildermann stated that he considered General Radescu a fine type of man and would wait further action to be taken by the government. However, he complained of the attitude of other Rumanian officials who listened politely and then did nothing. He stated, most interestingly, that the Communists are seeking to protect the former Iron Guard members in the positions they now hold in preference to Jews that were displaced and for this reason he was most suspicious of the Communists' motives since he felt they were simply cooperating with those they felt could be most useful to them.

The Government Bill Repealing Racial Legislation

With Dr. Fildermann's expressed suspicion of the Communists in mind, one may be able to gauge the reaction of Rumanian Jews to the Government bill, which was finally approved by the Radescu Cabinet and signed by the King on December 15. This bill was the successor to a draft prepared by the Sanatescu Government and was presented by the Minister of Justice, Mr. Lucretiu Patrascanu, who is a representative of the Communist Party in the Government.

The full text of the lengthy Government-approved bill is contained in the OSS report No. GR-92 from Rumania dated December 21. The bill abolishes all legal discriminations made on the basis of race and seeks to reestablish Jews in the country upon the basis of equality.

Reappointment of Jewish officials and the rehiring of Jewish employees is specified for those dismissed under the previous discriminatory laws. Under certain conditions, committees with a judge or Labor Ministry agent will decide upon reappointing dismissed employees on considering existing capacities of designated firms. Rehiring preference is given to those hardest hit by the old racial legislation. Jewish owned property, after it left their hands through the racial laws is to be restored, and any sales or mortgages of such property are to be annulled. Jewish owners and tenants of houses can return from where they were evicted, but, significantly, the bill permits civil servants, pensioners, low-paid workers and artisans, war disabled, war widows and war orphans to remain until April 23, 1945, in view of the difficulties of changing homes in the middle of winter. This period of grace also applies to certain public authorities and institutions.

Later it is expected that another law will be issued to deal with financial rights of Jews when the

State

State is the debtor although JOURNALUL DE DIMINEAŢA of December 14 said that in order to assist the national economy and to fulfill the terms of the armistice it has been thought "right and reasonable not to burden the State with the execution of considerable financial obligation arising from the repeal of the racial laws."

The entire Bucharest press of December 15 agreed that under the new law a beginning had been made in furthering a better atmosphere of harmony. The papers commented that the new law thus eliminated a "disgraceful blot upon Rumania's history."

Controversy Between Dr. Fildermann and Justice Minister Pătrascanu

The approval of the new racial law was not welcomed by the Rumanian Jewish Association for several reasons that Dr. Fildermann expressed in a newspaper interview published in JOURNALUL DE DIMINEAŢA on December 15. According to him the bill actually maintained and did not repeal existing anti-Jewish legislation. As written, the bill did not certify that one Jewish employee could be restored and, also, it prevented evicted tenants of Jewish origin from being permitted to return to their homes. The stated interview is appended as an enclosure to this despatch.

Justice Minister Patrascanu came to the defense of his bill that had been approved by the Government, and extensive space was given to his response in the Bucharest papers of December 17. Unions of private employees had attacked Dr. Fildermann for his stand that the bill prevented the reemployment of Jewish employees, and on this point Mr. Patrascanu simply referred to those attacks. The Justice Minister outlined the great difficulties in evicting tenants of Jewish owned and formerly occupied homes during the winter period, since this "eye for an eye and tooth for a tooth" method would cause great hard feeling between Rumanians and Jews. The country was engaged in a life and death war struggle, Mr. Patrascanu said, and it was impossible "to lay fresh burdens on the state" by paying now the dama es due to Jewish owners.

In the course of the controversy SCANTEIA has emphatically approved the new bill and has stated that the Jews in demanding damages should follow the Russian example since that country has suffered just as much as the Jews and has asked for only minor damages.

CURIERUL

CURIERUL and JURNALUL DE DIMINEATA suggested amendments that would assist Jewish employees to be reinstated and to be restored to their homes with more speed. Calling this a question of justice and not of vengeance, CURIERUL asked, "Why is the decree more concerned with safeguarding the interests of those who have profited, in most cases cruelly and brutally, by the wrongs done to the Jews, instead of repairing these wrongs?"

Respectfully yours,

Burton Y. Berry

United States Representative
in Rumania

Enclosure
As stated

RMT:dm

840.1

Ozalid to Department

Enclosure No. 1 to Despatch No. 39 from The United States Mission, Bucharest, Rumania, dated December 22, 1944.

DR. W. FILDERMANN ON THE REPEAL OF RACIAL LAWS

After the publication of the bill for the repeal of racial laws, Dr. Fildermann declared to the press that the bill drawn up by the former government - a bill that has been filed away- was better and juster than that which appeared in yesterday's press.

We approached Dr. Fildermann for an explanation and asked him to point out the difference between the Sanatescu bill and the present bill.

His reply was "They are as different as cheese and chalk. The former bill provided for the compulsory re-appointment of all employees dismissed from public or private institutions. These institutions were to be free to dismiss those who replaced Jewish employees or were appointed to learn their jobs from them with a view to replacing them later. These dismissed employees, and Jewish employees of concerns now gone out of business, were to be compulsorily appointed by the same or similar concerns."

"The State was to be obliged to pay Jewish employees the salary due to them for the whole period which has elapsed since their dismissal just as the State pays to unjustly dismissed civil servants the salary due to them for the whole period taken up by the trying of the case, until the date of the decision of re-appointment. This payment was to be made within 30 days from the passing of the law, partly in State loan bonds, partly in State coupons accepted in payment of taxes, and 20% in cash."

"That bill therefore did away with the results of racial laws. It restored to the Jewish employee the post from which he had been dismissed for reasons of race and granted him the payment of the damages due to him".

"The new bill provides for the maintenance of all employees who replaced Jews through the effect of racial laws. It compels the Jews to run from employer to judge and leaves them at the mercy of employers and commissions. No damages are granted to them."

"With regard to the restitution of property, the former bill provided for the compulsory restitution to owners and tenants of their apartments, shops and workshops from which they were expelled for reasons of race. The present tenants of the C.N.R. (National Centre of Romanisation) were to occupy the apartments now occupied by the former Jewish owners and tenants . In order to avoid the inconvenience caused by too many simultaneous removals, the bill provided for removal to begin 15 days after the passing of the law and to extend over 38 days. This number corresponds to the number of police divisions of the capital, that is one day per division."

"Administrative authorities were to be obliged to provide dwellings for war-widows, war-disabled and war-orphans, and to assist them to move."

"Only combatants actually on the front were to be exempted from eviction."

The State

"The State was to be obliged to restitute to Jews within 30 days the income collected by it from their property. Restitution was to be made in the form of State loan bonds, State coupons accepted in payment of taxes and cash."

"The new bill postpones the payment of damages until after the war. This tantamount to a refusal to pay damages. It extends the validity of nearly all leases to the 23rd April 1944, at which date a new law may extend them by a further six months, and so on. It will give rise to thousands of law-suits, which cannot be concluded even by April 23rd, 1945."

"In short, the bill grants to employees, owners and tenants not a right, but a favour, depending on costly, long drawn out law-suits. This means not the repeal, but the maintenance of racial laws."

"Repeal is inconceivable unless the results of the repealed law are done away with. This can be effected only through immediate and compulsory restitution of rights, accompanied by the payment of damages."

"This is a matter of principle, and it is on matters of principle that laws should be founded. Matters of detail can form the object of discussion and concession, but no concession can be made on matters of principle."

"The new bill violates principles. Instead of granting rights to the victims, it only grants them most doubtful favours."

"I desire to specify that the solutions adopted by the former law were indicated by me. I told the government that, in accordance with law and integrity, there was nothing more distasteful to us than hatred and revenge. Employees replacing Jewish employees did not give a thought to the fate of the Jewish employees whose places they had taken - especially as the Jasinski law pushed cruelty so far as to forbid Jewish employers paying to dismissed employees the sum legally due to them. I, however, proposed that no employee who had replaced a Jewish employee, or had been appointed to learn his job from him with a view to replacing him later, should be left without means of existence, but should be immediately given a post in an identical or similar concern, all his rights being maintained."

"I also say that the solutions adopted by the new bill are not only antisemitic, but also uneconomic, because Jewish employers are obliged to maintain all the employees appointed to replace Jews and to re-appoint some of the replaced Jews. If the Commission compels the employer to re-appoint the Jews, he will be faced with ruin. The solutions of the former bill were both humane and economic for it is easier for an employee to change his post after two years than after twenty years, and it is easier for concerns to pay their way if the employees who replaced the Jews, or were appointed to learn their jobs from them with a view to replacing them later, are divided up among all concerns, than for Jewish employers to double their staff."

Jewish

"Jewish owners and tenants were driven out of their shops, workshops and dwellings in summer and in winter, into the rain, the cold and the snow, in sickness and health, sometimes even paralytics or patients with temperature of 104°. The orders of eviction were to take effect immediately, so that not one hour even was left to them in which to pack up their belongings. No one cared whether they could find shelter anywhere or whether they had money for the expense attendant on a move and for exhorbitant rents. I, however, proposed that the law should ensure shelter to all C.N.R. tenants, who should take over the apartments left free by Jews."

"Moreover, I wished to spare the C.N.R. tenants the payment of the exhorbitant rents the Jews were compelled to pay, and I proposed that C.N.R. tenants taking over dwellings left free by Jews should be granted the rights of tenants who moved in in 1941 and should pay rent in accordance with the provisions of the law for the prolongation of leases."

"Many paragraphs contained in the former bill were adopted. Principles, however, underwent radical alterations, so that the bill is unacceptable. We are not asking for favours, we demand the restitution of our rights. We wish neither to beg the employer to re-appoint us nor to compel him to double his staff, nor to go to law with employers, tenants, etc.".

"We desire compulsory re-appointment to the posts from which we were dismissed compulsorily. We desire to assume compulsory possession of the dwellings, shops, etc., from which werwere expelled compulsorily. We demand compensation, and nothing more."

"So long as our rights are at the discretion of legislators, employers, commissions and C.N.R. tenants, they cannot be called rights, and no restitution is made. The law took away from us our posts and our dwellings, the law must restore them to us."

"With regard to damages, mention must be made of the fact that the present Minister for Finance - then Governor of the National Bank of Roumania - and the government commissioner at the National Bank of Roumania, took part in the drawing up of the former bill. The same objections were raised. My reply was that this was a matter of principle, but that with regard to details I was ready to make any concession. It was agreed to give 50% State loan bonds, 20 or 30% State coupons accepted in payment of taxes and 20-30% in cash."

"It seems to me that it is easier for a population of 15 million to share the damages incurred than for a population of 750,000 - half of which were murdered, while the other half are ill-clad, barefoot and hungry - to be compelled to beg for posts and dwellings and to wair for peace to receive the compensation due them."

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

(1)

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

Wing Ref Bd (Mr Pehle)

RS-1789 1944 NOV 30 PM 2 19

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

Ankara

Dated November 29, 1944

Rec'd. 9:45 p.m.

CONTROL COPY

Secretary of State

Washington

2270, November 29, 5 p.m.

FROM KATZKI TO PEHLE WAR REFUGEE BOARD, ANKARA'S NUMBER 193

We have been informed that a delegation of the International Red Cross led by Dr. Ernest Marton (see Embassy's 2225 Ankara's 188) visited north Transylvania. The delegation reports that of approximately 150,000 Jews who formerly lived in north Transylvania 242,000 have been deported to Germany and Poland. Only 6,000 Jews were found by the delegates including 1,200 in Arad, 1,050 in Cluj; (350 ?) in Satumare; 250 in Marmaroszighet, and 80 in Dej. The Jewish communities in these cities formerly included thousand's of persons. The greater part of the Jews still alive escaped from forced labor battalions to the Soviet troops. Those Jews who were able to return home found neither families nor homes. Jewish communal institutions have been destroyed.

Encouraged by the

Encouraged by the delegation the Jews are making efforts to reorganize and reconstitute their communities. The delegation has taken measures to protect the assets of the deported Jews. In the future a new delegation of the International Red Cross will proceed to liberated areas of Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

STEINHARDT

JMS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

RECEIVED FM 4 03

LC - 1406
This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government agency. (~~RESTRICTED~~)

Ankara
Dated November 20, 1944
Rec'd 11:59 p.m., 21st

CONTROL COPY

Secretary of State,

Washington.

2225, November 20, 8 p.m.

FROM KATZKI TO PEHLE WRB, Ankara's 188.

One. According to reports received by Jewish agency representative in Istanbul, Doctor Ernst Marton, former member of the Rumanian parliament for Cluj, Transylvania submitted a memorandum to the nationalists containing proposals (one) from medical, financial and other types of assistance for 400 to 500 Rumanian Jews who remained in the Ordeal section of Transylvania after the German and Hungarian armies were driven out; (two) for the registration and safeguarding of the real and personal property of the 140,000 Jews deported from Ordeal to Germany or elsewhere. These properties, which had been confiscated from the Jews by the Hungarians, are now without ownership; (three) for the rescue by exchange, similar to prisoners

to prisoners of war, of Jews deported from Ordeal, of whom it is believed 33% are still alive with reference to point (three) the memorandum states that all Jews originated from Ordeal automatically became Rumanian citizens without distinction if at the date of the occupation they had been deported by the Nazis to Germany or to Poland. It is suggested that the Rumanian Government propose the exchange of the deported Jews for the "great number of German subjects as well as suspected persons who upon joining the the German army lost their status as Rumanian subjects in the eyes of the law as did their families".

Two. A radio broadcast on October 30 from Rumania intercepted by the Office of War Information in Istanbul stated the following:

"Because of information received regarding the present situation of Rumanian citizens in Germany and Austria of Jews deported from the north of Transylvania and of Jews of Rumanian nationality who are in Germany or Hungary or in territories occupied by the Germans the Rumanian Government has requested that

the International

the International Red Cross make an inquiry concerning the fate and the situation of the Rumanian subjects and at the same time has requested the Swiss Government to advise Berlin and Budapest that the Rumanian Government will apply reprisals toward German and Hungarian subjects and toward the respective Ethnic minorities".

Three. Jewish agency representatives in Istanbul are in receipt of telegrams from Budapest via Geneva in which Kastner the Jewish agency representative in Budapest proposes and exchange through the International Red Cross similar to Marton's above referred to namely of Ibdar Jews for German nationals in Rumania. Kastner states that the Germans have promised to consider the matter provided the Rumanians are in agreement and that as he views the situation the possibility for making an exchange depends largely upon the attitude of the Rumanian, the United States and Russian Governments.

Four. We are without first-hand knowledge of the position in Bucharest. Nevertheless, the exchange of the position in Bucharest. Nevertheless, the exchange proposals whether of Hungarian and

Rumanian Jews

Rumanian Jews on the one side for Germans and Hungarians on the other, or some combination thereof, would seem to merit further inquiry and investigation. We shall make such additional inquiry as may be possible from here and shall keep you informed. Will you please inform us of the action you take.

STEINHARDT

JMS

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Istanbul, November 14, 1944

Dear Mr. Pehle:

We have recently received some reports regarding the anti-Jewish measures, which, during the past few years, had been undertaken in Rumania. Included in this material, likewise, were data regarding the confiscation of Jewish-owned properties during 1940 and 1941. Although at this time this material is mainly of historical interest, we had it translated, and are enclosing copies of four separate reports herein.

From our point of view, I think the chief interest of this material arises from the exposition of the spoliation which the Jewish people in Rumania had to undergo. Although, on paper, the anti-Jewish laws were supposed to have been rescinded and steps taken for the restoration of property, even a cursory reading of the enclosed reports will indicate the complexities attendant upon the implementation of such desires that the Rumanian Government might have to reinstate Jewish people to their former economic status, and the return to them of their expropriated possessions.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

Herbert Katzki

Herbert Katzki

J. W. Pehle, Esquire
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Translation

The expropriation of the urban and rural goods of the Jews of Rumania took the following steps.

I. Rural and urban goods, movable and immovable (real estate), expropriated in the Old Kingdom, Transylvania, and southern Bucovina:

5 October 1940

The following goods are expropriated, whose proprietors are Jews, and it is forbidden to the Jews to buy in the future, regardless if they are situated in urban, suburban or rural communes.

1. Agricultural lands, fields, paddocks.
2. Non-productive lands.
3. Lakes.
4. Dams.
5. Vineyards.
6. Farmhouses.
7. Sheepfolds.
8. Orchards.
9. Tree nurseries.
10. Animal nurseries.
11. Bee-farms.
12. Truck gardens.
13. Flower gardens.
14. All dwelling places found on these properties.
15. The entire inventory, animals and tools.
16. Stocks of grain and forage, no matter where they are, if they are destined for export.

17 November 1940

17. Forests, with all constructions, installations, tools and railroad tracks.
18. Mills of any kind, even if they are situated in towns.
19. Mortars and peasant oil-presses.
20. Cloth presses (peasant devices for the preparation of cloth) which are situated in rural and suburban communes, with their lands, inventory living and dead, and all stocks of manufactured products and raw materials, as well for Point no. 19.
21. Spirits factories, situated even in towns, with their constructions, installations, lands, inventory living and dead, and all stocks of products and raw materials.
22. Forestry industries, with all constructions, lands, and installations.
23. Stocks of grain, tools and the harvest found on rural properties expropriated by the law of 5 October 1940.

4 December 1940

24. Sea-going and river craft (with and without motors).
25. All contracts of rent and association, or participation, with a Jew, bearing on expropriated goods.

28 March 1941

26. All urban real estate except where this serves to an economic end.
27. All surface rights.

3 May 1941

28. Farms.
29. Bakeries.
30. Installations for the manufacture of farinaceous products.
31. All installations annexed to mills.
32. All industrial factories of spirits, wine spirits, and alcohol refining, and distilleries.
33. Installations of any category for the manufacture of eau de vie and eau de vie de prunes.
34. Factories of medical products and medicaments.
35. Rights below ground if the ground is the property of a Jew.
36. Ligneous material belonging to the owner or promoter of forests, no matter where this material is found, and even if it is in process of being delivered.
37. The inventory living and dead of all goods mentioned in Points nos. 26 to 34.
38. Rent contracts of all expropriated goods.

7 May 1941

39. Radio sets belonging to Jews or Jewish societies.

17 May 1941

40. Concessions for river craft between the commercial administration of the ports, and Jews.

26 September 1941

41. Stocks of travel and tourist companies.

10 October 1941

42. The right of Jews to use expropriated goods.
43. Dwelling places and lands situated in the township, and which were excepted in the law of 5 October 1940.

7 November 1941

44. The mill, "Johanna" of Alba Julia.

19 November 1941

45. The Ministry of Labor is authorized to requisition--counter to the law of requisition--the immovable fixtures belonging to the Jewish Community. Also in opposition to the law --the rent will not

be paid to the Community but to the CNR (National Center of Roumanization--organized to administer confiscated Jewish properties).

Communities

The Jewish Communities were expropriated by the ministerial decisions of 14 July 1942 and 23 August 1942.

One thousand forty-two pieces of real estate were expropriated.

1. 330 temples, synagogues, and houses of prayer.
2. 92 schools.
3. 17 hospitals.
4. 2 sanatoriums.
5. 2 clinics.
6. 26 old persons' homes.
7. 6 orphanages.
8. 68 cemeteries.
9. 53 ritual baths.
10. 31 parsonages.
11. 10 matzoth factories.
12. 27 ritual fowl-slaughterhouses.
13. 7 Community headquarters.
14. 3 plots where there were temples or synagogues.
15. 1 vineyard.
16. 1 truck garden.
17. 1 soup-kitchen.
18. 1 garage for a hearse.

II. 4 September 1941

All goods situated in the territory of northern Bucovina and Bessarabia which belonged to Jews or Jewish juridical persons on June 28, 1940, and possession of such goods is forbidden after that date.

3 July 1942

The total assets, commercial and industrial, belonging to Jews or Jewish juridical persons of any kind, and wherever they may live or have their headquarters.

III. The goods and mortgages which may be expropriated by the CNR.

10 October 1941

All debts guaranteed with mortgages, at the demand of the CNR.

Hospitals and convalescent homes may be expropriated at the demand of the CNR.

According to official data published by the regime which itself made the expropriations, there have been expropriated:

Description	Value in Lei
3171 agricultural properties, 450,350,000 sq. m.	5,063,364,350
331 forests, 474,550,000 sq. m.	2,585,980,700
99 sawmills	790,018,428
raw material	77,690,833
323 agricultural and industrial properties	1,851,341,940
47 commercial mills	
78 country mills	
129 mills operating with millstones	
6 oil-presses	
63 spirits factories and factories of eau de vie de prunes	
146 water craft	1,318,849,900
564 mortgages	180,000,000
75,385 urban properties composed of	
17,833 in the capital (Bucarest)	
57,552 in the provinces	59,000,603,573
Total	70,867,849,734

This sum does not express the real value of the expropriated goods, because those who made the valuations were interested in underestimating their worth, and today the worth is still greater.

But the properties were badly exploited, because the promoters were only interested in making money and not in conserving the properties which they rented, and because they did not understand the matter.

Although the CNR leased the properties of the Jews to Rumanian Christians at ridiculous prices, they collected from the exploitation of these goods 2 billion lei per year.

Here, according to the budget of the CNR, are the receipts:

Properties	Sums in millions 1942-43	1943-44
Exploitation of rural properties	--	100
Exploitation of industrial properties	185	68
Exploitation of forest-lands	--	28
Rent of real estate	1,488.6	1,500
Exploitation of industrial and commercial properties	--	23
For Jewish forest-lands ceded to the State	--	30
For spirits factories ceded to the State	--	5
For water craft ceded to the Under-secretariat of State for the Navy	--	65
Total	1,799.6	1,819

Translation

Roumanization

The second day after the installation of the Legionnaire regime, there was begun throughout the country a vast action for Roumanization of the economic life.

The Legionnaires, and in Transylvania and Banat the Nazis of Andreas Schmitt, took, with pistol threats, Jewish stores, factories, and workshops, and the Jews were forced to sign fictitious certificates of sale, or simple receipts for delivery.

Incomplete official statistics, for the province only, show that Jewish properties and enterprises worth more than a billion lei were sold for 216 million, and of this amount only 50 million was paid. The greater part of this sum was certainly stolen from these same Jews.

In Craiova alone were taken by these means 98 Jewish stores, which up to now have not been given back. In Severn 40 stores, in Caransebes 26, in Resitsa 28, in Medias 10 (by the Germans), outside of those which were bought by the Legion.

The taking of the stores was done simply through a certificate of delivery by which the proprietor declared that he had no claim.

In Constanza, the Legion typed declaration-forms in the Legion headquarters, with the following contents:

"Declaration

"I, the undersigned . . . . . .declare that I have voluntarily given up my store situated in . . . . . .street, number . . ., with the whole inventory.

"This inventory is that composed and countersigned by me and by Mr. . . . . .

"The payment for the merchandise which I have delivered to Mr. . . . . .will be the cost-price according to the invoices, to be paid as the merchandise delivered is sold.

"I give over also all rights resulting for me from the lease, accounts, invoices, and all commercial transactions.

"The new proprietor is not responsible for outstanding debts. The debts which I have contracted remain my debts. Included therein is that which I now owe as taxes to the State, the Department, the commune, etc.

"In a word, I declare that outside of the rights which I have, in accordance with this letter, for the merchandise delivered, I have no claim whatever.

"Signature . . . . . "

It may be seen that the contract was simple. The Legionnaire took possession of the assets but not the liabilities.

Of course, the price owing for the merchandise was not paid to the Jewish proprietor, who ought to be content with having saved his life. If he was not convinced of this, he was invited to the Legionnaire headquarters.

By these means Constanza was Roumanized, and most of the provincial towns.

Nor was it different even in Bucarest. A delegation of Legionnaires presented themselves, drove out the Jewish proprietor, and took the enterprise with the merchandise, fixtures, the money in the till, etc.

Resistance was not only useless, it was also dangerous.

The enterprises which escaped the attention of the Legionnaires had to accept Commissars of Roumanization, all of whom received princely salaries, but who were not prepared for the work.

A member of the Legionnaire Government, Mr. Petra, reported to the former Marshal Antonescu:

"We are going to ruin ourselves if we continue with the commissars. There have been countless robberies, and we will discredit the regime."

The prefect of police of Jassy forbade the railroads to transport Jewish merchandise, and ordered them not to provide cars for the Jews.

Others made requisitions, either for "Legionnaire assistance" or simply for themselves personally.

Life, liberty and property of the Jews were at the discretion of all the criminals who wore green or brown shirts.

The rebellion of January 21-23, 1941, which ended the anarchy, did not stop the thieving.

Jews were forbidden commerce in drugs, pharmacies, monopoly products, exploitation of mills, spirits factories, forestry industries, moving-picture houses, film bureaus, photographic studios and laboratories, travel bureaus, all kinds of water craft, renting of agricultural lands, commerce in books, rolling-mills, leather-goods, firearms, grain, the stock exchange, import and export, commercial travelers, shippers, publicity agencies, and manufacturers who did not work for the army did not receive quotas of raw materials, retailers were not able to stock up from German wholesalers.

Jewish dealers and industrialists were forced in this way to sell to Legionnaires or to liquidate.

From September 6, 1940, to June 1, 1943, 15,987 individual Jewish firms were stricken from the records, upon request or without notice, and the total number of firms stricken from the records for this period was 20,140--that is to say, Jewish firms represented 79.20% of the total of stricken firms.

There must be added to this figure the corporations and limited companies, for which up to now no data are available.

By forcing flourishing and long-established firms to liquidate, the national economy also suffered. It is interesting to mention that during this Roumanization there were closed:

419 pharmacies
141 drug-stores
62 storehouses of medicaments

--that is to say, the public health also had to suffer.

Following the law to counteract camouflage (operating under a non-Jewish name) of March 14, 1942, the State confiscated 23 businesses of Jews considered to be camouflaging themselves.

Roumanization by common consent was also undertaken. For example, the newspaper and printing-press "Le Moment" was sold for three millions, and the purchaser immediately sold it for 19 millions.

Official statistics of the sales of businesses and industries have not up to now been published.

The sole indications were given by the former vice-president of the Council of Ministers, Mr. Mihai Antonescu, who said in a speech that from December 1941 to July 1942, there were Roumanized entirely or partially by free transaction, 149 enterprises, of which 60 were businesses and 89 industries.

Again, from a communique of the Under-Secretariat of State for Roumanization comes the information that they approved, up to the first of June, 1943, 147 requests for buying businesses and industries worth 419 million lei.

An inquiry undertaken by us with the restricted means at our disposal shows that from January 1941 to January 1943, 372 enterprises were Roumanized by free transaction in Bucarest, of which 263 were individual firms and 109 corporations.

These 263 individual firms were sold at a total price of 395 millions, in the following categories:

Industry	Number	Price in millions
Metallurgy	12	70
Textile	28	50
Chemical	8	25
Diverse	36	50
Total industries	84	195
Commercial firms	179	200
General total:	263	395

As for the 109 corporations, their capital totalled 2,186.8 millions, in the following categories:

Industry	Number	Price in millions
Metallurgy	6	347.2
Textile	24	866.0
Chemical	13	98.6
Diverse	22	640.0
Total industries:	65	1,951.8
Commercial firms	44	235.0
General total:	109	2,186.8

Translation

The Right To Work

Concerning the right of Jews to work, the Rumanians legislated with the same fury as on other subjects. Here are the laws which were promulgated:

I. Agriculture, Commerce, Industry

9 August 1940

Jews are forbidden:
1. To acquire enterprises for rural industry.
2. To be members of administrative councils.
3. Commerce in rural communes.
4. Commerce in alcoholic beverages, and the possession of monopoly products.
5. Exploitation or renting of moving-picture houses.
6. To edit and distribute Rumanian printed material, and the possession of any kind of Rumanian propaganda.

3 October 1940

7. The exploitation of contracts of rent of pharmacies, drug-stores; Jews not to be used except in Jewish pharmacies.
8. Chicken-farming, raising of animals, bee-keeping, vegetable gardens, vineyards.

5 October 1940

9. The Ministry of National Economy may name Commissars of Roumanization, the businessman being able to transact no business without the Commissar. Shares registered to "Bearer are to be registered in individual names, in order that it shall be known that the proprietor is Jewish, and are blocked.

12 October 1940

10. Participation in public bidding or bargaining for the contract of provisioning, with the directors of pententiaries.

12 October 1940

11. To edit textbooks or scientific books whose authors are members of the Society of Teachers.

2 November 1940

12. The raising of carrier pigeons.

16 November 1940

13. Operation of shops for monopoly products in towns as well as villages. Not even widows, invalids, or war-orphans have the right to do this.

17 November 1940

14. The operation of spirits factories and forestry industries, etc.

18 November 1940

15. The operation of moving-picture houses, film bureaus, commercial travel bureaus; the stocks of Jews in these types of enterprise are blocked.

4 December 1940

16. To exploit, rent, associate themselves or administrate water craft of any kind.

11 January 1941

17. To be a broker on the stock exchange.

19. January 1941

18. The Commissars of Roumanization are recalled, but none of their dispositions of affairs in the enterprises in which they operated were rescinded.

24 February 1941

19. When requesting inscription of a new firm with the Chamber of Commerce, it is necessary to specify ethnic origin. The Chamber of Commerce may refuse the request without giving reasons.

25 February 1941

20. Jews are forbidden commerce in iron, and even to represent foreigners in this type of commerce. The Roumanization of this domain should be completed by 31 December 1941.

8 March 1941

21. The Association of Railroads may requisition as day-laborers those Jewish engineers whom it dismissed in consequence of the Jewish law of 9 August 1940.

14 March 1941

22. The Jews are eliminated from commerce with leather goods.

5 April 1941

23. Jews are forbidden to operate moving-picture studios and laboratories; likewise forbidden are societies the majority of whose members are Jews.

4 June 1941

24. There have been annulled the concessions for rivercraft of the Jews.

17 July 1941

25. Access of Jewish petitioners or mandatories to the offices of the National Office of Roumanization is forbidden.

24 July 1941

26. Jews may not have commerce with firearms.

29 July and 6 August 1941

27. Jews and Jewish societies are forbidden commerce in grains.

31 December 1941

28. Jews are forbidden to rent agricultural properties.

II. Artisans

24 December 1940

1. Apprenticeship contracts of Jews registered after November 16, 1940, are annulled, and new contracts may not be registered.
2. The freedom of movement and change of professional status of Jewish foremen and workers is suspended.

10 February 1941

3. Jews are forbidden to register apprenticeship contracts and certificates of professional capacity, and also certificates of calling. Certificates of capacity issued to Jews are annulled.

22 March 1941

4. Apprenticeship contracts are annulled no matter what the religion of the employer. These were annulled on the day in which the work-cards of laborers and salaried foremen, and even employers who had no certificates of calling, were dismissed.
5. The work-cards of Jewish workers and foremen who do not work for one employer (free-lance) are annulled if they have no certificate of calling.
6. Apprenticeship contracts for Jewish apprentices and employers, too, will not be registered. (The employer may not employ Christian apprentices.) Work certificates for foremen, and certificates of calling, will not be given to Jews. There remain good only the foreman-certificates of employers who also have a certificate of calling.

4 April 1941

7. Jews are forbidden, if foreign subjects, to work as employer or as employee.

12 November 1941

8. The authorizations for functioning of professional apprentice schools founded and supported by the Jewish Community. The same for Jewish workers' schools authorized by the Ministry of Labor.

18 July 1942

9. Only non-Jewish Rumanian citizens maybe apprentices and receive certificates of professional capacity.

3 August 1942

10. There have been annulled 1327 certificates of Jewish workers and foremen.
11. There have been annulled 807 certificates of capacity of Jewish workers.

III. Intellectual Professions

Jews are forbidden:

9 August 1940

1. To follow professions which have a direct connection with the public authorities (lawyer, notary, magistrate, judicial functionary, administraive functionary, expert, public-works contractor, with an exception for Jews of the second category).

5 September 1940

2. Jewish lawyers may not be elected to the council of the Bar Association (which judges matters of dispute between lawyers).
3. Jewish lawyers may no longer plead before military tribunals, not even for Jewish clients.

11 September 1940

4. AllJewish personnel or all theaters (even privately-owned) are dismissed.
5. All Jews directly or indirectly interested in artistic or theatrical agencies are excluded.

22 September 1940

6. Jewish artists may perform only in Jewish theaters, and then not in works by Rumanian authors.

3 October 1940

7. Jewish pharmacists may not work except in Jewish pharmacies.

17 October 1940

8. Jewish lawyers still remaining in the Bar Association may not plead except for Jewish physical persons, that is to say, not even for the Jewish Communities and the synagogues.

9. All Jewish lawyers are eliminated from being retained as legal counsel (by corporations, etc.).

15 November 1940

10. Jewish doctors are excluded from the Medical Association, may attend only Jewish clients, and then only in the place where they live. They have not the right to practice at resorts and spas. They must write "Jewish Doctor" on their door-plates, and also on their prescriptions. They may not contribute to learned journals or attend the sessions of scientific societies.

18 November 1940

11. The artists excluded from the Artists' Association are obliged to pay taxes and dues for the permission to work.

17 June 1941

12. Jews are forbidden access to the Ministry of Labor.

13 November 1941

13. The matrices of phonograph records played, sung or composed by Jews are to be destroyed.

14 November 1941

14. Jews are not admitted to vacancies in pharmacies.

29 November 1941

15. All concessions for pharmacies, medical storehouses and drug-stores are annulled.

28 January 1942

16. The term for liquidating the pharmacies is prolonged until April 23. The excuse is that the course for Rumanian pharmacists not yet being finished, if the term is not prolonged 180 pharmacies will have to close.

24 February 1942

It is forbidden to engage Jewish medical personnel in public institutions or privately-owned institutions.

27 February 1942

18. Jewish engineers are stricken from the rolls of the College of Engineers, with exception for Jews of the second category if they were inscribed on the rolls of the College before August 9, 1940.

22 January 1943

19. Jews are forbidden to be members of the Society of Plastic Artists.

IV. Public and Private Functionaries

Jews are forbidden:

9 August 1940

1. To become commissioned or non-commissioned officers.
2. Public functionaries.
3. To remain in public office.
4. To perform services for the public authorities.

6 November 1940

5. All Jewish personnel working in any enterprise whatever must be dismissed byDecember 31, 1941, even apprentices and even if they are the wife or children of the proprietor. No compensation is to be given except to those dismissed before February 16, 1941, and to them only a small compensation.

Proprietors who give compensation will be punished with imprisonment and with a fine equal to ten times the compensation paid.

It is possible to employ Rumanian doubles, with salary. Those enterprises which on December 31 still have Jewish functionaries will be taken over by the State or liquidated.

5 December 1940

6. Jewish commissioned and non-commissioned officers are eliminated from the army.

2 October 1941

7. Proprietors are obliged to pay the compensation due to Jews into the State Social Security Fund.

4 January 1942

8. The salaries of Rumanian doubles willbe fixed by a commission.

7 January 1942

9. The term of December 31 for dismissing the Jews is adjourned. Authorizations for their remaining at their posts will be given by the Central Office of Roumanization.

4 March 1942

10. Adjournments of six to 12 months are granted, with the obligation of employing doubles for all the Jews.

21 March 1942

11. Jews are forbidden to be functionaries in the maritime societies for rivers, in navigation societies, in boat agencies, in shipping agencies.

25 June 1942

12. New requests for keeping salaried Jewish workers are made. Those who have sabotaged Roumanization will be punished.

20 November 1942

13. Authorization for retaining Jews will be given by a commission presided over by a magistrate.

20 August 1943

Women between 16 and 60 years of age must have a certificate in order to work.

1 September 1943

15. Those who have sabotaged Roumanization will be punished with from one to five years in prison and from 50 to 500 thousand lei fine, and their business will be taken over by the State.

7 September 1943

16. The General Commissariat for Jewish Problems will survey and legislate on the right of Jews to exercise the professions.

5 January 1944

17. Nobody may do anything without having a work-book issued by the General Commissariat for Jewish Problems.

The consequence of the application of the law of 16 November 1940 was:

At the appearance of the law there were in Rumania 28,225 Jewish functionaries (white-collar workers); on December 31 there were only 17,134 and on June 30, 1942, there remained only 7,042. That is to say, in two years 67% of Jewish employees were dismissed.

Translation

The Right To Go To School

31 August 1940

Jews, except for those of the second category, are excluded from all State primary schools, those of the second category will be accepted within the limits of available places.

Jews are not accepted in the State and private secondary schools, except within the limit of vacancies, and without exceeding 6 per cent. Jews are excluded from model schools.

Jews are excluded from all public and private professional schools.

At the private examinations of the elementary course of theoretical and commercial secondary schools, they may not register except in a proportion of 6 per cent.

In the universities, the number of Jews may not exceed 6 per cent.

The Jewish Communities may found schools, but the professors of the Rumanian language, of geography, and of history will be Rumanians named by the Ministry.

The right of issuing official certificates is forbidden to Jewish schools.

Textbooks whose authors or editors are Jews are forbidden in public and private schools.

12 October 1940

The program of Jewish schools is modified: they may not function except with Jewish personnel, and only for Jewish pupils.

14 October 1940

The conditions for admission of Jews into public schools are modified, excluding administrative personnel, the professors, and even the pupils and students from all the schools.

16 November 1940

Scholarships are not longer given to Jewish students from abroad.

14 November 1941

The Ministry of Labor cancelled the authorizations of all apprentice schools of the Jewish Communities, and all the schools

operating under the authority of this department, which are attended by Jews.

31 December 1942

The ruling of the Central of Rumanian Jews founded a Section for Schools and Culture, whose principal object was to create and operate Jewish schools.

Military Service and Forced Labor

5 December 1940

All Jews are excluded from military service (Art. 1), and from pre-military service (undertaken at the age of 15; Art. 10). Those of pre-military age will be obliged to pay military taxes, and those of military age to pay the military tax and to undertake forced labor (Art. 1).

Commissioned and non-commissioned officers are eliminated from the army; those on active service will receive three months' salary if they have had at least 10 years of service.

The military taxes are: between the ages of 18 and 21, six thousand lei per year; between 21 and 24, five thousand lei and 30 per cent of the direct taxes paid by him, by his parents, and by his wife; between 24 and 41, three thousand lei and 20 per cent of the taxes paid by him and by his wife; between 41 and 60, 15 per cent of the taxes paid by him and by his wife (Art. 4).

All the taxes will be augmented by 50 per cent in the case of mobilization, and by 100 per cent in the case of war.

1 April 1941

The military taxes fixed for the Jews have been augmented.

30 October 1941

The military taxes of the Jews living abroad are augmented by 1000 per cent.

31 January 1942

The Jewish Central will create a Section of Professional Re-education, which will have as its principal aim organizing the participation of Jews in forced labor.

7 July 1942

The organization of forced labor has passed to the Ministry of Labor.

9 July 1942

The Military Law provides that Jews and criminals are excluded from military service.

25 October 1942

An Interministerial Commission has decided that Jews, without distinction for age or sex, must undertake forced labor.

Note. This decision having violated the law by calling to forced labor both men and women of all ages, Dr. Filderman intervened with the Government, which approved his point of view. Mr. Radu Lecca, Commissar of Jewish Problems, was angered, and called together several Jews at the Central, to ask them to disclaim Dr. Filderman.

Seeing the attitude of these Jews, the Commission ended by intervening with Mr. Filderman, asking him, if he wished to make propositions in the future, to make them to Mr. Lecca and not to the Government.

3 February 1942

Capital punishment was introduced for Jews who did not present themselves for forced labor.

NOV 13 1944

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

I am sure you will be interested in the following paraphrase of a report recently received from the War Refugee Board Representative in Ankara, Turkey:

"According to a report dated October 28 received from William Filderman, Bucharest, thousands of Hungarian Jews have entered Rumania. They are located in several cities throughout the country and according to Filderman "all are naked, all need winter clothing, shelter, food." The total number of refugees is about 5,000 at this time with others arriving daily.

"The Filderman report also states that 150,000 Rumanian Jews are as needy as the refugees. This figure includes 15,000 repatriates from Transnistria, 20,000 persons now in the departmental capitals who had been evacuated from villages and small towns of the provinces, 30,000 persons who have returned from forced labor battalions who having been compelled to provide their own clothing are now returning to the cities with their clothing in tatters and shoes worn out or barefooted. As the families of these laborers received no allowances while the men were away, they were required to sell everything in order to live. The laborers and their families would involve upwards of 90,000.

"In several towns houses of Jews have been destroyed. In Jassy for example, 30,000 Jews are without shelter and without any possibility of repairing their houses. None of the repatriates or the evacuees have found any of their furniture even in areas where no bombardments took place. The houses of the returned Jews are without doors, windows, floors, roofs.

"The report states that hundreds of persons arrive from the provinces seeking relief and clothing. While Filderman's committee has already clothed 8,000 persons, he feels that its limited resources make it impossible for

See cable 2130 from Ankara 11/8

the committee to continue the work to the extent necessary. Without substantial and immediate aid, a great many deaths may be expected this winter. Typhus is already raging in Moldavia and medicines of all kinds are lacking.

"It is stated that a Jewish community will be formed under the auspices of the International Red Cross, whose delegates will follow the armies in order to search for and bring aid to hidden Jews. Filderman's report concludes with the statement that a million and a half dollars are needed for the next months.

"According to other reports received in Istanbul, although rights are being restored on paper to the Jewish people in Rumania, few benefits are being received thereunder. Jews are unable to secure reentry into their new homes from which they were evicted and must continue to pay high rents, several families being forced to share one apartment. They generally are unable to secure repossession of their businesses. Even when they are, there are no stocks or raw materials left. Realistically they cannot obtain reemployment in the positions they formerly occupied as this would involve the displacement of non-Jewish Rumanian employees.

"According to all reports, the Jews of Rumania have been reduced to dependence upon charitable assistance and support from international and private relief organizations is urgently needed."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

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

FH:hd 11/13/44

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

Copy

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

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

NOV 9 PM 2 57

J. War Ref Bd
Mr Pehle

ALH-164
This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government Agency. (~~RESTRICTED~~)

Ankara
Dated November 8, 1944
Rec'd 1:50 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington,

2130, November 8, 4 p.m.

FROM KATZKI TO PEHLE WAR REFUGEE BOARD. ANKARA'S NO. 181.

According to a report dated October 28 received from William Fielderman, Bucharest, to supplement earlier information (see Embassy's 1988, Ankara's 166) thousands of Hungarian Jews have entered Rumania. They are located in several cities throughout the country and According to Fielderman "All are naked all need winter clothing, shelter, food." The total number of refugees is about 5,000 at this time with others arriving daily.

In my opinion the influx of these refugees makes urgent the exploration in Rumania of possibilities for organizing additional refugee entry into that country. I would appreciate your advices on the matter (see Embassy's

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NARA, DATE 8/30/50

(see Embassy's 1977 Ankara's 165).

The Fielderman's report also states that 150,000 Rumanian Jews are as needy as the refugees. This figure includes 15,000 repatriates from Transnistria, 20,000 persons now in the departmental capitals who had been evacuated from villages and small towns of the provinces, 30,000 persons who have returned from forced labor battalions who having been compelled to provide their own clothing are now returning to the cities with their clothing in tatters and shoes worn out or barefooted. As the families of these laborers received no allowances while the men were away they were required to sell everything in order to live. The laborers and their families would involve upwards of 90,000. ~~souls.~~

In several towns houses of Jews have been destroyed. In Jassy for example, 30,000 Jews are without shelter and without any possibility of repairing their houses. None of the repatriates or the evacuees have found any of their furniture even in areas where no bombardments took place. The houses of the returned Jews are without doors, windows, floors, roofs.

The report states that each (*) hundreds of persons arrive from the provinces seeking clothing and relief. ~~and relief.~~

~~relief~~ While Fildermann's committee has already clothed 8,000 persons, ~~but~~ he ~~indicated~~ feels that its limited resources make it impossible for ~~it~~ the committee to continue the work to the extent necessary. Without substantial and immediate aid, a great many deaths may be expected this winter. Typhus is already raging in Moldavia and medicines of all kinds are lacking.

~~A~~ It is stated that Jewish community will be formed under the auspices of the International Red Cross, whose delegates will follow the armies in order to search for and bring aid to hidden Jews. ~~who have hidden themselves, and to bring aid to them.~~ Fildermann's report concludes with the statement that a million and a half dollars are needed for the next months.

The War Bd representative adds that, according to other reports in Istanbul, ~~For your information,~~ although rights are being restored on paper to the Jewish people in Rumania, few benefits are being received thereunder, ~~according to other reports in Istanbul.~~ Jews are unable to secure reentry into their new homes from which they were evicted and must continue to pay high rents, several families being forced to share one apartment. They generally are unable to secure repossession of their businesses. ~~and~~ Even ~~if~~ when they are there are no stocks or

raw materials

raw materials. Realistically they cannot obtain re-employment in the positions they formerly occupied as this would involve the displacement of non-Jewish Rumanian employees.

According to all reports, our representative advises, the Jews of Rumania have been reduced to dependence upon charitable assistance and that support from international and private relief organizations is urgently needed. All private relief agencies heretofore represented in Istanbul none of which has funds in amounts necessary to provide reasonable aid have sent representatives to Bucharest with the exception of JDC which has not yet secured official permission to do so. If JDC's plans include the despatch of an American representative to Rumania and to Bulgaria, I urge the facilitation of their application.

(*) Apparent ommission.

STEINHARDT

WMB

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

October [illegible], 1944

1 p.m.

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

Mr Parks

Distribution of true reading only by special arrangements ([redacted]W)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OCT 30 1944
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS & RECORDS

AMEMBASSY

ANKARA

956

The following for Katzki is WRB 122.

Reference your No. 1988 of October 18 (Ankara's 166 to War Refugee Board). Interested groups here have requested Board to obtain reasons for need to evacuate Transnistrian repatriates from Rumania. Please report to Board any information you are able to obtain concerning this matter.

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

STETTINIUS
(ACTING)
FLW

CONTROL COPY

WRB:NNV:KG
10/28/44

NEA/OGL [illegible] SE

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972

CABLE TO AMBASSADOR STEINHARDT, ANKARA, FOR KATZKI FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Reference your No. 1988 of October 18 (Ankara's 166 to War Refugee Board). Interested groups here have requested Board to obtain reasons for need to evacuate Transnistrian repatriates from Rumania. Please report to Board any information you are able to obtain concerning this matter.

THIS IS WRB ANKARA CABLE NO. 122.

3:00 p.m.
October 27, 1944

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

Ht 837

FH:hd 10/26/44

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

Files

FMH-804
This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government agency. (~~RESTRICTED~~)

Bern
Dated October 19, 1944
Rec'd 5:26 p.m.

CONTROL COPY

Secretary of State,

Washington.

6932, October 19, 2 p.m.

FOR WRB FROM MCCLELLAND

Sternbuch of Union Orthodox Rabbis received following message October 10 from Joseph Klarmann, his representative who went to Bucharest a few weeks ago from Istanbul. Am passing it on to you since it contains interesting statistical information present situation Jews remaining in Rumania which might be of value to appropriate Jewish organizations in United States: "Although Jews have been reinstated in their former status and in principle enjoy full civic rights no practical steps have been taken their economic rehabilitation.

Out of approximately 290,000 Jewish survivors the following categories are almost completely destitute: 90,000 returned from forced labor service, 17,000 repatriated deportees, 20,000 returned from outlying

district

district capitols, 10,000 evacuees from war stricken regions, 20,000 persons who have been bombed out in Bucharest.

Dr. Fildermann JC representative told me unless government takes steps remedy situation these Jews shortly one million five hundred thousand dollars will be needed for shelter clothing and food for a three months period. Fildermann appeals to World Jewry for immediate assistance.

Mr. Zissu, President National Jewish Party and Zionists told me that the above mentioned financial help from abroad could be no more than palliative. He believes that fully 150,000 ruined Jews will never be economically reestablished. Foresees therefore Palestine emigration as only solution."

End of Klarmann's message.

HARRISON

HTM

Rumania

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

FMH-605
This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government agency. (~~UNRESTRICTED~~)

Ankara
Dated October 18, 1944
Rec'd 3:33 a.m., 19th

Secretary of State,

Washington.

OCT 20
CONTROL COPY

1988, October 18, 1 p.m.

FROM KATZKI TO PEHLE WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Ankara's 166.

According to reliable information dated September 20 just received from Filderman in Bucharest. There are in Rumanian 1300 Polish Jewish refugees, 900 Hungarians, 110 Germans and Austrians and 15,000 repatriates from Transnistria, total 17,310. The Rumanian Government has approved requests made in Bucharest for admission into Rumania of approximately 7000 Jews from Yugoslavia. Travel by sea from Rumania to Istanbul is impossible prior to the pacification of the Balkans. For special reasons the evacuation of Transnistrian repatriates from Rumania is urgently requested.

The foregoing is for your information. Please advise. Hirschmann.

STEINHARDT

WSB

10/25/44 Discussed with Grant + Schmidt, DC; Info would give information to necessary to remove Jews from Rumania JDT

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

DMH-676
This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government agency. (~~RESTRICTED~~)

Ankara

Dated October 16, 1944

Rec'd 2:18 p.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

1977, October 16, midnight.

FROM KATZKY TO PEHLE, WAR REFUGEE BOARD, ANKARA'S 165.

Reportes reaching Istanbul describe the dangerous situation of Jewish people in Hungary and Slovakia and the continuing urgent need to evacuate them to safe havens as rapidly as possible. All avenues of escape, therefore, should be explored at the earliest possible moment. Recent authorization of American Mission to proceed to Rumania may provide occasion (see Department's 810 of September 20, WRB 112) to request State Department permission for me to proceed to Bucharest, with secretarial assistance while there, in order to investigate means of rescue at that place. Passman of JDC would accompany me. Telegraphic authorization requested.

STEINHARDT

RB

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Rumania

Distribution on this reading only by special arrangement.. [redacted]

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

September 29, 1944
4 p.m.

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

2 War (Ref
Bd (m
Pehle)

CONTROL COPY

AMEMBASSY

LISBON
2625
2525

The following is WRB cable 98.

Please deliver paraphrase of the following message to Robert Pilpel from the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

QUOTE Your 122 for time being impossible transmit funds from here to Fildermann. Suggest you communicate Saly Mayer asking him advise Fildermann that while we most anxious provide for essential needs Polish and Hungarian refugees in Rumania we do not understand why there should be such a differential under present changed conditions between amounts received by them and those received by Christian refugees and Rumanian Jews in similar situation. We at this time would not look with favor upon increasing amounts being allocated to Polish and Hungarian refugees in that territory. Also Saly Mayer should ask Fildermann to furnish him with a detailed budget for refugees and other activities in Rumania on basis of which we would be able to arrive at intelligent decisions. In the meantime Saly Mayer should be asked to send maximum amounts from funds

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972

funds at his disposal for immediate urgent needs of Fildermann. Also advise Fildermann we are looking into matter of sending representative to Rumania as soon as official permission obtainable and will keep him advised developments this connection. UNQUOTE

HULL
(GLH)

WRR:MMV:KG
9/28/44

WE SE

CABLE TO MINISTER NORWEB, LISBON, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Please deliver the following message to Robert Pilpel from the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

QUOTE YOUR 122 FOR TIME BEING IMPOSSIBLE TRANSMIT FUNDS FROM HERE TO FILDERMANN STOP SUGGEST YOU COMMUNICATE SALY MAYER ASKING HIM ADVISE FILDERMANN THAT WHILE WE MOST ANXIOUS PROVIDE FOR ESSENTIAL NEEDS POLISH AND HUNGARIAN REFUGEES IN RUMANIA WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THERE SHOULD BE SUCH A DIFFERENTIAL UNDER PRESENT CHANGED CONDITIONS BETWEEN AMOUNTS RECEIVED BY THEM AND THOSE RECEIVED BY CHRISTIAN REFUGEES AND RUMANIAN JEWS IN SIMILAR SITUATION STOP WE AT THIS TIME WOULD NOT LOOK WITH FAVOR UPON INCREASING AMOUNTS BEING ALLOCATED TO POLISH AND HUNGARIAN REFUGEES IN THAT TERRITORY STOP ALSO SALY MAYER SHOULD ASK FILDERMANN TO FURNISH HIM WITH A DETAILED BUDGET FOR REFUGEES AND OTHER ACTIVITIES IN RUMANIA ON BASIS OF WHICH WE WOULD BE ABLE TO ARRIVE AT INTELLIGENT DECISIONS STOP IN THE MEANTIME SALY MAYER SHOULD BE ASKED TO SEND MAXIMUM AMOUNTS FROM FUNDS AT HIS DISPOSAL FOR IMMEDIATE URGENT NEEDS OF FILDERMANN STOP ALSO ADVISE FILDERMANN WE ARE LOOKING INTO MATTER OF SENDING REPRESENTATIVE TO RUMANIA AS SOON AS OFFICIAL PERMISSION OBTAINABLE AND WILL KEEP HIM ADVISED DEVELOPMENTS THIS CONNECTION UNQUOTE

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO LISBON NO. 98

3:25 p.m.
September 26, 1944

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

Copy sent JDC 9/29/44 RS

Tel. cleared with Mr. Schmidt (Foreign Funds Control) + Mr. Pehle

FH:hd 9/26/44

SEPTEMBER 20, 1944.

CABLE TO ROBERT PILPEL THROUGH WRB

YOUR 122 FOR TIME BEING IMPOSSIBLE TRANSMIT FUNDS FROM HERE TO FILDERMANN STOP SUGGEST YOU COMMUNICATE SALY MAYER ASKING HIM ADVISE FILDERMANN THAT WHILE WE MOST ANXIOUS PROVIDE FOR ESSENTIAL NEEDS POLISH AND HUNGARIAN REFUGEES IN RUMANIA WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THERE SHOULD BE SUCH A DIFFERENTIAL UNDER PRESENT CHANGED CONDITIONS BETWEEN AMOUNTS RECEIVED BY THEM AND THOSE RECEIVED BY CHRISTIAN REFUGEES AND RUMANIAN JEWS IN SIMILAR SITUATION STOP WE AT THIS TIME WOULD NOT LOOK WITH FAVOR UPON INCREASING AMOUNTS BEING ALLOCATED TO POLISH AND HUNGARIAN REFUGEES IN THAT TERRITORY STOP ALSO SALY MAYER SHOULD ASK FILDERMANN TO FURNISH HIM WITH A DETAILED BUDGET FOR REFUGEES AND OTHER ACTIVITIES IN RUMANIA ON BASIS OF WHICH WE WOULD BE ABLE TO ARRIVE AT INTELLIGENT DECISIONS STOP IN THE MEANTIME SALY MAYER SHOULD BE ASKED TO SEND MAXIMUM AMOUNTS FROM FUNDS AT HIS DISPOSAL FOR IMMEDIATE URGENT NEEDS OF FILDERMANN STOP ALSO ADVISE FILDERMANN WE ARE LOOKING INTO MATTER OF SENDING REPRESENTATIVE TO RUMANIA AS SOON AS OFFICIAL PERMISSION OBTAINABLE AND WILL KEEP HIM ADVISED DEVELOPMENTS THIS CONNECTION

LEAVITT
JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

INCOMING CABLE

1996

LISBON

Received Sept. 17, 1944
Stencilled Sept. 20, 1944

CUSHZ PGW632 LISBOA 91 VIA RCA 8 2020

NLT LEAVITT
JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE
270 MADISON AVENUE NEWYORK CITY

122 WILLIAM FILDERMAN BUCHAREST CABLES SEPTEMBER 6TH

"REFUGIES POLONAIS ET HONGROIS RECOIVENT DIXHUITMILLE LEI PERSONNE MENSUEL QUARANTEMILLE EQUIPEMENT stop PRETENDENT VINGTCINQMILLE ET CINQUANT EQUIPMENT stop ORGANISATIONS CRETIENNES PAIENT LEURS REFUGIES ENTRE QUATREMILLECINQCENT ET SEPTMILLECINQCENT ANCIENS MINISTRES VINGTUNMILLE LEI stop REFUGIES REPATRIES EVACUES AUTRES CATEGORIES JUIFS ROUMAINS SITUATION ANALOGUE RECOIVENT LE QUART stop AYANT DIFFICULTES VEUILLEZ DISPOSER ET ENVOYER FONDS SPECIAUX stop ACTIVITE GENERALE NECESITE VOTRE DELEGUE ICI stop CABLEZ"

ROBERT PILPEL

Translation

"POLISH AND HUNGARIAN REFUGEES RECEIVE 18,000 LEI PER PERSON MONTHLY 40,000 EQUIPMENT stop ASK FOR 25,000 AND 50,000 EQUIPMENT stop CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATIONS PAY THEIR REFUGEES BETWEEN 4,500 AND 7,500 FORMER MINISTERS 21,000 LEI stop REFUGEES REPATRIATES EVACUEES OTHER CATEGORIES RUMANIAN JEWS SIMILAR SITUATION RECEIVE ONE FOURTH stop HAVING DIFFICULTIES PLEASE MAKE SPECIAL FUNDS AVAILABLE AND SEND THEM stop IT IS NECESSARY THAT YOU SEND REPRESENTATIVE HERE stop CABLE"

Cable - S. M.
" - Paisman

se

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

FDM-110
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement. [redacted]W)

Caserta

Dated September 11, 1944

Rec'd 1:55 a.m., 12th.

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

CONTROL COPY

SEP 15 1944
COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

Secretary of State,

Washington.

355, September 11, 5 p.m.

FOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD FROM ACKERMANN, NO. 109.

I have always been cognizant of limitations on board's authority and activities noted in your 106 of September 7. However I approved of and confirmed message sent by Offie on September 3 since I knew of no organization in Rumania ready to act in emergency and felt that you would pass request on to one of the many private organizations you maintain contact with. UNRRA under its charter cannot go in the British American military have no plans therefor and it may be a long time before private organizations can enter. I still believe it is essential that relief be forwarded in some manner. The OSS says problem is too great for it to handle but perhaps JDC (repeat JDC) or other United States organization has a local representative to whom funds can be sent possibly through here or perhaps Turkey.

KIRK

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972

WSB

Rumania, Vol. 1, No. 1 (Cancel)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

Secretary

Mark copy

For security reasons [redacted] text of this message must be closely guarded.

Dated September 9, 1944

Rec'd 10:21 p.m.

DSH-693
Distribution of
true reading only by
special arrangement.
[redacted]-W)

Secretary of State,

Washington.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
SEP 11 1944
COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

US URGENT

338, September 9, 6 p.m.

Ackerman's 108.

Head of OSS mission Bucharest, just returned here, received communication from International Red Cross that Germans intend to arrest the 300,000 Jews still free in Hungary and commence another mass deportation to Germany. Raymond Courvoisier of Intercross who was in Hungary three weeks ago urged all immediate steps be taken to expedite emigration to Palestine. OSS also urges that a WRB representative go to Bucharest soon as possible not only to aid above movement but also to give assistance to 2000 to 3000 Jews now in Rumania who are destitute and to aid approximately 500 American citizens also in Rumania. $5000 fund requested by OSS will not be used by it since problem is too great for it to handle. However

Colonel

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972

Colonel Rodrigo of OSS spent $650 to aid five Hungarian and three Polish families to get to Constanza en-route Palestine. He asks that money be refunded by payment to his account OSS Washington. He is also trying to get transport plane assigned for flights from Bucharest to Istanbul. If decided that Hirschmann should go to Bucharest he should immediately contact OSS mission Istanbul to ascertain whether plane has been secured and to arrange passage. More complete address mission will be cabled later.

Correction Rodrigo's funds were personal and should be deposited his account Riggs Bank.

Repeated to Ankara.

KIRK

JMS
NPL

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

CONTROL COPY

DSH-634
This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government Agency. (~~RE-WRITE~~)

Ankara
Dated September 9, 1944
Rec'd 6:52 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
SEP 11 1944
COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

Secretary of State,

Washington.

1695, September 9, 4 p.m.

FROM AMBASSADOR STEINHARDT AND HIRSCHMANN TO WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Ankara's 152.

It is reported here that a royal decree issued by the Government of Rumania restores equal rights to all Rumanians without regard to race or religion. We are informed further that all royal decrees based on differentiation of race or religion have been abolished.

STEINHARDT

EMB

2 war Ref BL-Pla

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Political Advisor, Caserta

TO: Secretary of State, Washington

DATE: September 8, 1944

NUMBER: 332

[redacted] CONFIDENTIAL

Lockermann sends the following, No. 107, for the War Refugee Board.

We have received no reply to the message of Offie No. 272 dated September 3. It is strongly urged by me that this recommendation be followed as an emergency measure unless relief can be furnished through other sources.

KIRK

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972

Rumania Vol. 1, No. 1 (General)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

CONTROL COPY

BE-624
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangements. ([redacted] F)

Caserta

Dated September 3, 1944

Rec'd 1 a.m., 4th

Secretary of State

Washington

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
SEP 4 1944
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

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

272, September 3, 9 p.m.

FOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD

In absence of Ackermann who left this morning on a trip to Northern Italy and Southern France and will be out of touch with us for four or five days, I am telegraphing you urgently to inform you of a situation which perhaps should receive your immediate attention. A report has just been received at AFHQ from an American member of OSS now in Rumania to the effect that there are several hundred refugees from Poland and Hungary in Bucharest who are in dire straits and need immediate assistance. OSS report requested this office to communicate this information immediately to Ackermann with recommendation that $5000 should be sent at once to Bucharest for alleviating the tragic situation of these unfortunates. At my suggestion Colonel Early of OSS office at AFHQ is sending 5000 yellow seal dollars with another OSS representative who is flying to Bucharest tomorrow morning with instructions

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972

-2- #272, September 3, 9 p.m. from Caserta

instructions to hold this money and not disburse it until authorization is received from him.

Please telegraph what decision you wish me to communicate to Colonel Early.

OFFIE

WSB

9/5/44
Decision not to hold
Adv. of the amount to be
Salvatore Giuliano
accounts & Please advise
Attorney General
and [illegible]
JM

Personal

AUG 8 1944

Dear Dr. Kubowitzki:

I wish to acknowledge with thanks your letter of July 24, 1944, (No. 179), enclosing a copy of a cable sent on June 6, by Mr. A. L. Zissu, representative of the Jewish Agency for Palestine in Bucarest, to Mr. Barlas.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki,
Head, Rescue Department,
World Jewish Congress,
1834 Broadway,
New York 23, New York.

BHutchison:agr 8-2-44

Miss Hodell — 190

As per our conversation
7/29/49

Matthew J. Marks TR-6

Friedman

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL • CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

1834 BROADWAY

NEW YORK, 23, N. Y.

LONDON
55 New Cavendish St., W 1

GENEVA
37 Quai Wilson

BUENOS AIRES
Corrientes 1979

JERUSALEM
Vaad Leumi P. O. B. 471

MONTREAL
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY
Sonora 1744

CABLES: CONGRESS, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 6-1900

July 24, 1944

In reply refer
to No. 179

Hon. John W. Pehle
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I beg to attach a copy of a cable sent on June 6 by Mr. A. L. Zissu, representative of the Jewish Agency for Palestine in Bucarest, to Mr. Barlas.

It appears from this communication that the Rumanian Government has decided:

1. To establish a governmental committee for emigration, under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister.

2. To authorize the creation of an emigration office under Mr. Zissu's direction.

3. To facilitate the emigration of Jewish refugees by making available for this purpose the steamer "Alba Iulia" (7,000 passengers) and two smaller vessels (1500 passengers each).

Sincerely yours,

A. Leon Kubowitzki
Head, Rescue Department

ALK:bg

34

Abschrift

urgent barlas perapalace istanbul

Bucarest 10.6.44.

32 regierung genehmigte gruendung eines emigrationsoffice unter meinem vorsitz stop demselben allein steht das recht zu die durchfuehrung der jeweiligen beschluesse der eben eingesetzten regierungskommission fuer emigration unter vorsitz des herrn ministerpraesidenten stop die vor einer woche beschlossene emigrations sistierung ist nunmehr aufgehoben und die abfahrt der schiffe mit meiner garantie freigegeben stop regierung bereit rumaenische schiffe zur verfuegung stellen undzwar staatspassagierdampfer alba iulia 7000 plaetze und zwei kleinere je 1500 zusammen zehntausend plaetze stop bitte mitteilet familie zuhause[X)] obige bedeutende beschluesse und massnahmen sowie angebot und erzielet erforderliche zustimmung und schiffssicherheit seitens zustaendiger stellen stop bitte dringdrahtet ergebnis eurer verhandlungen obigen projectes von dem die ganze emigration abhaengt und insbesondere fuer fluechtlinge von hoechster bedeutung und rettendem charakter stop die rumaenischen staatsschiffe mit jeidischen emigranten koennen sicherheitshalber rumaenische rotkreuzflagge haben

zissu

X) means Jewish Agency Jerusalem

Iw 7.24.44.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

CONTROL COPY

KEH-32
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement. ([redacted])

Ankara

Dated July 15, 1944

Rec'd 1:10 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUL 17 1944
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS & RECORDS

1285, July 15, 1 p.m.

FOR WRB FROM HIRSCHMAN

Referring to the successful trip of SS KAZBEK, it would appear that the Rumanian authorities-and by authorities I refer to both Micael and Marshal Antonescu-have undergone a change of heart in their attitude towards the Jewish problem in Rumania. All reports indicate that they are being most helpful in (*)ring the emigration of Jews from Rumania via Turkey to Palestine. Unless the Germans decide and are permitted to take Jewish matters into their own hands, it would seem most unlikely that the Rumanian Government will put any obstacles in the way of Jewish emigration from that country at this time. I am reliably informed that Rumanian authorities are hopeful that their change in attitude towards the Jews will result in leniency towards them on the part of the peace makers.

KELLEY

(*) Apparent omission.

VMB EDA

[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 15 1972

5-war Ref Bd - Pehle

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

July 11, 1944

MS
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement. ([redacted]W)

7 pages

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS JUL 13 1944

CONTROL COPY

AMEMBASSY,

ANKARA.

627

The WRB cable 78 below is for Hirschmann.

Reference Ankara No. 78 for WRB (Embassy's 1125 of June 21).

For your information the following is text of cable received from McClelland in Bern under date of July 5, 1944:

QUOTE A message in code, received by air on June 2 from the Prime Minister of Romania, was the basis for the information given in Paragraph 2 of our message of June 17 Number 3867.

Statement was made by the Romanian 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 Romania would not only be allowed to cross the border secretly but that their safety would be looked out for by the Romanians.

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

WRB:MNV:KG
7/11/44

S/CR

NE

HULL
(GLW)
SE

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972

CABLE TO AMBASSADOR STEINHARDT AND IRA HIRSCHMANN, ANKARA,
FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Reference Ankara No. 78 for WRB (Embassy's 1125 of June 21).

For your information the following is text of cable received from McClelland in Bern under date of July 5, 1944:

"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 3867.

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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."

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO ANKARA NO. 78

9:50 a.m.
July 10, 1944

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

FH:db 7/8/44 Cleared with Pehle FH ✓

C
O
P
Y

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern

TO: Department of State, Washington

DATED: July 5, 1944

NUMBER: 4257

[redacted]

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 3867.

Statement was made by the Rumanian delegate to IGRC, 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. /B

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

HARRISON.

DOR: LOW 7/6/44

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: AMEMBASSADOR, BERN
DATED: June 29, 1944
NUMBER: 2207

[redacted]

From War Refugee Board to Harrison.

Please deliver the following message to Dr. Gerhardt Riegner, 37 Quai Wilson, Geneva, from D. A. Leon Kubowitski of the World Jewish Congress:

"Concerning your message of May 20 in reference to the evacuation of Jews from Roumania we are informed from Istanbul that all available ships are already being used so that additional funds will only raise prices. Chartering larger ship would be impractical since German safe conduct would be requested. Please investigate further and report."

This is WRB Bern cable no. 60.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 1-11-73
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972

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

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Executive Office of the President

WAR REFUGEE BOARD

FROM: Paul J. McCormack

TO: ✓ Mr. Pehle

____ Mr. Abrahamson	____ Mr. Marks
____ Mr. Akzin	____ Mr. McCormack
____ Mrs. Cohn	____ Mr. Parke
____ Mr. DuBois	____ Mr. Sargoy
____ Mr. Friedman	____ Mr. Smith
____ Miss Hodel	____ Mr. Standish
____ Miss Laughlin	____ Mr. Stewart
____ Mr. Lesser	____ Mrs. Towler
____ Mr. Luxford	____ Mr. Weinstein
____ Mr. Mann	____ Mr. White
____ Mrs. Mannon	

Substitute for our Action 63*

June 28, 1944

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

I very much regret that I shall not be in Washington to greet you upon your arrival but I am looking forward to seeing you upon my return next week.

I want to congratulate you on the information regarding Rumania contained in your cable 1125 of June 21--in every way the most promising news we have received in recent months.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

E.R.STETTINIUS,JR.

The Honorable

Laurence A. Steinhardt,

Department of State

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

CONTROL COPY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUN 29 1944

AMEMBASSY,

ANKARA.
576X

Reference is made to your 1125 of June 21 in the following WRB cable 60 for the Ambassador.

Report regarding Romanian Government action highly encouraging. Board prepared to cooperate full extent of its power in assisting evacuation of Jews from Romania. Further reports on this matter anxiously awaited. Kindly inform whether to your knowledge this action of Romanian Government has been made public in Turkey or elsewhere.

HULL
(GLW)

WRB:MMV:KG
8/27/44

NE SE S-CR

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972

CABLE TO AMBASSADOR STEINHARDT, ANKARA, TURKEY, FROM THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD

[redacted]

Please refer to your No. 1125 of June 21.

The report concerning the action taken by the Rumanian Government is highly encouraging. The War Refugee Board is prepared to do all within its power to cooperate in aiding the evacuation of Jews from Rumania. We anxiously await further reports on this matter.

Please advise whether this action of the Rumanian Government has been made public in Turkey or elsewhere to your knowledge.

THIS IS WRB ANKARA CABLE NO. 60 .

****
June 26, 1944
3:25 p.m.

MJM:bbk - 6/26/44
MJM

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

I am sure you will be delighted with the following secret cable just received from Ambassador Steinhardt in Ankara:

"June 21, 1944

"For the War Refugee Board from the Ambassador

"I have been informed that the Rumanian Government has decided to create an inter-departmental board for Jewish emigration under the supervision of the Prime Minister and to establish an emigration office under the direction of A. L. Zissu, the representative of the Jewish agency in Bucharest and to implement the same by making the Rumanian S. S. ALBA JULIA and other Rumanian vessels available for the transportation of Jewish refugees.

STEINHARDT"

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

JWPehle:lhh 6/23/44

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

June 23, 1944

Dear John,

You will find herewith the paraphrase of cable No. 1125 that I have just read to you over the telephone. Congratulations on this fine development!

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Ed Stettinius

Mr. John Pehle
Room 288-1/2
Treasury Department
Washington, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

HIS-780
This telegram must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone. ([redacted])

Ankara

Dated June 21, 1944

Rec'd 11:11 a.m., 22nd

Secretary of State,

Washington.

1125, June 21, 5 p.m.

FOR THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD FROM THE AMBASSADOR

Ankara 78

I have been informed that the Rumanian Government has decided to create an interdepartmental board for Jewish emigration under the supervision of the Prime Minister and to establish an emigration office under the direction of A. L. Zissu, the representative of the Jewish agency in Bucharest and to implement the same by making the Rumanian S. S. ALBA JULIA and other Rumanian vessels available for the transportation of Jewish refugees.

STEINHARDT

BB RR

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, Ankara

TO: Secretary of State, Washington

DATED: June 21, 1944

NUMBER: 1125

CONTROL COPY

The Ambassador transmits the following, Ankara No. 78, for the War Refugee Board.

Information has reached me that the government of Rumania has decided to create an interdepartmental board for Jewish emigration under the Prime Minister's supervision and to establish an emigration office under the direction of A. L. Zissu, the Jewish Agency Representative in Bucharest, and by making the Rumanian S. S. ALBA JULIA and other Rumanian boats available for the transportation of Jewish refugees, thereby to implement the same.

STEINHARDT

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972

Bern, May 18, 1944

No. 8209

Subject: Transmitting memorandum regarding treatment of Jews in Rumania.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

CONTROL COPY

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's telegram No. 770 of March 7, 1944, and to my telegram No. 1871 of March 27, noon, 1944, reporting action taken to transmit a message concerning the treatment of Jews and other persecuted minorities in Bulgaria, Hungary and Rumania.

Through one of the stated intermediaries the Legation has received a memorandum concerning the situation in Rumania. A copy of the original and translation of the unsigned and undated French text of this memorandum is transmitted herewith for the information of the Department and the War Refugee Board.

Respectfully yours,

Leland Harrison.

Enclosures:
1. Copy of memorandum;
2. Translation.

File No. 840.1

DFB/mk

In triplicate to the Department

A true copy of the original: [illegible]

(Enclosure No. 1 to despatch No. 8209, May 18, 1944, from American Legation, Bern, Switzerland)

COPY

Au sujet du traitement de la minorité juive et des réfugiés appartenant aux diverses nationalités, il y a lieu de faire remarquer que les autorités roumaines n'ont jamais toléré et encore moins ordonné la déportation des membres de la minorité juive de Roumanie, en Pologne ou en quelqu'autre pays étranger.

Les seuls membres de la dite minorité, qui aient fait l'objet d'une mesure aboutissant à un changement collectif de domicile - mesure d'ailleurs tout à fait provisoire - sont les minoritaires juifs de Bessarabie, de Bucovine et du département de Dorohoi (Moldavie du Nord) lequel avait été incorporé, à la suite des opérations militaires, à l'administration militaire de la Bucovine.

En effet, ces régions se trouvant dans la zone des opérations militaires et la présence des membres de la dite minorité constituant un danger pour la sécurité de ces opérations, les autorités militaires roumaines s'étaient vues dans l'obligation d'ordonner leur déplacement. Mais, même alors, ces minoritaires furent transférés en Transnistrie (territoire s'étendant entre le Dniestr et le Bougi, qui se trouvait non pas sous administration allemande, mais sous administration roumaine.

Les Juifs du département de Dorohoi n'y firent d'ailleurs qu'un séjour assez bref, le Gouvernement roumain prenant des mesures pour leur rapatriement dans le dit département. De cette manière, les minoritaires juifs du département de Dorohoi sont rentrés dans le régime général appliqué à la minorité juive sur toute l'étendue du territoire du Royaume qui n'avait pas été zone d'opérations militaires, à savoir que, à part certaines restrictions concernant la propriété, les membres de la minorité juive jouissent sur tout le territoire, du même statut que les autres citoyens roumains, pouvant s'adonner même à leurs activités économiques.

Il n'y a que quelques très peu nombreux membres de la minorité juive du reste du territoire du Royaume qui aient fait l'objet d'une mesure individuelle de déportation - et toujours en Transnistrie sous administration roumaine - à titre de sanction contre les délits de sabotage économique ou de spéculation, dont les individus de cette dernière catégorie s'étaient rendus coupables. Par la suite, ces individus ont presque tous été rapatriés en Roumanie. Il n'est peu être pas déplacé d'ajouter ici que, dans la plupart des pays belligérents, les délits de cette nature sont punis de mort.

Quant aux membres de la minorité juive transportés en Transnistrie, à la suite d'une intervention de la Croix Rouge Internationale, 5000 enfants (garçons et filles jusqu'à l'âge de seize ans) appartenant à la dite minorité ont obtenu l'approbation du gouvernement roumain afin d'être transférés en Turquie. A cette fin, ils ont été ramenés en territoire roumain et environ trois mille d'entre eux ont déjà traversé la frontière roumano-bulgare pour se diriger vers la Turquie.

Concernant

Concernant les autres membres de la minorité juive transférés en Transnistrie, les autorités roumaines ont décidé, il y a trois semaines environ, leur rapatriement en territoire roumain, en vue de leur transport ultérieur vers le Proche Orient. Ces autorités mènent actuellement, à cette fin, des négociations avec le Comité International de la Croix Rouge qui se propose d'affréter deux bateaux roumains ("Transilvania" et "Basarabia"), se trouvant actuellement à Istamboul et destinés à leur transport. Il semble aussi que le Gouvernement des Etats Unis se serait déclaré prêt, afin d'assurer ce transport, de mettre à disposition trois bateaux américains se trouvant également à Istamboul. Si les négociations à ce sujet n'ont pas abouti, il y a lieu de préciser que le Gouvernement roumain n'est aucunement responsable, les autres belligérents dans la Mer Noire n'ayant pas encore accordé les sauf-conduits nécessaires.

Par ailleurs, le 24 mars 1944, un bateau a pu quitter le port de Constantza, ayant à bord environ 500 minoritaires juifs, malgré l'opposition formelle des autorités militaires allemandes.

Tous ces faits, réalisés avec le concours du Comité de Genève de la Croix Rouge Internationale, peuvent d'ailleurs être confirmés par ce Comité.

Enfin, pour illustrer l'attitude générale des autorités roumaines à l'égard de ce problème, il faut ajouter aussi que dernièrement, grâce à une intervention de la Légation de Roumanie en France, plusieurs milliers de Juifs originaires de Roumanie, qui étaient internés en France et sur le point d'être déportés en Allemagne, purent être remis en liberté et partir pour la Roumanie où ils arrivèrent sains et saufs, il y a peu de temps.

Quant aux réfugiés appartenant à d'autres nationalités, il y a lieu de rappeler le traitement que les autorités roumaines ont réservé et continuent d'appliquer aux réfugiés polonais sur son territoire, lesquels reçoivent chacun quotidiennement une aide financière, possèdent plusieurs écoles de langue polonaise et peuvent s'adonner librement à l'exercice de leurs professions.

(Enclosure No. 2 to despatch No. 8209, May 18, 1944, from Am ican Legation, Bern, Swit land)

TRANSLATION

Concerning the treatment of the Jewish minority and of the refugees of various nationalities, it should be noted that the Rumanian authorities have never tolerated and even ordered deportation of members of the Jewish minority in Rumania to Poland or to any other foreign country.

The only members of the said minority who have been subjected to a measure calling for a collective change of domicile - incidentally quite a temporary measure - are the members of the Jewish minorities of Bessarabia and of the Department of Dorohoi (North Moldavia) which, as a result of the military operations, was attached to the military administration of Bukovina.

In fact, those districts being in the zone of military operations and the presence of members of said minority constituting a danger for the safety of such operations, the Rumanian military authorities found themselves compelled to order their removal. But, even then, the members of those minorities were transferred to Transnistria (territory extending between the Dniestr and the Boug), which was not under German administration but under Rumanian administration.

The Jews of the Dorohoi Department, moreover, only remained there for a short period, the Rumanian Government having taken measures to repatriate them to that Department. Thus, the members of the Jewish minority of the Department of Dorohoi have been put back under the general regime applying to the Jewish minority over all the territory of the Kingdom which has not been a zone of military operations, that is to say, that excepting certain restrictions concerning property, the members of the Jewish minority enjoy, over the whole territory, the same status as other Rumanian citizens and may even engage in their economic activities.

There are very few members of the Jewish minority in the remainder of the territory of the Kingdom who have been the object of an <u>individual measure</u> of deportation - <u>and always to Transnistria under Rumanian administration</u> - by virtue of sanctions in cases of economic sabotage or financial speculations of which individuals of this category had been guilty. Later on, these individuals were almost all repatriated to Rumania. It is perhaps not out of place to add that, in most of the belligerent countries, offenses of this kind are punishable by death.

As for the members of the Jewish minority transported into Transnistria, following an intervention of the International Red Cross, 5000 children (boys and girls up to the age of sixteen) obtained authorization from the Rumanian Government to be transferred to Turkey. To this end, they were brought back into Rumanian territory and approximately three thousand of them have already crossed the Rumanian-Bulgarian border on their way to Turkey.

Concerning the other members of the Jewish minority transferred to Transnistria, the Rumanian authorities decided, about three weeks ago, to repatriate them into

Rumanian

Rumanian territory, in view of their eventual transportation to the Near East. Towards this end, those authorities are negotiating at present with the International Committee of the Red Cross which proposes to charter two Rumanian ships ("Transilvania" and "Basarabia") at present at Istanbul and intended for their transportation. It appears also that the Government of the United States had declared its readiness, in order to effect this transportation, to make available the use of three American ships now also at Istanbul. If the negotiations to that effect have failed, it should be emphasized that the Rumanian Government is in no way responsible, the other belligerents bordering the Black Sea not having as yet granted the necessary safe-conducts.

On the other hand, on March 24, 1944, a ship was able to leave Constantza having on board 500 members of the Jewish minority, notwithstanding the formal opposition of the German military authorities.

All those accomplishments, carried out with the help of the Geneva Committee of the International Red Cross, may moreover be vouched for by that Committee.

Finally, to illustrate the general attitude of the Rumanian authorities towards this problem, it should be added that, recently, thanks to an intervention by the Rumanian Legation in France, several thousand Jews of Rumanian origin who were interned in France and on the verge of being deported to Germany, were set at liberty and enabled to leave for Rumania where they arrived safe and sound a short time ago.

As for refugees of other nationalities, it should be recalled how the Polish refugees in Rumania are treated by the Rumanian authorities; they receive financial aid daily, operate several schools where teaching is in the Polish language and may freely perform their professional activities.

---

1 - Punyman
①

CON COPY

War, Treasury Bd.
Mr Pehle

File

AMT-163

PLAIN

Bern

Dated March 23, 1944

Rec'd 5:30 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

MAR 24 1944

1781, Twenty-third.

Bucharest despatch reports all Jews born Bucharest 1889/1900 ordered by Defense Ministry register for special military labor service with noncompliance therewith subject punishment by military courts.

HARRISON

JRL

MEMORANDUM ON RESCUE OF ROUMANIAN JEWS

At the close of the first World War, Roumanian territory was increased from 53,429 square miles to 122,282 square miles and its population from 7,500,000 to 16,000,000 people. To Old Roumania was added Transylvania, Bessarabia and Bukovina; it retained Southern Dobrudja. Before 1918 its Jewish population numbered approximately 300,000. With acquisition of the new territory, the Jewish population increased. Under the terms of the Treaty with Roumania (December 9, 1919), Roumania undertook to recognize as Roumainan Nationals ipso facto and without the requirement of any formality, Jews inhabiting any Roumanian territory who did not possess another nationality (Article 7). Although this Treaty was duly ratified, the guarantee contained therein was not incorporated in the Roumanian Constitution with the result that the expectations of the framers of the Treaty were never realized. The decrees of successive governments gradually whittled away the political, economic and civil rights of the Jews in Roumania and the Jews were never afforded equality with the other inhabitants living in Roumania.

A census taken by the Police Authorities in 1924 showed a total of 796,000 Jews in Greater Roumania, 230,000 in Old Roumania, 238,000 in Bessarabia, 128,000 in Bukovina, and 200,000 in Transylvania. The official census taken in 1930 showed 756,930 Jewish inhabitants, of this number 264,038 were residents of Old Roumania, 206,958 of Bessarabia, 93,101 of Bukovina and 192,833 of Transylvania. Although the official census of 1930 showed a decline in the number of Jewish inhabitants, this was due to the desire of the Roumanian authorities to lessen the importance of minorities residing in the country.

At the outbreak of the present conflict in 1939, the Jewish population of Roumania numbering approximately 850,000 was distributed as follows: 300,000 in Old Roumania, and Dobrudja; 330,000 in Bessarabia and Bukovina, 220,000 in Transylvania and the Banat Region.

On June 29, 1940 Roumania lost Bessarabia and Northern Bukovina to Russia; on August 21, 1940 Bulgaria obtained Southern Dobrudja and on August 31, 1940 Hungary acquired Transylvania. These changed in the territorial status of Roumania reduced her territory to 70,000 square miles and her people to approximately 12 to 13 million including about 450,000 to 475,000 Jews. Of this number 275,000 lived in Old Roumania and the balance in Bukovina.

On June 22, 1941 Roumania and her Axis partner, Germany, invaded Russia and reconquered Bessarabia and Northern Bukovina. Many of the Jewish inhabitants of that territory retreated with the Russians. In September of 1941 the Antenescu Government set up ghettos in Cernauti and Kishinev to which Jews from Bukovina and Bessarabia were sent.

In October of 1941 the Roumanian Government decreed that all Jews residing in Bukovina and Bessarabia be immediately sent to Transnistria, the newly acquired territory lying between the Bug and Dneister Rivers. This order was also applied to Jewish natives of Bukovina and Bessarabia then residing in the Old Kingdom. The leaders of the Jewish communities protested against this expulsion order without avail. This order of expulsion was applied to the Jews of the provinces in spite of the fact that their rights as citizens of Roumania had been recognized by the decree #793 of

September 3, 1941. Some 200,000 women and children were affected by this order. All of the Jews then residing in Bessarabia were shipped to Transnistria and out of the entire Jewish population of Bukovina only 16,000 were allowed to remain in Cernauti. The deportees were compelled to leave their homes on three hours notice and the vast majority of them traveled on foot. Many were packed in box cars without air or light. Eye witness accounts stated that the roads were lined with corpses and when the box cars were opened, only a few survived the ordeal.

The exerpts from the following letter reaching this country from Moghilev vividly describes the plight and suffering of these people:

> "Our Golgotha started the first of November. We left Cernautzi at sundown, 50 men jampacked in each cattle car, and arrived Sunday at 3 o'clock in .... The train stopped six miles from the station and we were ordered to leave the cars with our luggage within five minutes. The soldiers shouted and cursed at us. Next to the track there was a ditch filled with mud and soft dirt. We had to cross this ditch crouching on all fours with the luggage on our backs. We were all covered with mud while helping each other to get across. I could not possibly carry my Mother to the other side so I looked for an easier spot to cross. But a guard came after me and hit me twice on the head with the butt of his rifle. I was too weakened after this to take my luggage and had to leave it to the prey of the guards.
>
> We had to walk about six miles to reach our destination. So tired and footsore were we that soon we began to drop our belongings, which were picked up by the soldiers. No doubt, this was the purpose of removing us from the train. Many collapsed from exhaustion on the road while the guards were whipping them. None of us could help, in the first place because we were not permitted to, and secondly, because we were all too worn out to do anything. Finally, we arrived in a locality. On one side of the road a military band intoned funeral marches and on the other amused soldiers fired salvos. This was supposed to be funny and the more scared and tired we looked the more

fun they had. When we arrived we were completely penniless. Even our documents were taken away when we were searched before our departure.

Arriving in the locality a corporal addressed us and announced that the aged and children would remain behind on the road while the young and healthy people would have to march 100 miles to the Bug river where the concentration camp was located. But we found out after we arrived there that even this was not our last stop. We had to march further and closer to the Dniester. While marching during the night our knapsacks were cut from our shoulders by "unidentified" persons. Thus we lost the last remnants of our property.

Arriving at the river we had to stand on a marshy terrain from 7 P M until 3 A M in order to cross on a ferry to Moghilev. At 2 o'clock the soldiers started to search us again for any personal treasures we may have clung to. On the ferry we were searched again by other guards and what their fillow soldiers forgot to take were taken by them. When I was stripped to my last shirt a soldier came to me and tried to find more things on me. He became so angry when he could find nothing that he beat me. Women and children were not treated better. When the guards could find nothing else on one woman, they knocked her gold teeth out.

The concentration camps in Moghilev were filled to capacity, so we were left to our own destiny. This seemed to us in the beginning a fortunate turn, but later we found out it was not. Moghilev suffered heavily from the bombardment and the flood. The Dniester flooded the city completely and the houses stood in water. We went out to find living quarters but only found a house without doors or windows. After cleaning away some of the mud, we nailed planks over the holes. We fixed stoves out of tin, but they produced more smoke than warmth. We almost suffocated and could not see for the smoke and soot, but we had to keep on heating the house against the cold winds which swept through it. We slept on the floor, newspapers and what clothing was left to us our only protection against the bitter cold. There were no bathing accomodations whatsoever. We did not even possess a bucket to wash in, nor was there anything to be found in the city. For six weeks we did not take off our clothes, and most of us are now covered with lice. Lavatories are unknown here and the streets and fields are covered with human excretion.

Epidemics and the cold have taken a high toll in our ranks. Our first thought after a week's stay was to

commit suicide, but our women urged us to wait for better days; I do not know whether we should be thankful for that.

In the Moghilev area, Tiraspol excepted, there are 70,000 Jews. According to reliable sources 25 per cent died since their internment. The problem of these Jews will be easily solved if no help comes soon. But I think this is the aim of our oppressors.

I could write much more and of much worse things, but I think this account will do in awakening the conscience of our fellow Jews who live under better conditions and are able to help." (The Record, Vol. IV - No. 5, June 1942)

Some 20,000 never reached Transnistria alive. Those that survived the trip faced hardships, unsanitary housing conditions, lack of food, clothing and medical supplies. The Russians, before retreating from this area, had razed all houses and destroyed all crops. The Roumanian Government excluded or prevented the sending of outside help, under penalty of death. All able-bodied men were put to work at forced labor in quarries and the erection of fortifications. During the winter of 1941-1942, many thousands died from disease and starvation. According to the Krakauer Zeiting of August 13, 1942, of the original deportees sent to that territory, only 65,000 Jews were alive at that time.

In January of 1943 the Roumanian Government permitted a Roumanian Jewish Representative Committee to visit the various ghettos and labor camps of Transnistria. They spent several months visiting the different towns and villages. The report which reached this country in December of 1943 depicts deplorable and horrible conditions facing the still surviving Jews of Transnistria. The Committee reported on 21 communities. The situation throughout was the same. Little food, crowded housing conditions, lack of medicines and supplies and a tre-

mendous shortage of clothing. The committees report on Moghilau is typical of the other communities.

> "On January 7th the Commission arrived in Moghilau. In the three orphanages of Moghilau are 900 children between the ages of 2 and 16 years. Most of these children are without clothes. The Commission found them all in bed (four to six in a single bed) "Under hygienic conditions which leave much to be desired." In the hospital for contagious diseases there are 63 patients, 27 of whom have spot-typhoid. The superintendent and the physician made it clear to the Commission that their food is neither sufficient nor nutritious; this is especially true of the convalescents.
>
> The iron works function normally. Together with the electric works and the nail factory they employ about 500 workers. The work is being conducted under the management of the Transnistria governmental authorities.
>
> The city has about 15,000 Jews, 12,000 of whom are deportees and the rest native residents. The canteen, for lack of funds, has not been functioning since September 1942. The orphanages as well as the hospital suffer from an acute shortage of many articles. The polyclinic does not function."

The advance of the victorious Russian armies brought a new menace to the inhabitants of Transnistria--extermination by the retreating Germans. Stories of similar acts of barbarism had followed each village or town evacuated by the Germans. The fate of the Jews of Kiev, Kharkov and Smolensk are well known. There was no reason to suspect that Roumanian Jews in Transnistria would fare a better fate. As a matter of fact Roumania's leading Anti-Semitic newspaper, "Porunca Vremii" openly boasted in its editorial that "Not a single Jew would be left alive in the territory from which the German and Roumanian troops will be forced to withdraw," according to a Zurich report of January 11, 1944.

Alarming reports and urgent pleas reached this country from abroad in November and December of 1943 to save these people before it was too late. These reports indicated that only 50,000 Jews

were still alive. At that time the fighting was some 150 miles from Transnistria. Today only a few miles separate these people from the retreating German army across the Bug River. Transnistria, situated between the Bug and Dneister Rivers on the East and West and Odessa and the Southeastern tip of Poland on the North and South, lies in the direct path of the advancing Russians.

In November of 1943 the Antonescu Government announced that Roumanian Jews would be permitted to return to Roumania. An agreement was reached between the Government and Jewish Central Office in Bucharest with regard to the repatriation of deported Roumanian Jews from Transnistria, the terms of which provided:

1. The Roumanian Government puts at the disposal of the Jewish Central Office ten trucks for transportation of Jews from Transnistria, but the Jewish organization is to pay for each person the cost of a third-class railway ticket.

2. Each Jew permitted to return from exile in Transnistria must apply for an identification card within three days after his return. A sum from 150,000 to 800,000 lei which is equal to $1050 to $5000 at pre-war exchange rates must be paid in for each such card in advance by the Jewish Central Office.

3. The Jewish Central Office is to supply clothes for every returning Jewish deportee prior to his leaving Transnistria for his home town.

4. The Roumanian Government guarantees to each returning Jew personal security. This apparently includes also a guarantee that he will not be molested by Gestapo officials in Roumania.

5. The Jewish Central Office undertakes to pay immediately the arrears of the special tax imposed upon Jews in 1943 in addition

to 4,500,00 lei which are to go on the account of the same tax for 1944.

The Jewish people still residing in Old Roumania estimated to number 270,000 as of July 1943 are not in a position to care for the needs of those repatriated from Transnistria or to meet the conditions of the "ransom."

In January 1942, Jews were ordered to surrender quotas of warm clothing and blankets to the army, which was then experiencing the rigors of the winter campaign in Russia. This tribute was to be collected through the Central Office, each contribution being measured in proportion to gross income. Failure to deliver was punishable by five years' imprisonment and a heavy fine. Jews who did not possess the fixed quotas of clothing were ordered by a decree, published on January 21st, to pay cash equivalent for each article, the amounts ranging from 800 lei for a cap to 10,000 lei for an overcoat. According to the Zurich "Volksrecht" of August 8, 1942, the Jews of Bucharest were forced to deliver 1,538,000 articles of wearing apparel. The same newspaper also reported that of the 98,000 Jews of Bucharest, 28,177 were then engaged in forced labor and that of all Jewish males in Roumania between 18 and 50, only 17,000 were still exempt from forced labor because of the specialized skilled work which they performed. The latter group, whose number has steadily decreased, was taxed to the tune of 1,200,000,000 lei (nearly $3,000,000). The Jewish population was also compelled to subscribe heavily to the Roumanian war loan, and was ordered to pay a collective punitive tax of four billion lei ($28,000,000) by December 31, 1943, under pain of deportation to Transnistria.

Numerous other decrees enacted by the Antonescu Government deprived Jews of the right to own land, business enterprises or any interest in them. All rural property was confiscated by the State and all businesses "Rumanized." Jews were compelled to dispose of their businesses to Roumania.

While the situation of those Jews who are still residing in Roumania is not as grave as that of the deportees, they nevertheless are in constant danger of deportation and were deprived of their right to earn a livelihood. The practice of medicine, law and the other professions was denied to Jews by decrees of even longer standing.

Since November of 1943 when the Roumanian Government first announced its intention to repatriate the Jews from Transnistria until the present date only 6,400 men and women including 400 children have actually reached Bucharest.

The International Red Cross had received permission to distribute food and medical supplies to the inhabitants of Transnistria. In this connection, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee obtained a license from the Treasury Department to transmit $100,000 for the purchase of food and medical supplies in Turkey which was to be made available to the representatives of the International Red Cross. This amount, however, is inadequate to supply the urgent need.

At least an additional $200,000 is needed to feed those still remaining in Transnistria. Perhaps the saddest plight is that of some 5000 orphans last reported to be in Transnistria. The International Red Cross in a report from Geneva dated October 12, 1943 stated that Jewish children from Transnistria had been assembled

in Odessa with a view to their potential emigration to Palestine. The same report adds that the International Red Cross was reluctant to transport these children because of the difficulty of finding appropriate ships. No doubt the representatives recall the sad and tragic experience of the 768 men, women and children who lost their lives when the "STRUMA" sank off the shores of Turkey on February 24, 1942, after the passengers had been refused permission to disembark because visas to Palestine were refused them by the British authorities.

According to a recent report the rescue of several thousand Jewish children may be realized because a Turkish ship may soon be placed at the disposal of relief agencies for the purpose of transporting these children.

The following program of action which is listed in order of importance, is strongly urged:

1. The immediate repatriation to Roumania of all Jews still inhabiting Transnistria.

2. The immediate emigration of all Jewish children from Transnistria to Palestine or other places of haven and refuge.

3. The sending of food, clothing and medical supplies to the inhabitants of Transnistria and other localities in Roumania proper wherever needed. (Since it is difficult to obtain clothing in Turkey for shipment to Roumania, provisions should be made for the transport of such clothing from this country.)

4. The removal of as many Jews as possible from Roumania proper to other places of temporary haven and refuge thus withdrawing them from the danger of further oppressive measures on the part of the Antonescu Government.

5. Representations by neutral governments to the Roumanian Government; that it safeguard the lives of those Jewish inhabitants still resident in Roumania and discontinue the oppressive measures against them.

The individual members and organizations affiliated with the United Roumanian Jews of America pledge their utmost support and cooperation to the fullfilment of the above program.

Respectfully Submitted,

UNITED ROUMANIAN JEWS OF AMERICA

CHARLES SONNENREICH,
President.

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