

Measures Taken to Suppress Halting Persecution Bulgaria, Folder 1

1045

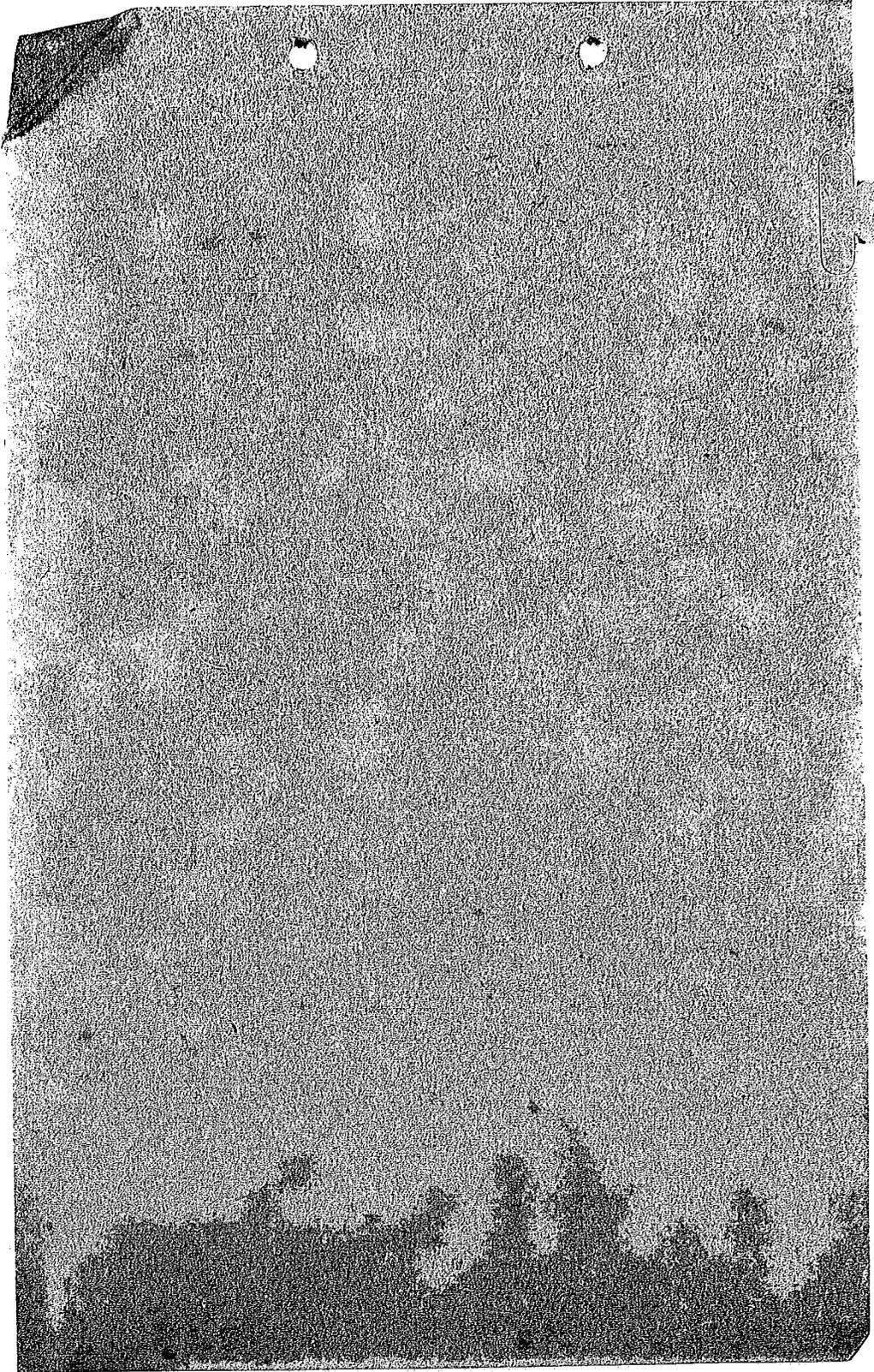
BULGARIA

1. BULGARIA
2. M. BALABANOFF - BULGARIAN MINISTER TO TURKEY

(MATERIAL IN THIS FILE, SENT FROM WRE OFFICE IN TURKEY)

WAR REFUGEE BOARD RECORDS

1045



045

Ben

1045

Istanbul, February 17, 1945

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

I have been informed that a group of Americans in Istanbul have collected among themselves a quantity of used clothing for needy people in Bulgaria. Because of the reported great need of clothing by the people in that country, this American group has taken this step as their contribution toward the amelioration of the present difficult situation in that country. Naturally, in order to make this desire effective, I am informed, it is necessary that they have an export license in order to ship this clothing to Bulgaria. I am advised that if an export tax must be paid, this group is prepared to meet it.

I am presenting the information to you as I have it. I am sure that it would be regarded as most helpful if the Embassy were to apply for an export license in order that these clothes might be shipped.

If there is any more information required, it can be secured from Mr. Joseph Levy of the New York Times, in Istanbul, who has this matter in hand.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

Herbert Katzki

Honorable Laurence A. Steinhardt  
Ambassador to Turkey  
American Embassy  
Ankara

HK:VH

1045

CONSISTOIRE CENTRAL  
des  
JUIFS EN BULGARIE

Sofia, ..... 194

No 1897

Dear Mr. Katzky,

our delegation has returned and has reported about their discussion with you, as well as about your readiness to assist our Jewish countrymen, who had to go through many hardships, as much as possible.

In this letter we include an account of the situation of the Jews in Bulgaria, as well as a list of the necessary materials.

We take the liberty to assert what our vicepresident has spoken to you, namely that the Bulgarian Government promise to give their assistance; the Government, however, are in such difficult position since the Fascist regime that they can help very little not only us Jews, but also the Bulgarian Nation itself! Therefore any help given from a foreign country to our Jewish fellowcountrymen, whose financial position is fallen to a quite low standard, will be of great importance, and also gratefully welcomed.

We hope that with your assistance and agitation among the Jewish society in America we shall receive the necessary help. These subsidies we are willing to receive in form of a loan, which we shall pay back as soon as the financial situation of the Jews here has improved.

Besides it is necessary that credit institutions with foreign capitals be founded in our country, which are to give again the possibility of work to our artisans and merchants, since they have lost all their savings and merchandises. These last cannot be found nowadays throughout the country, even at a high price.

We shall send you documents for all this, which will be shown in front of the National Law Courts!

We hope that the relations which we shall establish with your help, will be of great importance for the Bulgarian Jews. Awaiting a soon answer which we shall gladly read, we are

Sincerely yours,



CONSISTOIRE CENTRAL  
des  
JUIFS EN BULGARIE

Sofia, ..... 194

No. ....  
The total number of Jews in Bulgaria amounts to 47000, of which half inhabit Sofia. As you certainly know, they have been sent away from the capital in May 1943, in regard to be sent further to Poland. This last could fortunately not happen, thanks to a disapproving public opinion, which in spite of the fascist regime, was able to bring through her voice. The Jews of Sofia were concentrated in about twenty provincial towns. At that time one could see the unfortunate Jews from Sofia (ab. 25000) sell their small property which had remained after the spoliations of the fascist laws, in order to leave the city, in which their families had lived for centuries. The peasants from the environments came to buy things at a low price from the Jewish houses. The Jews being in need, exhibited their few things in front of their houses and on the streets, in order to get some money and to part into an unknown future. Others who still had some furniture, were not able to sell them during the three days given them before parting, left them to persons who promised to take care of them. A great part was stolen in consequence, the rest sold at exceedingly low prices. The Jews arrived at the provincial towns, deprived of everything, and therefore had to get their food from common kitchens, living here and there. Now they have to return, in order to begin again a somewhat normal life and to reestablish their former occupations and find ways and means of existing in their native city. The province was altogether strange and unknown to them. Here in Sofia they find their homes either looted or demolished by the bombardments. Neither the tradesman nor the artisans are able to begin working.

The Jews from the provinces, likewise, have suffered greatly under the antisemitic laws. Deprived of their goods, hindered to exercise their professions they had the only advantage, not to have been pushed out of their homes.

Up to September 9th 1944, the day of the arrival of the new Antifascist Government - the National Front, The Jews were distributed in the different towns as follows:

1. Lovdiz	6200	11. Vratza	1500	21. Provadia	473
2. Russe	5000	12. Kasgrad	1124	22. Berkovitza	450
3. Kustendil	3800	13. Yambil	1100	23. Tshirpan	427
4. Pleven	3300	24. Lom	1050	24. Novi Basar	406

5. Vidin	2634	15. Targoviste	9886	25. Nova Sagora	367
6. Shoumen	2613	16. Bourgas	898	26. Dobritch	334
7. Pazardjik	2488	17. Karnobat	805	27. Sofia	300
8. Dupnitsa	2350	18. Sliven	708	28. Bela Slatina	265
9. Haskovo	1694	19. Samokov	584	29. Lukovit	260
10. Ferdinand	1516	20. Gorna Djumaja	539	Other places	2850
	37603		40837		43959

After the 9th September, the Jews of the capital, naturally, try to return to their homes in Sofia. This very moment it is difficult to determine exactly the number of those who have already returned. This returning has not yet ceased. It still continues. The means of transport are most of all occupied for military needs and it is quite difficult to travel, so the returning of the Jews is accompanied by many difficulties. Nevertheless the number of Jews in Sofia increases every day.

The Jews in Bulgaria are Bulgarian citizen in their majority. The foreign citizen among them are only 1075 (25. 8. 1943), of which most were Spanish (211). The first Italians (146), Greek (130), Turks (125) etc.

Having the number of those Jews who took their food from the common kitchens, we reckon the number of those in great need (without any means of existence) to be at least about 10000.

In order to help those in need as well as a great part of small merchants and artisans, we think that a distribution of clothing and money will be necessary. We are sure that the big organisations which have chosen you to undertake this anxious, will find ways and means to send the necessary sums of money which will help the greatest part possible of Jews in the country.

Concerning the question of an efficient control, we take the liberty to inform you that the Jews in Bulgaria are organized in communities, which are under the control of the Central Consistorium in Sofia. It is natural that the distribution in the different communities will be done under the control of the Central Consistorium. The members of the Consistorium are chosen by the minister of inner affairs. We hope that the Consistorium is a sufficient assurance for all control exercised by it.

ЦЕНТРАЛНА КОНСИСТОРИЈА НА ЕВРЕИТЕ ВЪ БЪЛГАРИЯ

ПРИБИТИ  
1944  
541



Dr. J. Golden - адет пара Мирама  
апр. 10/44  
(при М. Катеру)

№ \_\_\_\_\_

София гр. Istanbul

1045

116616

January 10, 1945

to Judah Bernis and Cordell Bessler from Courvoisier.

relative to relief for Bulgaria and 30,000 pairs of shoes for  
Yugoslavia and/or Bulgaria.

116616

Col. Avram Tadjer =  
Lea Mevorach = PO =  
Vitali Kaniyoff = 30 =  
Mando Pallaminoff = Comm. - Cms. 1 =  
Iatqwe Nissimoff = Capt. Secret Service  
C. W. Tadjer = married doctor not tied up quite heavily  
Soyan Goldmann = Eric Seely =

file  
Purgaria

Committee on Sopa for  
distributing J.D. stuff

Translation

January 30, 1945

Broadcasts Received in Bulgarian

18:30

Sofia

352.9M

The Relief Committee of the city (Sofia) had its first public meeting at the House of the Jewish People, at which time Mr. Laliu Chirkov spoke on the subject of: The meaning and importance of the relief movement.

The speaker, after having described the struggle that the relief organization carried on illegally for more than 20 years, read a report of the activities undertaken from the 9th of September to the 1st of January, 1945.

Up to the latter date was collected the sum of 37,992,638 levas. Of this sum, 1,230 families of partisans received a sum total of 5,700,000 levas. 830 families of prisoners in the camps of concentration (political prisoners) received the sum total of 3,470,000 levas. 420 families of soldiers received the sum of 16,000,000 levas, etc.

\*\*\*\*\*

1046

Translation

January 25, 1945

Broadcasts Received in Bulgarian

06:45 GMT

Sofia

353:00 M

The address to the Judges, made by the National Attorney General of the National Court, Georgi Petroff, concerned the second cabinet of Bogdan Filoff, which was composed as follows:

Bogdan Filoff	President
Gabrovsky	Minister of Interior
Bojiloff	Minister of Finances
Vassileff	Minister of Public Lands

(The above also participated in the first Filoff cabinet.)

Yotsoff	Minister of Public Instruction
Partoff	Minister of Justice
General Mihoff	Minister of War
Radoslavoff	

The Attorney General accused the second Filoff cabinet of having continued the disastrous policies of the first Filoff cabinet in Bulgaria

(Follows a review of their pro-German and anti-Russian policies, in spite of German reverses at the hands of the Russians.)

The Minister of Interior, Gabrovsky, was the instigator of mass internments. From the time when General Loukoff was killed, he insinuated the idea of pursuing the Communists. Mass arrests were effected and more than 1,600 persons, men and women were sent to concentration camps. According to the diary of Filoff, the assassinations of Panteff and Sotir Yaneff had nothing to do with the Communists. There was then in Bulgaria a social movement under the aegis of Zancoff, and General Loukoff, Panteff and Sotiroff, attracted by material profits, tried to take power. In order to take preventive measures and to hinder this, a conference took place at the palace. After the assassination of General Loukoff, in order that the authorities might not be accused of it, Gabrovsky spread the idea of attributing it to the Communists, Free Masons and Jews. According to the testimony of Hristo Petroff, General Loukoff was the victim of the deceased King Boris. It was the same as to Panteff and Sotir Yaneff, and the Communists had nothing to do with it. Furthermore, it is necessary to recall the accusation, made by General Loukoff in a speech, against the King and his Government during a meeting of the Sobranie in ..... Then Gabrovsky re-enforced the sanctions against the Jews, Communists and ..... Minister Gabrovsky must suffer the penalties of the responsibilities incumbent upon him. Gabrovsky, in order to safeguard the honor of the King and the Government, proposed the introduction of the following:

- a) A campaign of extreme severity to be undertaken against the Communists, Jews and Free Masons;
- b) Promulgation of a regard to be given to the one who would point out the assassin of General Loukoff; and
- c) Formation of a leadership for the country, ready to take offense at the working class, and the elimination of all those who gave indications that they distrusted the King.

From all the foregoing it is clearly to be seen that the assassin of General Loukoff, of Chief of Police Panteff and of Sotir Yaneff, is the King and all his court camarilla. Gabrovsky continued to sustain the policies of the first Filoff cabinet, and while he was in power, gave to the nation the most of its victims.

\*\*\*\*\*  
That, said the Attorney General, is the biography of Gabrovsky.

Bogdan Filoff, in his first and second cabinets, was the first violin of pro-German politics, and toward this end he lowered himself to the status of a lackey. (Follows a description of his pro-German tendencies which cost the country dearly.) He must be called to account as provided for in the law.

Dobri Boziloff, outside of the fact that he must suffer the consequences which devolve upon his participation in the first cabinet of Filoff, must be accused of having been a fanatical source of pro-German politics. He transformed Bulgaria, through his financial and economic concessions in favor of the Germans, into a completely German colony. \*\*\*\*\*

Ing. Wassileff must suffer the consequences of his acts in the first Filoff cabinet. He was a good German follower and a great anti-Semitic. He was equally the adversary of the URSS and slandered that country during a speech which he made at Lom. He described the URSS as a country containing 160 million inhabitants living under injustice. Wassileff is a Communist renegade, who incited persecutions against the Jews, and upheld the declaration of war against the U.S.A. and England. He must suffer the consequences of his acts.

Professor Boris Yotzoff: (Follows accusations that he upheld the penal laws providing for the execution of minors; that he wished to change the Bulgarian alphabet for Latin; he gave the order that all minors who did not subscribe to pro-German, anti-national politics should be put out of doors. It was asked that he be made to suffer the consequences of his acts.)

Koto Partoff: (The National Attorney General, referring to his statements concerning Yotzoff, said that Partoff must also be held responsible, and asked that he suffer the consequences of his acts.)

1146

General Nicolas Mihoff: (He was accused of adapting himself to pro-German politics and of having been a member of the TCHETVORKA (the four) of which the president was the late King Boris. The Attorney General said that the TCHETVORKA decided the interior and exterior policies of Bulgaria, after which the approbation of the Council of Ministers was asked. It was demanded that he be held responsible for his acts.)

Nicolas Zaharieff was solidly pro-German in politics, and nothing has been shown to the contrary. He contributed to the persecution of the Jews, to anti-Bolchevic acts, and others. His contention that he was not in agreement with the pro-German policies carried on by us, cannot be admitted, because if it were true he would have resigned. On the contrary he was ambitious to become a Minister, and he paid court to the palace. (Follows quotations of certain pro-German statements made by Zaharieff.) Although he tries to show himself innocent, Zaharieff is an agitator and he should be sentenced without clemency.

Wassif Radoslavoff: (Follows the statement that although this culprit is dead, he should be judged for his collaboration with Germany.)

Gentlemen, the Judges, I have set forth for you my accusations against the second Filoff cabinet, which through its misdeeds assumed such responsibilities, prejudicing the nation, that their sentences must be rigorous and severe, without mitigation and without mercy. The members of the second Filoff cabinet must be judged according to their deeds and actions, as they deserve.

Translation

January 25, 1945

Broadcast Received in Bulgarian  
21:00 Sofia 352.9M

Speech of the Minister of Propaganda, Dino Kazasoff.

For two weeks the Government has been studying the budget of the State. It has been studying the question which is the State's greatest, most complicated and most difficult. Great, because it concerns the whole economic, cultural and administrative life of the country. Complicated, because it concerns the entire needs of the life and development of the people. Difficult, because it must be accomplished out of a heritage unbelievably heavy, left by the Fascist Government.

All the funds of the State gathered together in the course of some decades have been spent. The savings of the industrious have been transformed into a miserable nothing, because, by reason of an economic and criminal policy, all that was exported to Germany in the form of merchandise. The merchandise exported had an actual value of over 100 million Levas, and nothing that was exported can be returned to our country because Hitlerite Germany is irreparably ruined by Hitler's policies.

The food reserves at the disposal of the Bulgarian people are exhausted, reserves which the culprits before the courts of the people exported voluntarily, forcibly, or through invisible loans. The forced and voluntary loans are already known, the invisible loans were made through the agency of Treasury Bonds and the increase of banknotes in circulation, which on September 9 exceeded 50 million Levas. The increase of banknotes in circulation has reduced in value the savings of the Bulgarians which were deposited in various banks and insurance companies.

The money taken from the Jews by the Single Tax and the confiscation of their property has also been spent.

As a result, the economy of the country has been ruined and the finances of the State have collapsed.

The agents of Hitler in Bulgaria remained faithful to the saying of Louis IX sic, "After me the deluge", but the Bulgarian people, submerged at the bottom of the water but not yet drowned, must give the last vestiges of their strength to reach the shore of their salvation; and they will succeed.

They will succeed not only because they are strong and united but because the way which leads to the shore is that of a great ideal, the ideal of a Bulgaria democratic, just, independent, strong and a lover of liberty.

For the purpose of restoring its value to the Bulgarian money, the Government has decided:

- a) Set out a balanced budget based upon the actual revenues and taking into consideration the exhaustion of the people;
- b) Reduce surplus personnel;
- c) Increase the labor capacity of the remaining personnel by reinforcing discipline and by bettering their material situation;
- d) Eliminate all useless expenses in favor of increase of production, social aid, etc;
- e) Tax those persons whose real property has increased during the war;
- f) Fair taxes .....

g) Issue a new loan. The Government has just approved the law regarding this loan. According to this law, the loan will be called a "Liberty Loan". It is intended to cover extraordinary expenses of the Government imposed upon it by the criminal policies of the former Governments. The loan is open to all and bears 5.5% interest. Subscriptions will begin February 15. From that moment there must be but one desire, that subscriptions exceed the sum set for the loan, in order to reestablish the economic life of the country. Our country is exhausted by German plundering, it is deprived of absolute necessities, the people are without clothes and shoes. An enormous sum will be necessary to procure these necessities, which sum can only be raised through the generosity of the people in subscribing to the Liberty Loan. The realization of this loan will mean the realization of our economic liberty. Our generosity will prove once more the strength ..... upon which the people will erect its future economic progress.

11-3145  
Bulgaria

*file*

Translation:

January 22, 1945

Broadcasts Received in Bulgarian

15:30 GMT

Sofia

352M

Luxemburg. 22. Reuter.

The Luxemburg radio announced yesterday that General Eisenhower stated, in connection with German concentration camps, that after the liberation of the innocent who were kept there, these camps will serve for the internment of the National-Socialists arrested by the Allied authorities.

1046

Translation:

January 22, 1945

Broadcasts Received in Bulgarian

18:30

Sofia

352.9M

Internal news:

With the last two sittings, the first and second high chambers of the people's courts concluded the questioning of witnesses.

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Dr. Israel Henri made revelations concerning the horrible fate and the pogroms against the Jews during the period of the fascist terror.

Speaking of Jewish labor camps, he declared that it was not a question of obligatory labor but of black slave labor.

\*\*\*\*\*

After the questioning of Tihomir Naslednikov, Dr. Ivan Georgiev, Sava Savoy, Lt. Col. Thodor Georgiev, Col. (retired) Tadjer and Violette Pasteurmadkiewa, the witness, Georgi Kisselov, made detailed revelations concerning the missions instructed by the Government, in Turkey. In May 1943, Filov instructed Mr. Kisselov to establish contact with the English and Americans. During the conversations that he had, he was warned that if Bulgaria did not accept the conditions, she would be subject to violent bombardments.

The conditions were: Withdrawal of the military force of occupation of Yugoslavia, and the breaking of relations with Germany. When the witness announced that to Filov, the regent pogromadjii [sic] answered that there would be no bombardments. That it was a war of nerves of the allies. After the bombardments he was called anew, but this time by the Prime Minister, Bojilov, who instructed him to establish contact with the English and Americans. He succeeded in talking with the allied representatives through the mediation of Mr. Black.

The English and Americans repeated the conditions. He gave a written report upon the results of these conversations, without receiving any response. Later it was proposed to him to participate in the delegation at Cairo. The witness refused because he had the firm conviction that Bagrianov was not sincere and that he was following a criminal policy for the country.

Translation

January 19, 1945

10:00 G.M.T.

Broadcasts Received in Bulgarian  
SOFIA

353:00 M

Internal news:

\* \* \* \* \*

The first section of the national court questioned yesterday the witnesses indicated and cited by the accused.

\* \* \* \* \*

As a witness of Dorbi Bojiloff, Veurban Angheloff was questioned. He declared that in virtue of the clearing [sic] concluded by the Marshal of Finances Bojiloff, commercial transactions had to be effected only with Germany, against payment with depreciated banknotes of the Reich. He declared that on the advice of the Marshal of Finances Bojiloff, merchandise was exported by smuggling into Germany, and that even the Jews were treated as merchandise. A certain number of those of Belmorie and of Thrace were sent in sealed cars to Lublin and Cattovitz in order to be exterminated by the Germans (by the German executioners and their fellows.)

Translation:

January 15, 1945

21:00

Broadcasts received in French

352.9M

Sofia

The Jewish and Turkish minorities held their congress at Sofia these last few days. On this subject the "Rabotnitchesko Belo", organ of the communist party, wrote:

Before the Bulgarian leaders of the country is placed the important problem of attracting toward the new democratic authority all the national minorities. This will be to the advantage of the country.

The leaders of the democratic and anti-fascist forces are consolidated, and the leaders of reaction and fascism are as much limited.

The unity of the patriotic forces of all the nationalities which live in Bulgaria as minorities will become more powerful. For exactly that, the principles entirely democratic and free from all chauvinism must preside over the solution of the questions of the national minorities. Before all, it is necessary to change the laws and the legal decrees inherited from the fascist regimes, which classed the population of foreign origin as citizens of the second order.

It is indispensable to reestablish here a perfect political and economic equality. It is necessary to give to the national minorities the liberty to practice their religion and to be instructed in their mother tongue.

It is just that the state take care of the expenses of instruction, and of the construction of schools for the minorities. The local authorities who, during the fascist regimes tormented the population composed of foreign minorities, should be removed from power. It is necessary to give to this population the liberty to choose its municipal counselors.

In that which concerns the Musulman population of the Rodhopes special care will be necessary to draw it from the lamentable state of chronic famine and ignorance to which they have been abandoned during dozens of years.

It is only through the means of equality in the various cares to be given to the national minorities, and through an attitude of brotherhood with them, that we will associate them with the leadership of the country, and that we will make of them true anti-fascists and true adherents of the leadership of the country.

Translation

January 13, 1945

Broadcasts Received in Bulgarian

SOFIA

05.30 G.M.:T.

353.00 M

News from Abroad:

Haiffa 12. News that 600 Rumanian Jews have just arrived in Palestine, the parents of whom perished in Romania in the performance of labor inflicted by the Germans before the arrival of the Soviets.

10047

Translation

January 13, 1945

Broadcasts Received in Bulgarian

SOFIA

11:3- G.M.T.

353.00M

Press Review

edition

"In the fifteenth ~~copy~~ of the newspaper The Literary Front \* \* is published, under the heading "People of art before the courts of the nation", the following:

"\* \* \* Several political criminals, who ridiculed liberty, such as Bogdan Filoff, Peter Gabrovsky, Dobri Bojiloff, who deprived the nation of its liberty, of its wellbeing and even of its bread, have had to appear before the courts of the nation. \* \* \* At the query of the prosecutor if he acknowledged himself to be guilty, Bogdan Filoff, ex-representative of the dictatorship and of the regency, answered "No" in a low voice. However \* \* \* it is he who pursued the communists and it is he who treated the Jews as scorned pariahs. It is he who gave the mastery to the Germans and delivered over 13,000 Jews of Belo-Morie and of Thrace to the German murderers and executioners, it is he who accomplished with the greatest eagerness all the misdeeds. And he does not acknowledge himself as guilty. 'Then, said the prosecutor, 'Who is guilty of the third catastrophe? Surely, the Nation. 'Who is then guilty for the concentration camps, for the bloody struggles, for the seizures by force, for the heads empaled upon stakes, for the pursuit of hundreds of intellectuals, for the famine and devastation of our country?' "The times", answered Filoff in a low voice. \*\*\*\*\* At the end Filoff acknowledged that in order to guarantee Bulgaria and to avoid a German occupation, he sent to the Gauleiter of Frankfort -- Ambassador to Sofia, Bekerle, -- a letter declaring himself the friend of Hitler and the bitter enemy of bolshevism."

"Peter Gaborvsku, the reputed instigator of the concentration camps, of various plots having as an end to save Bulgaria from the anti-patriots, the one who loves the Jews and in order to save them had them deported to Poland, considering that there they would get along in comfort near their own people, this one who wishes to demonstrate his heart of an angel, also does not acknowledge himself guilty. Upon the question of the prosecutor as to why he fled to Turkey, Gabrovsky answered that he did not flee but went for a trip. Upon the question of the prosecutor as to why he had wished to go to America, he denied this, but the prosecutor drew to his attention that America refused him entrance, and that it was said to him that even if he went to America he would be claimed by Bulgaria for the purpose of bring judged, and that if Bulgaria did not fry him he would be tried as a criminal of war in America, and that following that he would be beheaded in America (that following that the Americans would hang him)."

TELEGRAM SENT

January 11, 1945

From Katzki to Judah Kagnes

Subject: Levy's recommendations as regards J.C. relief in Bulgaria.

1047

Istanbul, January 9, 1945

Dear Dr. Magnes:

By this time you will have received my two telegrams concerning the supervision and distribution of such of the shoes, clothing and medicine which the Joint Distribution Committee is attempting to purchase in Palestine for assistance to the Jewish people in Bulgaria.

In my conversation with Joe Levy upon his return from Sofia, he felt very strongly against turning over to the Consistoire the supervision and distribution of your supplies. It is for that reason that he designated an independent group which will come into action when supplies are shipped. This committee consists of Colonel Avram Tedjer, who has been one of the leaders of the Bulgarian Jews; Consistoire up to the time of its dissolution and who, I understand, is still highly regarded in Bulgaria; Leon Kevorach and Vitali Kaimoff, whose names I mentioned to you in my first wire; Mancho Kahanimoff, who is Secretary of the present Consistoire and who, in Mr. Levy's opinion, of the present Consistoire people is the most socially conscious; Jacques Nissimoff, who is independent though a member of one of the political parties; Dr. Tedjer, who has been helpful to Joe Levy in his own investigations of the situation of Jewish people, and who has no political affiliations at all; with Lazar Goldmann as secretary. Goldmann assisted Levy in a number of matters and, according to the latter, is a conscientious, energetic person. The basis for this committee to make its own investigations of the needs and requirements in various regions where Jewish people are now in Bulgaria, and to make distribution in accordance with its own findings. Levy thinks that such an independent control is a preferable procedure to follow, but that in any event the control should not be given over to the Consistoire.

Levy's description of the present situation of the Jewish people in Sofia is substantially the same as that which we have been receiving during the past several months, and with which you undoubtedly are familiar. He sees little improvement in their position today as compared with what he found last September when he was in Sofia. He emphasizes



NEWS ITEMS

Hungary, January 8, 1945

1. It is announced from Debrecen that in his last meeting the provisional Hungarian government decided the purging of the Hungarian administration. The purging will be carried out by a committee appointed by the government in collaboration with the Front for Independence. All public officials will be supervised.

BROADCASTS RECEIVED IN BULGARIAN, January 9, 1945

2. London: 9: Reuter: Churchill today had an interview with Dr. Soubachitch /proposed Foreign Minister of Yugoslavia/.  
It is extremely probable that the British Prime Minister, Mr. Churchill will shortly be received by King Peter of Yugoslavia.
3. London: 9: Reuter: The Belgian Prime Minister, Mr. Pierlot, in an interview given to the diplomatic correspondent of Reuter, declared that he will meet with Churchill and Eden, as well as with the British Minister of War Transport. The principal question to be treated is the rehabilitation of Belgium through food and raw materials. It is not a question of feeding the people of Belgium, Mr. Pierlot declared, but of feeding Belgian industry.
4. The Sofia 18:30 broadcast gave an account of the interrogation by the First Supreme Chamber of the Tribunal of the People of Hristo Vassilev, Minister of Commerce in the Bagrianov cabinet, who protested his innocence. This is part of a series of interrogations, summarized in the Sofia 21:00 broadcast. The Second Supreme Chamber of the Tribunal of the People interrogated some smaller fry, who also protested their innocence.
5. The following item is from the Sofia 13:00 broadcast:

One of the great victims of fascism in Bulgaria was the Jewish minority. Politicians without scruples, like Filov, Gabrovski, Dotcho Hristov, rushed like ferocious beasts on the defenseless Jewish minority, to please their German masters. They prepared for the Jewish people of Bulgaria the fate of their brothers in Poland, Germany, where the barbarians of the upper classes (de la classe supérieure) massacred a great number of Jews.

The Jews of Bulgaria were happy to escape a similar fate, thanks to the intervention of the democratic forces of the Bulgarian people, which did not let itself be led by the low instincts of a single minority, and thanks to the Red Army which liberated Bulgaria from the fascist yoke.

Since the 7th crt. the first free Conference of the Jewish Communities in Bulgaria and of the Committees of the National Front (?) has been taking place in Sofia. The Conference was inaugurated by the President of the Central Consistoire, Dr. Yeroham, after which Lt. Col. Jivkov saluted the Conference in the name of the Workers' Party, recalling the fight which the party carried on against fascism and

*file  
foreign*

the active part taken by the Jews in that fight.

The Conference was saluted by Beniech, representing the Jewish Community of Bulgaria. He expressed the happiness of the Jews at being able to come together freely for the Conference, in a free and democratic country.

He recalled the tragic fate of the Jews of Yugoslavia, where of 75,000 Jews there exist today not more than 12,000.

Jacques Nathan, president of the Central Committee of the National Front and President of the Central Jewish Consistoire in Bulgaria, gave a detailed report on the subject: "The National Question and the Jews". He related with great ..... the development of the national question and traced the future of the Jewish people in Bulgaria in a sincere and brotherly collaboration between Jews and Bulgarians, with a democratic regime and in a democratic organization like the National Front.

He appealed to all the Jews of Bulgaria to lend all aid necessary to accomplish the program of the National Front. He related the participation of the Jews of Bulgaria in the active fight against fascism.

The afternoon was spent in debates on the big report, and all the orators, representing the Jewish Communities of Bulgaria, approved of the report in their speeches and demanded energetic aid for the government of the National Front.

Yesterday Mr. Yaroham gave a report on the political situation of the country and of the Jews. At the same time Mr. Kayer, Secretary of the Consistoire, gave a report on the organization and the activities of the Consistoire.

He recalled the close contact which exists between the government and the Consistoire, as well as the aid received from the government.

Mati Issakova gave a report on the state of the Jewish schools, so sorely tried by fascism.

The same evening, the Jewish Community of Sofia offered a dinner to the representatives. Kosta Loultchev, speaking in the name of the Social-Democratic party and Nikolas Matev for the workers' Party, took the occasion to salute those present. The Conference is continuing.

IN REPLY REFER TO  
FILE NO.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

THE FOREIGN SERVICE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

*sent to file  
Suzara*

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL

Istanbul, Turkey,  
December 30, 1944.

Dear Mr. Katzki:

The following is a paraphrase of a telegram for you, dated December 28th, transmitted by the American Consul General in Jerusalem on behalf of Dr. Magnes:

"30,000 pairs of shoes have been ordered for Bulgaria, endeavoring to obtain export permit--warm clothing-- and hope to make first shipment in about two weeks."

*+ medical supplies*

"Would appreciate your informing Joseph Levi in Sofia and would also welcome suggestions with regard to distribution and supervision in Bulgaria. We have sent a telegram concerning transit facilities through Turkey to Foreign Relations in ETTA Red Cross."

*To Istanbul  
Abu-Land (S.D.) road*

"Please discuss with him the question of supervision and distribution and the possibility of his going to Sofia for that purpose."

Sincerely yours,

*Harry L. Troutman*

Harry L. Troutman,  
American Consul.

Herbert Katzki, Esquire,  
Misir Apt. 8,  
Beyoglu.

Translation:

December 28, 1944

Broadcasts Received in Bulgarian

18:30

Sofia

352.9M

Press Review:

The newspaper "Rabotnitchesko Delo (Workers' Cause) published today in a prominent spot an article entitled "The Tyrannies of the Hitlerites in Bulgaria," in which was said among other things:

\* \* \* \* \*

The Hitlerite of the Gestapo, Mr. Beckerle, the man with a criminal aspect, acted the master in the country as in his own establishment. He came and went from the Ministerial Council whenever it suited him.

When the Ministerial Council held session to take the dreadful decision to declare war against England and the United States, Beckerle visited the session three times to urge them to haste.

He requested the Bulgarian Government to send 20,000 Jews of Belomorje to their massacre in Poland. He menaced all the Jews of Bulgaria, but fate saved the lives of dozens of thousands of unfortunates.

Beckerle ruled without restraint in the country. His word was law to the officials. Even the Bulgarian Gauleiter, King Boris, trembled before the German Gauleiter. \* \* \* \* \*

Page:  
Date:

Translation

December 24, 1944

Broadcasts Received in Bulgarian

05.30 C.M.T.

SOFIA

353.00M

News from abroad:

London. 23. News that at Cracow the Germans have exterminated the Jews from the concentration camps. News that according to information 20,000 Jews were massacred and that at Cracow there only remain 500 Jews.

T. C.  
MÜNAKALÂT VEKÂLETİ  
P. T. T. İŞ. U. M.

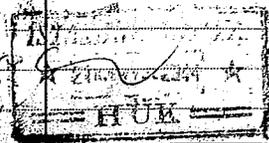
TELGRAF *57*

*file*  
(Örnek : B. 1)

Yol

Servis İşaretleri

Urgent american consulate general pour  
herbert katzeri istanbul



57 SODIY 379 60. 21. 20/301

RESMİ ORTA MERKEZ ALINDIĞI İMZA

apres avoir le permis que groupes refugees starazagora  
kazanlık continent un continent leurs depart palestine  
autorites turques recenu transport adrianopte le retournant  
switenerad stop legation anglaise promet faire necessaire  
pourquils soient admis istanbul jusqua solution definitive  
question leurs depart palestine stop avons avise dr goldin  
stop prieraire necessaire votre cote salutations =  
vitaly haimoff =

Copy of Telegram received December 22, 1944

57 sofia 379 60 21 20/30

après avoir le permis que groupes réfugiés starazagora kazanlik  
continuent leurs départ palestine autorités turques retourna  
transport adrianople le retourment svilengrad stop legation  
anglais, promet faire nécessaire nouveaux soient admis  
istanbul jusqua solution définitive question leurs départ  
palestine

vitaly kaimoff

Translation:

DECEMBER 21, 1944

BROADCASTS RECEIVED  
IN BULGARIAN

18:30

Sofia

352.9M

Report of Boris Marcoff on the second day of the sitting of the people's court.

(Extracts)

Those who advised the deceased King Boris, who prepared and rewrote his speeches, who participated in the interviews with Filo(?), who met with high-placed German personalities, who discussed interior and exterior politics of the country, who had contacts with the German spy system, today declare that they know nothing of any of that. They were only plain officials, they say, and their responses to the questions asked were vague and evasive, such as no, perhaps, probably, etc. ~~They know nothing about the hangings of patriots in Bulgaria, and they would say that they have just learned about these things.~~ They know nothing about the hangings of patriots in Bulgaria, and they would say that they have just learned about these things. Mr. Gruev only did his duty insofar as he was an official and he is as pure as crystal.

But upon the intervention of the member of the tribunal, Mr. Stefan Manoff, who said to him: "The Bulgarian people already know everything; it would be better to unburden your conscience", Mr. Gruev assumed a timorous air. He knows nothing. He knows only that the King called his brother, the Prince Cyrille, "Kiki", that Prince Cyrille had numberless debts, IOU's throughout the country and abroad which he did not pay, and nothing else.

But who then advised the choice of this prince as Regent of Bulgaria? He only shrugged his shoulders.

After the questioning of the Prime Minister of King Boris, Mr. Gruev, came the turn of his second councillor, Dr. George Handjieff, who is the second to be tried. He fulfilled the functions of head of the cabinet of the King, under the title of Minister Plenipotentiary. He denied any knowledge of the politics of the country, and although he accompanied the late King Boris upon his interview with Hitler, he knew nothing of what took place. Handjieff claimed that his principal duty was to distribute civil and military orders of merit, 66,000 of them to German officers and soldiers.

He took part in spy work in the palace, and he was in contact with Peter Perechtanoff, the hangman of the police and of the gestapo. He admitted that he had received Mr. Barkerle and other German personalities in his office, but only for friendly conversation.

Istanbul, December 21, 1944

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

I shall try to reach you on the telephone in order to give you the following facts which have been brought to my attention early this afternoon. However, I am putting them in a letter so that you will have full information.

I advised you yesterday afternoon by telephone that, according to information received in Istanbul, the Russians had granted permission for the 608 emigrants detained at Stara Zagora to proceed from Bulgaria en route to Palestine. The first group of 280 persons has arrived at Kara-Agaç, the Turkish frontier station at the Bulgarian border. I am advised that this group, comprising Hungarians, is travelling on seven collective passports. Undoubtedly, the balance of the Stara Zagora group already is en route for Turkey.

The representatives of the Jewish Agency in Istanbul called upon the British Passport Control Office here, in accordance with their usual procedure, to secure the necessary documentation for the Turkish police to the effect that Palestine entry certificates will be issued, on the basis of which the emigrants would be permitted to travel through Turkey. When they arrived there, they were told that this morning the Passport Control Office was advised by the British Embassy in Ankara that the latter, yesterday afternoon, informed the Turkish Foreign Office that the agreement which they had made with the American Embassy and the Turkish Foreign Office to issue Palestine entry certificates for any Jewish refugee, presenting himself at the Bulgarian-Turkish border, is cancelled. (I judge that at the time I spoke with you over the telephone yesterday afternoon the Embassy had not yet been informed of the action that the British Embassy proposed to take.) The Turkish Foreign Office presumably immediately notified the frontier. In any event, the 280 people are now being held at the frontier, with approximately 325 additional persons en route.

The Istanbul Passport Control Office telephoned the British Embassy in Ankara this morning and were informed that the decision to cancel the agreement had been made, and that the matter must now be decided in Jerusalem. The Passport Control Office is telegraphing Jerusalem and is requesting that the Jewish Agency there be informed at the same time.

On the basis of past experience, one cannot tell what the Turkish authorities might now do with the 280 people at Kara-Agaç, or regarding the balance of the Stara Zagora people. One cannot tell whether they will permit these people to remain in Turkish territory for the time interval necessary to secure instructions from Jerusalem, or whether they might set them back over the Bulgarian frontier. One can assume that the Bulgarians will have no interest in admitting these people to Bulgarian territory, or they may accept them and send them back to Rumania, which likewise may or may not permit these people to enter. It would seem to me that this is a perfect set-up for a "Struma" on dry land, or another of these "No man's land" situations, with which we became only too familiar several years ago.

In my opinion, the essence of the whole problem is the following: These refugees, Hungarians, Poles and Rumanians, departed from Rumania on or about November 16. They left for Palestine under an agreement given by the British, then in force, by the terms of which they had the right to expect that they would be permitted to enter Palestine, and that Turkish transit facilities would be accorded them. They left Rumania in good faith, acting under that agreement. Through no fault of their own, they were stopped in Bulgaria, the first group for almost five weeks. Under the circumstances, I think that their trip from Rumania might be regarded as an uninterrupted voyage undertaken while the British agreement was in force. I do not think that the British deliberately would want to place themselves in a position of cancelling an agreement while people are actually en route to Palestine, and to make such persons victims of a cancellation which is being enforced retroactively. Likewise, I am sure that, as a result of such cancellation, the British would not want to be the cause for the creation of a situation where emigrants travelling to Palestine are shuttled back and forth between borders, when such emigration was undertaken in good faith.

There is no question of Palestine certificates being available for these people. The Jewish Agency representatives in Istanbul control upwards of 1400 to 1500 certificates for people coming from Rumania, out of which they are ready to assign the number necessary to provide for all 608 persons. Therefore, the only question which can arise is that of the limitation of monthly admissions to Palestine of 1500. I do not think that, with good will, this difficulty, if indeed there is one, is insurmountable. These people might be sent to Palestine and held there in a camp, or any place else, for gradual release, chargeable against the 1500 monthly admissions, until such time as statistically

TO THE DIRECTOR  
OF THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD  
FROM THE AMERICAN EMBASSY  
ANKARA  
RE: 608 REFUGEES  
URGENT  
The American Embassy in Ankara has received information from the Turkish Foreign Office that the 608 refugees are being held in Turkey. It is requested that the War Refugee Board be kept advised of any developments in this matter.

these people are absorbed within existing immigration schedules. If objection is raised to this solution, perhaps the British Embassy can advise the Turkish Foreign Office that these people in due course will be admitted to Palestine, so that the 608 will be permitted to enter Turkey until the solution can be worked out. Any method which results in the gaining of time, in order to eliminate the possibility that these people will be denied admission to Turkey and perhaps returned to Bulgaria or Rumania, would be useful.

I think that, as a matter of fact, it would be well within the terms of reference of the War Refugee Board if the Board were to undertake to assure the Turkish Foreign Office that if these people are admitted to Turkey, every effort will be made to evacuate them from here at the earliest moment. There is no question in my mind that such evacuation can be effected, as the Jewish Agency representatives in Istanbul will provide the necessary Palestine emigration certificates so that the people will not permanently be held up in Turkey.

As time is of the essence in this entire matter, I wonder whether it would be possible for the Embassy to discuss the question with the British Embassy to see what steps can now be taken to assist these people in entering and travelling through Turkey, en route to Palestine. The Jewish Agency representatives in Istanbul are urgently warning all their people in Bulgaria and Rumania regarding the new situation of control for Palestine emigration and the cancellation of the general agreement concerning admission to Turkey. I think that the present situation is a unique one, arising during a transitional period, so that there is no reason to believe that this kind of emergency will arise every week. On the other hand, in my opinion, there is no reason why, during a transitional period, until everyone can be notified, in advance and not when people involved are already on one's doorstep, the 608 people should be so subjected to disadvantage. The cancellation of the British agreement without warning has just this effect.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

Herbert Katzki

Honorable Laurence A. Steinhardt  
Ambassador to Turkey  
American Embassy  
Ankara

HK:VH

0048

*might*  
P.S: The British <sup>might</sup> interpose the objection that these people should not have departed from Bulgaria until the admission of the group to Palestine had been cleared with Jerusalem, in accordance with instructions recently given. I think it might be pointed out that this group was organized and its journey begun prior to the recent changes in instructions, concerning which I informed you in the Jabotinsky matter. Moreover, these people are entering Turkey, not from Rumania, where they would have been able to wait until entry had been cleared with Jerusalem, but from Bulgaria, to which country they had arrived en route. I do not think that the British, in good conscience, could take the position that this circumstance does not alter the case, but that they should have remained in Bulgaria, even if doing so meant that they should continue to live in the railroad cars as they had been compelled to do for four or five weeks.

H.K.

Istanbul, December 12, 1944

Personal

Dear Mr. Poole:

Within the past few days, Mr. David Bengourion, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Jewish Agency of Palestine, made a trip to Bulgaria. Upon his return to Istanbul en route to Palestine, I had opportunity for speaking with him and with his assistant, who accompanied him to Bulgaria. You undoubtedly will be interested in knowing some of his first-hand observations, which I shall summarize below. Some of the matters have a direct bearing on problems in which the War Refugee Board has been interested, others, perhaps, are of more vital interest to other relief agencies, governmental and private.

1. The situation of the emigrants from Rumania who were detained at Stara Zagora--they are still there today--is as follows: At Stara Zagora there are 278 refugees. These people are for the most part Hungarians, or Slovaks and Poles from the area west of the Curzon line, who had succeeded in escaping to Hungary and subsequently made their way to Rumania. These people at Stara Zagora were especially selected in Rumania, as they came from areas which were not being claimed by the Russians, in order to avoid any difficulties which might arise from such claims. The emigrants at Kazalnik, just outside of Stara Zagora, numbering 320 persons, are for the most part real Hungarians. These likewise had been selected because of their origin in an area not subject to Russian claim.

The emigrants at Stara Zagora, with the exception of some women and children, are still living in the railroad cars in which they arrived in that city. A number of the women and children have been given shelter by the inhabitants of Stara Zagora. It should be noted that those people living in the railroad cars have been there now for almost a month.

Mr. Bengourion made inquiry in Sofia to learn what might be done in order to solve this situation. He was referred from one quarter to another, no one apparently being able to state exactly who the responsible person was to approach. Finally, however, Mr. Bengourion was told by a Russian general in charge, a General Pantscheff, that the matter can be solved only in Moscow. You might wish to consider what steps, if any, might be taken to have inquiry made in Moscow.

The retention of the emigrants at Stara Zagora has resulted in a stoppage of emigration by land from Rumania. Sofia has instructed the Bulgarian consulates in Rumania not to issue any transit visas to Rumanians, Poles, or Hungarians. If this is a result of the Stara Zagora incident, the action by Sofia can well be understood. I do not think that this instruction is something about which to become exercised at this moment, as long as the Stara Zagora group remains in Bulgaria. I think, though, that the Board may have some interest in assisting in the solution of this problem, as it affects emigration from Rumania, or at least that part of it which has to do with the movement of refugees from Hungary and Slovakia.

2. At the present time, restrictions have been placed upon emigration from Bulgaria. Until recently, although there were several sections where exit visas were not being issued, their issuance was being continued in others. Now the issuance of exit visas generally has been stopped, and those persons who are now arriving in Istanbul are those who already had had their exit permits issued or authorized. This stoppage of emigration may be only a passing phase. This sort of thing has happened before, and it is not unusual to find that regulations made one day are annulled the next.

You will recall that several months ago the Bulgarian Government stated that they will do everything in their power to facilitate the emigration of those people who desire to leave the country. One of the difficulties connected with emigration, pointed out to the Bulgarian Government at that time, was the multiplicity of documents which had to be secured before an exit permit would be granted. These documents numbered up to 13 or 15. Despite the assurance given by the Bulgarian Government, there have been no changes in the number of documents which must be secured and presented by a prospective emigrant. An absurd result of this procedure is that, for example, a six-year-old child for whom an exit permit is requested must present documents that it does not owe any money for mortgages which it has contracted, or that it owns no forest-lands in Bulgaria. At the moment, in view of the discontinuance of the issuance of exit visas, the question of documentation is perhaps somewhat academic. In due course, however, the question again will arise, and will have to be met in some way by the interested organizations.

Despite assurances which have been given and steps already taken to remove disabilities which heretofore attached to the Jewish people in Bulgaria, the desire by the Jewish people to leave the country continues. This can best be

indicated by the fact that, when Mr. Bengourion held a meeting in Sofia to discuss Palestine and emigration to that country, 7000 Jews, or over one-third of the Jewish people now in Sofia, attended the public meeting he held. The Jewish people in Bulgaria, by and large, are not satisfied that their future in that country is assured, according to Mr. Bengourion.

3. In general, living conditions in Bulgaria are bad. There is no clothing to be purchased, no shoes, no wearing apparel of any kind. The obtaining of these items is not dependent upon money. By way of illustration, one of the Bulgarian Ministers asked Mr. Bengourion to send him a pair of shoes from Palestine, not that this Minister was interested in having a pair of Palestinian shoes, but merely because he needed a pair and could not purchase any. Food, too, is scarce. The Germans have taken out of the country all cattle, fowl, sheep, anything that could be eaten. The stores in Sofia literally are without merchandise. Medicines are not to be obtained, even with money. Living conditions have become quite difficult.

Those persons most affected by the general hardship in Bulgaria are the Jews. These people for four years have been without income, have been away in forced-labor camps, were forced out of their homes, were deprived of their possessions, were unable to purchase any clothing, remained without adequate medical care.

Of the 25,000 Jews who had resided in Sofia four years ago, and who had been exiled to the provinces, between eighteen and twenty thousand have returned. When they returned to Sofia, they found that the dwellings which they had been compelled to give up were pillaged, even the windows and doors had been taken out of the houses. At the time of the bombardment of Sofia, non-Jews had moved to the Jewish quarter, to the houses taken away from the Jews, in the belief that the Jewish quarter, for some reason or other, would escape bombardment. When they left the Jewish quarter, to return to their own homes, they took with them everything that could be moved. In consequence, the Jews now returning can find none of their possessions.

Fifteen thousand of the Jews who returned to Sofia are living in the Jewish quarters of the city. They are crowded together, living two and three families in one room, the children with the old people, the well with the sick. Subject to deprivation over a long period of years, these Jews, undernourished, ill-clothed, many with no shoes or only what might

have passed for shoes a year or two ago, have no resources. Though having the right to work, they have no employment. Most of the men have been called up for military service. Their families receive the regular allowance for those whose bread-winners are in the army, but this amounts to 500 leva per month. At unofficial rates of exchange, this represents about one and one-half Turkish liras. Some idea of the purchasing power represented by 500 leva can be secured when one compares this amount, for a family, with the minimum amount one person must have in order to secure food and shelter. I have been informed by individuals from Bulgaria that one must have a minimum of six to eight thousand leva per month per person in order to have a minimum existence. The Bulgarian authorities told Mr. Bengourion that they will raise the allocation to from eight to fifteen hundred leva per month.

The group among the Jews most hard hit are, of course, the children. There are upwards of 5,000 Jewish children in Bulgaria between the ages of six and fifteen. Most of these children are residing in the Jewish quarter of Sofia, undernourished and badly clothed. Many of them are without shoes. Although the Jewish children in Bulgaria now have the right to attend the Bulgarian schools, Mr. Bengourion stated that he saw many children who could not avail themselves of this opportunity, as they had no shoes or decent clothes to wear and therefore had to remain at home.

Despite restrictions which have been placed upon emigration to Palestine, heretofore reported to you, Mr. Bengourion proposes to recommend and to take steps to make efficacious the admission into Palestine of 5,000 children from Bulgaria. He proposes also to try to purchase in Palestine 10,000 pairs of shoes for export to Bulgaria, and also a quantity of medicines based upon the list which I transmitted to you in our letter of December 8. Medicines are urgently required because of the existence of typhus in the Jewish quarter, malaria, diptheria, and other illnesses. There is no soap to be obtained in Bulgaria. As a result, it is not possible for the people in the Jewish quarter to wash themselves, to clean their clothes, and to take the necessary steps to delouse their apparel or to take elementary measures of sanitation for the crowded quarters in which they live.

4. While in Bulgaria, Mr. Bengourion learned that there are 300 Jews of Macedonia who have come out of hiding in the mountains and are now in Skopje. At this time, these are all the Jews known to be in Macedonia after the deportations which took place a year or two ago. Perhaps there are others still in hiding, but they have not yet disclosed themselves. This group in Macedonia is another which requires assistance, but

it cannot be reached from Bulgaria. Perhaps, in due course, some channel will be found through which these people can be aided.

5. From here in Istanbul, it would seem that the following inferences can be drawn regarding the Balkans. With the exception of Italy, whose political position is somewhat unique, Rumania and Bulgaria are the first two Axis countries which have been fully liberated. The Jews in these two countries have felt in full measure all the pressures and disabilities, the deportations and sufferings to which the Jewish people in Axis countries could have been subjected. In a limited sense, one might regard them as an example of what one might expect to find among the general population in other areas of Central and Eastern Europe which have been under Nazi control.

At the present time, the efforts of the Jewish people, or the Rumanian and Bulgarian Governments in their behalf, to reestablish themselves, must be regarded as an attempt to lift themselves by their own bootstraps. It cannot be done, and outside aid, in kind and in money, must be made available to aid them in their efforts.

Under the circumstances, it would seem that an early study of conditions in Rumania and Bulgaria, of problems which exist and which will arise, would be informative and profitable to some of the governmental agencies, such as the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees, the UNRRA, and others which, in due course, might be called upon to aid refugees in liberated areas which formerly were Axis. If any of them expects to give assistance, generous and immediate aid, preferably in kind, should be sent if the assistance is to do any good.

With kind personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

Herbert Katzki

Mr. J. W. Pehle, Executive Director  
War Refugee Board  
Treasury Building  
Washington 25, D. C.

HK/b

TELEGRAM SENT-

December 7, 1944

WRB 201

Subject: Need for medicaments for Bulgarian Jews urgent.

049

Istanbul, December 8, 1944

Dear Mr. Pehle:

In our telegram of December 7, we advised you of the reports which had been received in Istanbul regarding medical requirements for the Jewish people in Bulgaria. At that time we advised you that a list of urgently required drugs would be prepared in Bulgaria. This list has arrived here, and a copy thereof is enclosed herein.

The list was received by Jewish Agency representatives in Istanbul from the Jewish Agency people in Bulgaria. It was not accompanied by any information as to who made it up, or regarding the number of persons for whom medications were intended. One must assume, therefore, that it is intended for the entire needy Jewish population of the country. We have no idea, from a medical point of view, whether the list is complete or not to meet minimum requirements, nor regarding the reasonableness of the quantities mentioned. We are sure, however, that a trained person of Public Health, by examining the list, would be able to determine something of the needs for which the medications are requested, and to analyze it in terms of quantities, items requested which might be omitted, or others which should be added for a basic assortment.

You may wish to make the list available to interested agencies. The important thing is that if assistance will be given, it should go forward at the earliest possible moment.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

Herbert Katzki

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

Enclosure: List of medical supplies (see 12/4/44)

HK:VH:B

Translation

December 6, 1944

Broadcasts Received in Bulgarian

20:45

Sofia

352.9M

Geneva: 6: Tass:

It was announced from Berlin that by virtue of an order from Himmler a portion of the detachments of the Volksturm are specially trained to punish anti-Hitler activities of the foreign workmen, and to maintain order in the work camps.

The detachments of the Volksturm chosen for this purpose are hastily studying the measures against the troubling elements, and are trained under the direction of the experienced SS heads.

Thousands of members of the Volksturm are sent to the concentration camps and to the industrial enterprises, where they play the role of controllers and guardians. Special instructions were given them to act without pity against the detrimental elements.

The members of the Volksturm were told that they were free of all responsibility as to the consequences of the measures taken against the foreign workers.

\* \* \* \* \*

Interviewed by the Bulgarian journalists, Mr. Bengourion, head of the workers' movement in Palestine, who is in Sofia, made the following statement:

In two months I shall go to London and I shall explain to the English socialists that your country merits their support in resuming international relations and in its economic rehabilitation.

218111  
Bulgaria

See Reports file for  
report: Extraction Bulgaria file  
# 241 44  
Istanbul, December 5, 1944

Dear Mr. Beretta:

Please accept my thanks for your letter of  
December 1 and the copy of the report given you by  
Major Henry concerning the situation of the Jews in  
Bulgaria, as well as the copy of Professor Lands-  
berger's report on the situation of the people in  
residence assigne in Anatolia.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Herbert Katzki  
Representative  
War Refugee Board

G. Beretta, Esquire  
Delegate of the International Committee  
of the Red Cross  
32 Hadul Hakhamid Caddesi  
Kiclik Palas 3  
Istanbul

HK:VH

1049

Istanbul, 4.12.1944

O  
P  
Y

Liste de médicaments  
etc. pour la Bulgarie

1) Amidum Acide Phenyl Ethyl Barbituricum	- 20.000 tablettes
2) Acidum Phenyl Chinoline Carbonicum	- 20.000 tablettes
3) Adrénaline	- 5.000 ampoules
4) Ether pour Narcose	- 300 kgs.
5) Ethyl Morphine Hydrochloricum	- 10 "
6) Piricilline (?)	- 5.000 "
7) Antipirine	- 200 "
8) Atébrine	-300.000 tablettes
9) Novocaine	- 5 kgs.
10) Calcium Bromatum	- 100 "
11) Camphora	-100.000 ampoules
12) Calcium Lactogluconate	- 20.000 "
13) " "	- 5.000 kgs.
14) Cardiazol (benzomethylen Tetrazol)	- 10.000 ampoules
15) " " " " liquide	- 100 kgs.
16) Quinine	- 20.000 ampoules
17) "	-300.000 tablettes
18) Calcium Quinine	- 5.000 ampoules
19) Codeinum	- 5 kgs.
20) Coffeinum	- 50 "
21) Vitamines A, B, C, D, E, K.	- 50.000 ampoules et 200.000 tablettes de chaque
22) Pyramidon	- 200 kgs.
23) Digitales preparata	- 50.000 ampoules
24) Dimetine (Theobroline Natrium Salicylicum)	- 50 kgs.

25) Ephedrine Acetonine	- 5.000 ampoules
26) " "	- 20.000 tablettes
27) Glycericum	- 500 kgs.
28) Hexamethylentetramine	- 50 "
29) Insuline ampoules	- 100 "
30) Iodum purum	- 500 "
31) Lobelinum Hydrochloricum	- 5.000 ampoules
32) Morphinum preparata	- 5 kgs.
33) Neosalvarsan preparata	-200.000 ampoules
34) Olium Jecoris Alfeii (?)	- 10.000 kgs.
35) Olium Ricini	- 2.000 "
36) Phenacetine	- 200 kgs.
37) Plasmochine	- 20.000 ampoules
38) "	-300.000 tablettes
39) Santonine	- 30 kgs.
40) Sulfanamide Sulfapyridine preparata	- 20.000 ampoules
41) " " "	-800.000 tablettes
42) Torpinum Hydratum	- 100 kgs.
43) Ipeka Guanba Radici Co pulvi	- 200 "
44) Vaselinum	- 1.000 kgs.
45) Ozena Vaccina	- 1.000 flacons
46) Ramos Sifidica preparata (?)	- 10.000 ampoules
47) " " "	-300.000 tablettes
48) Hydrodenium hydrochrodiatrum Kovansis ?	- 1.000 kgs.
49) Otalgan Carbon Glycerine (?)	- 3.000 flacons
50) Leucoplaste	- 5.000 rouleaux
51) Anticlorestine (?)	- 1.000 flacons

1049

52) Vasa hydroscopica (?)

- 5.000 kgs.

S. S. et O.

- 
- 1) Toutes espèces de matériel de pansement
  - 2) Seringues injection avec aiguilles
  - 3) 20.000 paires chaussures enfants jusqu'à 17 ans
  - 4) 40.000 pièces de savon

Translation

December 1, 1944

Broadcasts Received in Bulgarian

04.15 GMT

SOFIA

353.00 M

Washington. 30. Reuter

Announcement that Messrs. Morgenthau, Hull and Stimson, are about to set up, with the aid of justifying documents, an exposé concerning the cruelties (and other acts deriving from this source) committed by the Germans in the Polish concentration camps, because of their tenet of domination in Europe and their desire to subdue the world.

J. Barnathan

December, I / 1944

Broadcasts Received in Bulgarian

05.30 G.M.T.

S O F I A

353.00 M.

La transmission fut interceptée par un très fort sifflet.

Revue de la presse.

Le journal - Izgrev - sous la mention - fin des divergences aux balkans - faisant un aperçu des causes antérieures des guerres entre les peuples balkaniques, et attribuant ceci surtout aux aspirations, mal placées, du désir, de chaque peuple du balkan, de prédomination, exprime l'espoir, qu'après tant d'expériences, épreuves et souffrances, naîtra une sagesse et prudence politique parmi les peuples du balkan, laquelle ne fera qu'assurer le bien-être des peuples du balkan.

Nouvelles internes.

Les regents ont reçu en audience Mr. Peter Todoroff - délégué à titre de représentant de la Bulgarie auprès du maréchal Tito. Également, les regents reçurent en audience l'accusateur national général - Mr. Georgi Petroff -.

Par suite d'une conférence, visant échange d'idées, laquelle aura lieu entre les dirigeants des arrondissements du parti national Zveno et ceux de Sofia, sont arrivés à Sofia les dirigeants du dit parti des arrondissements de Plewen, Wratza et Gorna Djumaya. Ils furent salués par le secrétaire général du parti Mr. Peter Pop Zlateff. Aujourd'hui sont arrivés les dirigeants du parti des arrondissements de Plovdiv et Stara-Zagora, tandis que demain est attendu l'arrivée des dirigeants des autres arrondissements. Ces dirigeants feront des exposés concernant la situation du parti dans chaque arrondissement. En cette occasion le président du parti national Zveno - le ministre-président Kimon Georgieff - dans un bref discours recommanda l'unité avec le front de la patrie, abstraction faite de tous intérêts privés ou de groupes.

Mr. Petro Perouzi - ministre du gouvernement macédonien - est arrivé pour quelques jours à Sofia.

Au 29 et 30 novembre a.c. une conference eu lieu entre les dirigeants des arrondissements de la milice nationale. Durant cette conference furent discutés des questions politiques et économiques. Il fut également delibéré sur les problemes a resoudre par rapport l'heritage laissé aux autorités du front de la patrie par les ex-regimes. Il fut fait mention des merites revenant aux milicionnaires dans l'oeuvre du 9/IX. Merites plus appréciés encore par suite que les miliciens ont continué leur tache durant 80 jours, sans etre gratifiés pour leurs peines et actions. Au deuxieme jour de la conference le ministre de l'interieur - Anton Yougoff - a souligné les mesures a prendre dans le but de porter la milice nationale a un plus haut digne degré et dans le but de stabiliser la situation des miliciens. A peine maintenant les miliciens recoivent des appointements, tandis que durant deux mois entier ils ont rempli leurs missions sans etre gratifiés, malgré cela les miliciens ont accompli en pleine conscience leur mission et ont travaillé, durant le jour et la nuit, a raison de 16 a 20 heures par jour. Actuellement la milice se compose de 8 a 10 pour cent des gens du parti des ouvriers, tandis que le reste ce sont des gens du front de la patrie. Chaque milicien veille a son poste et accomplit son devoir. Les calomnies prescrites aux miliciens sont fausses et emanent des ennemis du front de la patrie, ainsi que le nom des miliciens ne peut pas etre souillé. La milice justifie ses actions par des actes ne visant que l'affermissement et le soulèvement ( rehaussement ) des autorités du front de la patrie.

Nouvelles de l'etranger.

Belgrade. 30. Tass. Avis qu'a Belgrade fut inauguré un monument en memoire des succombés pour la liberation de Belgrade.

Londres. 30. Reuter. Avis que la visite du general De Gaulle a Moscou est une preuve du desir de la France de collaborer avec l'U.R.S.S. pour la sureté de la France et le continent européen. Suite: commentaire de la presse anglaise a ce sujet.

Londres. 30. Radio. Avis que l'offensive entreprise par

J. Barnathan

-3-

December, 1 / 1944

Le marechal Poibouhine en Hongrie se deroule favorablement et que la preuve en est dans l'ordre du jour du marechal Staline aviaant la prise de Eger - noeud ferrovier - situe a 90 kilometres au nord-est de Budapest.

Avis.

Avis qu'une delegation speciale des representants de la presse de la capitale est partie a Plovdiv, hier, pour aller a la rencontre de Mr. David Bengourion - president de l'agence juive avec siege a New-York, Londres et Jerusalem et leader de l'organisation ouvriere en Palestine. Avis que Mr. Bengourion arrivera demain a Sofia ou une rencontre solennelle lui est preparee a la gare de Sofia.

Repetition concernant l'avis pour la rehabilitation du general Zaimoff. / Reference: rapport d'hier de 20.45 GMT. de Mr. Misrahi /.

Repetition de l'avis donne a diverses reprises convoquant les consommateurs d'energie electrique de ne pas employer des accessoires electriques, comme rechauds et autres, a partir de 17 heure jusqu'a 21.30 heure durant les mois de decembre et janvier. Cet avis emane de la direction de l'electricite a Sofia.

Communication des nouveaux dons pour les combattants du front. Dons representant le montant global de Lewas 31.840.- Citation noms des donateurs et enumeration des montants separement.

12/1/44  
Bulgaria

42  
Bulgaria

Address

Mr Vitali Haymovoff

Rue Bratia Miladinovoy 36

Sofia

check on this before using it

Translation

November 30, 1944

Broadcasts received in Bulgarian

18:30                      Sofia                      352.9 M

Internal news:

The law concerning the property of the Jews has been approved by the Ministerial Council.

\* \* \* \* \*

November 30, 1944

Broadcasts received in Bulgarian

20:45                      Sofia                      352.9 M

News:

The Council of Ministers approved the legal decree for the interpretation of article 16 of the legal decree for the regulation of the problem of housing, in this sense, that from tomorrow onward there must be given up by the tenants those houses that, belonging to Jews, the latter have occupied previously. If the Jewish owner did not occupy such a house, but had rented it to others, these houses are not to be given up by the tenants.

\* \* \* \* \*

November 29, 1944

BALKAN NEWS AND PROPAGANDA

BULGARIA

The Directorate of State Domains has announced that after a period of thirty days, Jewish citizens will be able to take possession of their own houses in which they lived before the application of the racial law. The new law, however, does not include stores, offices, depots, studios, etc., whose present occupants may continue in possession until the end of their contracts.

Translation

November 28, 1944

BROADCASTS RECEIVED IN BULGARIAN

SOFIA

13:00 GMT, Sofia.

Allied  
Information from the/Control Commission given in the form of dictation. Editors of the newspapers are asked to publish it tomorrow morning in their papers. The weekly issues must print it in their next issue.

The Allied Control Commission announces that all citizens of the Soviet Union, who during the present war were in Bulgarian territory (those who fled the Germans, those who were taken by force by the Germans away from Soviet territory, or those who for any reason whatever are in Bulgarian territory) must present themselves without delay in order to be registered by the Allied Control Commission so that they can return to their country.

For this registration, it is absolutely necessary that the individual either present himself in person or that he advise in writing the place where he is presently located.

Registration must be made at the following address:  
Sofia, the National Bank, Allied Control Commission.

TELEGRAM SENT

Nov. 28, 1944

11/28/44  
Bulgaria

WRB 191

Subject: Difficulties at Stara Zagora. Suggestions for solving  
the difficulties with military and Russians.

TELEGRAM SENT

112444  
Bulgaria  
Nov. 27, 1944

WRB 192

Subject: Difficulties in Bulgaria. Advisability of Katzki  
proceeding to Rumania and Bulgaria for personal exploration  
of possibilities.

██████████  
SECSTATE

WASHINGTON

No. November 27, 1944

From Katzki to Pehle, War Refugee Board, Ankara's No.

According to reports received by the Jewish Agency in Istanbul the Bulgarian Government has made the following regulations with reference to emigration from that country:

1) No children will be permitted to emigrate unless they are accompanied by their parents;

2) No persons will be permitted to emigrate unless they waive all their rights to restitution of assets expropriated by the Government, to claims for damages, and to property still remaining in their possession.

We do not yet have further details regarding these regulations nor the grounds upon which they are promulgated. Considering "Balkan politics", it cannot be foretold whether these regulations will be enforced or permanent. In the meanwhile you might wish to consider what steps, if any, should be taken, for, if Bulgaria should be

*W. Pehle*  
*ms*

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

-2-

permitted to maintain these regulations, it might constitute a  
bad precedent for such emigration, present or postwar, which might  
take place from other countries.

STEINHARDT

051

143044  
Bulgaria  
Pehle

Istanbul, November 30, 1944

Dear Mr. Pehle:

There recently arrived in Istanbul three of the Zionist representatives from Bulgaria. I had an opportunity for speaking with them and have made some notes for our files on our conversations. As I thought you might be interested in knowing what they had to say, I am enclosing a copy of those notes herein.

For me, these conversations threw some additional light on information which we received from one of the Americans who returned to Istanbul from Sofia last September. I wrote a memorandum at that time, under date of September 29, 1944, which I gave to Mr. Hirschmann to bring to the United States. Undoubtedly he has turned this over to your office. At that time I had some reservations regarding the message brought out by this American, as I indicated in Section II of my September 29 memorandum. Apparently this American spoke only with the Consistoire people, whose view point is reflected in what he told me.

The three Zionist gentlemen from Bulgaria have written a letter to the representative of the Joint Distribution Committee in Istanbul, in which they give some additional information not included in what they told me. I am therefore enclosing a copy of that letter herein for your records.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

Herbert Katzki

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

Encls: Copy of memo of November 19 (see below)  
Copy of letter of November 21 (see Report file)

HK:VE

Translation

Ankara, 24/11/44

112444  
Bulgaria

NOTE

see reports  
attached  
Beretta

Concerning the state of the Israelites of Bulgaria

The total number of Jews in Bulgaria is around 47,000, of whom half lived in Sofia. They were expelled from the capital in May, 1943, to be deported to Poland. This project was not followed up, thanks to public opinion, which was very much opposed to this measure.

The Jews of Sofia were interned in a score of provincial villages, and had to sell all their goods. At present, the Israelites who returned to the capital are fed at public soup-kitchens and are sheltered haphazardly. Their homes were pillaged and were rendered uninhabitable as a result of the bombardments.

The Jews living in the provinces also suffered considerably from the anti-Jewish laws.

On September 9, 1944, the Jews of Bulgaria were distributed as follows throughout the country:

Plovdiv	6208	Targivitch	986
Russet	5000	Burgaz	836
Kurstendil	3800	Kargubat	805
Pleven	3300	Shivan	708
Viddin	2634	Samokov	684
Shumen	2613	Gorna	539
Pazardik	2488	Provadiv	473
Doupnitza	2350	Bercovizka	450
Haskovo	1694	Shirpan	417
Ferdinand	1816	Novi Pazar	367
Vratza	1800	Dobritz	334
Rasgrad	1124	Sofia	300
Nacbol	1100	Bela Slatin	265
Vlom	1050	Lukowitz	266
other towns	2000	other towns	850

total: 46,577

Since September 9, 1944, the Jews of the capital have been

trying to return to their homes in Sofia; it cannot yet be said how many have returned to that city. The number of Jews in the capital increases from day to day; the Israelites of the whole country are largely Bulgarian subjects. There were only 1075 foreign Jews on August 25, 1943 (211 Spaniards, 146 Italians, 130 Greeks, 125 Turks, etc.). It is estimated that the needy ones without means for existence number at least around 10,000.

To come to the aid of these unhappy people, who are for the most part small businessmen or artisans, it would be necessary to distribute clothing and money. A request has been made to the large Jewish organizations that they come to the aid of these persons.

The Jews are organized into communities which are all under the authority of the Central Consistoire of Israelites in Bulgaria, lately formed, which provides a sufficient guarantee that a control may be exercised by this organization.

1125144  
Bulgaria

Istanbul, le 25 Novembre 1944

Son Excellence  
Monsieur L. Steinhardt  
Ambassadeur des Etats Unis d'Amérique à  
A n k a r a

Excellence,

Le bureau du Congrès Mondial Juif envoya télégraphiquement, avec copie à l'Organisation des Sionistes Unis, une invitation au Comité Central du Consistoire en Bulgarie, exprimant son désir de voir participer au congrès les Juifs de Bulgarie, à condition que d'une part ceux-ci soient représentés par des délégués de tous les mouvements et organisations et surtout par des délégués de l'Organisation des Sionistes Unis de Bulgarie et que d'autre part ces délégués soient désignés par lesdites organisations elles-mêmes.

L'Organisation des Sionistes Unis choisit sur base du télégramme du 10 Oct. 1944, ci-haut mentionnée, les personnes suivantes en tant que délégués pour le congrès:

Vitalis Haimoff, Président du Comité Central de  
l'Organisation des Sionistes Unis  
Joseph Levy, Représentant de l'Agence Juive  
Sabetai Eshkenazy, Membre du Comité Central de  
l'Organisation des Sionistes Unis.

Ces noms furent communiqués télégraphiquement le 14 Oct. 1944 au Bureau du Congrès Mondial de Genève qui les approuva et entama par là suite les formalités nécessaires pour l'obtention des visas d'entrée aux Etats Unis d'Amérique pour les

1175/44  
Bulgaria

Istanbul, le 25 Novembre 1944

Son Excellence  
Monsieur L. Steinhardt  
Ambassadeur des Etats Unis d'Amérique à  
A n k a r a

Excellence,

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délégués en question.

Nous, les délégués choisis, nous nous trouvons actuellement en Turquie, où nous attendons la communication de l'obtention de nos visas d'entrée, afin de pouvoir continuer notre voyage. Dans cette attente, nous nous permettons de donner à Votre Excellence un bref aperçu de la situation des Juifs en Bulgarie:

Il existe actuellement 45.000 Juifs en Bulgarie, dont 20.000 approximativement se trouvent dans différentes villes de la Province; les autres 25.000 environ retournent depuis le 9 Septembre 1944, date de la prise du pouvoir par le "Otetchestven Front" (front de la patrie) petit à petit de nouveau à Sofia.

Durant les 4 années du régime hitlérien en Bulgarie la situation des Juifs était particulièrement mauvaise. Ils étaient dépourvus de tous droits civils et politiques et il leur était défendu d'entreprendre n'importe quel travail. Ils furent obligés de quitter Sofia sans avoir été dans la possibilité de liquider préalablement leurs affaires et tous furent envoyés en province, dépourvus de tous moyens puisqu'ils avaient dû laisser à Sofia leurs maisons, meubles, effets personnels et tout ce qu'ils possédaient en fonds, biens etc. Dans les villes de province les Juifs vivaient dans des conditions extrêmement difficiles. Tous les hommes de 18 à 50 ans furent envoyés pendant ces 5 dernières années dans des camps de travail, lieux où ils demeuraient de 6 à 10 mois par année et où ils avaient à accomplir des travaux physiques excessivement durs, tels que: construction de diverses routes, dessèchement de marécages etc., tout ceci sans argent et sans nourriture. Leurs vêtements, réduits petit-à-petit en haillons, n'étaient jamais raccommodés ni échangés; ils n'avaient pas de souliers et - ce qui était la pire des choses - point de médicaments. La plus grande partie de ces hommes, environ 70 - 80 pour cent, contractèrent des maladies, telles que malaria, rhumatismes etc. et tous souffraient de déchéance physique. Pendant ce temps-là les familles de ces hommes avaient été laissées sans appui, sans ressources et sans nourriture.

Immédiatement après le 9 Septembre 1944 ces Juifs (les 25.000 de Sofia) qui avaient subsisté dans des pareilles conditions insupportables (15 - 20 personnes avaient été obligées de vivre ensemble dans une seule chambre ou 150 - 200 personnes étaient entassées dans

le hall d'une bâtisse à demi détruite), voulant améliorer leur situation, retournèrent à Sofia. Mais malheureusement ceci ne changea pas beaucoup leur situation: Ici aussi les conditions étaient mauvaises, en tant que la plupart des maisons qu'ils avaient quittées étaient ou bien devenues inhabitables par suite des bombardements ou étaient encore habitées par des Bulgares qui s'y étaient installés depuis que les Juifs avaient dû quitter Sofia. Quant aux biens - meubles, ustensiles de cuisine, vêtements etc. - que les Juifs avaient laissés lors de leur départ forcé, durant leur absence, ceux-ci avaient été pris par des Bulgares ou vendus par le Commissaire pour les Questions Juives à des prix dérisoires. De retour à Sofia, les Juifs se trouvent donc dépourvus du plus strict nécessaire, en tant que meubles, ustensiles de cuisine, vêtements ou souliers qu'ils ne peuvent même pas se procurer, ne possédant pas les moyens nécessaires. Il convient aussi de remarquer ici que les Juifs se trouvent aussi dans l'impossibilité de recommencer à travailler, les revendeurs ( qui représentent la majorité de la population juive) par suite du manque de marchandises, les artisans par suite du manque d'outils et les ouvriers pour la simple raison que les fabriques n'ont pas encore commencé à travailler à plein rendement. Il résulte donc de ce qui précède que les Juifs de Bulgarie se trouvent dans une mauvaise situation économique tout aussi bien que morale. Ne pouvant reconstruire leur existence par leurs propres moyens, ils ne peuvent non plus s'attendre à être secourus de la part du Gouvernement bulgare qui lui aussi traverse des moments extrêmement pénibles au point de vue économique et matériel.

Voilà pourquoi il est d'une extrême nécessité et d'une importance vitale d'organiser une vaste action de secours afin de venir en aide aux Juifs de Bulgarie conformément aux deux points relatés ci-bas:

- 1.- Le pays manque complètement d'articles et de matériaux de toute première nécessité, tels que: vêtements, sous-vêtements, souliers, médicaments, ustensiles de cuisine, outils pour artisans etc.
- 2.- Les artisans et les petits commerçants ne pourront reprendre leur travail qu'à l'aide d'un petit emprunt.



Translation

*Russian People  
Document*

*People  
Russia*

November 20, 1944

Broadcasts received in Bulgarian.

Comments of George Didoff, on the subject of "The Russian people commence the fight for liberation."

The author relates in his comments the difficult situation of the Russian people up until the era of Staline, which was cleverly taken advantage of by the Jews in 1917 in order to realize their intentions and throw the Russian people into slavery. Bolchevism, as an invention of the wise Jews, was created in order to eliminate the Russian nation from the European peoples.

After an exploitation of 25 years, the Russian people, who were a target in the struggle of the former, were dragged into a senseless war, But the war only raised the curtain upon the bolchevist enigma. The picture of this paradise is complete and clear today. The true image of Staline has been uncovered. The moment of awakening also has arrived.

The Russian people search today, after much suffering, for their lost rights. The Russian nation is beginning the struggle for its liberation under the command of General Vlassoff. Millions of Russian soldiers are commencing today their campaign against tyranny, oppression and terror.

General Vlassoff expresses the Russian spirit, its faith and tongue. He has become the representative of the efforts and national rights of the Russian people.

In short, General Vlassoff has become the combatant for Christian ideas and civilization against the Jewish dogmas.

In the great struggle that the Russian people are commencing, the Russian nation is rising, in order to emphasize through the blood of its sons the right to live, the right of self-government, collaboration and common activity with all the other European peoples.

General Vlassoff is not commencing a campaign against his own people, but against all the outside elements which trample on the liberty and independence of Russia. He has become the combatant of justice against tyranny, of justice against injustice, of light against darkness.

The liberation movement of General Vlassoff aims at crushing bolchevism for the triumph of a free and national Russia.

The example of the Russian liberation movement will be surely followed in the near future by all the people enslaved by bolchevism. He who once feels the effect of the methods of Staline cannot remain inactive and indifferent toward the Bolshevik paradise..

Consequently, the Bulgarian people, who had the unfortunate fate to have known already the soviet invaders, can learn much from the liberating action of General Vlassoff. Very soon the entire Bulgarian people will follow the example of the Russian patriots.

Congress central des Juifs en Bulgarie

Sofia

Président: M<sup>r</sup> David Erohan, avocat,  
juriconsul au Ministère des œuvres sociales

Secrétaire: M<sup>r</sup> Mambetov Rahaminoff, avocat,

Vice-président: M<sup>lle</sup> Jacqanna Natan, publiciste,

Membres: M<sup>r</sup> Nestia Isacova, chimiste

Edouard Arie, avocat

Isalis Tagger, négociant,

Israel Mayer, ouvrier.

Tous à Sofia.

Delegates in London

David Cohen President of Unions according to credentials

Jacques Natou Sous President

Mast ja Baakora member

Joef Aekaloy member

Jacobs Herchenitch Secy of delegates

MEMORANDUM

11/19/44  
Bulgaria  
Memo

November 19, 1944

Notes on Conversation with:

- Mr. Joseph Levy of Rousse, representative of the Jewish Agency in Bulgaria;
- Mr. Vitali Chaimoff of Sofia, President of the Central Committee of Zionists in Bulgaria and member of the B'nai Brith;
- Mr. Sabatai Shkenazi of Rousse, member of the Central Committee of Zionist organizations in Bulgaria.

These men arrived in Istanbul expecting to be able to travel to the United States, having been designated from Geneva as Zionist members of the Bulgarian delegation to attend the conferences of the World Jewish Congress in the United States.

I. The economic situation of the larger proportion of the Jews in Bulgaria is very bad. Although nominally the Jews have had their rights restored, practically these mean very little. They are not able to find employment, and their homes and businesses have not been restored to them, nor have they received any financial assistance from the Bulgarian Government. It is true, however, that Jewish people have the right to work if they can find employment, in the same manner as members of liberal professions such as doctors, lawyers, dentists, etc., may practice those professions if they can find clients. Obviously, this is not simple where people have been out of work for four years.

Concerning the return of funds expropriated by the Government, the 12 per cent capital levy which the Jews were required to pay as a tax is not to be restored. These funds were used by the Commissariat for Jewish Affairs for the administration of Jewish properties. A balance of approximately 150 million leva remains in this account. However, these have been ear-marked for restoration to specific organizations, such as 50 million leva for

trusteed Jewish Community funds in Macedonia and three to four million leva for the Keren Kayemeth. The special tax of 25 per cent on Jewish assets, which had been levied, has not been returned. The fact is that this is only a projet de loi which, if put through, will provide for payment in 5 per cent non-negotiable bonds payable in five years. This restoration, therefore, if carried out will not provide the beneficiaries with any cash on which to live. The 25 per cent tax at 1942 values amounted to 2½ billion leva. Although the 12 per cent tax on Jewish capital was supposed to provide a central fund for assistance to Jewish people, the amounts expended for this purpose were very small, and consisted largely in a contribution to various soup-kitchens in the amount of eight to 12 leva per person per day for feeding purposes. The personal blocked property has been returned to the original owners if it was still on hand with the Commissariat for Jewish Affairs.

II. The Jewish Consistoire--the Consistoire Centrale des Juifs en Bulgarie--with headquarters in Sofia, has been officially constituted. The members of the Consistoire were not elected by the Communities, but were appointed by the Government. The Consistoire (according to information given Major Henry of the International Red-Cross) is composed of:

President: Mr. David Eroham, lawyer, legal counsel to the Ministry of Social Work;  
Secretary: Mr. Manteko Rahaminoff, lawyer;  
Vice-President: Mr. Jacques Natan, publicist;  
Members: ~~Max~~ Nastia Isacova, chemist; Mr. Edouard Arie, lawyer; Mr. Salis Tagger, businessman; Mr. Israel Mayer, laborer.

The list supplied me by Mr. Josepa Levy is: David Eroham, President, Socialist; Jacques Natan, Edouard Arie, Manteko Rahaminoff, Nastia Isacova, Salis Tagger, Natan Grunberg, Joseph

Alcalay, Agrarian, and Chelomo Machiah, Zveno party. It is to be noted that although the Consistoire is supposed to represent all political parties, there are no Zionist members thereof.

III. Between 20 and 22 thousand Jews have thus far returned to Sofia. Their living conditions and their economic position are bad.

IV. About 10,000 of the Jews in Bulgaria are very poor. They urgently require, in addition to food, clothing, shoes, medicaments, and household furnishings. In addition, 2,000 families, involving seven to eight thousand persons, are artisans and small business people, who would be able to assist themselves if they were able to secure credits for capital. The regular banks require guarantees for loans, which these people are not able to provide. Accordingly, it would be well if funds could be found for the establishment of cooperatives. The cooperatives which heretofore existed were liquidated under the anti-Jewish regulations, with one exception. This was the Sofia Jewish Cooperative Bank, Geula, which at one time had 3800 members and a capital of 18 million leva. This bank could save itself by merging with a Bulgarian non-Jewish cooperative, so that its characteristic as a Jewish institution has been lost. This is so to such an extent that even though Jews are now supposed to be able to return to their former employment, the Jewish employees of the former Geula have not been able to get their jobs back. Many of the former officers and directors of Geula are still in Bulgaria. Mr. Chaimoff was formerly vice-president. He did not think that it would be possible to raise much money in Bulgaria as capital for a cooperative.

V. The health of the Jewish people is bad. Eighty per cent of

the men, which includes between six and eight thousand young persons, who had been in the forced-labor battalions, contracted malaria during their service. Although not completely cured, they have now been called up for military service in the Bulgarian army or have returned to Sofia. Just prior to the departure of these informants, a small epidemic of typhus and diphtheria broke out in one small group in Sofia. The crowded living conditions, with two and three families forced to share one room, carries with it the danger of wide-spread illness. There are no medications of any kind in Bulgaria for the assistance of these people.

VI. Although the Consistoire is opposed to emigration, the larger proportion of Jewish people in Bulgaria wishes to leave that country. These people, especially the younger groups, see no future for themselves in Bulgaria, and wish to leave that country to re-establish themselves elsewhere. Although the Bulgarian Government has stated officially and publicly that they are not opposed to emigration, and in fact are willing to do everything they can to assist those persons within the framework of Bulgarian law who wish to emigrate, there still are a great many difficulties attendant upon the completion of the necessary formalities. There are still required the 10 to 15 different individual documents before a person may leave. The passports still are endorsed to indicate that they are being issued for emigration, the same way as they were prior to the change in situation in Bulgaria, and which at that time committed that the holders were not to be permitted to return to Bulgaria. A simplification of emigration requirements should be secured.

November 22, 1944

I spoke with Major Henry today, who recently left Bulgaria where he had been engaged principally in prisoner-of-war work in behalf of the International Red Cross. He stated that he had interested himself in Jewish affairs and had been in contact on a number of occasions with the Jewish Consistoire, especially with Mr. Broham. According to Major Henry, the situation of Jewish people in Bulgaria relatively is not bad. He stated that in his opinion about 10,000 people need clothing. In his opinion, about 5,000 leva per person per month would enable a needy individual to cover his expenses. However, material help is needed, because even with funds things such as clothing and medicines cannot be purchased in Bulgaria. Major Henry said that he received most of his information regarding the position of Jewish people in Bulgaria from the Consistoire people.

From my conversations with the Zionist group mentioned above and with Major Henry, I judge that there is a fundamental difference between the Consistoire people and the Zionists. The Consistoire members who, I am informed, had not been previously active in Jewish communal affairs, were hand-picked by the Government. Their viewpoint apparently is that now that the Jewish people have had their rights restored, they must remain in Bulgaria and make the best of the situation. This viewpoint is fundamentally

opposed to that of the Zionists, who naturally are in favor of emigration, which they say is the desire of the majority of Jews in Bulgaria. These factors, that is, the nationalist attitude on the part of the Consistoire and the opposite point of view of the Zionists, undoubtedly are reflected in all their relationships with the Bulgarian Government, and their attitudes with regard to Jewish problems in Bulgaria today.

HK/b

TELEGRAM SENT

Nov. 13, 1944

WRB 183

Subject: ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ 172 persons from Rumania and Bulgaria proceeded  
to Palestine.

11/18/44  
Bulgaria

Translation

18  
November 28, 1944

Broadcasts Received in Bulgarian

SOFIA

News from abroad.

London 17. Reuter.

News that the Reuter correspondent at Belgrade advises that of the 12,000 Jews who lived in Belgrade, there remain alive only 29. There followed a description of the tortures, sufferings and other things to which the Jews were subjected during the stay of the German military in the capital of Yugoslavia.

51111  
Bulgaria

TELEGRAM SENT

Nov. 11, 1944

WRB 182

Subject: arrival of 115 persons from Bulgaria, including 87 children.

(see p. 4)

1181-44  
Bulgaria

November 8, 1944

BALKAN NEWS AND PROPAGANDA

BULGARIA

Radio Sofia: The Sofia press devotes much space to articles concerning the anniversary of the Russian October Revolution.

Among the contributors of articles in the "Otetchestven Front" (Fatherland Front) are the Prime Minister and the following ministers: Damian Veltchev, Petko Stainov, Dimo Kazasov, A. Neytchev, the secretaries of the central committees of the four parties of the Fatherland Front, General Marinov, Chief of Staff, and other prominent personalities.

In his article, Kimon Georgiev writes: "It is for the first time that the Bulgarian people have the possibility of taking part with the people of the USSR in the celebration of the anniversary of the October Revolution. On this occasion we are glad to give expression to the profound enthusiasm which we feel over the great progress which the Soviet Republics have made in the culture of the mind and material culture, all of which acquisitions have proved their power in the force of the Red Army. The roots of these achievements are found in the work of the Russian Revolution. The government of the Bulgarian Fatherland Front has chosen as the first point in its foreign policy cordial friendship with the USSR and eternal comradeship with the Russian people."

In the same newspaper Dimo Kazasov, Minister of Propaganda, has an article entitled: "The Revolution and Propaganda", in which he states that "if foreign propaganda with regard to internal conditions in Russia before the German defeat at Stalingrad had been correct, the Red Army would not have been able to conquer the German war machine which was reported as perfected in every point of view. It is clear that this defeat was not due to a miracle but to a revolutionary reality. The best propaganda", the minister adds, "is that which does not expose itself."

Also in the same paper Tsola Dragoitcheva, member of the political bureau of the Workers' Party and Secretary of the National Committee of the Fatherland Front, contributes an article on "For the eternal friendship between Bulgaria and the Soviet Union." The writer states that "Fascist agents had attempted for two decades to sow hostility and animosity between our liberators and ourselves, but the mass of the Bulgarian people remained faithful to the sentiment of friendship with Russia... The great work of the great October Revolution gave to workers, to peasants and to intellectuals of Bulgaria a great lesson on how to fight for their rights and liberty and for country when it is in danger. The millions of victims given by the USSR for the liberation of Soviet Russia and for all peoples under the Fascist yoke and the thousands of victims given by us are a firm bond in the military Pan-Slav Union... In the heavy task of drawing Bulgaria out of her internal isolation, the government of the Fatherland Front is grateful to the great powers who have granted an armistice which is favorable. But all the Bulgarian people are especially grateful to the fraternal USSR, and the Bulgarians must fight and work for the eternal friendship between the two Slavic peoples."

To the "Svoboda" (Liberty) Petko Stoyanov, Minister of Finance, contributes an article on Russia. He states that "the USSR from the economic point of view is rich in population and in productive possibilities, and in spite of losses and damages, through its

enormous human force it not only repairs but creates new riches and plans for the future of free peoples. On the economic side it extends the field where personal capacity, talent, and fidelity to the general welfare determine the situation of each citizen. In every direction there is equality. The country has a modernized agriculture and a developed industry which is developing further with a methodical plan. There exists no other country where the cult and love of the country has reached the level of USSR."

Also in the "Svoboda" Lozan Strelkov gives the story of the struggle of the revolutionists of the October Revolution, resulting in the establishment of the Union of the Soviet Republics. He writes of the transformation in the country of the condition of the peasants, the development of industry, the revision of public instruction, the attention given to public health and the provisions for welfare in other fields which changed completely the country. The writer praises the military strategy of the Commander-in-Chief Stalin, and the capacity of the Red Army, in their great victories, and adds: "With the Red Army together with the armies of the great democracies England and America, the liberating troops of Marshal Tito, the forces of the Fatherland Front of Bulgaria, and the underground forces in Europe, annihilate the enemy, liberate all peoples, and guarantee the conquests of the October Revolution for the Soviet Peoples."

The "Novo Kambana" publishes an article entitled "Revolution and Land", in which it is stated that "the harmony of the material and moral resources of the Russian people has constructed a new society capable of not only defending its work but also crushing its enemies."

Radio Sofia broadcast on November 6th the speech of Marshal Stalin on the occasion of the October Revolution.

On the occasion of the 27th anniversary of the October Revolution, the Bulgarian regents sent a telegram to Mikhail Kalinin, President of the Supreme Council of the Soviet Union, congratulating him on the industrial transformation of the country and the creation of the Red Army which in its victorious advance liberated lands invaded by Germany, and extending best wishes for further success and complete victory over the enemy."

General Marinov, commander in chief of the Bulgarian army, also sends a telegram of greetings to the Red Army in the name of the Bulgarian army.

The central Committee of the Workers' Party (communist) sends a message of friendship and good wishes to the central committee of the Party Communist (Bolshevik) on the occasion of the October Revolution, and its thanks to the Red Army for its aid in driving the German invaders from the country, and saving Bulgaria from the national catastrophe which menaced it.

On the occasion of the anniversary of the Revolution, the Soviet Legation in Sofia held a reception. No Bulgarian regent was present; General Karholov represented the regency. The Prime Minister, other ministers, the commander in chief, high officials and officers, members of the diplomatic corps and other active members in the political and social life of the city attended.

The anniversary of the October Revolution was celebrated also by a ceremony at the Cinema Balkan at three o'clock in the afternoon. The ceremony was conducted under the auspices of the committee of the Fatherland Front. The Prime Minister and other prominent members of the Fatherland Front and representatives of the USSR addressed the meeting.

The Minister of Education stated that the Russian language will be an obligatory subject for the matura examinations - examinations for entrance to the university.

The Minister of Public Health, Dr. Anguelov, has sent instructions to the regional prefects and other officials in the provinces prescribing strict attention to the health condition of the population.

Army Command communique No.58: East of the Ibar river our troops have pressed back the enemy towards the west. Fierce fights are continuing for the liberation of Kumanovo against a stubborn enemy resistance. The Bulgarian army has approached within two or three kilometers of the suburbs of the town. Near the river Zletovska the battle has developed favorably for our troops. Since the capture of Stroumitsa our troops have been pursuing the enemy. Air attacks continue against bridges and motor transport.

The military health officers have been summoned by army order to present themselves for training at various centers indicated.

Donauscher commentator speaking on the subject of the twenty clauses (of the Bulgarian armistice) states that those twenty clauses have buried the Bulgarian people alive.

#### ROMANIA

Radio Romania: On the occasion of the definitive liberation of Transylvania by the Soviet Rumanian troops, the king sent a telegram of gratitude to the President of the Supreme Council of the USSR and Marshal Stalin.

The cabinet met on November 5th under President Sanatescu. The cabinet expressed its desire to tighten its relations with the allied representatives and especially the Soviet Commander, and declared that it would make every effort to take the necessary measures for the supply of the Soviet allied army and for restoring property taken from the Soviet territory. The cabinet also approved certain modifications of the laws relating to the ministerial organization.

The military commander of Bucarest announced that the present situation did not permit dispensing with camouflage. Lights are being camouflaged between the hours of 18 and 5, but partial illumination is permitted in the streets, and proprietors as well as state authorities are given the responsibility of taking care of lighting in their respective buildings.

Army communique: In northeast Hungary, Rumanian troops have by surprise destroyed a number of nests of enemy resistance north west of the Tisza. Between the Tisza and the Danube the joint forces continue to break down the enemy resistance and make new progress.

On the occasion of the anniversary of the October Revolution, Radio Romania broadcasts its homage to the Union of the Socialist Soviet Republics presenting a picture of the rapid and great achievement in the country on the basis of the liberty of man and a better condition of life. The speaker adds: "On this day the Rumanian people must acknowledge with gratitude the heroic sacrifices of its neighboring state and the bonds which bind now the two peoples linked also in a fraternity of blood shed in common for the liberation of Transylvania."

In its meeting on November 5th the Council of Ministers approved the proposals concerning the restitution of property taken from Soviet territory. In resumé of the twelve articles of the proposed law, all objects and moveable property taken from Soviet territory

must be returned to indicated places within five days after the publication of the decree. The declaration with regard to these objects must indicate the origin of the object, or give such information as would make it possible to trace the same. Under certain conditions a delay in restitution is permitted and also appeal with regard to the possession of property by Rumanians claimed as of Soviet origin. The commission of armistice is also empowered to take the necessary measures to hasten the execution of the decree. Those who are guilty of violation of regulations established by the decree are liable to punishment and imprisonment of from five to twenty years.

It is announced that in the district of Bucarest there will be a census taken between the 10th and the 20th of November.

In the royal palace a canteen of free meals for poor people has been established. Arrangements have been made for serving one hundred fifty meals each day. The Red Cross has also contributed to this aid to public welfare.

In the evening broadcast of November 7th, before announcements, Russian music was played for the Russian hour in the series of united nations programs. On Tuesday the 14th, the British hour will be broadcast.

The entire Rumanian press devotes its issue on November 7th to articles in commemoration of the Russian October Revolution.

HUNGARY

Radio Budapest: The chief of the army general staff appeals to the public for donation of winter clothing for the army.

The army communique states that the German and Hungarian armored units had cut the great supply route Budapest-Kecskemet and so interrupted the Soviet frontal attack against Budapest. However, between Szolnok and Czegled Soviet troops had gained some ground. The Red Army troops that attempted landing on Csepel island south of Budapest have been repulsed. But other Soviet units made a landing on the little island west of Dunaharaszti. The communique declares that the tension south and southeast of Budapest had lessened. In Budapest itself traffic is almost normal. On the other hand, Reuters agency announces from Berne that a great number of Hungarian refugees have fled in panic over the roads leading to the Austrian frontier, and the same agency from Stockholm states that the fall of Budapest cannot be delayed. The Germans are making desperate efforts to fortify Budapest, but panic reigns in the city. The Soviets continue to encircle Budapest.

"Competent circles" warn the public, military and civil authorities and the services of the Arrow Cross party that persons who are provided with passes, visas and immigration certificates delivered by foreign legations and International Red Cross cannot be called for military or civil work; also legation buildings and surrounding areas have extraterritorial rights. ~~This warning comes from a free Hungary source.~~

Radio Sofia: The free Hungarian movement has broadcast a statement on the Jewish question in Hungary. The speaker declares that tolerance and liberal feeling have been deeply rooted in the soul of the Hungarian people; the equality of all races and religions was one of the basic principles of the Hungarian national revolution of 1848 and the emancipation of Jews was one of the great events of last century's Hungarian policy. Discrimination against Jews began only with the reactionary regime of 1919 and persecution of the Jews began last March when Hungary was occupied with the Germans. The government of Sztojay blindly executed the wishes of Adolf Hitler regarding the Jews. Hungarians who have become instruments of this brutal and inhuman policy will be punished as war criminals. The majority of the Hungarian people rejected this inhuman policy.

*subject  
in*

- OWI

*Proced. Sect. for  
Sofias*

11711  
Bulgaria

TELEGRAM SENT

Nov. 7, 1944

WRB 179

Subject: Departure of group of 80 persons who arrived from  
Bulgaria on Nov. 3. Arrival of additional group of Polish  
refugees from Rumania.

1974  
Pehle  
PAC  
Reports

Istanbul, October 30, 1944

Dear Mr. Pehle:

There is enclosed herein a translation of a broadcast made over the Sofia radio on October 21 on the matter of the deportations of Jewish people which took place from Macedonia and Thrace. The information contained in the broadcast at this time has only historical interest, but you might find it interesting as an indication of the change of sentiment in Bulgaria which now permits such broadcasts to be made, and in addition to help round out some of your files on Bulgaria.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

Herbert Katzki

J. W. Pehle, Esquire  
Executive Director  
War Refugee Board  
Treasury Building  
Washington 9, D. C.

Encl.

HK:VH

Translation

Extract from Broadcasts received in Bulgarian (OWI)

October 21, 1944, 19:00 Sofia 352.9 M.

The Commissar for Jewish Affairs in Bulgaria, Beleff, had concluded an agreement with Captain Fannenberg, officer in the SS forces, concerning the emigration of 20,000 Jews from Bulgaria to Poland.

After the signing of this agreement, the German SS officer told Beleff that he should have the consent of the Bulgarian Government, so that the Government would not have any claim for the return of these Jewish emigrants.

With unequalled cynicism, Beleff declared that Messrs. Filoff, Gabrovski, etc., were not very interested in the return of the emigrants. To justify this, Mr. Beleff exhibited the decision taken by the Ministerial Council, protocol 116, according to which the Jews who should leave or emigrate from Bulgaria would automatically lose their Bulgarian citizenship.

It concerned itself with the sending to Poland of a contingent of 20,000 Jews, and the rest would be sent after April 15.

It was necessary to arrange everything for the first portion. Nothing but a signature, and the fate of 20,000 persons was decided.

They proceeded with the organization of this shipment. Every living person had to be sent off. It was to be announced to the Jews that they were to be sent to the interior of the country. What low tactics!

Two weeks of feverish organization passed. Lists, railway

cars, and even (what irony!) a sanitary service, which was to assure the health of the emigrants, were prepared.

March 3 is the holiday of the liberation of Bulgaria. During that night the military guards went from house to house and announced to the Jews that they had to be ready in one hour. They had to take with them money, valuable objects, and other things.

The human herd was sent in the first place to concentration camps provisionally organized in the stations. There a new task: to count the persons.

The "patriots" stole from the Jews their money and valuables, as well as their baggage. The policemen ridiculed the women.

The railway cars were ready. The guards accepted (received) the "merchandise". The doors were hermetically closed and sealed.

The "shipment" coming from Belomorje was loaded on open cars. The children were nearly dead from hunger, beside old men and women. There were no young boys to be seen in the cars, because they were mobilised into forced-labor battalions.

The cars went through the region where the boys were at that moment, who at the passing cried out the names of their mothers and fathers, and thereafter were beaten by the train guards.

Thus they arrived at Doupnitsa, where there was a new census of receipt. There were some dead. 3500 persons found death in the generous permission for emigration.

From there, again loaded on railway cars, half dead with hunger, they were sent to Lom, where some barges were already

prepared to receive them, and from there towards Katowitsa, toward Poland. 9158 persons were sent from the region of Skopie and 13,203 others from Belomorje and Macedonia. None of them remains alive.

The rest of the Jews of our land could escape at the last moment, thanks to the energetic resistance of the Bulgarian people.

TELEGRAM SENT

9129144  
Bulgaria  
XXXX  
Sept. 29, 1944

WRB 162

Subject: Efforts of Klarman and Pomeranz (sic) on behalf of  
Bulgarian Jews. These persons claim to be representatives  
of the Board, but their actions are at variance with  
the Board's policy with regard to Bulgaria.

C  
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P  
Y

Eri T. Jabotinsky  
Emergency Committee  
to save the Jewish People of Europe  
Washington, D. C.

7/25/44  
Bulgaria  
Jabotinsky

Istanbul, Sept. 28th 1944

Mr. Ira Hirschmann  
War Refugee Board  
I s t a n b u l

Dear Mr. Hirschmann,

I am happy to announce that Mr. Joseph Klarman, who has been sent by the Emergency Committee to Bulgaria, has been able to develop a very successful activity. As no doubt you have already been informed, Mr. Klarman was received on September 19th by Mr. Dymo Kazasoff, Minister of Propaganda, who handed him a declaration in the name of the Bulgarian Government. This declaration which was released to the press and over the radio on September 22, is the first of its kind containing both an expression of sympathy with a Jewish State and the details of the practical restitution of Jewish rights and property.

This declaration was the result of a protracted period of spadework, carried out by the Emergency Committee in Turkey. It has far reaching results not only for the fate of the Jews of Bulgaria but also for that of those of the neighboring countries. Thus in the last few days there is considerable agitation in this country for the restitution of the varlik. I also hope that it will open a possibility for a similar step of the Rumanian Government. A correspondent of the Emergency Committee, Dr. Sraga Rosing has, I understand, been received by the King but I don't know if he was able to use the occasion for our purposes for he went to Rumania as a private journalist - however Mr. Klarman is planning to proceed to Rumania as soon as he will have established the machinery necessary for the practical exploitation of the Kazasoff declaration.

I do not know if this activity can be termed "saving the Jewish People of Europe" - the Bulgarians and Rumanians claim that, as far as they are concerned the Jewish People has already been saved - but it is certainly a relief activity and, like any manifestation of the importance set by the Jews, it may have salutary effects in the still occupied parts of Europe.

I have therefore the following request of the War Refugee Board:

To authorize me to finance Mr. Klarman's trip and activities out of funds which my Committee was permitted to send under your supervision.

Sincerely yours,

ss. E. Jabotinsky

Extract from OWI bulletin

9/27/44  
Bulgaria

Broadcast received in Bulgarian, September 27, 1944

Sofia, 18:30

-Londres: 27: Reuter: David Brown, correspondant officiel de Reuter auprès du Q.G. alliés en Italie annonce:

Il fut annoncé aujourd'hui que 5 des 8 ponts de chemin de fer sur le Danube, entre Budapest et Belgrade sont actuellement inutilisables par suite des violentes attaques des bolbarciers alliés.

...  
-Par décret du Conseil Ministériel est approuvée la projet-loi concernant les élèves de l'année scolaire 1943/44, pour les élèves ayant prit part dans l'armée de libération nationale ainsi que pour les élèves juifs, auxquels l'année scolaire ne leur fut pas reconnue par suite de leur provenance juive et .....

article 1 - Passent directement de classe, reconnaissent comme ayant terminé l'année scolaire 1943/44, les élèves, indépendamment s'ils furent régulièrement inscrits ou non, qui participèrent dans l'armée de libération nationale, de partisans. Les participants dans cette armée reçoivent un document délivré soit par l'autorité municipale, soit par le détachement de partisans respectif, duquel l'élève faisait partie.

article 2 - Tous les élèves juifs auxquels l'année scolaire 1943/44 ne leur fut pas reconnue, et qui ont passé avec succès l'année scolaire 1942-43 dans une école bulgare, et qui par suite des mesures contre les personnes de provenance juive ne furent pas admis dans les écoles bulgares en 1943/44, passent directement de classe.

(Par suite d'un bourdonnement continu il fut impossible de bien capter cette nouvelle ainsi que la suite de celle-ci concernant les élèves juifs).

translation

Extract from OWI bulletin, Broadcast received in Bulgarian,  
September 27, 1944; Sofia, 18:30

*file Bulgaria*

-London: 27: Reuter: David Brown, official Reuter correspondent  
at Allied Headquarters in Italy announces:

It was announced today that five of the eight railroad bridges on  
the Danube, between Budapest and Belgrade, are unusable at present  
following violent attacks by Allied bombs.

. . .

-By a decree of the Ministerial Council, the projected law concern-  
ing pupils of the scholastic year 1943/44 is approved, for pupils  
having taken part in the army of national liberation, as well as  
for Jewish pupils, whose scholastic year was not acknowledged as  
a result of their Jewish origin, and . . . . .

article 1 - To be promoted, acknowledged as having finished the  
school year 1943/44, are those pupils, regularly registered or not,  
who participated in the army of national liberation, as partisans.  
The participants in this army receive a document delivered either  
by the municipal authority or by the respective detachment of  
partisans, of which the pupil was a member.

article 2 - All the Jewish pupils whose school year 1943/44 was  
not acknowledged, and who passed with success the year 1942/43  
in a Bulgarian school, and who following the measures against  
people of Jewish origin were not admitted into Bulgarian schools  
in 1943/44, are promoted.

(As a result of a continuous buzzing, it was impossible to hear  
this news well, as well as the continuation of that concerning  
Jewish pupils.)

29 Octobre 1944

BROADCASTS RECEIVED IN BULGARIAN

20. 00 GMT.

SOFIA

352 a.

Conditions de l'armistice signé à Moscou entre les gouvernements des Nations-Unies et le gouvernement Bulgare du Front National.

Le gouvernement de Bulgarie accepte les conditions de l'armistice offertes par les gouvernements de l'Union Soviétique, du Royaume-Uni, des Etats-Unis d'Amérique au nom de toutes les Nations-Unies se trouvant en guerre contre la Bulgarie.

En rapport avec ce qui vient d'être cité, le représentant du Haut Commandement Soviétique, le maréchal Tolbukhine, et le représentant du Haut Commandement des Alliés de la région de la Méditerranée, le Lieutenant-Général James Gamel, au nom de l'Union Soviétique, du Royaume-Uni, des Etats-Unis d'Amérique, au nom de toutes les Nations-Unies se trouvant en guerre avec la Bulgarie, d'un côté, et les représentants du gouvernement de la Bulgarie, le ministre des Affaires Etrangères, K. Stainov, les ministres sans portefeuille, M. Ter Tchov et Tsetsov et le ministre des Finances, A. Stoyanov, de l'autre côté ont signé les conditions suivantes:

1/ A/: La Bulgarie, après avoir interrompu les opérations militaires contre l'Union Soviétique, le 9 septembre, 1944, et après avoir rompu ses relations avec l'Allemagne, le 6 septembre, 1944, et avec la Hongrie, le 29 septembre, 1944, a cessé les opérations militaires contre toutes les autres Nations-Unies.

B/: Le gouvernement bulgare est obligé de désarmer les troupes allemandes se trouvant en Bulgarie et de les livrer comme étant prisonniers de guerre.

C/: Le gouvernement de la Bulgarie s'engage de même d'interner les sujets Allemands et ceux de ses satellites.

D/: Le gouvernement de la Bulgarie s'engage de soutenir et de fournir les forces aériennes, terrestres et navales qui peuvent être désignées pour le service sous le commandement général du Haut Commandement Allié Soviétique. Ces forces ne doivent pas être employées dans le territoire des Alliés, excepté avec l'accord préalable du gouvernement allié intéressé.

E/: Lors de la cessation des hostilités avec l'Allemagne, les forces militaires Bulgares doivent être démobilisées et soumises au contrôle de la Commission alliée de contrôle pendant le temps de paix.

2/: Les forces armées Bulgares et les fonctionnaires, en accord avec la condition précédente acceptée par le gouvernement Bulgare, le 11 octobre, 1944, doivent être évacués des territoires grecs et yougoslaves, suivant le délai déjà désigné. Les autorités Bulgares doivent immédiatement prendre les mesures pour évacuer des territoires grecs et yougoslaves, les Bulgares qui étaient sujets de la Bulgarie vers le 1er Janvier, 1941, et d'annuler toutes les situations législatives et administratives ayant rapport à l'annexion ou bien à la cession des territoires grecs et yougoslaves à la Bulgarie.

29 octobre 1944

29.00 GMT Sofia

3/ Le gouvernement de la Bulgarie va assurer la possibilité aux troupes soviétiques et alliées de traverser librement le territoire bulgare vers n'importe quelle direction, si cela s'impose suivant l'opinion du commandement supérieur soviétique allié suivant la circonstance militaire; le gouvernement de la Bulgarie alors donnera sa coopération avec ses moyens de communication et ceci à son compte par terre, mer et air.

4/ Le gouvernement de la Bulgarie va immédiatement libérer tous les prisonniers de guerre et internés Alliés. Jusqu'au moment de nouvel ordre, le gouvernement de la Bulgarie devra assurer à son compte, à tous les prisonniers et internés alliés, personnages enlevés et réfugiés, y-compris dans ce nombre aussi les sujets de la Grèce et de la Yougoslavie, une nourriture suffisante, l'habillement, aide médicale, et les objets sanitaires et hygiéniques; ainsi que les moyens de transport pour le retour de quel que soit la personne dans son pays.

5/ Le gouvernement Bulgare va immédiatement libérer, sans tenir compte, de la sujétion et de la nationalité toutes les personnes retenues en prison, en rapport avec leurs activités en faveur des Nations-Unies ou bien pour leur intérêt pour l'oeuvre des Alliés; ou bien en raison de la question raciale, et leurs convictions religieuses, et de même changera la législation de ?.

6/ La Bulgarie va collaborer dans la recherche des personnes accusées de crimes militaires et pour leur jugement.

7/ Le gouvernement de la Bulgarie s'engage d'annuler immédiatement toutes les organisations se trouvant en territoire bulgare, pro-nazi, hitlériennes, et autres fascistes, militaires, politiques en partie politiques, et autres, menant une propagande ennemie aux Nations-Unies; et de ne plus permettre dorénavant l'existence d'organisations de ce genre.

8/ La publication, l'import, et la distribution, en Bulgarie de toute littérature périodique ou non, la représentation théâtrale ou cinématographique, le travail des stations radiophoniques, les E.T.T., sera organisé avec l'accord du Haut Commandement Allié Soviétique.

9/ Le gouvernement de la Bulgarie rend tous les biens aux Nations-Unies à leurs sujets, y-compris les propriétés grecques et yougoslaves, et paye la réparation des pertes et dégâts causés aux Nations-Unies pendant la guerre, comprenant la Grèce et la Yougoslavie qui seront établis plus tard.

10/ Le gouvernement de la Bulgarie rétablira tous les droits et intérêts des Nations-Unies et de leurs sujets en Bulgarie.

11/ Le gouvernement de la Bulgarie s'engage de s'accorder, aux dé-lais de la commission alliée, de rendre à l'Union Soviétique et de même à la Grèce et la Yougoslavie et à toutes les Nations-Unies complètement conservés toutes les objets précieux et matériaux, enlevés de leur pays par l'Allemagne et la Bulgarie, pendant la guerre, appartenant aux organisations gouvernementales,

20 GMT. Sofia

sociales, coopératives, ainsi que <sup>aux</sup> entreprises, institutions ~~comme~~ et aux sujets privés comme l'inventaire de fabriques et usines wagons et locomotives, tracteurs, automobiles, monuments historiques

12) Le gouvernement de la Bulgarie ~~se~~ <sup>s'engage de</sup> livrer comme trophées à la disposition du Haut Commandement Allié Soviétique, toutes ~~les~~ <sup>biens</sup> propriétés militaires allemandes et celles de ses satellites se trouvant dans le territoire de la Bulgarie; y-compris les navires de la flotte allemande et celles de ses satellites se trouvant dans les eaux Bulgares.

13) Le gouvernement de la Bulgarie s'engage de ne pas permettre l'export ou bien l'expropriation de quel qu'elle soit propriété appartenant à l'Allemagne ou à la Hongrie ou bien à leurs sujets et aux personnes habitant dans leurs territoires ou bien dans les territoires occupés par eux sans la permission de la commission de contrôle Allié. Le gouvernement de la Bulgarie gardera ces biens suivant l'ordre établi par la commission alliée de contrôle.

14) Le gouvernement de la Bulgarie n'engage de livrer au Haut Commandement Allié Soviétique tous les navires appartenant aux Nations-Unies et se trouvant dans les ports de la Bulgarie, indépendamment du commandement auquel sont soumis ces navires, afin que le Haut Commandement Allié Soviétique puisse les utiliser dans la guerre contre l'Allemagne et la Hongrie, dans l'intérêt général des Alliés, après quoi ces navires seront rendus à leurs propriétaires. Le gouvernement de la Bulgarie a toute la responsabilité matérielle pour tout dommage ou destruction de ces biens jusqu'au moment de leur livraison au Haut Commandement Allié Soviétique.

15) Le gouvernement Bulgare est obligé de payer régulièrement des sommes d'argent en monnaie bulgare, ainsi que les produits suivants: de la benzine, produits alimentaires etc., moyens et services qui peuvent être indispensables au Haut Commandement Allié Soviétique dans l'accomplissement de ses fonctions.

16) Les navires <sup>maritimes</sup> ~~Bulgares~~ se trouvant dans les ports bulgares ou étrangers se trouveront se trouveront sous contrôle... utilisés pour les intérêts généraux des Alliés.

17) Le gouvernement de la Bulgarie va assurer en cas de nécessité, l'utilisation du territoire Bulgare, des entreprises commerciales et de transport ainsi que les moyens commerciaux, les entreprises, les constructions pour l'utilisation sociale, les dépôts de combustible, ainsi que d'autres matériaux, suivant les ordres publiés pendant l'armistice par le Haut Commandement Allié Soviétique.

18) Pendant toute la période de l'armistice sera constituée une commission de contrôle alliée en Bulgarie qui dirigera et contrôlera ~~l'exécution des conditions~~ l'exécution des conditions de l'armistice sous la présidence du représentant du Haut Commandement Allié Soviétique avec la participation des représentants du Royaume-Uni et des Etats-Unis. Pendant la période depuis la signature de l'armistice jusqu'à la cessation des opérations militaires contre l'Allemagne, la commission de contrôle Allié se trouvera sous la

29 octobre 1944

20.00 G.T. Sofia

direction générale du Haut Commandement Allié Soviétique.

19): Les conditions actuelles entrent en force au moment de la signature.

Publiés à Moscou en 4 exemplaires, en langues Russes, Anglaise, en Bulgare, les textes en Russe et Anglais sont authentiques, 28 octobre 1944.

Au nom des gouvernements de l'Union des Républiques Soviétiques Socialistes, du Royaume-Uni, des Etats-Unis d'Amérique;

~~soûssigné par~~ ~~soûssigné par~~

Représentant du Haut Commandement Soviétique: Tolboukhine.

Représentant du Haut Commandement Allié dans la région Méditerranée: James G. G. G.

Au nom du gouvernement de la Bulgarie ~~soûssigné par~~ par:

etco Stoyanov,  
Dobri Terpichev,  
Nicolas ~~soûssigné par~~ soov,  
etco Stoyanov.

1054

Istanbul, October 6, 1944

Reference: No. 7388, JAB/LP

Gentlemen:

We acknowledge with thanks receipt of your letter of October 3, 1944, with reference to emigration from Bulgaria.

We appreciate your having secured these data for us, and are looking forward to receiving such further information as might be made available to you by your correspondent in Sofia.

Sincerely yours,

Herbert Katzki  
Representative  
War Refugee Board

ANTALYA DENİZİ NAKLİYAT  
Türk Anonim Şirketi  
Istanbul

HK/b

C O P Y

From Ueberall  
For Zaslany, Jerusalem.

Bader communicates following situation Bulgaria requiring immediate action order save possibilities emigration. Unlike government which comprises different political parties Jewish Consistoire consists of Communists only opposing impeding emigration although unbacked government. Visavis terrible conditions prevailing among returning Jews without roofs clothing means for opening hospitals schools our economical appearance paramount importance. Envoys demand immediate consignment 10000 LP Money to be transferred from Switzerland unless you obtain permit foreign exchange. Your affirmative decision will alter composition Consistoire as well emigration policy. We discussed matter with Passman. Paragraph. Envoys request alter Passman's appointments Joint representatives as his suggestions poorly welcomed public opinion. Suggesting Colonel Tadjer and Leon Bassan of Eneibrith third name will follow.

Istanbul, 6/10/1944

WAR REFUGEE BOARD RECORDS

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

Oct. 3, 1944

WRB 114

Subject: Reaffirming the policy of the Board with reference to  
emigration from Bulgaria.

# BULGARIE

Journal d'Europe  
10/1/44

file bulgare

La Bulgarie est située dans la partie centre-est de la presqu'île balkanique. D'après les statistiques antérieures à 1940, sa superficie était de 109.200 Kms.<sup>2</sup>

La Bulgarie dont les frontières du nord sont entourées par la Roumanie, celles de l'ouest par la Yougoslavie, celles du sud par la Grèce et du sud-est par la Turquie, a l'air d'un rectangle mal tracé. Elle contient deux chaînes de montagnes ainsi que deux vallées principales. Les monts balkaniques commencent au nord de la Bulgarie centrale et s'allongent jusqu'à la Mer Noire. Les monts Rhodopes se poursuivent jusqu'à la frontière grecque en faisant un cercle qui va de la frontière orientale balkanique vers le sud-est. Au nord de ces monts, s'allonge le fertile bassin du haut Danube, tandis que la partie du territoire qui se trouve près de la Roumanie, est située dans le bas Danube.

Au sud des Balkans et au nord des monts Rhodopes, se trouve la vallée la plus fertile qui soit arrosée par la Maritsa.

**Plus que la moitié du territoire bulgare, ne se prête pas à l'agriculture**

Le 1/4 de la Bulgarie est formé de forêts et seulement un peu moins de la moitié de son territoire peut être cultivé. Ses plaines et ses vallées produisent du blé, du tabac, du coton, du riz, des roses, du raisin, des haricots, une quantité peu importante de fer, etc. D'autre part, ses forêts produisent de charbon, de chrome, de cuivre et du manganèse.

Ses villes principales s'étendent sur les vallées du pays.

Sa capitale est Sofia dont la population s'élève à 328.000 habitants. Sofia est située sur une haute plaine de la Bulgarie centrale. Elle constitue un centre industriel qui consomme une grande partie de la production agricole du pays. Sofia est en même temps un noeud ferroviaire important.

Il est également intéressant de donner un aperçu sur les grandes villes du pays, soit en ce qui concerne leur population d'avant-guerre, soit leurs particularités :

Philippopol ou Plovdiv. (100.000)

chovitsa, toutes les deux liées aux mines de charbon de Gabrovo. La seconde est reliée par Sofia au nord-est de Plevna. Une seule route mène au nord de la Bulgarie, partie importante au point de vue stratégique où le Danube réunit les territoires de trois pays. Elle côtoie les rives de l'Isker sur une longueur de 180 kms. pour relier finalement le district de Mazdra, à Vidin.

Les routes de la Bulgarie atteignent une longueur de 9.600 kms. Ce chiffre représente seulement les routes qui sont en bon état. La meilleure d'entre elles, est la chaussée internationale qui va de Belgrade à la frontière turque. Le 1/3 des routes bulgares, ne sont praticables seulement qu'à cheval.

## Religion et instruction publique

Les 3/4 de la population bulgare pratiquent la religion orthodoxe. Le restant est musulman, catholique, israélite, protestant et arménien-grec.

Quoique l'instruction y soit obligatoire, le nombre des illettrés est assez élevé dans le pays. Sofia possède une Université ainsi que de nombreuses écoles d'agriculture et d'arts et métiers.

## L'agriculture

La Bulgarie est surtout un pays agricole et les 80 pour cent de sa population est formée de paysans et de petits propriétaires terriens. Ces gens dont l'existence est difficilement assurée sont des travailleurs économes. Nombreux parmi eux filent encore leur laine et les tissent ensuite. Les autres 20 pour cent de la population comprennent la catégorie d'industriels et de fonctionnaires d'Etat et l'armée.

Le nombre des paysans qui ne peuvent assurer leurs subsides et qui cherchent des emplois dans les administrations officielles, est étonnement grand. Il est naturellement impossible de les employer tous, étant donné la limite des postes administratifs.

En général, la population bulgare est en faveur de la Russie et des Etats-Unis. Les pro-nazis forment un petit groupe de politiciens ambitieux collés avec quelques chefs militaires.

Les montagnes des Balkans, qui s'étendent du nord de la Bulgarie centrale et s'allongent jusqu'à la Mer Noire. Les monts Rhodopes se poursuivent jusqu'à la frontière grecque en faisant un cercle qui va de la frontière orientale balkanique vers le sud-est. Au nord de ces monts s'allonge le fertile bassin du haut Danube, tandis que la partie du territoire qui se trouve près de la Roumanie, est située dans le bas Danube.

Au sud des Balkans et au nord des monts Rhodopes, se trouve la vallée la plus fertile qui soit arrosée par la Maritsa.

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Le 1/4 de la Bulgarie est formé de forêts et seulement un peu moins de la moitié de son territoire peut être cultivé. Ses plaines et ses vallées produisent du blé, du tabac, du coton, du riz, des roses, du raisin, des haricots, une quantité peu importante de fer, etc. D'autre part, ses forêts produisent de charbon, de chrome, de cuivre et du manganèse.

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Il est également intéressant de donner un aperçu sur les grandes villes du pays, soit en ce qui concerne leur population d'avant-guerre, soit leurs particularités :

Philippopoli ou Plovdiv (100.000 habitants) produit du tabac, des céréales et de l'eau de rose.

Varna (70.000) est le port le plus important de la Bulgarie sur la Mer Noire.

Plevna (32.000) est située à 38 klms. au sud du Danube, sur le parcours de la ligne Sofia-Varna. Production de bétail, céréales et vin.

Roustchouk (50.000 habitants) est le port principal de la Bulgarie sur le Danube et en même temps, une importante ville commerciale du nord du pays. Il est lié par un réseau ferroviaire à Sofia et à Varna. Il possède en outre un ferry-boat qui transporte des wagons à Guirgiu, port roumain.

Burgaz, (37.000) se trouve à 120 klms. au sud de Varna. C'est un port plus ancien que Varna. On y exporte surtout des céréales. Ses environs sont très fertiles. On y trouve du chrome. Il possède une ligne de liaison avec Varna.

Stara-Zagora, (30.000) est réputé pour son commerce de soie, d'eau de rose, du maïs et de vin.

Vidin, (20.000) est un port fortifié au nord-ouest, sur le Danube. Il est lié à la ville de Kalafat de Roumanie, par un ferry-boat. Production de poisson, cognac, bière, cigarettes et exportation de céréales et de fruits.

Voies de communications en Bulgarie

Le système des moyens de locomotion, est en harmonie avec la topographie générale du pays. Les chemins de fer de l'Etat étaient avant la guerre de 2.917 klms. de longueur. En 1940, un nouveau service de ferry-boats fut créé entre Roustchouk et Guirgiu, ville roumaine.

L'une des deux principales lignes s'allongeant de l'est à l'ouest, atteint Varna par Sofia ; l'autre, arrive à Burgaz également par Sofia, en passant par le sud des Balkans.

Deux routes principales traversent le nord et l'est de la Bulgarie. L'une de celles-ci commence à Stara-Zagora et se termine à Tjrnovo et Gotnya-Or

Les routes de l'est s'étendent de l'ouest à l'est. Ce qui représente seulement les routes qui sont en bon état. La meilleure d'entre elles est la route internationale qui va de Belgrade à la frontière turque. Le 1/3 des routes bulgares ne sont praticables seulement qu'à cheval.

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Les 3/4 de la population bulgare pratiquent la religion orthodoxe. Le restant est musulman, catholique, israélite, protestant et arménien-grecorien.

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L'agriculture

La Bulgarie est surtout un pays agricole et les 80 pour cent de sa population est formée de paysans et de petits propriétaires terriens. Ces gens dont l'existence est difficilement assurée sont des travailleurs économes. Nombreux parmi eux filent encore leur laine et les tissent ensuite. Les autres 20 pour cent de la population comprennent la catégorie d'industriels et de fonctionnaires d'Etat et l'armée.

Le nombre des paysans qui ne peuvent assurer leurs subsides et qui cherchent des emplois dans les administrations officielles, est étonnement grand. Il est naturellement impossible de les employer tous, étant donné la limite des postes administratifs.

En général, la population bulgare est en faveur de la Russie et des Etats-Unis. Les pro-nazis forment un petit groupe de politiciens ambitieux collaborant avec quelques chefs militaires.

Un aperçu de l'histoire contemporaine de la Bulgarie

La Bulgarie qui sortit vaincue de la première guerre mondiale, s'est trouvée, conformément au Traité de Neuilly, désarmée et dépourvue d'une partie de son territoire. Ses débouchés sur la Méditerranée et la Macédoine furent annexés à la Yougoslavie et à la Grèce, tandis que le sud de la Dobroudja fut cédé à la Roumanie. Cet état de choses provoqua une très forte réaction contre le trône et obligea le roi Ferdinand, allié des Allemands, à abdiquer en faveur de son fils Boris. Le grand leader du parti libéral, Stamboliski, qui avait demandé avec insistance, que la Bulgarie se retirât de la guerre et qui avait été écroué pour cela, fonda un gouvernement totalement composé du parti libéral. Il commença aussitôt à intervenir contre les intérêts hongrois. Des réformes qui rendirent le paysan propriétaire de terres, furent faites et la politique extérieure de Stamboliski prit une tournure raisonnable et amicale. Il essaya d'appliquer le Traité de Neuilly, en vivant en paix avec ses voisins.

Mais, les komitadjis macédoniens, les nationalistes radicaux et la classe bourgeoise qui avaient été touchés dans leurs intérêts, réussirent à faire tomber le gouvernement et assassinèrent Stamboliski lui-même.

En Bulgarie, les activités de parti sont toujours suivies de très fortes courants, qui forment des intrigues politiques. La haine provient, comme partout, de l'ambition et des rancunes personnelles.

(à suivre)



## LES ÉLÉMENTS DE LA SÉCURITÉ

peuple bulgare furent deus de la démocratie et en mai 1934, un groupe partisan d'un régime totalitaire prit le pouvoir en abolissant le Sobraniye après un soulèvement militaire. Les partis politiques furent dispersés et les élections furent faites, sous le contrôle sévère du gouvernement. Mais, par la suite, le roi Boris réussit à éliminer tout ceci du pouvoir, pour s'emparer lui-même de la dictature.

D'autre part l'Allemagne, était arrivée à fonder une domination économique et financière en Bulgarie en lui accordant un emprunt conforme à un arrangement de compensation. La Bulgarie faisait donc vers 1938, les 60-70 pour cent de son exportation, en Allemagne, qui, de son côté, avait pris entièrement sous son contrôle, l'industrie textile et sucrière bulgare sans compter les banques principales. Lors que la guerre éclata en 1939, la Bulgarie se déclara neutre. Cependant, les premiers succès remportés par l'Axe, la grisèrent et l'ont entraînée de ce côté. Le nombre de ceux qui voulaient la modification et la réparation du Traité de Neuilly, augmenta du coup, dans l'espoir de pouvoir revendiquer des territoires avec l'aide de l'Allemagne. Ils commencèrent à appliquer les programmes fascistes. La loi raciale et les persécutions anti-juives faisaient partie de ce programme. Ils les appliquèrent avec une exceptionnelle rigueur. Les « touristes » nazis vinrent en masse dans le pays, afin disaient-ils de mettre fin à la propagande pro-alliée.

### La majorité de la population est contre l'Axe

La majorité de la population contraire à la politique de l'Axe, était russe. Mais, le fait de l'annexion de la Dobroudja (à peu près 6.700 kilomètres carrés et 350.000 habitants) du sud à la Bulgarie pour la seconde fois, grâce à l'Allemagne, rapprocha davantage ce pays de l'Axe. Puis en 1941, la Bulgarie a enfin jeté le masque en signant le Pacte Tripartite, pour se joindre officiellement au nazisme.

Le même jour, d'importantes forces allemandes occupèrent la Bulgarie, en passant par le Danube roumain. La presse invita la population bulgare à ne pas agir contre les Allemands.

En deux jours, les forces motorisées allemandes traversèrent tout le pays, pour atteindre la frontière hellène. Ce pendant malgré toute l'insistance de Hitler, le roi Boris n'avait pas accepté d'envoyer des troupes contre la Russie. Les troupes bulgares participèrent seulement aux opérations contre la Yougoslavie et la Grèce où elles prirent sur elles de monter la garde.

Le territoire prélevé de la Yougoslavie et de la Grèce pour être annexé à la Bulgarie consiste en la Macédoine, la Moravie de l'ouest, (approximativement 22.000 kms. carrés) ; la Thrace ainsi que les îles Thasos et Samothrace, appartenant à la Grèce (14.167 kms. carrés.)

Le 13 janvier 1941, la Bulgarie déclara la guerre aux Etats-Unis. Suivant le traité bulgare du 7 octobre 1942, il fut décidé de construire une magnifique chaussée pour le transport des colonnes motorisées, de

parties pro-allemandes, montrèrent assassinés. Tous ceux qui se montraient réfractaires à la politique suivie par le roi Boris, étaient écroués en prison ou exécutés sous l'inculpation d'« institutions bolchéviques ». Les ouvriers bulgares commencèrent à s'acharner vers l'Allemagne pour y travailler. Mais la majorité de ceux qui venaient en permission chez eux refusait de retourner en Allemagne.

### L'armée bulgare

La Bulgarie possède actuellement une armée forte de 400.000 hommes, le cas échéant, ce chiffre pourrait atteindre les 800.000. Ses moyens motorisés sont vieux et la majeure partie de son aviation, était formée par les forces aériennes allemandes. Les Allemands étaient maîtres des aérodrogues et des défenses côtières bulgares, autant qu'ils l'étaient de tout le pays. Le gouvernement bulgare était presque sous leurs ordres et lorsque Hitler avait des instructions à donner, il faisait appeler Boris et Filov à son G. Q. G., où il leur dictait ses ordres.

La chute de Mussolini augmenta le mécontentement bulgare envers les Allemands. Certains députés commencèrent alors à répandre le bruit, que le peuple avait assez de la guerre et du gouvernement.

Les défaites allemandes dans l'est et l'ouest ainsi que celles des Italiens qui se suivirent de près, la rupture diplomatique et économique de la Turquie avec l'Allemagne, le fait que Bagrianov avait été partisan d'une politique réaliste, ont enfin décidé la Bulgarie à se séparer des Allemands et demander l'armistice aux Alliés. Mais entre temps, la Russie qui n'avait pas encore rompu ses relations diplomatiques avec elle, lui déclara la guerre. L'Armée Rouge qui était descendue par la Roumanie jusqu'aux frontières bulgares, occupa rapidement Sofia.

Le fait que la Bulgarie se range, après plusieurs années dans le camp allié imite la Roumanie, prive l'Allemagne d'une satellite sur laquelle elle comptait beaucoup.

MEMORANDUM

September 29, 1944

9/29/44  
Bulgaria

I spoke with one of the members of the American military mission, which had been in Sofia and which returned to Istanbul within the past few days. During the limited period in which he was in Bulgaria, he tried to secure some information regarding the status of Jewish people there. He had opportunity for seeing some of the Jewish leaders in the country, and also to speak with some private Jewish people. What he learned from his conversations and from his own observations, in summary, is the following.

1. The Jewish people in Bulgaria have been restored absolutely to full rights, and they are now entirely free people, subject, of course, only to those restrictions which affect everybody in Bulgaria. They have freedom of movement, their funds have been unblocked, they can exercise any profession, go into any business, their schools and Jewish institutions are being rebuilt, etc. There is absolutely no difference between the position of a Bulgarian Jew and a Bulgarian non-Jew. The Jewish question is a dead issue in Bulgaria today. Consequently, any attempts which may now be made on the basis of securing special treatment for "the long-suffering Jews", to single them out for benefits from the Government, may tend to foster anti-Semitism. The Government itself is taking all steps to do what is right to cancel the effects of actions which had been taken against the Jews by previous governments.

2. Jewish leaders in Sofia asked this American to bring the following message to the outside world. They asked him to let it be known that the Americans and the English or anyone

else should refrain from bringing any pressures of any kind or making any requests of the Bulgarian Government in connection with either the economic or social reintegration of Bulgarian Jewry in the life of Bulgaria. There should be no demands made for special consideration for them or their special treatment of any kind on any grounds. There should be no attempt made to secure special treatment for the Jews of Bulgaria in connection with any discussions which might be had involving peace terms. In summary, all steps should be avoided which might be construed as creating an especially protected section of the Bulgarian population, which would lead to preference of one group or another, because it is backed by the Americans, the British, or other influential countries. The Jews of Bulgaria are now in a position to protect their own interests. Those persons who formerly did evil things against the Jews are being punished in Bulgaria.

This American repeated the foregoing message several times in order to emphasize it as the wish of Bulgarian Jewish leadership. (In my opinion, a request of this kind must be taken into consideration. On the other hand, I think that it must be examined in the light of personal investigations on the spot, to learn a little more about the thinking of the people responsible for this request and attitude.)

3. This American thinks that recent developments in Bulgaria might bring some change in the question of emigration. He thinks that older people who might have desired to emigrate in the past will now wish to delay their decision, at least until such time as they are able to liquidate their properties and

assets which have now come back into their possession, or which may be returned to them pursuant to the new regulations. Young people may still want to emigrate, but it should be kept in mind that under recent decrees, Jewish men of military age, that is, between the ages of 18 and 45, have been called up for regular military service. This would mean that their emigration would be conditional upon their securing military releases from a military which now is anxious to have them as part of the regular Bulgarian army, as against the earlier situation where the Jewish men, as undesirables, were put into labor battalions, from which release for emigration could be secured.

4. I had the impression from our conversation that the circumstances which led to the withdrawal of the American and British missions from Sofia were not such as would preclude the entry into Bulgaria of Americans for relief purposes at the proper time. He had no feeling that the presence of American relief would be opposed by the Russians. It certainly would not be by the Bulgarians.

5. Regarding possible emigration from Rumania by land via Bulgaria, I was informed that the Rumanian-Bulgarian border is closed, and that travel by land from Rumania would be impossible at this time. Emigration from Budapest via Bulgaria would likewise be impossible, not only because of German opposition but because of the military situation through the northeastern and eastern part of Yugoslavia, and the western part of Bulgaria itself. In his opinion, emigration from Hungary to Rumania via Transylvania would likewise be impossible at this time, because of the military zones in that area.

HK/b

Herbert Katzki

9126/11  
Bulgaria

TELEGRAM SENT

Sept. 26, 1944

WRB 161

Subject: Pronouncement of Vimo Kazassov, Bulgarian Minister of

Propaganda, on ameliorations for the Jews.

1055

September 26, 1944

MEMORANDUM:

Mr. Ueberall telephoned a message to me at 5:00 p.m.  
today which came through Reuters from Bulgaria and stated:

"The British and American Military Missions  
left Sofia this morning. They were given  
24 hours by the Russians to leave.

"Also all of the correspondents and alleged  
representatives who have gone to Bulgaria  
are urgently requesting visas to return to  
Turkey."

I. A. Hirschmann  
Special Attache

70056

Journal d'orient  
Sept. 26, 1944

**Les Juifs de Bulgarie**

Ankara, 25 (Radio-Journal). — Le  
Ministre des Affaires étrangères bul-  
gare dans une déclaration aux jour-  
nalistes juifs a dit que non seulement  
les Juifs seront réintégrés dans leur  
droits mais qu'aussi leurs institutions  
détruites par les bombardements se-  
ront reconstruites et que les Israéli-  
tes qui ont dû s'expatrier trouve-  
raient toute sorte de facilités dans le  
cas où ils seraient désireux de ren-  
trer dans le pays.

Le nouveau bulgare soul

10056

4010  
Bulgaria  
Ambassadors

Istanbul, September 25, 1944

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

You have undoubtedly seen the published statement of the broadcast from Bulgaria via Radio Sofia, on September 22, relating to the condition of the Jews in Bulgaria. I am enclosing a suggested telegram for the War Refugee Board covering the statement, unless this has already been dispatched to the Department.

I am planning to leave for Ankara by train Wednesday evening with a view to spending some time with you before your departure, which I understand will be on October 1st. I am working on the assumption that my return to the United States will be authorized some time during this week, and that I shall be able to depart immediately thereafter.

With kind personal regards,

Cordially yours,

I. A. Hirschmann

Honorable Laurence A. Steinhardt  
Ambassador to Turkey  
American Embassy  
Ankara

Encl. #161

IAH:VB

74056

Extract from BULGARIAN NEWS AND PROPAGANDA, September 25, 1944 (OWI)

BULGARIA

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cults, Dr. Petko Stainov, received the representatives of the Jewish press in Palestine, England and America. Among the statements made to the press the Minister added that the schools which had been taken by the government will be restored to the Jews, and that the Jews will have the right to choose the language in which instruction shall be given. Also, social institutions which had been destroyed by the bombardments will be restored on the same basis as those of the Slav Bulgarians.

C O P Y

LEGATION ROYALE DE BULGARIE  
EN TURQUIE

Ankara, le 25 septembre 1944

Messieurs les Représentants de  
l'Agence Juive en Palestine

A n k a r a

Toujours en rapport avec notre dernier entretien, j'ai l'honneur de vous communiquer ce dont le Gouvernement Bulgare vient de m'informer:

1.-Les Autorités de frontière Bulgares ont été avisées de l'autorisation du Gouvernement Turc au passage du territoire turc des juifs émigrants ne possédant pas le visa de transit respectif, à condition d'être munis d'un certificat établissant qu'ils obtiendraient le visa d'entrée en Palestine.

2.-Le Gouvernement Bulgare a prescrit à la Légation Royale de Bulgarie en Roumanie d'accorder le visa de transit bulgare aux juifs de Hongrie, Pologne et Roumanie qui se rendent en Palestine.

3.-Le Gouvernement Bulgare accueille avec sympathie la création et la consolidation de l'état Juif.

Quant aux juifs de Bulgarie le Gouvernement Bulgare a abrogé toutes les lois restrictive concernant les juifs. Il a rétabli tout les droits et libertés des juifs en Bulgarie. Il leur rendra tous leurs biens qui leur ont été expropriés par les autorités de l'ancien régime et les dédommagera de tous les dégats et pertes qu'ils ont subis. Le Gouvernement autorisera l'ouverture de toutes les écoles juives et subviendra à leur entretien, ainsi qu'il accordera pleine liberté aux juifs quant au choix de la langue d'enseignement dans ces écoles.

L'émigration des juifs de Bulgarie pour la Palestine sera libre pour les juifs qui en ce moment ne sont pas soumis aux dispositions de mobilisation en vigueur actuellement en Bulgarie.

Le Gouvernement rétablira toutes les institutions sociales juives, comme hôpitaux, orphelinats, asiles pour vieillards, réfectoires etc. qui auraient subi des endommagements à la suite des bombardements et ce au même titre d'égalité que les institutions similaires bulgares.

Veillez agréer, Messieurs, l'expression de mes sentiments distingués

ss: BALABANOFF

056

Translation

C O P Y

ROYAL LEGATION OF BULGARIA  
IN TURKEY

Ankara, September 25, 1944

Messieurs the Representatives of the  
Jewish Agency of Palestine

A n k a r a

Always in connection with our last conversation, I have the honor to communicate to you that which the Bulgarian Government has just informed me:

1.-The frontier authorities of Bulgaria have been advised of the authorization of the Turkish Government for the passage into Turkish territory of Jewish emigrants not in possession of respective transit visas, on condition that they bear a certificate establishing that they would obtain Palestine entry visas.

2.-The Bulgarian Government has instructed the Royal Legation of Bulgaria in Rumania to accord transit visas through Bulgaria for Jews of Hungary, Poland and Rumania who are going to Palestine.

3.-The Bulgarian Government views with sympathy the creation and consolidation of the Jewish state.

As for the Bulgarian Jews, the Bulgarian Government has abrogated all the restrictive laws concerning the Jews. It has restored all the rights and liberties of the Jews in Bulgaria. It will return to them all of their goods which were expropriated by the authorities of the former regime, and will recompense them for all damages and losses which they have sustained. The Government will authorize the opening of all Jewish schools, and will provide for their maintenance, as well as giving full liberty to the Jews to choose the language of instruction in these schools.

The emigration of Jews from Bulgaria to Palestine shall be free for the Jews who at this moment are not subject to the dispositions for mobilization at present in force in Bulgaria.

The Government will re-establish all Jewish social institutions, such as hospitals, orphanages, old-age asylums, refectories etc. which have sustained damage as a result of the bombardments, and this under equal conditions with similar Bulgarian institutions.

Kindly accept, Messieurs, the expression of my high esteem,

ss: BALABANOFF

TRIA. 3887

Sept. 23, 1944

160

Subject: Return of Jews to Sofia; may request permission to  
re-occupy their homes. Difficulties arise from the fact  
that Bulgarian Jews are without resources.

112711  
Bucarest

La question juive en Bulgarie *de Turquie*

9/23/44

# LE GOUVERNEMENT BULGARE ADOPTE UNE ATTITUDE POSITIVE QUANT à la FONDATION D'UN ETAT JUIF EN PALESTINE

## L'émigration des Juifs de Bulgarie en Palestine ne rencontrera aucune difficulté

Sofia, 23 AA.— Le ministre de la Propagande M. Dimo Kazasov, a reçu hier les cor-

respondants de certaines agences et journaux juifs avec lesquels il s'est entretenu sur la question juive en Bulgarie. Voici les principaux points de la déclaration qu'il leur fit à ce sujet:

1.— Le gouvernement bulgare adopte une attitude positive quant à la fondation d'un Etat juif en Palestine; il reconnaît pour chaque nation le droit d'avoir son propre Etat.

2.— Le gouvernement bulgare n'a aucune objection quant à l'émigration des juifs de Bulgarie en Palestine. Les juifs désirant émigrer en Palestine ne rencontreront aucune difficulté de la part du

gouvernement bulgare qui les traitera comme des citoyens bulgares et ne leur soumettra qu'aux lois du pays auquel tous les citoyens de Bulgarie doivent se conformer.

3.— Le gouvernement bulgare a aboli toutes les lois ayant un caractère anti-sémite. Les taxes de 20 à 25 o/o perçues exclusivement des juifs seront rendues à leurs propriétaires. L'Etat se trouvant dans une situation financière difficile ces sommes seront transformées en une dette d'Etat à échéance fixe.

4.— En Bulgarie les juifs jouissent déjà des mêmes droits et libertés que les citoyens bulgares.

5.— Toutes les propriétés et biens confisqués aux juifs seront rendus.

September, 1944

Radio Sofia - 12.15.44.

The following was broadcast in Bulgarian, English and Hebrew:

"The Minister of Propaganda, Mr. Bimo Kuznessoff received on the 18th of September Mr. Joseph Kiernan, correspondent of the Jewish Telegraph Agency, London, the Jewish Times of London, the Jewish Herald, Johannesburg, and the Hamarathif Tel-Aviv.

"On the same of September, Mr. Bimo Kuznessoff received Aron Behar, correspondent of... Tel - Aviv, Mr. Pochrenieff correspondent of the Jewish Telegraph Agency, New York.

"To the questions raised concerning the Jewish problem in Bulgaria, the Minister replied as follows:

1. The Bulgarian Government takes a positive attitude concerning the foundation of a Jewish State in Palestine. It feels that every nation has the right to have its own state.

2. The Government has no objection and will make no difficulties to those Jews who wish to emigrate to Palestine, treating them as Bulgarian citizens who enjoy full rights. It will require from them to comply with all laws and regulations obligatory for all citizens of the country.

3. The Government annulled all exclusive laws of anti-Jewish character. Such an exclusive law was the one concerning the surtaxing of all Jewish property to the extent of 20 to 25 per cent of its value. This tax being the result of a vicious law, was an item of unequal treatment to the Jews. The amount overdrawn will not be returned. Due to financial difficulties of the State, however, the same will be transformed into a State Loan of definite maturity.

4. The Jews already enjoy full equality of rights and live under the same conditions and in freedom as enjoyed by the Bulgarians.

With regard to the property falsely sold and confiscated the following procedure will be applied:

The Jews will get back all their property, firm rights, and other ~~property~~ assets still owned by the State. There will remain to be settled the question of the assets where-in there have risen judicial obligations between the State and private interest, that is, from the property of firm rights having transferred to third party or on other obli-

**BEST AVAILABLE COPY**

1

22/1/64

atory relations have been created in the course of the last few years. The solution of this problem is a question of time. The Government will find the means to solve it in such a way as not to affect negatively the traditional friendship and the mutual understanding between Bulgarians and Jews. In fact, the Government is facilitated in this matter by the very Jewish people, who have confidence in it. The Government will solve the problem in accordance with the national relations between the Democratic State and its citizens.

At first sight the problem seems complicated. There are many cases when the Jews have made fictitious property transfers to Bulgarians. In the new Democratic regime, however, such property is automatically returned to its lawful owner. Also, there are naturally cases of fraud. The public authorities will find out ~~about~~ such fraudulent transfers and ~~will act~~ in favour of those who have been wronged.

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41-21  
Bureau

Istanbul, September 22, 1944

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

The information set forth in the enclosure suggested tel gram from me to the War Refugee Board was telephoned from Sofia by Mr. Pomeranec, of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Joe Levy helped me compose the dispatch covering this data, and for that reason I deem it of sufficient reliability and interest to transmit to Washington, provided you approve.

Cordially yours,

I. A. Hirschmann

Honorable Laurence A. Steinhardt  
Ambassador to Turkey  
American Embassy  
Ankara

Enclosure = 160

IAH/b

92111  
Istanbul, 21.9.1944.

Mr. Pomeraniec telephoned from Sofia some news about the Jewish situation. Mr. Levy helped him to compose his dispatch.

Many Jews are returning to Sofia in order to take possession of their homes. Part of the Jewish money has been reimbursed, but the Jews are en faced with difficulties where real estate is concerned. A special government committee is dealing with that question. As almost all Jewish flats were taken over by Bulgarians it is hard to get them moving out. Government declared yesterday, that the Jews are entitled to ask their houses back without any special authorisation insofar they can establish their ownership.

The prospects for Bulgarian Jews to restore their normal economical life in this country are rather poor as they are deprived of their material fundament and are en faced with competition of non-Jewish Bulgarians, who too are going to reereect normal economic life.

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9/14/44  
Bulgaria

September 14, 1944

BALKAN NEWS AND PROPAGANDA

BULGARIA

Sofia: A meeting took place September 13th with a view to re-establish the foreign press association in Bulgaria. A conference will be held on the 20th to which all members of the foreign press are invited.

Radio Sofia which was under the direction of Zancoff is now in the hands of the National Front.

The Minister without Portfolio, Nicolas Petkoff broadcast an appeal to the peasants and organized agrarians announcing the aims of the new government which can be summarized as:

- Cordial friendship with the Soviet Union.
- Eternal friendship with the fraternal Russian friends
- Sincere friendship with the western democracies and America.
- A full entente with all Slav and Balkan people.
- Full re-establishment of the liberties of the people and a transformation of our fatherland into a true democratic state.
- Full democratization of culture and instruction
- Full democratization of the army and its transformation into a true national army deriving from the body and blood of the Bulgarian people.
- Establishment of a national cooperative economy planned and freed from all foreign exploitation, speculation and robbery.
- Collective and cooperative culture of the land.
- Creation of a new and just fiscal system.
- National justice against all who pillage, oppress and torture the Bulgarian people.

The Minister of Propaganda, Mr. Dime Kazassoff gave a declaration over Radio Sofia last night. This rhetorical proclamation was based on the figure of speech that the rough, bloody, destructive, horrible monster - revolution which had been threatened and feared, actually turned out to be a calm orderly form of revolution which was greeted by the people with joy, with loud enthusiasm, with songs and with cheers.

Kazassoff went on to say that the armed citizens mixed with the population and the soldiers, shots were fired in the air, but there were no victims or wounded. Despite previous mistreatment of the patriots, the houses of the rich were not pillaged but the many previous victims of the past regimes showed by their control and their actions "what moral force and what faith in a great ideal this people had to control its vengeance."

Kazassoff then warns the guilty that the justice will be national and severe but based on the new authority and the law. In closing, the speaker said: "Such is the grandeur of the 'Bulgarian revolution of September 9th'. This great event of a small nation is a sign of a great disciplined people. This greatness creates the power of a free democratic and independent Bulgaria."

Radio Sofia devoted much time to the description of the warm reception given the Soviet journalists listing their names and positions in detail and describing their reception by Mr. Kimon Georgieff, Prime Minister, by Minister of War, Mr. Damian Veltcheff, and the commander in chief of the forces against Germany, General Marinoff.

The Minister of Propaganda offered a dinner at the hotel Bulgaria which was attended by all the Sofia press representatives. Speeches of the Propaganda Minister eulogizing the relations of Bulgaria with the Soviets and the reply of Major Kojebnikov were reported in detail.

Orders of the Day:

The Chief of Police announces:

In order to take more effective measures against provocators against the present government, against the prestige of the army, the police and the militia, the military command announces:

The military are not allowed to circulate after curfew without a special permit.

In order to save gasoline for army needs, no circulation by any form of vehicle will be allowed except by special permit.

The owners of all material left behind by the German motorized forces must declare them within 24 hours.

By agreement between the representatives of the army, the partisan army, the police, the militia and the national front, it is prohibited to arrest members of the military force. Any such demand must be addressed to the Ministry of War.

The disarming of military troops is forbidden.

The Association of Bulgarian writers held a meeting at which the Minister of Social Politics, Mr. Grigor Tchechmedjioff was present. It was decided to eliminate certain members of the association which had been in the service of the enemy.

The Commissariat for supply announces it will prosecute restaurant owners who are not serving satisfactory meals at the fixed prices.

The newspaper "Otetchestven Front" (National Front) will appear beginning September 14th.

A TASS report is brought under a Zurich dateline according to which Himmler has approved a special order for the control of Rumanian, Bulgarian, and Finnish workers in Germany. According to this, these groups must be isolated from the population and they must wear a special armband. They can be arrested by any German and taken to the Gestapo. The SS police as well as the armed national socialists have the right to shoot workers of these nationalities without warning in case of resistance at a time of arrest.

(This puts the Rumanian, Bulgarian, and Finnish workers in the same class with those of the nations fighting the Germans.)

Communique No. 3 of the High Bulgarian Command, September 13th:  
Germans continue their operations from Koula toward the east, advancing almost 10 kilometers.

In the regions of Bella Palanka and Piro, reconnaissance activity and artillery fights are taking place on both sides.

Enemy artillery fire was directed principally at Babchik. At Kriva Palanka, the enemy received re-enforcements and approaches Dede Bayir. Fighting is moving toward Kotchene-Tsarevo-Selo.

The 15th infantry division continues its heroic defense in the Prilep region.

The Post and Telegraph office announces that for the time being letters, packages and telegrams will not be accepted for Macedonia, Moravia and central and western European countries.

The Minister of Public Lands, Roads and Public Works has ordered the liberation of all workers who were part of forced labor groups engaged for work on the new railroads.

All the organizations and committees of the national front are to send a representative to the Ministry of Propaganda to-morrow (September 14th) to receive posters and flags for the reception of the Red Army.

Hristo Boteff devotes the greater part of its broadcast to recommending a high degree of discipline and the establishment of a democratic order.

The last part of its broadcast is devoted to reporting Yugoslav declarations on the final appeal to complete the struggle against the Germans.

United Press, September 13th: From Bulgaria it is reported popular demonstrations for the Soviets and the new government continue in all parts of the country where even railway engines are bedecked with red flags.

#### RUMANIA

Bucarest, September 13th: General Staff Communique for the 12th:

In the Odorhei region our troops continue their offensive. In the north of Mures, Soviet and Rumanian troops gained territory despite heavy resistance.

The German forces advancing for Timiscara were driven back across the frontier. Fighting is taking place at Cravita.

Although Bucarest announced the signing of the armistice, the terms were not given out on the September 13th broadcasts.

Radio Bucarest, 12 GMT: The members of the government took the oath of office in the presence of His Majesty the King on the morning of September 13th.

An important conference took place in the presence of General Senatescu, President of the Council of Ministers, Bratianu, Minister of State, Maniu, Minister of State, General Racovita, Minister of National Defense, and General Potopceanu.

The Soviet Military Command announces the occupation of the following towns in Transylvania: Miercurea Ciucului, Dicioanmartin, Cikmanto, Sas, Sauca, Deva, Alud, Blaj, Comorod and other 150 localities.

Radio Bucarest inaudible at 17 and 20 GMT.

September 14th: Radio Bucarest has not yet broadcast the armistice terms, however, the terms as given by the State Department Bulletin are attached hereto.

U. S. United Press report from Moscow said that Patrascanu, Rumanian Armistice delegate, representative of the communist party in the Ministry, replying to a question said: "The Monarchy's fate will be decided by a constituent assembly convoked at the earliest opportunity."

#### TURKEY

Radio Ankara reveals that in view of the decision by the Turkish government not to receive axis refugees, the former Bulgarian Minister of the Interior, Gabrowsky has been requested to leave Turkey within three days.

Radio Ankara in discussing the Bulgarian situation quotes the London Times saying that the armistice terms will require the removal of Bulgarian forces from Yugoslav and Greek territories.

The Greeks and Yugoslavs are playing a large role in the establishment of the armistice terms. The Greeks complain of the Bulgarian treatment toward the Greeks in the occupied zones and ask for indemnity.

Ankara states there is no official news of Russian advance in Bulgaria. The correspondent of Vatan in Sofia reports the Bulgars prepared large placards: "Welcome Liberators". Ankara says this may have been done for the reception of high Soviet officials.

Russians may have an advantage in not informing where their forces are located, the Germans must thus find out for themselves.

Radio Ankara reports that the withdrawal of the German forces from the Aegean Islands and Greece is becoming difficult owing to shortage in naval transport and the destruction of the railways. Therefore the Germans are trying to hold the passage open between Bulgaria and Yugoslavia. According to unofficial news, German forces are also withdrawing from Albania.

Germany's heavy line on the Bolshevik danger, and in a commentary stresses that the "Soviet aims are only the application of the testament of Peter the Great."

U.P. September 13th: Ankara learned that the Soviet government assured Turkey through her Ambassador at Ankara that the latest Bulgarian developments were not of a nature to mar the friendly Russo-Turkish relations.

91411  
Bulgaria

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

Sept. 14, 1944

WRB 110

Subject: Please clarify to Board what is meant by emergency relief in Bulgaria (reference 1594 of August 30 requesting approval of Board for such relief)

1944  
Bulgarian  
Office (S)

Istanbul

September 9, 1944

Dear Monsieur Simond:

Thank you for your telegram of September 8 regarding the information you received from the Bulgarian Minister connected with the exchange rate offered by him, which I assume refers to the informal conversation we had connected with the suggested relief program.

The proposal for relief to be conducted by relief agencies in Bulgaria has been telegraphed to Washington and we are awaiting a reply. Pending such a reply I am not permitted to consider details of the proposal. Should the reply from Washington be affirmative, at that time Ambassador Steinhardt and I will consider the manner in which relief can be made available.

With regard to the informal discussion we had to send Jaquinet or some representative of your choice to Bulgaria, this matter, of course, will also have to await a reply from Washington.

I want to thank you for all your help in this matter and others. You have been a tower of strength to me in my work here and I hope you realize how much I have appreciated it.

Cordially yours,

I. A. Hirschmann  
Special Attache

Monsieur Gilbert Simond  
42 Necati Bey Caddesi  
Yenisehir  
Ankara

IAH:VH

September 8, 1944

TRANSLATION OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED AT AMERICAN CONSULATE  
GENERAL THIS AFTERNOON.  
(Received in Mr. Hirschmann's office at 5:45 p.m.  
September 8.)

1208 ANKARA 21913 38 8/9 14/27

BULGARIAN MINISTER INFORMS ME THAT GOVERNMENT ACCEPTS  
DEPOSIT TURKISH LIVRES ISTANBUL AND WOULD HAND THEM OVER  
(to) INDICATED PERSON SOFIA AGAINST VALUE IN LEVAS  
OFFICIAL RATE 65/67 STOP BEG YOU TO CABLE IF YOU SUPPORT  
PROJECT IN ANY CASE I SHALL CABLE GENEVA. REGARDS.

T. C.  
MÜNAKALAT VEKÂLETİ  
P. T. T. İS. U. M.  
Devlet telgraf muhâberatından dolayı mesuliyet kabul etmiş

TELGRAF

(Örnek: B. 1.)  
Yol  
Servis İşaretleri

AMERICAN CONSULATE ISTANBUL

Sıra No	İlk Merkez	No	KELİME	VERİLDİĞİ	RESMİ	ORTA MERKEZ	ALINDIĞI	İMZA
111	1208	ANKARA	21913 38	8/9 14/27				

MINISTRE BULGARIE M'INFORME QUE GOUVERNEMENT ACCEPTE ENCAISSER  
LIVRES TURNN TURQUÉS ISTANBUL ET VERSERAIT PERSONNE INDIQUEE  
SOFIA CONTREVALEUR EN LEVA COURS OFFICIEL 65/67 STOP PRIERE  
CABLER SI MAINTENEZ PROJET AUQUEL CAS CABLERAI GENEGNN GENEVE

AMITIES = SIMOND 709 +++++

"La TURQUIE"

September 6, 1944

STATEMENTS OF THE BULGARIAN PRIME MINISTER

Sofia (5) (R)

In his broadcast last night, the President of the Council of Bulgaria (M. Muraviev) made a statement over the Sofia radio in which he said, among other things:

"The present Bulgarian Government is taking the responsibility of governing in a dangerous and difficult time. But in spite of that, in its great endeavor, this Government has succeeded in bringing together the major portion of the responsible heads of the parties who fought against the Axis policy of Bulgaria and who are today giving the Government their help.

This same Government has decided to establish a single authority and a democratic rule, worthy of a free and independent people, as well as to return to all Bulgarian citizens the right of liberty and equality, without distinction as to religion or race.

The present Government accords an absolute amnesty to all those who fought against the dictatorial regimes, against the administrative authorities, and against the Axis policies of the country. The Government has decided to dissolve all the Fascist organizations in the country which were created and sustained against the wishes of the Bulgarian people and which were completely foreign to the interests of the country. This same Government has decided to dissolve the 25th Parliament, which was responsible for having dragged the country into a war which was never desired by the Bulgarian people."

Afterward, the President of the Council spoke of the financial and economic situation of the country, in saying that he would use all necessary effort to lessen superfluous expenses and thus establish a strict economy in the country.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Déclarations du premier ministre bulgare

LA TURQUIE  
sept. 6, 1944

Sofia, 5. (R)

Dans sa déclaration d'hier soir, le président du conseil bulgare a fait une déclaration diffusée par la Radio Sofia, dans laquelle, entre autres, il a dit :

«Le présent gouvernement bulgare assume la responsabilité du pouvoir dans un moment dangereux et difficile. Mais malgré cela, dans son grand effort, ce gouvernement a réussi à rassembler la plus grande partie des chefs responsables des partis qui ont lutté contre la politique axiste de la Bulgarie lesquels lui accordent aujourd'hui leur aide.

Ce même gouvernement a décidé d'établir une autorité unique et un pouvoir démocratique, digne pour un peuple libre et indépendant, ainsi que de rendre à tous les citoyens bulgares les droits de liberté et égalité, sans distinction de religion et de race.

Le présent gouvernement accorde une amnistie absolue à tous ceux qui ont lutté contre les régimes dictatoriaux, contre les autorités administratives et contre la politique axiste du pays. Le gouvernement a décidé de dissoudre toutes les associations fascistes dans le pays qui ont été créées et soutenues contre la volonté du peuple bulgare et lesquelles étaient complètement étrangères aux intérêts du pays. Ce même gouvernement a décidé de dissoudre la 25<sup>ème</sup> Chambre Parlementaire, responsable devant l'histoire pour avoir entraîné le pays dans une guerre qui n'a jamais été désirée par le peuple bulgare.

Ensuite, le président du conseil bulgare M. Muraviev a parlé sur la situation financière et économique du pays en disant qu'il déploie tous les efforts nécessaires pour diminuer les dépenses superflues et établir ainsi une économie stricte dans le pays.

Parlant sur le ravitaillement le président du conseil bulgare a déclaré que son gouvernement fera tout le nécessaire pour améliorer la situa-

tion alimentaire du pays.

Venant sur la question des relations de la Bulgarie avec les pays étrangers, le président du conseil M. Muraviev a déclaré que son gouvernement aura pour but principal

d'établir une neutralité absolue envers tous les pays, en exécutant toutes les obligations qui lui incombent par cette situation. A cet effet, le président du conseil bulgare a déclaré que déjà les troupes d'occupation, faisant partie du corps expéditionnaire, sont en train de se retirer et que dans un ou deux jours le retrait sera achevé. Le gouvernement, dans sa décision de respecter strictement la neutralité de l'Etat bulgare, désarmera tous les soldats allemands qui franchiront le pays ainsi que ceux qui se trouvaient dans le pays. Au cas où les Allemands empêcheraient l'accomplissement de cette décision, le gouvernement bulgare se verra obligé de rompre les relations diplomatiques avec ce pays.

Le gouvernement bulgare a décidé de reprendre les relations diplomatiques avec tous les pays libres et démocratiques. Dans ce but, le gouvernement bulgare a déjà entamé des négociations avec la Grande-Bretagne et les Etats-Unis et fera tout son possible pour hâter la conclusion d'un armistice.

Le gouvernement bulgare considère nul le Pacté Tripartite en ce qui concerne la Bulgarie ainsi que le Pacté Anticommuniste. Le gouvernement est décidé à maintenir et renforcer les relations amicales avec la Turquie. En même temps, le gouvernement n'épargnera aucun effort pour entrer en contact avec les gouvernements nationaux des pays voisins, dans le but d'établir des relations amicales.

Avec la Russie soviétique, le gouvernement bulgare, eu égard aux relations déjà amicales, prendra avantage de cette situation pour créer une atmosphère favorable pour consolider de plus en plus

ces relations et prendre l'aspect d'une amitié sincère, cordiale et amicale, exigé par le fait d'un Libérateur et Libéré.

En conclusion, le président du conseil Mr. Muraviev fait appel au peuple bulgare d'oublier, en ce moment grave du pays, toutes les divergences politiques, de se réunir autour du gouvernement et de l'appuyer avec tous ses moyens dans son effort de conduire le pays au salut.

TELEGRAM SENT

September 6, 1944

150

Subject: Information regarding new Bulgarian Government.

Continuation of revocation of anti-Jewish laws.

*Bulg. file*

September 4, 1944

Notes of Telephone Conversation with Dr. Black.

This new Bulgarian Government will unquestionably be favorable to our interests. None of these men have had anything to do with the former regime, which introduced the anti-Jewish laws. In fact, they have been outspoken against the regime, and its performances.

The cabinet is moderate, a coalition of former groups. At least five men have been members of former cabinets.

The new Prime Minister, Muraviev, is an agrarian and the disciple of the former Prime Minister who took power after the last war, who was a remarkable figure. He was killed in a coup d'etat. Muraviev was once Minister of War and once Minister of Education.

This Government is not decisively pro-Russian, or one that has been dictated by the Russians. It is an attempt on the part of the Bulgarian people to salvage their independence. It is a middle-of-the-road government that has moved still further to the left, hoping to reconcile the strong demands of the Russians. It is believed that it will not last long, but it hopes to bridge the present difficult, turbulent situation, which is obscure and will probably be clarified this week. If they succeed in arranging for a satisfactory armistice, the Government may continue in power, but there is much confusion since the situation is intricate.

The Bagryanov Government did a great patriotic service during a most difficult period. It could not retain the support of outside governments, and it is not known whether it was pushed out by one or all of the Allied Governments.

The new Government is half-way between the Bagryanov Government and the Communists.

The Germans are out of Bulgaria, and out of power and influence. They are either out or interned.

This Parliament's term has completely expired, and it will probably not be recalled. In fact, it was convoked only by decree.

The strong man in this Government is Mushanov, a democrat who is 72 years old, of vast political experience. Under the circumstances, Dr. Black is pleased with this Government.

I. A. Hirschmann

1111  
Bulgaria

Keep this in my  
Bulgaria file - JAK

September 1, 1944

BALKAN NEWS AND PROPAGANDA

BULGARIA

Radio Sofia brings very little information of interest. At 20:45 GMT it announced that due to the withdrawal of the occupation forces, the population is told not to send letters and packages to these forces as they will not be delivered.

In the course of the press conference, the Minister of Education, Prof. Arnaudoff declared that owing to the fact that various government departments continued to occupy school buildings when they evacuated Sofia in various parts of the country, the education of the youth had been greatly interfered with, and that he had not yet been able to get back the use of these buildings for school purposes.

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While Sofia itself is keeping very quiet, we find that Moscow started a very strong campaign against the present Bulgarian government. This received front page attention in the morning papers and we merely confirm that this was not only broadcast by Moscow in Bulgarian, but also in Rumanian and in Turkish. For the record the following is the TASS article and the comment on Bulgarian neutrality as monitored:

"Moscow, 20.00, 41.87 M.

"The Bulgarian government announces its neutrality on the 26th of August. According to the foreign press this decision was the result of the last defeats suffered by the German forces in the Balkans following the Soviet blows and also was due to the successes obtained by the Allies in the West.

"The fact that the Germans were going towards precipice and the Allied Victories obtained in the West increased the activity of the opposite party in Bulgaria. It is in order to calm the public opinion that a few days ago Bagrianov and Draganov made speeches in which they said that Bulgaria wanted to reach peace and would like to follow a neutral policy. They endeavored in their speeches to justify the reason why they adhered to the Tripartite pact when the Soviet Union had normal relations with Germany. He did not refrain thus to make a false declaration. In order to cheat the Bulgarian people Bagrianov said that their claims were in his program. He succeeded thus to cheat with this false manoeuvre the opposite party.

"Tsankov and other Hitlerite agents and even Kojuharov who is wellknown Hitlerite agent criticized first the policy of the Government and then approved same.

"This must be noted that the Bulgarian government in spite of its neutrality trampled underfoot and continues to trample underfoot this neutrality since the first day of its proclamation

"As it is known, German armed ships continue to be in the Danube and in the Bulgarian ports of the Black Sea and the Bulgarian government does not think even to intern them.

"On the other hand the Bulgarian troops continue to fight on the side of the Hitlerite soldiers against the Yugoslav and Greek patriots in Yugoslavia and Greece.

"The Bulgarian government has allowed the Germans to leave the country with their arms and in case of non-possibility they took their ships as a commercial exchange. This policy shows that Bulgaria has not the intention to change her policy of co-operation with Germany and confirms the opinion that the government of Bagrianov and Draganov does not intend to renounce the collaboration with Hitlerite Germany.

"Besides the Bulgarian propaganda has spread the news that the Soviet government has approved the Bulgarian neutrality but the TASS agency has denied on the 30th of August this manoeuvre of the Bulgarian government. In fact, according to this denial the Soviet governmental circles considered insufficient the neutrality of Bulgaria in the situation which has been created.

"The false manoeuvres of the Bulgarian government are condemned to failure.

"The so-called Bulgarian neutrality:  
Constantza 30th August:

"According to confirmed news 23 armed German ships arrived in Ruschuk. Despite the neutrality of Bulgaria, these ships have not been subjected to internment. According to other information German ships continue to take refuge in Varna and Bourgas and with the aid of the Bulgarian government a few of these ships have been sunk. Besides the ships which did not succeed in leaving Bulgaria have been taken by Bulgaria as a commercial exchange. This shows that the neutrality of Bulgaria gave the Germans the possibility to take refuge in Bulgaria."

According to the press and Radio Ankara, the Bulgarian delegation is now in Cairo waiting for the armistice terms.

Budapest reports that Berlin considers the Soviet statement on Bulgaria's neutrality very noteworthy, because up to the present the Soviets had not mixed in Bulgarian internal questions. The voyage of the "representative" of the Bulgarian government should be taken with reserve.

The German line to Bulgaria as given by the Donausender is in the form of a commentary "What can Bulgaria expect from the Soviets?" The commentary goes on to say that everyone in Bulgaria asks this question or rather in the form "What cannot Bulgaria expect from the Soviets?"

They cannot expect the Soviets to recognize the Bulgarian frontiers. They can expect conditions that will be as unacceptable as those of Neuilly. They expect the enemy will not regret occupying all of Bulgaria.

The allies press states that it is not a question of treating Bulgaria better than any other country. They cannot expect better conditions from the Soviets despite the fact that they are not at war with the USSR.

The Soviets announce that they do not recognize Bulgarian neutrality, which means they do not want to see Bulgaria out of war. The Soviets desire Bulgaria because of its dominating geographical position in the Balkan peninsula. George Dimitroff has not waited in vain twenty years to become president of the Supreme Council of the Soviet Republic in Bulgaria.

#### HUNGARY

Radio Ankara brings a report from Switzerland that the Hungarian government has decreed martial law in south Hungary and Transylvania, that there is uneasiness in the country and the government is taking extraordinary precautions. According to some rumors, 7000 people have been arrested in a week in Budapest.

Berlin to Turkey says that General Lakatos, the new Hungarian Prime Minister who is decorated with the Knight's Iron Cross, has declared that Hungary will continue the fight till the Bolshevik danger is removed.

#### RUMANIA

Radio Bucegi bringing the communique of the General Staff for August 30th said that fighting was still taking place at Slobozia, Calarasi, Adakale and other places. They claim the capture of three generals, 500 officers, 5000 soldiers and a large amount of war material.

In the sector of Nadlag the German Hungarian forces which had penetrated into Rumanian territory were repulsed.

The military command of the capital calls on the people of the city to help clean up the streets and blocked roads owing to the heavy damage done by the recent airraids.

Radio Bucegi, owing to interference, cannot be monitored in the evening. There was some success in hearing the Radio Carpati on 50 m. at 12:00 GMT.

An experimental station Arges at 48 m. was heard at 18:30 GMT but very poorly. It was not possible to monitor any other Rumanian news.

Radio Sofia brings the TASS report that the Rumanian delegation to Moscow to sign the armistice terms consisted of Stirbey, the Minister of Justice Patrascanu, the Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs Damacianu and a lieutenant-colonel ....

Hungary also reported that the Wilhelmstrasse speaker said that events in Rumania were still veiled. Nothing was known of the fate of the German Embassy in Bucarest. The latest news had been that the King's troops had surrendered the Embassy and were still besieging it.

Berlin makes only a short reference to Horia Sima's appeal for action against the new Rumanian government. Under a Zagreb dateline it quotes the Great press as saying that Rumania is obtaining the same reward as Badoglio received in Italy. Rumania has surrendered to Bolshevism. The British and the Americans now have no right to speak regarding southeastern Europe, and the armistice conditions are being dictated only by the Soviets.

SLOVAKIA

Radio Budapest in connection with Tisso's speech reported from the capital of the Reich that the occupation of Slovakia was undertaken at the request of the Slovak government. The disturbing elements were partly partisans from Tito's armies and other foreigners and only a small percentage of Slovaks. Berlin declares the uprising will be ended soon.

In a later broadcast, 21.35 GMT, it is stated: "Berlin's political circles are watching developments in southeastern Europe with interest though without nervousness."

The communist rebellion in Slovakia has been joined by Slovak troops and the Wilhelmstrasse, according to the Interinf, thinks it will be put down in twenty four hours.

To show its past help, Berlin reports that they have sent 18,000 plows, 4000 scythes, and 1500 other agricultural machines to Slovakia.

Berlin announces that it has mobilized their Balkan quislings Horia Sima, General Lakotas, Nedich and the Croat spokesman Bogdan who have addressed appeals to the Hungarian, Serbian and the Croat people.

TELEGRAM SENT

August 31, 1944

81 21 44  
Bulgaria

WRB 145

Subject: Setting aside of Bulgarian anti-Jewish laws.

1 5 1

TELEGRAM SENT

August 30, 1944

WRB 143

Subject: Proposed measures for emergency assistance to  
Jewish citizenry in Bulgaria.

TELEGRAM SENT

August 30, 1944

WRB 142

Subject: Quotation from text of Bulgarian decree abolishing  
anti-Jewish laws.

1058

E. 1/11

I I

Broadcast from Sofia, August 28, 1944

In execution of the policy decided upon by the Government, the Council of Ministers has occupied itself during several sittings with the Jewish question and has decided:

That there shall be changed immediately all the restrictions contained in the law for the defense of the nation and the Order of the Government of August 29, 1942, in abolishing all the restrictions, political and moral or of a police character; that is to say:

The forced wearing of special insignia, the command not to circulate, and the visiting of certain localities, choice of profession, etc.

That the committee for Jewish questions be returned to its original status, and that its functions be transferred to the appropriate ministry, the to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the communal funds of the Jews to the Ministry of the Interior, while non-portable property (real estate) will remain with the Ministry of Finances and of Agriculture and public grounds and buildings.

The complicated affairs in co-relation with these funds and real estate of persons of Jewish ancestry (established for four years through the application of the law) shall be regulated in conformity with the commandments, laws and orders that the Ministry of the Interior shall establish.

On the 24th of this month the Minister of the Interior received the newly established consistoire in a body, in the presence of Reserve Colonel Tagger, and informed them of the decision taken by the Government concerning the Jewish question and its modifications. The members of the consistoire expressed their satisfaction of the reception accorded them by the Minister and expressed their devotion to the Bulgarian State, the subjects of which they continued to feel themselves to be and had felt themselves to be in the most difficult days. The same members of the consistoire declared to the Minister of the Interior that they had faith in the attitude of the Government and that concerning the regulation of the Jewish questions they had confidence in the Bulgarian State with which they would settle the questions as subjects of the country.

8/25

~~SECRET~~ 1

1/ At the end of April, the Turkish m/v "Agur" was sent by us to Burgas. She came back empty. From the report of the captain, it could not be clearly understand if the passangers were not embarked because of difficulties from Bulgarian side /from the harbour authorities, because of the absence of life-belts/ or because of difficulties from the Turkish Consulate, as there were no transit visas.

2/ In order to clear up this question, another m/v "Marina" was sent by us on May 20th to Burgas, carrying life-belts. It was definitely established that the Turkish Consul in Burgas gave official notice to the Bulgarian authorities, that Jewish refugees could not be embarked if he - the Consul- would not receive an order from Ankara on this account.

3/ A third effort was made to let make come Jewish Refugees from Bulgarian with a bulgarian boat. This effort too had no result because the Turkish Consul and eventually the Turkish Ambassador undertook certain steps at the Bulgarian authorities.

The Efforts of the W.R.B. must be ne in order to settle those difficulties.

REGRADED  
UNCLASSIFIED

✓ a/ The Turkish Consul in Burgas should be informed from Ankara not to make any difficulties to Turkish and Bulgarian boats ready to embark Jewish refugees for Istanbul, on their way to Palestine.

or  
✓ b/ The Turkish Consul should be informed to act for these boats like demanded for the further Turkish boats in Rumania, i.e. to be given the order to issue collective visas.

*He has to inform the govt.*

./.

Enclosures

- 1/ one letter from the Turkish Consul in Burgas to the captain of the m/v "Agur"
- 2/ one letter from our ship-Agent in Burgas

P.S; Will you please be so kind and send us back the two enclosures.

8/25/44

Mr. Katzki:

Mr. Ueberall said they had received a cable from Varna this morning that the boat Pirin is supposed to have left the 21st from Varna to go to Burgas, to wait there for the passengers. All necessary authorizations and permits have been received.

Mr. Ueberall also wanted to know about the 4 o'clock meeting this afternoon. I told him so far as I knew it would take place. He will be home after three o'clock this afternoon. hb

TELEGRAM SENT

August 24, 1944

WRB 141

Subject: Speech of Draganoff before the Bulgarian Parliament.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

August 23, 1944

WRB 104

Subject: The U.S. Government is watching treatment of Jews in  
Bulgaria with interest. This may be transmitted to  
Bulgarian authorities.

059

TEL CHAT: S-RT

August 23, 1944

MB 138

Subject: Regret at misconstruction of talks with Balabanoff,  
Cretzianu, and Thierry.

Istanbul, August 23, 1944

Dear Dr. Black:

In a previous communication to you, I referred to the possibility of supplying money to feed the Jewish population of Bulgaria. It is my understanding that there is enough food there available, but the Jewish population is virtually pauperized and unable to buy the necessary food. In addition, this same Jewish population has been deprived of its economic privileges and has been unable to indulge in business and professional activities in order to put itself on a self-sustaining basis.

I am prepared at this time to go a step further in the direction indicated above. While no commitment can be made at this moment in specific terms of dollars, I have every good reason to believe that the necessary funds could be promptly forthcoming to serve these purposes. It will be necessary, of course, to determine just what funds will be needed, where and how they are to be distributed, and for that purpose a neutral agency would probably be required to make such a study in advance, and to handle the enterprise. Perhaps it could be the International Red Cross, or some other agency agreed upon by the Bulgarian Government and the intermediaries for the Government of the United States. It has occurred to me that such a definitive statement which could reach the Bulgarian Government at this time may be especially useful at this moment. I take this occasion to repeat that our purpose is (a) to see that the Bulgarian citizens are reinstated to their normal position socially and economically; (b) that they are given the wherewithal to indulge in their new freedom actively; (c) that they can become self-sustaining, with all of the independence and dignity attached to these qualities as Bulgarian citizens; (d) that they can immediately begin to

-2-

contribute to the resuscitation of the economic life of the new nation which, I understand, is now being forged.

The latter may be of interest to the Bulgarian Government, and it would seem to me that, if such work is to be done, the sooner it is begun the better for all concerned. I therefore have taken the occasion of addressing this note to you, so that in principle you will understand our views, and perhaps have them transmitted where they may do the most good at this crucial hour.

Cordially yours,

I. A. Hirschmann

Dr. Floyd H. Black, President  
Robert College  
Hisar

IAH/b

**La Bulgarie veut-elle la paix ?**

# La Thrace et la Macédoine sont bulgares

affirme M. Draganov

## La Bulgarie est prête à tout pour garder l'amitié turque

**Nous avons une armée capable de défendre nos frontières, a dit également le ministre bulgare**

Le Caire 22 A. A. — Radio Sofia a annoncé hier que le Ministre des affaires étrangères bulgares M. Draganov parlera aujourd'hui le 22 Août à 16 heures, heure locale bulgare.

**Déclaration de M. Draganov** — Ankara, 22 (Radio-Journal). — M. Draganov, ministre des Affaires étrangères de Bulgarie, a prononcé aujourd'hui son discours relatif à la

politique étrangère de son pays. Dans ce discours prononcé tard dans la soirée, nous avons pu capter les passages suivants :

« Plusieurs personnes ont critiqué notre adhésion au pacte tripartite. En adhérant à ce pacte, la Bulgarie visait à éviter la guerre et même à sauvegarder la paix des Balkans. Nous ne pouvions pas alors (La suite en 4ème page 2ème col.)

Aug. 23, 1944

LE JOURNAL NOBRIENT

1059

## L'attitude de la Bulgarie

refuser les terres qu'on nous proposait et où vivaient des Bulgares. Cependant la Bulgarie a encore aujourd'hui une armée forte capable de défendre ses frontières.

Parlant ensuite de ses voisins il a dit : Par son empressement à régler le problème de la Dobroudja la Roumanie a prouvé ses bonnes intentions à notre égard.

Et enfin sur la Turquie : « En ce qui concerne la Turquie ce pays fait saillie preuve depuis quelques années d'un manque de confiance à notre égard. Elle a même pendant assez longtemps massé de nombreuses divisions à la frontière.

J'ai cependant le plaisir de vous annoncer du haut de cette tribune, qu'aujourd'hui nos relations avec la Turquie sont des plus cordiales. En ce qui nous concerne, nous n'avons jamais nourri des intentions agressives à l'égard de la Turquie et nous lui avons donné toutes les assurances voulues.

La Bulgarie est prête à faire tout ce qu'il faut pour la continuation de cette amitié.

Washington, 22 A.A. — On a entendu la radio de Sofia donner le discours que Perwan Draganov, ministre des Affaires étrangères de Bulgarie, a prononcé au Sénat. Le discours a duré une heure. Draganov a dit principalement que la Bulgarie avait commis une grave erreur en déclarant la guerre aux Etats-Unis et à l'Angleterre et que le gouvernement bulgare actuel cherche à faire la paix maintenant avec les Anglo-Américains.

Draganov a ajouté que la Bulgarie entend retirer de Yougoslavie ses troupes et régler immédiatement la question mine.

La Thracie, la Macédoine, dit-il, sont des terres bulgares.

Il a dit que la Bulgarie espère maintenir ses relations cordiales avec la Turquie.

Parlant de la Russie, Draganov a dit que la Bulgarie entend maintenir son amitié avec ce pays.

La Bulgarie, a dit Draganov, ne désire combattre aucun de ses voisins. Elle n'a dit autre chose de difficile insurmontable dans les relations de la Bulgarie avec la Grèce.

### Les conditions de paix qu'accepterait Sofia

Washington 22 A. A. — La Bulgarie aurait demandé au gouvernement soviétique de transmettre à Washington et à Londres qu'elle accepte :

1. — La formation d'une Macédoine fédérée en Yougoslavie à condition que soient respectés les droits de la minorité bulgare.

2. — Le retour à la Grèce de la Thracie grecque à condition que la Bulgarie reçoive un corridor sur l'Égée.

### Le rôle de M. Mouchanov et l'attitude de l'Angleterre

Londres, 22 A.A. — Le correspondant étranger du « Daily Herald » dit qu'il apparaît certain maintenant que la Bulgarie ait demandé des conditions d'amistice.

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Istanbul, August 23, 1944

Dear Dr. Black:

I have written a report to Washington in connection with my operations relating to Bulgaria and have referred to you, as per the enclosed which I thought you might wish to see.

Cordially yours,

I. A. Hirschmann

Dr. Floyd H. Black  
President  
Robert College  
Hisar

Encl.

IAHLVH

August 13, 1944

M E M O R A N D U M

Conversation between Mr. Katzki and Dr. Isac Chaoul

I spoke this morning with Dr. Isac Chaoul, a doctor from Bulgaria who just arrived in Istanbul en route to Palestine. We discussed generally the situation of Jewish people in Bulgaria, and the following are the new facts which he gave me. It should be noted, however, that Dr. Chaoul had been so long out of contact with Jewish affairs because of his long attachment to Jewish labor battalions that he was not too well informed regarding the situation in Bulgaria.

1. Dr. Chaoul himself was a practising physician in Sofia and other towns for about fifteen years. He was forced to discontinue his practice, and was first assigned as doctor to labor battalions in Thrace and Macedonia, and subsequently in South Dobrudja, in the principal city of Dobritch. Dr. Chaoul effected his release from the labor battalion on the basis of the possession of his Palestine visa and his Turkish transit visa. He said that people in possession of these documents can obtain their release from labor battalions relatively easily. He said that there were a great many people in Bulgaria who have all their documents in order for emigration, that is, passports, exit visas, and all other necessary documents, but have been unable to depart merely because of the lack of Turkish transit visas. Up to the time of his departure, which was five or six days ago, they had not yet learned in Bulgaria about the new agreement for the obtention of Turkish transit visas upon application.

2. He understands that steps are being taken for the establishment of the Jewish Consistoire in Bulgaria. The names he knows of people who will be in the Consistoire are: Dr. Kalmy, an attorney of Russe; Mr. Rachamimoff, a lawyer, and Mr. Lidji, a lawyer, both of Sofia; Chief Rabbi Chananel; and Colonel Avram Tadjer. There may be other personalities involved, but these are the only names of which he knows. He did not know whether or not the Consistoire has already begun its activities. (The new Commissar for Jewish Affairs, Protich, stands very close to Mr. Lidji, but Dr. Chaoul had no information as to whether or not Protich was more anti-Semitic in his attitudes than anyone else. His own feeling is that at the present time the tendency would be away from anti-Semitism.)

Dr. Chaoul himself saw no indications of a relaxation of the anti-Jewish laws, but he himself knew of two technical regulations which had come into effect recently which might be some indication:

First. Formerly, the procedure was for Jewish people applying for passports to have their local community take the matter up with the local representative of the Commissariat for Jewish Affairs, who in turn sent the application to the Commissar for decision. This was a long, time-consuming job, and presented the chief hurdle in securing passports. At the present time, Jewish applicants for passports may go directly to the local police with their application, in the same manner as any other Bulgarian.

Second. In the past, it was necessary to obtain from the Jewish Commissariat a specific authorization for each withdrawal to be made from blocked Jewish bank accounts. Even though instructions were issued to the bank for three months' periods, specific consent had to be obtained for each month's withdrawal. Now, instructions are given to the bank for three months' periods, but withdrawals can be made each month automatically, without further official approval.

Dr. Chaoul had no information regarding the status of the departure of the boats from Burgas. All he knew was that the Turkish Consul in Burgas definitely had prevented the departure of the boats two or three months ago. He has no information as to whether or not the situation has changed.

To Dr. Chaoul's knowledge, there are Jewish labor battalions working on roads in the town of Ichtiman, which lies between Plovdiv and Sofia, building roads at Lowetsch, in which is/north Bulgaria, near Pleven and the road between Sofia and Varna, and at Swistow, which lies between Russe and Lom, nearer Russe, where a flood control dam is being built on the Danube. There are other labor battalions in Bulgaria, but Dr. Chaoul did not know where they were located.

Istanbul, August 21, 1944

Dear Dr. Black:

I am enclosing a revised letter of Salabanoff which he has authorized for publication. As you say, a step is being made in the right direction, but I do trust, with Parliament in session, that the opportunity will not be lost to make these steps decisive so they may be interpreted in Washington in terms of the desired good will.

With all good wishes,

Cordially yours,

I. A. Hirschmann

Dr. Floyd H. Black, President  
Robert College  
Hisar

IAH:VH

# La nouvelle attitude de la Bulgarie

Le "Front Patriotique" transmet ses desiderata au gouvernement de Sofia par l'entremise de Radio "Bulgarie Libre"

Ankara, 18 (Radio-Journal) La Radio « Bulgarie Libre » dans son émission en bulgare de 20 h. 55 communique :

Le « Front Patriotique » demande au gouvernement Bagrianov qui a été avoir passé aux actes, ce qui suit :

1. — Rompre toute sorte de rela-

tions avec l'Allemagne.

2. — Rappeler les forces bulgares de Macédoine, de Thrace, de Yougoslavie et d'Albanie.

3. — Créer des relations étroites et amicales avec la Russie Soviétique.

4. — Créer également des relations amicales avec le peuple roumain, serbe, croate et autres et accomplir de la sorte une Union Bal-

(La suite en 4ème page 2ème col.)

## En Bulgarie

kanique.

5. — Créer des relations amicales avec la Turquie.

6. — Eloigner les étrangers qui se trouvent dans les organisations de l'Etat.

7. — Dissoudre tous les organismes étrangers qui se trouvent dans le pays.

8. — Recréer des relations avec les Alliés.

Tant que cela n'aura pas été fait il ne sera pas possible de sauver la Bulgarie. Le peuple bulgare considérera comme de simples paroles sans importance toutes les mesures qui seront adoptées en dehors de celles ci-haut mentionnées.

### La question juive sera éliminée

Berne, 18. A.A. — Dans le sombre tableau que M. Bagrianoff fit de la situation de la Bulgarie au cours du discours qu'il prononça hier au Sorhanje, il préconisa de prendre des mesures pour surmonter les difficultés dans lesquelles se débattait la Bulgarie et pour les éliminer.

Entre autres, il déclara que la question juive doit être éliminée. Parlant de ceci, il dit notamment :

« Le gouvernement déclare qu'en réalisant les désirs du peuple bulgare, il a fermement décidé d'éliminer toutes choses qui ont été faites contre sa volonté, y compris la question juive. Le gouvernement croit qu'il pourra faire ceci sans être cause de nouveaux et vains conflits et sans faire subir des nouvelles souffrances au peuple bulgare. En d'autres mots, le gouvernement bulgare a l'intention et le désir, dans ses actes, de n'agir que pour le mieux du peuple bulgare ».

Le correspondant de l'United Press mande que le Premier bulgare affirma que son gouvernement ne veut pas verser du sang.

proposé de adresser deux ovations les 3  
aux Alliés à ses grands camp des Alliés  
la Bulgarie dans le discours de M. Bagrianoff  
de lui donner le titre de « vainqueur »  
dans le nouveau Japon sera plus  
de M. Bagrianoff qui fut son bon  
dans une pais au début ». Le  
compris avant l'Assemblée Provisoire  
il est resté à l'Assemblée Provisoire  
En effet, ce que je  
c'est que le  
ment à se retirer de  
explique. Les dirige  
leur Haut Etat.M  
réalisé depuis

Istanbul, August 18, 1944

Dear Dr. Black:

I am enclosing, for your information, a rough draft of a telegram that is being sent to Washington today. I should be grateful to hear of any new developments or steps you suggest in order to inform Washington without delay.

Cordially yours,

I. A. Hirschmann

Dr. Floyd H. Black  
President  
Robert College  
Hisar

IAH:VH

ELIZABETH BERT

August 18, 1944

LAB 135

Subject: Speech of Bagryanov before Parliament, August 17,  
liquidation of Jewish question.

TEL GRAF SENT

August 18, 1944

PAR 130

Subject: Speech by Bagryanov re Jewish question, August 17.

10061

18.8.44

Discours du Premier Ministre de Bulgarie, Mr. Bagrianoff  
Prononcé à l'ouverture de la 7ème Session Extraordinaire  
du 25 Sobranie

Au commencement lecture fut faite par le Ministre de quatre décrets signés par les Régents au nom de S.M. Simeon II, relativement à:

- 1 - Démission du cabinet Boziloff
- 2 - Nomination de M. Bagrianoff comme Premier Ministre.
- 3 - Constitution du cabinet Bagrianoff.
- 4 - Changements qui eurent lieu dans le cabinet Bagrianoff

Discours du Premier Ministre:

Messieurs les Députés,

Le cabinet qui se présente aujourd'hui devant vous et lequel j'ai la responsabilité de représenter, fut chargé des responsabilités pour notre commun destin, le 20 Juin 1944. Cela signifie, Messieurs, que ce cabinet porte ces responsabilités seulement depuis 10 semaines. Les circonstances dans lesquelles ce cabinet se chargea de la direction du pays, vous sont, je pense, bien connues.

Le destin du peuple bulgare, alourdi durant les quelques dernières années, s'était arrêté pour quelques semaines durant le mois de Mars hésitant à un carrefour, duquel chaque pas paraissait fatal et catastrophique. Dans ces quelques semaines de recherches et d'hésitations, le peuple bulgare privé de la possibilité de manifester activement sa volonté trouva le moyen de la manifester par une opinion publique qui en réalité imposa ce cabinet. Grâce à la compréhension de la situation difficile dans laquelle le peuple bulgare se trouvait, à la patience et à l'humanité qui furent manifestées envers son destin, pour lesquelles il doit être reconnaissant, et grâce à la ferme conviction du gouvernement, que dans les moments d'hésitation et de difficultés, la meilleure chose pour le peuple est de prendre lui même son destin entre ses propres mains, ce moment fatal était venu. Pas plus que 10 semaines, il fut la source des Balkans pour gagner la paix. Voilà 10 semaines dans ces temps éclairés, la destinée bulgare prend peu à peu le chemin de la solidarité humaine au lieu d'être poussée sur le chemin sanglant de la guerre et de l'égoïsme.

Messieurs les Députés,

En ma qualité de Premier Ministre, j'eus la possibilité parlant devant la radio Sofia, de tracer en quelques lignes la politique qui aurait été suivie par le nouveau cabinet. Ce petit discours disait pour le moment tout ce qui devait être dit ayant en vue les succès qu'il fallait et pouvait atteindre. Ce petit discours fut justement apprécié par tous les pays, et malgré que le monde se trouvait entraîné dans la guerre et noyé dans ses souffrances, ce monde ne perdit pas..... Ce petit discours disait tout sur le passé, le présent et l'avenir. Aujourd'hui lorsque j'ai pour la première fois l'occasion d'apparaître devant les représentants du peuple bulgare pour faire la déclaration traditionnelle d'un nouveau cabinet, je pense n'avoir aucune autre tâche que d'éclaircir et expliquer avec plus de détails tout ce qui fut dit ou ce qui fut passé en silence dans mon discours. Malgré que mon discours fut assez court, il était assez clair pour ceux qui voulaient le comprendre.

Le gouvernement est convaincu que dans ce cataclysme social que traverse l'humanité, l'humanité verse son sang pour faire un grand pas dans le domaine sociale, un pas qui mènera le monde vers plus de justice et une plus grande solidarité humaine.

Que le peuple bulgare se rende compte que cette lutte colossale dépasse toutes ses faibles possibilités et qu'il a l'unique devoir de supporter avec patience toutes les souffrances et l'oppression que le destin lui a désigné, seulement pour ne pas ..... et vivre dans une justice sociale avec ses autres frères, et par ce chemin de justice sociale contribuer à bâtir un nouveau monde. Ce petit discours avait terminé avec une petite déclaration qui montra le cours de la politique de mon cabinet et qui était: Notre destin doit être entre nos propres mains.

Je commence à faire mon exposé en m'efforçant de vous éclaircir tout ce que mon petit discours dissit, et qui aura trois points: le passé, le présent et l'avenir.

Pour commencer par le passé, je tiens à vous remercier pour les chaleureux sentiments avec lesquels vous avez accueilli le gouvernement lequel, comme je l'ai déjà dit, j'ai la responsabilité de représenter dans un des moments les plus décisifs de l'histoire.

Toujours et pour chacun, l'expression de sentiments chaleureux fut la source d'un encouragement, mais lorsque cela est fait dans un tel moment et un tel lieu, cette expression n'est pas seulement un encouragement mais aussi mène vers de nouveaux engagements envers ce peuple que vous représentez. En outre je suis obligé à vous remercier pour les sentiments avec lesquels vous m'avez accueilli dans cette tribune la plus responsable et au moment le plus responsable. Ces sentiments me rappellent six années avant, lorsque encore député j'eus l'occasion pour la première fois de critiquer le discours du trône du 24ème Sobranie et j'eus la possibilité d'exposer mes compréhensions sur les grandes questions et les problèmes en litige d'alors du gouvernement. Je me souviens que lors du 24ème Sobranie, non seulement l'opposition mais aussi des dizaines de milliers de lettres et télégrammes, par lesquels le peuple bulgare par l'entremise de ses députés, acceptait ces attitudes. Quelles étaient les attitudes pour les lignes fondamentales de la direction?

Pour avoir cela, je me permets de retourner en arrière, six et demi années auparavant, et passer en revue le discours du trône et voir les attitudes qui furent prononcées se trouvant dans les pages 10, 11, 12 du discours du Trône. Le premier rayon par la lumière duquel je vois le discours du Trône, serait-il lu par le roi lui-même ou par un remplaçant, ce discours du Trône reste un acte du gouvernement dans lequel on montre (décrit) la situation de l'état et montre les projets qui seront présentés au Sobranie. Je cite l'article 133 de la loi .....: En d'autres termes, le discours du Trône est un acte par lequel s'exprime la politique du gouvernement et un acte pour lequel c'est le gouvernement et personne d'autre qui est tenu responsable. Le second rayon par lequel je vis le discours du Trône est que le conseil des ministres, tel qu'il est aujourd'hui, malgré

qu'il ne provient pas du Sobranie, ce qui est la tradition d'un demi siècle de la Bulgarie et séculaire dans les pays parlementaires, n'a aucun fondement à plaider pour une indulgence envers ses responsabilités, devant la présence de l'article 133 de la loi..... Je dois remarquer que j'avais constaté parmi les cercles du gouvernement le même désir, cette responsabilité pour le confort du gouvernement, d'être transférée non pas là où il doit être, mais là où il ne peut pas l'être, en d'autres termes, la responsabilité sur la destinée de la nation ne doit pas rester dans les airs. Mais dans cette période de recherches, ne serait-il pas très dangereux si nous nous contentions à affaiblir la responsabilité pour la destinée du peuple bulgare?

Dans la même page il existe un autre passage qui est entièrement en rapport avec les citations faites jusqu'ici. Dans cette situation, la tendance n'est-elle pas claire, que la responsabilité du gouvernement dans cette période doit être chargée au plus haut institut du gouvernement qui sera embarrassé par les responsabilités pour lesquelles il n'est pas en état de supporter. Ainsi l'attitude qui a été prise comme étant l'attitude du peuple bulgare sur la forme du gouvernement bulgare est bien claire, c'est à dire, que la forme de notre gouvernement doit rester telle d'après les principes clairs de notre loi fondamentale, car dans le cas contraire la responsabilité sur la destinée du peuple bulgare resterait dans les airs, et il existe un danger que le plus haut institut de notre état soit écrasé sous le poids de la responsabilité qui lui sera chargée et laquelle il n'est pas capable de supporter.

Concernant la forme de notre gouvernement, il existe plusieurs autres passages, mais je me contenterais de ne citer qu'un seul entre eux:

Serait-il étranger que l'union intérieure du peuple bulgare a diminuée? Serait-il étranger que quelques gens sont d'avis à sacrifier certaines libertés, qu'il existe un effort pour que le Sobranie soit transformé en un masque glacé de contentement et cache toutes les misères et le mécontentement du peuple bulgare?

La forme ne pourra changer l'essence. Le masque ne pourra pas changer le désespoir qui restera toujours sous le masque et continuera à décomposer l'union de ce peuple.

Existe-t-il un plus clair avertissement du peuple bulgare pour les dangers existants d'un régime sans responsabilité.

Je dois souligner que cet avertissement n'est pas fait maintenant mais il fut fait, il y a six années et demie, lorsque encore personne ne doutait du cataclysme actuel qui se trouve déjà vers sa fin.

Je crois avoir dit le plus important sur l'attitude du peuple bulgare concernant la politique intérieure.

Quelle fut l'attitude envers les questions économiques? Dans les pages 21 et 22 je lis le passage suivant:

Si quelques états malgré étant affaiblis économiquement par la première guerre mondiale, sont parvenus à être restaurés, cela est dû à une plus grande justice sociale que fut établie dans les frontières de ces états.

Si ces pays purent se relever et devenir plus forts, cela ne veut pas dire qu'ils inventèrent un appareil pour la discipline intérieure, mais parcequ'ils stéblirent un plus juste régime, qui est : plus de justice, concernant à l'avis des classes plus faibles et une plus juste répartition de ses richesses.

Je me souviens des sentiments lorsque vous applaudissiez frenetiquement la proposition du budget du ministre de l'agriculture en 1939/40. Les sentiments par lesquels je suis accueilli aujourd'hui par vous apporte à une période avant trois années et demis, lorsque furent fait deux avertissements, vu que la guerre mondiale s'approchait de nous. Je me souviens que ces avertissements furent accueillis à l'unanimité. Lors d'une réunion en province on avait constaté que cela été approuvé par le peuple entier et vous ici, avec une majorité absolue vous décidé d'imprimer ce discours en 20000 exemplaires pour les distribuer parmi le peuple.

Quelle était l'attitude générale de la politique dans ce discours: Je cite un passage:

La lutte est tellement grande qu'elle dépasse toutes nos possibilités. Existe-t-il un avertissement plus clair, qu'il ne faut en aucune circonstance nous mêler dans ce conflit qui dépasse nos possibilités et dont les résultats dépassent nos tâches.

Il y a quelque chose de certain. C'est que dans le monde de demain il y aura plus de justice que dans le monde d'hier. Le peuple bulgare désire-t-il quelque chose de plus que cette justice: La justice parmi les peuples.

Cela constitue des faits que malgré dans ces moments difficiles un peuple parvient à conserver une ferme volonté de prendre entre ses mains les rênes de ses destinées.

Pour moi les contradictions ne furent que les preuves que le peuple bulgare s'intéressa sur sa destinée et prit les rênes entre ses propres mains.

Parlons du présent

Si vous vous souvenez cet avertissement fut fait dans une forme très sévères. Il fut fait pressamment pour attirer votre attention et pour ne pas être passé outre.

Je cite un passage:

L'essai fait jusqu'ici par notre gouvernement d'intervenir dans la vie économique tient loin notre économie de l'économie dirigée.

Rien d'extraordinaire que nous ne puissions alors, arrêter les prix, arrêter la hausse de la vie, la speculation, que nous étions dans un cercle magique, ce qui fut la cause de nous regarder l'un l'autre avec le contentement et rejeter la faute l'un à l'autre.

Aujourd'hui lorsque tous les avertissements sont .... chaque personne parvient à peine à résister, il serait très logique d'attendre de ma part un analyse détaillé sur les fautes qui

menèrent à ces difficultés et sur la responsabilité sur ces fautes. Mais je dois vous avertir que au le moment actuel, je vous réécrit.

Je sais que vous voudriez avoir l'explication des fautes qui amenèrent à un chaos économique, pourquoi la qualité et les mesures de la production ont diminué, pourquoi l'industrie de futras prouve de réserves en laine, coton, fer, étain, et surtout en caoutchouc brut, qui devint une matière de première importance pour notre transport vers lequel est adapté notre économie.

Pourquoi les réserves ne furent pas constituées, elles qui ne pouvaient l'être fait qu'avec l'aide du gouvernement. La constitution de réserves, qui n'avait aucun motif pour ne pas être faite, si le gouvernement était mieux renseigné et si seulement trois jours avant le commencement de la guerre en Belgique, le conseil ministériel ne prenait pas une attitude que la monde ne s'attend pas à la guerre et que l'économie de la Bulgarie n'est pas en danger.

Le paysan qui n'a pas une seconde chance, qui marche nu-pied voudrait bien savoir s'il existe des motifs pour qu'il soit aujourd'hui nu-pied.

Je sais que le peuple voudrait savoir pourquoi la production agricole a été diminuée, pourquoi le bétail fut diminué, et pourquoi il fut laissé durant l'hiver rigoureux à chercher du pain qu'il devait payer trois fois plus cher que sa récolte ne fut réquisitionnée. Pourquoi la bourse noire fut son apparition même dans la dernière maison du village?

Peut-être le peuple voudrait bien savoir, pourquoi l'année dernière il resta durant trois mois sans un seul gramme de matière grasse, que notre pays pourrait produire en grande quantité.

Parlant de question économiques, je dois vous prévenir que toutes les mesures prises par le gouvernement dans ce domaine, ne sont pas en état de remédier entièrement aux difficultés qui furent créés, mais ne peuvent le faire qu'en partie.

Pour remédier à cela il a deux choses:

1. Souffrir avec patience, cette souffrance dans le silence par laquelle notre peuple est habitué à réparer les fautes commises par son gouvernement.
  2. Attendre une fin prochaine de la guerre.
- Peut-être je suis obligé de vous déclarer comment et avec quels fautes la destinée du peuple bulgare fut alourdie.

Comment sans un sondage approfondi du peuple bulgare, il fut déclaré en son nom, une guerre soit-disant symbolique, et comment après la déclaration de cette guerre ne furent pas prises les mesures contre les dangers que cette guerre pouvait nous amener.

Les dangers se trouvant devant l'avenir du peuple bulgare et les destructions de notre capitale irréparable dans laquelle ne restait plus rien de précieux à détruire sauf la vie d'une dizaine de milliers de personnes qui ne peuvent pas se séparer de leurs ruines et cendres, car ils n'ont pas autre. Je sais qu'un peuple entier voudrait avoir des détails sur tout cela et de terminer avec le mot attendu: "responsabilité".

Mais je vous répondrais qu'il n'est pas lieu ici d'analyser les fautes et les responsabilités, car lorsque les événements se déroulent avec une rapidité comme l'éclair et mènent vers des désaccords, des difficultés, il n'existe rien de plus dangereux pour un peuple que de lui attirer l'attention vers le passé au lieu de lui montrer le chemin de l'union et le diriger en avant.

La troisième partie du discours concerne le futur. Le futur est toujours une énigme. Il le fut durant plusieurs siècles lorsque la culture humaine ne permettait pas à l'homme de tirer vite une conclusion.

Je ne permet de vous citer une forme conviction personnelle: Dans la vie, le développement des événements n'est pas dû à un hasard. La vie se développe sous l'influence de tendances inchangeables.

Si je ne suis parmi à exprimer devant vous ma conviction personnelle, c'est parce que je veux par mes propres actes rester entièrement clair et absolument honnête.

Car les points de vue d'une personne ne peuvent pas influencer sur les actes d'un homme d'état, qui a une responsabilité en temps de premier ministre.

Les raisons de ce cataclysme social, tel que la guerre actuelle, doivent être cherchées dans les principes bases de la culture européenne culture qui depuis près de trois siècles s'impose comme une culture foncière, culture qui est basée sur les lois de l'égoïsme, sur la loi visant une plus grande puissance, un plus grand pouvoir et plus grandes richesses.

Le socialisme social n'est pas dû à des raisons claires et fixes mais cette guerre est la continuation de quelques guerres, différentes chacune par ses motifs mais égales par le temps. et c'est pour cela que cette guerre se terminera pas tout d'un coup mais terminera

.....  
Cette guerre terminera avec les résultats sociaux suivants:  
La guerre terminera absolument par une plus large organisation sociale de l'humanité, en direction verticale et horizontale.  
La guerre terminera avec quelques nouveaux résultats dans la forme du gouvernement qui développera les éléments plus démocratiques, c'est à dire qui donnera à chaque individu une plus grande liberté politique.

La guerre terminera avec de nouveaux résultats dans l'économie, qui diminuera l'exploitation d'une personne par une autre, c'est à dire qu'elle diminuera l'esclavage économique.

Quelles sont les bases sur cette conviction. Ce n'est ni la place ni le temps d'expliquer ces bases.

Je suis obligé d'expliquer encore plus clairement l'attitude du gouvernement sur les questions actuellement du gouvernement. Voilà Messieurs, clairement et bref:

Le gouvernement est d'avis que le peuple bulgare dans sa grande majorité n'a jamais eu le désir de se joindre aux grands conflits entre grands peuples, conflits qui le peuple bulgare a compté comme dépassant toutes ses faibles possibilités et dont les résultats dépassent ses buts.

Le peuple bulgare qui durant les 25 années d'expériences infructueuses fut durant de longues années privé de la possibilité de manifester activement sa volonté sur les problèmes intéressant le gouvernement, mais par une volonté passive imposait celle-ci, il parvint

dernièrement à imposer un gouvernement par le quel il prouve qu'il a la foi que ce gouvernement prendra en considération le cours de sa volonté.

Le gouvernement bulgare qui ne pouvant pas éviter quelques événements insurmontables pour lui, a réagit avec ces événements toujours dans le désir de ne pas attiser les conflits et de diminuer les souffrances générales, tant que cela fut dans ses possibilités.

Le gouvernement déclare qu'accomplissant la volonté du peuple bulgare il est fermement décidé à éliminer tous les faits qui contredisent à la pacification de cette volonté du peuple, inclus aussi le cours de la question juive, pensant arriver à cela de façon à ne pas causer de nouveaux et vains conflits et nouvelles souffrances pour le peuple bulgare, pour ses confrères proches et d'autres termes il aura en vue dans ses actes, la sagesse bulgare.

Voilà pourquoi, le gouvernement est d'avis qu'au nom de l'humanité il a le droit de demander de ses plus grands confrères qui se trouvent dans les blesseurs et entraînés dans la guerre, de ne pas demander par la violence et entièrement en vain à ensanglanter un peuple tellement ensenglanté, peuple qui ne désire rien d'autre que de se ranger dignement dans le nouveau monde, qu'ils sont en train de construire, après tant de souffrances.

Le gouvernement croit profondément que si pour mener la politique intérieure et extérieure d'un peuple qui eut le malheur de perdre toute son organisation il fut indispensable d'organiser une force armée improvisée, ce peuple qui conserve ces forces armées et son commandement intact et lesquels restent fermement par ses traditions derrière la volonté de ce peuple, ne sont pas dirigés contre aucun ennemi intérieur ou extérieur, l'encouragement de cette organisation improvisée n'est plus une oeuvre patriotique et n'est plus au profit du peuple qui le permet et cela ne peut pas être au profit de sa politique extérieure pour le rapprocher avec les peuples proches, pour le peuple bulgare qui graduellement prend les rênes de son destin entre ses mains, un tel encouragement est une oeuvre anti-bulgare et devient une oeuvre anti-nationale et anti-sociale.

Voilà pourquoi le gouvernement pense qu'actuellement lorsque la volonté du peuple sera suivie par l'organisation du gouvernement pour ceux qui comprennent l'inutilité d'une telle lutte illégale et la cessent, le gouvernement, par qui serait-il représenté est obligé dans un tel moment à aider l'union nationale avec une pleine amnistie politique.

Le gouvernement est d'avis que pour son honnêteté et la claierte il est inutile de déclarer qu'aucun fils bulgare n'a pas l'ambition pour atteindre le pouvoir, et que le gouvernement acceptera la lourde croix de la direction de l'état seulement pour accomplir son devoir envers le peuple bulgare.

Le cabinet prit le gouvernement seulement après être convaincu qu'avec mon refus on pourrait arriver à des fautes qui pourraient être irréparables.

Le gouvernement est convaincu que dans les moments actuels, porter le fardeau du destin d'un pays ne peut pas être le devoir ou le privilège de personne. Il faut, d'après les conditions et par divers chemins, qu'il soit aidé de tous les bulgares et du peuple bulgare entier.

Je dois vers la fin, vous déclarer une ferme conviction personnelle:

- 1 - L'humanité dans son entière unité, sortira de ce bain de sang dans lequel il fut jeté avant cinquante années, sortira plus propre, plus solide et plus fraternel.
- 2 - que le pas, lequel les souffrances et l'expérience imposeront à l'humanité à faire, retirera celle-ci du règne de l'égoïsme vers le règne de la solidarité humaine et l'amour pour son proche.

Si cette fraternité devra être conclue par de nouvelles souffrances ou de nouvelles luttes sanglantes, cela ne dépendra nullement de ceux qui commencèrent la guerre, mais seulement de ceux qui feront la paix. La paix dépendra de leurs sentiments de justice, humanité et clairvoyance.

Pouvu qu'ayant en vue les fautes du passé, ils puissent arriver à conclure une juste paix. Cela est ma conviction inséparable qu'à la fin de ce conflit mondial, il ne se trouvera pas un homme, pas un peuple qui puissent s'acquérir le droit inhumain d'empêcher le peuple bulgare, sans verser en vain du sang, à trouver sa digne place dans le nouveau monde de la justice et de la solidarité humaines.

TELEGRAM SENT

August 18, 1944

WRB 134

Subject: Proposed journey of Beckel to Istanbul, in view of possibilities in Bulgaria.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED.

August 13, 1944

WAS 101

Subject: information sent to Harriman re cooperation of Russians  
in efforts for amelioration in Bulgaria.

AUG 16 RECD

*only file*

For Attention Mr. Katzky!

The following cable was received from Russe yesterday:

"PREPARATION EN MARCHÉ STOP ACTUELLEMENT DEFENSE TEMPORAIRE BATEAUX  
"QUITTER PORTS AGISSONS"

COMMUNAUTE ISRAELITE

14.8.1944.

*Handwritten notes:*  
The...  
to...  
6

August 16, 1944

Memorandum for Mr. Kelley:

(1) Reports are still coming in without cessation regarding individuals who are forceably being threatened with deportation to Germany. It is possible that some of these individuals are on the so-called black list, but the reports persist from reliable sources that the police in Istanbul have been given a list and special "honoraria" for transporting certain individuals. It is reported that the Germans in some cases have left their automobiles with certain police, etc. I have no way of checking these statements and would certainly not repeat them to anyone, but there is reason to believe that there is some lack of clear definition of instructions or carry-through between Ankara and the police here.

(2) I am attaching a copy of a telegram brought to Mr. Katzki's attention, from the Bulgarian representatives who are in charge of the operations connected with the transport of the S. S. Vita and the S. S. Perin.

I. A. Hirschmann

IAH:VH

Istanbul, August 16, 1944

Dear Dr. Black:

As you are undoubtedly aware, a Mr. Nichola Mushanoff, who is purported to be an important political figure on the so-called liberal side, has been released from Bulgaria for a special mission in Ankara. A request has been made of me by an American here, not connected with the Government, that Mr. Mushanoff be interviewed with a view to assisting in our program to rescue and alleviate the condition of the Bulgarian Jews. I would not, of course, take any steps in this direction before seeking your counsel. Would you advise me seeing Mushanoff, and is there any way in which you believe he could be helpful?

The last information I have from Ankara is that Balabanoff intends to remain there indefinitely. By now I had expected some reply from him. Do you think that we should press him further?

I should be glad to see you at your convenience if you wish to talk with me about the above matters.

Many thanks for your kindness.

Cordially yours,

I. A. Hirschmann

Dr. Floyd H. Black  
President  
Robert College  
Hisar

IAH:VH

ISTANBUL AMERIKAN KOLEJİ  
ERKEK KISMI  
ROBERT KOLEJİ  
DİREKTÖRLÜK  
BEREK POSTA KUTUSU 8  
İSTANBUL

ISTANBUL AMERICAN COLLEGE  
ROBERT COLLEGE  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
BEREK POST BOX 8  
ISTANBUL-TURKEY  
CABLE "ROBCOLEG ISTANBUL"

August 15, 1944

Mr. Ira A. Hirschmann  
American Embassy  
Beyoğlu, Istanbul

Dear Mr. Hirschmann:

*At this moment  
I can't lay my  
hand on the  
news clipping  
but will look  
for it.*

I am returning the statements previously given me which you asked for in your recent note to me. I have read all the material you sent me.

It seems to me you have done well in demanding specific action instead of promises in the form of generalizations. The situation in Bulgaria is developing rapidly, and I believe we may expect further political developments which will have decisive influence on the problem of the Jewish refugees and persecuted people, as well as in other directions.

If I learn anything of primary importance I will let you know.

With all kind personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

*Floyd H. Black*  
Floyd H. Black  
President

Enclosures

Istanbul, August 14, 1944

Dear Mr. Jaquinot:

I should be grateful if you could arrange to see M. Balabanoff, Bulgarian minister to Ankara, at the first opportunity, possibly on Tuesday, August 15, to inform him that:

1. In response to my telegrams to Washington concerning my talks with M. Balabanoff, our Government is awaiting a response from the Bulgarian government to my demands. Washington is especially interested in learning if the reinstatement of Bulgarian Jewish citizens to the position of Bulgarian citizens will be included in any decree or peace program that may be under discussion. It considers the steps towards this reinstatement to be a concrete evidence of the Bagryanov government, either to manifest its interest in the humanitarian premises upon which future discussions could be based, or as a manifestation of the Bulgarian government's determination to permit Nuremberg laws to remain on its books. The least that is to be expected is that the Bagryanov government will be completely lax in its reinforcement measures.

2. Mr. Hirschmann wishes to impart with all frankness that it would be in the interest of the Bulgarian government at this time, especially, to permit the publication of the Balabanoff letter which you kindly gave to him, if not in its entirety, then in its fundamental disclosures. Also, any other information which would concretely indicate that the Bulgarian government is willing to take steps in alleviating the condition of members of its own minority population, as an evidence of its own interest in minorities, since it understands that the Bulgarian government is especially interested in this question. The Bulgarian government itself has been for decades, and is now, a "minority government", in the face of other strong governments, and should seek by its own direct, sincere efforts, without vacillation, to demonstrate that it also understands the position of either a minority of person, race or government.

Mr. Hirschmann would be grateful for some response at this time on these subjects. He fears that silence at this time may be misinterpreted in Washington, since they have requested a reply.

I see no reason why you should not read the above to M. Balabanoff, which, of course, you may translate to him in French. He speaks French well. I shall also

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be glad to give him a copy of the above, if he cares to have it, and will send it to him through you. You may ask him this.

Thank you for your kindness. I should appreciate your communicating with me, giving me his reaction to the above, immediately after seeing him.

I expect to see you on Wednesday, August 16, at 3 P.M. at the Park Hotel.

Cordially yours,

I. A. Birscamann  
Special Attache

M. Louis Jaquinet  
Küçük Palas, Apt. 3  
Abdulhak Hamid Caddesi  
Taksim, Istanbul

IAA/b

August 12, 1944

Memorandum of conversation held with  
Dr. Black on August 11, 1944.

Dr. Black believes:

(1) That while the Bagryanov Government is neither pro-Russian nor pro-German, that there is definitely a change in the Government which previously was pro-Nazi;

(2) that the Germans cannot any longer interfere with the Bulgarian Government, politically or militarily; it is not in a position to do so;

(3) that the Bulgarians may overreach themselves at this stage; they may not swing far enough to the left. The Russians are pushing. Among other things the Russians are requesting of them to withdraw their troops from Thrace and Macedonia, and especially Yugoslavia. There are four Bulgarian divisions in those centers. Ironically the Russians are demanding of the Bulgarians that they not only withdraw their troops from Yugoslavia, but leave their material with the Partisans;

(4) the present Bulgarian Government will, in all likelihood, continue in power; it is making a current effort to come to an understanding with the Russians; for example, to establish Russian Consulates in the various Bulgarian provinces; it has succeeded in inducing the Germans to withdraw their troops in Eastern Bulgaria; it is suppressing the export of food to Germany. Visitors arriving from Sofia say that they see fewer and fewer Germans in that city.

Salabanoff's statement to me that only one division of German troops now remained in Bulgaria was an important disclosure. While one division is about 12,000 troops, it is felt by Dr. Black that it does not even constitute a legitimate division, representing as it does more or less straggling ends of German troops.

I. A. Mirschmann



TELEGRAM RECEIVED

August 12, 1944

Washington 697

Subject: Discussions with Rumanian and Bulgarian authorities  
must be confined to refugee matters.

Istanbul, August 12, 1944

Dear John :

I am enclosing a copy of a letter addressed to Monsieur Simond, Ankara representative of the International Red Cross, which he is handing to Monsieur Balabanoff, Bulgarian Minister to Turkey. The letter covers the points enumerated in my telegrams No. 1414, August 2, and 1446, August 7, 1944.

Attached is a clipping from the Istanbul "Journal d'Orient" of August 6. In the last several weeks the Turkish papers suddenly and consistently began to publish news regarding refugees.

With kind personal regards,

Cordially yours,

I. A. Hirschmann  
Special Attache

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

Encls.

IAH:VH

Istanbul, August 12, 1944

Dear Dr. Black:

I am enclosing a list of names of German, Austrian and Czecho-Slovakian nationals who are said to be in danger of deportation. If among these names there are any personalities who are familiar to you and you would care to supply information regarding them, I should be grateful.

In our conversation yesterday I neglected to request of you if there was any possibility through any source known to you for us to have a letter sent to a person connected with the operations of the boats, the S. S. Perin and the S. S. Vita, scheduled to leave Varna within the next days. We are eager to expedite this debarcation and it would be helpful if we could find the means of sending a communication and also of having one returned to us. If this involves any embarrassment or difficulty please forget about it. I meant also to ask you if there would be some way of having the clippings I left with you regarding the publicity connected with the release of the Jews from Transnistria returned to me.

There are more and more rumblings regarding Bulgarian peace overtures and actual conferences connected therewith. I know you agree that we should not lose a single day's opportunity to re-enforce upon the minds of the present leaders of Bulgaria the importance of capitalizing on the opportunity offered connected with the reinstatement of the Jews to their status of normal citizenship.

Cordially yours,

I. A. Hirschmann

Dr. Floyd H. Black  
President  
Robert College  
Hisar

Encl.

IAH:VH

No. 3367 (R-3088)

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL  
Istanbul, Turkey, August 12, 1944

**SUBJECT** Rumors and Political Titbits from Bulgaria.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

I have the honor to present below some rumors and political titbits that have filtered through to Istanbul during the past week. In view of the latest developments in Turkey, there has been considerable speculation upon political activities and probable developments in Bulgaria. Rumor has also been more lively than usual in Istanbul with regard to the Bulgarian situation. Most of the press information and rumor is worthy of little attention. But a few titbits seem worth recording before later developments cause them to be forgotten. They are chiefly of interest for their timeliness and as indications of the general trend. They must not be considered as wholly reliable.

Last Saturday evening, August 5th, Sofia Radio plainly announced that Mr. Bagryanov, the Bulgarian Prime Minister, had had a conversation with Mr. Kirsarov, the Russian Charge d'Affaires. Apparently the Bulgarian Government wants the contact between themselves and the Russians to be a matter of public knowledge. This and statements made by Mr. Balabanov, Bulgarian Minister to Ankara, have been the source of newspaper stories that talks are going on between the Bulgarians and the Russians. A story of this kind was written by Mr. Joe Levy, correspondent of the NEW YORK TIMES in Ankara, who went so far as to say that he had been assured on good authority that the Russians had agreed to discuss matters with Bulgaria that were of interest to the two countries, but that they refused to discuss such matters as frontiers which they said Bulgaria would have to settle with Russia's Allies with whom Bulgaria is at war. This statement is at first glance welcome and reassuring. It may be, however, that Mr. Levy's source was intentionally misleading.

A traveler from Bulgaria has reported that there is the assumption and belief in Bulgaria that Mr. Bagryanov has moved considerably to the left in his political views.

Indications that the Germans have withdrawn all but about one division from Bulgaria continue to come

in from

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

in from many sources. One of the latest reliable reports is that a German camp used for hospital purposes at Baskya, near Sofia, has been cleared out.

As another indication of the departure of the Germans, Sofia radio said last night that travel is now free in Bulgaria. No travel permits are needed for travel to the Danube and Black Sea regions. The only remaining restriction on travel is to Sofia, where the purpose would seem to be to prevent refugees from rushing there to sell their possessions.

Sofia radio last night made no confirmation of the London reports that the Bulgarian Parliament met yesterday in special session. Nor was there any mention of the political amnesty reported from London.

There is talk in Sofia that Boghilov, the former Prime Minister, desires to leave Bulgaria for Switzerland, but has been refused a passport. The rumor continues that there is a strong possibility that leaders of the previous two Cabinets may be brought to trial for betraying their country's interests to the advantage of the Germans. It is thought that the recently announced intention of the Government for the revival of the law against those who enriched themselves illegally may be aimed against these former leaders.

It has been learned by this office that O'Brien, correspondent of the Associated Press in Ankara, has committed a piece of irresponsible journalism in reporting that Dr. Black, formerly a member of the staff of this office, went hurriedly to Ankara in connection with Bulgarian peace proposals. This silly and harmful reporting - wholly unnecessary, for the facts could so easily have been checked - is groundless and deplorable. Dr. Black went on business for the Istanbul American Colleges of which he is now President.

Respectfully yours,

Burton Y. Berry  
American Consul General

To Department in original and hectograph

File No. 820.02

WNF/bb.

August 11, 1944

2nd  
Bulgaria  
Memo.

M E M O R A N D U M

Conversation between Mr. Katzki and Mr. Pinchas

I spent some time today talking with Advokat Leon Pinchas, of Plovdiv, Bulgaria, who arrived in Istanbul en route for Palestine three days ago. The following are the salient points of our conversation:

1. Mr. Pinchas' former employer, a non-Jew and a close friend of Bagryanov, was advised by the latter that the situation of Jewish people in Bulgaria will improve shortly. This employer, who had been very helpful to Jewish people during the time of the persecutions in Bulgaria, advised Mr. Pinchas that, in his opinion after what Bagryanov had told him, it would be a mistake for Pinchas to emigrate.

2. Mr. Bagryanov has given a letter to Mr. Isidor Kalmy, a Bulgarian Jew, authorizing him to move freely through the country to advise Jewish communities that improvement in their situation will take place. Mr. Kalmy has already been in Pleven and Varna and other places in the northern part of Bulgaria to carry this news, and is expected to travel through the southern part of the country shortly. Mr. Bagryanov has spoken with a circle of more prominent Jewish people to determine what steps should be taken and in what manner for the amelioration of the condition of the Jews. Bagryanov offered immediately to authorize the removal of the Jewish star, which the Jewish people are required to wear. According to Mr. Pinchas, the Jewish people told Bagryanov that they did not want to have the emancipatory steps taken too quickly, but that they preferred a gradual change. It was their feeling that if the rights of Jewish people were restored too quickly difficulties would result with the Bulgarian population at large at the time when Jewish people seek reinstatement in their former employment, try to re-establish their businesses, etc. The Jewish people told Bagryanov, according to Mr. Pinchas, that the matter of the removal of the Jewish stars is not so

important for them, but that they would prefer that beginnings be made in the relaxation of the economic disabilities under which they now live.

3. The Jewish Consistoire in Bulgaria has not yet been reconstituted, but is in process of re-establishment. According to Mr. Finchas, the Consistoire will include a delegate of the government Jewish Commissariat when it is finally constituted. The seat of the Consistoire will be at Plovdiv, which is about five or ten kilometers from Sofia.

4. In the smaller communities of Bulgaria, the economic situation of the Jewish people is very bad. In the larger towns, although employment possibilities are strictly limited, under the anti-Jewish laws, nevertheless a large number of the people do work in their homes in jewelry, the manufacture of leather goods, etc. In this way they are able to earn some money to enable them to eke out their existence. These possibilities do not exist in the smaller places, and Mr. Finchas mentioned specifically towns like Vidin, Vratsa, Lom, Russe, Razajik and Haskovo. Haskovo is particularly bad.

5. Jewish men between the ages of 20 and 40 have been incorporated into labor battalions, and are required to do hard manual labor, frequently at long distances from their homes. Some of these people are sent as far as 500 kilometers from their places of residence. They receive no pay for this work, and when I asked Finchas how they live, he indicated that they apparently get it from the air. Being away from their homes and with their reserves long since used up, these men in the labor battalions are in a very difficult plight. The families of the men in the battalions receive an allotment of 500 leva per month. Under present conditions this amounts to practically no help at all. The families of men in the army receive several times 500 leva per month, and their rent is remitted during the period of military service of the head of the household. In addition, Bulgarian people are largely

agrarians, and have reserves upon which they can fall back. The Jewish people, having been largely urban dwellers, and having been under economic disabilities for such a long period of time, do not have any reserves out of which they can help themselves.

6. In the opinion of Mr. Inchas, if an improvement in the condition of Jewish people in Bulgaria takes place, emigration from that country will cease. In his opinion, and based upon what people have told him, it may well be that those Bulgarians who have already gone to Palestine might want to return to their native country. Perhaps the young people, the Pioneers, who have always wanted to go to Palestine, will still have this goal before them, but the older people will certainly want to remain where they are.

7. Mr. Inchas, who is a Revisionist, criticized the method by which selections for Palestine emigration have been made. He said that selections are made by a Jacob Baruch, who is a representative of the Jewish Agency. Up to the present, most of the people who have left Bulgaria for Palestine have been the wealthier people, and those without funds remained behind. Furthermore, in his opinion, the older people should not have been sent to Palestine, but such facilities for emigration as existed should have been reserved for young people, who can contribute to the economic development of that country.

8. The one factor, according to Mr. Inchas, which is now blocking substantial emigration from Bulgaria is the absence of Turkish transit visas. The number of visas authorized is still limited (he mentioned seven a week, but probably he referred to the agreement for nine visas per week). There are several hundred people now in Plovdiv who have all their documents in order for emigration, but who are unable to move because of the lack of Turkish transit visas.

9. People in Bulgaria who have Palestine visas authorized are making no efforts to cross the border into Turkey without Turkish transit visas. It is well known in Bulgaria that any

Jewish person arriving in Turkey will be able to go to Palestine. Nevertheless, no attempts are made to get to Turkey, with a handful of exceptions. Originally, people were turned back at the border by the Turkish border guards, but now even the Bulgarian guards turn them back if the people have no Turkish transit visas, anticipating that the Turks will turn them back anyhow. The entire border, being a military zone, is strongly guarded, and there are no possibilities for crossing through the ~~border~~ guards. The only place where people can cross the border is at Svilengrad, where supervision is rigid.

10. Up to the time of his departure, Mr. Pinchas personally saw no evidence of an amelioration of the economic position of Jewish people, nor had there been any abatement in the difficulties attendant upon the obtention of Bulgarian passports and other necessary documents precedent to emigration. He knew that the community in Busse had been officially designated as that which is to concern itself with emigration matters, but he personally saw no results from this designation.

11. In Mr. Pinchas' opinion, based upon his observations, there are two things of importance which can be done for immediate assistance to the Jews in Bulgaria: (1) The number of Turkish transit visas authorized for Bulgaria should be substantially increased. He said that under existing conditions there may be five to six thousand people in Bulgaria who want to emigrate. (2) Funds should be provided for the Jewish people who must remain behind in Bulgaria, to enable them to keep their heads above water until such time as a change in their situation takes place.

12. There are no internment camps for Jews in Bulgaria, according to Mr. Pinchas, nor are any deportations taking place.

13. It is Mr. Pinchas' personal opinion that the future of Jewish people in Bulgaria, should the anti-Jewish laws be abrogated, is not bright. In the past there was no anti-Semitism in Bulgaria. He believes, though, that the seeds have been

SECRET  
FROM THE NO BOSTON  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT  
OF JUSTICE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.  
MAY 12 1950  
RE: [illegible]

planted, and that at the first moment, should the Bulgarian people feel that the Jewish people are competing with them in the economic life of the country, or that they are achieving some position of prominence and stability, there would be a recrudescence of anti-semitism. It is largely for this reason that, although he had been advised of better times to come for the Jewish people, he nevertheless decided to emigrate.

Copy of cable sent to Mr. Joseph Levy, Jewish Community, Russe:

ANWIESEN JELIABOFF SOFORTIGE ABSENDUNG VITA  
BURGAS SOWIE BEAUFTRAGTEN KARAGIOSOV SOFORTIGE ABSENDUNG  
RIRIN BURGAS STOP TÜRKONSUL AVISIERT VISAERTEILUNG  
NACH ANKUNFT HEER SWOEE SOFORTIGE WEITEREISE SICHERG  
GESTELLT STOP KONTAKTET SOFORT JELIABOFF KARAGIOSOV  
DRINGVORBEREITET DOKUMENTE DRAHTET EVENTUELLE SCHWIERIG-  
KEITEN ZWECKS HILFE BESEITIGUNG

SCHINDCO

11.8.1944.

Bulgaria  
cc

Enclosure No. 1 to Despatch  
No. 188 dated November 18,  
1942, from the American Con-  
sulate General, Istanbul,  
Turkey.

Source: DRUZHAVEN VESTNIK  
(State Gazette) No. 192  
published in Sofia, Bulgaria,  
August 29, 1942.

A free translation of the  
law of August 29, 1942,  
regulating Jewish affairs  
in Bulgaria.

A P P E N D I X

published on the basis of the law authorizing the Cabinet to take  
necessary measures for regulating the Jewish question and the  
problem in connection with it.

(Cabinet Order No. 70 of the Cabinet in its session of  
August 29, 1942, protocol No. 111, published in DRUZHAVEN VESTNIK  
(State Gazette), No. 192, of the 29th of August 1942).

CHAPTER I.

Concerning the Administration of Jewish Affairs (literally questions).

Article 1. The Ministry of the Interior and of Public Health  
has created a department for Jewish affairs. All measures for  
solving the Jewish problem will be discussed in this department  
except those dealing with the law against speculation on real  
estate property and the law on the fixed tax levied on properties  
belonging to people of Jewish descent. The commissioner for  
Jewish questions has the right to demand that all departments  
carry out the measures taken against the Jews. His approval is  
required for everything dealing with the regulation of Jewish  
affairs. Before dealing any matter which also concerns another  
department, the commissioner will ascertain the opinion of the  
department in question.

Article 2. With the commissioner there shall be a council  
consisting of a member of the Supreme Administrative Court,  
appointed by the Minister of Justice; one representative of the  
Ministry of the Interior; one of the Ministry of Commerce; one  
of the Ministry of Labor; and representatives of the Ministry of  
Finance, of the Bulgarian National Bank and of the staff of the  
Civil Mobilization.

Articles

Article 3. In accordance with articles 23 and 24 of the law of National Defense and Article 10 of the law of Global Tax upon the properties of persons of Jewish extraction, the powers of the Cabinet will be taken over by the commissioner for Jewish affairs. It will also be invested with the powers of the Minister for Interior Affairs, according to Part II of the law of National Defense and all the powers of the Cabinet, Committee of Ministers, or single Ministers, in accordance with the decrees and decisions for the application of Part II of the law of National Defense and Article 10 of the law of Global Tax upon the properties of persons of Jewish descent. These powers as well as other decisions in connection with the Jewish question will be exercised by the commissioner for Jewish affairs who is obliged in these cases to consult with the Council of his Department.

Article 4. There is no right of appeal from the decrees and decisions of the commissioner.

Article 5. The commissioner for Jewish affairs is appointed by the Council of Ministers on nomination of the Minister of the Interior. The staff of the department is appointed by the commissioner himself. The assistant, the assistant deputy, and the already existing secretariats concerned with the Jewish questions are transferred to the main department for Jewish questions, with their staff and complete inventory. Those working in this department are Government employees. They are members of the fund of mutual help for employees of the Ministry of the Interior, besides being members of any other fund. Employees working for the department will get back their former jobs in the respective ministries they come from, provide they have not refused from the department. The additional funds for the department's expenses will be taken over from the budget of the fund: "Jewish Communities."

Article 6. From the funds derived from payment according to the law of National Defense and from frozen Jewish funds in local Bulgarian banks and in the National Bank, certain amounts of money go to the account of the fund "Jewish Communities."

a) 5%	from frozen accounts under	100,000 leva
b) 8%	" " " " "	100,000-300,000 leva
c) 10%	" " " " "	300,000-1,000,000 leva
d) 12%	" " " " "	above 1,000,000 leva

All the cash from the Jewish synagogues and schools, as well as the income from taxes collected by the Jewish Community are passed on to the fund "Jewish Communities."

The cash from the Fund "Jewish Communities" is used for the upkeep of the Jewish communities, to help poor Jews and provide for their installation in camps and villegas. Salaries for the staff of the department and salaries for the members of the Council attached to the department are to be drawn from the same fund.

The budget of the fund is made up by the commission for Jewish

questions



any person is considered Jewish by law of Jewish religion or connected to it on or about the 1st of September 1942.

Article 10. Not considered of Jewish descent are persons born or who may be born from marriages of persons of Jewish descent, Bulgarian citizens with spouses of Bulgarian descent under the following conditions:

- a) If the marriage took place before September 1, 1942;
- b) If the marriage was celebrated according to the Christian ritual;
- c) If the parent of Jewish descent had become a Christian before the 23rd of January 1941;

Remark: Point (c) is not taken into consideration if the parent of Jewish descent died before September the 1st, 1940.

- d) If the parents have been baptized or converted later;
- e) If the parents were converted to the Christian religion and did not return to the Jewish faith.

Article 11. Persons not considered as Jews by the former laws but considered as such by the new laws are obliged to declare their Jewish descent on or shortly after the publication of the new decrees in accordance with Article 15 of the Law of National Defense. They will be punished by these articles if they do not comply with the order. If it is doubtful whether someone is a Jew or a Bulgarian, the commissioner will settle the question after having consulted with the Government's Council. The way to decide what people's origins are will be fixed by the commissioner after consulting with the Government's Council, and being approved by the Minister of the Interior.

### CHAPTER III

#### Restrictions enforced on Jews

Article 12. Declaration of origin in accordance with Article 10 of the Law for National Defense is obligatory for all Jews including Jews privileged by Article 23 of the Law for National Defense. The declaration of origin is obligatory for Jews who have become Bulgarian citizens by naturalization or who may become such; and for those born after the law went into effect; and also for Jews with foreign citizenship who have come to Bulgaria. The declaration will be required when registering at the Police.

Article 13. Jews are not allowed to have Bulgarian given names or family names or a name with a Bulgarian suffix such as -ov, -ev, -ich, -sky, et cetera. Non-converted Jews are not allowed to have Christian first names. The prohibited names are to be erased from all registers. Forbidden family names are to be exchanged with the grandfather's name. If, up to the 1st of

November

November, 1943, Jews with forbidden names have not declared their Jewish names, they will be given the name of their grandfather, or some other name. The new names will be indicated. The names will be chosen from a list made up by the Department for Jewish Affairs.

Article 14. All Jews must wear a special badge. The exceptions are:

- a) Children under 10 years of age
- b) Jews privileged by article 33 paragraph I of the Law for National Defense.
- c) Jews who are foreign citizens, passing through Bulgaria with transit visas.

Article 15. Jews privileged by article 33, paragraph I of the Law for National Defense, as well as Jews and non-Jewish citizens staying in the country for one month to work on the left side of their chest a special round badge 2 centimeters in diameter, of a yellow color, with the top of the Department for Jewish Affairs. The badge must be worn on the coat and the overcoat. People who go in the streets in skirts, pullovers, etc., etc., have to wear their badges on the skirts and pullovers.

Article 16. All other Jews not mentioned in articles 14-15 must wear on the left side of their chest a six-centimeter star at least 3 centimeters in diameter of yellow color, approved by the commissariat for Jewish Affairs.

Article 17. The wearing of badges is obligatory, and starts after the publication of this order.

Article 18. All Jews, Bulgarian citizens, mixed bloods, shall be given special identity cards (pink color).

Article 19. Owners of establishments (that is, restaurants, hotels, cafes, etc., etc.), who are of Bulgarian or related origin, as well as the members of the Department for Jewish Affairs and the police, are forbid to give Jews wearing badges entrance to the above-mentioned places.

Article 20. Jews not enjoying privileges of article 33, paragraph I of the Law for National Defense are not allowed to live in a flat or house which is Bulgarian or related origin unless they are relatives.

Article 21. Jews are not allowed to live in hotels except in those approved by the Department, and only for a period of 10 days within six months.

Article 22. Jews must from September 15, 1943, have over the entrance door of their flat a special plate approved by the Department for Jewish Affairs.

From the same date all the Jewish shops and offices should have on their entrances special plates "Jewish business" written on all

their

their labor, hands, products, etc. Every Jew is required to work every business in which capital is employed in a heavy amount.

Article 25. Jews are not allowed to own cars, radios, and telephones. The Department of Police will allow no Jews to have telephones.

Article 26. Article 21, paragraph I, points (f) and (g) of the Law for National Defense are changed in the following manner:

(f) It is hereby declared that Jews are not to have persons of foreign birth in their homes. If they do, they will be considered as having violated the law.

Remark: The law shall be strictly enforced.

(g) It is hereby forbidden to have any servants of foreign or alien origin. They should be discharged in 15 days.

PART IV

Concerning the Places of Residence and the Location of Jewish Homes

Article 25. A Jewish family consisting of less than five persons is allowed to live in any town. If a family of 5-6 persons are allowed to live in any town, 5-6 persons in towns less than 1000 people, 10-12 persons in towns of 1000-2000 people, and not counting the above-mentioned families into towns less than 1000 people, must either change their place of residence or be expelled. If a town council is not satisfied, a committee consisting of a Jewish official, a police representative, a representative of the town council, and a representative of the Jewish Community shall settle the question.

Article 26. The commissioner for Jewish affairs decides when and under what conditions Jews can be let on city lots. Contracts for lots, at all times, for Jews, are void if they do not conform with any of the decrees published by the commissioner for Jewish questions.

Article 27. After having taken the advice of the council, the commissioner can decide what streets are prohibited for Jews to live in as well as the dates and conditions in which the Jews must leave the above-mentioned streets.

Article 28. Jews cannot leave the town they live in, without the permission of the Police.

Remark: Villages considered to be on the outskirts of any town, are not regarded as a part of the town. The Police has detailed registers on these subjects and every month a copy is sent to the department for Jewish questions. Permission to live in other towns is delivered by the Department.

Article

Article 30. Jews living in Sofia are subject to deportation to the provinces or outside the country. In the case, by November 1, 1942, all Jews living in Sofia who are unemployed in accordance with the Law for National Defense or in accordance with the present decree, and who have no other occupation, must be deported.

CHAPTER V

Economic Activities of Jews of Jewish Descent:

Article 30. Jews are not allowed to engage in commerce or industry, except under any circumstances, investment of their capital in commercial or industrial enterprises.

Article 31. All Jews without any exception are allowed to start any new business.

Article 32. Jews do not have retained their occupational rights as follows:

- a) to have more than one job;
- b) to enlarge their business by trading in raw articles or by increasing their capital;
- c) to contract business on side-line regular basis;
- d) to invest more than 300,000 leva from their capital in their work, up to 5% credits higher than their capital if they hold shares in several enterprises. They must retain shares only in one enterprise, not above 300,000 leva, and liquidate all the others.

Article 33. In Article 27 of the Law for National Defense, paragraph (f) has undergone a change and the paragraphs (g) and (h) have been added as follows:

- (f) Jews are forbidden from production of or usage in medicine, pharmacy, materials, surgical instruments, optical instruments and chemicals. They cannot own pharmacies, drugstore, clinics, etcetera.
- (g) Jews are forbidden from industries, mines, trade in agricultural products, import and export, shipping transport, commission agent's business.
- (h) Jews selling shares in the above-mentioned enterprises must liquidate their shares in two months time if the Cabinet does not issue an order for quicker liquidation.

Article 34. Restrictions of the Law for National Defense Article 27 are applied to all Jews.

Article 35. Jewish craftsmen are allowed to continue working in their branch provided they work themselves, and their capital does not exceed 200,000 leva. They must not use credit exceeding

200,000 lever. Jewish craftsmans not allow to have their...  
and out of their work shops. Police can not in their business,  
but the commissions for Jewish affairs can restrict or stop  
seller's work, and only upon the local conditions.

Article 50. Jews with professions who are not allowed to prac-  
tice because of this law are compelled according to the law to  
close their business or to transfer it to someone else by  
September 1947, in case this restriction does not allow existing  
laws. If it is due to the law Jewish law they must liquidate their  
business before that time.

Jews must from now on and in future must deposit all their  
savings in the national bank. The law also the liquidation of the  
business, and the deposit of all their money and all their assets to  
the Jewish Committee. Section 51. In case of the liquidation of the  
percentage due to the participant. All Jews who are liquidating their  
business must deposit their money in the national bank. In case of the  
liquidation of the business they must deposit their money in the  
national bank in two weeks time.

Article 57. Liquidation of Jewish business is to be proce-  
dure on the provisions of the Commission for the liquidation of Jewish  
business, and the liquidation of the business must be done in the  
presence of the Commission for Jewish Affairs. For the liquidation of Jewish  
business with capital assets of 500,000  
leventim must be done in the presence of the Commission, that is a  
representative of the business and a representative of the  
national bank. The Commission for Jewish Affairs must have the  
approval of the Commission for Jewish Affairs. Liquidation of Jewish  
business must be done by the Commission for Jewish Affairs. All  
the assets of the business must be deposited in the national bank  
at all points. The Commission for Jewish Affairs must liquidate his own business  
in the same way possible. If it is possible he is liable to  
10% of the liquidation of 2,000,000 leventim from his own assets.  
If the business of the business will be the usual five  
percent of the liquidation.

Article 58. Jews who fail to comply with the provisions of  
this law shall be punished as follows:

Article 59. Jews who fail to comply with the terms stated in  
Article 58 and who help them to break the law will be punished  
by a maximum of a three month imprisonment and a fine of 10% of the  
capital of the business. If the business is liquidated, the assets  
will be confiscated for the fund for "social help" in  
accordance with orders issued by the Commission for Jewish Affairs.

Article 60. Jews without a job are not allowed to start working  
again without having first the consent of the respective labor or an-  
tization and of the Government for Jewish Affairs.

Article

Article 40. The staff of Jewish institutions, and in particular the Jewish press, to be utilized, Jewish institutions in all their activities are allowed to work in accordance with Article 37 of the Law for National Defense, but not in a way which is contrary to the national interest, and must not wear the Jewish flag or display it, and must not wear the Jewish uniform, and must not allow to be organized, directed, or controlled, commercial agents, bookkeepers, cashiers, technical advisors, etc., etc., etc. It is also should be noted that the staff of Jewish institutions must be trained in accordance with the national interest.

Article 41. Jews must be trained for national defense in accordance with the national interest, and must be trained in accordance with the national interest, and must be trained in accordance with the national interest.

CHAPTER VI

Jewish Properties and Capital.

Article 42. Article 36 of the Law for National Defense as amended by this Law follows: Jews in any event following the publication of the Law for National Defense all Jews owning movable or immovable property, and all Jews have to declare it to the national bank. They are required, if asked by the bank, to declare in what state the property is and the amount of their personal funds.

Jews leaving the country must give a detailed account to the national bank of the amount of money they derived from the sale of their property and how they spent the money. Persons administering Jewish property, not yet liquidated, belonging to Jews who have left the country must give a detailed report to the national bank. Persons transgressing this article as well as Article 36 and 43 of the Law for National Defense will be prosecuted according to the laws concerning fraud and will be punishable by the law. Concealed or undeclared property, money, jewels are confiscated for the benefit of the fund for "social aid" by order of the commission for Jewish affairs. The confiscated money is distributed only if the Tribunal finds that it has been previously declared or that a special declaration was not made. Confiscated things can be bought back, if their value does not exceed 10,000 leva.

Article 43. In all cases of confiscation of shares and securities, after the publication of this decree in GURZ-AV. III VESTNIK, the Government assumes the owners rights without all the procedure formerly used in similar cases.

Article 44. Jews cannot dispose of their movable properties without permission of the department with the following exceptions:

- a) money received for living expenses
- b) salaries, wages and bonuses

c)

- c) articles for personal and household use not exceeding in value 10,000 liras, other than a special permission from the Department is required.
- d) Goods, capital, etc. etc., connected with the business of Jews who have the right to keep their businesses or to engage in the practice of free occupations, artistic occupations, or in Jews.

Article 45. Jews must deposit all their money, savings, etc. etc., in the local Bulgarian Bank or in the national or a blocked account including all available cash. They may, with the permission of the Department, invest in business by other persons, savings accounts, sums received from gifts, inheritance, etc. etc., sums received from non-business sources, sums received from the sale of property, in emittes for seized property - etc. etc. etc. etc. in accordance with article 24.

Also there must be deposited in the national bank all shares and stocks which persons of Jewish descent own in corporations, companies of all its responsibilities, and likewise all stocks, bonds, etc. etc. and valuable objects (that is, jewels, gold and silver ornaments, etc. etc.). With the exception of those mentioned in article 44, the commissioner will call all such shares, stocks, bonds, valuables, etc. etc. and deposit the amounts received in the blocked account of the business.

The sums paid under this Article in blocked accounts from Section 12 will be turned over ~~to~~ to the "Fund Jewish Communities" in accordance with point 3.

Article 26. Drawing money from blocked accounts is only possible with the permission of the department for Jewish affairs. Permission is given in order to pay off debts contracted by Jews of a blocked account and to provide for their expenses.

The department permits the drawing of money to pay:

- a) debts contracted to the Government, municipality, or other government institutions.
- b) commercial debts, provided they are confirmed by official documents or a court judgment.
- c) debts contracted to and private persons, before July 21, 1941 and if they are confirmed by official documents.
- d) monthly expenses incurred to pay rents and salaries to the personnel of the business in liquidation. The expenses should not exceed the monthly expenses incurred till February 23rd 1942.

If increases in salaries have occurred after the 23rd of February 1942 as per law concerning such increases, expenses can be increased.

- e) Private debts approved by a special commission dealing with the settlement of Jewish debts.
- f) to provide for the private needs of the Jewish owner and his family if he has no other income. The amount of money

given



Persons of Jewish descent or subjects, citizens, added in a number before the first of September 1940 to Poland, and who were admitted to the territory of the Republic of Poland, are exempted from all the restrictions regarding them in the above-mentioned decrees, insofar as they are not contradicted by other laws. In order to ensure the rights of these persons, the following categories of Jews are provided:

- a) Citizens of Poland, for whom, before the first of September 1940, the law of the Republic of Poland was in force;
- b) Citizens of Poland, for whom, before the first of September 1940, the law of the Republic of Poland was in force;
- c) Citizens of Poland, for whom, before the first of September 1940, the law of the Republic of Poland was in force;
- d) Citizens of Poland, for whom, before the first of September 1940, the law of the Republic of Poland was in force.

All privileges, which are in force in the case of criminal charges, procedure charges, and in the case of anti-government and anti-national activities, shall be granted to Jews leaving the country, and who have not enjoyed any privileges, until the date of their departure, to the extent and for the period of time, by order of the Commissioner for Jewish Affairs, in accordance with the special conditions of application, in the case of their departure, not approved.

Article 53. Privileges enjoyed in accordance with Articles 33, paragraph 1, and 34 (a) of the Law for National Defense, shall not exist: for persons who have enjoyed no privilege, until the date of their departure, after the publication of this decree.

Article 54. Privileges accorded by Article 33, paragraph 1, point (b) and paragraphs II and III of the Law for National Defense, shall not exist, until the date of their departure, if the application in accordance with Article 34 is not submitted, or if the Commissioner decides otherwise.

CHAPTER VIII

Special Decrees

Article 55. Article 33, paragraph III of the Law for National Defense, has been altered to read: "For failure to comply with the decrees, offences shall be punished in accordance with Article 26, paragraph II of the Law for National Defense. By order of the Commissioner for Jewish Affairs, property not declared shall be confiscated for the benefit of the fund 'Social Help'."

Article 57. For failure to comply with the terms of the Law for National Defense and of this decree, offenders will be punished with imprisonment and a fine of 100,000 leva if there are no other penalties required by other laws.

Article 58. This decree cancels all other contradicting laws.

Article

Article 52. This decree shall be published by the commission  
and shall take effect after consulting with the department council  
and the committee of the Interior and approved by the

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2191/4  
Bulgaria  
Hungary  
Rumania

To American Embassy

Copy of Telegram from British Embassy, Angora,  
To Foreign Office, London, dated 9th August, 1944.

We have now reached agreement with Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the immediate institution of the following comprehensive arrangements which will cover admission into Turkey in transit of Jewish refugees from Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria.

2. Turkish consuls at Bourgas, Constantza and Budapest are today being instructed by telegram to the following effect: Turkish consul at Budapest is to issue Turkish transit visas on application to any number of Jews who apply for them provided that they hold one or other of the following documents:

(a) an American Immigration Visa issued in circumstances described in my telegram 1275;

(b) a letter from the Jewish Agency in Istanbul certifying that the holder has been granted a Palestinian immigration certificate (a number of these letters have been sent to Hungary by various means);

(c) a certificate issued by the Swiss Legation in the terms set forth in your telegram 2459 to Berne; or an endorsement on a child's passport under the "5000" scheme;

(d) a certificate issued by Arais, the Jewish Agency representative in Budapest, who now has his office in the Swiss Legation, to the effect that the bearer is a Jew: this last category was included at our request and should mean in practice that all genuine Jews will have the opportunity of leaving Hungary.

These Turkish transit visas will bear an endorsement saying that they are valid only for departure by sea from Bourgas or Constantza. Simultaneously Turkish consuls at Bourgas and Constantza are being authorized to grant, between them, up to 400 visas every ten days to persons bearing one or other of the documents described in paragraph 2. The Bulgarian Government has offered to allow the ships VITA and PIRINE to be used for the transport of refugees and one or other of these ships will make the journey to Istanbul from Bourgas or Constantza every ten days carrying refugees to whom transit visas have been granted by the Turkish consuls. Thus, if a full complement of passengers is not available at Constantza the ship will call at Bourgas.

3. Ministry of Foreign Affairs are informing the Bulgarian Government of what they are doing.

4. Ministry of Foreign Affairs have undertaken to request Ministry of the Interior tomorrow to admit into Turkey henceforth without delay and without reference to Ankara any persons arriving at Turkey's land frontiers without Turkish visas provided they hold any of the four types of documents described in paragraph 2 above.

/This ....

This should mean in practice that almost every Jew arriving without a Turkish visa will be admitted, and will go a long way towards meeting our wishes. There may however still be a few Jews who are unable to obtain any of the four types of document required and who nevertheless attempt to enter Turkey by land without Turkish visas. Ministry of Foreign Affairs state they are still unable to authorise the entry of such persons unless we undertake formally to admit them into Palestine whether they turn out on examination to be Jews or not. To give such a formal guarantee would involve us in the possibility of having to receive non-Jewish Bulgarian and other refugees. No cases of persons trying to pass themselves off as Jews have actually occurred since the war so I recommend that we give guarantee. Pending receipt of your views on this point I have informed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that in doubtful cases they may refer to this Embassy by telephone and a reply stating whether the person is a Jew or not will be given immediately since the Jewish Agency have complete lists of Jews in occupied Europe to which reference can be made. Turkish difficulty is that once a person has crossed into Turkish territory Bulgarian frontier guards will not allow him to return.

5. These new arrangements will embrace and supersede the system of weekly lists of Veteran Zionists, as well as the scheme whereby groups of 75 children receive visas every ten days.

MEMO OF TELEGRAM SENT

August 8, 1944

WRP

Subject: Information for Harriman re Balabanoff; aid of Soviets  
in efforts in Bulgaria.

Ankara  
August 5, 1944

Dear Monsieur Simond:

I take pleasure in enclosing two copies of a letter addressed to you, the original of which I should appreciate your handing at the earliest possible moment to the Bulgarian Minister to Turkey. The second copy is for your files.

When you receive any reaction from this letter or anything connected with our conversations with the above Minister, I should be grateful to hear from you through our pouch in Istanbul.

Cordially yours,

I. A. Hirschmann  
Special Attache

Encls.

Monsieur Gilbert Simond  
42 Mecidiyekoy Caddesi  
Yenisehir, Ankara

Ankara, Turkey

August 8, 1944

Dear Monsieur Sincaid:

Pursuant to my conversations with M. Balabanoff, Bulgarian Minister to Turkey, held at your home on July 24 and August 5, I am writing to outline my views and my requests related to the efforts to rescue the citizens of Bulgaria who are victims of persecution and oppression.

The above conversations with and reports from Balabanoff for his Government contained elements for encouragement as first possible steps. Balabanoff's letter, which has been transmitted by me to Washington, is confirmatory of the above, but as I reiterated to him yesterday, the Bulgarian Government is not going far enough, especially at this crucial hour in its history. I am convinced that the Government is taking steps to expedite the release, within technical possibilities, of their selected citizens who happen to be Jews. But from the information at hand, confirmed by Bulgarians who have managed to depart, these steps at this time can result only in a pitifully small emancipation.

I am bothered by two aspects of the situation: a) that few refugees will be able to leave Bulgaria in the next important weeks and months; b) that the War Refugee Board of the United States Government, watching daily for specific acts of large refugee movements out of Bulgaria, will have no choice but to interpret these negative results as a breach of faith by the Bulgarian Government in the face of its verbal and written representations by Balabanoff.

Considering the improved political situation today, as reported to me by Balabanoff, and the desire expressed by him for his Government to make such moves which could win the good will of the United States and our people, we stand today in a position where the fortuitous first steps in a program which could be productive of good on all sides may be unwittingly misinterpreted. I therefore requested of Balabanoff on August 5 what we believe to be the only valid and satisfactory move that should be offered by the Bulgarian Government, without delay; namely, concrete steps to revoke and abolish forthwith the two nefarious

RECEIVED  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
DIVISION OF INFORMATION  
AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
AUGUST 8, 1944

Monsieur Simond

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August 8, 1944

anti-Jewish laws on its books. In demanding the above we are not unaware of certain technical and political obstacles which the Government in Bulgaria may have faced a number of weeks ago, but which today, in the improved situation, seem to have been overcome. Aside from this, may I presume to suggest that these are days when Governments will persist only by bold and forthright measures, especially considering the accelerated sweep of Allied victory, and considering the desire of all Governments to find themselves in some measure of good grace at the Peace Table.

As you know, I am clothed with no authority to speak in connection with the latter. I am charged, however, with the special responsibility of effectuating the rescue of minorities, and am privileged to offer now a specific opening for the good will of the United States that can result only from broad strokes in the proof of the new Bulgarian regime's interest in humanitarian objectives, especially as related to its own citizens. Balabanoff, in his letter of July 26, stated:

"There is no doubt that the Bulgarian Government regrets exceedingly all the measures which have been taken regarding Jews in our country and that it does not in the least approve these measures."

Apparently the Bagryanov regime intends to take steps to negate the policy of the former Government in its ruthless corruption of a helpless minority of its own people. We assume that the Government will not be content to stop there, but will take the necessary measures designed concretely to reconstitute and rehabilitate these victimized members of its own citizenry.

Permit me to repeat that the Bulgarian Government stands today in a position where it can win for itself a priceless measure of good will without, as I see it, giving up anything fundamental excepting two laws which it maintains were forced upon it by its Nazi collaborators, and the riddance of which arouses the respect of the civilized world for the independence of the new Bulgarian Government. If any sacrifice is necessary on its part, connected with the revocation of these laws, I am confident that the scales will weigh heavily in its own favor after the decision is announced and we are permitted to present it forthrightly to the world as an earnest of the Government's good faith.

I have promised Balabanoff and you that this step will be heralded with the widest favorable publicity throughout the United States (and we hope Britain), which I shall take it as my especial task to

Monsieur Simand

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August 8, 1944

discharge. The evidence of the enormous publicity in America, that resulted from the abolition of the concentration camp in Transnistria by the Rumanians, is with Dr. Black. The step I am suggesting would elicit publicity and good will of an increased nature and scope.

There is another aspect of the subject which we discussed and which should be re-enforced with the Bulgarians. It is my sense that this may well be no time for planning large-scale emigration movements out of a country like Bulgaria if the present Government of Bulgaria is as sound and forward-looking in its determination to reconstruct its country as is indicated. The Jews who have been reduced by these two laws to complete deprivation and inability to carry on any legitimate work must be put on their feet, not for themselves alone as Bulgarian citizens, but for the enormous contribution that they will make in helping build the new Bulgaria. It is a strange paradox which history relates that the depressed and depleted Jewish populations in other countries, when released, have without exception rebounded and very soon become valuable citizens in building the wealth and culture of their communities. Considering the history of Bulgaria, the Jews as an indigenous part of that nation, enjoyed relatively fair treatment until recently when this latter record was smudged by one of the blackest pages in Bulgarian history. With any fair chance, economic assistance, rehabilitation and sustenance, the Jewish people should quickly become essential and useful participants in building the new nation.

Why send them in lost groups to strange lands if, as the Minister for their country asserts, they will "gradually" find themselves back in the position of respect and responsibility where they were before the war. Considering reports of poverty, hunger and depravity, to which the Jewish population has been reduced, it is decidedly too late to take these steps "gradually." It may even be that the Bulgarian Government some months hence may find itself in the position of beckoning for the return of these self-same citizens whom they helped depart to Palestine at great expense and inconvenience. I trust that you are not burdened by an over-emphasis of the point, but I insist that the step we are suggesting will be of even greater advantage to Bulgaria than to those who will be saved.

One more point: I think the leaders of the Bulgarian Government should know that we shall expect to hold them responsible for that which Balabanoff signed. While he wrote somewhat less than he reported to me verbally, his letter is categorical in asserting that (a) the government will ameliorate the situation of the Jews and cease all forms of persecution without delay; (b) transport will be facilitated within all

Monsieur Simond

-4-

August 8, 1944

possible technical means. The letter goes further in its implications, but speaking for the Government of the United States of America I repeat that we shall never be satisfied with these conversations and representations until these two laws are revoked. In the meanwhile the Government can be completely lax in its enforcement of them.

Nor will this be sufficient: As I reported above, a state of economic depravity exists for its Jewish citizens resulting from these laws. What is the good of permitting people freely to leave their homes if they have nowhere to go, nor means of securing funds except by immoral and illegal means; if there are no possible available methods of reconstructing their lot or their dignity as human beings? Measures must be found at once to supply them with food, the necessary means of living as decent citizens, and economic assistance to rehabilitate their businesses, their families and their homes.

We propose to offer through the assistance of existing relief agencies now represented in Turkey, along with that of the War Refugee Board of the United States Government, such means to rehabilitate this population as possibilities permit. Obviously it is not too much to ask that the Bulgarian Government permit this and assist it in every possible way. They have pampered the population. We do not ask them to revive it but only to permit others to do so without let or hindrance so that they may contribute towards the wellbeing of their own country.

I hope to hear that the forthright and sincere steps suggested herein have been taken by the Bulgarian Government in order to fortify its position among the humane nations of the world and to win back the respect and good will of our people which they had so scrupulously built in the last half-century and which they have so sorely lost in the last black war-years.

With thanks for your kindness,

Cordially yours,

I. A. Hirschmann  
Special Attache  
Government of the United States of America

Monsieur Gilbert Simond  
48 Mecati Bey Caddesi  
Yenişehir, Ankara

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Monsieur Simond

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August 8, 1944

P.S. If the Bulgarian Government is seeking methods to demonstrate its sincerity in being helpful in this situation connected with refugee movements, we are informed that a number of refugees, possibly up to 2,000, will be leaving Hungary in the next few days. We have requested of the Rumanian Government that they permit these refugees to enter Rumania in transit and we have been informed that the Rumanians have agreed in principle to this procedure. Obviously the Bulgarians would not at this time wish to set up a blockade against these refugees in the face of their representations. It will therefore be necessary for them to agree to permit these refugees to come through Bulgaria and to provide for them the necessary transit facilities out of Bulgaria to Turkey without delay. The above will apply similarly to refugees who will be leaving Rumania, (who do not arrive from Hungary), and for whom transit facilities through Bulgaria will be required.

L. A. H.

Additional items dictated for insertion in Bulabanoff letter.

In addition, I propose the following:

1. Assuming that the Jewish population in Bulgaria is permitted to win back its position as normal citizens, resulting from the steps taken as indicated above, these Bulgarian Jews will not have any reason or desire for leaving Bulgaria. Emancipation should be regarded as a voluntary matter and not as a problem of evacuation.
2. The plight of the Hungarian Jews is desperate. As a result of pressures brought upon the Hungarian Government by the Catholic Church and neutral civilized powers, the Hungarian Government has agreed to permit the withdrawal of thousands of Hungarian Jews. The Rumanian Government has agreed in principle to permit their passage through Rumania. It will be incumbent upon the Bulgarian Government also to arrange for transit visas and facilities through Bulgaria into Turkey. All of the above Hungarian Jews will carry with them Palestine entry certificates.
3. Before the promulgation of the anti-Jewish laws, Bulgarian Jewish children, with one or two exceptions, were permitted to attend the schools and their futures were as bright, with some minor difference, as those of other Bulgarians. The placing of the Bulgarian Jewish children on an even footing with other Bulgarian citizens is a prerequisite of the reversion to normal conditions for the Jewish citizens.
4. The approximately 25,000 Jewish people who formerly lived in Sofia and were required to leave the city and take up residence elsewhere ~~inkwina~~ are in that sense in no worse condition than other former inhabitants of Sofia.

What is important is full restoration of the citizenship of these Jews so that they will be able to return to Sofia and resume the same full, free status which they had prior to 1940, to help rehabilitate themselves, rebuild their community and homes, and to contribute to the economy of the nation.

5. The question of indemnification of the Jewish citizens for the economic losses they sustained must not be excluded. While this may be subject to legal difficulties, especially where properties have been appropriated and where the Jewish people were forced to dispose of their assets at a fraction of their values, practical measures can be found to make amends and to serve the ends of justice. Also, should the Government determine to indemnify in some fashion former residents of Sofia to compensate them for property losses arising out of bombardment of the city, the Jews should receive the same consideration as other citizens, whatever the compensation might be.

Perhaps in this connection some way could be devised to provide the Jewish people with free access to their bank accounts into which they were required to deposit their cash and the proceeds of the forced sale of their assets, which are now blocked. The Jewish people are not permitted to draw 6,000 levas per month for their maintenance requirements.

6. Food, I am informed, is not today a problem in Bulgaria. This is confirmed by M. Balabanoff. Crops are extraordinarily good, in fact most Bulgarian grown vegetables and bread are said to be free and not even subject to rationing. Meat is said to be scarce, but this affects everyone in Bulgaria. It is therefore our intention not to send food into Bulgaria but to provide the Jewish people with funds in order that they can purchase their food requirements

PROPERTY OF THE OFFICE OF THE  
DIRECTOR OF THE  
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

in the open markets. These funds, of course, would be provided only when the Bulgarian authorities guarantee that the Jewish people are able to purchase their fair share of available supplies in the same manner as other groups of the Bulgarian population. At the same time it is recognized that some complications may arise in terms of Bulgarian fiscal regulations and those of the United States, should the Bulgarians desire to be paid in foreign exchange. It is not altogether outside of the realm of possibility that foreign exchange can be made available. This should certainly interest the Bulgarians.

I mentioned the name of M. Gunev, who is Director of the Bulgarian National Bank, and who is reliably reported to be anti-Nazi and anti-fascist. Balabanoff corroborated this. Gunev is said to be freely disposed towards assisting in finding local currency in Bulgaria, should it be necessary to locate Bulgaria levas to be made available to the Jewish population for the purchase of food.

7. It is respectfully suggested that an unbiased survey of conditions of the ~~divisions of Bulgaria where they are; their financial situation; their~~ Jewish people in Bulgaria today be made, touching on such questions as: the distribution of Jews and where they are; their financial situation; in broad terms, the extent of hardship which prevails; the kinds of assistance which are necessary; the degree of relaxation, if any, in the enforcement of measures directed against the Jewish people, etc. It is recognized that there may be some momentary opposition to permitting one or more individuals freely to circulate about Bulgaria for the purpose of such a survey, the opposition arising out of military and security questions. The major cities, however, such as Pleven, Haskovo, Plovdiv and Pazarjik, where large numbers of Jewish people

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TELETYPE UNIT

August 7, 1944

MMB 123

Subject: Interview with Balabanoff, August 5.

1155

## La Bulgarie est prête à conclure la paix

Londres, 5. AA.—D'après ce que la radio française diffuse aujourd'hui, la Bulgarie est prête à conclure la paix et peut accepter les conditions d'armistice suivantes:

1.— Retrait de toutes les troupes bulgares se trouvant en Yougoslavie et en Grèce.

2.— Relaxation de tous les patriotes sous surveillance par les autorités bulgares.

3.— Retrait des troupes bulgares à la frontière de 1939.

4.— Fixation des frontières bulgares d'après guerre en ayant en vue les facteurs économiques.

5.— Reconnaissance des droits civiques aux Juifs.

6.— Eloignement des Allemands se trouvant en Bulgarie de toute espèce de fonction publique et administrative.

*La Turquie 8/6/44*

No. 3333 (R-3005)

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AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL  
Istanbul, Turkey, August 5, 1944

SUBJECT: The Jewish Situation in Bulgaria

THE HONORABLE  
THE SECRETARY OF STATE,  
WASHINGTON.

SIR:

I have the honor to present below a summary of the latest information received by this office on the Jewish situation in Bulgaria. The sources are an informant close to the Bulgarian Government whose wife is a Jewess, and other informed persons. The attached letter from Mr. Balabanov, Bulgarian Minister to Turkey to Mr. Simon of the International Red Cross, is important documentary evidence of the new situation.

In making this report, I am probably not mentioning any facts that are not known and reported by the special representative of the War Refugee Board now in Turkey working on the Jewish question in Bulgaria and other Balkan countries. In fact every effort has been made to keep him advised of information reaching this office concerning the Jews and he has acted in the same manner towards us. The conclusions and opinions in this despatch, however, are those of the Consulate General and its sources. Moreover, it seems wise to report this important matter in the usual way in order to keep the information flowing into the Department from the reporting section of the Consulate General as complete as possible.

A member of this office presented a Bulgarian source close to the Bulgarian Government with a statement of the attitude of the American Government upon the Jewish question, based upon telegrams received from the Department. The source, who, on account of his wife, is sensitive to and well informed upon the Jewish question in Bulgaria, then sent a strongly worded statement to his Government in Sofia. He told me that Balabanov would carry his statement to Sofia when he went there in mid-July and would probably bring back some reply.

The reply Balabanov brought back was more than we expected. The message was first delivered to me by my source who saw Balabanov on his return to Istanbul on July 21st. A few days later, it was given to the special

representative

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

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representative of the War Refugee Board in Ankara by Balabanov himself both verbally and - what is most remarkable of all - in the form of a signed copy of a letter from Balabanov to Simon.

The importance of this letter and its contents can hardly be over-estimated. A Balkan diplomat is rarely willing to put himself on record in writing. To do so in this instance, speaking officially for his Government, indicates that Balabanov was not only willing but anxious to show the new direction his Government is taking with regard to questions of importance to the Allies.

A free translation of the letter is attached herewith. Its main points may be summarized as follows: 1) The new Bulgarian Government intends to alleviate the condition of the Jews as soon as practicable; 2) it will facilitate the emigration of the Jews to places of safety; 3) the Prime Minister saw the Jewish consistorium in Sofia and reassured them as to future treatment of Bulgarian Jews, for which they expressed their gratitude.

This indicates a basic change of policy. The rest of this despatch contains views and amplifications upon this important letter.

First interpretations:

At first glance the Bulgarian willingness to allow the Jews to emigrate is a very great concession. It must be added, however, that there is no practical means of getting them out within a reasonable time. There are 45,000 Jews in Bulgaria. If a train load of them were to come out every week, only 500 persons would thus be transported weekly. Shipping is also inadequate and hard to come by. Moreover, if the war is ending, many Jews would no doubt prefer to stay where they are.

Persons interested in the Jewish question want to get the Bulgarian Government to acknowledge the difficulty of getting the Jews out of Bulgaria. Then, they want to urge the Government to take steps towards restoring their citizenship, i.e. to repeal the two anti-Jewish laws that deprive them of it. And finally, as some authorities believe a growing number of the Jews are in danger of starvation and entirely destitute, they think the Bulgarian Government should be asked to agree that if the United Nations can get food to Bulgaria, it will be allowed to be given to the Jews.

Views of my Informant:

My confidential informant, holds other views. He remembers that he spent one night until 4 o'clock in the morning in conversation with Gabrovski, chief of police in Sofia, who finally convinced him that if the Jews had not been expelled from Sofia the Germans would have compelled their expulsion to Poland. It was intolerable for Germans in Sofia to be confronted with Jews in their daily affairs. So, by expelling them from Sofia, the Government saved the lives of the Jews, although their property was lost. This, the informant said, was no more

than

than had been experienced by many Bulgarians as a result of the Allied bombings.

The informant went on to say that there is no reason why Jews should starve in Bulgaria since they are now allowed to work. This was confirmed to me by a Jew in Istanbul, who said they are allowed to work to a certain extent, as in harvesting, but are not generally allowed to take jobs. They are well paid for harvest work, the wage being 200 to 250 leva (comparable to 4 or 5 dollars in America) a day.

Moreover, the informant said, information reaching Bulgaria from Palestine is that Jews who go there have a hard time to find work, except at farm labor which is not suited to shop-keepers, doctors, oculists and the like. Many loaf in camps for months. The informant is, therefore, sure that few Jews now want to leave Bulgaria for Palestine. This is all the more true because they no longer fear persecution in Bulgaria beyond the terms of the two existing anti-Jewish laws. They have been assured by the Bagryanov Government of more lenient treatment, for one thing, that the yellow discs they now wear on their arms will soon be removed by decree. Finally, Bulgarian Jews do not want to send out their children. Most families would prefer to take their chances together, unless they are confronted with the fear of expulsion to Poland or execution.

Returning to the question of food for the Jews in Bulgaria, the informant said he saw no reason in the world why food should be sent to Bulgaria. He said the country is now enjoying one of its best crops in a long time. Under such circumstances, the Bulgarian Government would not permit the importation of food if it were sent. He suggested that the Jewish consistorium buy food on the Bulgarian market. Germany will be getting very little of the present crop. If the consistorium needs money, let it be sent to them. It should be remembered that each village has a kazan - soup kettle - where the poorest Jews are fed. Probably the reason many of the Jews are in a sad plight is that even before the war two-thirds of the Jews of Bulgaria were poor people living at a bare subsistence level. There were few wealthy Jews. The rest of the remaining one-third might be called well-to-do.

Both my informant and Balabanov indicated that nothing can be done immediately by the Bulgarian Government to repeal existing laws against the Jews in view of the reaction this would be certain to provoke from the Germans. The Council of Ministers cannot under the constitution repeal acts of Parliament by decree. Parliament must act upon such matters and would be unlikely to do so now in the face of German opposition.

Respectfully yours,

Burton Y. Berry  
American Consul General

Enclosure:  
As stated.

To Department in original and hectograph  
File No. 891 WNF/bb.

COPY

August 5, 1944

Memorandum for Mr. Kelley:

Subject: Conversation with M. Balabanoff  
Bulgarian Minister to Turkey

Place: Home of Gilbert Simond  
42 Necati Bey Caddesi, Yenigehir

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Monsieur Balabanoff arrived 30 minutes late and immediately appropriated a half-dozen of my Old Gold cigarettes for his wife. I took no steps against this overt act since I determined to take measures to make him pay for them in large proportions. I thanked Balabanoff for the letter which he had given to Simond for me and told him that I had transmitted it to our government. I requested permission to have it publicized, which he stated had not yet been authorized but that he would give me an answer to this within not more than two days. I referred to the fact that the letter said less than his conversation with me and he replied that this was naturally the case where the written word was concerned.

I informed him of the presence of the S.S.Vita and the S.S.Perin in Burgas and your arrangement with the Turkish authorities permitting these boats to enter Istanbul; also the suggestion that they continue on regular trips as a circuit. He made notes of the latter and promised to inform his government. He inquired what was holding up the boats and I stated it was my opinion that the Bulgarian Government was waiting for word from the Turkish Government regarding their release of transit visas.

I then launched into the subject of the two anti-Jewish laws. I told him that it was my opinion, and I believed that I was supported by our government in the conviction, that the efforts towards good will which the Bulgarian Government was attempting to show, as manifested by Balabanoff's letter, might result in the creation of ill will rather than good will on the part of our government in view of the technical difficulties involved in moving people out of Bulgaria at this time. "It may be weeks", I said, "before any appreciable number of refugees can depart, and this failure might be interpreted in Washington as a breach of faith on the part of the Bulgarian Government." I said that nothing would satisfy us until the two scandalous anti-Jewish laws were revoked. Balabanoff reasserted his position that these laws were to be abandoned gradually. I inquired as to the reason for such delay, in view of the present political situation. He did not reply to this directly, stating that it was true that the political situation had eased appreciably in the last week; that there was no real fear in Bulgaria of the Germans now and that a close relationship had developed between the Bulgarian Government and the Soviet. He stressed the latter point and spoke of it with enthusiasm.

In the course of the latter discussion he referred to his pleasure at being able to meet with me not surrounded by German spies, stating that the air in Ankara was much better now that the Germans had departed. I agreed.

Balabanoff inquired whether much good will and publicity would result from this revocation of the two laws, and I was emphatic in indicating that this would make a dramatic story and impress our government of the true good faith in the field of humanitarianism by the Bulgarian Government. In fact, I asserted that nothing short of the abrogation of these two laws would satisfy us, as they were linked in our minds to the infamous Nuremburg laws and that it was up to the Bulgarian Government with one stroke at this time to disassociate itself with this black chapter in its history; otherwise it remains as a direct evidence of association with the Nazis in one of their most hideous convulsions.

Balabanoff seemed to get the point and replied that if it were within his power he would revoke the laws forthwith, but that he could only send a message as strong as my representation to his government, which he would do this night.

I read to Balabanoff a memorandum sent to me from Istanbul referring to the paragraphs below:

"In an address to an economic conference in Burgas, Hristo Vasilev, Minister of Commerce, declared that the elimination of the Jews from the economic life of the country was to a large extent responsible for the "catastrophic" position of Bulgarian economy. This statement got by the censors and was printed in a Burgas paper read by sub-source.

"Sub-source states, nevertheless, that the economic situation of the Jews is as bad as it has ever been. Food rations, in some instances, are lower than for the gypsies. The newly appointed chief of the Jewish Commissariat, said to be Bogomil Protich, is alleged by sub-source and other Jews who have had dealings with him to be much more strongly anti-Semitic than Stomanyakov, the retiring chief."

Balabanoff asserted that he only knew Vasilev slightly, since he was a new Minister of Commerce. Here I emphasized the desirability in our view of rehabilitating Bulgaria's own citizens to build the new Bulgaria rather than to transplant them with all the attendant discomfort, expense, etc. to a strange land. I stated that reports indicated that there was plenty of food in Bulgaria, and that if it was a matter of financial aid I was of the opinion that some arrangement might be made through the International Red Cross to provide

... I am sure that you will find this information of interest. I am sure that you will find this information of interest. I am sure that you will find this information of interest.

funds for the pauperized Bulgarian citizenry who happened to be Jews. Here I referred to the name of Gunev, Director of the Bulgarian National Bank, who is anti-Nazi and anti-Fascist, and who, according to Dr. Black's information, would probably be freely disposed toward assisting in finding local currency in Bulgaria, should it be necessary to secure Bulgarian levas to be made available to the Jewish people for the purchase of food. This seemed to interest Balabanoff.

Balabanoff then referred again to the fine impression that was made on the Bulgarian Government and people as a result of the absence of bombing since March 20. He asked if I would be willing to make a bargain to continue the policy of this "happy omission" if the two laws were revoked. To this I replied that I was not in a position to discuss military questions, but that I had noted in a previous telegram to Washington to the effect that the absence of bombing had deeply impressed the Bulgarian population.

In questioning Balabanoff again on the reasons for his government's apprehension to wiping out the two odious anti-Jewish laws without delay, Balabanoff replied that there was justification, especially in the last weeks, for lack of fear at this time since there was only one German Division now occupying Bulgaria, and that the relations with Russia had vastly improved in the last days.

Balabanoff requested information regarding the nature of the good will which Bulgaria might build up through compliance with the steps I requested, especially with regard to the postwar period. He was desirous of knowing how long the United States Government would have a hand in European and Balkan affairs after the war. I stated that I was in no position to know or discuss this, but it was my impression that the government would be deeply concerned with the development of democracies and would continue to be interested in the protection of minorities. The latter seemed to interest him.

As the daylight was waning and Balabanoff was jumping from one subject to another, I had the impression that a strong representation made by me through Simond in a letter would be more logical and have more concentrated effect. I suggested that with Mr. Kelley's permission I might address a letter to Simond covering the points made above, and others. Balabanoff said he would be pleased to receive such a communication through Simond.

Balabanoff intends to remain in Ankara for the present. He promised to communicate the replies to his telegram on the above subjects through Simond immediately upon hearing from Sofia.

I. A. Hirschmann  
Special Attache

IAH:VH

Dr. Black's name not mentioned.

1167

August 5, 1944

M E M O R A N D U M

To Mr. Hirschmann from Mr. Katzki

I am enclosing herein a copy of a letter and list which was left here by Mr. Denenberg, of persons characterized by him as pro-Allied and pro-democratic, who are at present confined in Bulgarian jails and concentration camps. I am sending the list to you in the event that you wish to place it with your friend B.

Denenberg gave me the following story: he said that he had been in touch with Mr. Theodore Solacolo, who is the press attache of the Rumanian legation in Ankara, and who had promised to provide him with a list of the names of people, pro-democratic and in opposition to the Nazis, who are being held in jails and concentration camps in Rumania. Mr. Solacolo, according to Denenberg, also promised to do something toward effecting the release of such persons. Denenberg has not done anything to follow up Solacolo to secure the list, at your suggestion, but he wonders whether there is anything you can do about it to secure it. In addition to effecting the release of such political persons, Denenberg would also like to send money to them, and according to him Solacolo had given some indication that he would be helpful in that connection.

Enclosure

August 5, 1944

List of Pro-Allied and Pro-Democratic  
Persons at Present Confined in Bulgarian  
Jails or Concentration Camps.

Minister Spassarevsky - Former Parliament Deputy - at present  
in jail.

Aristo Peneff - Editor in chief of the Social Democratic Organ  
"Vorwärts" - interned.

Boris Ambardoff - Leader of Peasant Party - interned.

Mina Sasassoff - Former Bulgarian minister - either in jail or  
interned, in either case, terribly persecuted.

Dr. Blachah - Social Democrat and leader of Cooperative Movement -  
interned in concentration camp.

Boytscho Alexandroff - Pro-Allied, procrat - interned and very ill.

Colonel Stoytschaff - interned and persecuted.

Nicolas Dimitar Petkoff - Leader of Peasant Party - interned.

Ivan Arnaudoff - Well-known writer - persecuted.

Luchil Stoyanoff - writer - interned, persecuted.

Pora Gabe - On German Black List.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Naiden Nikoloff - In concentration camp.

Euliana Natscho Petrova - Interned.

Ing. Gheorghieff - In jail.

Dayanoff Gosess - In concentration camp.

Dr. Djarassi - In concentration camp.

PARAPHRASE OF TELETYPE RECEIVED

August 4, 1944

WRB 92

Subject: Board's gratification with results of negotiations  
with Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Bulgarian Minister.

(Extract)

No. 3326 (R-3049)

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL  
Istanbul, Turkey, August 4, 1944

SUBJECT: The Situation in Bulgaria at the end of  
July, 1944

...

The Minister of Commerce in a speech on July 17th, went so far as to admit that the situation in Bulgaria today is worse than it was in 1918 after 3 years of war. This striking statement is the most remarkable indication so far received here of the dangerous economic situation of the country. It is even more remarkable that the Minister should have made such a statement on the radio.

...

August 4, 1944

8/4/44  
Bulgaria  
Eisenstein  
2577

MEMORANDUM

To Mr. Hirschmann from Mr. Katzki

Subject: Conversation with Dr. Black, August 4, 1944

Dr. Black had carefully gone over Mr. Hirschmann's letter, and made the following observations:

(1) For physical and technical reasons, it probably will not be possible for a large number of Jewish people to leave Bulgaria. This is a result of difficulties in securing necessary records, documents, etc. In addition, it is to be expected that, with the changing situation in Bulgaria and the possibility that the condition of Jewish people will improve, not many will want to leave. In his opinion, should the condition of Jewish people be ameliorated, the major proportion of Jewish people would prefer to remain in Bulgaria where they know the language, customs, etc., to re-establish themselves there rather than to seek a new homeland which would be entirely strange to them, and where efforts for rehabilitation would be much more difficult. Dr. Black believes that the Jewish people in Bulgaria are not as badly off as are those in Hungary, and that, if emigration projects are in view, emphasis should be placed upon the emigration of people from Hungary rather than from Bulgaria. He thinks, then, that emphasis should be placed upon the obtaining of transit facilities through Bulgaria in behalf of Jewish people in Hungary, rather than upon the emigration of the Bulgarians themselves. Emigration of the latter should be regarded as a voluntary matter, and not as a problem of evacuation. The Bulgarian Jews relatively are not so badly off. Dr. Black laid

great stress upon the concept of assisting the Bulgarian Jews to remain where they are and rehabilitate themselves there.

(2) In Dr. Black's opinion, should there be an amelioration of the situation of the Jews in Bulgaria, not many families will be willing to have their children emigrate. Before the promulgation of the two anti-Jewish laws, Bulgarian Jewish children, with one or two exceptions, were in practically the same position as were non-Jewish Bulgarian children. They could attend schools, and possibilities for their futures were little different from those of other Bulgarians. Naturally, this view is predicated upon the abrogation of the anti-Jewish laws and the restoration of Bulgarian Jews to their citizenship and other rights as they existed during earlier years.

(3) The 25,000 Jewish people who formerly lived in Sofia and were required to leave that city and take up residences elsewhere today are relatively no worse off than are other former inhabitants of Sofia. It is true that Bulgarian Jews had to leave the city. For the most part, they moved in on relatives elsewhere, and were sheltered by them. As a result of the bombardment and destruction of Sofia a very large proportion of the population has since likewise been compelled to leave the city and move to other quarters. Thus, in terms of present housing, Bulgarian Jews and non-Jews from Sofia are on the same footing, and the Jews are at least as well housed as the non-Jews. What is important, then, is full restoration of the citizenship of Jews so that they will be able to resume that same full free status which they had prior to 1940. In addition, although it is a very complex matter and subject to many legal difficulties,

the question of indemnification of Jewish people for economic losses may be considered. Of course, it may be difficult to do things where properties have been expropriated, or where Jewish people were forced to dispose of assets at a fraction of their value. Complications would arise from a legal viewpoint where title was passed for a consideration, even though the consideration may have been disproportionately small. On the other hand, should the government, for example, determine to indemnify in some fashion former residents of Sofia to compensate them for property losses arising out of the bombardment of the city, Jewish people should receive the same consideration as anyone else, whatever the consideration might be.

It is hoped in this connection something could be done to give Jewish people free access to their bank accounts, into which they are to deposit their cash and proceeds of the forced sale of their assets, and which are now blocked. Jewish people are now permitted to draw down only 6,000 levas per month for their maintenance requirements.

(4) Food today is not a problem in Bulgaria, according to Dr. Black. His information is that crop yields are extraordinarily good, to such an extent that most Bulgarian-grown vegetables and bread are free and not even subject to rationing. Meat is scarce, but this affects everyone in Bulgaria. Therefore, it would not be so important to send food to Bulgaria as it would be to place the Jewish people in funds so that they can purchase their food requirements in the open market. Dr. Black thinks that this is the approach which should be taken, namely, that

funds could be made available to Jewish people provided the Bulgarian authorities would guarantee that the Jewish people would be able to purchase their fair share of available supplies in the same manner as do other sections of the Bulgarian population. Dr. Black recognizes, of course, that there may be some complications in terms of Bulgarian fiscal regulations, and those of the United States, should the Bulgarians want to be paid in foreign exchange. He thinks that the argument of the making available of foreign exchange should be of sufficient interest to the Bulgarians to secure their interest in such a proposal.

He told Dr. Black that, from the American point of view in my opinion the foreign exchange control regulations would not be insurmountable.

Dr. Black mentioned the name of a Mr. Gunov, who is Director of the Bulgarian national bank, and who is anti-Nazi and anti-fascist, and who probably would be friendly disposed towards assisting in finding local currency in Bulgaria should it be necessary to find Bulgarian levas to be made available to the Jewish people for purposes of food purchase.

(5) Dr. Black thought it important that an unprejudiced and unbiased survey of the conditions of Jewish people in Bulgaria to be made, touching on such questions as: the distribution of levas and where they are; their financial situation; in broad terms, the extent of hardship which prevails; the kinds of assistance which are necessary; the degree of relaxation, if any, in the enforcement of measures directed against the Jewish people, etc. He recognizes, of course, that there may be some opposition on the part of the Bulgarian authorities to

permitting one or more individuals freely to circulate about the country for purposes of such survey, opposition arising out of military and defense considerations. Mr. Black mentions specifically, however, cities such as Slaver, Baskovo, Slaviv, and Pazarjik, where large numbers of Jewish people now live, and which are directly on the main railroad lines. Other centers may be similarly located geographically, that is, on major lines of communication which have nothing to do with military matters.

Mr. Black suggested that perhaps the United Nations Red Cross could undertake such an objective survey, which would be in accord with a basis for any scheme which may be contemplated for assisting the rehabilitation of Jewish people in Bulgaria where they now are.

In answer to Black's short memorandum regarding the treatment of Jewish people in Bulgaria, of which Mr. Henderson prepared a copy, his observations were as follows:

As to the first paragraph, he thinks this is probably true, but that it will happen in the near future, as against setting the definite date of August.

As to the second paragraph, he agrees that the limitation of Jewish people from Bulgarian economic life is recognized, even in Bulgaria, to have caused disruption in the economic structure of the country.

As to the third paragraph, Mr. Black did not know the name of Protich, but expressed a doubt as to whether in the light of present developments a Communist characterizes as he would be appointed. He did not think that an attitude in the administration of Jewish affairs such as is implied by the third

paragraph would be in agreement with present trends.

As to the fourth paragraph, Mr. Black said that no Bulgarian Jew to the present time has been deported from the country. Those who may have been forced to leave the country were the 12,000 from Thrace and Macedonia, which came under Bulgarian control during the war. These people were not Bulgarians.

In connection with Mr. Black's suggestion mentioned above that Bulgarian transit facilities be secured in behalf of Jewish emigrants from Hungary, I mentioned to him the information contained in the telegram received by Lashnik to the effect that the Rumanian and Bulgarian governments have offered all facilities to visa legations in their countries in behalf of Jewish people migrating from Hungary.

I have informed Mr. Black that I passed his suggestions along to you, and advised him of your suggestion that it would be most helpful if he, collaterally with you, could undertake his own steps through channels available to him.

MEMO OF TRANSMISSION

August 1, 1944

Embassy's 1414 (?)

Subject: note transmitted to Bulgarian Government, August 1.

8/1/44  
Bulacan  
Balabanoff  
Mogno  
cc.

Istanbul, August 1, 1944

Dear Dr. Black:

Pursuant to our conversations I am confirming several of the points which were concurred in by you and me in our discussions relating to efforts to rescue victims of persecution and oppression in Bulgaria.

The conversation with and reports from Balabanoff for his government were encouraging as first possible steps. His letter written to Simond for our government, which has been transmitted to Washington, is confirmatory of the above. But I believe that you will agree with me that the Bulgarian Government is not going far enough at this crucial hour on these matters. I am thoroughly convinced that the government will take whatever possible steps are available to expedite the release, within technical possibilities, of their citizens who happen to be Jews. From information at hand, confirmed by you and Balabanoff, these steps at this time can result in only a pitifully small emancipation.

I am bothered by two aspects of this problem: a) that few refugees will be able to leave Bulgaria in the next important weeks and months; b) that the United States Government, watching daily for specific acts of large refugee movements out of Bulgaria, will have no choice but to interpret these negative results as a breach of faith by the Bulgarian Government in the face of its verbal and written representations by Balabanoff.

Considering the acute political situation today, the desire expressed by Balabanoff for his government to make such moves which would win the good will of the United States Government and its people, we stand today in a position where the fortuitous first steps in a program which could be productive of good on all sides could be unwittingly misconstrued. I therefore made to you today the proposal which I believe is the only solid and satisfactory move that should be offered by the Bulgarian Government without delay; namely, concrete steps to revoke and abolish forthwith the two notorious anti-Jewish laws on its books. In asserting the above I am not unaware of certain technical and political obstacles which the government in Bulgaria today may find it necessary to overcome. But these are days when I presume to suggest that governments will persist only by bold and forthright steps, especially with relation to the onward sweep of Allied victory, and if they wish to find themselves in some measure of good grace at the Peace Table.

As you know, I have no authority to speak in connection with the latter, but I am charged with a special responsibility and can offer now a specific opening for the good will that

will result from broad strokes in the direction of humanitarianism, especially as related to refugees, which will not promise but fulfill a policy which will negate that of a former government in ruthlessly corrupting a helpless minority of its own people, and which will be designed concretely to rehabilitate these victimized members of its own citizenry.

The Bulgarian Government stands today in the position where it can create a priceless measure of good will without, as I see it, giving up anything fundamental, by taking the essential steps without delay to abrogate the scandalous anti-Jewish laws and to permit us to announce it forthrightly to the world. Whatever sacrifice on its own part is necessary at this time for it to do so, I am confident that the scales will weigh heavily in its own favor after the decision is announced.

I have promised Balabanoff and you that such a step would be heralded with the widest publicity throughout the United States (and Britain), which I shall take it as my especial task to discharge. The evidence in the instance of the abolition of the camp in Transnistria by the Rumanians is with you. The step I am suggesting would elicit publicity and good will of a manifold nature and scope.

There is another aspect of the subject which we discussed and which should be re-inforced with the Bulgarians. It is my sense that this may well be no time for planning large-scale emigration movements out of a country like Bulgaria if the present government of Bulgaria is as sound and forward-looking in its determination to reconstruct its country as is indicated. The Jews who have been reduced by these two laws to complete deprivation and inability to carry on any legitimate work must be put on their feet, not for themselves alone as Bulgarian citizens, but for the enormous contribution that they will make in helping build the new Bulgaria. It is a strange paradox which history relates that the depressed and depopulated Jewish populations have without exception rebounded in the countries where they found themselves and become valuable citizens in building the wealth and culture of their communities. Considering the history of Bulgaria, the Jews as an indigenous part of that nation, received relatively fair treatment which they enjoyed until recently when this latter record was smudged by one of the blackest pages in Bulgarian history. With any fair chance at economic assistance, rehabilitation and sustenance, the Jewish people should quickly become essential and useful participants in building the new nation.

Why send them in lost groups to strange lands if, as the Minister of their country asserts, they will "gradually" find themselves back in the position of respect and responsibility where they were before the war. It may even be that the Bulgarian Government some months hence may find itself in the position of beckoning for the return of these self-same citizens.

SECRET  
I have been advised that the  
above information is being  
furnished to you for your  
information only. It is not  
to be disseminated outside  
of your office.  
Very truly yours,  
I. A. Hirschmann  
Special Attache

whom they helped to deport to Palestine at great expense and inconvenience. I trust that you are not burdened by my over-emphasis of the point, but I insist that the step we are suggesting will be of even greater advantage to Bulgaria than to those who will be saved.

One more point: I think the leaders of the Bulgarian Government should know that I shall expect to hold them responsible for that which Balabanoff signed. While he wrote somewhat less than he reported to me verbally, his letter is categorical in asserting that (a) the government will ameliorate the situation of the Jews and cease all forms of persecution without delay; (b) transport will be facilitated within all possible technical means. The letter goes further in its implications, but speaking for the Government of the United States of America I report that we shall never be satisfied with these conversations and representations until these two laws are revoked. In the meanwhile the government can be completely lax in its enforcement of them.

For will this be sufficient? Reports coming currently from Bulgaria indicate a state of economic depravity on the part of its Jewish citizens resulting from these laws. What is the good of permitting people freely to leave their homes if they have nowhere to go, nor means of securing funds except by immoral and illegal means; if there are no possible available methods of reconstructing their lot or their dignity as human beings? Measures must be found at once to supply them with food, the necessary means of living as decent citizens, and economic assistance to rehabilitate their businesses, their families and their homes.

I propose to offer through the assistance of existing relief agencies, now represented in Turkey, along with that of our government, such means to rehabilitate this population as possibilities permit. Obviously it is not too much to ask that the Bulgarian Government permit this and assist it in every possible reasonable way. They have decimated the population. We do not ask them to revive it but only to permit others to do so without let or hindrance so that they may contribute towards the wellbeing of their own country.

I hope to hear that the forthright and sincere steps suggested herein have been taken by the Bulgarian Government in order to fortify its position among the humane nations of the world and to win back the respect and good will of our people which they had so scrupulously built in the last half-century and which they have so sorely lost in the last black war-years.

With thanks for your kindness and friendship,

Cordially yours,

I. A. Hirschmann  
Special Attache

P. S. If the Bulgarian Government is seeking methods to demonstrate its sincerity in being helpful in this situation connected with refugee movements, we are informed that a number of refugees, possibly up to 2,000, will be leaving Hungary in the next few days. We have requested of the Rumanian Government that they permit these refugees to enter Rumania in transit and we have been informed that the Rumanians have agreed in principle to this procedure. Obviously the Bulgarians would not at this time wish to set up a blockade against these refugees in the face of their representations. It will therefore be necessary for them to agree to permit these refugees to come through Bulgaria and to provide for them the necessary transit facilities out of Bulgaria to Turkey without delay. The above will apply similarly to refugees who will be leaving Rumania (who do not arrive from Hungary), and for whom transit facilities through Bulgaria will be required.

I. A. H.

Dr. Floyd H. Black  
President  
Robert College  
Hisar