Measures should be taken halting persecution - Bulgaria, f. dor.
BULGARIA

1. BULGARIA
2. M. RASAROPOFF — BULGARIAN MINISTER TO TURKEY

(MATERIAL IN WITH FILE, SENT FROM WFB OFFICE IN TURKEY)

WAR REFUGEE BOARD RECORDS
Istanbul, February 17, 1948

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:VR
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 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 dif­
ficult 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
fellows countrymen, 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 recieve 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,

[Signature]
The total number of Jews in Bulgaria amounts to 47,000, 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 south and were not to fortunately do happen, thanks to a disapproving public opinion, which in spite of the fascist regime, was able to arise 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 (about 20,000) 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 Jews from the environments came to buy things at a low price from the Jewish houses. The Jews 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 partir, 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 somewhere else, 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 robbed or demolished by the enemies. 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 at the new Anti fascist government - the National Front, the Jews were distributed in the different towns as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Lovni</td>
<td>6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Nesse</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Kustendil</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Pleven</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Vratza</td>
<td>1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Haskard</td>
<td>1,124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Yambol</td>
<td>1,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Lovech</td>
<td>1,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. Plovdiv</td>
<td>473</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. Berdov</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. Tendre</td>
<td>487</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. Veling</td>
<td>467</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7. Varna 4606 17. Maritsa 649 27. Sofia 300
10. Ferdinand 1516 20. Gorna Djumaya 546 "other places" 283
7600 40637

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 return has not yet ceased. It still continues. The means of transport amount 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 citizens in their majority. The foreign citizens among them are only 105 (25. 6. 1943), of which 85 were Spanish (25). The rest Italian (146), Greek (130), Turks (129) etc.

Saving the number of those Jews who took their food from the common kitchens, we reckon the number of those in great need (without any mead of existence) to be at least about 10,000.

In order to help those in need as well as a great part of small merchants and artisans, we think that a distribution of clothes and money will be necessary. We persuade that the big organizations which now choose you to undertake this an acte, illegal ways and means to seed the necessary sums of money which will help the rea"est part possible of Jews in the country.

Concerning the question of an efficient controle, we take the liberty to in-... two 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 controle of the Central Consistorium. The members of the Consistory are chosen by th 5 minuten of inner affairs. We hope that the Consistory is a sufficient assurance for all controle exercised by it.
ЦЕНТРАЛНА КОНСИСТОРИЯ НА ЕВРЕЙТЪ ВЪ ВЪ БЪЛГАРИЯ

Г. София, 5 юли 1914 г.

с. Голден - дълг за химна
(по 14 септември)

[Списание за 3 ловци]

[Подпис]

[Списание]

[Место]

[Имена]
in Jaffa and ordered release for Courvoisier.

relative to relief for Bulgaria and 30,000 pairs of shoes for
Greece and/or Bulgaria.
To Col. Cavan Todd:

UNREADABLE

UNREADABLE

UNREADABLE

UNREADABLE

UNREADABLE

Serges

Committee in Sofia for distribution: D. Schiff
The Relief Committee of the city (Sofia) had its first public meeting at the House of the Jewish People, at which time Mr. Lailu 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.
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
- Hajiloff: Minister of Finance
- 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
- Nadoslavoff: Minister of Public Instruction

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) Formulation 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 Yanoff, 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.

Bohdan 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 Bojiloff, 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-Semite. 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.)
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 approval 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.
January 25, 1945

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 (St. Louis), "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.
The Luxembourg 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.
Translation: January 22, 1945

Broadcasts Received in Bulgarian

Sofia 352.9M

18:30

Internal news:

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

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 Nasalednikov, Dr. Ivan Georgiev, Sava Savov, Lt. Col. Theodor Georgiev, Col. (retired) Tadjor and Violette Pasteurmadkova, the witness, Georgi Kisselov, made detailed revelations concerning the missions instructed by the Government, in Turkey. In May 1943, Pilov 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 Pilov, the regent pogramadji 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, Bojjlov, 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 Bagramov was not sincere and that he was following a criminal policy for the country.
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, Vaurban 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 Belgorod and of Thrace were sent in sealed cars to Lublin and Czestochowa in order to be exterminated by the Germans (by the German executioners and their fellows.)
The Jewish and Turkish minorities held their congress at Sofia these last few days. On this subject the "Rabotnichesko 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

March 13, 1948

Broadcasts Received in Bulgarian

05.30 G.M.T.

SOFIA 353.00 M.

News from Abroad:

Haiffa 12. News that 600 Rumanian Jews have just arrived in Palestine, the parents of whom perished in Rumania in the performance of labor inflicted by the Germans before the arrival of the Soviets.
In the fifteenth issue 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 pariahs. It is he who gave the mastery to the Germans and delivered over 15,000 Jews of Belo-Moria 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 impaled 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, Becker, -- a letter declaring himself the friend of Hitler and the bitter enemy of bolshevism.

Peter Gabrovsky, 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 bringing him judged, and that if Bulgaria did not try 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)."
T.L.O.A. S.E.N.  

January 11, 1965

From Katzki to Judah Kerns

Subject: Levy's recommendations as regards J.G relief in Bulgaria.
Istanbul, January 9, 1945

Dear Dr. Wagner:

By this time you will have received my two telegrams concerning the supervision and distribution of such of the non-military clothing and medicine which the Joint Distribution Committee is attempting to purchase in relation to the Jewish people in Bulgaria.

Upon conversation with Mr. Levy upon his return from Sofia, he felt very strongly about handing over to the Consul General the supervision and distribution of these supplies to the Jews in Sofia. It is for this reason that he designated an official to take over. I will come into action soon, supplies are at hand. The committee consists of Colonel Peter Medzina, who has been one of the leaders of the Bulgarian Jews, Consul General up to the time of his expulsion and who, in my opinion, is still highly regarded in Sofia; Leon Novosel and Vychedinoff, whom I mentioned to you in my first wire; Mancho Mananoff, who is Secretary of the present Consul General and who, in Mr. Levy's opinion, is the present Consul General people as the most socially conscious; Vassil Mananoff, who is independent though the member of one of the political parties; Dr. Tadev, who always was a helpful to Mr. Levy in his own investigations of the situation of Jewish people, he 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. Levy feels that the Consulate and the Consul General can make an investigation of the Jews' requirements in various regions where Jewish people are now in Bulgaria, and to make distribution in accordance with his findings.

Levy thinks that such an independent control is a preferable procedure to Sofia, but that in any event the control should not be given over to the Consul General.

Levy's description of the current situation of the Jewish people in Sofia is substantially the same as at which we have been reporting 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 February when he was in Sofia. He emphasizes...
that the need is great and that the J.C. assistance must be made available at the very earliest possible moment.

If there is any additional information which you would like to have, I shall be glad to try to secure it for you. Please feel free to call upon me if you think I can be of aid.

If you will want to know that Mr. Counselor of the International Relief Cross, I am in touch with Ambassador Stainbank in Ankara for the aid in securing transit facilities across Turkey and official sanction of Ambassador Stainbank to take an attitude with the Turkish Minister in person, and with the Turkish Foreign Office.

At any rate that you already have the opportunity to speak with many people who will have arrived in Palestine among the last group of the refugees which left Jerusalem from Bari, and who had been detained at Jaffa harbor. They undoubtedly will have told you of their trip and of the difficulties they encountered in surveys. Ambassador Stainbank has been very great assistance in the successful conclusion of this project. It was mainly as a result of his prompt and energetic intervention with the British Ambassador in Ankara that arrangements were finally made for the issuance of Palestine certificates in Antalya and the refugees were permitted to enter Turkey in transit, as in earlier groups. I believe, though I hope I am wrong, that this group will prove to be the least of its size passing through Turkey for some time.

With parting to Mr. Elazar, and kindest personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

Erbert Katzki

Dr. Judah L. Magnes, President
Hebrew University
Jerusalem
Hungary, January 7, 1945

1. It is announced from abroad that in his last meeting the provisional Hungarian government decided the purging of the Hungarian administration. This 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.

2. London: S: Reuter: Churchill today had an interview with Mr. Soubatchitch, Foreign Minister of Jugoslavia. It is extremely probable that the British Prime Minister, Mr. Churchill, will shortly be received by King Peter of Jugoslavia.

3. London: S: Reuter: 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 declares, but of feeding Belgian industry.

4. The Sofia 12:30 broadcast gave an account of the interrogation by the First Supreme Chamber of the Tribunal of the People of Kristo Vassilov, 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 greatest victims of fascism in Bulgaria was the Jewish minority. Politicians without scruples, like Filov, Dobrovski, Kotcho Kirov, smashed 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 inst. 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
the active part taken by the Jews in that fight.

The Conference was saluted by Benisch, 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.

"We recall the tragic fate of the Jews of Jugoslavia, where of 76,000 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. As 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. Yerohan gave a report on the political situation of the country and of the Jews. At the same time Mr. Keyer, 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 Loutanev, speaking in the name of the Social-Democratic party and Nikolas Lazev for the "workers' party," took the occasion to salute those present. The Conference is continuing.
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. Macnair:

"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.

"Would appreciate your informing Joseph Levy 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 EFTA Red Cross.

"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,
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 Belomorie 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. ---
Translation
December 24, 1944

Broadcasts Received in Bulgarian
06.30 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.
Urgent American Consulat General pour
Hérent Katzen Istanbul

après avoir les permes que groupes refugies Saragossa

rallant continuent en continuent leurs depuis palestine

autorités turques remplacent transport Adrienne le retournant

aviverait step loation anglais pour faire nécessaire

pour qu'ils soient admis Istanbul jusqu'à solution definitive

question leurs depuis palestine stop avons avis avoir soldas

step prière nécessaire votre cote salutations

vitaly haïmour
après avoir laissé que groupes refugés etarazegors secrétarik continuent leurs départ et l'Union autorités turques et term transmettent air-transport le retourant sviengrad stop ligation anglais pront faire un nouvel air-transport solant solant istanbul jescus solution definitive question leurs départ solartin.

vitaly brinoff
Translation:  
DECEMBER 21, 1944  
BROADCASTS RECEIVED  
IN BULGARIAN  
18:30  
Sofia  
362.9K

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. 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. Sreten Nanoff, 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 Cyril, "Kiki", that Prince Cyril had numberless debts, IOUs 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. Georgi Handjiev, 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.

Handjiev 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 Verechternoff, the hangman of the police and of the Gestapo. He admitted that he had received Mr. Berkerle 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-Aga, 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-Aga, 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 those "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 on 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 numbers 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
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 Algeria 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 immigration 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, on route to Palestine. The Jewish Agency representatives in Istanbul are urgently warning all their people in Salonika and Rumania regarding the new situation of control for Palestine immigration 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 Lau once A. Steinhardt
Ambassador to Turkey
American Embassy
Ankara

HK:VH
F.S.: The British interpose the objection that these people should not have departed from Palestine 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 Lebanon, 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. Polla:

Within the past few days, Mr. David Ben-Gurion, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Jewish Agency for 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 ‘Our Refugee Board has been interested, others, as you are aware, 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—these are still there today—is as follows: At Stara Zagora there are 275 Rumanian 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 Karanik, just outside of Stara Zagora, numbering 320 persons, are for the most part Rumanian Hungarians. These likewise had been selected because of their origin in an area not subject to Russian claims.

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. Ben-Gurion made inquiry in Sofia to learn what might be done in order to solve this situation. It 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. Ben-Gurion was told by a Russian general in charge, a General Pantachoff, 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 Bulgaria. Sofia has instructed the Bulgarian consulates in Germany not to issue any transit visas to emigrants, Pola, or Hungary. 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 Bulgaria, or at least the 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 of exit visas were not being issued, their issuance was being continued in others. Now issuance of exit visas generally has been stopped, and those persons who are now arriving in Istanbul are those who since had had their exit permit 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 could be granted. These documents numbered up to 13 or 15. Despite the assurances 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 own or 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 hitherto 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 Dr. Bonjouron held a meeting in Sofia to discuss Palestinian and immigration to that country, 4,000 Jews, or over one-third of the Jewish people now in Sofia, attuned to the public meeting to hold.

The Jewish people in Bulgaria, by and large, are not satisfied that their future in that country is assured, according to Dr. Bonjouron.

3. An unusual living conditions in Bulgaria are bad. There is no clothing to be purchased, no shoes, no wearing apparel of any kind. The consumption of these items is not dependent upon money, by way of illustration, one of the Bulgarian ministers asked Dr. Bonjouron to send him a pair of shoes from Palestine, not that this minister was interested in having a pair of Palestinian shoes, but simply because he needed a pair and could not purchase any. Food, too, is scarce. The Germans have taken out of the country all cattle, wool, shoes, anything that could be eaten. The stores in Sofia list all, but without merchandise, medicines are not to be obtained, even with money. Living conditions are very difficult.

Those were the most affected by the general hardships in Bulgaria are Jews. Three people for four years have been without homes, have been seen in forced-labor camps, were forced out of their homes, were deprived of their possessions, were unable to purchase any clothing, remain without adequate medical care.

Of the 25,000 Jews who had resided in Sofia four years ago, and who had been expelled to the provinces, between eighteen and twenty thousand have returned. When they return, to Sofia, they found that the dwellings which they had been compelled to give up were occupied, 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 wall with the slain. Subject to deprivation over a long period of years, these Jews, under-nourished, ill-clothed, many with no shoes or only what might
have passed for about 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 facilities receive the regular allowance for those whose brothers are in the army, but this amount is 500 liva per cent. An unofficial rate of exchange this represents about one and one-half Turkish liva. Some information the current rate of exchange is 500 liva can be ascertained when one compares this amount. It is costly, with the minimum amount one person must have in order to secure food and shelter. I have been informed by individuals from Bulgaria that there must have a minimum of six thousand Turkish liva per month per person in order to live a minimum existence. The Bulgarian authorities told me, Longovorin, that they will raise the allocation to from eight to fifteen hundred liva per month.

In Greece many Jews have found hard hit are, of course, children. There are estimates of 500 Jewish children in Bulgaria between the ages of six and fifteen. Most of these children are residing in the Jewish quarter of Sofia, underpowered and badly clothed. Many of these are without shoes. Although the Jewish children in Bulgaria now have the right to attend the Bulgarian schools, Mr. Longovorin states that he does not believe that the opportunity to attend the schools or without shoes or decent clothes to wear and were too to remain at home.

Despite restrictions which have been placed upon emigration to Palestine, it has been reported to you, Mr. Longovorin, propose or recommend to take steps to make efficacious the admission into Palestine of 5,000 children from Bulgaria. He proposes also that the purchase in Palestine of 10,000 pairs of shoes for export to Bulgaria, and also a quantity of medicine, has been the list which I transmitted to you in our letter of December 6. Medicines are urgent required because of the existence of typhus in the Jewish quarter, malaria, diphtheria, and other illness. There is no soap to be obtained in Bulgaria. As a result, it is not possible for the Jews in the Jewish Quarter to wash themselves, to clean their clothes, and to take necessary steps to dislodge their apparel or to take elementary measures of sanitation for the crowded quarters in which they live.

4. While in Bulgaria, Mr. Longovorin 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 they are all the Jews known to be in Macedonia after the deportations which took place a year or two ago. Among them 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 rescued from Bulgaria. Perhaps, in due course, some council will be found through which these people can be assisted.

From here in Istanbul, it would seem that the following influences can be drawn regarding the Balkans. With the exception of Italy, whose political position is somewhat unique, Armenia 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 lifted 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 Armenian and Bulgarian Governments in their behalf, to re-establish themselves, must be regarded as an attempt to lift themselves by their own bootstraps. It cannot be one, 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 Armenia 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

K. J. W. Pehle, Executive Director
Rep Refugees Board
Treasury Building
Washington 25, D. C.

HR/b
Subject: Need for medicaments for Bulgarian Jews urgent.
Istanbul, December 8, 1944

Dear Mr. Paole:

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 herewith.

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 medicines 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 medicines 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

[Enclosure: List of medical supplies]
December 6, 1944

Broadcasts Received in Bulgarian

20:45

Sofia 352.9M

Geneva: 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.
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 Landberger's report on the situation of the people in residence assigned in Anatolia.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Herbert Kantzi
Representative
War Refugee Board

G. Beretta, Esquire
Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross
32 Abdul Hadihmid Cadesi
Mehrek Fele 3
Istanbul
Istanbul, 4.12.1944

**Liste de médicaments obt. pour la Bulgarie**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Médicament</th>
<th>Quantité</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Acidum Acet. Phenylnaftalinum</td>
<td>20,000 tablettes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Acidum Phenyl Chinoline Carbonicum</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Adrénaline</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Amine pour Morcone</td>
<td>300 kgs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Atébrine</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Atébrine (?)</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Antipyrine</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Atébrine</td>
<td>300,000 tablettes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Novocaine</td>
<td>5 kgs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Calcium Bromatum</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Camphor</td>
<td>100,000 ampoules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Calcium Lactogluconat</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>5,000 kgs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Cardiazol (p-anisométhyl Tetrazol)</td>
<td>10,000 ampoules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>liquide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Quinine</td>
<td>20,000 ampoules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>300,000 tablettes</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Calcium Quinine</td>
<td>5,000 ampoules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Codainum</td>
<td>5 kgs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Coffeinum</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Vitamines A, B, C, D, E, K</td>
<td>50,000 ampoules et 200,000 tablettes de chaque</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Pyramidon</td>
<td>200 kgs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Digitalis preparata</td>
<td>50,000 ampoules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Diméthine (Theobromine Natrum Salicylicum)</td>
<td>50 kgs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
25) Scopolamine Acetate
- 5,000 ampoules
26) "
27) Glyceric acid
- 20,000 tablets
28) Hexamethylenetetramine
- 500 lbs.
29) Insulin ampoules
- 500 "
30) Iodine purpureum
- 5,000 ampoules
31) Lobellium Hydrochloricum
- 5 kgs.
32) Morphinum preparata
- 50,000 ampoules
33) Nesselversan preparata
- 10,000 kgs.
34) Olimium Jecoris Alphi (?)
- 100 "
35) Olimium Stechi
- 200 "
36) Phenacetine
- 20,000 ampoules
37) Plasmodeine
- 300,000 tablets
38) "
39) Santonine
- 20,000 ampoules
40) Sulfanamidum Sulphapyridine preparata
- 100 kgs.
41) "
42) Torpinae Hydramus
- 200 "
43) "
44) "
45) Osorea Vaccina
- 1,000 kgs.
46) "
47) "
48) Hydrodenium hydrochloridatum Novantis (?)
- 1,000 kgs.
49) Otalgan Carbon Glycerina (?)
- 3,000 flacons
50) Leucoplaste
- 5,000 rouleaux
51) Antirhodaste (?)
- 1,000 flacons
62) Vase hydroscopics (1) - 5,000 kgs.

1) Toutes sortes de matériel de peinture
2) Sériques injection avec aiguilles
3) 20,000 paires chaussures enfants jusqu'à 17 ans
4) 40,000 pièces de savon
Translations

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.
La transmission fut interceptée par un très fort signal.

 interception.

 Le journal - Izgrev - sous la mention - fin des divergences aux balkans - faisant un aperçu des causes antécédentes des guerres entre les peuples balkaniques, et attribuant ceci surtout aux aspirations, mal placées, du désir de chaque peule du balkan, de predomination, exerce l'espoir, qu'aceres tant d'expériences, erreurs et souffrances, maître 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 régents ont reçu en audience Mr. Peter Todoroff - délégué à titre de représentant de la Bulgarie auprès du maréchal Tito. Également, les régents reçoivent en audience l'accusateur national général - Mr. Georgi Petroff -.

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

 Mr. Petro Ferouzi - ministre du gouvernement macédonien - est arrivé pour quelques jours à Sofia.
Au 29 et 30 novembre a. o. une conférence a eu lieu entre les dirigeants des arrondissements de la milice nationale. Durant cette conférence furent discutées des questions politiques et économiques. Il fut également délibéré sur les problèmes à recourir par rapport l'héritage laissé aux autorités du front de la patrie par les ex-régimes. Il fut fait mention des mérites récents aux millionnaires dans l'œuvre du 9/IX. Les plus appréciés encore par suite que les miliciens ont continué leur tâche durant 80 jours, sans être gratifiés pour leurs seines et actions. Au deuxième jour de la conférence le ministre de l'intérieur - Anton Yousoff - a souligné les mesures à prendre dans le but de porter la milice nationale à un plus haut-digné degré et dans le but de stabiliser la situation des miliciens. Alors maintenant les miliciens reçoivent des appointements, tandis que durant deux mois entiers ils ont rempli leurs missions sans être gratifiés, malgré ce que les miliciens ont accompli en pleine conscience leur mission et ont travaillé, durant le jour et la nuit, à raison de 16 à 20 heures par jour. Actuellement la milice se compose de 8 à 10 pour cent des gens du sorti des ouvriers, tandis que le reste de ces gens du front de la patrie. Chaque milicien veille à son poste et accomplit son devoir. Lescalamités presenties aux miliciens sont fausses et émanent des ennemis du front de la patrie, ainsi que le nom des miliciens ne peut pas être souillé. La milice justifie ses actions par des actes visant que l'affermissement et le soulèvement (rehaussement) des autorités du front de la patrie.

Nouvelles de l'étranger.

Belgrade. 30.2am. Avis qu'a Belgrade fut inauguré un monument en mémoire des succombés pour la libération de Belgrade.


Lonares. 30. Radio. Avis que l'offensive entreprise par
le maréchal Koltchakine en Hongrie se déroule favorablement et que la preuve en est dans l'ordre du jour du maréchal Staline avançant
la prise de Eger - nœud ferroviaire - situé à 90 kilomètres au
nord-est de Budapest.

Avis:

Avis qu'une délégation spéciale des représentants de la
Résistance de la capitale est partie à Plovdiv, hier, pour aller à
le rencontre de Mr. David Ben Gurion - président de l'agence juive
avec siège à New-York, Londres et Jérusalem et leader de l'orga-
nisation ouvrière en Palestine. Avis que Mr. Ben Gurion arrivera
demain à Sofia où une rencontre solennelle lui est prévue à la
gare de Sofia.

Avis concernant l'avis pour la réhabilitation du
 général Zaimoff. / Référence: rapport d'hier de 20.45 GMT de
M. Israël /.

Repetition de l'avis donné à diverses reprises convoquant
les consommateurs d'énergie électrique de ne pas emloyer des
accessoires électriques, comme chauffeuses et autres, à partir de
17 heure jusqu'à 21.30 heure durant les mois de décembre et jan-
vier. Cet avis emane de la direction de l'électricité à Sofia.

Communication des nouveaux dons pour les combattants du
front. Donn représentant le montant global de Livres 31,840.- Ci-
tation noms des donateurs et énumération des montants séparément.

---------------------------------------------------------------------
Address
Mr. Vitali Hoyntoff
Rue Bracia Philadimory 36
Sofia

Dr. win this space using T
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, those houses that belong to Jews and that have been occupied previously by Jews must be given up by the tenants. If the Jewish owner did not occupy such a house, the latter have previously occupied it. 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.
Subject: Difficulties at Stara Zagora. Suggestions for solving
the difficulties with military and Russians.
Subject: Difficulties in Bulgaria. Advisability of Katzki proceeding to Rumania and Bulgaria for personal exploration of possibilities.
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
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
Istanbul, November 30, 1944

Dear Mr. Fehlé:

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 throw 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 viewpoint 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. Fehlé, Esquire
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D.C.

Enclosure: Copy of memo of November 19
Copy of letter of November 31

HERKMR
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plovdiv</td>
<td>6806</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russe</td>
<td>5000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kurthestanil</td>
<td>3600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pleven</td>
<td>3300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vidin</td>
<td>2834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shumen</td>
<td>2613</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pazardik</td>
<td>2498</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doupinitza</td>
<td>2350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haasievo</td>
<td>1894</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferdinand</td>
<td>1616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vratsa</td>
<td>1500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rastolgrad</td>
<td>1194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Novo Slatin</td>
<td>1100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vlas</td>
<td>1080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>other towns</td>
<td>2000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
Istanbul, le 25 Novembre 1944

Son Excellence
Monsieur L. Steinhardt
Ambassadeur des États-Unis d’Amérique à
Ankara

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.

Istanbul, le 25 Novembre 1944

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L'Organisation des Sionistes Unis choisit sur base du télégramme du 10 Oct. 1944, ci-haut mentionné, 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 la suite les formalités nécessaires pour l'obtention des visas d'entrée aux États Unis d'Amérique pour les
délégues 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 approximatifs se trouvent dans différentes villes de la Province, les autres 25,000 environ reviennent 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 prêtablement 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 fonda, bien 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, désenfumage de marnages etc., tout cela sans argent et sans nourriture. Leurs vêtements, réduits petit à petit en haillons, n'étaient jamais recommandés 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 déshérence 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 pires 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. 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 laissé 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-dessus:

1. - Le pays manque complètement d'articles et de matériels 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.
Telle est la situation actuelle des Juifs de Bulgarie.

Après la prise du pouvoir par le "Otechestven Front" (front de la patrie) toutes les lois anti-juives furent abolies et de ce fait les Juifs reprirent tous leurs anciens droits civils et politiques redevenant ainsi des citoyens de droits égaux.

Vu leur mauvaise situation économique et matérielle et par suite surtout du désir qui anime toute la nation juive de créer un foyer national, presque tous les Juifs de Bulgarie désirent migrer en Palestine pour y vivre librement en tant que nation juive.

Notre tâche consiste à communiquer ce qui précède au Congrès Mondial et à tâcher de trouver en collaboration avec les autres délégués une solution efficace au problème des Juifs de Bulgarie. Pour cette raison nous prions Votre Excellence de bien vouloir nous accorder son appui pour l'obtention de nos visas d'entrée aux États-Unis d'Amérique.

Veuillez agréer, Excellence, avec nos remerciements respectueux l'expression de notre parfaite considération.

[Signature]

[Signature]
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. Bolshevism, 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 bolshevist 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 civilisation 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 bolshevism 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 bolshevism. He who once feels the effect of the methods of Stalin cannot remain inactive and indifferent toward the Bolshevist 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.
Consistoire central des juifs en Bulgarie

Sofia

Président: M. David Erohan, avocat, juge consulaire au Ministère des Oeuvres sociales.

Secrétaire: M. Manucher Rahamimoff, avocat.

Vice-président: M. Jacques Nathan, publiciste.

Membres: M. Victor Lazrove, chimiste
        Edouard Arié, avocat
        Salo Taggur, négociant
        Irans Zayer, avocat.

Sous à Sofia.
A stagnation in Sweden.

Jacques leclaire. President of Luxembourg according to Ferdinand.

Maat ja. Baccara, minister.

Joseph Rehovitch. Deputy of Belgium.

Jacobus. Herschowitch. Secretary of delegation.
MEMORANDUM

November 19, 1944

Notes on Conversation with:
Mr. Joseph Levy of Moscow, 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. Sabatia Abkhazia of Sofia, 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 180 million leva remains in this account. However, these have been earmarked for restoration to specific organizations, such as 50 million leva for
trusted Jewish Community funds in Macedonia and three to four million leva for the Keren Kayemet. 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 project on lot 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 expensed 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 Community, 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 Grohman, lawyer, legal counsel to the Ministry of Social Work;
Secretary: Mr. Mantoko Rahaminoff, lawyer;
Vice-President: Mr. Jacques Natan, publicist;
Members: Nastia Isacova, chemist; Mr. Edouard Aria, lawyer; Mr. Salis Tagger, businessman; Mr. Israel Mayer, laborer.

The list supplied me by Mr. Joseph Levy is: David Grohman,
President, Socialist; Jacques Natan, Edouard Aria, Mantoko Rahaminoff, Nastia Isacova, Salis Tagger, Natan Grumberg, Joseph
Alcalay, Agrarian, and Chalomo Machiah, Zvono 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 businessmen, 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 lev. 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,
you have now been called up for military service in the Bulgarian
army or have returned to Sofia. Just prior to the departure of
these infecteds, a small epidemic of typhus and diphtheria broke
out in one small group in Sofia. The crowded living conditions,
with two or three families forced to share one room, carries
with it the danger of widespread illness. There are no medic-
ments 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 Bul-
garian Government has stated officially and publicly that they
are not opposed to emigration, and in fact are willing to do every-
thing they can to assist these 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 formal-
ilties. 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 counted that the holders were not
to be permitted to return to Bulgaria. A simplification of
emigration requirements should be assured.
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. Brezhen. 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.
Nov. 13, 1944

Subject: Wash. 183, 172 persons from Rumania and Bulgaria proceeded to Palestine.
Translation

November 20, 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.
Telegram sent

Nov. 11, 1944

WKB 182

Subject: Arrival of 115 persons from Bulgaria, including 87 children.
November 8, 1944

BALKAN ARMS 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 "Fatherland Front" (Fatherland Front) are the Prime Minister and the following ministers: Damian Valchev, Petko Stainov, Dimo Kanasov, L. Noychev, the secretaries of the central committees of the four parties of the Fatherland Front, General Karkov, Chief of Staff, and other prominent personalities.

In his article, Nicon Georgiow 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 28th 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 min and industrial 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 Kanasov, 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 Drakovitcha, member of the political bureau of the "Stara" 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 "Panist agents had attempted for two decades to sow hostility and enmity between our liberated country and ourselves, but the people 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 intellectuals of Bulgaria a great lesson on how to fight for their rights and liberty and for the country when it is in danger. The millions of victims given by the USSR for the liberation of Soviet Russia and for all colonies 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 us 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 facility to the general welfare determine the social 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 theoretical plan. There exists in no other country where the cult and love of the country has reached the level of USSR."

Also in the "Novo Kachan" 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 coalition of the peasant, the development of the All-Union National Congress, 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 says: "With the Red Army together with the allies of the great Associations 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 Kachan" 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 toikkail Kalinin, President of the Supreme Council of the Soviet Union, congratulating him on the industrial transformation of the country and its development during the period of the Red Army which in its victories saved liberated lands invaded by Germany, and extending best wishes for further success and complete victory over the enemy."

General Larinow, 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 Commissar (Socialist) 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. In Bulgarian regent was present; General Larinow 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 Cinco 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 Ministry of Education stated that the Russian language will be an obligatory subject for the matriculation examinations - examinations for entrance to the university.

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

Army Commissary 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 Kumovo against a stubborn enemy resistance. The Bulgarian army has approached within two or three kilometers of the suburbs of the town. Near the river Zlatovrat the battle has developed favorably for our troops. Since the capture of Strumitsa our troops have been pursuing the enemy. Air attacks continue against bridges and other transport.

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

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

Rumania:

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

The cabinet met on November 5th under President Sanatcu. The cabinet expressed its desire to tighten its relations with the allied representatives and especially the Soviet Commissar, and declared that it would make every effort to take all necessary measures for the supply of the Soviet 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 Bucharest announced that the present situation did not permit the presence of enemy resistance north of the Itea. Between the latter and the Danube the joint forces continue to break down the enemy resistance and make new progress.

Army communique: In northeastern Hungary, Rumanian troops have by surprise destroyed a number of garrisons of enemy resistance north of the Itea. Between the latter 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 Moscow 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 said: "On this day the Rumanian people must acknowledge with gratitude the heroic sacrifices of its neighboring state and the bond 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 accordance with the two 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 Russians claimed as of Soviet origin. The commission of embezzlement is also appealed to take the necessary measures to prevent 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 Banacszat there will be a census taken between the 10th and the 20th of November.

In the rural villages 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 unity actions program. On Tuesday the 11th, the British hour will be broadcast.

The entire Russian 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 communiqué states that the German and Hungarian armored units had cut the grain supply route Budapest-Esztergom and as uninterrupted the Soviet frontal attack against Budapest. However, between Esztergom and Gogoly Soviet troops had gained much ground. The Red Army troops that attempted landing on Gogoly island south of Budapest have been repulsed. But other Soviet units made a landing on the little island west of Danesharasi. The communiqué declares that the tension south and southeast of Budapest Red line. In Budapest itself traffic is almost ceased. 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 press agency from Stockholm states that the fall of Budapest cannot be delayed. The Germans are taking desperate efforts to fortify Budapest but panic reigns in the city. The Soviets continue to encircle Budapest.

Communist cirkles warn the public, military and civil authorities of 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 location buildings and surrounding areas have extraterritorial rights. This warning event.

Radio Office: The Free Hungarian League 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 1892 and persecution of the Jews began last March when Hungary was occupied with the Germans. The government of Szolay blindly executed the wishes of anti-Jewish legislation. The 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.
Telegram Sent

Nov. 9, 1944

WEB 179

Subject: Departure of group of 80 persons who arrived from Bulgaria on Nov. 3. Arrival of additional group of Polish refugees from Romania.
Istanbul, October 30, 1944

Dear Mr. Pohle:

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. Pohle, Esquire
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington 2, D. C.

Skel.
Translation

Extract from Broadcasts received in Bulgarian (OWI)

October 21, 1944, 19:00 Sofia 302.9 M.

The Commissioner for Jewish Affairs in Bulgaria, Beloff, had concluded an agreement with Captain Kamenev, 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 Beloff 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, Beloff declared that Messrs. Filoff, Gabrovski, etc., were not very interested in the return of the emigrants. To justify this, Dr. Beloff 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 cars were hermetically closed and
sealed.

The "shipment" coming from Belomorie 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 mobilized 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 Douneita, 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 Katowice, toward Poland. 9156 persons were sent from the region of Skopje and 13,203 others from Bolomoria 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.
WRB 162

Subject: Efforts of Klerman 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.
Mr. Ira Hirschmann  
War Refugee Board  
Istanbul, Sept. 28th 1944

Dear Mr. Hirschmann,

I am happy to announce that Mr. Joseph Klarmann, who has been sent by the Emergency Committee to Bulgaria, has been able to develop a very successful activity. As you have already been informed, Mr. Klarmann 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 22nd, 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 spade work, 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. Sruga 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. Klarmann 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. Klarmann's trip and activities out of funds which my Committee was permitted to send under your supervision.

Sincerely yours,

E. Jabotinsky
Extract from OWI bulletin

Broadcast received in Bulgaria, September 27, 1944

Sofia, 19:30

- London: 27; hoctor: David Brown, correspendent official de
  têteur annexe du C.G. allié en Italie annoncée:
  Il fut annoncé aujourd'hui que 5 des 8 cents de chemin de fer sur
  le long, entre Ararat et Belgrade sont actuellement inutilisables
  par suite des violentes attaques des bolchéviques aliéns.

- Par decret du Conseil ministériel est aprouvée le projet-loi
  concernant les élèves de l'année scolaire 1943/44, pour les élèves
  ayant servi 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 - Passant directement de classe, reconnaisse 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 recevant un document délivré soit par l'autorité municipale,
  soit par le détachement de partisans respectif, auquel l'élève
  faisant 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 brouillonnement continu il fut impossible de bien
sûr capturer cette nouvelle ainsi que la suite de celle-ci concernant
les élèves juifs).
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 concerning 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.)
Conditions de l'armistice signé à Londres 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 États-Unis d'Amérique et de tous les autres nations-Unies se trouvant en guerre contre l'Allemagne-Bulgarie.

En rapport avec ce qui vient d'être cité, le représentant du Haut Commandement Soviétique, le maréchal Tolbukhin, et le représentant du Haut Commandement des Alliés de la région de la Méditerranée, le lieutenant-général James Camael, au nom de l'Union Soviétique, du Royaume-Uni, des États-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 à la Bulgarie, le ministre des Affaires Etrangères, T. Stainov, les ministres des Finances, S. Stoyanov, de l'autre côté, ont signé les conditions suivantes:

1/ La Bulgarie a dû interrompre les opérations militaires contre l'Union Soviétique le 9 septembre, 1944, et a dû 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.

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

3/ Le gouvernement de la Bulgarie s'engage à ne pas interner les sujets Allemands et ceux de ses subdivisions.

4/ Le gouvernement de la Bulgarie s'engage à soutenir et à fournir les forces aériennes, terrestres et navales qui peuvent être dédiées pour le service sous le commandement général du Haut Commandement Allied-Soviétique. Ces forces ne doivent être employées dans le territoire des Alliés, excepté avec l'accord mutuel préalable du gouvernement allié intérêtué.

5/ Lors de la cessation des hostilités avec l'Allemagne, les forces militaires bulgares doivent être démobilisées et soumises à l'ordre perpétuel des forces armées alliées de contrôle pendant la tenue de paix.

6/ Les forces armées bulgares et les fonctionnaires, au accord avec la condition précédente acceptée par le gouvernement Bulgarie, le 1er octobre, 1944, doivent être évacuées des territoires croate et yougoslave, suivant le délai déjà désigné. Les autorités Bulgarie doivent immédiatement prendre les mesures pour évacuer des territoires croate et yougoslave, les Bulgarie qui étaient sujets de la Bulgarie vers le 1er janvier, 1941, et d'assurer toutes les situations légales et administratives ayant rapport à l'annexion ou bien à la délimitation des territoires croate et yougoslave à la Bulgarie.
29 octobre 1944

20.00 GMT Sofia

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

8) 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, personnels civils et réfugiés, y compris dans ce nombre aussi les sujets de la Grèce et de la Yougoslavie, une nourriture suffisante, l'habillement, l'aide médicale, et les objets sanitaires et hygiéniques; ainsi que les moyens de transport pour le retour de quels que soit le personnel dans son pays.


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

11) Le gouvernement de la Bulgarie s'engage d'assumer immédiatement toutes les organisations se trouvant dans le territoire bulgare, prohibées, et autres fascistes, militaires, militaires en partie politiques, et autres, menant une propagande ennemie aux Nations-Unies; et de ne plus permettre d'entrevoir l'existence d'organisations de ce genre.

12) 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 T.T., sera régulé avec l'accord du Haut Commandement Allié soviétique.


15) Le gouvernement de la Bulgarie s'engage de s'acquitter, aux délais 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 conservées tous les objets précieux et matériels enlevés de leur pays par l'Allemagne et la Bulgarie, pendant la guerre, appartenant aux organisations gouvernementales.
29 octobre 1944

socialis, coopératives, ainsi que des entreprises, institutions
communautaires, ainsi que les entreprises, institutions
commerciales, automobiles, monuments historiques.

12) Le gouvernement de la Bulgarie s'engage à restituer
à la disposition du Haut Commandement Allié Soviétique, tous les
bien immobiliers et mobiliers de la Bulgarie, y compris
les navires de la flotte Bulgare et celles de ses satellites
se trouvant dans les eaux Bulgares.

13) Le gouvernement de la Bulgarie s'engage à ne pas permettre
l'export ou bien l'expropriation de quels qu'ils soit propriété
et aux personnes habitant dans leurs territoires ou bien dans les
territoires occupés par eux même la permission de la commission
du 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 s'engage de livrer au Haut
Commandement Allié Soviétique tous les navires qui rentrent aux
Nations-Unies et se trouvant dans les ports de la Bulgarie, indépen-
damment du commandement auxquels sont soumis ces navires, afin que le
Haut Commandement Allié Soviétique puisse les utiliser dans la guer-
re contre l'Allemagne et la Hongrie, dans l'intérêt général des
Alliés, sans quoi ces navires seront rendus à leurs propriétaires.

Le gouvernement de la Bulgarie a la responsabilité matériellement
pour tout dommage ou destruction de ces biens jusqu'au moment de
tirer livraison au Haut Commandement Allié Soviétique.

15) Le gouvernement Bulgarie est obligé de payer régieurémen-
tement des sommes d'argent en monnaie bulgare, ainsi que les produits sui-
vants de la banque, produits alimentaires etc., moyens et services
peuvent être indispensables au Haut Commandement Allié Soviè-
tique dans l'accomplissement de ses fonctions.

16) Les navires, les femmes, les voyageurs se trouveront dans les ports bulgares ou
étrangers se trouveront sous contrôle.... utilisés
pour les intérêts généraux des Alliés.

17) Le gouvernement de la Bulgarie saura qu'en cas de nécessité,
tirer des territoires Bulgarie des entreprises commerciales et
de transports ainsi que les moyens commerciaux. Les entreprises, les
constructions pour l'utilisation sociale, les dépôts de combustible,
sous contrôle du Haut Commandement Allié Soviétique pendant
l'exécution des conditions de l'armistice, ainsi que les moyens commerciaux.

18) Tant que la période de l'armistice durera, constitue une
commission de contrôle Allié en Bulgarie qui diriger et contrôler,
les conditions, l'exécution des conditions
l'armistice entre les représentants du Haut Commande-
ment Allié Soviétique avec la participation des représentants du
Royaume-Uni et des États-Unis. Pendant la période de la signature
l'armistice jusqu'à la cessation des opérations militaires contre
l'Allemagne, la commission de contrôle Allié se trouvera sous le
- 4 -

29 octobre 1944

20.00 GMT, Sofia

direction générale du Haut Commandement Allié Soviétique.

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

Ultilisées à Moscou en 4 exemplaires, en langues Russes, Anglaise, en Bulgarie, les textes en Russes et Anglais sont authentiques, 29 octobre 1944.

Au nom des gouvernements de l'Union des Républiques Soviétiques Socialistes, du Royaume-Uni, des États-Unis d'Amérique, gouvernement de la Bulgarie signé par:

Représentant du Haut Commandement Allié dans la région méditerranéenne: James Carse.

Au nom du gouvernement de la Bulgarie signé par:

Stoichi Toynev,
Dobri Tserov,
Nicolae Toov,
Stoichi Stoyskov.
Istanbul, October 6, 1944

Reference: No. 7368, JAB/LP

Gentlemen:

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

I appreciate your having secured those data for us, and am 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

ANADOLU DUMLU KALICIYAT
Türk Anonim Şirketi
Istanbul

**X/b**
COPY

From Leberall
for Zaslany, Jerusalem.

Haidar 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 Bassen of Bnei B'rith third name will follow.

Istanbul, 6/10/1944

WAR REFUGEE BOARD RECORDS
Subject: Reaffirming the policy of the Board with reference to emigration from Bulgaria.
La Bulgarie est située dans la partie centrale de la presqu'île balkanique. D'après les statistiques antérieures à 1945, sa superficie était de 109.200 Kms².

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, à l'air d'un rectangle mal tracé. Elle contient deux chaine 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 du Balkans et au nord des monts Rhodopes, se trouve la vallée la plus fertile qui est 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 ces vallées produisent du blé, du tabac, du cotou, 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 de manganese.

Les 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 plate-forme 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 noyau 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 résidences actuelles :

Sofia, Plovdiv, Varna, etc.
Les villes principales s'étendent sur des vallées du pays. Sofia est la capitale et la plus grande ville et une importante place de commerce. Elle se situe sur le Danube et est le centre industriel de la Bulgarie. La Bulgarie est formée de plusieurs régions distinctes, dont la moitié est dans le nord du pays et la moitié dans le sud. Le Danube traverse le pays depuis le nord jusqu'au sud, formant ainsi une frontière naturelle. Le Danube est un fleuve important pour la navigation et la production agricole. Les villes de Vidin et de Burgas sont situées sur le Danube et sont des ports importants.

La Bulgarie est une paysage de plaines et de montagnes, avec des rivières comme le Drin et le Maritsa. Le pays est parsemé de lacs, comme le lac Balchik. Les régions montagneuses sont principalement situées dans le nord du pays, tandis que les plaines fertiles se trouvent dans le sud. Les montagnes Rhodopes et les Balkans forment des frontières naturelles importantes.

Le climat est de type continental, avec des hivers froids et des étés chauds. Les précipitations sont généralement plus abondantes en montagne que dans les plaines. Les cultures majeures incluent le maïs, le blé, la pomme de terre et les fruits. La production agricole est essentielle pour l'économie bulgare.

La population bulgare est majoritairement de langue bulgare. Le pays est également connu pour sa culture rurale traditionnelle, avec des festivals et des célébrations populaires. Des traditions comme la fèves de la Saint-Nicolas et les marchés de Noël sont également populaires. La musique folklorique bulgare est également célèbre, avec des instruments traditionnels comme la gusle et le tambourine.

Au niveau politique, la Bulgarie a connu une histoire complexe, avec des influences de la Russie, de la Turquie et des autres pays voisins. Depuis son indépendance en 1908, le pays a connu plusieurs périodes de stabilité et de conflit. Depuis la chute du communisme en 1989, la Bulgarie a fait des progrès dans sa transition vers un système économique libéral. Cependant, des défis persistent, notamment en matière d'emploi et de croissance économique.

Les relations diplomatiques de la Bulgarie incluent des relations avec de nombreux pays du monde. Le pays est membre de l'Union européenne et de l'Organisation des Nations Unies. Les relations diplomatiques sont importantes pour la Bulgarie, notamment avec des pays comme la Russie, la Turquie et l'Union européenne.
Les Bulgares ayant souffert des révolutionnaires macédoniens, des gouvernements qui opprimaient le peuple et des crises financières et économiques, furent deçus de la démocratie en mai 1934. Un groupe partisan d'un régime totalitaire prit le pouvoir en abolissant le Sboraniye après un soulèvement militaire. Les parties politiques furent dissoutes et les élections furent fausses, 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, qui avait arrêté son histoire antérieure, se révéla une dictature économique et financière. En Bulgarie, en lui se courant un enjeu conforme à un arrangement de compensation. La Bulgarie faisant donc en 1939, les 50-70 pour cent de son exportation, en Allemagne qui, de son côté, avait pris entièrement sous son contrôle, l'industrie textile et maroquinerie bulgare, sans compter les banques principales. Le fait que la guerre éclate en 1939, la Bulgarie se déclare neutre. Cependant, les premiers signes remportés par l'Allemagne, à la Grèce et à l'Égypte, l'ont entraîné à entrer dans le camp de l'Allemagne. Tous ceux qui se montraient réfractaires à la politique suivie par le roi Boris, étaient arrêtés en prison ou exilés sous l'influence des instruments de contrôle.<br><br>Les ouvriers bulgares commencèrent à s'acheminer vers l'Allemagne pour y travailler. Mais la majorité de ceux-ci, qui se consignaient en permission, n'eurent pas de retour en Allemagne.

La Bulgarie possédait solennellement une armée forte de 500 000 hommes, le corps étranger, ce chiffre pouvait atteindre les 800 000. Ses moyens navaux étaient vieux et la majeure partie de son aviation, était formée par les forces aériennes allemandes. Les Allemands avaient de nombreux défis à relever en Bulgarie. Les défis allemands dans l'Empire austro-hongrois, qui se succédèrent de 1916 à 1919, comprennent la réforme de la police et du gouvernement. Les défis allemands dans l'Empire austro-hongrois, qui se succédèrent de 1916 à 1919, comprennent la réforme de la police et du gouvernement. Les défis allemands dans l'Empire austro-hongrois, qui se succédèrent de 1916 à 1919, comprennent la réforme de la police et du gouvernement.

La Bulgarie a tenté de se rapprocher des pays de l’Extrême-Orient.

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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
also 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 ground. 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 broad terms. In summary, all steps should be avoided which might be construed as creating an especially protected section of the Bulgarian population, this could 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 repeats 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 undesirable, 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 Transylvania by land via Bulgaria, I was informed that the Romanian-Bulgarian border is closed, and that travel by land from Transylvania would be impossible at this time. Emigration from Transylvania 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 Jugoslavia, and the eastern part of Bulgaria itself. In his opinion, emigration from Hungary to Transylvania via Transylvania would likewise be impossible at this time, because of the military zones in that area.

HK/b

Herbert Katzki
Subject: Pronouncement of "Imo Kazassov, Bulgarian Minister of Propaganda, on ameliorations for the Jews."
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 Attaché
Les Juifs de Bulgarie

Ankara, 25 (Hadio-Journal). — Le ministre des Affaires étrangères bulgare dans une déclaration aux journalistes juifs a dit que non seulement les Juifs seront relogés dans leurs maisons mais qu'elles seront reconstruites ou pour les zones qui ont été occupées pendant toute sorte de bâtiments dans lesquelles ils se trouvent actuellement dans la page 56.
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. #16

IAHIVH
The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cults, Mr. Pene Hachev, received the representatives of the Jewish press in Palestine, England and America. Among the statements made to the press the Minister said 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 Algerians.
LEGENATION ROYALE DE BULGARIE
EN TURKIN

Ankara, le 25 septembre 1944

Messieurs les Réprésentants de
l'Agence Juive en Palestine

Ankara

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 migrants 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 procédé 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 restrictives concernant les Juifs. Il a rétabli tous les droits et libertés des Juifs en Bulgarie. Il leur rendra tous leurs biens qui leur ont été appropriés par les autorités de l'ancien régime et les dédommagera de tous les dégâts et pertes qu'ils ont subis. Le Gouvernement autorisera l'ouverture de toutes les écoles juives et subvientra 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 veillards, retraités etc. qui auront subi des endommagements à la suite des bombardements et ce au même titre d'égalité que les institutions similaires bulgares.

Veuillez agréer, Messieurs, l'expression de mes sentiments distingués.

ss: BALABANOFF
Translation

ROYAL LEGATION OF BULGARIA
IN TURKEY

Ankara, September 25, 1944

Messieurs the Representatives of the
Jewish Agency of Palestine

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 compensate 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,

Balabanoff
T. E. May 30th, 1946

Sgt. 80

Subject: Return of Jews to Palestine; request permission to return and re-settle in their homes. Difficulties arise from the fact that some Jews are without resources.
La question juive en Bulgarie

LE GOUVERNEMENT BULGARE ADOPTE UNE ATTITUDE POSITIVE QUANT À LA FONDATION D'UN ÉTAT JUIF EN PALESTINE

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

Sofia, 29 AA. — Le ministre de la Propagande M. Dimo Kostov a reçu hier les correspondants 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 État juif en Palestine ; il reconnaît pour chaque nation le droit d'avoir son propre État.

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, 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 ooo pesetas exclusivement des Juifs seront rendues à leurs propriétaires. L'État se trouvant dans une situation financière difficile ces sommes seront transformées en une dette d'État à échéance fixe.

4. En Bulgarie les Juifs jouissent déjà de toutes leurs libertés et libertés que les citoyens bulgares.

5. Toutes les propriétés et biens confisqués aux Juifs seront rendus.
September 27, 1944

Cable No. 18, B.T.

The following was broadcast in Bulgarin, English and Hebrew:

"The Minister of Propaganda, Shlo Moses Kazanoff, has received on the 1st of September in Joseph Kleinman, correspondent of the Jewish Telegraph Agency, London, the Jewish Times of London, the Jewish News, Johannesburg, and the Jerusalem Tel-Aviv.

"In the end of September, Shlo Moses Kazanoff received from the correspondent of the Jerusalem 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-Semitic character. Such an exclusive law was the one concerning the mortgaging of all Jewish property to the extent of 25 to 50 per cent of its value. This tax being the result of a vicious law, was an item of unequal treatment to the Jews. The current overcharge will now be returned, due to financial difficulties of the State, however, the debt will be transformed into a State loan of definite security.

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 illegally sold and confiscated the following procedure will be applied:

1. The Jews will get back all their property, full 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 arisen judicial obligations between the State and private interest, that it, from the property of the Jews, rights having transferred to third party or on other obli-
etary 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 and such fraudulent transfers will be cancelled in favour of those who have been wronged.
Istanbul, September 22, 1944

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

The information set forth in the enclosed suggested telegram from me to the Mr. Refugees Board was telephoned from Sofia by Mr. Pomeraniak, of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Joe Levy helped 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 Lawrence A. Steinhardt
Ambassador to Turkey
American Embassy
Ankara

Enclosures?

IA/M
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 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 faced with competition of non-Jewish Bulgarians, who too are going to reestablish normal economic life.
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 Zamooff is now in the hands of the National Front.

The Minister without Portfolio, Dimitar Petrov 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.
Sincere friendship with the fraternal Russian friends.
A full entente with all Slav and Balkan peoples.
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, Dimo Kazaasoff 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.

Kazaasoff 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."

Kazaasoff 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 5th. 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. Simon Georgiev, Prime Minister, by Minister of War, Mr. Demian Valkov, 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 extolling the relations of Bulgaria with the Soviet Union and the reply of Major Kojetnikov were reported in detail.

Orders of the Day:
The Chief of Police announces:

In order to take more effective measures against provocateurs 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 Tzechevski, 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 "Ostobestven 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 Romanian, Bulgarian, and Finnish workers in Germany. According to this, these groups must be isolated from the population and they must wear a special uniform. 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 Romanian, 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 Kuula toward the east, advancing almost 10 kilometers.

In the region of Bella-Palanka and First, reconnaissance activity and artillery fights are taking place on both sides.

Enemy artillery fire was directed principally at Babzniik. At Elva-Palanka, the enemy received re-enforcements and approaches Ded Beer. Fighting is moving toward Zatchene-Tsarovo-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, Servia 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 Botuho devoted 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.

BUKUNTA

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

In the Dobrani region our troops continue their offensive. In the north of Narec, Soviet and Romanian troops gained territory despite heavy resistance.

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

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

Radio Bukarest, 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 \[\text{Senataseu, President of the Council of Ministers, Bratianu, Minister of State, Kanit, Minister of State, General Racovita, Minister of National Defense, and General Potoceanu.}

The Soviet Military Command announces the occupation of the following towns in Transylvania: Miercurea Ciucului, Diciosanmartin, Giokanta, Sas, Sauca, Deva, Ailu, Blaj, Comoroc and other 150 localities.

Radio Bucharest inaudible at 17 and 20 GMT.

September 14th: Radio Bucharest has not yet broadcast the armistice terms, however, the terms as given by the State Department Bulletin are included here.

A United Press report from Moscow said that Patrascanu, Russian 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 territory.

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 shortages 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 newsmen, German forces are also withdrawing from Albania.

Germany is making its main line on the Bulgarian danger, and in a commentary stresses that the "Soviet aims are only the application of the testament of Peter the Great."

UFA, 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.
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)
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.

Gordially yours,

L. A. Hirschmann
Special Attache

Monsieur Gilbert Simond
42 Necati Bay Gaddesi
Yenigöhr
Ankara

IAH1YA
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 30 6/9 14/37

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.
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 policy 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.
Déclaration du premier ministre bulgare

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

Le premier gouvernement a décidé de reconstruire toutes les associations fascistes dans le pays, qui ont été créées et soutenues contre la volonté du peuple bulgare, et lesquelles étaient complètement étrangères à l'intérêt du pays. Ce même gouvernement a décidé de désoudre la 13ème Chambre.Parlementaire, responsable de l'intérieur du pays. Il a fait au Roi la démission pour avoir traité le pays dans une guerre qui n'a jamais été désirée par le peuple bulgare.

Ensuite, le président du gouvernement bulgare M. Muravev a parlé sur la situation financière et économique du pays, en disant qu'il déploie tout son effort pour réduire les dépenses superflues et stabiliser ainsi une économie strictement dans le pays.

Parallèlement à ce rétablissement, le président du conseil bulgare a déclaré que son gouvernement a tenté de créer une atmosphère favorable pour connaître dans les pays, de plus en plus

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

En conclusion, le président du conseil bulgare fait appel au peuple bulgare d'ouvrir, en ce moment de 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.
Subject: Information regarding new Bulgaric Government.

Continuation of revocation of anti-Jewish laws.
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'état. Muraviev was once Minister of War and once Minister of Education.

The 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
Radio Sofia brings very little information of interest. At 20:15 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. Armanoff 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.

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 Russian 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 25th 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 a 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 and a few days ago Bagrianov and Dragasov made speeches in which they said that Bulgaria wanted to make 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 Kojubarov 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 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 above that Bulgarian has not the intention to change for policy of cooperation with Germany and confirms the opinion that the government of Bagranov and Dragomov 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 Varna. Despite the neutrality of Bulgaria these ships have not been subjected to interment. 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 those 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 Donauzender 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 trusting 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 declared martial law in south Hungary and Transylvania, that there is unrest 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 Bolshevist danger is removed.

BULGARIA

Radio Bucegi brings the communique of the General Staff for August 30th that fighting was still taking place at Slobozia, Calarasi, Adiakale 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 Romanian 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 air raids.

Radio Bucegi, owing to interference, cannot be monitored in the evening. There was some success in hearing the Radio Carnati on 50 kHz at 1200 GMT.

An experimental station Ar TextArea at 48 kHz was heard at 18:30 GMT but very poorly. It was not possible to monitor any other Romanian news.

Radio Sofia brings the TASS report that the Romanian delegation to Moscow to sign the armistice terms consisted of Stirbey, the minister of justice Patrascu, the assistant minister for foreign affairs Basescu and a lieutenant-colonel.

Bulgaria also reported that the Military Press spokesmen said that events in Romania were still veiled. Nothing was known of the fate of the German Embassy in Bucharest. 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 King Zina's appeal for action against the new Romanian government. Under a Lagos dispatch, it quotes the front press as saying that Romania is obtaining the same reward as Fascists received in Italy. Romania has surrendered to Bolshevists. 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 Tito'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 Wilhelmsstrasse, 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: Moria Sima, General Lakatos, Nadich and the Croat spokesman Bogdan who have addressed appeals to the Hungarian, Serbian and the Croat people.

- OMI
August 31, 1944

Subject: Setting aside of Bulgarian anti-Jewish laws.
WB 143

Subject: Proposed measures for emergency assistance to Jewish citizenry in Bulgaria.
Subject: Quotation from text of Bulgarian decree abolishing anti-Jewish laws.
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.
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 passengers 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 the Turkish Ambassador undertook certain steps at the Bulgarian authorities.

The efforts of the U.N.E.F. must become in order to settle those difficulties:

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 Port.
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.
Mr. Katzki:

Mr. Ueborall 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. Ueborall 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
Subject: Speech of Dragomanoff before the Bulgarian Parliament.
Subject: The U.S. Government is watching treatment of Jews in Bulgaria with interest. This may be transmitted to Bulgarian authorities.
TL Bank Staff

August 23, 1944

Lab 136

Subject: Report on reconstruction of talks with Dallmann, Gertz, Hume, and Volary.
Istanbul, August 23, 1944

Dear Dr. Blask:

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 paralyzed 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
contributes 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. Lloyd E. Masc, President
Robert College
Istanbul
La Bulgarie veut-elle la paix ?

La Thrace et la Macédoine sont bulgares

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

N'oubliez pas 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 10 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 copier les passages suivants :

« Plusieurs personnes ont critiqué notre adhésion au pacte trégtaire. En adhérant à ce pacte, la Bulgarie vise à éviter la guerre et même à sauvegarder la paix des Balkans. Nous ne pouvions pas alors (La suite en 3ème page 2ème col.)
Le retour

le

ment

s'Mis'nt

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Bulgarie

En

pro

l'Amérique

Bulgarie

La Bulgarie était le pays qui".

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L'attitude de la Bulgarie

s'efforcer de nouer des relations cordiales avec la Turquie.

Pendant la guerre, Dragajlov, dit-il, que la Bulgarie voulait maintenir ses alliances avec les pays voisins.

La Bulgarie a dit Dragajlov, de manière protectrice d'avanter de ses armées à cause de la difficulte insurmontable dans les relations de la Bulgarie avec la Grécie.

Les conditions de paix signées à Sofia

Washington 22 A.A. — La Bulgarie avait demandé au gouvernement soviétique de transmettre à Washington et à Londres d'étapes:

1. - La formation d'une Manfred qu'Ukrainia à Yougoslavie et la Turquie a été favorisée par la Bulgarie.

2. - La relance de la grève gréco-turque a été signée par la Bulgarie.

3. - La Bulgarie est prête à faire toute chose qui soit pour la continuation de cette armée.

Washington 22 A.A. — On entendait la radio de Sofia donner le discours de Pervan Dragajlov, ministre des Affaires étrangères de Bulgarie, a prononcé au Schiraz. Le discours a duré une heure. Dragajlov a dit, principalement que la Bulgarie avait connu une grave erreur en déclarant la guerre aux États-Unis et à l'Angleterre et que le gouvernement bulgare actuel cherchait à faire la paix maintenant avec l'Angleterre et l'Amérique. Dragajlov a ajouté que la Bulgarie entend retirer de Yougoslavie ses troupes et réfère immédiatement la question à l'autorité de Sofia.
En Turquie auprès de M. Momchulov, ancien speaker au Parlement bulgare, qui était arrivé il y a quelques jours à Ankara, y aurait rencontré des personnalités alliées. Après une entrevue, il envoya un courrier spécial à Sofia.

Il est permis de croire que l'une des conditions d'armistice serait de demander à la Bulgarie l'annexion de tout le territoire grec et yugoslave. Le gouvernement bulgare, déclaré qu'aucune mesure prise par la Bulgarie dans ces territoires ne serait annulée. Alors que les réclamations bulgares sur le territoire grec n'ont pas la moindre chance d'être écoulées par les Alliés, la situation est quelque peu obscure en ce qui concerne les réclamations bulgares sur la Dardanelles méditerranéennes. Lors de l'assemblée de Vienne de 1918, appartenant à un autre satellite de l'Axis, la Roumanie.

Etant donné qu'Antonescu en Roumanie n'a jusqu'ici fait aucun geste pour mettre fin à la guerre, il est possible que cette réclamation bulgare puisse être prise en considération. Il ne peut être exclu.

Ambassadeur d'Allemagne en Bulgarie.

Le Caire, 22 A.A. — D'après les dernières nouvelles arrivées au Quartier Général des Alliés du Moyen-Orient, le premier militaire bulgare fait tâche de gagner du temps après les quelques demandes faites par la Bulgarie. D'après l'information, si M. Bagrianov ne fait pas sortir un moment plus tôt la Bulgarie, de la guerre, le seul moyen qui lui reste est de former un cabinet d'entremetteur, prêt à remettre les relations avec les Allemands, à conclure la paix, et à libérer la Bulgarie au peuple bulgare.

Si la Bulgarie se retire pas ses armées à Plata, il y aura des complications entre les fronts de la Bulgarie, et elle ne saura plus de l'armée d'Hitler. Si elle se retire pas, elle est considérée comme encourageante.
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

Enc.
MEMORANDUM

Conversation between Mr. Katzki and Dr. Isaac Chaoul

I spoke this morning with Dr. Isaac 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 practicing 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 Dobrich. 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 obtaining 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 Lwetsch, in which is north Bulgaria, near Pleven and the road between Sofia and Varna, and at Swistow, which lies between Vusse and Lom, nearer Vusse, where a flood control dam is being built on the Vombe. 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 Balkanoff 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 terms of the desired good will.

With all good wishes,

Cordially yours,

I. A. Hirschmann

Dr. Floyd H. Black, President
Robert College
Hisar
La nouvelle attitude de la Bulgarie

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

1. Ankara, 18 (Radio-Journal) La Radio "Bulgarie Libre" dans son émission en bulgare de 20 h. 15 communique :

Le "Front Patriotique" demande au gouvernement Bulgaria de ne plus avoir passé aux anges, ce qui est :
1. — Rompre tout contact avec l'Allemagne.
2. — Appeler les forces bulgares de Macédoine, de Thrace, de Yougoslavie et d'Albanie.
3. — Créer des relations étroites et unidiales avec la Russie Soviétique.
4. — Créer également des relations amicales avec le peuple roumain, serbe, croate et autres et accompagner de la sorte une Union Balte.

(Le suite en 4ème page 2ème col.)
En Bulgarie

1. - Créer des relations amicales avec la Turquie.
2. - Éloigner les étrangers qui se trouvent dans les organisations de l'État.
3. - Détruire tous les organismes étrangers qui se trouvent dans le pays.
4. - Recrérer 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 considère leurs propos comme des simples paroles sans importance. Toutes les mesures qui auront été adoptées en dehors de celles ci-haut mentionnées.

La question juive sera éliminée

Hier, A.A. — Dans la même brochure que M. Bagrationoff fils de la situation de la Bulgarie au sujet de discours qu'il prononcera hier au Sobranje, il préconise de prendre des mesures pour surmonter les difficultés dans lesquelles se trouvent la Bulgarie et pour les éliminer.

Entre autres, il déclare 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 également décidé d'éliminer toutes les chaires qui ont été faibles contre sa volonté, y compris la juive. Le gouvernement croit qu'il peut faire ceci sans rejet de nouveaux conflits et sans faire subir des nouvelles souffrances au peuple bulgare. En d'autres mots, le gouvernement bulgare a l'intention et le devoir de faire, dans ses actes, de n'agir que pour le mieux du peuple bulgare.

Le correspondant de l'United Press maintient que le Premier bulgare a affirmé que son gouvernement ne veut pas verser de sang.
Istanbul, August 13, 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

IAWVH
Subject: Speech of Dzhsyanov before Parliament, August 17, 1944, liquidation of Jewish question,
TTL Class 5.00

August 16, 1944

Sec. 130

Subject: Speech by Dalganov re Jewish question, August 17.
Discours du Premier Ministre de Bulgarie, Mr. Bagrianoff
Foncé à l'ouverture de la 7ème Session Extraordinaire
du 25 Sobraite
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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 Bagrianoff
2 - Nommation 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 ces res-
ponsabilités 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 charge de la direction du pays, vous sont, je
pense, bien connues.

Le destin du peuple bulgare, a lourd dirant les quelques dernières
années, s'était arrêté pour quelques semaines durant le mois de
Mars haletant à un césuro, celui chaque pas paraissait fatal
et catastrophique. Dans ces quelques semaines de recherches et
de hésitations, le peuple bulgare privé de la possibilité de
manifestation activement son volonté trouva le moyen de la manifester
par une opinion publique qui en réalité imposé ce cabinet.

Grâce à la compréhension de la situation difficile dans laquelle
le peuple bulgare se trouvait ainsi qu'à la patience et à
l'humanité qui furent manifestées envers son destin, pour les-
quelles il doit être reconnaissant, et grâce à une ferme con-
viction du gouvernement, que dans les moments d'hésitation et
de difficulté, 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 séismes pour gagner la paix. Voilà 10 semaines dans ces
temps déchaînés. 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'essaie la possibilité parlant
devant la radio Sofia, de tracer en quelques lignes la
politique qui s'ouvre actuellement par le nouveau cabinet. Ce
discours avait pour le moment tout ce qui devait être dit
ayant en vue les succès qu'il fallait et peut-être atteindre. Ce
petit discours fut justement apprécié par tous les pays, et
malgré que le monde se trouvât entrainé dans le guerre et
noyés dans ses souffrances, ce monde ne perdit pas......

Ce petit discours fut 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 aucun autre tâche que d'apprécier 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 cette époque sociale, l'humanité verse son sang pour faire un grand pas dans le domaine social, un pas qui abrégera le monde vers plus de justice et une plus grande solidarité humaine.

Que le peuple bulgare se rende compte que cette lutte colossal 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 clarifier tout ce que mon petit discours disait, et qui aura trois pointes : 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 même vers de nouveaux engagements envers de peuples 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'ai l'occasion pour la première fois de critiquer le discours du trône du 24ème Sobranie et j'ai 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 centaines 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 lequel j'ai vu 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 qui exprime la politique du gouvernement et un acte pour lequel c'est le gouvernement 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 Sebemli, ce qui est la tradition
d'un demi siècle de la Bulgarie et s'acquière dans les pays
parlementaires, n'a aucun fondement à posséder pour une
indulgence envers ses responsabilités, devant la pression
de l'article 133 de la loi...... Je dois remarquer que j'avais
constaté pour le cercle du gouvernement le même doute,
cette responsabilité pour le confort du gouvernement, d'être
transférée non pas à lui où il doit être, mais là où il ne peut
pas l'être, en d'autres termes, la responsabilité de la
destinée de la nation ne doit pas rester dans les airs.
Malgré cette période de recherches, je ne savais pas un seul
langage qui nous contentera à affaiblir la responsabilité
pour la destinée du peuple bulgare?

Dans la même page il existe un autre passage qui est
entièremenent 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 du plus haut institut du gouvernement qui sera
embrassée par les responsabilités pour lesquelles il n'est
pas en état de supporter. Ainsi l'attitude qui a les plus
courants d'attitude du peuple bulgare sur la forme du
gouvernement bulgare est bien clair, c'est dire, que la
forme de notre gouvernement doit rester telle d'après les
principes clairs de notre loi fondamentale, car dans le cas
contraire - responsabilité sur la destinée du peuple bulgare
restera dans les airs, et il existe un enjeu que le plus
haute institut de notre état soit serre dans le gois 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 contenterai de ne citer qu'un
seul entre eux :

Erais-je étranger que l'union intérieure du peuple bulgare a
diminué? Erais-je étranger que chaque gens sont d'un avis
tomber certaines libertés, qu'il existe un effort pour
que le bordere soit transformé en un masque gris de con-
antemment et caché toutes les misères et le désespoiment
cu 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 décomber 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, il y a un avertissement n'est pas fait maintenant
mais il a fait, il y a six années et demi, lorsqu'on a encore
personne ne croyait au cataclysme actuel, qui se trouve déclaré
vers sa fin.
Je crois avoir dit le plus important sur l'état du
peuple bulgare concernant la politique intérieure.

Qu'allez-vous l'étude envers les questions économiques? Dans
les pages 21 et 22 je lis le passage suivant:
Si quelques états malgré étant affaiblis économiquement par le précédent guerre mondiale, sont parvenus à être restaurés, cela est dû à une plus grande justice sociale que vous établissez dans les frontières de ces états.

Si certains se relèvent et deviennent plus forts, cela ne veut pas dire qu'ils investissent un appareil pour la discipline intérieure, mais parce qu'ils établissent un plus juste régime, qui est plus de justice, concernant à l'âge des classes plus faibles et une plus juste répartition de la richesse.

Je me permets de vous contacter lorsque vous appliquerez ces mesures et que vous encouragerez à la préservation de la pauvreté dans le 30/30. Les sentiments que vous exprimerez par vous-même n'ont lieu d'être que pour la période avant trente ans et demi, lorsque les crippling and justice ou pour la période après que les crippling de justice ou pour la période après que les crippling de justice.

Lors d'une question de province qui avait existé par elle-même avant lors et qui a été améliorée par la population de tous côtés, avec une majorité absolue plus décidé à le prendre de discours en 2000 exemplaires pour les distribuer par le peuple.

Quelle était l'attitude générale de la politique dans ces discours:

Le but est de fulfiller mes qu'elle démasque toutes ces possibilités, plutôt qu'il y a un certaines qui sont des conflits qui dépassent ces possibilités et dont les réseaux dépassent les deux.

Il y a quelque chose de certain. C'est que dans le monde de demain il y a plus de justice que dans le monde d'hier. Le peuple n'est-il pas plus de justice pour le peuple pour le peuple.

C'est une finition qu'il est dit que nous avons des chances difficiles un peuple parfait à cause un certain volonté de prendre autre chose que les rôles de ses destinées.

Pour que les opportunités se fassent que les peuples et les peuples d'interesse sur sa destinée et prêt les rôles autre de proverbes.

Parole de presse

Si vous vous promenez chez avertissement fut fait dans une forme très avancée. Il fut fait exprès pour attirer votre attention et pour ne pas être oublié ou.

Je cite un passage:

L'exemple eût mis facile par notre gouvernement d'intervenir dans la vie économique loin entre épaisseur de l'économie dirigée.

Rien d'extraordinaire que nous ne puissions pas dire, arrêter les prix, arrêter la hausse de la vie, la spéculation, quels que choses d'un siècle ancien, ce qui fut le cas d'où nous regarder à l'avenir avec le mental de rejeter la frute sur les autres.

Aujourd'hui lorsque nous avons avertissement sont ..., chaque personne parvient à temps à résister, il serait trop logique d'attendre de ma part un analyse détaillé sur les faits qui
Je dis que vous voulez avoir l'exploration des faits qui vous concernent à un choix économique, pourquoi la qualité et les économies de la production ont diminué, pourquoi l'industrie ne fabrique plus de réserves en lin, coton, fer, et in, et surtout en coton brut, qui devient une ressource précieuse d'importance pour notre transport vers les pays de notre époque.

Pourtant ces réserves ne furent pas constituées, elles qui ne pouvaient l'être que sous l'acte du gouvernement. Le constitution des réserves, qui avait cessé l'âge pour ne pas être fait, si le gouvernement est mieux ou moins bien. Il n'était plus possible de donner un mouvement d'une manière ou d'une autre. Le gouvernement, la société et le gouvernement de la guerre, négligeant les économies, ont donc cessé de s'autoriser en la guerre et que l'économie de la guerre n'est pas un danger.

Le paysan qui n'a pas un second chêne, qui n'a pas un fil, voudrait bien avoir s'il existait des actes pour qu'il soit aussi sûr qu'il est.

Je dis que l'âge de la crise, qui n'a pas un fil, voudrait bien avoir pour le commerce de la guerre, pour le commerce de la guerre, pour le commerce de la guerre, pour le commerce de la guerre, pour le commerce de la guerre.

Pourtant le paysan voudrait bien avoir pour le commerce, pour le commerce de la guerre, pour le commerce de la guerre, pour le commerce de la guerre, pour le commerce de la guerre.

Parler de question économiques, je dois vous prouver que toutes les ressources prises par le gouvernement, dans ses domaines, ne sont pas et ne sont pas remises utilement aux difficultés qui furent créées, mais ne peuvent être prises 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 souffrir de forces externes par son gouvernement.

2. Attendre une fin prochaine de la guerre.

Pourtant je suis obligé de vous déclarer comment et avec quelle force de la destinée du peuple bulgare fut éloignée.

Comment sans un coude approfondi du peuple bulgare, il fut déclaré en son nom, une guerre est-elle symbolique et véritable après la déclaration de cette guerre, ne fut pas prise les ressources entre les dangers que cette guerre pouvait nous mener. Les dangers se trouvaient devant l'œil du peuple bulgare, et les contractions de notre capitale, impossible dans laquelle se trouvait plus de peuplement à devoir sur un ciel d'une manière de millions de personnes qui ne pouvaient pas se sauver de leurs ruines et endevres, car il n'y en a pas autre.

Je suis qu'un peuple entier vous ait des détails sur tout cela et de terminer avec le mots attendu: "responsabilité".
La vie, le développement des événements n'est pas du à un hasard. La vie se développe sous l'influence de circonstances inévitables.

Ce qui est dû à l'expression d'une conviction personnelle, c'est parce que le cœur par ses propres voies reste entièrement clair et absolument honnête.

Cette règle de vie d'une personne peut influencer sur les notes d'un homme d'État, qui une responsabilité en temps de premier ministre.

Les raisons de ce changement secrète, tel que la guerre civile, devraient être circonscrites à la principale cause de la culture et de la culture de l'Europe et de l'Europe culture qui venait prise de troisièmes siècles grâce à une autorité temporaire, culture qui est basée sur les lois de l'époque, sur la loi vivant une plus grande puissance, un plus grand pouvoir et plus grande richesse.

Le changement sociétal n'est pas dû à des raisons diverses et diverses de la guerre civile qui sont venues de temps en temps et c'est pour cela que cette guerre va commencer par tout d'un coup sans terminer.

Cette usure ternirait avec les résultats sociaux suivants:

La guerre terrasse prétendait avoir une plus grande organisation sociale de l'industrie, en direction verticale et horizontale.

La guerre terrasse avec quelques nouveaux résultats dans la forme du gouvernement qui enveloppait des éléments plus démocratiques, c'est à dire qui donnait à chaque individu une plus grande liberté politique.

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

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

Toutes celles d'expliquer encore plus clairement l'attitude du gouvernement sur les questions actuellement au gouvernement.

Voilà les raisons, clairées et claire.

Le gouvernement est d'avis qu'une puissance bien dans sa grande majorité à un jour où le désir de se passer des grands conflits entre les puissances, conflits qui le peuple bule a accepté comme dissipant toutes les faiblesses possessions et font les résultats dépendre aux mots.

Le peuple bule qui durant les 25 ans d'expériences successives fut durant de longues années privé de la possibilité de manifesteur activement sa volonté sur les problèmes intéressant la gouvernance, mais par une volonté passive reposait celle-ci, il parvient...
la croit devoir

à lui la foi que le gouvernement prendra en considération le

cour de sa volonté.

Le gouvernement bulgare qui ne pouvait pas éviter quelques

événements insurmontables pour lui, a régit 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 le volition du peuple
bulgare il est fortement décidé à éliminer tous les faits qui
contradisent à la propagation de cette volonté du peuple, inclus
aussi la course de la question juive, pensant arriver à cela de

façon ne pas causer de nouveaux et vains conflits et nouvelles

souffrances pour le peuple bulgare, pour ses confrères proches
et d’autres terres il est en vue d’une acte, longasse bulgare

voilà pourquoi, le gouvernement est d’avis qu’y nom de l’humanité
il a le droit de devenir de ses plus grands confrères qui se

trouvent dans les blessures ou enchaines dans la guerre, le ne

pas demander par la violence et entièrement en vain l’ensanglanter

un peuple tellement ensemble, le 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 renier la politique
intérieure et extérieure d’un peuple qui est le causeur de perdre

toutes ses organisation il fut indispensable d’organiser une force

armée improvisée, ce peuple qui conserve ses forces armées et son

ancien front extérieur et lesquels restent fermement par ses traditions
définit la volonté de ce peuple, ne sont pas dirigés contre aucun

ennemi intérieur ou extérieur, l’encouragement de cette organisation

improvisée est plus une œuvre patriotique et n’est plus au profit

du peuple qui le perdit et ce ne peut pas être au profit

de sa politique extérieure pour le reprocher avec les peuples

proches, pour le peuple bulgare qui graduellement prend les

rênes de son destin entre ses mains, un tel encouragement est une

œuvre anti-bulgare et devient une œuvre anti-internationale 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 comprimant l’inutilité d’une telle lutte illégale et

la cessant, le gouvernement, car qui serait-il représenté est obligé
dans un taumet à aider l’union nationale avec une pleine

sentiment politique.

Le gouvernement est d’avis que pour son honneteté et la clarté

il est inutile de déclarer qu’aucun fils bulgare n’a pas l’ambition

pour atteindre le pouvoir, et que le gouvernement accepte la lourde

croix de l’injection de l’idéat seulement pour accomplir son

devoir envers le peuple bulgare.

Le cabinet prit le gouvernement seulement après être convaincu

qu’avec son réquis 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 la devoir ou le privilège de quelques. Il faut, d'après les conditions et par divers chemins, qu'il soit aîné de tous les Bulgares et du peuple Bulgare entier.

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

1 - L'humanité dans son entière unité, sortira de ce bain de sang dont lequel il fut jeté avant cinquante années, sortira plus propre, plus solide et plus firme.

2 - que le pas, lequel les souffrances et l'expérience impo- seront à l'humanité à faire, retirera celle-ci du règne de l'âgeïsme vers le règne de la solidarité humaine et l'amour pour son proche.

Si cette fraternité devra être consacrée 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 ar- river à conclure une juste paix. C'est une conviction indébatible qu'à la fin de ce conflit mondial, il ne se trouvera pas un homme, pas un peuple qui puissent s'acquérir le droit inhérent d'empêcher le peuple bulgare, sans verser un vin du sang, à trouver un digne place dans la nouvelle bonne de la justice et de la solidarité humaines.
Subject: Proposed journey of Tuckel to Istanbul, in view of possibilities in Bulgaria.
Tulipan and Lakh

August 13, 1944

Was: 101

Subject: Information sent to Herriman re cooperation of Russians in efforts for mobilization in Bulgaria.
For Attention Mr. Katzky!

The following cable was received from Russia yesterday:

"PREPARATION EN MARCHE STOP ACTUELLEMENT DÉFENSE TEMPORAIRE BATEAUX
"QUITTER PORTS AGISSONS"

COMMUNAUTÉ ISRAELITE

14.8.1944.
Memorandum for Mr. Kelley:

(1) Reports are still coming in without cessation regarding individuals who are forcibly 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
Istanbul, August 16, 1944

Dear Dr. Black:

As you are undoubtedly aware, 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
August 15, 1944

Mr. Ira A. Hirschmann
American Embassy
Beyoğlu, İstanbul

Dear Mr. Hirschmann:

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
President

Enclosures
I, Istanbul, August 14, 1944

Dear M. Jaquinat:

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

1. In response to my telegram to Washington concerning my talks with 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's interest in the humanitarian premises upon which future discussions could be based, or as a manifestation of the Bulgarian government's determination to permit Ankara 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 friendliness 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. As an aside French well, I shall also...
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,

L. A. Dirscherl
Special Attaché

L. Louis Jaquinet
Rücks. Falsa, Apt. 3
Abdulhak Samid Caddeesi
Taksim, Istanbul

18-1/8
Memorandum of conversation held with Mr. Black on August 11, 1944.

Dr. Black believes:

1. That while the Nagyrenov Government is neither pro-Communist 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 them to withdraw their troops from Thrace and Macedonia, and especially Yugoslavia. There are four Bulgarian divisions in these 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. That 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.

Balabanoff's statement to me that only one division of German troops now remaining in Bulgaria was an important disclosure. While one division is about 18,000 troops, it is felt by Dr. Black that it does not even constitute a legitimate division, representing as it does more or less struggling ends of German troops.

I. A. Hirschmann
BLACK

1. The volunteer represents a change of direction. Kim was absent, and there was no hint of war.
2. No overreaction, just finding for Trump to get
3. "I am likely to continue in power." 
4. "I am making a conscious effort to increase understanding with Russia."
5. Stabilize China?  Communists in Eastern China?
6. Suppressive efforts to stop Germany?
7. German troops in Africa?
8. Why did they take troops out of China?
9. A comparison of troops - not even a decision.
Washington 597

Subject: Discussions with Hungarian 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 8. 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 Attaché

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

Enola.

IAN: 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 debarkation 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
Hissar

Enol.

IAHIVH
SUBJECT: Rumors and Political Titbits from Bulgaria.

TO: 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 12th, Sofia Radio plainly announced that Mr. Bagrynov, the Bulgarian Prime Minister, had had a conversation with Mr. Kirsarov, the Russian Chargé d'Affaires. Apparently the Bulgarian Government wants the contact between themselves and the Russians to be a matter of public knowledge. His 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. Bagrynov 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 many sources, one of the latest reliable reports is that a German camp used for hospital purposes at Bankya, 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. Here 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 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 Boghiev, the former prime minister, desires to leave Bulgaria for Switzerland, but has been refused a passport. No 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 emigrated 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 Mr. Black, formerly a member of the staff of this office, went hurriedly to Ankara in connection with Bulgarian peace proposals, thus silly and harmful reporting—wholly unnecessary, for the facts could so easily have been checked—is groundless and deplorable. Mr. Black went on business for the Istanbul American College of which he is now President.

Respectfully yours,

Burt Y. Berry
American Consul General

To department in original and typewritten
File No. 620.02

WHF/bb.
MEMORANDUM

Conversation between Mr. Natski and Mr. Finches

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

1. Mr. Finches, 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. Mr. Finches, who had been very helpful to Jewish people during the time of the persecutions in Bulgaria, advised Mr. Finches that, in his opinion after what Bagryanov had told him, it would be a mistake for Finches to emigrate.

2. Mr. Bagryanov has given a letter to Mr. Isidor Salmy, a Bulgarian Jew, authorizing him to move freely through the country to advise Jewish communities that improvement in their situation will take place. Mr. Salmy has already been in Deven 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. Finches, 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. Finches, 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. Pinchas, the Consistoire will include a delegate of the government Jewish Commissariat when it is finally constituted. The seat of the Consistoire will be a town nugagevo, 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-Semitic 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. Pinchas mentions specifically towns like Vidin, Vratsa, Lovech, Razsak 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 Pinchas how they live, he indicated that they apparently get it from the air. Dissing 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. Ninham, 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. Ninham, who is a revisionist, criticized the method by which selections for Palestine emigration have been made. He said that selections are made by 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. Ninham, which is now blocking substantial emigration from Bulgaria is the absence of Turkish transit visas. The number of visas authorized is still limited (the mention is seven a week, but probably refers 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 anyway. The entire border, being a military zone, is strongly guarded, and there are no possibilities for crossing under any circumstances. The only place where people can cross the border is at Evlilgrad, where supervision is tight.

10. Up to the time of his departure, Mr. Finches personally saw no evidence of an acceleration of the economic position of Jewish people, nor were there any postponements in the difficulties attendant upon the obtaining of Bulgarian passports and other necessary documents precedent to emigration. No news of the community in Varna has been officially designated as to which is to concern itself with emigration matters, but he personally saw no results from his designation.

11. In Mr. Finches' 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, so said but 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. Finches, nor are any deportations taking place.

13. It is Mr. Finches' 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
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.
ANWIESEN JELIA.BOFF SOFORTIGE ABSENDUNG VITA BURGAS SOBIS BEAUFTRAGEN KARAGIOSOV SOFORTIGE ABSENDUNG BURGAS STOP TÜRKKONSUL AVISIERT VISAERTEILUNG NACH ANKUNFT HEER SOWIE SOFORTIGE WÄHREND DER BIZINDE GESTELLT STOP KONTAKTET SOFORT JELIA.BOFF KARAGIOSOV DRINGVORWÄRSTIG DOKUMENTE DRAHTEN EVENTUELLE SCHWIERIGKEITEN ZWECKS HILFE BESETZUNG

SCHINDO

11.8.1944.
ALGERIA.

The Cabinet has decided to take measures for regulating the Jewish question and has authorized the Governor-General to take the necessary measures to regularize the Jewish population of Algeria.

Objective: To establish a Commission of Inquiry for the purpose of investigating the Jewish question and recommending measures for its regulation.

Chapter 1: Regulation of Jewish Affairs (Racially Questioned).

Article 1. The mandate of the inquiry will be to ascertain the condition of the Jewish community in Algeria, and to determine the extent to which the community is subject to discrimination and prejudice. The Commission will submit its report and recommendations to the Governor-General.

Article 2. The Commission will consist of three members, appointed by the Governor-General, one representing the Ministry of Interior, one representing the Ministry of the Interior, and one representative of the Ministry of Public Instruction.
Article 3. In accordance with Article 28 sec. 7 of the Law for National Defense and Article 10 of the Law for Global Defense, the organization of the Council for Jewish Affairs, the powers of the Council, for national defense, and the powers of the Central Committee, Committee of National Aid, and the powers of the Committee for Jewish Affairs, as established in accordance with Article 3 of the Law for National Defense and Article 10 of the Law for Global Defense, shall be vested in the Council for Jewish Affairs. These powers shall be subject to other decisions in accordance with the Law for the Council for Jewish Affairs. The Council for Jewish Affairs shall be composed of the following members: the President, the Council of the Department.

Article 4. The Council for Jewish Affairs is appointed by the President after consultation with the Cabinet, on the nomination of the President. The Council for Jewish Affairs shall be composed of the President, the Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of National Defense, the Minister of Social Affairs, the Minister of Finance, and the President of the Supreme Court of Justice. The President shall designate the President of the Council for Jewish Affairs, the Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Minister of National Defense. The Council for Jewish Affairs shall consist of the President, the Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of National Defense, and the President of the Supreme Court of Justice.

Article 5. The funds for the Council for Jewish Affairs shall be derived from the following sources:

A. Funds from the following sources:

1. Contributions from the Jewish Community, up to 500,000 liras.
2. Contributions from the Jewish Community, up to 1,000,000 liras.
3. Contributions from the Jewish Community, above 1,000,000 liras.

All the contributions shall be transferred to the Council for Jewish Affairs.

The money transferred from the Council for Jewish Affairs shall be used for the following purposes:

A. Assistance to the Jewish Community in time of need.

B. Promotion of Jewish culture.

C. Promotion of Jewish education.

The budget of the Council for Jewish Affairs is prepared by the Council for Jewish Affairs and is submitted to the President for approval.
CHAPTER II

CHAPTER II

ARTICLE 6

Persons requiring such an application in accordance with Articles of the Law for National Defense, but having declared in official records therein written the 2nd of January 1941 that they are Jews, are referred as such till they can prove that they are not of Jewish descent. Moreover, no citizenship or origin,
CHAPTER III

Institutions enforced on Jews

Article 11. The declaration made in accordance with Article 10 of the Law for National Security is obligatory for all Jews, including Jews enfranchised by Article 33 of the Law for National Security. The declaration of security is obligatory for Jews who have become enfranchised at home by nationalization or who have been registered in Bulgaria forthwith by the law for nationals, and also for Jews with foreign citizenship who have come to Bulgaria. The declaration will be completed when registering at the Police.

Article 12. Jews are not allowed to have origin given names or family names or a name with a Bulgarian suffix such as son, son-in-law, etc. Non-converted Jews are not allowed to have Christian names. The prohibited names are to be erased from all registers. Forbidden family names are to be exchanged with the grandfathers name. This, up to the last of

November.
Analysis:

Section 1: The title of the section is not clear from the image. It appears to be a legislative or regulatory text, possibly related to municipal or town regulations.

Section 2: Article 27 deals with the powers of the municipal council. It outlines the responsibilities of the council members, including their eligibility, tenure, and conduct.

Section 3: Article 28 discusses the appointment of municipal officers, including the mayor and council members. It specifies the qualifications, terms of office, and removal procedures.

Section 4: Article 29 addresses the powers and duties of the municipal officers, including the enforcement of ordinances and the handling of public complaints.

Conclusion:

The document appears to be a legislative text, possibly a municipal charter or a town ordinance. It outlines the structure and functions of the municipal government, including the powers and duties of elected officials and the methods of enforcement.
Art. 23. Every person is entitled to settle his obligations by legal means and to be entitled to the assistance of the court in any case where the interest of justice requires it.

Art. 24. In case of insolvency, the debtor shall be entitled to retain and use the property of a third person that was the subject of the transaction until such time as the settlement of the obligation is completed.

Art. 25. The law shall provide for the appointment of a liquidator to carry out the functions of a liquidator in cases of insolvency.

Art. 26. The liquidator shall have the power to sell or exchange the property of the insolvent, to take legal action against the debtor, and to employ agents to assist in the settlement of the obligations.

Art. 27. The liquidator shall have the power to withhold payments from the insolvent's estate until such time as the obligation is fully satisfied.

Art. 28. In cases of insolvency, the liquidator may require the debtor to provide security for the satisfaction of the obligations.

Art. 29. In the event of insolvency, the debtor shall be entitled to retain and use the property of a third person that was the subject of the transaction until such time as the settlement of the obligation is completed.

Art. 30. Every person is entitled to settle his obligations by legal means and to be entitled to the assistance of the court in any case where the interest of justice requires it.

Art. 31. In case of insolvency, the debtor shall be entitled to retain and use the property of a third person that was the subject of the transaction until such time as the settlement of the obligation is completed.

Art. 32. The law shall provide for the appointment of a liquidator to carry out the functions of a liquidator in cases of insolvency.

Art. 33. The liquidator shall have the power to sell or exchange the property of the insolvent, to take legal action against the debtor, and to employ agents to assist in the settlement of the obligations.

Art. 34. In cases of insolvency, the liquidator may require the debtor to provide security for the satisfaction of the obligations.

Art. 35. In the event of insolvency, the debtor shall be entitled to retain and use the property of a third person that was the subject of the transaction until such time as the settlement of the obligation is completed.

Art. 36. Every person is entitled to settle his obligations by legal means and to be entitled to the assistance of the court in any case where the interest of justice requires it.
Article 5. Each of the above mentioned parties is to have the power to cancel or modify any of the conditions, provided such cancellation or modification is done in accordance with the local conditions.

Article 6. A clause in this agreement which anyone is allowed to terminate if the conditions are not met. It shall be enforced by the date shown in the agreement, or within the period of the agreement, whichever is shorter. If any of the above is not met, the agreement is terminated.

Article 7. Each party shall be required to maintain all United States federal and state labor laws, as adopted by the local government, or as adopted by the local government, whichever is more stringent. The percentage of workers employed by the agreement, all those party to the agreement, shall be maintained at the same percentage as those employed by the agreement. If the percentage of workers employed by the agreement is not maintained, the agreement is terminated.

Article 8. Distribution of social benefits is to be based on the average income of the workers employed by the agreement. Each party shall be required to maintain the average income of the workers employed by the agreement at the same level as those employed by the agreement. If the average income of the workers employed by the agreement is not maintained, the agreement is terminated.

Article 9. The agreement shall be subject to the laws of the state in which the agreement is signed. Any disputes arising under the agreement shall be resolved in accordance with the laws of the state in which the agreement is signed. If any dispute cannot be resolved, the agreement is terminated.

Article 10. The agreement shall be in effect until the party terminates the agreement. The agreement may be terminated by either party upon 60 days' notice. If the agreement is terminated, the agreement is immediately terminated.

Article 11. Each party shall be required to maintain all local laws, regulations, and ordinances.

Article 12. Any party that fails to comply with the terms of this agreement is subject to legal action. If any party fails to comply with the terms of this agreement, the agreement is terminated.

Article 13. Any changes to this agreement must be in writing and signed by all parties. If any party fails to sign the written changes, the agreement is terminated.

Article 14. Any dispute arising under this agreement shall be resolved in accordance with the laws of the state in which the agreement is signed. If any dispute cannot be resolved, the agreement is terminated.
Article XVI

Lands, Sequestrations and Confiscations

Article 98. In the case of national or provincial emergencies, the President of the Republic, by decree, and in consultation with the National Board, may, whenever and in case of need, appropriate a land of any nature, or other personal properties and effects, the value of which does not exceed ten thousand pesos, for public utility, without prior or subsequent compensation.

Article 99. In all cases of confiscation of shares and securities, after the publication of this decree in the Official Gazette, the Government assumes the necessary rights without all the proceedings formerly used in similar cases.

Article 100. No one can dispose of their moveable properties without permission of the department with the following exceptions:

a) goods received for weaving expenses
b) salaries, wages and bonuses
Adviser.2. In case of ill-health, or incapacity, or death of the adviser, in the event of the adviser’s resignation, or in the event of a decision by the government, the adviser shall be replaced by another person appointed by the government. The replacement shall be made by the government, and the person appointed shall hold the position for the remainder of the term of office.

Article 3. The government shall appoint a person qualified as an adviser, who shall hold the position for a term of two years, renewable once. The adviser shall be appointed by the government, and the term of office shall be two years.

The adviser must be a person of high moral character, and shall hold the position for a term of two years, renewable once. The adviser shall be appointed by the government, and the term of office shall be two years.

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CHAPTER VII


Article 52.

A new chapter is added to the law for national defense, as follows:

Parsons
To American Embassy

Copy of Telegram from British Embassy, Angora, To Foreign Office, London, dated 9th August, 1944.

To 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, Romania 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 17/56;

(b) a letter from the Jewish Agency in Istanbul certifying that the holder has been granted a Palestinian Immigration certificate and 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 24569 to Bern; or an endorsement on a child's passport under the "5000" scheme;

(d) a certificate issued by an Agency in Budapest, that 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 is further to allow the ships VITA and FINES 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 sail 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 Angora 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 guarantees. 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 telephones 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 Veterans Zionists, as well as the scheme whereby groups of 50 children receive visas every ten days.
MEMO OF TELEPHONE CALL

August 8, 1944

WID

Subject: Information for Harriman re Balabanoff aid of Soviets in efforts in Bulgaria.
Ankara
August 6, 1944

Dear Monsieur Anand:

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 Attaché

Honi:

Monsieur Gilbert Anand
42 Secukl Bey Caddesi
Yenisehir, Ankara
July 14, 1944

Dear Monsieur Sévigné:

Pursuant to my conversations with M. Balabanoff, Bulgarian Minister to Turkey, held at your house on July 26 and August 5, I am writing to outline my views and my requests related to the efforts to rescue the citizens of Bulgarian, 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 restated to him yesterday, the Bulgarian Government is not going far enough, especially at this crucial hour in his history. I am convinced that the Government is taking steps to expedite the release, within technical possibilities, of their arrested citizens who happen to be Jews. But from the information at hand, confirmed by Bulgarians who have managed to depart, none of these steps at this time can result only in a pitifully small commutation.

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 UN Refugee Board of the United Nations Government, matching daily for specific sets 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 would win the good will of the United States and our people, we stand today in a position where the following: first steps in a program which could be productive of good on all sides may be usefully administered. 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 rescue and enable forthwith the two infamous
anti-Jewish laws on its books. It seems to me that we are not
aware 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 measures of neutrality, 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
Government'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 those measures."

"Especially the Nagymanov regime intended to take steps to negate
the policy of the former Government in its relentless corruption of a
helpless minority of its own people. We assure that the Government
will not be content to stop there, but will take the necessary measures
designed concretely to reconstitute and rehabilitate those victimized
members of its own minority.

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 radius of which poses the aspect of the civilized world for
the independence of the new Bulgarian Government. If my sacrifice is
necessary on its part, connected with the reformation of those 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 special task to
discharge. The evidence of the enormous publicity in America that resulted from the abolition of the concentration camp in Transnistria by the Romanians, is with Dr. Blum. 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 so time for planning large-scale immigration agreements 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 wars to complete depriviation 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 marred 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 deprivation, 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 desiring for the return of these self-same citizens whom they helped deport to蠤iverse ungreat anguish and inconvenience. I trust that you are not so burdened by my over-emphasis of this 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 najleoush" signed. While he wrote somewhat less than he reported to me verbally, his letter is categorical in asserting that (a) the government will accelerate 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 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.

May 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.

As proposed 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 uprooted the population, as do not ask them to revile 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 sadly lost in the last black war-years.

With thanks for your kindness,

Cordially yours,

[Signature]

[Name of Holder]

Special Attaché

Government of the United States of America

[Address]
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 Hungarian Government that they permit these refugees to enter Romania in transit, and we have been informed that the Romanians have agreed in principle to this procedure. Obviously the Hungarians 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 Hungary, (who do not arrive from Hungary), and for whom transit facilities through Bulgaria will be required.

L. H.
Additional items dictated for insertion in Balabanoff 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 Hungarian Government has agreed in principle to permit their passage through Romania. 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 differences, 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 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 property 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 now permitted to draw 6,000 leva 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.
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 a matter 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-bolsi and anti-fascist. Holubanoff corroborated this. Gunev is said to be freely disposed towards assisting in finding local currency in Bulgaria, should it be necessary to locate Bulgarian левы to be made available to the Jewish population for the purchase of food.

It is respectfully suggested that an unbiased survey of conditions of the 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 Plovdiv, Haskovo, Plovdiv and Pazardzhik, where large numbers of Jewish people
now live, are directly on railroad lines. Other centers may be similarly located geographically, that is on main lines of communications which are outside of military zones. It is suggested that the International Red Cross could undertake such an objective survey which would be important as a basis for any plan which may be contemplated for assisting in the rehabilitation of the Jewish people in Bulgaria.

All the above is predicated on confirmed reports that the elimination of the Jewish people from the economic life in Bulgaria is recognized, even in Bulgaria, to have caused disruption in the economic structure of the country.
T.L.: 848 GT

August 7, 1944

20B 128

Subject: Interview with Belasenoff, August 8.
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.
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 dispatch, 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.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972
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 consistory 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 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 lose 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 Dragyanov 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. Barry
American Consul General

Enclosure:

As stated.

To Department in original and hectograph

File No. 891  WNF/bb.
Memorandum for Mr. Kelley:

August 5, 1944

Subject: Conversation with M. Balabanoff
Bulgarian Minister to Turkey

Place: Home of Gilbert Simond
42 Necati Bey Caddesi, Yenisehir

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.

Balanoff 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.

Balanoff 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 Balanoff 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 Stomanyaev, the retiring chief."

Balanoff 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
funds for the pauperized Bulgarian citizenry who happened to be Jews. Here I referred to the name of Gunav, Director of the Bulgarian National Bank, who is anti-Nazi and anti-Fascist, and who, according to 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 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:VR

[Name not mentioned.]
August 5, 1944

MEMORANDUM

To Mr. Hirschmann from Dr. Katzki

I am enclosing herein a copy of a letter and list which was left here by Dr. Lennenberg, 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. Lennenberg gave me the following story: he said that he had been in touch with Mr. Theodore Solacolo, who is the press attaché of the Bulgarian 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 Romania. Mr. Solacolo, according to Lennenberg, also promised to do something toward affecting the release of such persons. Lennenberg 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 affecting the release of such political persons, Lennenberg would also like to send money to them, and according to Mr. Solacolo had given some indication that he would be helpful in that connection.

Enclosure
List of pro-allied and pro-democratic persons at present confined in Bulgarian jails in concentration camps.

1. Victor Stoianovski - former parliament deputy - at present in jail.
2. V. Jusev - editor-in-chief of the Social Democratic organ "Vorvreta" - interned.
3. Ivan Komev - leader of peasant party - interned.
4. N. Ivanov - former Bulgarian minister - either in jail or interned, in either case, terribly persecuted.
5. Petko - social democrat and leader of cooperative movement - interned in concentration camp.
6. Boyko Skoleta - pro-allied, secret agent, very ill.
7. Colonel Stoytschikoff - interned and persecuted.
10. Ivan Stoytonev - writer - interned, persecuted.

KOSOVARY

Nikolay Nikoloff - in concentration camp.

Valtana Mateeva - interned.

Ivan Chorchev - in jail.

G. S. G. - in concentration camp.

Dr. Ilias - in concentration camp.
Paraphrase of the Talk: Received

August 4, 1944

ERB 92

Subject: Board's gratification with results of negotiations

with Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Bulgarian Minister...
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.

...
MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Birschmann from Dr. Katzki

SUBJECT: Conversation with Dr. Black, August 4, 1944

Dr. Black has carefully gone over Dr. Birschmann'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 due to all 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 deteriorated, 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 whose 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 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 cannot be 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 Mr. 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 migrate. Before the promulgation
of the two anti-Jewish laws, Bulgarian Jewish children,
with one or two executions, 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
prevalent 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 residence
elsewhere today are relatively no worse off than are other former
inhabitants of Sofia. It is true that Bulgarian Jews do not
leave the city. For the most part, they moved in on relatives
climbing up, and were challenged 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.
That is important, then, in full restoration of the citizenship
of Jews so that they will be able to remain that are still free.
status with their housing. (In addition, although it
is a very complex matter and subject to many local difficulties,
the question of indemnification of Jewish people for economic loss may be controversial. Of course, it may be difficult to do things where properties have been appropriated, or where Jewish people were forced to dispose of assets at a fraction of their value. Compensation 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, about the government, for example, it may be indemnified to some extent for tenants of subtenants for property loss arising out of the bombardment of the city. Jewish people should see the same consideration as anyone else, whatever the compensation might be.

The idea in this connection sometimes could be: give those people from access to their own accounts, into which they, for whatever reason, are a process of the wound sale of their properties, and which are now black. Jewish people are not only held to receive down only about 50,000 pesos or 500 pesos for their maintenance requirements...

(c) food today is not a problem in Algeria, according to Dr. Elze. The information is that, although war and extraordinary good, it is not as bad that most Algerian-green vegetables and bread are from not even subject to rationing. But in contrast, but this affects everyone in Algeria. Therefore, it would not be so important to send food to Tunisia as it would be to raise the Jewish people in Tunis so that they can purchase their food requirements in the open market. Dr. Elze 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 full share of available supplies
in the same manner as do other sections of the Bulgarian popula-
tion. Mr. Block recognizes, of course, that there may be some
qualifications in terms of Bulgarian fiscal regulations and those
of the United States, should the_dirctions want to be paid in
foreign exchange. So things that the argument or the having
availability of foreign exchange should be of sufficient interest
as the Bulgarians to secure their interest in such a proposal.
I take it, from the Bulgarian point of view
in my opinion the foreign exchange control regulations would
not be insurmountable.

I also mentioned the name of a Mr. Simon, who is
director of the Bulgarian anti-Semitic, and who is anti-Semitic
and anti-Jewish, and who proposes would be friendly disposed
towards assisting in finding local currency in Bulgaria should
it be necessary to find American loans to be made available
to the Jewish people for purposes of food purchase.

(I) Mr. Block thought it important to make an immediate and
unbiased survey of the conditions of Jewish people in Bulgaria
by being, touching on such questions as the distribution
of funds and the state of their financial situation: in
broad terms, the extent of newlands which prevail, the kinds
of assistance which are necessary: the degree of relaxation.
If any, in the enforcement or issuance directed against the
Jewish people, etc. In recognition 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, consultation taking out of military and economic considerations. In other nations, specifically India, however, cities such as New Delhi, Calcutta, Madras, and Bengal have large numbers of Jewish people now live in which are directly on the main railroad lines. The center may be similarly located geographically, that is, on main lines of communication which have nothing to do with military matters.

A check on the map, however, reveals that a large city group could undertake such an objective survey, which would be important as a basis for any general action to be taken for increasing the rehabilitation of Jewish people in cities where they now are.

I believe, however, that in a large country like the United States, this may not be possible. Yet, as in the case of the smaller countries, the rehabilitation of the Jewish people in the United States could be undertaken in a short period of time.

2. In recent years, I have noted that the rehabilitation of Jewish people from other countries, especially from some of the countries in which we have influence, is being given increased attention in the economic structure of the country.

The third approach, in my opinion, would be to allow the people of the United States to participate in the solution of the problem of Jewish people in other countries. The United States could then undertake a more effective role in rehabilitating Jewish people in other countries.
paragraph would be in agreement with present trends.

But to the present time, the best described from the country,

There may have been forced to leave the country, were the

12,000 from Greece and Macedonia, which were under Bulgarian

control during the war. These people were not Bulgarians.

In connection with Mr. Reitel's suggestion, mentioned above,

that Bulgarian transit facilities be secured in behalf of Jewish

refugees from Germany, I mentioned to Mr. the information

contained in the letter, received by this to the effect that

the Vatican and Bulgarian governments have offered all facili-

ties to secure residence in their country in behalf of Jewish

people, migrating from Germany.

I have informed Mr. Reitel that I passed his suggestions

along to you, and asked him of your suggestion that it would

be most helpful if we, collaboratively with you, could undertake

his own steps through channels available to him.
embassy's 1414 (?)

Subject: note transmitted to Balkarian government, August 1.
Istanbul, August 1, 1944

Dear Dr. Blask:

Pursuant to our conversations I am confirming several of the points which were conveyed 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 at first possible steps. His letter written to Sempo 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 only 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 make 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, rather than policies designed to profit at the expense of others. One such example is the plight of the refugees, which will not promise but fulfill a policy which will negate that of a former government in ruthlessly persecuting a helpless minority of its own people, and which will be designed directly to rehabilitate these victimized members of its own citizenship.

The Bulgarian Government stands today in the position where it can grant 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 commit 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 reminded 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 special task to discharge. The evidence in the instances of the abdication of the camp in Transnistria by the Germans 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 reinforced with the Bulgarians. It is my sense that this may well be the time for planning large-scale emigration movements out of this 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 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 generous contribution that they will make in helping build the new Bulgaria. It is a strange paradox that history relates that the deceased and departed Jewish populations have without exception rebounded in the countries where they formed themselves and became 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 marred 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.

We have left 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 bucking for the return of these self-same citizens.
when they helped to deport to Palestine at great expense and inconveniences. I trust that you are not hurried by my overstatement of the point, but I insist that the step we are suggesting will be of even greater advantage to Bulgars than to those who will be saved.

One more point: I think the leader of the Bulgarian Government should know that I shall expect to hold these conversations in a spirit of mutual respect and understanding. If I am to be permitted to speak frankly, the Bulgarian Government must be prepared to listen to my views. I trust that I shall not be misunderstood in the following points:

1. The situation of the present is such that only the most drastic measures will suffice to protect the Bulgarian people. The government will be required to take immediate action to ensure the safety of its citizens.

2. The troops must be allowed to move freely and without hindrance.

3. The authorities must ensure the safety of all persons engaged in the relief work.

4. The Bulgarian Government must take all necessary steps to prevent the recurrence of such events in the future.

I trust that the Bulgarian Government will consider the above points carefully and take the necessary steps to implement them. The Bulgarian people have suffered terribly in the past and must be protected in the future.

Thank you for your kindness and friendship.

Yours sincerely,

I. A. Hirschmann
Special Attaché
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 Romanian 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 B. Black
President
Roberts College
Diar