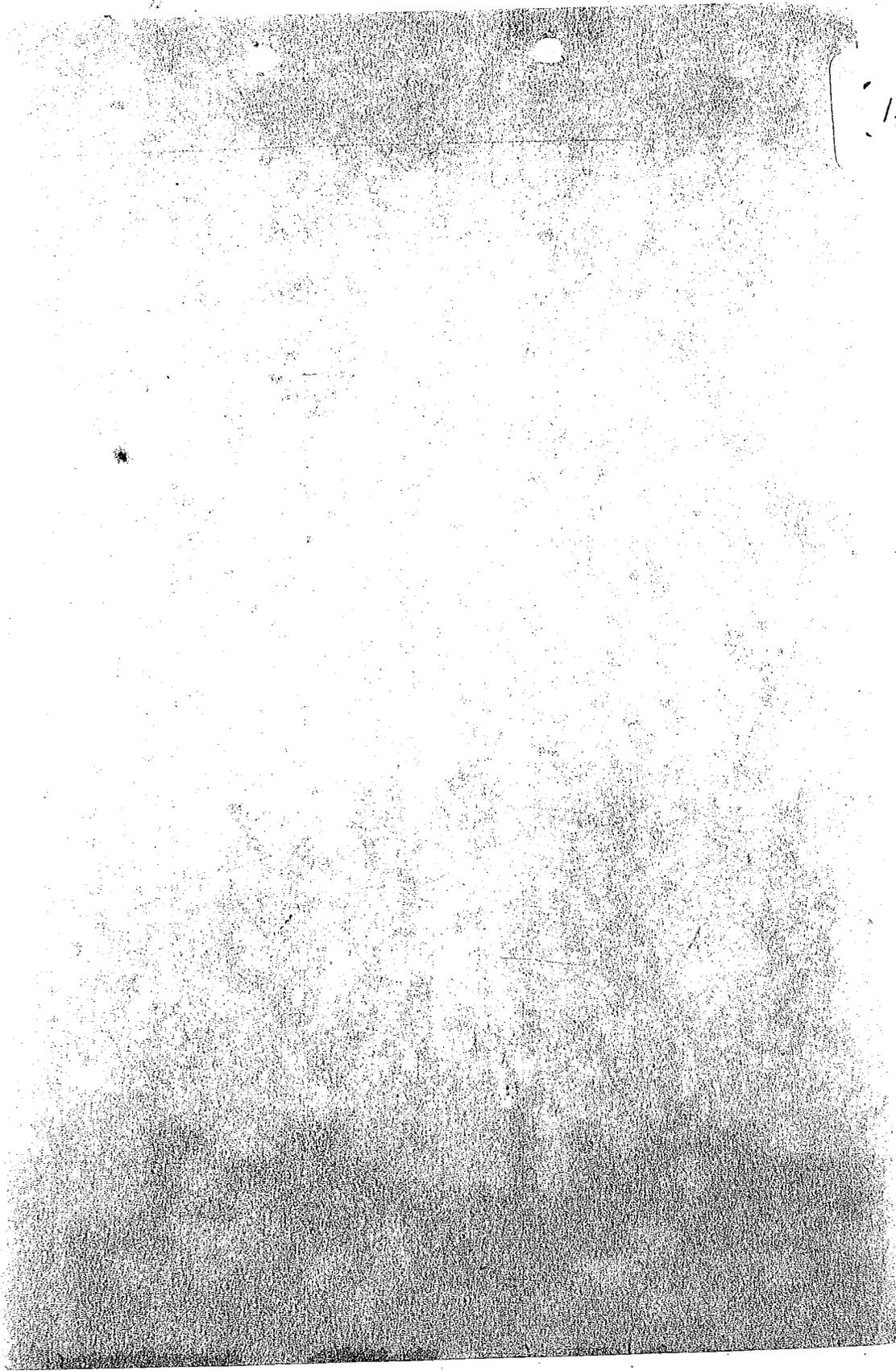


Measures directed toward further preservation: Roseau from Bulgaria, Folder 1

RESCUE FROM BULGARIA

1. GENERAL
2. LETTERS FROM HIRSCHMANN AND KATZKI
3. EVACUATION OF BULGARIAN JEWS TO PALESTINE
 - a. Evacuation of Bulgarian Jews to Palestine
(As disclosed by files of Visa Division of State.)
4. MATERIAL CONCERNING NEGOTIATIONS WITH BULGARIAN OFFICIALS
 - a. IN TURKEY
 - b. IN SWEDEN
5. ANTI-JEWISH LAWS AND THEIR REVOCATION
6. CABLES TO AND FROM MOSCOW RE: CONDITIONS IN BULGARIA
7. NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS
8. INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS
9. ENTRY OF KATZKI AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTATIVES INTO RUMANIA AND BULGARIA
10. WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS (BROADCAST TO BULGARIA)

WAR REFUGEE BOARD RECORDS



000810

C
O
P
Y

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
Washington, D. C.

Country Bulgaria
Subject Greek Workmen
Date of Origin Nov. 6, 1943
Place of Origin Cairo

Dissemination No. A-18414
Report No. G 557
Distributed January 14, 1944

At the time of the deportation of the Jews residing in Thrace and Macedonia (Bulgarian-Occupied) able-bodied men were retained in the country, while the others were sent to Poland and the Ukraine. The Bulgars and the Germans shared at the time this gratuitous manpower. Jews who remained in Bulgarian hands were utilized for diverse works in the country, living within concentration camps after working hours.

Last October 15 the Germans asked the Bulgars to hand over these Jewish workmen, who numbered nearly 20,000 for labor in central Europe. The Bulgars complied with this request, after raising certain obstacles, and were thus deprived of this manpower and several current works remained in suspense.

In order to fill this gap the Bulgars had recourse to able-bodied Greek men remaining in the occupied regions. Toward the end of last month a first convoy of Greeks was directed toward Bulgaria proper and since then the Bulgarian military authorities carry out "sweeps" and concentrate at Dedeagach all able-bodied Greeks between the ages 18 and 35.

This has caused a new exodus of Greeks who, in spite of all oppressive measures they have undergone, had remained on native soil.

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED
By Authority of _____
CIA 006687
By SR Date MAR 3 1975

*John P. ...
file*

000011

New York ~~World~~ Telegram

JAN 31 1945

Jews Say Bulgaria Fails on Promises

The American Jewish Committee appealed to the United States, Great Britain and Soviet Russia yesterday to remove discrimination against Jews in Bulgaria which signed an armistice with the United Nations more than two months ago.

Former Justice Joseph M. Proskauer, president of the committee, charged the Bulgarian government with making "promises to the Jews which it does not honor."

000812

The New York Times.

JAN 31 1945

JEWIS HERE CRITICIZE 'RACISM' IN BULGARIA

The American Jewish Committee declared yesterday that Bulgaria had had "ample time" in the two and a half months since signing an armistice with the United Nations to halt discrimination against Jews. The committee said it had appealed to the Governments of the United States, Great Britain and Soviet Russia "to do everything in their power toward removing discrimination still in force against the Jews in Bulgaria and restoring to them their rights and possessions."

Former Justice Joseph M. Proskauer, president of the committee, charged the Bulgarian Government with making "promises to the Jews which it does not honor."

"The Government," he wrote, "announced that seizure of Jewish property would be nullified, but at the same time it has showed that no Bulgarian will be compelled to give up any Jewish possessions that he acquired under the German or Bulgarian Nazis."

The former justice declared that Bulgaria's indifference to the plight of its Jews, following similar Rumanian indifference, must be viewed as "a local symptom of a widespread evil that should be rooted out everywhere." He added that "an environment of the sort being fostered by the Bulgarian authorities is extremely favorable to the perpetuation of a racist and fascist spirit harmful to the cause of the United Nations."

Bulgaria

NEW YORK
Herald Tribune
MAR 6 1945

Bulgaria Voids Anti-Jewish Laws
SOFIA, Bulgaria, March 5 (AP).—
The ministerial council yesterday
adopted legislation nullifying all
anti-Jewish orders and regula-
tions. It provides for total resti-
tution of property and other rights
to Bulgarian Jews.

70081

AUG 13 1944

**Restrictions On Jews
In Bulgaria Relaxed**

Istanbul, Turkey, Aug. 12 (Reuter) — Relaxation of anti-Jewish measures in Bulgaria is reported by travelers arriving here today from Sofia.

The wearing of the distinctive yellow star which up to now was compulsory has been abolished.

FFC-76
(11-42)

CROSS REFERENCE ON BULGARIA (1)

FOR:

Amendment to this License

Extension of this License

Renewal of this License

Correspondence concerning this application

Other (Specify)

1. FOR ^{ADDITIONAL} MATERIAL CONCERNING MEDICAL NEEDS IN BULGARIA.

SEE: 1. RUMANIA (1)

000816

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

Distribution of this message by [redacted] DIVISION OF [redacted] reading only by [redacted] arrangement.

April 28, 1945 4 p.m.

1945 APR 30 PM 1 52

DC/L

cc of Prof [redacted] (C. [redacted])

REPRODUCTION

BURN

CONTROL COPY

1617

The cable below for McClelland is WRB 509.

Please deliver paraphrase of the following message to Saly Mayer, St. Gall, from Hon. Leavitt of American

Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

NOTE Please advise William Filderman that medical supplies for Roumania Bulgaria in warehouse here awaiting shipment. We have opportunity ship as filler space these supplies on United States boats going directly Black Sea port carrying relief supplies for Poland Czechoslovakia. Can Filderman arrange with appropriate authorities that these supplies be unloaded and transported inland. If there should be difficulties securing such clearance quickly we can ship to Cairo and tranship from there but this will take much longer. Please have Filderman advise soonest. Also ask Filderman arrange have Roumanian Government give American Mission Bucharest import specific license for narcotics. UNQUOTE

For security reasons the text of this message must be classified, ungraded.

WRB:MMV:DH 4/27/45

ME

SE

GREW (Action) (GHW)

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

700817

CABLE TO AMERICAN LEGATION, BERN, FOR MCCLELLAND, FROM THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Please deliver the following message to Saly Mayer, St. Gall, from W. A.

Leavitt of American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

QUOTE PLEASE ADVISE WILLIAM FILDENMAN THAT MEDICAL SUPPLIES FOR ROMANIA BULGARIA IN WAREHOUSE HEREAWAITING SHIPMENT. WE HAVE OPPORTUNITY SHIP AS FILLER SPACE THESE SUPPLIES ON UNITED STATES BOATS GOING DIRECTLY BLACK SEA PORT CARRYING RELIEF SUPPLIES FOR POLAND CZECHOSLOVAKIA. CAN FILDENMAN ARRANGE WITH APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES THAT THESE SUPPLIES BE UNLOADED AND TRANSPORTED INLAND. IF THERE SHOULD BE DIFFICULTIES SECURING SUCH CLEARANCE QUICKLY WE CAN SHIP TO CAIRO AND TRANS-SHIP FROM THERE BUT THIS WILL TAKE MUCH LONGER. PLEASE HAVE FILDENMAN ADVISE SOONEST. ALSO ASK FILDENMAN ARRANGE THAT ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT GIVE AMERICAN MISSION SOONEST IMPORT SPECIFIC LICENSE FOR NARCOTICS. UNQUOTE

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 509

copy sent to Jde 7/25/45

9:45 a.m.
April 25, 1945

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Cohn, DuBois, Gaston, Model, Hutchison, McCormack, O'Dwyer, Files.

RBH
RBH: 4/21/45

April 20, 1945.

Cables to be sent through channels of War Refugee Board

1. To Saly Mayer, St. Gall, Switzerland

PLEASE ADVISE WILLIAM FILDERMAN THAT MEDICAL SUPPLIES FOR ROMANIA BULGARIA
IN WAREHOUSE HEREAWAITING SHIPMENT. WE HAVE OPPORTUNITY SHIP AS FILLER SPACE
THESE SUPPLIES ON UNITED STATES BOATS GOING DIRECTLY BLACK SEA PORT CARRYING
RELIEF SUPPLIES FOR POLAND CZECHOSLOVAKIA. CAN FILDERMAN ARRANGE WITH
APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES THAT THESE SUPPLIES BE UNLOADED AND TRANSPORTED
INLAND. IF THERE SHOULD BE DIFFICULTIES SECURING SUCH CLEARANCE QUICKLY
WE CAN SHIP TO CAIRO AND TRANSHIP FROM THERE BUT THIS WILL TAKE MUCH LONGER.
PLEASE HAVE FILDERMAN ADVISE SOONEST. ALSO ASK FILDERMAN ARRANGE THAT
ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT GIVE AMERICAN MISSION BUCAREST IMPORT SPECIFIC LICENSE
FOR NARCOTICS

LEAVITT
JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

*Endorsement to list of supplies
from Saly Mayer*

000819

*War Ref Bd.
(O'Dwyer)*

PARADISE OF TELEPHONE RECEIVED

FROM: FRICHISSION, BUCHAREST
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: April 11, 1945
NUMBER: 260
X

CONTROL COPY

It is desired by William Fildermann to determine if consignment of medical supplies mentioned in Department's message number 61 of the ninth of February, has been forwarded and approximately when the consignment may be anticipated to arrive here.

BERRY

DC/L:MLG
4-12-45 *mlg*

APR 11 1945

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

1042

Suzanna (1)

March 31, 1945

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Harold Trobe was received through the United States Embassy in Lisbon under date of March 28, 1945:

"Further our 196. Filderman concerned non-arrival medicines. States illness increasing daily. Urges you do all possible expedite shipment, this also additional amounts requested for Hungary. Please advise."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Florence Hodel

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

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

RBHutchison: 3/31/45

10092

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

GEK-534

TLAIN

Lisbon

Dated March 28, 1945

Rec'd 8:45 a.m., 30th.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

CONTROL COPY

680, Twenty-eighth

WRB 370, JDC 207.

FOR LEAVITT FROM HAROLD TROBE

Further our 195. Filderman concerned non-arrival
medicines. States illness increasing daily. Urges
you do all possible expedite shipment, this also
additional amounts requested for Hungary. Please advise.

CROCKER

MJK
EDA

Bulgarica
DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM
DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

1945 MAR 10 PM 3 09

PLAT. *worked 721*
Gen O D

DC/L
LIAISON

March 9, 1945

CONTROL COPY

AMCONSUL

JERUSALEM

50, Ninth.

Please deliver the following message to the Jewish
Agency, Jerusalem, from Arish Tartakover, World Jewish
Congress, through War Refugee Board.

QUOTE Have decided transmit 50,000 pounds clothing
for Jews Bulgaria cable whether transportation possible
with your cooperation. UNQUOTE

GREW
(Acting)

WRD:HV:RG
3/8/45

NE

SE

SWR

CABLE TO AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL, JERUSALEM, FROM THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Please deliver the following message to the Jewish Agency,

Jerusalem, from Arish Tartakower, World Jewish Congress:

QUOTE HAVE DECIDED TRANSMIT 50,000 POUNDS CLOTHING FOR JEWS
BULGARIA CABLE WHETHER TRANSPORTATION POSSIBLE WITH YOUR
COOPERATION. UNQUOTE

Copy sent to wife 3/7/45

*2:00 p.m.
3-7-45*

RHH RBHitchison: 3/3/45

I
WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS
CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL • CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

1834 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, 23, N. Y.

LONDON
55 New Cavendish St., W 1

GENEVA
37 Quai Wilson

BUENOS AIRES
Corrientes 1979

JERUSALEM
Vaad Leumi P. O. B. 471

MONTREAL
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY
Sonora 1744

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

In reply refer to:
No. 334

February 28, 1945

Brig. Gen. William O'Dwyer, Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear General O'Dwyer:

May I ask you to have the following message transmitted
through the facilities of the Department of State:

"To: Jewish Agency, Jerusalem
From: Arieh Tartakower

Have decided transmit 50,000 poundsclothing for Jews
Bulgaria cable whether transportation possible with
your cooperation."

Thank you for giving this matter your kind attention.

Sincerely yours,


KURT R. GROSSMAN
Rescue Department

KRG:bm

503
3/16

March 8, 1945

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Harold Trobe was received through the American Embassy in Lisbon under date of March 6, 1945:

"Filerman cabled Roumanian Government granted license importation medicines worth \$60,000 from United States. Delivered authorization to ANPOLAD. Hungary urgently demands medicaments same value for exantematic typhus also insulin sulfanimides neosalvarsan disinfectants. Probably more than 100,000 Jews will return to Hungary and northern Transylvania from Poland and Germany also 10,000 Jews deported from France Belgium Germany other countries and Jews originally from Poland. Therefore explore double quantity medicaments destined Roumania. Bulgaria asks medicaments tools clothing food. Roumanian Government granted entrance visas Passman Trobe but necessary obtain visas from inter-Allied Commission."

Very truly yours,

Florence Hodal
Assistant Executive Director

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

REH
REHutchison: 3/8/45

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM
DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

Case Ref 22
March 6

JB-744

1945 MAR 7 AM 11 28

PLAIN

DC/L
LIAISON

Lisbon

Dated March 6, 1945

Rec'd 10:11 p.m.

Secretary of State
Washington

CONTROL COPY

503, Sixth

WRB 352, JDC 195. FOR LEAVITT FROM HAROLD TROBE.

Filerman cabled Roumanian Government granted licence importation medicines worth \$60,000 from United States. Delivered authorization to ANPOLAD. Hungary urgently demands medicaments same value for exantematic typhus also insulin sulfanimides neosalvarsan disenfectants. Probably more than 100,000 Jews will return to Hungary and northern Transylvania from Poland and Germany also 10,000 Jews deported from France Belgium Germany other countries and Jews originally from Poland. Therefore implore double quantity medicaments destined Roumania. Bulgaria asks medicaments tools clothing food. Roumanian Government granted entrance visas Passman Trobe but necessary obtain visas from inter-Allied Commission.

GROCKER

DU

00082

2 War Def Bd
(O'Dwyer) *

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Consulate General, Jerusalem
DATED: February 14, 1945
NUMBER: 35
X

CONTROL COPY

FROM WAR RUMORS BOARD.

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

We completing arrangements cooperation UNRRA shipment end February Rumania and Bulgaria medicaments costing 260,000 to help combat epidemic nonsectarian basis areas predominantly Jewish. As experiment we included one thousand ampules penicillin which requires continuous refrigeration. Please investigate possibilities arranging air transport from Alexandria for penicillin and advise.

GREW
(Acting)

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

000000

CABLE TO AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL, JERUSALEM, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

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

QUOTE WE COMPLETING ARRANGEMENTS COOPERATION UNRRA SHIPMENT
END FEBRUARY ROMANIA AND BULGARIA MEDICAMENTS COSTING \$60,000
TO HELP COMBAT EPIDEMIC NONSECTARIAN BASIS AREAS PREDOMINANTLY
JEWISH. AS EXPERIMENT WE INCLUDING ONE THOUSAND AMPULES PENICILIN
WHICH REQUIRES CONTINUOUS REFRIGERATION. PLEASE INVESTIGATE
POSSIBILITIES ARRANGING AIR TRANSPORT FROM ALEXANDRIA FOR PENICILIN
AND ADVISE. UNQUOTE

2:30 p.m.
February 9, 1945

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

*Copy sent
IPC 2/12/45
RS.*

RDrury 2/8/45

The Following Pages Are the Best Available

1083

Bulgaria (1)

2 War Ref Act
(Reble)

Control
File

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
FROM: American Representative, Bucharest
DATE: February 9, 1945
NUMBER: 61

CONTROL COPY

In order to combat typhus epidemics in Rumania and Bulgaria, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee has purchased sixty thousand dollars worth of medical supplies in the United States. Expectations are that a portion of these supplies will be shipped in the very near future. Of the total amount, three-quarters has been allotted to Rumania and Bulgaria will receive the balance. Consignees will be Maurice Marcus, Sofia, and William Ilkman, Bucharest. These supplies will be available for use without regard to religion or race. The foregoing message was retransmitted to Sofia as No. 30.

GREEN
(acting)

TRP:LEN:KG

DC/L:MS:LN
2/11-45

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

Proposed Consignees need supplies

083

Bulgaria (1)

2 War Ref Bd
(Pehli)

ORIGINAL FILE OF BUREAU OF STATE

TO: Secretary of State, Washington

FROM: American Consul, Jerusalem

DATE: February 10, 1945

REF: 32
X

CONTROL COPY

From War Refugee Board.

Please deliver following message to Judith Hagnes from
H. L. Levitt of American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

Sonnenstein requests you cable him immediately
route and destination each transport in order assure
quick delivery. Advise whether you planning additional
shipments to him from Tcheran and contents. We purchasing
through UNRRA facilities sixty thousand dollars medical
supplies for Rumania Bulgaria which presently can be
shipped only via Alexandria. Willing you list supplies.
Regarding your purchases from Middle East Supply Center
UNRRA advises us they cannot guarantee replacement either
for medical supplies or cotton yarns. Our fifty thousand
dollar appropriation for medical supplies originally
intended for Poland and not for Rumania and Bulgaria but
realize needs these countries far greater than we can meet.
Stockholm able ship medical supplies Poland quickly via
Leningrad and we authorizing purchases twenty-five thousand
dollars. We have not yet received clearance for Passman

visit

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

0 1 3

- 2 -

visit Rumania. If Passman prepared station Fishzohn permanently Bucharest we can reopen matter with Allied Control Commission on this basis. Please advise. Suggest Passman apply for Bulgarian visa and advise us result.

GR...
(Acting)

10 11 3

CABLE TO AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL, JERUSALEM, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

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

QUOTE SOMMERSTEIN REQUESTS YOU CABLE HIM IMMEDIATELY ROUTE AND
DESTINATION EACH TRANSPORT IN ORDER ASSURE QUICK DELIVERY. ADVISE
WHETHER YOU PLANNING ADDITIONAL SHIPMENTS TO HIM FROM TEHERAN AND
CONTENTS. WE PURCHASING THROUGH UNRRA FACILITIES SIXTY THOUSAND
DOLLARS MEDICAL SUPPLIES FOR RUMANIA BULGARIA WHICH PRESENTLY CAN
BE SHIPPED ONLY VIA ALEXANDRIA. MAILING YOU LIST SUPPLIES.
REGARDING YOUR PURCHASES FROM MIDDLE EAST SUPPLY CENTER UNRRA
ADVISES US THEY CANNOT GUARANTEE REPLACEMENT EITHER FOR MEDICAL
SUPPLIES OR COTTON YARNS. OUR FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLAR APPROPRIATION
FOR MEDICAL SUPPLIES ORIGINALLY INTENDED FOR POLAND AND NOT FOR
RUMANIA AND BULGARIA BUT REALIZE NEEDS THESE COUNTRIES FAR
GREATER THAN WE CAN MEET. STOCKHOLM ABLE SHIP MEDICAL SUPPLIES
POLAND QUICKLY VIA LENINGRAD AND WE AUTHORIZING PURCHASES TWENTY-
FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS. WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED CLEARANCE FOR
PASSMAN VISIT RUMANIA. IF PASSMAN PREPARED STATION FISHZOHN
PERMANENTLY BUCHAREST WE CAN REOPEN MATTER WITH ALLIED CONTROL COM-
MISSION ON THIS BASIS PLEASE ADVISE. SUGGEST PASSMAN APPLY FOR
BULGARIAN VISA AND ADVISE US RESULT. UNQUOTE

4:00 p.m.
February 7, 1945

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

cmr
JAC
2/8/45
RD
RDury 2/7/45

RD

1083

Friday, August 2
~~1. Charles Rosen~~ 12

Amsterdam

Sommers then requests you cable him immediately,
route and destination each transport in order
assure quick delivery. stop advise whether you
having additional shipments, ^{to him from Teheran} and contents. stop
We purchasing through Unra facilities sixty
thousand dollars medical supplies for Rumania
Bulgaria which presently can be shipped only via

100833

mailing you list supplies stop
Alexandria stop ^{Resolving} ~~now~~ ^{of} classes from
Middle East Supply Club. Unwin advises as they
cannot guarantee replacement ~~of~~ either for
medical supplies or cotton gowns stop Our ^{original}
\$5,000 appropriation for medical supplies ^{intended}
for Poland and not for Rumania and Bulgaria
but relieve needs ~~for~~ these countries for greater
than we can meet stop Stockholm able ship
medical supplies Poland quickly via Leningrad
and we authorizing ^{purchases} twenty five thousand dollars
stop We have not yet received clearance for Passman

00830

... that Romania stop if Passman proposed status
Fishy: her. formerly Bucarest, we can refer
matter with allied Control Commission on this
basis please advise stop suggest Passman
apply for Bulgarian visa and advise us
result

Learie J DC

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

RA
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. ()

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

1945 JAN 27 AM 10 35

COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS
(LIAISON)

max [unclear]
[unclear]

AMEMBASSY

LISBON
150 X

CONTROL COPY

The cable below is WEB 131.

Please deliver paraphrase of the following message to
Robert Pilpel, 242 Rua Aurea, Lisbon, from M. A. Leavitt,
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

QUOTE Magnes requested UNRRA make available medical
supplies combat epidemics Roumania Bulgaria. UNRRA not
position presently operate those countries but ready procure
supplies for our account value \$60,000. Cable us names
consignees Roumania Bulgaria. Assume you will give instruc-
tions that supplies should be used on nonsectarian basis in
areas of Jewish concentration. UNQUOTE

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

GREW
(Acting)
(CIC)

RB:MMV:KG
1/23/48

WE

SE

SWF

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

10083

CABLE TO AMERICAN LEGATION, LISBON, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Please deliver the following message to Robert Pilpel, 242 Rua Aures,
Lisbon, from M. A. Leavitt, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

QUOTE MAGNES REQUESTED UNRRA MAKE AVAILABLE MEDICAL SUPPLIES
COMBAT EPIDEMICS ROUMANIA BULGARIA STOP UNRRA NOT POSITION
PRESENTLY OPERATE THOSE C. UNTRIES BUT READY PROCURE SUPPLIES
FOR OUR ACCOUNT VALUE \$60,000 STOP CABLE US NAMES CONSIGNEES
ROUMANIA BULGARIA STOP ASSUME YOU WILL GIVE INSTRUCTIONS
THAT SUPPLIES SHOULD BE USED ON NONDISCRIMINATORY BASIS IN AREAS
OF JEWISH CONCENTRATION UNQUOTE

THIS IS WRB LISBON CABLE NO. 131.

10:30 a.m.
January 19, 1945

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Ackermann, Akzin, Cohn, Drury, DuBois;
Gaston, Hodel, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Files

*Copy sent
JDC 1/20/45
RS*

DA -

Filed 1/18/45

7 0 0 8 3

JAN 4 1945

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

With further reference to my letter of December 11, 1944,
I am enclosing a list of basic medicines which are required for
the Jewish people in Bulgaria. This list was received by Jewish
Agency representatives in Istanbul from the Jewish Agency in
Bulgaria, and was forwarded to us by our representative in Turkey.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

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

Enclosure.

RBHutchison:inp 1/4/45

221

000840

Istanbul, 4.12.1944

Liste de médicaments
etc. pour la Bulgarie

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

7 0 0 8 4 1

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| 25) Ephedrine Acetonine | - 5.000 ampoules |
| 26) " " | - 20.000 tablettes |
| 27) Glycericum | - 500 kgs. |
| 28) Hexamethylentetramine | - 50 " |
| 29) Insuline ampoules | - 100 " |
| 30) Iodum purum | - 500 " |
| 31) Lobelinum Hydrochloricum | - 5.000 ampoules |
| 32) Morphinus preparata | 0 5 kgs. |
| 33) Neosalvarsan preparata | -200.000 ampoules |
| 34) Olium Jecoris Alfeli (?) | - 10.000 kgs. |
| 35) Olium Ricini | - 2.000 " |
| 36) Phenacetine | - 200 kgs. |
| 37) Plasmochine | - 20.000 ampoules |
| 38) " | -300.000 tablettes |
| 39) Santonine | - 30 kgs. |
| 40) Sulfanamide Sulfapyridine preparata | - 20.000 ampoules |
| 41) " " " | -800.000 tablettes |
| 42) Torpinum Hydratum | - 100 kgs. |
| 43) Ipeka Guanba Radici Compulvi | - 200 " |
| 44) Vasalinum | - 1.000 kgs. |
| 45) Osena Vaccina | - 1.000 flacons |
| 46) Esos Sfinica preparata (?) | - 10.000 ampoules |
| 47) " " " | -300.000 tablettes |
| 48) Hydrodenium Hydrochrodiatrum Novansis ? | - 1.000 kgs. |
| 49) Otalgan Carbon Glycerine (?) | - 3.000 flacons |
| 50) Leucoplaste | - 5.000 rouleaux |
| 51) Anticlorestine (?) | - 1.000 flacons |

000842

24) ...
25) ...
26) ...
27) ...
28) ...
29) ...
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31) ...
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49) ...
50) ...
51) ...
52) ...

75

-5-

52) Vasa Hydroscopica (?)

- 5.000 kgs.

S.E. et C.

-
- 1) Toutes especes de materiel de pansement
 - 2) Seringues injection avec aiguilles
 - 3) 20.000 paires chaussures enfants jusqu'a 17 ans
 - 4) 40.000 pieces de savon

0 0 0 8 4 3

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The War Refugee Board Representative in Ankara, Turkey, has submitted the following information with respect to Bulgaria.

Reports recently received at Istanbul from Bulgaria indicate that medicines of all kinds are urgently needed for Bulgarian Jews. It is reported that the high incidence of malaria among men released from labor battalions and an isolated outbreak of typhus and diphtheria which has occurred in one group of Jewish people might have grave results due to the overcrowded and unsanitary conditions under which the Jews are now living. While medicaments generally are unobtainable in Bulgaria, it has been indicated that the lack of medicines is particularly acute insofar as the Jews are concerned because of the oppressive circumstances under which they have lived during the past four years. The need for winter clothing is great but medicines must be had without delay. Local organizations in Bulgaria are said to be preparing lists of the basic medicines which are required and a copy of the lists will be forwarded by the War Refugee Board Representative as soon as they are received by him.

Very truly yours,

(signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

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

FH:hd 12/11/44

000844

C
O
P
Y

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
To: American Consul, Jerusalem
DATED: December 30, 1944
NUMBER: 220
A

From: War Refugee Board.

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

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

STETTINIUS

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972

*Central copy in
Rumania*

700843

DEC 11 1944

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The War Refugee Board Representative in Ankara, Turkey, has submitted the following information with respect to Bulgaria.

Reports recently received at Istanbul from Bulgaria indicate that medicines of all kinds are urgently needed for Bulgarian Jews. It is reported that the high incidence of malaria among men released from labor battalions and an isolated outbreak of typhus and diphtheria which has occurred in one group of Jewish people might have grave results due to the overcrowded and unsanitary conditions under which the Jews are now living. While medicaments generally are unobtainable in Bulgaria, it has been indicated that the lack of medicines is particularly acute insofar as the Jews are concerned because of the oppressive circumstances under which they have lived during the past four years. The need for winter clothing is great but medicines must be had without delay. Local organizations in Bulgaria are said to be preparing lists of the basic medicines which are required and a copy of the lists will be forwarded by the War Refugee Board Representative as soon as they are received by him.

Very truly yours,

(Signed)

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

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

Call # - 202 - from Ankara Dec 7 '44
FH:hd 12/11/44

000846

letter to heart.

000847

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

RECEIVED IN 4 42

ALH-234

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

Ankara

Dated December 7, 1944

Rec'd 8:30 p.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

2322, December 7, 5 p.m.

FROM KATZKI TO PEHLE, WRB

Ankara's 201

Reports received in Istanbul from Bulgaria state
that medicaments of all kinds are urgently needed
for the Bulgarian Jewish people. We are advised
that the high incidence of malaria among the men who
have been released from labor battalions and in iso-
lated outbreak of typhus and diphtheria which already
has occurred in one group of Jewish people might have
grave results due to the over-crowded and unsanitary
conditions under which the Jews now must live. Al-
though medicaments universally are unattainable in
Bulgaria we are informed that the lack is particularly
acute for the Jews because of the oppressive circum-
stances under which they lived during the past four
years and

CONTROL COPY

-2- #2322, DECEMBER 7, 5 p.m. from Ankara

years and their condition today. The need for winter clothing is great but we are (*) that medicines must be had without delay.

You may wish to discuss this matter with interested agencies. Local organizations in Bulgaria according to our information are preparing lists of the basic medicines which are required and we shall send you a copy thereof when received.

STEINHARDT

(*) Apparent omission

NPL

000849

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

*I was Rep 131
Pelle*

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATE: November 1, 1944
NUMBER: 3737
X

CONTROL COPY

For McClelland, from War Refugee Board.

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

QUOTE Magnes reports Joseph Levi Times correspondent in-
forms him over 40,000 Bulgarian Jews possess no means literally
naked no shelter and require urgently clothing bed covers
mattresses. This information contrary to report from Filpel
that Bulgarian Jews do not require aid. Can you look into
situation again and bring such help as possible. UNQUOTE
This is WRB Bern cable No. 248.

X

STETTINIUS
ACTING

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

1 0 0 8 5 0

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON, BERN, FOR MC CLELLANE, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Please deliver the following message to Saly Mayer from W. A. Leavitt
of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

SECRET MAGNET REPORTS JOSEPH LEVI TIMES CORRESPONDENT INFORMS
HIM OVER 40,000 BULGARIAN JEWS POSSIBLY NO YEARS LITERALLY NAKED
NO SHELTER AND REQUIRE URGENTLY CLOTHING BED COVERS MATTRESSES.
THIS INFORMATION CONTRARY TO REPORT FROM PILPEL THAT BULGARIAN
JEWS DO NOT REQUIRE AID. CAN YOU LOOK INTO SITUATION AGAIN AND
BRING SUCH HELP AS POSSIBLE. UNQUOTE

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 248.

*Copy sent JDC
10/30/44
RJ*

4:00 p.m.
October 28, 1944

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

DM

RDrury 10/27/44

000851

October 2, 1944

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Mr. Passman was received through the American Consul in Istanbul under date of September 28, 1944:

"To Saly Mayer, Switzerland, JDC cabled: 'Your inquiry regarding reliable person in Sofia was relayed by New York. The following persons I am informed are the principal reliable members of the Israelite community in Sofia. Dr. Kalmi, Dr. Liggi, Colonel Tagger; Zachariah Alkalai, President Enai Brith, and Rabbi Dr. Hananel, both in Sofia, have also been recommended.'"

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

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

RDrury 10/2/44

7 0 0 8 5 2

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

FBM-598
This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Government
Agency. (~~RESTRICTED~~)

Istanbul

Dated September 28, 1944

Rec'd 10:35 a.m., 29th.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

X
667, September 28, 3 p.m.

FOR ROSES LEAVITT JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE
FROM PASMAN.

JDC cabled Saly Mayer Switzerland: "New York
relayed your inquiry about reliable person in Sofia.
Am informed that the following are principal and
reliable members of community Israelite Sofia.
Colonel Tagger, Dr. Kalmi, Dr. Liggi. Also Grand
Rabbi Dr. Hananel and Zachariah Alkalai President
Bnei Brith both in Sofia have been recommended".

BERRY

RB

CONTROL COPY

Message
sent 10/2/44
RB

000853

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

GEK-51

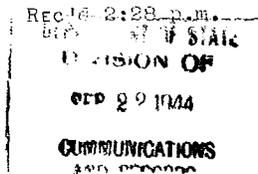
PLAIN

Moscow via Army

Dated September 21, 1944

Secretary of State,
Washington.

x
3611, Twentyfirst.



Press for September 20 published Sofia despatch reporting establishment of Provisional Committee to help persons suffering from effects of policies pursued by Fascist Bulgarian Government. Committee has issued appeal asking for medical and other help for thousands of persons just released from prisons and concentration camps.

HARRIMAN

JMB

CONTROL COPY

100854

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

GEM-812
Distribution of
true reading only by
special arrangement.
(W)

Ankara

Dated September 19, 1944

Rec'd 6:58 p.m., 20th.

Secretary of State,

CONTROL COPY

Washington.

1773, September 19, 7 p.m.

FROM HIRSCHMANN TO WRB

Ankara's No. 158.

Reference to Department's 800, September 16.

Embassy's 1594, August 30 referred to verified reports regarding the impoverished condition now existing among the principal portion of the Jewish population in Bulgaria and the imperative need for ~~aid~~ to reach it without delay. Passman representative in Istanbul of the Joint Distribution Committee is prepared to explore the means to supply such and provided he is authorized to survey the situation in Bulgaria to determine the specific needs. It is for the above reason that permission was requested of the Board and State Department for Passman to enter Bulgaria and also Rumania.

STEINHARDT

WMB
NPL

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

For security reasons the
text of this message must
be read in its entirety.

000853

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

CORRECTION

9 43

September 27, 1944

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

In telegram from Ankara numbered 1773, dated
September 19, 7 p.m., line 8 delete "BID" insert
"aid" so as to read "imperative need for aid to
reach it et cetera"

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

MEV

Correction from the Embassy

CONTROL COPY

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

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

000850

*2 read by Ed
Pehle*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Consul, Istanbul
DATED: September 16, 1944
NUMBER: 379

CONTROL COPY



Please deliver the following message to Resnik from
H. A. Leavitt, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:
NOTE: Saly Payer asks that you furnish him with name
reliable person Sofia. Please cable him information direct
with copy to us. UNQUOTE

:UUL

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

10857

328

RECEIVED: 328
SEPTEMBER 14, 1944
AMERICAN CONSUL, ISTANBUL
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ORIGINAL FILE

CABLE TO AMERICAN CONSUL, ISTANBUL, TURKEY, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Please deliver the following message to Resnik from M. A. Leavitt.

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

QUOTE SALLY MAYER ASKS THAT YOU FURNISH HIM WITH NAME RELIABLE PERSON SOFIA STOP PLEASE CABLE HIM INFORMATION DIRECT WITH COPY TO US UNQUOTE

6:00 p.m.
September 14, 1944

Copy to
6 JDC
RD
Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hadel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mannon, McCormack, Cable Control Files

JA -

RD
9/14/44

100850

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

September 14, 1944
3 p.m.

Distribution of true
reading only by special
[redacted]

J. W. ...
(M ...)

EMBASSY

ANKARA

300

The following for Steinhardt and Hirschmann is

NRB 110.

Please refer to your 1894 of August 30, requesting
the approval of the Board and the State Department of
measures for the emergency relief of Jews in Bulgaria.

It is not clear to the Board as to what is meant
or contemplated by your reference to emergency relief
and the Board would appreciate further details as to
the measures which you believe necessary for the
emergency relief of Jews in Bulgaria.

[redacted]
For security reasons the
text of this message must
be classified as secret.

HULL
(-LAW)

CONTROL COPY

NRB:MMV:KG
9/14/44

NE

SE

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

000850

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

Please refer to your 1594 of August 30, requesting the approval
of the Board and the State Department of measures for the emergency
relief of Jews in Bulgaria.

It is not clear to the Board as to what is meant or contem-
plated by your reference to emergency relief and the Board would
appreciate further details as to the measures which you believe
necessary for the emergency relief of Jews in Bulgaria.

This is WRB Cable to Ankara No. 110.

2:20 p.m.
September 13, 1944

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

m.s.
MSargoy/ah 9/12/44 *aa* *Hodel*
25

100860

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

MS-706

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

Ankara

Dated September 6, 1944

Rec'd 9:50 a.m., 7th

Secretary of State,

Washington.

1662, September 6, 1 p.m.

FROM AMBASSADOR STEINHLARDT AND HIRSCHMANN TO WRB.

Ankara's No. 150.

We are reliably informed that the new Bulgarian
Government headed by Muraviev is by background sym-
pathetic to the problems of its minorities and its
Jewish citizens and that there is reason to expect
this government to carry out the policies initiated
by the former Bulgarian Government with relation to
the revocation of the anti-Jewish laws and the restor-
ation of Jewish rights in Bulgaria.

STEINHLARDT

BB

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS
CONTROL COPY

Handwritten: Ankara, Rec'd (Mr. Pehle)

00086

Spoke to F.H. on 9/1/44 re this
cable. She has spoken to
Seavitt about it + he believes
food is plentiful in
Belgium and Hirschmann
+ Passman may want
money. Seavitt wants
to speak to Jos. Schwartz
first + then ~~she~~ he will
speak to F.H. who will
let me know what
is what. In the meantime
she suggested I hold onto
this cable until next
week.

000862

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

BJR - 323

Ankara

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

Dated August 30, 1944

Rec'd 6:40 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

1594, August 30, 2 p.m.

FOR PEHLE WRB FROM THE AMBASSADOR AND HIRSCHMANN
ANKARA's 143.

In connection with the rapid developments in the
situation relating to the Jews in Bulgaria in our opinion
measures for their emergency relief should be made
available as soon as possible particularly as such
assistance will obviate the necessity for removing many
of these individuals from the Balkans. We have discussed
this possibility with Charles Passman who is now repre-
senting the JDC in Istanbul succeeding Resnik. Passman
is in agreement that emergency relief should be extended
to those Jews in Bulgaria requiring the same provided
the Board and the State Department approve.

STEINHARDT

JMS:WFS

CONTROL COPY

7-War reb
Bd
1 Mr. Pehle

700863

TO: *Mr. Marks*

Secretary Morgenthau

<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Gaston	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Lesser
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Paul	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Luxford
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. White	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Stewart
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. E.M. Bernstein	<input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. Taylor
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. DuBois	<input type="checkbox"/> Files
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Friedman	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Miss Hodel	_____

Let's sit tight for awhile.

J. W. Pehle
 OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
 WAR REFUGEE BOARD

000864

Mr. Pshke

- ① Who is Seckel?
- ② In any event I think that Bulgaria will be out of the war in about 2 days.

JB7

000865

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

LL-261

Distribution of
true reading only by
special arrangement.

1944 AUG 21

Ankara

Dated August 18, 1944

Rec'd 5:52 p.m., 19th.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

x
1515, August 18, 4 p.m.

FOR PEHLE WRB FROM HIRSCHMANN.

y
Ankara's 134

In view of the opportunities that appear to be developing to rescue and ameliorate the condition of the Jewish population in Bulgaria we are of the opinion that every available resource should be utilized to achieve that end. In view of the above, it would be helpful in my opinion if Mr. Seckel who has had wide experience in Bulgarian matters and has wide acquaintance with Bulgarian personalities whose aid would be helpful could proceed to Istanbul to assist us in these efforts. If you agree I should appreciate your making the necessary arrangements for Seckel to proceed to Turkey, provided that he can travel as an American citizen and that he can arrive here without delay.

A very recent arrival from the States who knows Seckel confirms this view.

WFS
WMB

KELLEY

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

CONTROL COPY
For security r
L. X. of this
p. 134

000860

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

*2- War Ref Bd (Mr
Pohle)*

DSH-837

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

Ankara

Dated September 23, 1944

Rec'd 5:52 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

^X
1799, September 23, noon.

FROM AMB. SS. DOR STEINER, RDT AND HIRSCHMANN FOR
PEHLE, WRE, AMB. R. M. S. 160.

Reliable reports from Sofia indicate that many Bulgarian Jews are returning to Sofia from outlying districts in order to take repossession of their homes. Part of blocked Jewish bank accounts are being released but difficulties still exist where real estate is concerned. A special Bulgarian Government committee is dealing with this phase of repossession. The Government declared recently that Jewish citizens are entitled to request the return of their homes without special authorization in so far as it is possible for them to establish their original ownership. As almost all of the Jewish apartments were taken over by Bulgarians it is proving difficult however to persuade them to leave these apartments: immediate prospects

CONTROL COPY

SEP 25 1944

COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

RECEIVED
SEP 26 1944

0086

-2-, #1799, September 23, noon, from Ankara.

The prospects for the restoration of Bulgarian Jews to their normal economic life are not encouraging at the moment as they are without resources and are faced with the competition of non-Jewish Bulgarians who are also endeavoring to reestablish their normal economic life and have the means therefor.

STEINHLARDT

JMS

NPL

10086

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

KEM-161
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. (b)(7)

Stockholm
Dated August 2, 1944
Rec'd 9:30 a.m., 3 p.m.

J. B. Johnson
War Ref Bd
(Mr. Jelle)

Secretary of State,
Washington.

CONTROL COPY
This information is strictly confidential and the
content of this message must
be kept confidential.

2914, August 2, Midnight.

This is our No. 61 for War Refugee Board.

High officials of the Bulgarian Government have
forwarded written assurances to Chief Rabbi Ehrenpreis
that everything is being done and will continue to
be done to ease the position of Bulgarian Jews. It
will be recalled that Ehrenpreis for many years was
Chief Rabbi of Bulgaria and has important connections.
This information must be kept strictly confidential.

JOHNSON

RR WSB

1944 AUG 4 AM 10 15
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS
(LIAISON)

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

7 0 8 7 0

JUL 27 1944

Dear Dr. Kubowitzki:

* The following message for you from Barlas has been received through the American Embassy, Ankara, under date of July 24, 1944:

"In reply to your telegram received July 11. The number of Jews departed from Bulgaria was 14,000. Deportation took place a year ago. The number of Jews remained is 15,000 families i.e. 45,000 persons who are dispersed in various towns and villages, the greatest centers being Plovdiv 8,000 persons, Rousse 5,000, Shoumen 3,500, Plevan 4,000, Dnestrid, Dupnitsa, Pazardjik Vidin 3,000 each. The number of Jews who immigrated to Palestine during January, June 1944 was: January 32, February 55, March 131, April 17, May 46, June 127, total 408. All received transit visas on basis Jewish Agency certificates. Crossing of land border without visas practically impossible. Albert Romano left 3 months ago for Palestine."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

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

FHodel:ms 7/26/44 JCD

11087

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

MAE-272

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

Ankara

Dated July 24, 1944

Rec'd 8:59 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

X
1352, July 24, 2 p.m.

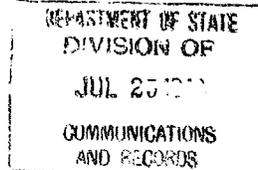
FOR WRS FROM BARLAS FOR LEON KUBOWITZKI WORLD
JEWISH CONGRESS NEW YORK:

In reply to your telegram received July 11. The number of Jews deported from Bulgaria was 14,000. Deportation took place a year ago. The number of Jews remained is 15,000 families i.e. 45,000 persons who are dispersed in various towns and villages, the greatest centers being Plovdiv 8,000 persons, Rousse 5,000, Shoumen 3,500, Pleven 4,000, Dustendil, Dupnitza, Pazardjik Vidin 3,000 each. The number of Jews who immigrated to Palestine during January, June 1944 was: January 32, February 55, March 131, April 17, May 46, June 127, total 408. All received transit visas on basis Jewish Agency certificates. ~~The~~ Crossing of ~~the~~ land border without visas ~~is~~ practically impossible. Albert Romano left for Palestine 3 months ago.

KELLEY

DU

MRM



100872

*War Refugee Bd
M. Rikli*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington

TO: AMERICAN CONSUL, ISTANBUL

DATED: July 11, 1944

NUMBER: 321

CONTROL COPY

The War Refugee Board requests that you deliver the following message to Mr. Alberto Romano, Pera Palace, Beyoglu, Turkey from Dr. Kubowitzki, World Jewish Congress, New York:

QUOTE Please wire through American Consulate General and War Refugee Board latest information on Jewish situation in Bulgaria: How many deported in recent months, how many escaped, now many left. Inform also concerning possibilities of crossing Bulgarian-Turkish land border.

LEON KUBOWITZKI

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS UNQUOTE

HULL

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

000873

CABLE TO AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL, ISTANBUL, TURKEY

The War Refugee Board requests that you deliver the following message to Mr. Alberto Romano, Pera Palace, Beyoglu, Turkey from Dr. Kubowitzki, World Jewish Congress, New York:

QUOTE Please wire through American Consulate General and War Refugee Board latest information on Jewish situation in Bulgaria: How many deported in recent months, how many escaped, how many left. Inform also concerning possibilities of crossing Bulgarian-Turkish land border.

LEON KUBOWITZKI
WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS. UNQUOTE

July 7, 1944
10:30 a.m.

Reh. L.S.L.

SECRET

*copy sent to
WJC 7/8/44
FH/dh*

000874

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL • CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

1834 BROADWAY

NEW YORK, 23, N. Y.

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

LONDON
55 New Cavendish St, W 1

GENEVA
37 Quai Wilson

BUENOS AIRES
Corrientes 1979

JERUSALEM
Vaad Leumi P. O. B. 471

MONTREAL
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY
Sonora 1744

July 5, 1944

In reply refer
to: No. 129

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I would be extremely obliged to you for forwarding through the facilities of the State Department the following cable to Mr. Alberto Romano, President of the Bulgarian Jews in Istanbul.

"To: Mr. Alberto Romano, Pera Palas, Beyogly, Turkey. From: Dr. Kubowitzki, World Jewish Congress, New York.

Please wire through American Consulate General and War Refugee Board latest information on Jewish situation in Bulgaria: how many deported in recent months, ~~outside of Bulgaria~~, how many escaped, how many left. Inform also concerning possibilities to cross Bulgarian-Turkish land border."

Thanking you in advance, I remain

Sincerely yours

A. Leon Kubowitzki
A. Leon Kubowitzki, Head
Rescue Department

ALK:ef

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WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS *Files*
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July 5, 1944

In reply refer
to No. 131

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I thought you might be interested in the
attached information on the members of the present
Bulgarian Government which was given to us by
Mr. Jacques H. Asseoff, who is connected with our
Bulgarian Committee.

Sincerely yours,

Leon Kupowitzki
A. Leon Kupowitzki
Head, Rescue Department

ALK:bg
enclosure

000878

Minister of Agriculture: Mr. Kostov

about 45 years old. Was for many years in Russia and studied Agronomy. Was working for many years in the Department of Agriculture, when Bagrianov was Minister. Known as pro-Russian and it is rumored that the Germans asked for his resignation because they do not trust him, and that he has already resigned.

Minister of Foreign Affairs: Mr. Draganov

about 54 years old. Finished Military School and Academy. Very close friend of the late King Boris and for many years his Adjutant. For many years military Attache in Berlin, Paris and London. Before the invasion of Austria, Bulgarian Minister in Vienna; afterwards Minister in Berlin, and during the last two years, Minister in Madrid. Known as a very moderate and honest person, not 100% pro-German, never showed signs of anti-Semitism, and helped many Jews when the Germans came to Vienna.

Minister of Highways & Communication: Slaveko Vassiliev

Colonel of the Reserve. Ex-President of Parliament and member of the Zankov Party. President of the Reserve Officers. Very reactionary, pro-German, but not anti-Semitic.

June 29, 1944

MEMBERS OF THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT

Minister President: Mr. Bagrianov
about 52 years old, born in Lavech, finished military school in Sofia. Very close friend of the late King Boris. In 1935 he became Minister of Agriculture in the Cabinet of Kiosseivanov. Before that he was known as a friend of the Agrar movement of the country. He had pro-democratic feelings. As Minister he worked with the Germans and made many friends in Germany. He is not considered 100% Nazi and never showed signs of anti-Semitism.

Minister of the Interior: Professor Stanishev
born in Macedonia and about 55 years old. Never mixed in Politics. Finished University of Medicine in Munich, Germany. He never hid his ideas about incorporating Macedonia with the Bulgarian Kingdom. Very pro-Nazi but not anti-Semitic, as far as known.

Minister of Finance: Dimitr Savov
Ex-President of the Chamber of Commerce of Sofia. About 52 years old and born in Vratza. Member of the Zankov nationalistic movement. Pro-German but not anti-Semitic. Even in a book, edited to fight anti-Semitism, he wrote an article in favor of the Jews. Very dependent on the Germans, because he has many German representations like TOBIS, CONTINENTAL TIRES, etc. Before the war he was associated with Jews and he has many Jewish friends. Very shrewd, flexible and greedy.

Minister of Justice: Dr. Stalisky
about 50 years old, lawyer, finished University in Berlin, Germany. After the Revolt in 1923 he was deputy as a member of the Zankov party. After he left this party he entered in the fascist government of Rodna Zastita, a very chauvinistic and ultra anti-Semitic organization. He is a very cultured and very dangerous person.

Minister of the Rail-Roads: Mr. Koltshv
about 52 years old. Finished Military School in Sofia. In the Revolt in 1934 he was a Colonel and was appointed Chief of the Railroads in the Department of Commerce. Pro-German. Very dangerous, shrewd, and treacherous.

Minister of War: General Russev
Born in Gabrovo, and for many years the chief of the Artillery in the War Department. Later chief of the biggest arsenal in the country in Kazanlik. Very close friend of the Regent General Mihov. Absolutely pro-German.

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Ankara
May 8 1944
No. 1038

Secretary of State
Washington

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FOR USE FROM THE AMEMBASSY
Ankara No. 72

For the information of the board. In discussing today with Barlas of the Jewish Agency the reasons for the decreasing number of Jew refugees arriving in Istanbul by rail from Bulgaria he informed us that the President of the Jewish community in Istanbul had recently called on the chief of police of Sofia to inquire why exit visas for Jew refugees were being withheld. The Chief of police replied that he had directed the discontinuance of the issuance of exit visas to Jew refugees after receiving a report to the effect that every Jew refugee arriving in Istanbul was being closely questioned by representatives of the British and American Intelligence Services concerning military and other conditions in Bulgaria.

BERNHARDT

BB RM
Bernhardt

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

cc: Sec y, Abrahamson, Akzin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hods, Laughlin, Lesser, Lufford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Sargoy, Smith, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H. B. White, Fehle, Files.

X File / Sweden
Bulgaria 3. War Refugee Bd
(Harris)

No. 3473

Stockholm, June 5, 1944.

Subject: Transmitting Copies of Bulgarian Reports.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

CONTROL COPY

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit, as of possible interest to the Department, copies of two documents concerning Bulgaria. The first is an informational report (Enclosure No. 1, "Report from Bulgarian Legation") and was received from the Legation's regular Bulgarian informant. The second, relating to the refugee problem (Enclosure No. 2, "Bulgaria") was prepared by Mr. Iver C. Olsen, Financial Attache to this Legation, in his capacity as Special Attache for the War Refugee Board, was handed indirectly to the Bulgarian Minister in Stockholm, and allegedly was forwarded by the Bulgarian Minister in Stockholm to the government in Sofia by courier on June 2, 1944.

Respectfully yours,

Herschel V. Johnson.

Enclosures:

- 1. Report from Bulgarian Legation.
- 2. Bulgaria - June 1, 1944.

CMR:FEN
File No. 711

Original to the Department.

974.00/841

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

Enclosure No. 1 to despatch No. 3473 of June 5, 1944
from the American Legation at Stockholm

Report from Bulgarian Legation

(Based primarily on conversations with commercial
councillor Seraphimov)

The Bulgarian Government is mobilizing 75% of its men who are liable for military service, on the assumption that thus they can gain control of public opinion and liquidate opponents to the present regime. In respect to conscription, no exception is made for diplomats. Secretaries at the Berlin Embassy K. Dobreff (formerly of the economic division of the foreign office in Sofia) and Kamen Gantscheff (former private secretary to Minister Filov) have been called up.

The Berlin diplomats don't dare take the risk of putting their private possessions or legation property in a secure place. They have evacuated only the barest living necessities. The Stockholm diplomat x requested from his colleague a few articles for completing the installation of the Stockholm legation, in order to save some of the most valuable pictures and pieces of furniture. His Berlin colleague answered: "If I were to do this, I might as well hand in my resignation now. I should by doing this make myself intolerable (unmöglich) to diplomats and to Germans!" The Slovakian Minister is said to have shipped legation property to Slovakia. Today he is a zero quantity in Berlin. His position is untenable. In the b (Bulgarian?) legation furniture and household utensils are standing out in the garden under sun and rain.

The former b (Bulgarian) minister to Stockholm, Dr. Alexander Nicolaeff, is to receive the post of political director in the foreign office in Sofia for the purpose of reinstating himself. No one can understand what the reason was for his sudden departure from Stockholm. This departure is designated as a "mystery". Until now, Minister Altanoff held the position of political director.

Ciryll Goranoff is regarded by the Bulgarian Legation as an Allied or Russian agent. He has on several occasions attempted to involve the Minister in conversations in which he hoped to get him to make anti-Russian pronouncements. Finally he tried the Minister's patience to the breaking point, and he was expelled from the Legation. Now Goranoff is circulating reports

Despatch No. 3473
June 5, 1944

- 2 -

in Stockholm that the Minister is the worst kind of Nazi. This stupid behaviour on the part of Goranoff is harmful to other connexions.

The Swedish Government is blocking 22 million Lew -- the equivalent of more than one million Swedish crowns -- from Bulgarian deliveries until the conflict with the Tandsticks A. B. is settled. At present, an agreement to the advantage of the Swedes is the most likely prospect.

The Bulgarian Legation has received no money consignments in the last three and one half months.

Ten days ago the Legation Secretary Ikonomoff was in Berlin as courier. He returned in an exalted mood with strengthened belief in Germany's ability to hold out. Postal communications with Bulgaria were out of the question during the entire month of April. Official and private mail from Bulgaria reached here only in the beginning of May.

The Bulgarian subject, Dr. Bistreff is permitted to remain in Stockholm only because his wife is engaged as governess for the children of the Minister. Bistreff had expected to be able to make business contacts in Stockholm, although as a doctor and wealthy proprietor of a sanatorium he ordinarily has nothing to do with business affairs. The Minister and all the Legation staff are fed up with him, and would like to get rid of him, as his conduct is vexatious. His visa is valid until August of this year, and the opinion of people in the Legation is that Shmedischeff will do nothing to have it extended for him or his wife. He is referred to as a "dark horse" (dunkle gestalt).

Enclosure No. 2 to despatch No. 3473 of June 5, 1944
from the American Legation at Stockholm.

June 1, 1944

BULGARIA

The Bulgarian Minister in Ankara, Mr. Balabanoff, had some discussions through intermediaries, with certain representatives of the American Embassy regarding the status of Jews in Bulgaria. The Bulgarian Minister was advised of the deep concern of the United States Government with regard to these Jews and that it intended to hold all persons and governments involved in the persecution of these minorities fully responsible and accountable. Mention was then made of certain reports concerning brutal treatment and persecution of Jews and other minorities in Bulgaria and Mr. Balabanoff was asked to communicate to the Bulgarian Government the intention of the United States Government to observe very closely any such developments and to take them fully into account in the final settlement. He was advised also to inform his Government that in its own interests the Bulgarian Government would do well to do everything possible to protect these minorities and to take all actions which would assist these refugees in escaping to safety.

Minister Balabanoff gave every assurance that it was not the policy of the Bulgarian Government to persecute and destroy minorities, and thereafter sent a cable to his Foreign Office strongly recommending that persecution of minorities be stopped and that all steps be taken to protect such groups. He advised representatives of the United States Embassy that he would obtain the necessary assurances from the Bulgarian Government and communicate them to the Americans.

These meetings took place early in April and no further word has been received. Failure to receive the promised assurances from the Bulgarian Government has made an unfavorable impression upon the United States Government and it would be greatly appreciated if steps would be renewed in bringing the matter to the attention of the Bulgarian Government and obtaining the assurances which were promised.



LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Cairo, May 26, 1944.

No. 1890

CONTROL COPY

Subject: Transmitting Letter from New Zionist Organization
regarding Relief of Jews in Bulgaria.

J. E. Jacobs
Charge d'Affaires ad interim
77

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

Referring to my despatch no. 1723 of April 4, 1944, transmitting a copy of a memorandum from Mr. Albert Staraselski, the local representative of the New Zionist Organization, regarding the proposed Joint Congressional Resolution on Palestine, I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy and translation of a communication regarding the relief of Jews in Bulgaria which was delivered to me today by Mr. Staraselski on behalf of the Egyptian branch of the New Zionist Organization. Mr. Staraselski observed that similar approaches were being made by him to the British and Soviet Governments through their diplomatic representatives here and he said he was also considering approaching the Turkish Government but had not yet decided whether to do so in advance of an indication of the attitudes of the American, British, and Soviet Governments.

Respectfully yours,

J. E. Jacobs
Charge d'Affaires ad interim

Enclosures: 2

- ✓ 1. Copy of Mr. Staraselski's letter of May 25, 1944 in the original French text.
- ✓ 2. Translation of Mr. Staraselski's letter of May 25, 1944.

Sent to the Department in Ozalid.
File no. 800.
RAH/ag

Copy to American Consulate General at Jerusalem.
Copy to AMREP, Algiers, for Murphy.

1088

AIR MAIL

Enclosure no. 1 to despatch 1890 of May 26, 1944.

From the American Legation, Cairo, Egypt.

THE NEW ZIONIST ORGANISATION
(Egypt Branch)
4, Midan Mustafa Kamel Pacha

Cairo, le 25 mai 1944

A Son Excellence
Monsieur le Ministre des Etats-Unis
d'Amérique,

Le Caire

Excellence,

Nous vous prions de vouloir bien transmettre à votre haut Gouvernement la requête ci-après:

Considérant qu'à la date du 12 mai 1944, les trois principales Grandes Puissances des Nations Unies, les Etats-Unis d'Amérique, le Royaume Uni de Grande Bretagne et l'Union des Républiques Socialistes Soviétiques, ont estimé nécessaire de donner conjointement aux Etats satellites de l'Axe, dont la Bulgarie, l'avertissement d'avoir à cesser le plus tôt possible toute collaboration avec l'Allemagne,

étant donné la crise qui vient d'éclater en Bulgarie, entraînant la démission du Ministère Eguilof, sous l'ampleur accrue des exigences allemandes et la constitution subséquente à Sofia d'un Cabinet plus docile encore aux demandes de Berlin,

étant donné la présence en Bulgarie de 50,000 Juifs autochtones et probablement de plusieurs milliers d'autres, réfugiés des pays voisins, qui sont voués à se voir appliquer avec une rigueur plus cruelle les clauses racistes, jusques et y compris la perspective de la déportation massive et de l'extermination générale,

étant donné la nécessité d'entreprendre immédiatement toutes les mesures qui peuvent aider cette Communauté de Bulgarie à trouver le salut et à se mettre hors d'atteinte de la Gestapo et de ses complices locaux,

L'Organisation Sioniste Nouvelle (bureau du Caire) a l'honneur de solliciter l'intervention urgente des trois principales Grandes Puissances des Nations Unies et de leur demander d'exercer la pression maximum sur la Bulgarie afin d'obtenir que Sofia autorise effectivement les Juifs et étrangers se trouvant sur son territoire à le quitter sans délai.

A cet effet, l'Organisation Sioniste Nouvelle se permet de proposer:

a) que les trois principales Grandes Puissances des

Nations

AIR MAIL

- 2 -

Nations Unies adressent, par radio et par tous autres moyens appropriés, au Conseil de la Régence et au Parlement de Bulgarie un appel d'avoir à faciliter l'exode des Juifs, en leur donnant l'assurance qu'un tel acte sera pris en considération à l'issue des hostilités, au moment du règlement des comptes;

b) qu'un appel similaire soit lancé simultanément au peuple de Bulgarie, lui demandant (au cas où ses dirigeants ne réagiraient pas positivement à cette requête) de prendre sur lui d'aider les Juifs se trouvant en Bulgarie à franchir ses frontières, - avec une mention spéciale destinée aux fonctionnaires, particulièrement à ceux de la police, promettant qu'il leur sera tenu compte de cette attitude humaine au jour où le tableau des responsabilités sera dressé;

c) qu'une démarche pressante soit faite auprès du Gouvernement d'Ankara pour qu'il ne mette aucun obstacle au passage en Turquie, seul territoire dont l'accès leur reste possible, des réfugiés qui parviendraient à fuir la Bulgarie, quel que soit leur nombre, - avec toutes les garanties, que le Gouvernement d'Ankara pourrait croire utiles, que ces Juifs ne seront en Turquie qu'à titre tout à fait provisoire et que les dispositions seront prises afin de les acheminer rapidement sur un autre lieu d'asile.

Bien entendu, ces propositions seront à considérer en tant que suggestions, quitte à ce que les trois principales Grandes Puissances des Nations Unies y apportent les modifications et additions qu'elles jugeront opportunes. Cependant, l'Organisation Sioniste Nouvelle tient pour son devoir de souligner qu'il s'agit pour les Juifs de Bulgarie d'une question de vie ou de mort et que chaque jour d'éculé peut les condamner à un sort irréparable, - tout en affirmant notre conviction que les trois principales Grandes Puissances des Nations Unies n'épargneront aucun effort susceptible de sauver ces victimes désignées à la fureur hitlérienne.

Avec nos sincères remerciements, j'ai l'avantage, Excellence, de vous présenter l'assurance de ma très haute considération,

Le Commissaire général:

(sgd)

Albert Staraselski

AIR MAIL

Enclosure No. 2 to Despatch 1890 of May 26, 1944
from the American Legation - Cairo, Egypt

T R A N S L A T I O N

Excellency:

Would you be kind enough to transmit to your esteemed Government the following request:

Taking into consideration that on May 12, 1944 the three principal Great Powers of the United Nations, the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain, and the Union of the Socialist Soviet Republics, believed it necessary to notify jointly the satellite States of the Axis, of which Bulgaria is one, to cease all collaboration with Germany at the earliest possible moment,

In view of the crisis which has just burst forth in Bulgaria, bringing about the resignation of Minister Boguilof, as a result of the accumulated weight of German demands and the subsequent setting up at Sofia of a Cabinet even more docile to demands from Berlin,

In view of the presence in Bulgaria of 50,000 autochthonous Jews and probably of many thousands of others, refugees from the neighboring countries, who are doomed to see the racial laws applied with an even more rigorous cruelty, even to and including the prospect of mass deportation and general extermination,

In view of the necessity of undertaking immediately all measures which might aid this Bulgarian community to find safety and to put itself beyond the reach of the Gestapo and its local accomplices,

The New Zionist Organization (Cairo office) has the honor to request the urgent intervention of the three principal Great Powers of the United Nations and to ask them to exercise the maximum pressure on Bulgaria so that Sofia will give effective authorization so that the Bulgarian and other Jews now on its territory may leave without delay.

To this end the New Zionist Organization takes the liberty to propose:

a) That the three principal Great Powers of the United Nations address, by radio and all other suitable channels, to the Council of the Regency and the Bulgarian Parliament an appeal to help facilitate the departure of the Jews, assuring them that such an act will be taken into consideration at the conclusion of hostilities at the time of settling up accounts;

b) That a similar appeal should be sent simultaneously to the people of Bulgaria asking them (in case its leaders do not react in a positive manner to this request) to take it upon themselves to help the Jews now in Bulgaria to cross its borders - with a special word directed to the officials, especially those of the police, promising that a humane attitude will be taken into account on the day when the list of responsible acts is drawn up;

AIR MAIL

- 2 -

c) That immediate steps be taken with the Government of Ankara that it put no obstacle in the way of the passage through Turkey, the only territory now accessible to them, of the refugees who succeed in fleeing Bulgaria, no matter what their number, - with all the guarantees which the Government of Ankara believes might be useful, in as much as these Jews will only be in Turkey on an absolutely temporary basis and as dispositions will be taken to put them rapidly en route to another place of refuge.

Of course, these propositions are to be considered only as suggestions, and the three principal Great Powers of the United Nations should make what modifications and additions they may deem opportune. However, the New Zionist Organization believes that it is its duty to emphasize that it is a question of life or death for the Jews in Bulgaria and that each day that passes may condemn them to an irreparable fate, and that it is our conviction that the three principal Great Powers of the United Nations will spare no effort which might save these victims marked for the Hitlerian fury.

With our sincere thanks, I take this opportunity, Excellency, to present to you the assurance of my very high consideration,

The General Commissioner:

Albert Staraselski

Bulgaria

568

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL . CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

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JERUSALEM
Vaad Leumi, P. O. B. 471

MONTREAL
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY
Sonora 174-4

April 19, 1944

Mr. Lawrence S. Lesser
Assistant Director, War Refugee Board
Executive Office of the President
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Lesser:

We have received alarming reports concerning the situation in Bulgaria. Dr. Marcus Ehrenpreis, Honorary Chief Rabbi of Stockholm, who is a member of our Executive Committee, was formerly a Chief Rabbi of Sofia, Bulgaria, and has maintained the best connections with the head of the Bulgarian Church, Metropolitan Stephen Sofiski.

May I ask you to be kind enough to have the following cable forwarded to Dr. Ehrenpreis through the American Legation in Stockholm:

"News received from Bulgaria extremely alarming. The time has come for Bulgarian Church to throw into the battle its full authority and prestige. May we count on your speedy and energetic intervention? The Bulgarian people should be urged to hide the Jews and to grant them every assistance. It seems that the Lithuanian Church threatened with excommunication the accomplices of Nazi executioners. Could Bulgarian Church be induced to follow this example? Awaiting urgently your reaction."

Please let me know whether this message has been forwarded.

Sincerely yours,

ALW ubw
Dr. A. Leda Kubowitzki, Head
Rescue Department

ALK:bg

No record of this having gone out

MEMORANDUM

Current situation of the Jews in Bulgaria
and their registration.

According to statistical statistics approx. 40,000 to 43,000 Jews are living now in Bulgaria. The largest Jewish agglomeration was in Sofia, with approx. 25,000 persons. Now there are only about 300 Jews living there. (converted Jews not to be included in this count). The Jews of this city were dispersed in the provincial towns (Plovdiv, Plovdiv, Vidin, Kustendil, Pazardjik, Shumen, Iskrev, etc.) so that the population of these cities amounts to 2,000 - 4,000 persons. There are also some other small communities. The largest agglomeration is now in Plovdiv (approx. 4,000).

Registration

The Office (Bureaucrat) of Jewish Affairs has unlimited powers in this field.

The Jews are not allowed to work in the State enterprises, only those who can work in the State enterprises, the State and the artisans who had already been doing this before 1940. In that different other limitations reduce a lot the number of Jews who can earn their living.

The buildings are taken by the State and all their money is blocked in the Banks.

Jews can only travel with a special permission of the Office of Jewish Affairs. It takes a long time to obtain same which is also rarely granted. They do not have the right to use the telephone and to cross the principal streets. Since lately they are allowed to leave their house for only 2 hours during the day and this applies only to the head of the family.

Economical situation:

Theoretically the rich receive, with the special permission of the Office of Jewish Affairs (permission which must be requested

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No one can leave Bulgaria without first having secured a
Turkish visa. Having done so they then apply to the Bulgarian
Government for exit visa. There are not enough Turkish visas for
those who possibly could secure Bulgarian visas, although it is not
said by any means that the 45,000 Jews in Bulgaria would necessarily

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EXHIBIT 6

No. 2516 (R 2327)

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL
Istanbul, Turkey, February 26, 1944

SUBJECT: An Account of Conditions in Bulgaria as
Given by Two Emigrants Recently Arrived
in Istanbul.

THE HONORABLE
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

SIR:

I have the honor to present below statements made by two Jewish emigrants recently arrived in Istanbul from Bulgaria. While information given by them is more exact in connection with the Jewish situation the general information which they were able to give helps to fill in the picture of conditions prevailing in Bulgaria today.

Conditions Among Bulgarian Jews: A Jewish tobacco merchant from the Bulgarian town of Haskovo arrived with his family in Istanbul on February 23. He stated that the condition of the Jews in Haskovo, including both the Jews who are natives of that town and those who were evacuated there from Sofia in May, 1943, is much better than conditions prevailing in many other towns. The difference is due to a considerate official who represents the Commissariat for Jewish Affairs in Haskovo, a man who is described as being naturally considerate and also opposed to the present policies of the government. This man believes that the Allies will win the war and that Bulgaria should direct her course accordingly. In Haskovo three hundred and fifty Jewish people are being fed in a public kitchen at the expense of the Commissariat for Jewish Affairs. These are people all of whose resources have been exhausted since Jews were forbidden to work.

Evacuation. The population of Bloudiv has been almost entirely evacuated to the surrounding towns and villages with the exception of the Jewish population. The population of Beker has also been evacuated to the surrounding villages. Some business is still carried on in Bloudiv and the factories are working. The local government offices are also open.

The Disposal. In connection with the disposal of the government government offices, the emigrant said that the Swiss Consulate has an office in the town of Stryshch and that the Turkish Consulate is supposed to have an office in a private house about two miles east from Sofia on the Sandan highway. The Ministry of Education has been moved to the village of Belovo near the railway station of Para Belovo, which is fifth station from Sofia on the railway between Sofia and Bloudiv. The Ministry of Public Works has been removed to Festas.

The Political Outlook. With regard to political affairs the emigrant said that he was not in a position to make a general survey of the political outlook at the present time. He referred to the great activity of the Minister of the Interior, Decho Krastov, in making speeches about the country and organizing for the purpose of maintaining internal order and checking the movements working in opposition to the government. He described Mr. Krastov as a man without much originality of thought and said that it was understood his ideas were derived mainly from a lawyer friend, Bost Breganov, of Sofia.

The Communist Movement. The Communist movement is reported to be growing. The communist and pro-Soviet element, he thinks, comprise at least ninety per cent of the population. To the present time, however, this movement remains more or less amorphous through lack of decided leadership, although he understands that an organization exists which has its branches in all parts of the country both among working people and the peasants. He thinks that communism is widespread in the army and that this is giving the government considerable worry. He thinks the Bulgarian communists plan to wait until the Soviet armies have taken Odessa and

approach the Balkans, meanwhile completing their organization, and then, at a favorable moment, attempt to seize power. While he was en route to Svilengrad at one of the railway stations his train passed another train coming from Svilengrad on which fifty soldiers, arrested for communism at some frontier post, were being taken away for trial. He learned this last fact from a fellow Bulgarian traveller.

In spite of this widespread communism, conditions in the country for the present remain calm, although there is deep anxiety regarding the immediate future. The new military police force, an evidence of such anxiety which is being organized under the Ministry of the Interior, has as its primary purpose the work of combating communists and the illegal elements in the country. He thinks that this will be a benefit from the standpoint of public order because it will relieve the local police of these two responsibilities allowing them to devote their attention to ordinary local police activities.

A young woman, twenty three years of age, who is a native of Bloudiv, arrived in Istanbul on February 24 en route for Palestine. She is a graduate of the American College of Sofia, class of 1941. Her father is a practicing physician in Bloudiv and was the head of the Zionist organization in Bloudiv until it was disbanded by the authorities. He also served as the official head of the Jewish community of Bloudiv which normally numbers about five thousand people. Because he had received the Order of Valer for meritorious service in the Bulgarian army in the First World War, he was one of the few Jewish doctors in Bulgaria allowed to continue practice. This young woman gave a very vivid account of her own experiences and of other matters which came to her personal attention.

Reference: In connection with the opposition in to Speech by Parliament to the policies of the present Prof. Stainov government she said that she had read a typewritten copy of a report of a speech made in Parliament on January 25 or 26, 1944, by Petko Stainov, who is regarded as the most outspoken opponent of the government in Parliament. In this statement Professor Stainov, who is accused by the patriots of

House Arrest The Jews in Blotdiv were free to go about the city from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. until the bombing of Sofia. After that event they were confined to their houses, with the exception that the head of the family could go out two hours every day to transact the necessary family business, but for any other relaxation of the regulations special permission had to be obtained. The Jews were accused of rejoicing at the bombing of Sofia and hence were punished by losing their liberty. The police are usually brutal toward the Jews and when searching their houses take away valuables for their own profit. Most of the Bulgarian people, however, do not appear hostile to the Jews and do them many kindnesses. She especially mentioned in this connection the Reserve Colonel Krabov of Blotdiv, who publicly and incessantly protested against the treatment of the Jews. Colonel Krabov has a nephew in the United States, recently a student in van Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. In leaving Bulgaria the young woman said the train officials and the frontier officials, including the German passport men, all treated her courteously. A ticket collector said: "You are leaving the country and your troubles will soon be over, but ours will never be over."

Complete Impoverishment: In referring to living conditions of the Jews at the present time, particularly in Blotdiv, she said that their condition is continually growing worse. In the earlier months of their persecution large numbers of Jews had managed to accumulate some money or valuables which they could use to help eke out their support. They also had the funds which they had been compelled to deposit in the Bulgarian National Bank. Most of these funds have now been used up, as have also secret supplies of money and valuables. After Docho Hristov became Minister of the Interior, Jews were allowed to sell their furniture, which they have done, but most families have not much furniture left. Also the demand for furniture has almost ceased because of the evacuation of the town populations to the villages. People no longer want furniture. Hence, if present conditions continue through next winter, it is likely that large numbers of Jews will be reduced to starvation.

An Instance of Harshness: In this connection she referred to a young Jewish woman dentist from Sofia, who is assigned with her husband and

EXHIBIT

(Continued)

EXHIBIT

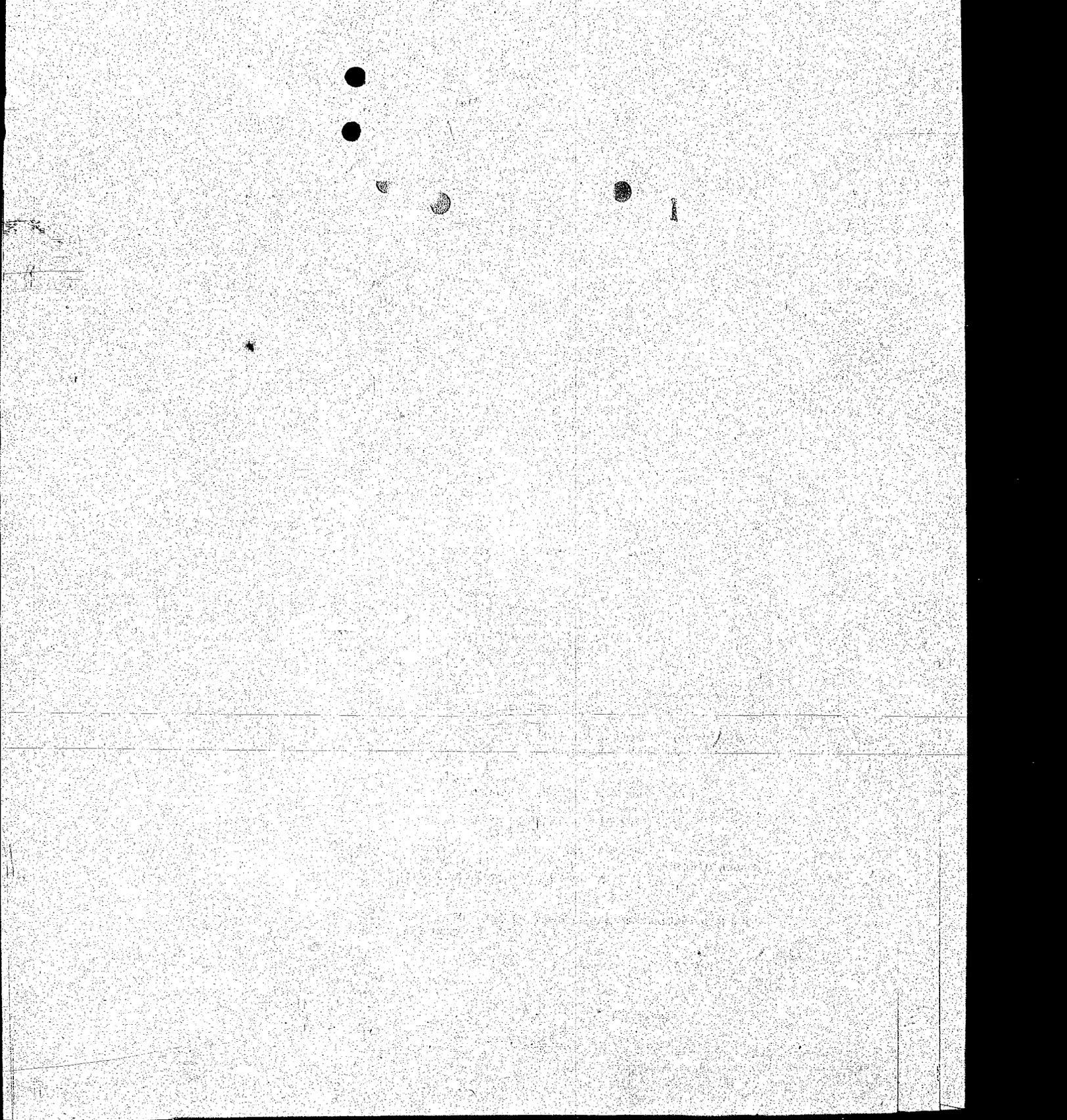
By a note of the German Embassy at Paris, the Consulate General has been informed that the Jews of Turkish nationality will be subjected, after January 31, 1944, to the same treatment as the German Jews.

This step has been referred to our Government.

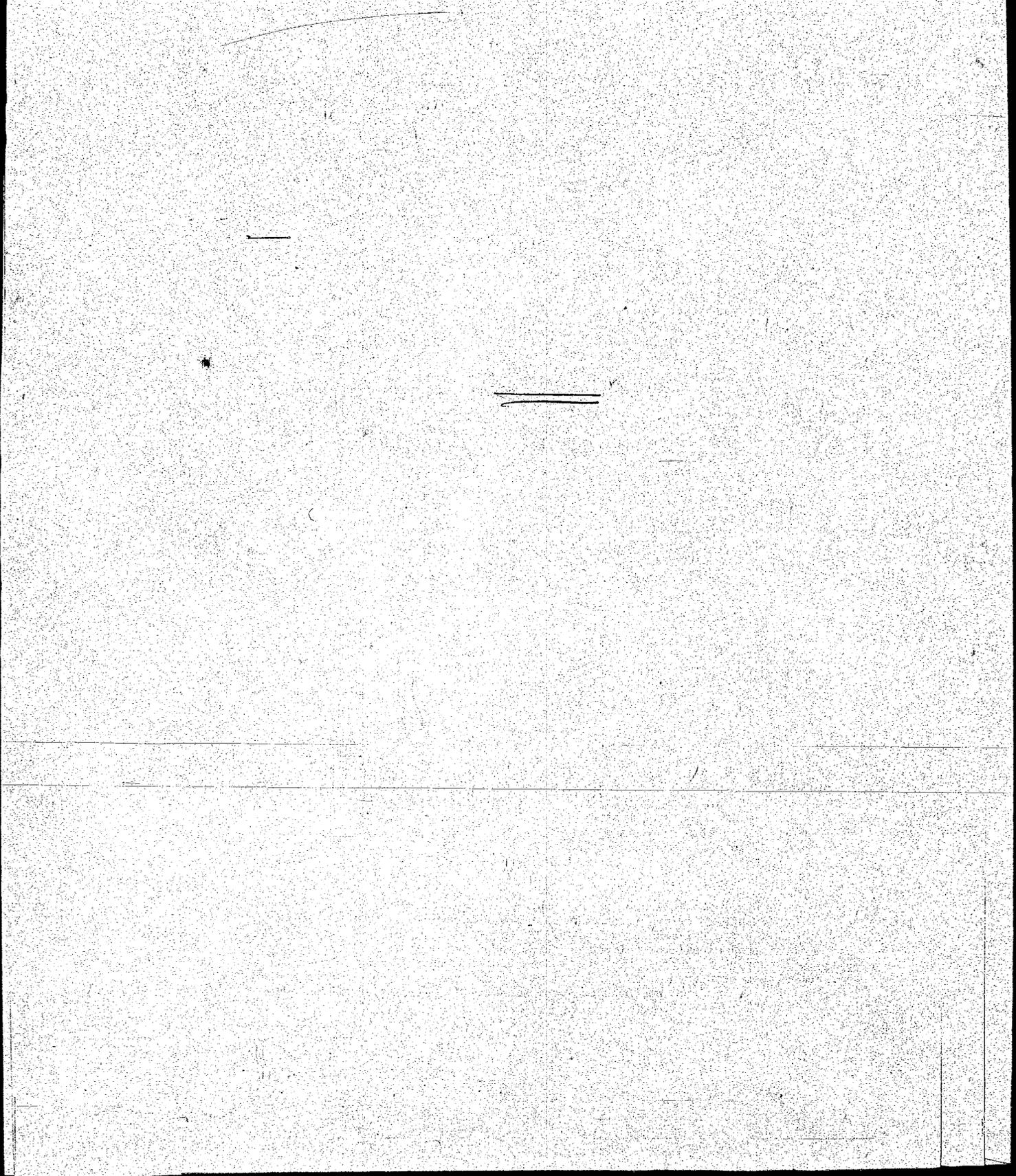
1/18/1943.

Communique of the Turkish Consulate
General.

Turkish nationals belonging to the Jewish faith, who are in order with the Consulate General and who desire to return to Turkey must apply immediately to the Consulate General to prepare their departure.



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Sarah 15, 1943
Bulgaria

Dear Parents,

Now that we are a little more calm we are able to say that on the tenth of this month God performed a miracle for the Jews of Bulgaria. Surely you have learned that all the Jews in Thracia were roused from sleep and given only two hours in which to get ready to be sent to an unknown destination. Actually they are now at Coana Djumaya.

On learning of this we were all very much afraid, and still more, my daughter's fiance and her prospective parents-in-law who had heard that similar measures would be taken here. Wednesday evening it was learned that twenty five families, which had always lived in our city, would be deported during the night. Among these were my daughter's parents-in-law and the family of Mr. K. and also others of the most well-known families in the city. You can imagine how we passed the night. We also got ourselves ready, for it was said that on the next day all the rest of the Jews would be deported. Our tragedy was the more dolorous from the fact that our daughter did not want to be separated from her fiance but wished to be married the same night in order that she might accompany him. This was refused her in view of the fact that her name was not on the list of the deportees. After a night which seemed interminable, six o'clock came. No one knew the hour when the twenty-five families would be sent away. My husband went to the house of the fiance's parents, whose house, like those of all whose names were on the list of deportees, was guarded by the police without any possibility of communication. It is impossible to describe what we went through. The streets were full of people whose faces showed the grief which all felt. The brother of the parents-in-law lived in the yard of the same house and through him we were able to communicate. After a time the police showed themselves more humane and we were able to exchange a few words. We could not find words to comfort them, while the state of mind of our daughter tore our hearts. The greater number of those who were to leave had already been assembled in the Jewish school of the town, while our daughter's parents-in-law were waiting for their baggage to be examined. It was about twelve o'clock noon. All of a sudden the people came with the news that the departure had been postponed.

It would take a novelist or a cinema film to depict those moments of delirium! The tears, the cries of joy, everybody embracing

without knowing that they were being at our hands. We were not
to be calm and ask to please God for safety. We had no
of opposition and we do not know anything now. We were
that the first move for our safety was made at Kyrenia. There
people went through the same kind of distress that we did. Among
among the Bulgarians were no religiousists had many good friends,
having learned that had occurred, had moved to Sofia, Bulgaria and
there got in which with some members of the National Assembly and
and the Archbishop. Without knowing much of what was going on,
the fact is that at the last moment the hope, which was already spread
the masks of the conspiracy was loosened. God granted that this
continues and that He protect us to the end of the days
today and tomorrow. We have three thousand souls, our miraculous
salvation.

"We are still living under the effect of the extreme tactics
though we have been rescued and are still asking when a case of
relaxation is made. It is not yet the war, and perhaps we may
know it even better. From day to day people who are being
reported as being in the streets, but who are really unable to
do anything for them. We are like mice in a trap. And may
God protect us."

*Handled
Read*

February 18, 1944

MEMORANDUM

Evacuation of Bulgarian Jews to Palestine.
(Status of projects as disclosed by files
of Visa Division, State Department.)

I. Reports on Bulgarian straits during March and May 1943.

On March 13, 1943 Berry in Istanbul wired the Department that on March 10 Bulgarian authorities had ordered the arrest of Sofia Jews preparatory to deporting them. Prime Minister Filov personally intervened to rescind the order temporarily. It appeared that a final phase in the Jewish crisis had begun.

In the town of Kyustendil every Jew had been ordered to prepare 50 kilograms of baggage in preparation for deportation to Poland. These people were kept under arrest for one week during discussions between local police and central authorities. Finally, it was decided not to send them to Poland. A statement was issued to the effect that Jews who are in Bulgaria proper would not be deported to Poland, but that Jews in Macedonia, Thrace, and other regions occupied by Bulgaria would be sent to Poland. Jewish detention camps were opened at Gorna Djumaya; Dupnitsa Radosir Pirov. These are temporary camps from which the Jews would be sent to permanent camps in Thrace and Macedonia. Local Americans received numerous appeals from Bulgarian Jews for assistance in obtaining visas.

On March 23, Berry reported to the Department that the Bulgarian Government's policy is to eliminate the Jewish population. 1/ The British have authorized 5,000 Palestine visas for refugee Jews and the Turkish authorities will grant transit visas for refugees who are assured of visas for countries beyond Turkey. However, a shortage of transportation facilities has been a retarding factor.

On March 25, Berry gave the Department supplemental information on the plight of Jews in Bulgaria. 2/ He stated that a non-Jewish member of the Bulgarian Parliament who came to Istanbul, alleged that the total Jewish community in Bulgaria was threatened with immediate

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- 1/ Paraphrase of this telegram No. 94 R 29, March 23, is attached hereto.
- 2/ Paraphrase of this telegram No. 101 R 30, March 25, is attached hereto.

extinction by deportation to Poland. This individual suggested that a strong protest by the American Government to Bulgaria would strengthen the position of those in the Bulgarian Government who opposed the Jewish policy. The prestige of the American Government is so great that such a protest would offer the United Nations an opportunity to drive a wedge between the Bulgarian Government and the people. No more than 5% of the Bulgarian people support the anti-Jewish and pro-German policy. Berry suggested that although a protest by the United States Government may not be practicable, protests by various groups in the United States would be effective.

On May 26, Harrison in Bern reported that a Sofia ATS despatch of May 26 stated that expulsion of the Jews created great popular emotion there. The police were compelled to intervene to disburse sympathetic demonstrations.

On May 31, Berry in Istanbul reported that Grabrovski, Bulgarian Minister of the Interior, ordered 25,000 Sofia Jews to the provinces on May 24, on the ground that they had participated in sabotage and murder. The order provided that each Jew must depart within three days after receiving notice. Confirmation by telephone revealed that during the past two days the Jewish population of Sofia had been removed and that the remainder would be removed in another day or so. Deported Jews have been concentrated in schools and buildings in Ruce, Starasagora, Karnobat, Plovdiv, and other provincial towns. They may be evacuated to Poland. No word had been received of protests by the Bulgarian population such as prevented deportations in March.

II. Attempted Protest of American and British Governments to Bulgaria;
Request to Turkey to accept 50,000 Bulgarian Jews.

A. Attempted Protest to Bulgaria.

Despite Berry's intimation that a protest by the United States would not be practicable, the Department wired the American Legation, Bern, on March 27, instructing them to request the Swiss Government to communicate to the Bulgarian Government the protest of the U. S. Government against the persecution of the Jews. 1/

On April 1, Harrison in Bern wired the Department that the Swiss Government would not convey this protest to the Bulgarian Government,

1/ Paraphrase of this telegram No. 765, dated March 27, is attached hereto.

since the Bulgarian Government had recently refused to receive a communication from the British on this subject. However, Mr. Pilet-Golas would inform the Bulgarian Minister of the contents of the telegram.

On April 11, Harrison reported Mr. Pilet-Golas's conversation with Kiossevanov, who apparently is the Bulgarian Minister in Bern. Kiossevanov stated that he understood that only Jews in annexed areas had been affected by the deportation order.

The file does not disclose that any further efforts were made by the State Department to communicate the above-mentioned protest of this government to Bulgaria.

B. Proposal to Turkey to accept 50,000 Bulgarian Jews.

The first information concerning this proposal is contained in the Department's wire to Ankara, dated March 30, which states that the British and American Governments had agreed to request the Turkish Government to accept 30,000, or more, Bulgarian Jews who might be gotten out of Bulgaria if that Government allowed them to depart. ^{1/} The cost of evacuating and maintaining the refugees in camps in Turkey would be defrayed by the American and British Governments, and after the War the refugees would be repatriated. Ankara was instructed to make this proposal to the Turkish Government at once.

On April 5, Steinhardt in Ankara wired the Department that the Turkish Government had raised certain practical objections to the proposal: ^{2/} (1) A shortage of materials made construction of new camps almost impossible; (2) No existing shelter was available; (3) There was a food shortage in Turkey. Even though food were shipped from the United States and Great Britain, transportation facilities within Turkey were inadequate; (4) Moreover, the Turks would resent Bulgarians eating white bread while the Turks starved; (5) There would be many Axis agents in such a large number of refugees, which would require a great deal of policing.

However, the Turkish Foreign Minister stated that the Turkish Government would transport the refugees from Thrace to Istanbul if

^{1/} Paraphrase of this telegram No. 288, dated March 30, is attached hereto.

^{2/} Paraphrase of this telegram, No. 348, April 5, is attached hereto.

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the British and American Governments would transport them from Istanbul to Palestine or elsewhere.

An Aide Memoire of the British Embassy in Washington dated April 19 recited that there was no prospect of inducing the Turks to receive 30,000 Bulgarian Jews and that the only possible solution of the problem would be to arrange for their transport to some other destination. The Memoire also stated that the State Department is aware of the Swiss Government's attitude that it cannot communicate to Bulgaria a request that no obstacle be placed in the way of deporting 30,000 Jews from Bulgaria. In reply to representations which had been made to the British Ambassador by Rabbi Wise and Judge Proskauer, the British Ambassador was instructed to say that a project for evacuating 4,500 Jewish children and 500 adults already is under way and that communication to the Bulgarian Government of a further scheme before this first scheme is complete might give the Bulgarian Government an excuse to delay the present operation while considering the more ambitious proposal. Lord Halifax was also authorized to call attention to the improbability of the Bulgarian authorities agreeing to the issue of exit permits to any man of military age. 1/

After April 19, it appears that the plan to evacuate 30,000 Jews was dropped for the reason given.

III. Evacuation of 4,500 children and 500 adults from Bulgaria to Palestine.

The file does not contain documents which describe the early stages of this project or its details, since it appears to be primarily a British plan. However, there was a reference to it in Berry's telegram to the Department dated March 25, and in the British Aide Memoire, dated April 19, which is summarized above.

A document entitled "Text of Telegram received from the Foreign Office dated May 11/48" states that the project for evacuating 4,000 (7) children and 500 adults from Bulgaria appears to be in danger because of difficulties connected with selection and transport. 2/ The document states that the Bulgarian Government have all along stipulated that they should select the refugees who are to go and have refused to deal with Mr. Baruch of Sofia who was nominated by the Jewish Agency for Palestine to make the selection. The British acquiesced in this latter method of selection and proposed to

1/ Copy of Aide Memoire, dated April 19, is attached hereto.

2/ A copy of this document is attached hereto.

approach the Swiss authorities with a request that they should convey such acquiescence to the Bulgarian Government.

The Turkish Government was unable to allocate more than enough rolling stock to carry 150 persons across Turkey per month. However, if sea transport could be provided from Istanbul, the Turkish authorities could probably carry more persons by rail from the Bulgarian frontier to that port. The Bulgarian railway authorities stated that they could carry 480 per persons per annum and the Turkish Government was being asked whether they could increase their capacity to a similar limit. The Turkish authorities have approached the Roumanian Government with a view to chartering the Roumanian liners Transylvania and Bessarabia, now at Istanbul, for shuttle service between Istanbul and Haifa.

The United States Government was asked to associate itself with (A) the approach to the Swiss to communicate the British assent to selection by the Palestine Agency, and (B) the British approach to the Turks regarding transport.

In compliance with the British request Hull wired the American Legation, Bern, on May 15, to associate themselves with the British approach to the Swiss in regard to selection of the refugees; and on May 20, Hull wired the American Embassy, Ankara, to associate with the British in their approach to the Turks respecting the possible charter of the two Roumanian liners.

Apparently, the Roumanian Government agreed orally to the charter of these liners on condition that they be manned by Turkish crews and that a guarantee be made against loss of the vessels. However, the Roumanians were unable to give a final answer until the matter was referred to Berlin ^{1/} No further mention is made in the file of the proposal to charter these vessels, and it would seem that the matter was dropped. ^{2/}

On May 24, Harrison in Bern reported to the Department that information received from the British revealed that German pressure had led the Bulgarian Government to adopt a stiffer attitude. The Bulgarian Minister of Interior had intimated to the Swiss Charge d'Affaire at Sofia that the Bulgarian Government had decided to close the Turkish Bulgarian frontier to all Jews.

^{1/} This information was received in a letter from Hayter of the British Embassy in Washington, according to a memorandum from Reams to Long, dated May 21.
^{2/} Long's excuse at the hearing of the House Foreign Relations Committee was lack of funds. Sarcasm of this in letter of Mrs. de Sola Pool to Long, dated Jan. 15, 1944, which is attached hereto.

About a month later Sumner Welles conferred with Viscount Halifax concerning the need for action in getting the Jewish refugees out of Bulgaria. Welles stated that the Jewish organizations in this country feared that if there was further delay none of the refugees would be permitted to leave Bulgaria, in which case the United Nations would be properly held responsible for the situation that would then develop. ^{1/} The Ambassador inquired whether any definite word had yet been received with regard to constructing reception camps in North Africa for European refugees. Welles told Halifax that Roosevelt had given Churchill a memorandum on the subject which Churchill said he would discuss with his cabinet. However, Churchill apparently was maintaining that the President did not discuss the matter with him.

It would seem that at the time Welles and Halifax conferred, strong notes had already been sent to Bulgaria by the British and American governments with respect to the project to evacuate children. Thus on June 25, Harrison at Bern reported to the Department that the British Legation in Switzerland had received instructions on May 21 to consult with the American Legation and see that the Swiss Government left the Bulgarian Government in no doubt that if the latter persisted in refusing to let Jewish children leave this would be a flagrant breach of undertaking. It was disclosed that notes to this effect from both the British and American Governments were communicated to Bulgaria by the Swiss. (Copies of these notes were not found in the file). The Swiss Legation at Sofia reported that Bulgarian authorities have been compelled to suspend the movement of Jews toward the Turkish frontier because Jewish travelers were turned back by the Gervan secret police.

On July 3, F. C. Hayter of the British Embassy in Washington wrote to Weiss that the Bulgarian Government had confirmed that the frontiers were closed to all Jews except those selected by themselves. ^{2/} Mr. Hayter stated that this may be a bluff and that Mr. Edon had attempted to call it by instructing the British Minister at Bern on June 28 to inquire of the Bulgarian Government through the Swiss how many Jewish refugees may leave under the procedure proposed by Bulgaria. The file does not disclose any further information respecting this instruction.

Some doubt as to the accuracy of the information given by Mr. Hayter is raised by a letter dated July 15 from Goldson, of the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs, to Travers. In that letter Mr. Goldson stated that a representative of the Jewish Agency for Palestine in Istanbul

^{1/} Memorandum of conversation, dated June 24, is attached hereto.

^{2/} Copy of Hayter's letter of July 3, is attached hereto.

had cabled that Sofia had agreed to the exit of 1,000 persons until the end of July on condition that sea transports could be arranged. Goldman stated that delay in obtaining transport during the last few months was responsible for the lack of success. He suggested that the British Embassy be allowed to make decisions on the spot instead of being compelled to refer every question back to London. The file does not reveal that any action was taken by the Department with respect to Mr Goldman's suggestion that 1,000 persons could be rescued.

On September 25, Goldman wrote to Long concerning a conversation he had with Mr. Hayter in which Mr. Hayter stated that the British authorities in Turkey have now received full authority to act immediately, without consulting London, on evacuating Jews from the Balkans to Palestine when shipping is available. Apparently, one of the difficulties suggested by Goldman has now been eliminated.

It will be seen from the above that the file does not definitely disclose what became of the plan to evacuate the 5000.

III. Policy of British Government toward admission of Jews into Palestine and other neutral countries.

R. I. Campbell of the British Embassy in Washington wrote to Cordell Hull on September 9 that the British Government had decided that in the future all Jews who may succeed in escaping to Turkey will be eligible for onward transport to Palestine where they will be placed in camps and if found satisfactory will be gradually released as legal immigrants into Palestine against the current emigration quota. 1/ By "onward transport" is meant such transport by sea or rail as may be arranged by the British with the appropriate diplomatic mission.

This policy will also apply to Jews who manage to escape to other neutral countries, but where they have escaped to countries in which they are safe they will normally remain there. The letter emphasized its confidential nature, stating that secrecy was essential to the interests of the refugees themselves and that His Majesty's Government intend to make no public announcement of the policy. However, the Jewish Agency for Palestine was informed in confidence.

IV. Policy of Turkey toward Transport of refugees through Turkey to Palestine.

A letter from the Foreign Office, dated December 15, to Bucknell of the American Embassy, London, states that the Turkish Government is allowing in principle the transport of a limited number of refugees (75 every 10 days) through Turkey to Palestine or other countries of asylum. 2/

1/ A copy of this letter, dated September 9, is attached hereto

2/ A copy of this letter, dated December 15, is attached hereto

C
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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
Washington, D. C.

Country Bulgaria
Subject Greek Workmen
Date of Origin Nov. 6, 1943
Place of Origin Cairo

Dissemination No. A-18414
Report No. G 557
Distributed January 14, 1944

At the time of the deportation of the Jews residing in Thrace and Macedonia (Bulgarian-Occupied) able-bodied men were retained in the country, while the others were sent to Poland and the Ukraine. The Bulgars and the Germans shared at the time this gratuitous manpower. Jews who remained in Bulgarian hands were utilized for diverse works in the country, living within concentration camps after working hours.

Last October 15 the Germans asked the Bulgars to hand over these Jewish workmen, who numbered nearly 20,000 for labor in central Europe. The Bulgars complied with this request, after raising certain obstacles, and were thus deprived of this manpower and several current works remained in suspense.

In order to fill this gap the Bulgars had recourse to able-bodied Greek men remaining in the occupied regions. Toward the end of last month a first convoy of Greeks was directed toward Bulgaria proper and since then the Bulgarian military authorities carry out "sweeps" and concentrate at Dedeagach all able-bodied Greeks between the ages 18 and 35.

This has caused a new exodus of Greeks who, in spite of all oppressive measures they have undergone, had remained on native soil.



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By Authority of _____
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By SR Date MAR 3 1975

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EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

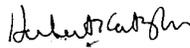
Istanbul, December 4, 1944

Dear Mr. Pehle:

Under date of November 30, I sent you some notes regarding conversations I had in Istanbul with some of the representatives of the Jewish Community of Bulgaria and with Major Henry of the International Red Cross. I have just received the enclosed additional note from the International Red Cross, based upon information made available by Major Henry.

While some of the information today is only of historic value, some others of the suggestions he makes are current. I believe that this material is included in Major Henry's official report to the International Red Cross in Switzerland regarding his activities in Bulgaria.

Sincerely yours,


Herbert Katzki

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

Enclosure

Translation

Ankara 24/11/44

NOTE

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

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

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

Plovdiv	6208	Targivitch	986
Russet	5000	Burgaz	836
Kurstendil	3800	Karshabat	805
Pleven	3300	Shiven	708
Viddin	2654	Samokov	584
Shumen	2613	Gorna	539
Pazardik	2488	Provadiy	473
Doupnitza	2350	Bercovizka	450
Haskovo	1694	Shirpan	417
Ferdinand	1516	Novi Pazar	367
Vratza	1500	Dobritz	334
Rasgrad	1124	Sofia	300
Nachol	1100	Bela Slatin	265
Vlom	1050	Lukowitz	266
other towns	2000	other towns	850

total: 46,577

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

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

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

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



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Istanbul, November 30, 1944

Dear Mr. Pehle:

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

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

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

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

Herbert Katzki
Herbert Katzki

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

Encls: Copy of memo of November 19
Copy of letter of November 21

M E M O R A N D U M

November 19, 1944

Notes on Conversation with:

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

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

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

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

trusteed Jewish Community funds in Macedonia and three to four million leva for the Keren Kayemeth. The special tax of 25 per cent on Jewish assets, which had been levied, has not been returned. The fact is that this is only a projet de loi which, if put through, will provide for payment in 5 per cent non-negotiable bonds payable in five years. This restoration, therefore, if carried out will not provide the beneficiaries with any cash on which to live. The 25 per cent tax at 1942 values amounted to $2\frac{1}{2}$ billion leva. Although the 12 per cent tax on Jewish capital was supposed to provide a central fund for assistance to Jewish people, the amounts expended for this purpose were very small, and consisted largely in a contribution to various soup-kitchens in the amount of eight to 12 leva per person per day for feeding purposes. The personal blocked property has been returned to the original owners if it was still on hand with the Commissariat for Jewish Affairs.

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

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

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

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

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

IV. About 15,000 of the Jews in Bulgaria are very poor. They urgently require, in addition to food, clothing, shoes, medicaments, and household furnishings. In addition, 2,000 families, involving seven to eight thousand persons, are artisans and small business people, who would be able to assist themselves if they were able to secure credits for capital. The regular banks require guarantees for loans, which these people are not able to provide. Accordingly, it would be well if funds could be found for the establishment of cooperatives. The cooperatives which heretofore existed were liquidated under the anti-Jewish regulations, with one exception. This was the Sofia Jewish Cooperative Bank, Geula, which at one time had 3800 members and a capital of 18 million leva. This bank could save itself by merging with a Bulgarian non-Jewish cooperative, so that its characteristic as a Jewish institution has been lost. This is so to such an extent that even though Jews are now supposed to be able to return to their former employment, the Jewish employees of the former Geula have not been able to get their jobs back. Many of the former officers and directors of Geula are still in Bulgaria. Mr. Chaimoff was formerly vice-president. He did not think that it would be possible to raise much money in Bulgaria as capital for a cooperative.

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

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

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

November 22, 1944

I spoke with Major Henry today, who recently left Bulgaria where he had been engaged principally in prisoner-of-war work in behalf of the International Red Cross. He stated that he had interested himself in Jewish affairs and had been in contact on a number of occasions with the Jewish Consistoire, especially with Mr. Eroham. 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, ^{James Tolson} were hand-picked by the Government. Their viewpoint apparently is that now that the Jewish people have had their rights restored, they must remain in Bulgaria and make the best of the situation. This viewpoint is fundamentally

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

HK/b

C O P Y

November 21, 1944

To the American Joint,

At present approximately 45,000 Jews are living in Bulgaria. Of these 25,000 returned to Sofia after the October 9th date on which the new regime was introduced in Bulgaria.

During the four years of the Hitler Regime, the Jews in Bulgaria were in a very bad situation. They had no political or civil rights, no right to do whatever work. They were obliged to leave Sofia, without having been able to liquidate their affairs. They were sent to the provinces with no means, they had to leave behind their houses, furniture, personal effects and all that they possessed in funds, etc. They lived under the most difficult conditions in the provincial towns.

Men from 18 to 50 were sent during these last five years to so-called labour camps where they had to remain for 6 - 10 months yearly. There they were obliged to do hard physical work: build roads, railroads, drainage of swamps, etc. They had to do all this work with no payment, under most unhygienic conditions, and without receiving any food. Their clothes, reduced to rags were not renewed, they had no shoes and worst of all - no medicine. The greatest part of these men, about 70 - 80% contracted malaria fever, rheumatic diseases, etc. All of them have suffered from a physical breakdown. During this time their families were left with no shelter, no funds and with no food - almost starving.

After Oct. 9, 1944 these Jews (25,000 from Sofia) having lived under such insupportable conditions in the provincial towns (15 - 20 persons were compelled to live in one room, or 100 - 150 persons in one hall of a half dilapidated building), tried immediately to improve their situation and returned to Sofia.

But unfortunately in vain: conditions here were even worse, as most of the houses they had left, were either bombarded (demolished) thus uninhabitable or already occupied by Bulgarians, who lived there since the Jews had left. The shortage of houses is representing this a very important question.

The Jews from Sofia had also left behind their whole belongings, as furniture, kitchen utensils, etc. and these too were taken during their absence by the Bulgarians or sold by the Commissioner of Jewish Affairs at very low prices.

Now back in Sofia, the Jews are lacking the most primitive furniture, utensils. They have no clothes, no shoes. They have no means to buy even a bedstead or something for the kitchen. They also lack nourishment. The Jews cannot even start to work again in their professions - most of them were retail dealers -- as there is not material to be found in Bulgaria.

Artisans cannot work as no tools can be found now. There is also a shortage of raw material. Factory workers also cannot find work as the factories are not working in full shifts.

The aforesaid is the reason why Bulgarian Jewry is in a very bad situation economically as well as morally. And it is an impossible thing for them to rebuild their future by their own means. They cannot expect any help from the Bulgarian government, as the latter are themselves in a very bad position, economically and financially.

It is therefore urgently necessary that the utmost help should be extended to the Bulgarian Jewry by a vast relief action.

We therefore take the liberty of addressing the Joint, who does the humanitarian work of rendering help to Jews. This aid should be rendered as soon as possible because the winter is near.

1) There are no raw materials in the country - thus the relief action should comprise natural produces, clothing, underclothing, shoes, medical supplies, utensils for the kitchen, tools for the artisans, etc.

2) To enable the artisans small traders and middle class merchants to work again it is necessary to provide them with credits which could be easily gotten.

3) The whole Bulgarian Jewry with no distinction of social position is in need of help, and as the members of the actual Consistoire Central have not been elected by the Jewish population but only nominated, it is absolutely necessary that the work of the Relief-action should be directed by a committee composed of representatives of all Jewish public organizations and institutions, i.e. Consistoire, Central, Zionist Organization, Bene Berith and others.

(signed)

W. D. Heimoff, president of the Zionist Organization,
ex-member of the Jewish Consistoire,
president of the Koperativ Bank ix "Geyla"

Joseph Levy, representative of the Jewish Agency in Bulgaria,
ex-member of the Jewish Consistoire,
president of the Community of Rousse, Bulgaria.

D. Eschkenazy, secretary of Poale Zion, and member of the
Zionist Organization.

address: W. D. Haimoff,
Izar Borisstreet 117,
Sofia Bulgaria.



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Istanbul, October 30, 1944

Dear Mr. Fehle:

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Herbert Katzki".

Herbert Katzki

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

encl.

Translation

Extract from Broadcasts received in Bulgarian (OWI)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Two weeks of feverish organization passed. Lists, railway

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

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

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

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

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

The "shipment" coming from 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 mobilised into forced-labor battalions.

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

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

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

prepared to receive them, and from there towards Katowitsa, toward Poland. 9158 persons were sent from the region of Skopje and 13,203 others from Belomorie 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.

100931

TO: (1)

- Mr. Lesser
- Mr. Friedman
- Mr. Stewart
- Miss Hodel 2410 *JWS*
- Mr. DuBois
- Mr. Luxford
- Mrs. Taylor

✓ For our files.

J. W. Pehle
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

000933

MEMORANDUM

September 29, 1944

*See
Mylonakis*

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.

see records

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

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

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

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

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

093

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 conditioned upon their securing military releases from a military which now is anxious to have them as part of the regular Bulgarian army, as against the earlier situation where the Jewish men, as undesirables, were put into labor battalions, from which release for emigration could be secured.

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

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

HK/b

Herbert Katzki



3.

000937

CROSS-REFERENCE

.... BULGARIA.....
(Name of Applicant)

.....
(Application Number)

FOR REPORT FROM KATZKI, RE CONDITIONS OF JEWS IN BULGARIA

SEE: PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF & RESCUE OF REFUGEES: EVACUATIONS
TO & THRU' TURKEY (11)



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Istanbul, December 8, 1944

Dear Mr. Penle:

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

The list was received by Jewish Agency representatives in Istanbul from the Jewish Agency people in Bulgaria. It was not accompanied by any information as to who made it up, or regarding the number of persons for whom medicaments 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 medicaments 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
Herbert Katzki

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

Enclosure: List of medical supplies

RECEIVED BY
EXHIBITS

Istanbul, 4.12.1944

C
O
P
Y

Liste de médicaments
etc. pour la Bulgarie

- 1) Amidum Acide Phenyl Ethyl Barbituricum - 20.000 tablettes
- 2) Acidum Phenyl Chinoline Carbonicum - 20.000 tablettes
- 3) Adrenaline - 5.000 ampoules
- 4) Ether pour Narcose - 500 kgs.
- 5) Ethyl Morphine Hydrochloricum - 10 "
- 6) Piriciline (?) - 5.000 "
- 7) Antipirine - 200 "
- 8) Atébrine - 300.000 tablettes
- 9) Novocaïne - 5 kgs.
- 10) Calcium Bromatum - 100 "
- 11) Camphora - 100.000 ampoules
- 12) Calcium Lactogluconate - 20.000 "
- 13) " " - 5.000 kgs.
- 14) Cardiazol (Benzomethylen Tetrazol) - 10.000 ampoules
- 15) " " " liquide - 100 kgs.
- 16) Quinine - 20.000 ampoules
- 17) " - 300.000 tablettes
- 18) Calcium Quinine - 5.000 ampoules
- 19) Codeinum - 5 kgs.
- 20) Coffeinum - 50 "
- 21) Vitamines A, B, C, D, E, K. - 50.000 ampoules et
200.000 tablettes
de chaque.
- 22) Pyramidon - 200 kgs.
- 23) Digitales preparata - 50.000 ampoules
- 24) Dimetine (Theobroline Natrium Salicylicum) - 50 kgs.

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25) Ephedrine Acetonine	- 5.000 ampoules
26) " "	- 20.000 tablettes
27) Glycericum	- 500 kgs.
28) Hexamethylentetramine	- 50 "
29) Insuline ampoules	- 100 "
30) Iodum purum	- 500 "
31) Lobelinum Hydrochloricum	- 5.000 ampoules
32) Morphinum preparata	- 5 kgs.
33) Neosalvarsan preparata	-200.000 ampoules
34) Olium Jecoris Alfeli (?)	- 10.000 kgs.
35) Olium Ricini	- 2.000 "
36) Phenacetine	- 200 kgs.
37) Plasmochine	- 20.000 ampoules
38) " "	-300.000 tablettes
39) Santonine	- 30 kgs.
40) Sulfanamide Sulfapyridine preparata	- 20.000 ampoules
41) " " "	-800.000 tablettes
42) Torpinum Hydratum	- 100 kgs.
43) Ipeka Quanba Radici Compulvi	- 200 "
44) Vaselinum	- 1.000 kgs.
45) Ozena Vaccina	- 1.000 flacons
46) E ₂ mos Sfizica preparata (?)	- 10.000 ampoules
47) " " "	-300.000 tablettes
48) hydrodenium Hydrochrodium Novansis ?	- 1.000 kgs.
49) Otalgan Carbon Glycerine (?)	- 3.000 flacons
50) Leucoplaste	- 5.000 rouleaux
51) Anticlorestine (?)	- 1.000 flacons

52) Vasa Hygroscopica (?)

- 5.000 kgs.

S. S. et O.

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

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

To: *Mr. J. [unclear]*
(1) ~~Mr. [unclear]~~ (Room) (Bldg.)
(2) ~~Mr. [unclear]~~ 2030 (Room) (Bldg.)
(3) *F. [unclear]* 4405 A (Room) (Bldg.)

Mr. [unclear]

From: *[Signature]* 9/18/44 (Date)
(Room) (Bldg.)

000943



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Istanbul, August 31, 1944

Dear John:

Thank you for your letter of August 18. I sincerely appreciate the spirit in which you wrote it and naturally I shall be guided accordingly.

I agree with you of course concerning the limitations of cable and other correspondence. There were just such limitations which apparently have led to the misconstruction of some of the messages I had sent concerning my conversations with representatives of certain Governments in Turkey. I have tried to clarify the intent of my conversations which led to these misconstructions in my telegram No. 1542 of August 23, and I hope that the matter has now been satisfactorily cleared for all persons concerned.

Let me assure you again that I have made no postwar commitments to anyone in connection with our rescue and relief programs and that nothing I have said can have any bearing upon or in the remotest way disturb the basis for conversations between our Government and that of any other during the present situation. I hope that my telegram No. 1542 has made this unmistakably clear. You know that I would not want to make any reference which might cause embarrassment to our Government, to the Board's program, or to you and your associates personally, and have had these factors constantly in mind.

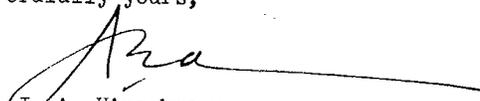
In the meanwhile, such conversations as I did have did secure for the Board a concrete and specific result in having the nefarious anti-Jewish laws immediately wiped out in Bulgaria, even before the armistice negotiations. This assuredly was embraced within the framework of the Board's terms of reference as the rescue, at the source, of an entire body of oppressed people, rather than through the evacuation of only a very small number of them.

One day we shall have an opportunity to discuss these things in person, and I am sure that at that time any possible remaining misunderstandings will be eradicated.

-2-

Again with thanks for your friendly letter, and
with warm personal regards.

Cordially yours,



I. A. Hirschmann
Special Attache

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

7 0 9 4

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

file
AUG 31 RECD



August 18, 1944

Dear Ira:

We were all shocked by the news of the MEFKURA disaster. It is fortunate that you are there on the spot to do everything that can be done, and particularly to make decisions concerning future evacuations by sea. As previously indicated, we will fully support the decisions made by you. I hope that this tragedy will not interfere too seriously with your future plans for rescue and relief now that the ground-work inside Rumania and Bulgaria has been so ably laid by you.

I am sorry that the press of every day business makes it so difficult to correspond personally. Cables are all right so far as they go but, unfortunately, they must of necessity leave much unsaid. Typical is our cable No. 697 of August 12 (WRB No. 96) advising you that your discussions with the Bulgarians and Rumenians should be confined to questions of immediate relief and rescue of refugees.

In borderline cases it is, of course, not easy to separate the political from purely refugee matters. Particularly now when the war appears to be approaching a climax in Europe, the State Department is likely to construe the term "political" in a broad manner. In this connection the State Department takes the position that you were on dangerous ground in your reference to the assistance which the United States Government would give for the rehabilitation of Bulgarian Jewish citizenry in paragraph 6 of the message which you had transmitted to certain Bulgarian officials. (Your cable No. 1414 of August 2.) Political discussions apparently have been taking place with representatives of the Bulgarian Government, who are particularly anxious to obtain substantial post-war commitments from the United States. The State Department has real doubts of Balabanoff's motives in this regard. Because of the delicacy of the question regarding the post-war period, the State Department requested me to make it clear to you that the War Refugee Board has no authority to bind the United States Government with a post-war commitment or to enter into discussions on such matters. Rather than enter into a prolonged debate, I agreed to the despatch of our cable No. 697 of August 12 (WRB No. 96).

Your No. 1446 of August 7 arrived in Washington after the despatch of our No. 697. Paragraph 5 of your cable indicated that you did in fact discuss post-war problems with Balabanoff although, of course, without making any commitments. At any rate, the State Department apparently is not pursuing the matter further.

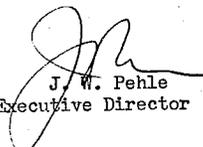
*Take up with file sent
in p. Turkey*

10094

Hereafter in dealing with foreign governments, whether enemy, neutral or friendly, it is suggested that you avoid any discussion of post-war problems, including the post-war relief and rehabilitation of refugees. Furthermore, in your dealings with friendly and neutral governments, it is suggested that unless there are cogent reasons to the contrary, general questions such as the one discussed in your conference with Mikhailov of the Soviet Embassy on August 7 (your 1439 of August 7; Ankara No. 120) be raised through Washington which is in a position to deal directly with the foreign government concerned.

I hope that these few observations will serve to give you some idea of the line which is being adopted in Washington by the State Department and the Board and which, for obvious reasons, I am unable to furnish you by cable. Notwithstanding the limitations which I have mentioned, I am sure you will be able to continue your good work in obtaining the cooperation of foreign governments in refugee rescue and relief matters.

With best regards,


J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Ira A. Hirschmann,
Special Representative, War Refugee Board,
United States Embassy,
Ankara, Turkey.

AUG 18 1944

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*Handled copy sent
"Rumanian Bulgarians"
(see it)*

1044

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With best regards,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Ira A. Hirschmann,
Special Representative, War Refugee Board,
United States Embassy,
Ankara, Turkey.

JWPehle:dg 8/18/44



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

*note of
8/23/44*

AMERICAN EMBASSY
Istanbul, August 12, 1944

Dear John :

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

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

With kind personal regards,

Cordially yours,

I. A. Hirschmann
I. A. Hirschmann
Special Attache

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

Encls.

Heure

Arrivée de réfugiés en Amérique

Washington, 5 A.A. — 982 réfugiés sont arrivés d'Europe, hier, à New-York et ont gagné Fort Ontario où ils vivront en paix et en sécurité. Ceux qui s'étaient embarqués en Italie sont des Yougoslaves, Autrichiens, Polonais, Grecs, Tchécoslovaques, Russes, Bulgares, Hongrois, Espagnols, Français. Tous ont salué la Liberté, du port de New York, avec un enthousiasme indescriptible.

00095

Ankara, Turkey

August 8, 1944

Dear Monsieur Simond:

Pursuant to my conversations with L. Balabanoff, Bulgarian Minister to Turkey, held at your home on July 24 and August 5, I am writing to outline my views and my requests related to the efforts to rescue the citizens of Bulgaria who are victims of persecution and oppression.

The above conversations with and reports from Balabanoff for his Government contained elements for encouragement as first possible steps. Balabanoff's letter, which has been transmitted by me to Washington, is confirmatory of the above, but as I reiterated to him yesterday, the Bulgarian Government is not going far enough, especially at this crucial hour in its history. I am convinced that the Government is taking steps to expedite the release, within technical possibilities, of their molested citizens who happen to be Jews. But from the information at hand, confirmed by Bulgarians who have managed to depart, these steps at this time can result only in a pitifully small emancipation.

I am bothered by two aspects of the situation: a) that few refugees will be able to leave Bulgaria in the next important weeks and months; b) that the War Refugee Board of the United States Government, watching daily for specific acts of large refugee movements out of Bulgaria, will have no choice but to interpret these negative results as a breach of faith by the Bulgarian Government in the face of its verbal and written representations by Balabanoff.

Considering the improved political situation today, as reported to me by Balabanoff, and the desire expressed by him for his Government to make such moves which could win the good will of the United States and our people, we stand today in a position where the fortuitous first steps in a program which could be productive of good on all sides may be unwittingly misconstrued. I therefore requested of Balabanoff on August 5 what we believe to be 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 nefarious

Monsieur Simond

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August 8, 1944

anti-Jewish laws on its books. In demanding the above we are not unaware of certain technical and political obstacles which the Government in Bulgaria may have faced a number of weeks ago, but which today, in the improved situation, seem to have been overcome. Aside from this, may I presume to suggest that these are days when Governments will persist only by bold and forthright measures, especially considering the accelerated sweep of Allied victory, and considering the desire of all Governments to find themselves in some measure of good grace at the Peace Table.

As you know, I am clothed with no authority to speak in connection with the latter. I am charged, however, with the special responsibility of effectuating the rescue of minorities, and am privileged to offer now a specific opening for the good will of the United States that can result only from broad strokes in the proof of the new Bulgarian regime's interest in humanitarian objectives, especially as related to its own citizens. Balabanoff, in his letter of July 25, stated:

"There is no doubt that the Bulgarian Government regrets exceedingly all the measures which have been taken regarding Jews in our country and that it does not in the least approve these measures."

Apparently the Bagryanov regime intends to take steps to negate the policy of the former Government in its ruthless corruption of a helpless minority of its own people. We assume that the Government will not be content to stop there, but will take the necessary measures designed concretely to reconstitute and rehabilitate these victimized members of its own citizenry.

Permit me to repeat that the Bulgarian Government stands today in a position where it can win for itself a priceless measure of good will without, as I see it, giving up anything fundamental excepting two laws which it maintains were forced upon it by its Nazi collaborators, and the riddance of which arouses the respect of the civilized world for the independence of the new Bulgarian Government. If any sacrifice is necessary on its part, connected with the revocation of these laws, I am confident that the scales will weigh heavily in its own favor after the decision is announced and we are permitted to present it forthrightly to the world as an earnest of the Government's good faith.

I have promised Balabanoff and you that this step will be heralded with the widest favorable publicity throughout the United States (and we hope Britain), which I shall take it as my especial task to

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Monsieur Diamond

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August 8, 1944

discharge. The evidence of the enormous publicity in America, that resulted from the abolition of the concentration camp in Transnistria by the Rumanians, is with Dr. Bluck. The step I am suggesting would elicit publicity and good will of an increased nature and scope.

There is another aspect of the subject which we discussed and which should be re-enforced with the Bulgarians. It is my sense that this may well be no time for planning large-scale emigration movements out of a country like Bulgaria if the present Government of Bulgaria is as sound and forward-looking in its determination to reconstruct its country as is indicated. The Jews who have been reduced by these two laws to complete deprivation and inability to carry on any legitimate work must be put on their feet, not for themselves alone as Bulgarian citizens, but for the enormous contribution that they will make in helping build the new Bulgaria. It is a strange paradox which history relates that the depressed and depleted Jewish populations in other countries, when released, have without exception rebounded and very soon become valuable citizens in building the wealth and culture of their communities. Considering the history of Bulgaria, the Jews as an indigenous part of that nation, enjoyed relatively fair treatment until recently when this latter record was smudged by one of the blackest pages in Bulgarian history. With any fair chance, economic assistance, rehabilitation and sustenance, the Jewish people should quickly become essential and useful participants in building the new nation.

Why send them in lost groups to strange lands if, as the Minister for their country asserts, they will "gradually" find themselves back in the position of respect and responsibility where they were before the war. Considering reports of poverty, hunger and depravity, to which the Jewish population has been reduced, it is decidedly too late to take these steps "gradually." It may even be that the Bulgarian Government some months hence may find itself in the position of beckoning for the return of these self-same citizens whom they helped deport to Palestine at great expense and inconvenience. I trust that you are not burdened by my over-emphasis of the point, but I insist that the step we are suggesting will be of even greater advantage to Bulgaria than to those who will be saved.

One more point: I think the leaders of the Bulgarian Government should know that we shall expect to hold them responsible for that which Balabanoff signed. While he wrote somewhat less than he reported to me verbally, his letter is categorical in asserting that (a) the government will ameliorate the situation of the Jews and cease all forms of persecution without delay; (b) transport will be facilitated within all

7 11 10 9 5

Monsieur Simond

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August 8, 1944

possible technical means. The letter goes further in its implications, but speaking for the Government of the United States of America I repeat that we shall never be satisfied with these conversations and representations until these two laws are revoked. In the meanwhile the Government can be completely lax in its enforcement of them.

Nor will this be sufficient: as I reported above, a state of economic depravity exists for its Jewish citizens resulting from these laws. What is the good of permitting people freely to leave their homes if they have nowhere to go, nor means of securing funds except by immoral and illegal means; if there are no possible available methods of reconstructing their lot or their dignity as human beings? Measures must be found at once to supply them with food, the necessary means of living as decent citizens, and economic assistance to rehabilitate their businesses, their families and their homes.

We propose to offer through the assistance of existing relief agencies now represented in Turkey, along with that of the War Refugee Board of the United States Government, such means to rehabilitate this population as possibilities permit. Obviously it is not too much to ask that the Bulgarian Government permit this and assist it in every possible way. They have pauperized the population. We do not ask them to revive it but only to permit others to do so without let or hindrance so that they may contribute towards the wellbeing of their own country.

I hope to hear that the forthright and sincere steps suggested herein have been taken by the Bulgarian Government in order to fortify its position among the humane nations of the world and to win back the respect and good will of our people which they had so scrupulously built in the last half-century and which they have so sorely lost in the last black war-years.

With thanks for your kindness,

Cordially yours,

I. A. Mirschmann
Special Attache
Government of the United States of America

Monsieur Gilbert Simond
42 Necati Bey Caddesi
Yenigöhr, Ankara

IM:VH

100955

Monsieur Simond

-5-

August 8, 1944

P.S. If the Bulgarian Government is seeking methods to demonstrate its sincerity in being helpful in this situation connected with refugee movements, we are informed that a number of refugees, possibly up to 2,000, will be leaving Hungary in the next few days. We have requested of the Rumanian Government that they permit these refugees to enter Rumania in transit and we have been informed that the Rumanians have agreed in principle to this procedure. Obviously the Bulgarians would not at this time wish to set up a blockade against these refugees in the face of their representations. It will therefore be necessary for them to agree to permit these refugees to come through Bulgaria and to provide for them the necessary transit facilities out of Bulgaria to Turkey without delay. The above will apply similarly to refugees who will be leaving Rumania, (who do not arrive from Hungary), and for whom transit facilities through Bulgaria will be required.

I. A. H.

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OFFICE OF
I. A. HIRSCHMANN
April 24, 1944

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

Dear John:

Attached is a memorandum of
a conversation I held with
Dr. Black at the U. S. Consul
General's Office in Istanbul
on March 20th. Please note the
last paragraph.

Cordially yours



I. A. Hirschmann

ish:ret

*cc: being handed
to Mr. Pehle
4/26/44 JWP*

700957

Istanbul, Turkey,
March 20, 1944.

Memorandum of Discussion with Dr. Black.

The real ruler in Bulgaria to-day is Beckerle, the German Minister who is a scoundrel. Prince Cyril is not only sympathetic to the Germans but is a German. He is the head of the board of regents having succeeded the King of Bulgaria. His position is now untenable and he is trying to find a way out.

It is true that the situation regarding the Jews has eased just a bit since Gabrovsky was ousted - he may come back, although this is doubtful but the Jewish population is in a catastrophic condition. Thousands are now eating in soup kitchens and there is not much in the soup. The bombing in Sofia, upon which we have no official reports as yet, has not eased matters.

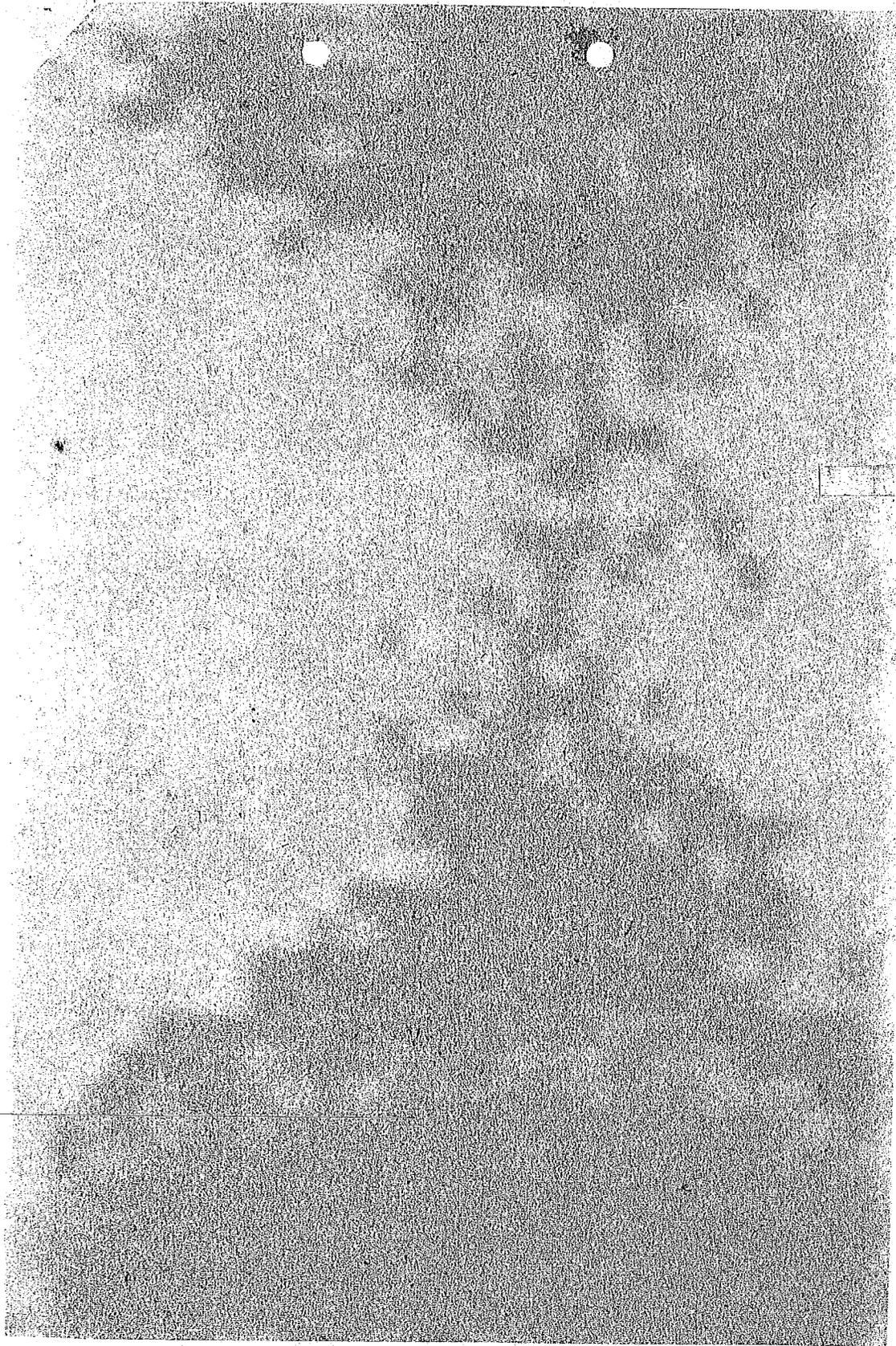
Dr. Black thinks that the representations made to Balabanoff, Minister to Turkey, were well timed; that B. is now at a loss to know how to help saving his country and that his Government may regard this as a "straw". B. stands in well having been appointed to Paris at the beginning of the World War and now in this pivotal position. Dr. Black feels that this is exactly the time to exert pressure on B. and that it should ^{be up rich} ~~be up~~ rewards now. He believes that the Russians will eventually succeed in arousing the population to the point where they will overthrow the present Government. The extent to which the Bulgarian people will permit themselves to be dominated by the Russians is questionable.

Dr. Black referred to members of highly skilled medical and dental men and women coming out of Bulgaria who might be used effectively at this time in war zones. These men and women agree to offer their services in any sector. I promised to take this up in Washington.

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

February 25, 1944

Re: Evacuation of Children from Bulgaria and other Balkan Countries to Palestine (Information taken from the censorship files of the Visa Division in the State Department)

A letter dated October 27, 1943 from the American Joint Distribution Committee, New York City to Louis Sobol in Buenos Aires (NYFIN-17168) indicates that there is a project being negotiated to evacuate 4,000 to 5,000 children from Bulgaria and other Axis countries to Palestine. The difficulties involved are the obtaining of Bulgarian exit permits and Turkish transit visas and the arranging of transportation for the children from Turkey to Palestine.

Apparently several months before this letter was written the Turkish Government had instructed its Bulgarian and Roumanian Consulates to grant transit visas to groups of 75 children at ten-day intervals. The Bulgarian Government was prepared to grant exit visas for the first thousand children provided sea transportation could be arranged. The Joint Distribution Committee has appropriated \$150,000 towards this project and is prepared to provide more funds as soon as the project gets under way.

At the time the above letter was written none of these children had yet arrived in Palestine. The writer explains thus the reason for this delay: "Under present conditions with the available transportation facilities the movement of these children must proceed slowly."

MJM:im 2/25/44

MJM

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

February 25, 1944

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other Balkan Countries to Palestine
(Information taken from the censorship
files of the Visa Division in the State
Department)

A letter dated October 27, 1943 from the American Joint Distribution Committee, New York City to Louis Sobol in Buenos Aires (NYFIN-17163) indicates that there is a project being negotiated to evacuate 4,000 to 5,000 children from Bulgaria and other Axis countries to Palestine. The difficulties involved are the obtaining of Bulgarian exit permits and Turkish transit visas and the arranging of transportation for the children from Turkey to Palestine.

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M. J. M. A.

*Index for Mrs. L. Sobol
files*

February 22, 1944.

MEMORANDUM

Names of Persons in Istanbul Who Evacuate
Balkan Refugees -- Censorship Intercept
(MI - FIN 9222). (Material obtained from
file in Visa Division, State Department)

On November 9, 1943, E. Japotinsky wrote a letter to J. Mirelman, 1750 Calle Heredia, Buenos Aires, Argentina, stating that the writer had learned that addressee's demand for a visa had been refused. The writer states that "we" are consulting Akzin* on what still can be done about it. Addressee's presence in Washington needed to coordinate efforts in the cause of Jews in Europe.

Arish Ben Eliezer has reached Palestine and has contacted Klarman, who has been in Istanbul during the past two months. They both believe that the resumption of "our" activities in evacuating people from Europe (mainly Bulgaria, Rumania, Hungary) is now possible. "We" gave Ben Eliezer \$4,000 for the purpose. Allman is going to Ankara to secure political backing for Klarman. Klarman has with him a group of active people, including Schieber (writer thinks Damm knows him). The whole matter is serious and stands a good chance of success.

K. Hartwig

*This may be Benjamin Akzin, who works in the Library of Congress and who is known to Friedman and Hartwig.

*John F. McLaughlin
files*

C O P Y
THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AMERICAN EMBASSY
London, December 17, 1943

No. 12808

Subject: Procedure for / American-British
Reference of Refugee Projects
to the IGC.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

Upon receipt of the Department's telegram 7574 November 30, 1943 in which the Department stated its agreement that it is advisable for the United States and British Governments to present jointly to the Director of the Intergovernmental Committee such projects as the two Governments consider practicable for the rescue and maintenance of refugees, the Embassy communicated its substance to the Foreign Office and has now received the Foreign Office's reply. Copies of 1/ & 2/ both are enclosed.

In reference to Turkey's policy toward refugees the Department will note in this correspondence an explanation of an earlier reference. In its November 17 letter (see the Embassy's telegram 8095, November 19, 1943) the Foreign Office's mention of an arrangement for the evacuation of refugees from enemy-occupied territory through Turkey did not signify reversal by the Turkish Government of a decision not to grant asylum to refugees in Turkey, but had to do only with a transit arrangement, according to the December 13 letter from the Foreign Office.

Respectfully yours,
For the Ambassador:

W. J. Gallman
First Secretary of Embassy

Enclosures:

- 1/ Copy of letter of December 3, 1943 from the Embassy to A.W.G. Randall of the Foreign Office.
- 2/ Copy of letter of December 13, 1943 (W 16948/6731/48) from A. W.G. Randall of the Foreign Office.

CG/PB

*John p. m. Lewis
file*

096

COPY

Enclosure No. 1/ to despatch
No. 12808 of December 17, 1943,
from the Embassy at London,
England.

London, December 3, 1943.

(Dear Fandall)

Upon receipt of your letter of the 17th November (W 15385/6731/48) we communicated its contents to the Department of State from which we now have a reply stating that it agrees that it is advisable for the United States and British Governments to present jointly to the Director of the Intergovernmental Committee such projects as the two Governments consider practicable for the rescue and maintenance of refugees.

The proposed visit of Vice-Director Malin to Italy has been treated separately and Coville has been in touch with you in the matter.

The Department states that it has received no information indicating that the Turkish Government is considering a reversal of its original decision, and would appreciate being fully advised in the matter.

With regard to your suggestion concerning Greek refugees escaping into Turkey we are awaiting the Department's comments on your subsequent letter relating to Dodecanesian refugees.

(Sincerely,)

Howard Bucknell Jr.

A. W. G. Fandall Esq., O. B. E.,
Foreign Office,
London, W. W. 1.

1096

C O P Y

Enclosure No. 2/ to despatch
No. 12808 of December 17,
1948 from the Embassy at Lon-
don, England.

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

17th December, 1948

No.W. 16948/6751/48

Dear Bucknell,

Please refer to your letter to me of 3rd Dec-
ember informing us that the Department of State agree
that it is advisable for the United States and His
Majesty's Governments to present jointly to the Direc-
tor of the Intergovernmental Committee such projects
as the two governments consider practicable for the
rescue and maintenance of refugees.

With regard to paragraph 3 of your letter, we
have no information that the Turkish Government have
reconsidered their decision not to grant asylum to
refugees in Turkey. I referred in paragraph 3 of my
letter to you of 17th November to the arrangement
made with His Majesty's Government whereby the Tur-
kish Government allow in principle the transit of a
limited number of refugees (seventy-five refugees
every ten days) through Turkey to Palestine or other
countries of asylum.

Perhaps you would explain this to the State De-
partment.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) A. Wallker

for

(A. W. G. Randall)

Mr. Howard Bucknell, Junior,
United States Embassy,
1, Grosvenor Square,
W. 1.

THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE
Washington Office: 1729 Sixteenth Street, N.W.

September 25, 1943

Michigan 4480

Hon. Breckenridge Long
Assistant Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Long:

Referring to the conversation I had the pleasure of having with you last week, when I told you of the methods of handling the rescue problem of Rumanian and Bulgarian Jews by the British, I want to inform you that I discussed the matter with Mr. Hayter of the British Embassy yesterday.

Mr. Hayter informed me that the British authorities in Turkey have now received full authority to act immediately, without consulting London, on matters of evacuating Jews from the Balkans to Palestine, when shipping is available. Since our request has been granted and the matter satisfactorily arranged, I am not sending you the detailed report on the situation.

On the question of the money to be placed at the disposal of the International Red Cross, which I discussed with you, the Jewish organizations will have a meeting shortly, and we will let you know as soon as we submit an application. I hope that, in the meantime, you will have had a report from the Intergovernmental Committee regarding the proposal that government funds be made available to the International Red Cross.

With many thanks for your sympathy and interest in our problems and with kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Nahum Goldmann

Nahum Goldmann

*order printing process
file*

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON: D. C.
September 9th, 1943.

Ref: 609/14/43



My dear Mr. Secretary,

I write to let you know that His Majesty's Government recently decided that in future all Jews, whether adults or children, who may succeed in escaping to Turkey from enemy-controlled territory since the closing of the Bulgarian-Turkish frontier in May last, will be eligible (after a preliminary security check in Turkey) for onward transport to Palestine, where they will be placed in camps, go through a further security check and if found satisfactory will be gradually released as legal immigrants into Palestine against the current half-yearly immigration quotas. By "onward transport" is meant such transport by sea or rail as may be arranged by His Majesty's Government in cooperation with the appropriate diplomatic mission.

This policy will also apply to Jews who manage to escape to other neutral countries, but where they have escaped to countries in which they are safe they will normally remain there. Thus the Jews at present in Mauritius, Cyprus and Spain would remain there (unless, as is hoped, arrangements can be made in the case of Spain to remove them for the duration of hostilities to Allied territory in North Africa) and only in very special cases and for very special reasons would authority be given for any onward transport to Palestine.

The numbers to be admitted under these new proposals will not entail any increase in the total number of immigrants permissible for the period ending the 31st March, 1944.

I have been asked to emphasize the confidential nature of this letter, as secrecy is essential in the interests of the refugees themselves and His Majesty's Government intend to make no public announcement of the policy described above. They are, however, informing the Jewish Agency for Palestine in confidence of what is proposed.

I am writing a similar letter to Mr. Myron Taylor.

Very sincerely yours,

/s/ R. I. Campbell

The Honourable /
Cordell Hull, /
Secretary of State of the United States,
Washington, D. C.

(Copied:NGY)
(Compared:)

DECLASSIFIED
By Authority of British

Govt telegram, 1-12-72
Date: SEP 15 1972

*John p. Mc. Lewis
plus*

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE of the
NATIONAL YOUTH ALIYAH COMMITTEE

Youth Aliyah
COMMITTEE OF HADASSAH
1819 Broadway, N.Y.C.

January 13, 1944

Hon. Breckenridge Long
State Department
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Long:

The National Board of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, has had before it the transcript of the testimony presented before the Foreign Relations Committee of the House, and will no doubt study so important a document with the meticulous care that it deserves.

At this moment, we would like to react to one aspect of the report with which we are particularly familiar, namely, the efforts to transfer children to Palestine. Hadassah, as the American Agency for Youth Aliyah (immigration), has contributed upward of \$4,000,000.00 toward the care of the more than 10,000 children who have been brought under the aegis of Youth Aliyah to Palestine. When the announcement was made that 5,000 children might be transferred from Bulgaria to Palestine, the Jewish community, not only in the United States, but in all free countries, mobilized itself for immediate action both with respect to securing the funds, and in Palestine particularly, in the preparation for the care and education of the children. We were, therefore, at a loss to understand the statement made on page thirty of the "Hearings":

"There was a proposal that two ships would be chartered; they would leave a port on the Black Sea and go to Turkey, from there the refugees would go directly to Palestine. They would carry 5,000 Jewish children. When they called me one morning, we could not find money to underwrite this. It is an expensive proposition when it comes to moving a lot of people and paying for their transportation and their

keep

840.48 Refugees/5043

1097

February 18, 1944

MEMORANDUM

Evacuation of Bulgarian Jews to Palestine.
(Status of projects as disclosed by files
of Visa Division, State Department.)

I. Reports on Bulgarian atrocities during March and May 1943.

On March 13, 1943 Berry in Istanbul wired the Department that on March 10 Bulgarian authorities had ordered the arrest of Sofia Jews preparatory to deporting them. Prime Minister Filov personally intervened to rescind the order temporarily. It appeared that a final phase in the Jewish crisis had begun.

In the town of Kyustendil every Jew had been ordered to prepare 30 kilograms of baggage in preparation for deportation to Poland. These people were kept under arrest for one week during discussions between local police and central authorities. Finally, it was decided not to send them to Poland. A statement was issued to the effect that Jews who are in Bulgaria proper would not be deported to Poland, but that Jews in Macedonia, Thrace, and other regions occupied by Bulgaria would be sent to Poland. Jewish detention camps were opened at Gorna Djumaya, Dupnitsa Radomir Pirov. These are temporary camps from which the Jews would be sent to permanent camps in Thrace and Macedonia. Local Americans received numerous appeals from Bulgarian Jews for assistance in obtaining visas.

On March 23, Berry reported to the Department that the Bulgarian Government's policy is to eliminate the Jewish population. 1/ The British have authorized 5,000 Palestine visas for refugee Jews and the Turkish authorities will grant transit visas for refugees who are assured of visas for countries beyond Turkey. However, a shortage of transportation facilities has been a retarding factor.

On March 25, Berry gave the Department supplemental information on the plight of Jews in Bulgaria. 2/ He stated that a non-Jewish member of the Bulgarian Parliament who came to Istanbul, alleged that the total Jewish community in Bulgaria was threatened with immediate

1/ Paraphrase of this telegram No. 94 R 28, March 23, is attached hereto.

2/ Paraphrase of this telegram No. 101 R 30, March 25, is attached hereto.

extinction by deportation to Poland. This individual suggested that a strong protest by the American Government to Bulgaria would strengthen the position of those in the Bulgarian Government who opposed the Jewish policy. The prestige of the American Government is so great that such a protest would offer the United Nations an opportunity to drive a wedge between the Bulgarian Government and the people. No more than 5% of the Bulgarian people support the anti-Jewish and pro-German policy. Berry suggested that, although a protest by the United States Government may not be practicable, protests by various groups in the United States would be effective.

On May 26, Harrison in Bern reported that a Sofia ATS despatch of May 26 stated that expulsion of the Jews created great popular emotion there. The police were compelled to intervene to disburse sympathetic demonstrations.

On May 31, Berry in Istanbul reported that Grabrovski, Bulgarian Minister of the Interior, ordered 25,000 Sofia Jews to the provinces on May 24, on the ground that they had participated in sabotage and murder. The order provided that each Jew must depart within three days after receiving notice. Confirmation by telephone revealed that during the past two days the Jewish population of Sofia had been removed and that the remainder would be removed in another day or so. Deported Jews have been concentrated in schools and buildings in Ruce, Starazagora, Karnobat, Plovidiv, and other provincial towns. They may be evacuated to Poland. No word had been received of protests by the Bulgarian population such as prevented deportations in March.

II. Attempted Protest of American and British Governments to Bulgaria;
Request to Turkey to accept 30,000 Bulgarian Jews.

A. Attempted Protest to Bulgaria.

Despite Berry's intimation that a protest by the United States would not be practicable, the Department wired the American Legation, Bern, on March 27, instructing them to request the Swiss Government to communicate to the Bulgarian Government the protest of the U. S. Government against the persecution of the Jews. ^{1/}

On April 1, Harrison in Bern wired the Department that the Swiss Government would not convey this protest to the Bulgarian Government,

^{1/} Paraphrase of this telegram No. 765, dated March 27, is attached hereto.

since the Bulgarian Government had recently refused to receive a communication from the British on this subject. However, Mr. Pilet-Golaz would inform the Bulgarian Minister of the contents of the telegram.

On April 11, Harrison reported Mr. Pilet-Golaz's conversation with Kiossevanov, who apparently is the Bulgarian Minister in Bern. Kiossevanov stated that he understood that only Jews in annexed areas had been affected by the deportation order.

The file does not disclose that any further efforts were made by the State Department to communicate the above-mentioned protest of this government to Bulgaria.

B. Proposal to Turkey to accept 30,000 Bulgarian Jews.

The first information concerning this proposal is contained in the Department's wire to Ankara, dated March 30, which states that the British and American Governments had agreed to request the Turkish Government to accept 30,000, or more, Bulgarian Jews who might be gotten out of Bulgaria if that Government allowed them to depart. 1/ The cost of evacuating and maintaining the refugees in camps in Turkey would be defrayed by the American and British Governments, and after the War the refugees would be repatriated. Ankara was instructed to make this proposal to the Turkish Government at once.

On April 5, Steinhardt in Ankara wired the Department that the Turkish Government had raised certain practical objections to the proposal: 2/ (1) A shortage of materials made construction of new camps almost impossible; (2) No existing shelter was available; (3) There was a food shortage in Turkey. Even though food were shipped from the United States and Great Britain, transportation facilities within Turkey were inadequate; (4) Moreover, the Turks would resent Bulgarians eating white bread while the Turks starved; (5) There would be many Axis agents in such a large number of refugees, which would require a great deal of policing.

However, the Turkish Foreign Minister stated that the Turkish Government would transport the refugees from Thrace to Istanbul if

- 1/ Paraphrase of this telegram No. 288, dated March 30, is attached hereto.
2/ Paraphrase of this telegram, No. 648, April 5, is attached hereto.

the British and American Governments would transport them from Istanbul to Palestine or elsewhere.

An Aide Memoire of the British Embassy in Washington dated April 19 recited that there was no prospect of inducing the Turks to receive 30,000 Bulgarian Jews and that the only possible solution of the problem would be to arrange for their transport to some other destination. The Memoire also stated that the State Department is aware of the Swiss Government's attitude that it cannot communicate to Bulgaria a request that no obstacle be placed in the way of deporting 30,000 Jews from Bulgaria. In reply to representations which had been made to the British Ambassador by Rabbi Wise and Judge Proskauer, the British Ambassador was instructed to say that a project for evacuating 4,500 Jewish children and 500 adults already is under way and that communication to the Bulgarian Government of a further scheme before this first scheme is complete might give the Bulgarian Government an excuse to delay the present operation while considering the more ambitious proposal. Lord Halifax was also authorized to call attention to the improbability of the Bulgarian authorities agreeing to the issue of exit permits to any man of military age. 1/

After April 19, it appears that the plan to evacuate 30,000 Jews was dropped for the reason given.

III. Evacuation of 4,500 children and 500 adults from Bulgaria to Palestine.

The file does not contain documents which describe the early stages of this project or its details, since it appears to be primarily a British plan. However, there was a reference to it in Berry's telegram to the Department dated March 23, and in the British Aide Memoire, dated April 19, which is summarized above.

A document entitled "Text of Telegram received from the Foreign Office dated May 11/43" states that the project for evacuating 4,000 (?) children and 500 adults from Bulgaria appears to be in danger because of difficulties connected with selection and transport. 2/ The document states that the Bulgarian Government have all along stipulated that they should select the refugees who are to go and have refused to deal with Mr. Baruch of Sofia who was nominated by the Jewish Agency for Palestine to make the selection. The British acquiesced in this latter method of selection and proposed to

1/ Copy of Aide Memoire, dated April 19, is attached hereto.

2/ A copy of this document is attached hereto.

approach the Swiss authorities with a request that they should convey such acquiescence to the Bulgarian Government.

The Turkish Government was unable to allocate more than enough rolling stock to carry 150 persons across Turkey per month. However, if sea transport could be provided from Istanbul, the Turkish authorities could probably carry more persons by rail from the Bulgarian frontier to that port. The Bulgarian railway authorities stated that they could carry 480 persons per annum and the Turkish Government was being asked whether they could increase their capacity to a similar limit. The Turkish authorities have approached the Roumanian Government with a view to chartering the Roumanian liners Transylvania and Bessarabia, now at Istanbul, for shuttle service between Istanbul and Haifa.

The United States Government was asked to associate itself with (A) the approach to the Swiss to communicate the British assent to selection by the Palestine Agency, and (B) the British approach to the Turks regarding transport.

In compliance with the British request Hull wired the American Legation, Bern, on May 15, to associate themselves with the British approach to the Swiss in regard to selection of the refugees; and on May 20, Hull wired the American Embassy, Ankara, to associate with the British in their approach to the Turks respecting the possible charter of the two Roumanian liners.

Apparently, the Roumanian Government agreed orally to the charter of these liners on condition that they be manned by Turkish crews and that a guarantee be made against loss of the vessels. However, the Roumanians were unable to give a final answer until the matter was referred to Berlin ^{1/} No further mention is made in the file of the proposal to charter these vessels, and it would seem that the matter was dropped. ^{2/}

On May 24, Harrison in Bern reported to the Department that information received from the British revealed that German pressure had led the Bulgarian Government to adopt a stiffer attitude. The Bulgarian Minister of Interior had intimated to the Swiss Charge d'Affaire at Sofia that the Bulgarian Government had decided to close the Turkish Bulgarian frontier to all Jews.

^{1/} This information was received in a letter from Hayter of the British Embassy in Washington, according to a memorandum from Reams to Long, dated May 21.

^{2/} Long's excuse at the hearing of the House Foreign Relations Committee was lack of funds. See criticism of this in letter of Mrs. de Sola Pool to Long, dated Jan. 13, 1944, which is attached hereto.

About a month later Sumner Welles conferred with Viscount Halifax concerning the need for action in getting the Jewish refugees out of Bulgaria. Welles stated that the Jewish organizations in this country feared that if there was further delay none of the refugees would be permitted to leave Bulgaria, in which case the United Nations would be properly held responsible for the situation that would then develop. 1/ The Ambassador inquired whether any definite word had yet been received with regard to constructing reception camps in North Africa for European refugees. Welles told Halifax that Roosevelt had given Churchill a memorandum on the subject which Churchill said he would discuss with his cabinet. However, Churchill apparently was maintaining that the President did not discuss the matter with him.

It would seem that at the time Welles and Halifax conferred, strong notes had already been sent to Bulgaria by the British and American governments with respect to the project to evacuate children. Thus on June 25, Harrison at Bern reported to the Department that the British Legation in Switzerland had received instructions on May 31 to consult with the American Legation and see that the Swiss Government left the Bulgarian Government in no doubt that if the latter persisted in refusing to let Jewish children leave this would be a flagrant breach of undertaking. It was disclosed that notes to this effect from both the British and American Governments were communicated to Bulgaria by the Swiss. (Copies of these notes were not found in the file). The Swiss Legation at Sofia reported that Bulgarian authorities have been compelled to suspend the movement of Jews toward the Turkish frontier because Jewish travelers were turned back by the German secret police.

On July 3, W. G. Hayter of the British Embassy in Washington wrote to Reams that the Bulgarian Government had confirmed that the frontiers were closed to all Jews except those selected by themselves. 2/ Mr. Hayter stated that this may be a bluff and that Mr. Eden had attempted to call it by instructing the British Minister at Bern on June 26 to inquire of the Bulgarian Government through the Swiss how many Jewish refugees may leave under the procedure proposed by Bulgaria. The file does not disclose any further information respecting this instruction.

Some doubt as to the accuracy of the information given by Mr. Hayter is raised by a letter dated July 15 from Goldman, of the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs, to Travers. In that letter Mr. Goldman stated that a representative of the Jewish Agency for Palestine in Istanbul

1/ Memorandum of conversation, dated June 24, is attached hereto.

2/ Copy of Hayter's letter of July 3, is attached hereto.

had cabled that Sofie had agreed to the exit of 1,000 persons until the end of July on condition that sea transports could be arranged. Goldmen stated that delay in obtaining transport during the last few months was responsible for the lack of success. He suggested that the British Embassy be allowed to make decisions on the spot instead of being compelled to refer every question back to London. The file does not reveal what action was taken by the Department with respect to Mr Goldmen's suggestion that 1,000 persons could be rescued.

On September 23, Goldmen wrote to Long concerning a conversation he had with Mr. Hyster in which Mr. Hyster stated that the British authorities in Turkey have now received full authority to act immediately, without consulting London, on evacuating Jews from the Balkans to Palestine when shipping is available. Apparently, one of the difficulties suggested by Goldmen has now been eliminated.

It will be seen from the above that the file does not definitely disclose what became of the plan to evacuate the 5000.

III. Policy of British Government toward admission of Jews into Palestine and other neutral countries.

R. I. Campbell of the British Embassy in Washington wrote to Cordell Hull on September 9 that the British Government had decided that in the future all Jews who may succeed in escaping to Turkey will be eligible for onward transport to Palestine where they will be placed in camps and if found satisfactory will be gradually released as legal immigrants into Palestine against the current emigration quota. 1/ By "onward transport" is meant such transport by sea or rail as may be arranged by the British with the appropriate diplomatic mission.

This policy will also apply to Jews who manage to escape to other neutral countries, but where they have escaped to countries in which they are safe they will normally remain there. The letter emphasized its confidential nature, stating that secrecy was essential to the interests of the refugees themselves and that His Majesty's Government intend to make no public announcement of the policy. However, the Jewish Agency for Palestine was informed in confidence.

IV. Policy of Turkey toward transport of refugees through Turkey to Palestine.

A letter from the Foreign Office, dated December 13, to Bucknell of the American Embassy, London, states that the Turkish Government is allowing in principle the transport of a limited number of refugees (75 every 10 days) through Turkey to Palestine or other countries of asylum. 2/

R.E. Hartwig

1/ A copy of this letter, dated September 9, is attached hereto

2/ A copy of this letter, dated December 13, is attached hereto

f. 1403/-/43

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 3rd, 1943.

Dear Reams,

At the conversation which Lord Halifax had with the Under Secretary on June 24th, Mr. Welles asked what the position was with regard to the Jews in Bulgaria. The extent of our knowledge at that time was summarised in Lord Halifax's letter of the same date. We asked London if they had any further information; I am passing on their reply to you since I understand that Mr. Welles is away.

The present position is that the Bulgarian Government have now confirmed that the frontier is closed to all Jews except those selected by themselves. This may be merely a bluff designed to avoid returning a categorical refusal to all Jews to leave, and Mr. Eden has therefore attempted to call it by instructing His Majesty's Minister at Berne on June 26th to approach the Swiss authorities to ascertain from the Bulgarian Government how many Jewish refugees may leave under the procedure proposed by them.

As there seems to be considerable likelihood that under German pressure the Bulgarian Government will remain obdurate, Mr. Eden instructed His Majesty's Minister at Berne on June 11th to enquire whether the Roumanian

Government/

Mr. R. B. Reams,
The State Department,
Washington, D. C.

*John F. M. Lewis
file*

7 0 9 7

- 2 -

Government would allow a number of Jewish children with a proportion of accompanying adults to leave Roumania for Palestine. The Roumanian Government have proved on the whole more amenable over such matters in the past and it has been reported that they would be willing to allow a substantial number of Jews to leave if transport and accommodation can be found for them.

Yours sincerely,

/s/ W.G. Hayter

W. G. Hayter.

1098

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

Date: June 24, 1943

SUBJECT: Jewish refugees in Bulgaria

Participants: British Ambassador, the Viscount Halifax;
Under Secretary, Mr. Welles

COPIES TO: S, A-L, PA/D, Eu

The British Ambassador called to see me this morning at my request.

I raised with the Ambassador the need for action in getting Jewish refugees out of Bulgaria. I said that the Jewish organizations in this country were very fearful that if further delay took place none of these refugees would be permitted to leave Bulgaria and that I felt that in such event the United Nations could very properly be held responsible for the situation which would then develop. The Ambassador said that he had spoken with Mr. Myron Taylor recently concerning this matter and asked if any definite work had yet been received with regard to the construction of concentration camps in North Africa for refugees from Europe. I reminded the Ambassador that there seemed to be some discrepancy of views as to what the status of this situation was since the President had given Mr. Churchill a memorandum on the subject which the latter had said he would discuss with his Cabinet in London, whereas Mr. Churchill apparently was maintaining that the President had not discussed the matter with him at all. The Ambassador asked if I would at least ascertain whether our highest military authorities were agreeable to the construction of these concentration camps in North Africa. I said I would be glad to confirm my understanding of this situation.

U:SW:GES

John F. [unclear]

10098

Text of telegram received from
the Foreign Office dated May 11/43

Please communicate to the State Department
for their strictly confidential information the follow-
ing summary of the present position regarding evacuation
of Bulgarian Jewish children to Palestine.

2. The whole scheme of evacuating 4,000 children
and 500 accompanying adults from Bulgaria appears to be
in danger because of major difficulties connected with
(A) selection (B) Transport.

3. Selection. Bulgarian Government have all
along stipulated that they should themselves select re-
fugees that were to go. Jewish agency for Palestine,
however, wished selection to be made by prominent
Zionists, Mr. Baruch of Sofia, nominated by them, making
selection for Bulgaria. We accepted this arrangement
and he in fact selected a certain number of refugees,
but Bulgarian Government refused to have any relations
with him. I am at present awaiting assent to Bulgarian
Stipulation on the part of the Government of Palestine
and when this is received, I propose once more to approach
Swiss authorities with request that they should convey
our acquiescence to the Bulgarian Government; this seems
sole means of getting out any substantial number of
children at all.

*Refer to Mr. Brown's
files*

1943

4. Transport. Turkish Government themselves faced with a serious shortage of transport appear unable to allocate more than enough rolling stock (passenger or goods) to carry 150 persons across Turkey per month. If, however, sea transport could be provided from Istanbul (Constantinople onwards, Turkish authorities might be prepared to carry a greater number of persons by rail from Bulgarian frontier as far as that port. Bulgarian railway authorities have told Swiss Consul at Sofia that for their part they could carry 400 persons per month and we are asking Turkish Government if they could not increase their capacity to a similar limit. Turkish authorities, at the request of His Majesty's Ambassador at Ankara, have approached Roumanian Government with a view to Roumanian liners, Transylvania and Bessarabia, now lying at Istanbul, being chartered for a "shuttle" service between Istanbul and Haifa. Turkish authorities are, however, very pessimistic in regard to possible result of their approach. Some small Turkish vessels have been suggested as an alternative but at least 2 of these have been pronounced unsuitable. The question of using Swedish s.s. Drottningholm is now being examined.

5. I should be glad, therefore, if you would, in view of sympathetic interests in this aspect of refugee problem displayed by the United States Delegation at Bermuda, inform the State Department of the difficulties which are being encountered in carrying out Balkan

evacuation scheme and ask if United States Government could see their way to associating themselves with (A) our approach to Swiss authorities regarding selection and (B) our approach to Turkish authorities regarding transport.

7 10 9 13

AIDE MEMOIRE

On the 29th of March, Mr. William Strang handed to Mr. Dunn the draft text of the instructions sent to His Majesty's Ambassador at Ankara and to His Majesty's Minister at Berne with the purpose of arranging with the Turkish and Bulgarian Governments (the latter by way of the Swiss Government) for the evacuation to Turkey from Bulgaria of 30,000 Jews who were, it was understood, to be deported to Poland.

The State Department will no doubt have received from the United States Ambassador at Ankara a telegram to the effect that it is the agreed view of the United States and British Ambassadors that there is no prospect whatever of persuading the Turks to agree to receive the 30,000 Bulgarian Jews, and that the only possible solution of the problem would be to arrange for their transport to some other destination.

The State Department are also aware of the attitude of the Swiss Government who feel unable to make to the Bulgarian Government an official communication requesting that no obstacle be placed on the departure of the 30,000 Jews from Bulgaria.

In the meantime, representations have been made to the Ambassador in writing by Dr. Weizmann, and to the ^{British} Secretary of State verbally by Rabbi Wise and Judge Proskauer in favour of the Jews in Bulgaria. His Majesty's Ambassador has been instructed to reply to these representations by calling attention in the first place to the fact that practical arrangements are under way for the evacuation of 4500 Jewish children and 500

accompanying/

*Refer to Mr. L...
file*

accompanying adults from Bulgaria, and suggesting that the communication to the Bulgarian Government of a further scheme before this first scheme is completed might give the Bulgarian Government an excuse to delay the present operation while considering the more ambitious proposal. Lord Halifax is also authorised to draw the attention of the Jewish representatives to the improbability of the Bulgarian authorities agreeing to the issue of exit permits to any man of military age.

Lord Halifax would finally propose to quote to the Jewish representatives an extract from a speech by Viscount Cranborne in the House of Lords on March 23rd in which he said "The capacity of Great Britain and of her Colonial territories to maintain vast quantities of refugees is dependent and must be dependent in war time on two vital and inter related considerations. Those are shipping and food. Already our resources are greatly stretched".

BRITISH EMBASSY,

WASHINGTON, D.C.,

April 19th, 1943

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Paraphrase of telegram no. 648 of April 5, 8 p.m., from Ankara.

Reference is made to Department's no 288, March 30.

Upon talking over with my British colleague our mode of approach, I called on the Foreign Minister this morning to urge him to accept 30,000 or more Jewish people who might be gotten out of Bulgaria if Bulgarian authorities would allow them to depart. I suggested that a temporary camp or camps some place in Turkey might be established for these refugees and gave him assurance that British and American Governments would pay cost of evacuation and maintenance of refugees, and that any additional food required for feeding them would be supplied by United States and Britain, who would repatriate them after the war.

Although Numan was most sympathetic, he started at once to enumerate practical difficulties involved. He said that in the few Turkish cities a room was almost impossible to get, and that no such camps as we envisaged existed, and could not be constructed because of lack of timber, materials, construction and labor because of mobilization in Turkey. He said that even the Turkish Government was having great difficulty in effecting minor construction of greatest importance for defense purposes. He added that to house even a small number of proposed refugees either in temporary shelters or existing dwellings would be physically impossible. As far as feeding refugees was concerned, he pointed out that a large part of the Turkish population was at present insufficiently fed, the acute food shortage being evidenced by almost daily price increases of essential foodstuffs. Replying to my suggestion that United States and Britain provide food for the refugees, he said that this would further burden the already overcharged transportation system of the country and added that in many sections the foodstuff shortages and lack of fuel could be traced directly to inadequate transport. Even if these obstacles, which he considered insuperable, could be overcome, he said there would still remain the reaction of Turkish public which as he put it "have housing and food troubles enough of their own and would greatly resent Bulgarians eating white bread while Turks starve".

Numan then made reference to what he characterized as the "certainty" that there would be Axis agents among so large a number of refugees from Bulgaria, some who might be planted and others acting under compulsion of threats to their relatives or families living in the occupied countries. He said that this

in

*John H. M. L. ...
file*

1048

in turn would raise the question of discipline among the refugees who would require military surveillance which would handicap Turkish Government and immobilize soldiers, in the event Turkey became involved in the war.

Then Numan remarked that irrespective of their religious faith or racial origin, Bulgars were Bulgars. Therefore he said the resentment of the Turks to these refugees would be directed against them not as Jews but as Bulgars.

Numan then said that having pointed out the impossibility of agreeing to our proposal, he had a few constructive suggestions to offer, since he desired to be as helpful as possible in view of fact that Turkish Government had the greatest sympathy for these unfortunate people. He said that as he saw it the most serious aspect of the problem was that of transportation from Thrace to Istanbul and that if British and American Governments would provide vessels for transportation of refugees from Istanbul to Palestine or some other place, the Turkish Government would take on itself to bring them out of Thrace to Istanbul. He referred in this connection to the fact that Turkish Government recently had agreed to provide transportation for transit of 5000 Jewish refugees, most of them children, from the Balkans to Palestine and added that though this undertaking was severely straining Turkish transportation facilities, the movement was proceeding regularly. He said that although railways were already so overcharged that trains were reaching their destination one or two days late, he would discuss the matter further with Minister of Communications in an effort to speed this movement. He said that in attempting to speed this transit movement, the Minister of Communications was faced not only with an acute shortage of cars but with inability to repair the limited number of locomotives available, with a resulting bottleneck in Taurus Mountains over which a single locomotive could take only a certain number of cars.

Toward the end of our conversation Numan assured me again that the Turkish Government desired to do everything in its power to alleviate the sufferings of the Jews in Bulgaria, but remarking that its ability to help unfortunately was limited by physical conditions beyond its control.

STEINHARDT

Paraphrase of telegram no. 238, March 30, 9 p.m. to
Ankara from Department.

The question of possible aid to Jews of Bulgaria and territory occupied by Bulgarian forces has been reviewed by Mr. Eden as a result of telegrams received from the Consul at Istanbul. The following measures have been agreed upon:

One. The British and American Governments make a protest to the Bulgarian authorities, through the Swiss Government, against the persecution of the Jewish minority in Bulgaria and especially against the transfer of Jews beyond Bulgaria's jurisdiction into Poland; and

Two. The British and American Government make an urgent appeal to the Turkish Government to accept the 30,000 or more Jews who might be gotten out of Bulgaria if the Bulgarian authorities would allow them to depart.

With reference to the first measure, appropriate instructions have been sent to the American and British Ministers at Bern. Regarding the second measure, the setting up of a temporary camp or camps somewhere in Turkey to receive these refugees would be involved. Assurances would be given by the American and British Governments to the Turkish Government that the cost of evacuating and maintaining the refugees would be defrayed and that any additional foods required to feed them would be supplied by the two Governments. After the war the two Governments would repatriate the refugees.

Your British colleague has already been instructed by Eden to associate himself with you in approaching the Turkish Government in the above sense. It is suggested that you make this proposal to the Turkish authorities at once.

HULL

*John P. M. Bassett
file*

098

Paraphrase of telegram sent from Department to Bern,
no. 765, March 27, 1943.

Please ask Swiss Government to request its Minister to Bulgaria in charge of American interests to inform Bulgarian Government that Government of the United States has obtained information from sources it considers reliable that the Bulgarian Government is at present engaged upon a program of persecution of its Jewish minority and is doing so to the extent of sending them beyond its jurisdiction into Poland where they would be subjected to various forms of cruelty which Nazi degeneracy dictates. It is the opinion of the United States Government that no government, even though it may be allied for military purposes with Nazi Germany, should write a record which in future will stand as a continuing stain upon its reputation.

The United States Government, under these circumstances, calls this matter to the attention of the Bulgarian and asks the Bulgarian Government most solemnly in the name of humanity and universal concepts of decency, to consider again the course attributed to it and to show compassion for the sufferings which such a course, if carried out, would bring upon many thousands of innocent persons, and to permit these Jewish people to leave peacefully for such neutral countries as may allow them temporarily or permanently to reside.

HULL

*Index for the Russian
files*

1099

Paraphrase of telegram no. 101R30, March 25, 11 a.m.,
from Istanbul.

A non-Jewish Bulgarian, who is a prominent member of the Bulgarian Parliament has arrived in Istanbul for the special purpose of making strong personal representations regarding the condition of the Jews in Bulgaria, on humanitarian grounds. His statement strengthens and confirms information reported in my telegram 94R28 dated March 23.

It is stated by this informant that total Jewish community in Bulgaria is threatened with immediate extinction. Jews in Bulgaria are now in even worse position than those in Hungary and Rumania. Jews from Bulgarian occupied Macedonia and Thrace cannot be helped, as all of them, including men, women and children are to be deported to Poland, their deportation having already started.

He states further that the Bulgarian Government intends to deport all Jews in Bulgaria to Poland, and order for this purpose having been issued. This order has been stayed temporarily but not rescinded, due to popular protests led by prominent non-Jewish Bulgarian citizens.

He states the policy of destruction is demanded by the Germans and promoted by Gabrovski. The lives of 45,000 Jews are threatened. The Bulgarian Parliament member is of the opinion that the best way to assist them is for the American Government to make a strong protest to the Bulgarian Government through the Swiss stating in the most vigorous terms its disapproval of Bulgarian Government's policy toward the Jews.

He states that prestige of United States and American people in Bulgaria is so great that such a protest would greatly strengthen position of members of Cabinet who oppose Gabrovski and may deter the government from going on with its present policy, and earnestly begs that such a protest be made at once. He says that danger in which Bulgarian Jews now find themselves cannot be overestimated.

Aside from its humane aspect, the plight of the Jews in Bulgaria offers the United Nations an opportunity to drive a wedge between the government and the people. This official whose opinion as a former president of Agricultural Bank and a long time member of Parliament, deserves attention when he says that no more than 5%

of
taken by Mr. Demos
press

10099

of Bulgarians whole-heartedly support Bulgarian government's anti-Jewish and pro-German policy. The remaining 95% are pro-United Nations. A Bulgar lawyer who is well known to American, and who has just arrived in Istanbul in order to help the Jews and make known their conditions, also states that the majority of persons in his circles oppose anti-Jewish policy of the government. I am informed reliably that Archbishop Stefan of Sofia and all of Bulgarian clergy are working in interest of the Jews and are against the policy of Gabrovski. Bishop Andrei, at present head of the Bulgarian exarchate at Istanbul and recently Bulgarian bishop in the United States, substantiates this hostile attitude of the clergy toward the Government's Jewish policy. Against the desire of the government the Sofia the faculty of the Sofia University recently voted to allow the reenrollment of Jews, seventy to two. In the light of this condition a strong statement of American feeling will be hailed by all liberal elements and will encourage them in opposing the small German controlled element at present directing Bulgarian policy.

Although under present circumstances a direct protest by American Government may not be practicable and would be open to attack by Axis Governments, it is thought that protests made by American organizations well known in Bulgarian, as, for instance, Federal Council of Churches, the Carnegie Institute for International Peace, the Catholic Church, the American Red Cross, and English language news bulletins by National Broadcasting or Columbia Broadcasting Systems would efficiently reach the Bulgarian people as well as government and would do much to undermine the position of the officials of the government sponsoring the anti-Jewish policy.

BERRY

COPY

Paraphrase of telegram no. 94 R 28, March 23, 9 a.m.,
from Istanbul.

Bulgarian Government's policy on its self-created Jewish problem in the last few days quite evidently has been directed toward elimination of the Jewish population. Minister Gabrovsky, in a closed meeting of government's strong parliamentary supporters, is said to have stated in order to resist pressure to declare war on Soviet submitted to German pressure to liquidate Jewish communities.

In occupied territories where Jewish deportees are transported in open freight cars to concentration camps, annihilation is now ruthlessly being carried out. Each deportee is deprived his warm clothing and valuables. 200 grams of bread is the daily food ration.

All Jews by now have been removed from Thrace and Eastern Macedonia to detention camps at Gornedjumaya, Simitli, Piro, Radomir and Dupnitsa, in all, amounting to about 12,000 people. First trains of deportees from Piro to Poland and from Skolpje to Poland have departed.

Authorities in Bulgaria proper are acting more moderately where feelings of non-Jewish Bulgarians are involved. Preparations which were made for deportation to Poland of Jews from Burgas, Yambol, Plovdiv and Kyustendil, and other towns of Bulgaria proper were suspended upon strong protests by well-known Bulgarians in these towns supported by the Archbishops of Plovdiv and Sofia.

British authorities in Turkey have been authorized to grant 5000 visas for Palestine to be used by refugee Jews and transit visas will be granted by Turkish authorities for arriving refugees who are assured of visas for countries beyond Turkey. Transportation facilities shortage both in Turkey and Bulgaria is an important retarding factor and travel of persons for whom visas are available. Unless transportation is (?) or there is a definite change in policy of Bulgarian Government, which does not seem likely, Jewish question will cease to exist before many Bulgarian Jews can reach Turkey. As the Bulgarian authorities clearly intend to annihilate Jews within next three or four weeks, any steps to assist them must be taken now.

BERRY.

*John G. Mc...
file*

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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OUTGOING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

S. W. ...
R. H. Parks
October 3, 1944

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
OCT
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

7 p.m.

AMEMB, ANKARA.

ANKARA.

851

The cable below for Steinhardt and Hirschmann is WRB 114.

Please refer to your No. 1868 of September 29 (WRB Ankara 162).

As indicated in our circular cable of September 7th (WRB No. 108) War Refugee Board activities are to be strictly limited to the rescue and relief of the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death, that is, who are still in enemy occupied territory. The Board is interested in the removal of refugees now in liberated areas only in the event that their presence serves to discourage and prevent the rescue of additional refugees from enemy occupied areas.

Unless emigration from Bulgaria is essential for the foregoing purpose, it is not (repeat not) within the Board's functions, and accordingly the Board should not in any way be associated with projects for such emigration. You may make this fact clear to all interested parties. This does not mean, however, that the Board should attempt to pass judgment on such emigration projects carried on by other organizations or individuals. In this class of cases it is the Board's policy neither to encourage nor discourage emigration activities since they involve matters clearly outside of the Board's jurisdiction.

WRB:MMV:EP
10/3/44

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

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

CONTROL COPY

00099

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

Please refer to your No. 1858 of September 29 (WRB Ankara 162).

As indicated in our circular cable of September 7th (WRB No. 106) War Refugee Board activities are to be strictly limited to the rescue and relief of the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death, that is, who are still in enemy occupied territory. The Board is interested in the removal of refugees now in liberated areas only in the event that their presence serves to discourage and prevent the rescue of additional refugees from enemy occupied areas.

Unless emigration from Bulgaria is essential for the foregoing purpose, it is not (repeat not) within the Board's functions, and accordingly the Board should not in any way be associated with projects for such emigration. You may make this fact clear to all interested parties. This does not mean, however, that the Board should attempt to pass judgment on such emigration projects carried on by other organizations or individuals. In this class of cases it is the Board's policy neither to encourage nor discourage emigration activities since they involve matters clearly outside of the Board's jurisdiction.

THIS IS WRB ANKARA CABLE NO. 114

10:15 a.m.
October 3, 1944

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

JB
JBFriedman

JB
10/2/44

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DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

A War Ref. Bd. File
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COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

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RP-45
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arrangement. ([redacted] W)

Ankara
Dated July 15, 1944

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Filed

Secretary of State
Washington

^X
1286, July 15, 2 p.m.

FOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD FROM HIRSCHMANN

Ankara No. ^X97

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

We are informed here that in May 1944 instructions were sent to the Turkish border by the Turkish authorities for the admission into Turkish territory of refugees attempting to cross the border illegally from Bulgaria (reference Department's telegram 594). These instructions were issued after assurances had been given that Palestine immigration certificates would be issued to those arriving in this way. Consequently 11 or 12 refugees who presented themselves during May and early June at the Turkish border were permitted to enter Turkey, after being detained and investigated by the police.

We are informed by Barlas of the Jewish Agency that subsequently in June seven additional people tried to cross the border. They were detained there for a brief period

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

10099

*5 War Ref
Bl. Hille*

KEM-110
This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Government
agency. (~~RESTRICTED~~)

Ankara

Dated September 26, 1944

Rec'd 8:06 p.m., 27th.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

CONTROL COPY

1823, September 26, 2 p.m.

FOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Ankara's No. 161.

The Bulgarian Minister of Propaganda, Dimokazassov made the following statement to newspaper correspondents on September 22, 1944 which was broadcast via radio Sofia in the Bulgarian, English, and Hebrew languages.

One. The Bulgarian Government takes a positive attitude regarding the establishment of a Jewish State in Palestine.

Two. The Bulgarian Government has no objection and will make no difficulties for those Jews who wish to emigrate to Palestine. Regarding them as Bulgarian citizens who enjoy full rights, the Government will require of them merely that they comply with all laws or regulations obligatory for all citizens of the country.

THREE. The Government

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THREE. The Government has annulled all exclusive laws of anti-Jewish character. Such an exclusive law was that establishing a surtax to the extent of 20 to 25% of the value of all Jewish property. This tax, being the result of a vicious law, was discriminatory against the Jews. The excess amount will now be returned but because of Bulgaria's difficult financial situation such amount will be converted into a state loan of definite maturity.

Four. The Jews now enjoy full equality of rights and live under the same conditions and in freedom as do other Bulgarian nationals.

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

Property, firm rights, and other assets still owned by the state will be returned to the Jews. There will remain to be settled the question of assets about which legal obligations have arisen between the state and private interests, that is, where property or firm rights have been transferred to third parties, or where other obligatory relations have been created during the course of the last few years. The solution of this problem is a question of time. The Government will find the means

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the means to solve it in such ways as not to disturb the traditional friendship and mutual understanding between Bulgarians and Jews. The Government is being assisted in this matter by Jewish people who have confidence in it. The Government will solve the problem in accordance with national relations between a democratic state and its citizens.

In cases where fictitious property transfers have been made by Jews to Bulgarians such property will be automatically returned to its lawful owner. In cases of fraudulent transfers the public authorities will make investigations and will proceed in favor of the injured party.

The foregoing ends the statement of policy.

In our opinion, this statement if faithfully implemented will materially assist in the reestablishment of Bulgarian Jewish citizens to their earlier rights and liberties.

STEINHARDT

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period during which efforts were made in Ankara to have instructions sent to the border authorities to admit these seven. Before the instructions arrived the refugees were sent back from the frontier. At the present time no persons are entering Turkey illegally by this route.

The attitude of the Turkish officials regarding the foregoing is that it is dangerous from the point of view of Turkish security to open the borders indiscriminately as they are unable to distinguish between genuine refugees seeking a new haven and political agents. The above was amplified in an earlier report from me to the Board and Ambassador Steinhardt would be glad, I am confident, to discuss the situation with you if you should so desire.

It should be emphasized that the situation above described differs from that obtaining with regard to the entrance of refugees from the Balkans arriving by water. Refugees so arriving are not permitted to set foot on Turkish soil except under strict police control and are escorted by the police from the vessel to the train

which

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which takes the refugees directly to the Syrian border.

It is my intention to press the Turkish authorities to see to it that the Turkish frontier authorities permit the entry of refugees seeking to cross the Turkish frontier from Bulgaria and facilitate their onward journey to Istanbul. In the event that a refugee, or a group of refugees, should have any difficulty in crossing the frontier I shall bring the facts immediately to Mr. Kelley's attention in order that he may take the matter up with the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

KELLEY

JT
CSB

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

FMH-891
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. (b)(7)(D)

Ankara

Dated September 29, 1944

Rec'd 3:53 a.m., 30th

Secretary of State,
Washington.

1858, September 29, midnight

FOR THE WRB FROM THE AMBASSADOR AND HIRSCHMANN.

ANKARA 162.

The following information has reached us from
reliable sources in Sofia:

One. Klarman, representative of the emergency
committee and Fom'eranz representative of several
Palestinian organizations who proceeded to Sofia
ostensibly as newspaper correspondents have conferred
there with high Bulgarian officials with a view to
stimulating immediate emigration from Bulgaria to Palestine
claiming the same to be part of the Board's rescue
program. These efforts to stimulate emigration from
Bulgaria to Palestine, notwithstanding the discontinuance
of anti-Jewish measures, appear to have as their
principal objective immigration for Palestine.

Two. The same representatives are also reported
to have

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

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

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to have requested high Bulgarian officials to release all Jewish young men of military age from the obligation to join the Bulgarian armed forces so that they may proceed instead to Palestine. This latter request has been refused by the Bulgarian authorities.

These moves by irresponsible Palestinian representatives are presumably at variance with the policy of the War Refugee Board to aid in bringing about the reinstatement of the Bulgarian Jews who now enjoy full rights and commensurate obligations as Bulgarian citizens.

STEINHARDT

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