Measures Directed Toward Halting Persecution: Rescue from Bulgaria, Folder 2
CROSS REFERENCE ON  BULGARIA

FOR:

Amendment to this License   
Extension of this License   
Renewal of this License   
Correspondence concerning this application   
Other (Specify)   

For Hirschmann's conversations with Bulgarian Minister in Ankara

SEE: HUMANIA AND BULGARIA (SECRET)
It is regretted that any statement in my 1441 of August 2 was subject to misconstruction (see Department's 597 August 12), especially in view of extreme precautions I have taken in strictly limiting scope of those conversations exclusively to question of Board's immediate rescue program. All of my conversations with Elseneff as well as with Cretzianu and Erron Thierry as reported to you have dealt only with immediate situation connected with rescue of refugees and have not dealt with other matters.

Insofar as concerns your request that discussions must not enter into field of domestic affairs of Bulgaria and Rumania, I desire to point out that it is difficult if not impossible to separate completely question of persecution and depopulation of a vital element.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 4 5 1972
element of population of a country from our efforts to salvage or rescue this population. It is only in this connection that I offered my views to the Board as set forth in paragraph 6 of Embassy's 1414.

I have repeatedly informed Department and WNB of utmost caution which I have been observing in these conversations as I am thoroughly aware of possibility of misinterpretations by the enemy. Any interpretations which may be made in respect to matters relating to any subject other than the Board's rescue program are completely unjustified on the part of the Romanians, Bulgarians or Hungarians.

The WNB and the Department may be assured that nothing in my conversations can lend itself to any interpretation other than that I am interested solely in the rescue of refugees and I am convinced that the Romanian, Hungarian and Bulgarian representatives with whom I have talked have not construed these conversations which we are finding extremely helpful in the furtherance of the Board's rescue program as implying any interest on my part in anything other than the rescue of refugees.

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

Balbenoff has authorized the publication of his letter written on July 25 and handed to me through Simons, concerning the desire of the present Bulgarian Government to improve the situation of the Jews in that country. The letter is precisely the same as that telegraphed to you on July 26 with the following changes:

Paragraph four: substitute for "this government intends to (***t) the law concerning the Jews" the following: "this government intends substantially to mitigate the situation of the Jews. I have the impression that the government has the intention to abrogate at an opportune moment the laws concerning the Jews."

Paragraph five: substitute for "at Sofia I was able to ascertain (***t) from the conversation" the following: "at Sofia I was able to ascertain that the consistory must have..."
2. #1532, August 22, 3 p.m., from Ankara

must have been in complete accord with the intentions of the President of the Council and must have left very satisfied and pleased at last."

For the last sentence of Belbaoff's letter substitute "likewise I do not exclude as I have already said, the possibility of reaching soon a completely normal state in the situation of the Jews in our country.

KELLEY
AMERICAN EMBASSY,
ANKARA.

WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO YOUR 144 OF AUGUST 8, YOUR EFFORTS TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS OF JEWS IN BULGARIA ARE APPRECIATED BY BOARD.

IT IS ASSUMED THAT YOU ARE AWARE OF THE FACT THAT ANY DISCUSSIONS WITH BULGARIAN OR RUMANIAN AUTHORITIES MUST BE STRICTLY CONFINED TO QUESTIONS OF RELIEF OF REFUGEES CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THEIR RESCUE AND MUST NOT ENTER INTO THE FIELD OF THE DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF THESE COUNTRIES. IN VIEW OF THE PRESENT SITUATION AND IN VIEW OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE HERE AS TO BALABANOFF'S ALSO THE BOARD REEMPHASIZES THAT THE UTMOST CAUTION MUST BE EXERCISED TO AVOID ANY INFERENCE WHICH MIGHT BE DRAWN FROM YOUR DISCUSSIONS THAT ANY PROMISES OR COMMITMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE WITH RESPECT TO PEACE TERMS OR POSTWAR SETTLEMENTS OR ASSISTANCE IN ECONOMIC REHABILITATION OR ANY OTHER KIND.

IT WILL BE APPRECIATED IN CONNECTION WITH THE FOREGOING IF YOU WILL CLARIFY PARAGRAPH SIX OF THE CABLE UNDER REFERENCE.

IN ITS PRESENT DRAFTING THE DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT BALABANOFF MAY EASILY CONSTRUE THIS PARAGRAPH AS INCLUDING AN OFFER OF POSTWAR ECONOMIC REHABILITATION FOR HIS COUNTRY. OBVIOUSLY SUCH AN OFFER CANNOT BE MADE BY THIS GOVERNMENT ACTING ALONE, BUT BY THE STATE DEPT. LETTER, 1-1-72

BY R. H. PARKES

DECLASSIFIED SEP 15 1972
War Refugee Board or by its representatives. Paragraph six is only in order provided it refers to an immediate program for the relief of Jews in Bulgaria associated with the Board's general rescue program.

STETTINIUS
ACTING
(GLH)
CABLE TO KELLEY, ANKARA, FOR HIRSCHMANN FROM THE DEPARTMENT AND THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Please refer to your number 1444 of August 2. Board appreciates information concerning your efforts to improve conditions of Jews in Bulgaria.

We know that you are aware of the fact that any discussions with the Bulgarians or Romanians must be confined to questions of immediate relief and rescue of refugees. However, in view of the present situation and in view of information here as to the aims of Kalabonoff we deem it desirable to reemphasize that great caution must be used to avoid any discussions which can be interpreted as involving any promises regarding peace or post war settlements or conditions.

In connection with the foregoing it will be appreciated if you will clarify paragraph six of cable 1444. As stated, the State Department construes this paragraph as referring to an offer of post war economic rehabilitation in Bulgaria. Such an offer could not be made by the War Refugee Board or its representatives. If, however, paragraph six refers to an immediate program for the relief of Jews in Bulgaria in accordance with our general rescue and relief policy it is perfectly proper.

THIS IS WH CabI'P TO ANKARA, NO. 96

11:15 a.m.
August 6, 1944

Miss Chauncey (For the Secretary), Abrahamson, Alexander, Benne, Bigelow, Friedman, Hirschman, Hesel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, McCauley, Cable Control Files

JBFriedman: lhh 8/8/44
1450, August 8, 4 p.m.

FOR PEHE WIE FROM HIRSCHHANN, ANKARA NO. 125.

I strongly urge that you inform Harriman of my conversation with Balabanoff relative to the proposed abolition of the Bulgarian anti-Jewish laws and that you request him to ask the Soviet Government to instruct the Russian Charge d'Affaires in Bulgaria to urge upon the Bulgarians the abolition of the anti-Jewish laws. This action may be especially timely as Balabanoff states now that the Bagryanov Government is on excellent terms with the Soviet Government and that Bulgaria will now exert any reasonable efforts to please the Soviets.

In view of the increasingly difficult conditions in regard to sea and rail transport for the emigration of refugees from the Balkans, I feel that we should place new and greater emphasis on our endeavors to obtain
-2- #1450, August 8, 4 p.m., from Ankara.

obtain concessions from the satellite governments to
abolish all anti-Jewish laws and reinstate the minority
and Jews as full-fledged citizens in their own
countries.

KELLEY
To: Mr. White

From: Mr. Buchanan

I think we should say nothing further. I have wired as you requested.

J. B. B.
1) This cable indicates that Hirschmann did make certain demands of the Bulgarian Government with regard to the post-war period.

2) In view of the admonitory cable that you have already sent, I think it would be best not to reply to this cable, unless of course State requests us to reply. It might be advisable to discuss this matter with Hirschmann at greater length in a letter, provided we can be sure that no one other than Hirschmann reads the letter. I am thinking particularly of the tobacco deal.

3) Paragraph two of the cable is probably Hirschmann's way of convincing us of the desirability of requesting the Soviet Government to put pressure on the Bulgarian Government in regard to anti-Jewish legislation.

9/14/44

Matthew J. Marks  TR-6
1446, August 7, 11 p.m.

FOR PHILE WRB FROM HIRSCHMANN. ANKARA'S NO. 123.

In a further interview with Balabanoff on August 5 the position of WRB relating to Bulgarian Jewish refugees as set forth in the Embassy's 1414, August 2 was presented to him. Balabanoff said that he would inform his government without delay of my requests and would warmly recommend them.

In the course of the discussion Balabanoff stated that:

One. The political situation in Bulgaria had eased considerably in recent weeks, and this circumstance should tend to assist his government in taking measures which heretofore were subject to strong Nazi influence and opposition.

Two. The relationship between the Bulgarian and Soviet Governments had improved in the last few weeks.

In this connection I informed Balabanoff that all of my...
#1446, August 7, 11 p.m., from Ankara.

of my discussions with him were reported by me to the Soviets.

Three. He was fully informed of the telegrams relating to refugee movements exchanged between the WRB and the Bulgarian Minister in Stockholm.

Four. He would gladly recommend the revocation of the anti-Jewish laws in return for the continuance of the "happy omission" of bombing of Sophia, to which I replied that I had no authority to speak on military matters to him or his Nazi partners who were the initial perpetrators of the bombing of civilians.

Five. Would be interested in the nature of the goodwill which Bulgaria might build up in the United States by taking the steps which I requested especially with regard to the post-war period. He expressed a special desire to know how long the United States Government would retain an interest in European and Balkan affairs after the war. Again I replied that this was not within my knowledge or jurisdiction but that the United States Government's basic concern with minorities and humanitarian rights was well known.

Balabanoff I've been handed an informal memorandum

written.
-3- #1446, August 7, 11 p.m., from Ankara.

written by me to Fimond covering completely the points presented in the Embassy's 1414, August 2, he promised to inform me as soon as he had a reply from Sofia.

KELLEY

REP: WSB
The result of Hirschmann's negotiations with the Bulgarian Minister and of Kelley's approach to the Turkish Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (your 1370 and 1371 of July 26 and your 1381 of July 27) is highly gratifying to the Board. Please accept our congratulations.

The Board would like to be advised whether in view of your 1287 of July 16 efforts are also being made to induce the Turkish Government to issue transit visas for the 400 to 500 refugees the Bulgarian Government is now apparently willing to permit to leave Bulgaria weekly by rail.

STEPHANUS
ACTING
(GLW)
CABLE FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD TO KELLEY AND HIRSCHMANN, ANKARA

The result of Hirschmann's negotiations with the Bulgarian Minister and of Kelley's approach to the Turkish Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (your 1280 and 1281 of July 26 and your 1281 of July 27) is highly gratifying to the Board. Please accept our congratulations.

The Board would like to be advised whether in view of your 1287 of July 16 efforts are also being made to induce the Turkish Government to issue transit visas for the 400 to 500 refugees the Bulgarian Government is now apparently willing to permit to leave Bulgaria weekly by rail.

THIS IS WTB CABLE TO ANKARA NO. 28

11:16 a.m.
August 3, 1944

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

m8

Margery/MS 8/3/44
Secretary of State, Washington.

1414, August 2, 9 p.m.

FOR PHELLE WRB FROM HIRSCHLANN

Through an intermediary I have transmitted the following message to Bulgarian officials:

One. We intend to hold the Bulgarian Government responsible for the taking without delay of the steps which Balabanoff informed me would be taken (REMEMB1970, July 26) with a view to ameliorating the situation of the Jews in Bulgaria and eliminating all varieties of persecution and abuse and facilitating by every possible means the departure of those Jews who desire to emigrate.

Two. We will not be satisfied until the two scandalous anti-Jewish laws are completely revoked and we expect the Bulgarian Government to take steps to this end with the least possible delay.

Three. In the meanwhile the Bulgarian Government is expected to be completely lax in the enforcement of
-2- #1414, August 2, 8 p.m., from Ankara.

the aforesaid laws.

Four. The necessity for the evacuation of Bulgarian Jewish citizens should be removed without delay and the emigration of such citizens should be the result of voluntary action and not of a necessity imposed by discriminatory treatment and laws.

Five. The Bulgarian Government should in its own interest take steps to rehabilitate its Jewish population for productive work.

Six. Existing relief agencies in Turkey, with the assistance of the United States Government will endeavor within possibilities to provide food, clothing and economic aid for the rehabilitation of Bulgaria's Jewish citizenry, and we expect the Bulgarian Government to give all possible assistance to this work.

Balabanoff and his intermediaries have emphasized their urgent desire to do something which could win for the present Bulgarian Government the good will of the United States at this special juncture, and have reported in a pointed way the effect which the absence of the bombing of Bulgaria since March 20 had had on the Bulgarian Government and people.

It should be our aim to salvage and to put back on their
#1414, August 2, 8 p.m., from Ankara.

on their feet as quickly as possible the entire remaining 45,000 Jewish population of Bulgaria rather than to press for the pitifully small sporadic movement of evacuation to Palestine which the circumstances prescribe at this time. We should emphasize that people rehabilitated in their own country will become more useful citizens and not create any postwar problem.

J. KELLEY

JT

MBA
The Board is highly pleased with your efforts to increase the refugee movement from Bulgaria referred to in your 1344 of July 22.

For your information an informal memorandum has been given to the Bulgarian Minister at Stockholm through Legation contacts. This memorandum which was prepared along the lines suggested by the Board and of which you were orally advised prior to your departure has apparently been forwarded by courier to the Bulgarian Foreign Office. Meanwhile the American Legation in Stockholm has received an informal reply from the Bulgarian Minister stating substantially the following:

QUOTE Bulgarian actions with respect to Jews have been enforced with leniency and sympathy by all of our Government branches. It is a well known fact even among the Bulgarian Jews that the late King Boris, as well as the head of the Orthodox Church of Bulgaria, have made every effort to insure that Jews were treated with compassion. This is no less true of the general Bulgarian population which has maintained a sympathy for Jews which even today will be readily admitted by the Jews. It
is a fact that Jews today are living under circumstances not worse but better than those faced by large group of Bulgarian citizens who have been driven from their homes when they were destroyed by American bombing and who have lost all possessions.

The Government of Bulgaria has never turned a deaf ear to humanitarian considerations or those of tolerance. All Bulgarians are mindful that only through moral integrity can a small nation find strength. No less today than heretofore do we stand ready to give consideration to suggestions for the protection of Jews and other refugee groups, but we insist that those advancing such proposals should themselves be in a position to show leadership in humanitarian principles.

The air forces of the United States have been engaged in acts of great violence and cruelty against defenseless civilian populations in Doupnitza, Vratsa, Sofia, Skopie, Velles, Plovdiv and others. A most arbitrary violence has been done to the Chateau of Vrena where the Queen, only recently made a widow, is residing with her two fatherless children of seven and twelve years. The Chateau, which was far removed from any objective of a military nature and even far removed from other habitations, was totally destroyed.

If the people of Bulgaria can be assured that there are people in the United States of such a character who sincerely deplore
deplore these outrages and outrages; if those who control the policies of the powerful American Republic, instead of directing threats, were to give assurances that the destruction and violence of their military leaders would be replaced, and that hereafter there would be no further ruin and slaughter of an innocent civilian population, then it may be said without question that the Government of Bulgaria would be prepared to recognize the moral justification and right of the United States to advance humanitarian pleas, and the Bulgarian population would readily welcome and approve action consistent with such advice.

UNQUOTE

The Board suggested that the Legation consider replying informally to the Bulgarian Minister in the following vein:

QUOTE The problems arising from aerial bombings are not within the province of the War Refugee Board, but in considering such matters informally and objectively one cannot overlook the bombings by forces with which Bulgaria continues to be allied, of such civilian centers as Warsaw, Rotterdam, Belgrade, Amsterdam, London and Coventry. The methodical persecution and oppression of Jews and other helpless civilian minorities as heretofore and presently practiced in German controlled and German allied areas is quite separate and apart and over and above civilian suffering on both sides incident to military action, particularly
particularly aerial warfare. This Government has taken the un-
equivocal position that those responsible for the oppression,
persecution, deportation or extermination of such civilian minor-
cities as has been and is being witnessed in Germany, France,
the Lowlands, Czechoslovakia, Poland, the Baltic states, the
Balkan countries and elsewhere will be punished for their crimes.

UNQUOTE

After quoting the appeal of the Senate Foreign Relations
Committee of May 31 to the people of Hungary to protect the Jews,
the Board's cable to Minister Johnson continued as follows:

QUOTE The same applies to other Axis countries, including
Bulgaria. Those to whom these warnings are applicable have it
within their power henceforth so to act with respect to Jews and
other helpless civilian minorities as to invite more favorable
consideration than their conduct up to now may warrant, and to
demonstrate a resurgence of that moral integrity which alone
gives nations, large or small, strength.

For your information and guidance, the informal response
transmitted in your telegram under reference has, of course, made
a very unfavorable impression. Whether the Bulgarian Minister
or his principals realize the seriousness with which the American
people and Government consider the unspeakable treatment
accorded Jews and other minorities by Germany and her satellites

"
seems doubtful. It is likewise doubtful whether they realize the determination of this Government as expressed in the President's statement of March 24 and repeated by implication in the statement above quoted to see to it that those who share the responsibility therefor will be punished. UNQUOTE

STAT. TX:33
Acting

GLW

STATION

7/20/44

S/CR
NE
EE
NOE
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For your information and guidance, the informal response transmitted in your telegram under reference has, of course, made a very unfavorable impression. Whether the Bulgarian Minister or his principal realize
the seriousness with which the American people and Government consider the unspoken treatment accorded Jews and other minorities by Germany and her satellites seems doubtful. It is likewise doubtful whether they realize the determination of this Government as expressed in the President’s statement of March 34 and repeated by implication in the statement above quoted to see to it that those who share the responsibility therefore will be punished.

MISS CHAUNCEY (for the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Cohn, Dubok, Friedman, Hodel, Leuchten, Lesser, McCormack, Mann, Central Files, Cable Control Files.

3:05 p.m.
July 25, 1944
Upon Mr. Hirschman's informing me that the Bulgarian Minister had advised him that the Bulgarian Government was agreeable to the use of the Bulgarian vessels VITA and PIRINE for the evacuation of refugees from Burgas, I requested the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to authorize the two Bulgarian vessels in question to proceed to Istanbul with refugees from Burgas. I informed him that the Bulgarian Government had given its consent to the use of these two vessels for the evacuation of refugees provided the Turkish Government gave its approval. I said that each of these vessels was capable of transporting about 400 refugees. I urged that the Turkish Government permit these vessels to make not merely a single voyage, but repeated voyages provided the Bulgarian Government would agree to such.
arrangement, the Secretary General welcomed the idea and said that the Turkish Government was particularly interested in establishing a regular procedure for the evacuation of refugees from the Balkans through Turkey. In the present instance, he said that it would be possible to arrange for one of these boats to arrive in Istanbul from Burgas every 10 days or 2 weeks and that way the Turkish Government would be able to make arrangements in advance for the movement of the refugees by train from Istanbul to Syria. He said that the idea appealed to him and he would recommend it to his government. I requested him to issue appropriate instructions as soon as possible to the Turkish Consul in Sofia so that one of these vessels could leave for Istanbul in the very near future. He promised to do so.

KELLY
FROM: AMERICAN EMBASSY, ANKARA
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: July 22, 1944
NUMBER: 1344 (Ankara No. 106)

This message is from Hirschmann for Pehle, WRS.

Concerning the refugee movement to Istanbul from Bulgaria by sea and rail developments of a promising nature are under way. This is for your information.

The memorandum's contents which were prepared by me have been transmitted through an intermediary in the confidence of the highest officials of Bulgaria, to Balabanoff, the Minister to Turkey from Bulgaria, who, with the Bulgarian officials in Sofia has discussed the subject. I asked in this memorandum that the authorities of Bulgaria give authorization and facilitation without delay to movement of refugees through or from Bulgaria to Turkey by rail of not less than 600 individuals weekly; to give authorization and assistance without hindrance to the movement of refugees by ship from the ports of Bulgaria; and to issue an ordinance stating that all persecution and repressive steps directed against Jews and minorities will cease at once and Jews will be accorded treatment like that of other citizens of Bulgaria. An interview with me has been requested by Balabanoff in regard to my requests since his return to Ankara. Plans are being made through the International Red Cross for this conference at the earliest possible time. Reliable information has been received by me that

the Government of

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1972
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972
the Government of Bulgaria is ready to reverse its previous policy and facilitate the movement of the refugees within the limitations imposed by the chaotic transportation and technical facilities of Bulgaria.

With regard to these two Bulgarian ships in Burgas, the FHIN capable of carrying 400 passengers and the VITA, 350 passengers, have been trying for some time to acquire permission to proceed to Istanbul from the Turk and Bulgarian officials. Attempt is being made by us to effect the departure of these vessels at once and to make plans for other ships to make similar trips. Furthermore, we are attempting to arrange for the transportation of an appreciable number of refugees to Turkey by railroad. Of additional measures and progress you will be informed.

KELLY
Secretary of State,
Washington,

1370, July 26, 4 p.m.

FOR PHILIP WHE FROM HIRSCHMANN.

The Bulgarian Minister to Turkey in an interview today arranged by
Minond of the Intercross informed me (Ankara's 107) that his Government had
accepted the proposals which I had made and authorized me to transmit the
following decisions of his Government.

One. The Jews are gradually having restored to them the status which
they held before the war.

The "restrictions, oppressions, persecutions and abuses" are being
eliminated.

Two. Facilities have been officially authorized which will permit
them to leave Bulgaria with all possible assistance and a minimum of formalities.

Three. Instructions will be issued to expedite the departure from
Bulgaria of vessels containing refugees.

Four. The departure by rail will be authorized by approximately 400
to 500 refugees weekly provided the Turk authorities grant transit visas on
route to Palestine.

Balabanoff stated that the above measures were being communicated to
the leaders of the Bulgarian Jewish Community. He emphasized that the change of
policy was definitive but the steps would be gradual in order not to "fly in
the face of the Germans". I urged upon Balabanoff the immediate withdrawal
of the two notorious oppressive anti-Jewish Bulgarian laws. Balabanoff replied
that these would definitely be cancelled within a brief time.

With respect to the technical difficulties involved in securing the
necessary certificates to permit departure from Bulgaria, Balabanoff said that
these difficulties would be relieved within technical possibilities. I there-
upon urged that children be given first priority since they required few
certificates, to which he agreed with the proviso that we define children as
under 16 years of age. I told the Bulgarian Minister that the new policy of
his Government in regard to refugees would be presented as a gesture of good will
to Washington, and I suggested that the release without delay of large numbers
of refugees would receive favorable publicity in America which the present
Bulgarian Government is seeking.
Belabanoff stated that his Government's new regime was essentially liberal in policy and was attempting to find the best and quickest ways to "get out from under the Nazi yoke" being at the same time very sympathetic to the Soviets whom they held in high regard but not without some fear.

Belabanoff said that his Government agreed to the proposal concerning the sailing of the SS DARI to a Bulgarian port and return to Istanbul without a German safe conduct, provided the Bulgarians granted the necessary authorization to which a Turk official had agreed with Ambassador Steinhardt and Simond. I will report further on this project which has been revived.

At the conclusion of the interview, I requested Belabanoff to confirm in writing the agreement of his Government to the foregoing. The Embassy's next numbered telegram will contain a translation of Belabanoff's letter.

KELLEY

WGB JMN

CC: Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Ackin, Zorenstein, Cohn, DeBois, Frieden, Gesten, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mapson, Marks, McCormack, Pelton, Garry, Stansfield, Weinstien, Yiles.
Distribution of true reading by special arrangement. (W)

Ankara
Dated July 26, 1944
Rec'd 6:17 a.m., 27th

Secretary of State
Washington.

July 26, 4 p.m.

FOR PEHLE WRB FROM HIRSCHLICK.

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The "restrictions, oppressions, persecutions and abuses" are being eliminated.

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Three. Instructions will be issued to expedite the departure from Bulgaria of vessels containing refugees.

[Classified]

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By H. H. Parks Date, SEP 15 1977
#1370, July 26, 4 p.m., from Ankara

Refugees.

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With respect to the technical difficulties involved in securing the necessary certificates to permit departure from Bulgaria, Balabanoff said that these difficulties would be relieved within technical possibilities. I thereupon urged that children be given first priority since they required few certificates, to which he agreed with the proviso that we define children as under 16 years of age. I told the Bulgarian Minister that the new policy of his Government in regard
in regard to refugees would be presented as a gesture of good will to Washington, and I suggested that the release without delay of large numbers of refugees would receive favorable publicity in America, which the present Bulgarian Government is seeking.

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Balabanoff said that his Government agreed to the proposal concerning the sailing of the SS TAN to a Bulgarian port and return to Istanbul without a German safe conduct, provided the Bulgarians granted the necessary authorization, to which a Turk official had agreed with Ambassador Steinhardt and Simond. I will report further on this project which has been revived.

At the conclusion of the interview, I requested Balabanoff to confirm in writing the agreement of his Government to the foregoing. The Embassy's next numbered telegram will contain a translation of Balabanoff's letter.
In telegram number 1370 from Ankara dated July 26, 4 p.m., FOR PEULE MR FRÔM HIRSCHLANN, please change the number of the telegram to read "1730". Advice from Ankara.

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

JMS

For security reasons the text of this message must be cleared.

DECLASIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972
The following is a translation of a letter addressed to Simond of the Intercross by Balcanoff, Bulgarian Minister to Turkey, referred to in my 1370, July 26.

"In regard to the question you raised, relative to a Turkish vessel which could go to any Bulgarian port to embark Jewish children from Rumania and possibly also Jewish children from Bulgaria, I am able to communicate to you the following: in principle, the Bulgarian(s) would have no objection to this. But for a settlement of this question I would suggest that you address the Bulgarian Red Cross which on its part, will submit the question to the Government in order to obtain the latter's decision.

I take advantage of this opportunity to share with you the impressions which I bring back from my last short visit in Bulgaria.

There is
2. July 26, 5 p.m. (SECTION ONE OF TWO), from Ankara.

There is no doubt that the new Bulgarian Government regrets exceedingly all the measures which have been taken regarding I.

KELLEY

(*) apparent omission

EEC JIM
INCOMING TELEGRAM

GAB-107

Distribution of true reading only by special arrangements

Dated July 26, 1944

Rece'd 6:54 a.m., 27th July

Secretary of State
Washington

1371, July 26, 5 p.m. [SECRET]

Ankara

Jews in our country and that it does not in the least approve these measures. This Government intends to mitigate the situation of the Jews. But for reasons which will be readily understood, it could not proceed to annul immediately the law concerning the Jews. However, it is firmly decided to avoid all arbitrary action in the application of this law as well as all restrictive measures not provided for by the law. In the second place, the Bulgarian Government has decided to facilitate the emigration of Jews desiring to leave the country by reducing, for this purpose the administrative formalities to a strict minimum by removing all obstacles.

The President of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers has invited the Jewish Consistory in Bulgaria to come to see him and he has had a long conversation with its members concerning the situation of the Jews in the country.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Loten, 1-11-73
By R.H. Parks Date, SEP 15 1972
2-1371, July 26, 5 p.m. (SECTION TWO) from Ankara

country. He has spoken to them of the steps which he
intended to take to mitigate their situation and to
facilitate the departure of those who might desire to
leave the country. At Sofia, I was able to ascertain
that the members of the Consistory came away from the
conversation very well satisfied and pleased with their
visit to the Bulgarian Prime Minister to whom I under-
stand they expressed their thanks and gratitude for his
plans for the Jews.

In general I consider that the policy of the new
Bulgarian Government toward the Jews will be based on
principles of equity and humanitarianism. Likewise I
do not exclude the possibility of reaching gradually
and quickly a completely normal state in the situation
of the Jews in our country.

(END OF MESSAGE).

KELLY
ASYLUM,

STOCKHOLM.

The cable below is WRB 32, refers to your 2122 of June 13 (20 for WRB) and is from the War Refugee Board for Johnson and Olsen.

Informal reply somewhat in the following vein might be considered. The War Refugee Board considers that problems arising from aerial bombings are outside its province but one cannot overlook, in reflecting informally and objectively upon such matters, the bombings by forces with which Bulgaria continues to be allied, of such civilian centers as Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Coventry, London, Belgrade and Warsaw. Quite separate and apart from civilian suffering on both sides incident to military action, particularly the aerial warfare, is the methodical persecution and oppression of Jews and other helpless civilian minorities as heretofore and presently practiced in German-controlled and German-allied areas. The unequivocal position has been taken by this Government (refer to Department's 901 of March 24 to Bern repeated to you) that punishment for their crimes visited upon those responsible for the oppression, persecution, deportation or extermination of such civilian minorities as has been and is being witnessed in Germany, Czechoslovakia, Poland, France, the Lowlands, the

Balkan

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972
Balkan states, the Baltic countries and else-where.

The Foreign Relations Committee of the United States Senate has recently issued the following statement regarding Hungary signed by Senators Barkley, Capper, Clark, Connally, Davis, George, Gillette, Green, Guffey, LaFollette, Murray, Reynolds, Sinnell, Vandenberg and Wagner: QUOTE The news that Germany has designated the 800,000 Jews in Hungary for death horrifies the people of the United States and all freedom loving people. It is unthinkable that the people of Hungary should countenance the cold-blooded murder of innocent men, women and children. Hungary was once the haven of tens of thousands who fled the Nazi terror in other lands. Hungarians once shielded their Jewish fellow-citizens. Now, however, the Hungarian Government has joined the Nazis in their ruthless determination to destroy the Jews. People of Hungary can demonstrate that this unholy scheme is a betrayal of the true Hungarian spirit while there is still time. Jews can be hidden by them until such time as they may help them across the border to safety. They can refuse to buy property stolen from the Jews. Every means to obstruct the Nazis and those Hungarians who are in league with the Nazis can be used by them. Until the time when guilt and innocence will weigh heavily in the balance, they can watch and remember those who are accessory to murder.
murder and those who extend mercy. It is nearly that time
UNQUOTE. This applies to other Axis countries, including
Bulgaria. It is within the power of those to whom these warn-
ings are applicable henceforth to act relative to Jews and
other helpless civilian minorities as to invite more favorable
consideration than their previous conduct may warrant, and
to demonstrate a resurgence of that moral integrity which alone
gives strength to nations either large or small.

A very unfavorable impression has been made by the
informal response transmitted in your telegram under reference.
It seems doubtful whether the seriousness with which the
American people and Government consider the unspeakable treat-
ment accorded Jews and other minorities by Germany and her
satellites is realized by the Bulgarian Minister or his
principals. Whether they realize the determination of this
Government, as expressed in the March 24 statement of the
President and repeated by implication in the above quoted
statement to assure punishment to those who share the responsi-
bility therefore is likewise doubtful.

 Hull
(GLW)
CABLE TO MINISTER JOHNSON AT STOCKHOLM AND OLESEN FROM WAR REFUGEES BOARD.

Reference your 2122 to the Department, 39 for MSG, of June 13, 3 p.m. You might consider replying informally somewhat in the following vein. The problem arising from aerial bombings are not within the province of the War Refugees Board, but in considering such matters informally and objectively one cannot overlook the bombings by forces with which Bulgaria continues to be allied, of such civilian centers as Warsaw, Rotterdam, Belgrade, Amsterdam, London and Coventry. The methodical persecution and oppression of Jews and other helpless civilian minorities as heretofore and presently practiced in German controlled and German allied areas is quite separate and apart and upon above civilian suffering on both sides incident to military action, particularly aerial warfare. This Government has taken the unequivocal position that those responsible for the oppression, persecution, deportation or extermination of such civilian minorities as has been and is being witnessed in Germany, France, the Lowlands, Czecho-Slovakia, Poland, the Baltic states, the Balkan countries and elsewhere will be punished for their crimes. Refer Department's 991 of March 31. More recently the Foreign Relations Committee of the United States Senate issued the following statement with respect to Hungary signed by Senators Connally, George, Wagner, Cusack, Clark, Reynolds, G乞lette, Green, Tunnell, Barkley, Capper, La Follette, Vandenbark, Davis and Murray: QUOTE The people of the United States and all freedom-loving people are horrified by the news that Hitler has designated the 600,000 Jews in Hungary for death. That the people of Hungary should countenance the cold-blooded murder of innocent men, women and children is unthinkable. Once Hungary was the haven of tens of thousands who fled the Nazi terror in other lands. Once Hungary protected the helpless who sought refuge within its borders. Once Hungarians shielded their Jewish fellow-citizens. But now the Hungarian puppet Government has joined the Nazis in their ruthless determination to do away with the Jews. While there is yet time the people of Hungary can demonstrate to the world that this unholy scheme is a betrayal of the true Hungarian spirit. They can hide the Jews until such time as they may help them to safety across the borders. They can refuse to purchase property stolen from the Jews. They can use every means to obstruct the Nazis and those Hungarians who are in league with the Nazis. They can keep watch and remember those who are accessories to murder and those who extend mercy, until the time when guilt and innocence will weigh heavily in the balance. That time is near. UNQUOTE. The same applies to other Axis countries, including Bulgaria. Those to whom these warnings are applicable have it within their power henceforth so to act with respect to Jews and other helpless civilian minorities as to invite more favorable consideration than their conduct up to now.
may warrant, and to demonstrate a resurgence of that moral integrity which alone gives nations, large or small, strength.

For your information and guidance, the informal response transmitted in your telegram under reference has, of course, made a very unfavorable impression. Whether the Bulgarian Minister or his principals realize the seriousness with which the American people and Government consider the unspeakable treatment accorded Jews and other minorities by Germany and her satellites seems doubtful. It is likewise doubtful whether they realize the determination of this Government as expressed in the President's statement of March 24 and repeated by implication in the statement above quoted to see to it that those who share the responsibility therefor will be punished.

THIS IS WSS STOCKHOLM CABLE NO. 32

**********
10120 & 7.T.
June 21, 1944

\[\text{S.S.}\]
15Lessons 6/20/44
LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 3602

Stockholm, June 28, 1944.

Subject: Transmitting Two Informal Statements on Bulgarian Refugee Problem.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

With reference to the Legation's cable No. 2122 of June 13 (No. 29 for the War Refugee Board), I have the honor to enclose herewith a copy of an informal statement supplied to the Legation indirectly by the Bulgarian Minister in Stockholm. This statement was delivered in response to an informal statement prepared by Mr. Iver C. Olsen, Special Attaché for the War Refugee Board, and delivered to the Bulgarian Minister through intermediary channels, a copy of which is also attached.

Respectfully yours,

[Signature]

Enclosures:

1. Informal statement by Bulgarian Minister.
2. Informal statement by Mr. Iver C. Olsen.

File No. 848
DEC/0007

CONTROL COPY

DECLASIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1:11:72
By H. H. Harris
SEP 15 1972
Informal Statement By Bulgarian Minister.

Having for five centuries lived under foreign domina­tion, the Bulgarian people, dismembered from 1878 until the present, have been under the domination of certain foreign states. Thus this nation has had to fight for centuries to obtain at last its independence and its national unity.

Itself reared in the traditions of freedom, the Bul­garian people is refractory to all oppression. For this reason the Bulgarian Government has always respected the human rights of all minorities which have lived on Bulgarian territory.

During the present war, Bulgaria has not sent a single soldier to any front, she has dropped not a single bomb on any of her enemies, but she has ceaselessly striven to miti­gate within the limits of possibility the inevitable conse­quences of war for the Bulgarian populations of Macedonia and Western Thrace which until 1941 were under Serb and Greek domination.

Measures taken against the Jews by Bulgaria have been applied without harshness by all organizations of the ad­ministration. It is no secret—and the Bulgarian Jews them­selves know it very well—that the late King Boris, as well as the supreme authority of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church have always taken care to see that the Jews were treated without harshness. As for the Bulgarian town and rural populations, these have declared a sympathy for the Jews which the Jews themselves have recognized. At this moment the Jews are living in much better conditions than those enjoyed by the majority of Bulgarian citizens who have been obliged to abandon their towns destroyed by American air raids and have lost everything they possessed.

The Bulgarian Government has never refused to lend an attentive ear to the counsels of humanity and tolerance. In Bulgaria everyone knows that the strength of a small nation lies in its moral integrity. Even today they would have been willing to listen to suggestions made in defense of Jews and refugees, but on condition that those responsible for making these suggestions should themselves have given a personal example of humanitarian treatment.

The American Air Forces have carried out acts of the greatest and most arbitrary cruelty against the civilian population of the cities of Sofia, Plovdiv, Skopje, Doupnitsa, Velle, Vratsa and others. They have done violence to the chateau of Vrana, residence of the Queen, a widow of barely six months' standing, and of her two orphan children, aged 12 and 7. The chateau has been totally destroyed, although it is far from any military objective, far from any other habitation.

If the Bulgarian people were to learn that there are still to be found in the United States of America noble souls who deplore these cruelties; if those who preside over the destinies of the great American nation, instead of addressing threats, were to promise to repair the damage that their cruel military leaders have already done, and never again to
permit their Air Force to kill and ruin a harmless and guiltless population, then without a doubt the Bulgarian Government would recognize the moral right of the USA to give humanitarian advice and then the Bulgarian people would fully approve action which conforms to such advice.
Enclosure No. 2 to Despatch No. 3602 dated June 28, 1944, from American Legation at Stockholm, Sweden.

Informal Statement Prepared by Mr. Olsen.

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.
Through Legation contacts an informal memorandum was given the Bulgarian Minister here along lines suggested in WRB No. 12 (Department's 982, May 22, 5 p.m.). We were advised that memorandum was being forwarded to Bulgarian Foreign Office by courier and that reply might be expected in due course. In meantime we have received an informal reply from Bulgarian Minister here which states in part substantially the following:

Bulgarian actions with respect to Jews have been enforced with leniency and sympathy by all of our Government branches. It is a well known fact even among the Bulgarian Jews that the late King Boris, as well as the head of the Orthodox Church of Bulgaria, have made every effort to ensure that Jews were treated with compassion. This is no less true of the general Bulgarian population which has maintained...
June 15, 3 P.M., from Stockholm.

maintained a sympathy for Jews which even today will be
steadily admitted by this Nation. It is a fact that Jews today
are living under circumstances not worse but better than
those faced by large group of Bulgarian citizens who have
been driven from their homes when they were destroyed by
server bombing and who have lost all possessions.

The Government of Bulgaria has never turned a deaf ear
to humanitarian considerations or those of tolerance. All
Bulgarians are mindful that only through moral integrity
and a well intention find strength. No less today than here-
before do we stand ready to give consideration to sugges-
tions for the protection of Jews and other refugee groups,
but we insist that those advancing such proposals should
themselves be in a position to show leadership in humani-
tarian principles.

The air forces of the United States have been engaged
in acts of great violence and cruelty against defenseless
civilian populations in Bosnia, Vlceag, Sofia, Skopje,
Vali, and others. A most arbitrary violence has
been done to the Chutzen of Varna where the queen, only
recently made a widow, is residing with her two defenseless
children of seven and twelve years. The Chutzen, which was
far removed from any objective of a military nature and went
for removed
June 13, 3 p.m., from Stockholm.

far removed from other habitations, was totally destroyed.

If the people of Bulgaria can be assured that there are people in the United States of such a character who sincerely deplore these outrages and cruelties; if those who control the policies of the powerful American Republic, instead of directing threats, were to give assurances that the destruction and violence of their military leaders would be replaced, and that hereafter there would be no further ruin and slaughter of an innocent civilian population, then it may be said without question that the Government of Bulgaria would be prepared to recognize the moral justification and right of the United States to advance humanitarian pleas, and the Bulgarian population would readily welcome and approve action consistent with such advice.

Full text of memorandum is being forwarded by dispatch.

JOHNSON
The attached memorandum was recently submitted to the local Bulgarian minister through an intermediary. The minister agreed to send this memorandum to Sofia by courier on June 22 and to submit any reply that he received. Because of certain proposals that have been made regarding the local Bulgarian situation, copy of this memorandum (which is the second submitted) is herewith forwarded.
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 steps which would assist these refugees in escaping to safety.

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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.
attached is a translation of the reply which was submitted through an intermediary to Mr. Iver C. Olsen, U.N.R.R. representative in Sweden. This document purports to be an answer to a memorandum dealing with refugee matters which was placed in the hands of the Bulgarian Minister (copy attached).

(It is our understanding that the essence of this reply was covered in a State Department cable from Sweden some time ago. However, this is the first time we have seen a full text of the document.)

REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED
Having for five centuries lived under foreign domination, the Bulgarian people, dismembered from 1878 until the present, have been under the domination of certain foreign states. Thus this nation has had to fight for centuries to obtain at last its independence and its national unity.

Itself reared in the traditions of freedom, the Bulgarian people is refractory to all oppression. For this reason the Bulgarian Government has always respected the human rights of all minorities which have lived on Bulgarian territory.

During the present war, Bulgaria has not sent a single soldier to any front; she has dropped not a single bomb on any of her enemies, but she has ceaselessly striven to mitigate within the limits of possibility the inevitable consequences of war for the Bulgarian populations of Macedonia and Western Thrace which until 1941 were under Serbian and Greek domination.

Measures taken against the Jews by Bulgaria have been applied without harshness by all organizations of the administration. It is no secret—and the Bulgarian Jews themselves know it very well—that the late King Boris, as well as the supreme authority of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church have always taken care to see that the Jews were treated without harshness. As for the Bulgarian town and rural populations, these have declared a sympathy for the Jews which the Jews themselves have recognized. At this moment the Jews are living in much better conditions than those enjoyed by the majority of Bulgarian citizens who have been obliged to abandon their towns destroyed by American air raids and have lost everything they possessed.

The Bulgarian Government has never refused to lend an attentive ear to counsels of humanity and tolerance. In Bulgaria everyone knows that the strength of a small nation lies in its moral integrity. Even today they would have been willing to listen to suggestions made in defense of Jews and refugees, but on condition that those responsible for making these suggestions should themselves have given a personal example of humanitarian treatment.

The American Air Forces have carried out acts of the greatest and most arbitrary cruelty against the civilian population of the cities of Sofia, Plovdiv, Skopje, Dojran, Veliko Tarnovo, and others. They have done violence to the chateau of Varna, residence of the Queen, a widow of barely six months' standing, and of her two orphan children, aged 12 and 7. The chateau has been totally destroyed, although it is far from any military objective, far from any other habitation.

If the Bulgarian people were to learn that there are still to be found in the United States of America noble souls who deplore these cruelties, if those who preside over the destinies of the Great American nation, instead of addressing threats, were to promise to repair the damage that their cruel military leaders have already done, and never again to permit their Air Force to kill and ruin a harmless and guiltless population, then without a doubt the Bulgarian Government would recognize the moral right of the USA to give humanitarian advice and then the Bulgarian people would fully approve action which conforms to such advice.
From War Refugee Board to Minister Johnson and Olsen

Reference your 1626 of May 8 concerning the sympathetic attitude of new Bulgarian Minister to Stockholm toward the Jewish situation.

For your confidential information, a similar situation was exploited by Hirschmann, the War Refugees Board attaché in Ankara, with regard to the Romanian Minister to Turkey, who in addition to being sympathetic on the Jewish questions was reputedly close to Marshal Antonescu. With Ambassador Steinhardt's approval two personal interviews were arranged between Hirschmann and Minister Gretzianu at the home of the Intermosu representative at Ankara with whom Hirschmann is personally friendly. It was felt by Ambassador Steinhardt and Hirschmann that a direct approach of this type would make a much greater impression on the Romanian Government than an indirect approach.

Following is an account of Hirschmann's interviews with Gretzianu.

At outset of interview Hirschmann made it clear that his sole function in Ankara was as representative of the War Refugee Board to deal with refugee problems, that the discussion was to be confined exclusively to this subject, and that any other interpretation placed upon the conversation either by Gretzianu or his Government would be a deliberate distortion. Hirschmann then outlined to Gretzianu the outraged feeling of the Government of the United States at the brutal treatment which was being accorded the Jewish minorities and other

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Ltr., 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972
and other refugees in Romania and the United States' determination to do
everything in its power to rescue such unfortunate who are in imminent danger
despite death and to find havens of refuge for them. Hirschmann warned that our
Government would keep in mind in the future any continuation by the Romanian
Government of these policies of Hitlerite persecution, and
that the Romanian Government would be well advised in its own interest to take
advantage of such opportunities as may be available to it in the future to
permit refugees to depart across its borders. Gretzianu was invited by
Hirschmann to report the substance of the above interview to his Government.
Gretzianu assured Hirschmann that provided the Germans had not taken over from
Romania the administration of Transnistria, which was directly in the path of
the retreating German army and where many thousands of Jews were held in
Romanian concentration camps, no bodily harm would come to any of the many
Jews in Transnistria. Gretzianu also gave Hirschmann a definite assurance
that on arrival of evacuation vessels at Constanza to embark up to 8000 Jewish
refugee children, the necessary transportation and exit visas would be provided
promptly. Lastly Gretzianu promised to send an urgent telegram to Bucharest
recommending in the strongest terms that efforts be made at once to transfer
the Jewish refugees held in Transnistria to Romania proper.

A few days later Gretzianu requested a second interview with Hirschmann
in which Hirschmann was advised that the Romanian Government had decided to
transfer the Jews in Transnistria to Romania proper and that the transfer had
already commenced. Since then approximately 40,000 Jews have been removed
from Transnistria, and some of these have been evacuated to Palestine through
Constanza.

Because of the conspicuous success of this direct approach to the
Rumanian Government,
Romanian Government, Hirschmann with Ambassador Steinhardt's approval decided to make a similar approach to the Bulgarian Government. An interview was arranged on or about March 30 between Hirschmann and Minister Balabanoff of Bulgaria at the home of the Interrex representative at Ankara. Hirschmann opened this interview in the same fashion as the interview with Creteeanu.

Balabanoff was advised by Hirschmann that the reports of the brutal treatment accorded to the minorities in Bulgaria, especially the Jews, had outraged the Government and people of the United States and that Bulgaria in the near future would be called upon to answer therefor. After advising Balabanoff of this Government's determination to save refugees, Hirschmann warned that any continuation of the execution of these policies of Nazi persecution would be borne in mind by our Government in the future and that the Bulgarian Government would be well advised in its own interests to take advantage of such opportunities to permit refugees to depart across its borders as might be available to it in the future. It was suggested to Balabanoff that he report Hirschmann's remarks to his Government.

In reply Balabanoff stated that the maltreatment of minorities in Bulgaria had resulted from the policies of Gehowski, the former Minister of Interior, who Balabanoff asserted had been a tool of the Germans and was no longer a member of the Government. Balabanoff stated that of late the Jews had been given much better treatment in Bulgaria and that he had reason to believe the pressure against them would continue to relax. Hirschmann suggested that Balabanoff dispatch at once an urgent cable to his Government recommending that the same treatment as that received by other Bulgarian citizens be accorded henceforth to the Jews and all other minorities in Bulgaria, that the deplorable conditions under which the Jews and other minorities are
minorities are living in concentration camps be ameliorated at once and finally that the Bulgarian Government take immediate steps to authorize the granting of visas and to provide transportation for all refugees who wish to leave for Turkey or Palestine.

On or about April 6 Hirschmann arranged a second interview with Balabanoff. The latter apparently had received no reply to the telegram and long memorandum which he claimed to have dispatched to his Government after the first interview. Balabanoff claimed however to have received word indirectly that the Bulgarian Government was relaxing its attitude toward minorities and particularly the Jews and that Jews were being permitted to leave Bulgaria by both ship and train. He referred to the bombing of Sofia as the possible reason for his not having heard from his Government. Balabanoff stated further that Christoff, one of the leaders of his Government, had expressed himself in letters to him as sympathetic with the Jewish refugees. Since the above date nothing further has been heard from Balabanoff.

If in your opinion the newly appointed Bulgarian Minister to Stockholm appears sincere in his attitude toward the Jewish refugee problem, it is suggested that a direct approach be made along the lines of Hirschmann's interview with Balabanoff. In such an interview it could be pointed out that the Bulgarian Government's failure to reply to Balabanoff's telegram and memorandum has created an unfavorable impression on this Government and that such action will be taken into account in the final reckoning, for it is indicative that Bulgaria has not yet determined to turn its back on the Nazi ideology of race and minority persecution. Following is quotation from nation wide radio broadcast made by John Fehle on May 14. Referring to satellite nations, Fehle stated:

"We can bring about a more liberal attitude toward the refugees by
refugees by making it crystal-clear to these countries that the
United States and the United Nations will endeavor to secure
treatment of minorities when the time for final settlement comes."

If the Bulgarian Government is sincere in its claim made through Balabanoff
to have relaxed its attitude toward minorities and particularly the Jews,
there is no better way of manifesting such a changed attitude than be per­mitting Jews and other refugees to depart to Turkey and Palestine by both
rail and ship. No such organized exodus has yet come to the attention of the
War Refugees Board despite Balabanoff's claim to the contrary.

"The possibility of an orderly evacuation of refugees from Bulgaria
to Turkey by land should be thoroughly canvassed. In addition the Bulgarian
Government may find it to its advantage to press Bulgarian ships into
 evacuating refugees from Bulgarian ports by sea. Such ships would be protect­ed
by a safe conduct from the Russian, British and American Governments which
the War Refugees Board would undertake to obtain. Furthermore the ship owners
would not be expected to operate their ships without fair compensation. In
this connection see our No. 866 of May 12, indicating that certain ships
flying the Bulgarian flag may perhaps already have taken some very limited
advantage of this type of arrangement. It is the War Refugee Board's desire
to start an exodus of refugees from Bulgaria similar to the one which took
place from Constanza during April and which it is hoped will continue.
Alternatively the Board would desire to increase evacuations from Constanza
by the use of additional Bulgarian shipping. Inasmuch as the Bulgarian
ships mentioned in our No. 865 have apparently operated without benefit of
a German safe conduct, this may be a solution to German delay tactics in
granting safe conduct for which have immobilized the YARI to date.

Further developments should be sent to us promptly.

This is War Refugees Board Cable No. 18-

Hull.
CABLE TO SWEDEN

From War Refugee Board to Minister Johnson and Olsen, Stockholm, Sweden

Reference your 1628 of May 8 concerning the sympathetic attitude of new Bulgarian Minister to Stockholm toward the Jewish situation.

For your confidential information, a similar situation was exploited by Hirschmann, the War Refugee Board attaché in Ankara, with regard to the Bulgarian Minister to Turkey, who in addition to being sympathetic on the Jewish question was reputedly close to Marshal Antonescu. With Ambassador Steinhardt’s approval two personal interviews were arranged between Hirschmann and Minister Oretzianu at the home of the Intercones representative at Ankara with whom Hirschmann is personally friendly. It was felt by Ambassador Steinhardt and Hirschmann that a direct approach of this type would make a much greater impression on the Bulgarian Government than an indirect approach.

Following is an account of Hirschmann’s interviews with Oretzianu. At outset of interview Hirschmann made it clear that his sole function in Ankara was as representative of the War Refugee Board to deal with refugee problems, that the discussion was to be confined exclusively to this subject, and that any other interpretation placed upon the conversation either by Oretzianu or his Government would be a deliberate distortion. Hirschmann then outlined to Oretzianu the outraged feeling of the Government of the United States at the brutal treatment which was being accorded the Jewish minorities and other refugees in Rumania and the United States’ determination to do everything in its power to rescue such unfortunate who are in imminent danger of death and to find havens of refuge for them. Hirschmann urged that the Government would keep in mind in the future any continuation by the Bulgarian Government of the execution of these policies of Hitlerite persecution, and that the Bulgarian Government would be well advised in its own interest to take advantage of such opportunities as may be available to it in the future to permit refugees to depart across its borders. Oretzianu was invited by Hirschmann to report the substance of the above interview to his Government.

Oretzianu assured Hirschmann that provided the Germans had not taken over from Rumania the administration of Transnistria, which was directly in the path of the retreating German army and where many thousands of Jews were held in Rumanian concentration camps, no family here would come to any of the many Jews in Transnistria. Oretzianu also gave Hirschmann a definite assurance that on arrival of evacuation vessels at Constanta to embark up to 5000 Jewish refugees, children, the necessary transportation and exit visas would be provided promptly. Lastly Oretzianu promised to send an urgent telegram to Bucharest recommending in the strongest terms that efforts be made at once to transfer the Jewish refugees held in Transnistria to Rumania proper.

A few days later Oretzianu requested a second interview with Hirschmann in which Hirschmann was advised that the Bulgarian Government had decided to transfer the Jews in Transnistria to Rumania proper and that the transfer had already commenced. Since then approximately 10,000 Jews have been removed from Transnistria, and some of these have been evacuated to Palestine through Constanta.
Because of the conspicuous success of this direct approach to the Rumanian Government, Hirschmann with Ambassador Steinhardt's approval decided to make a similar approach to the Bulgarian Government. An interview was arranged on or about March 20 between Hirschmann and Minister Balabanoff of Bulgaria at the home of the Interconsult representative at Ankara. Hirschmann opened this interview in the same fashion as the interview with Oetelriau.

Balabanoff was advised by Hirschmann that the reports of the brutal treatment accorded to the minorities in Bulgaria, especially the Jews, had outraged the Government and people of the United States and that Bulgaria in the near future would be called upon to answer therefore. After advising Balabanoff of this Government's determination to save refugees, Hirschmann warned that any continuation of the execution of these policies of Nazi persecution would be borne in mind by our Government in the future and that the Bulgarian Government would be well advised in its own interests to take advantage of such opportunities to permit refugees to depart across its borders as might be available to it in the future. It was suggested to Balabanoff that he report Hirschmann's remarks to his Government.

In reply Balabanoff stated that the maltreatment of minorities in Bulgaria had resulted from the policies of Gebrowalid, the former Minister of Interior, who Balabanoff asserted had been a tool of the Germans and was no longer a member of the Government. Balabanoff stated that of late the Jews had been given much better treatment in Bulgaria and that he had reason to believe the pressure against them would continue to relax. Hirschmann suggested that Balabanoff dispatch at once an urgent cable to his Government recommending that the same treatment as that received by other Bulgarian citizens be accorded henceforth to the Jews and all other minorities in Bulgaria, that the deplorable conditions under which the Jews and other minorities are living in concentration camps be ameliorated at once and finally that the Bulgarian Government take immediate steps to authorize the granting of visas and to provide transportation for all refugees who wish to leave for Turkey or Palestine.

On or about April 6 Hirschmann arranged a second interview with Balabanoff. The latter apparently had received no reply to the telegram and long memorandum which he claimed to have dispatched to his Government after the first interview. Balabanoff claimed however to have received word indirectly that the Bulgarian Government was relaxing its attitude toward minorities and particularly the Jews and that Jews were being permitted to leave Bulgaria by both ship and train. He referred to the bombing of Sofia as the possible reason for his not having heard from his Government. Balabanoff stated further that Christoff (repeat Christoff) one of the leaders of his Government, had expressed himself in letters to him as sympathetic with the Jewish refugees. Since the above date nothing further has been heard from Balabanoff.

If in your opinion the newly appointed Bulgarian Minister to Stockholm appears sincere in his attitude toward the Jewish refugee problem, it is suggested that a direct approach be made along the lines of Hirschmann's interview with Balabanoff. In such an interview it could be pointed out that the Bulgarian Government's failure to reply to Balabanoff's telegram and memorandum
has created an unfavorable impression on this Government and that such
action will be taken into account in the final reckoning, for it is
indictive that Bulgaria has not (repeat not) yet determined to turn its
back on the Nazi ideology of race and minority persecution. Following is
quotation from nationwide radio broadcast made by John Fehle on May 11.
Referring to satellite nations, Fehle stated:

"We can bring about a more liberal attitude toward the
refugees by making it crystal-clear to these countries that the
United States and the United Nations will bear in mind their
 treatment of minorities when the time for final settlement comes"

If the Bulgarian Government is sincere in its claim made through Balabanoff
to have relaxed its attitude toward minorities and particularly the Jews,
there is no better way of manifesting such a changed attitude than by per-
mitting Jews and other refugees to depart to Turkey and Palestine by both
rail and ship. No such organized exodus has yet come to the attention of the
War Refugee Board despite Balabanoff's claim to the contrary.

The possibility of an orderly evacuation of refugees from Bulgaria
to Turkey by land should be thoroughly canvassed. In addition the Bulgarian
Government may find it to its advantage to press Bulgarian ships into
evacuating refugees from Bulgarian ports by sea. Such ships would be protect-
ed by a safe conduct from the Russian, British and American Governments
which the War Refugee Board would undertake to obtain. Furthermore the ship owners
would not (repeat not) be expected to operate their ships without fair
compensation. In this connection see our No. of May 12, indicating that
certain ships flying the Bulgarian flag may perhaps already have taken some
very limited advantage of this type of arrangement. It is the War Refugee
Board's desire to start an exodus of refugees from Bulgaria similar to the
one which took place from Constantza during April and which it is hoped will
continue. Alternatively the Board would desire to increase evacuations from
Constantza by the use of additional Bulgarian shipping. Inasmuch as the
Bulgarian ships mentioned in our No. have apparently operated without
benefit of a German safe conduct, this may be a solution to German delay
tactics in granting safe conducts which have immobilized the DARI to date.

Please advise us promptly of further developments.

This is War Refugee Board cable No. 12.

***************
May 13, 1944,
3:00 p.m.

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

Date: 5/17/44
Following is our no. 9 for the War Refugee Board. Through confidential channels, Bulgarian Minister here, who recently replaced strong pro-Nazi, has expressed sympathy for the Jewish situation. We believe that he can be induced to lend aid to any program that the Board may be pushing in Bulgaria, although he is very much afraid of the Gestapo element in local Bulgarian Legation. He has only been brought in contact, for the present, with Chief Rabbi Eshenpriess who for 15 years was formerly chief Rabbi of Bulgaria. It would be helpful, while this situation is developing, to have details of any program under consideration for Bulgaria which would be pertinent to the above, as well as any suggestions which the Board may have as to methods of exploiting the foregoing situation to the fullest advantage.

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

Secretary of State
Washington

1600, August 31, 1 p.m.

FOR PERLE WRB FROM HIRSCHMANN.

Ankara's No. 145.

It is now reported on reliable authority that the Bulgarian anti-Jewish laws have been set aside by a decree of the regents. While this decree must be approved by Parliament, the Bulgarian authorities decided not to press the issue with Parliament which was recently in session as that body had originally passed the decrees. When the new Parliament meets, the decrees abrogating the anti-Jewish laws will be confirmed pro forma.

A commission has been appointed in the Ministry of Finance to study the property question with the view to restoration to the original owners so far as it is possible.

STEINHARDT
1943, August 30, 1 p.m.

FOR PEHLE WRB. ANKARA's 142.

It is reliably reported August 28 in Istanbul that

"all restrictions imposed upon Jews in Bulgaria have
been abolished. All decrees published on August 29,
1942 are considered null and void. Beginning as of
August 28, 1944 all Jews may exercise any profession
and may circulate in the same way as the rest of the
population. Reserve Colonel Taggaz was representative
of the Jewish community has been informed of this
resolution".

Confirmation of the above has not as yet been
received. As soon as the text of the decree is received
it will be telegraphed.

STEINHARDT

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

Ankara, Dated August 24, Rec'd 11:27 p.m.

Secretary of State, Washington.

1554, August 24, 5 p.m.

FOR PEHLE FROM HIRSCHMANN, ANKARA'S NO. 141

For your information, Draganoff, in his speech before the Bulgarian Parliament on August 22 included a specific statement, regarding the Government's intention to proceed immediately to remove the Jewish regulations, "that this Government was never in conformity with the action on this question by the previous Bulgarian Government".

In view of the fact that Draganoff is Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cults and has, therefore, the authority to deal with this question we are encouraged to believe that the Bulgarian Government intends to act in good faith in this matter.

KELLEY

JJX
NPL
The War Refugee Board cable No. 104 below is for

Hirschmann.

Please refer to your No. 1316 of August 18

(Ankara No. 136).

You are authorized to indicate to the Bulgarian authorities through appropriate channels that this Government is continuing to watch with great interest the status and treatment of Jews in Bulgaria and the action of the Bulgarian authorities with respect thereto. You may also indicate that if the Bulgarians are really interested in this matter, they will not only bring to an end immediately persecution of Jews in Bulgaria and the legal dispositions which made this possible but will also permit the entry into Bulgaria of Jews escaping from Hungary and furnish to them temporary havens of refuge.

It is our view that an appropriate occasion for any favorable publicity concerning the attitude of the Bulgarian authorities would present itself only after effective action has been taken by them.

We assume that you will inform us of any such
735, August 23, 5 p.m., to Ankara.

- 2 -

specific action.

Your efforts in this whole matter are greatly appreciated.

HULL
(GLW)

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73
By R. H. Parks Date: SEP 15 1972
CABLE FROM WAR REFUGEES BOARD TO AMBASSADOR STRINHARDT AND HIRSCHMANN, ANKARA, TURKEY.

Please refer to your No. 1516 of August 18 (Ankara No. 135).

You are authorized to indicate to the Bulgarian authorities through appropriate channels that this Government is continuing to watch with great interest the status and treatment of Jews in Bulgaria and the action of the Bulgarian authorities with respect thereto. You may also indicate that if the Bulgarians are really interested in this matter, they will not only bring to an end immediately persecution of Jews in Bulgaria and the legal dispositions which made this possible but will also permit the entry into Bulgaria of Jews escaping from Hungary and furnish to them temporary havens of refuge.

It is our view that an appropriate occasion for any favorable publicity concerning the attitude of the Bulgarian authorities would present itself only after effective action has been taken by them.

We assume that you will inform us of any such specific action.

Your efforts in this whole matter are greatly appreciated.

THIS IS WITH ANKARA CABLE NO. 104.

1:26 p.m.
August 22, 1944
Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, Dobbs, Friedman, Hodel, Jacobson, Leese, Mann, Mannon, McCormack, Cable Control Files

8/22/44.
Secretary of State,
Washington.

X

1516, August 18, 5 p.m.-

FOR PHELPE FROM HORSCHMANN WRB (Ankara No. 135).

Bagrianoff in his speech to Parliament on August 17, referred to the Jewish question stating that "the Jewish question must be liquidated and that this can be achieved without causing new and useless conflicts and sufferings either to the Bulgarian people or to its comrades." It is reported here that the abrogation of the anti-Jewish laws will be recommended by Bagrianoff and that a measure to that effect will be introduced in Parliament in the course of the next few days.

It is strongly urged that the WRB—without delay—issue propaganda and take appropriate measures designed to encourage the Bulgarian Government to take the desired steps and to induce it to take immediate action.

Bagrianoff is eager to secure a favorable reaction in and the good will of the United States. It is urgent that this opportunity be exploited to the utmost.

It is also

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP. 1 5 1972
-2-#1516, August 10, 5 p.m. from Ankara,

It is also suggested that an appropriate message (Sagrianoff?) from the Board to me to be read to Salabanoff or Simopd would be especially helpful at this moment.

KELLEY

DU

WP6
I have the honor to transmit herewith a free translation of the Law of August 29, 1942, which was published on the basis of a law authorizing the Bulgarian Cabinet to take necessary measures in connection with the regulation of the Jewish question. The source of the enclosed translation is the "DIEHAFEN WESSTINX (State Gazette)" No, 192, published in Sofia, Bulgaria, August 29, 1942.

A commentary on the Law, in the form of an outline of the principal provisions, which has been prepared by Dr. Floyd H. Black, follows below:

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1. Jewish population of Bulgaria and participation of Jews in the economic and community life of the country.


3. Laws against the Jews.
   a) The Law of January 23, 1941 having as its aim the impoverishment of the Jews.
   b) The Law of August 29, 1942, having as its aim the complete destruction of the Jewish community in Bulgaria and particularly in Sofia.

The total Jewish population of Bulgaria not including the recently annexed areas is approximately 46,000. Of these between 25,000 and 30,000 live in Sofia or between seven and eight per cent of the total population of this city. In general the Jews in Bulgaria are a respected and cultured element in the population. Their average standard of living in the country. Until the rise of Hitler to power in Germany there had never been an anti Jewish movement in Bulgaria. Jews took part in all phases of business and community life. They regarded themselves as an essential part of the State. They felt no distinction between themselves and other Bulgarian citizens. Their ancestors had come to Bulgaria in Turkish times, many families being able to trace their descent in Bulgaria as far back as 200 years.

Anti-Semitism first showed itself in forms of annoyance to Jews. Social ostracism began to appear. By 1935 petty persecution had begun. The Jews were called "cheerful" the equivalent of the English "sheeny." Two youth organisations were formed which had had their purposes, among other things, the persecution of the Jews. These organisations were called (1) the LEGIONERI and, (2) the RAZHARI. The latter word means "workers" or "pioneers." The membership of these organisations was made up mainly of students in the gymnasiums and universities and of other young people. Both organisations had patrons and promoters in high quarters. The symbol of the LEGIONERI was a circle with a cross in it. This symbol was used as an anti-Jewish symbol, the opposite of the Jewish Star of David. This sign was seen in every conspicuous place - on walls, fences, trees, on rocks by mountain paths. It was universal. It was put on with chalk, charcoal or red paint.

Jew's were beaten. Jewish children going to school were attacked by other children. About 1938 (exact date not available) a concert was given in the large concert hall "Bulgaria" by a Jewish orchestra and choir. Most of the audience, though not all, was made up of Jews. As the audience left the hall it was attacked by a crowd with eggs. In the autumn of 1939 between five and six o'clock one afternoon the windows of almost every Jewish shop in Sofia were broken simultaneously. Thus, before the war began a definite movement of persecution toward the Jews had been inaugurated.

Laws Against the Jews.

There are two principal laws against the Jews. The first, called the Law for the Defense of the Nation, went into effect January 23, 1941. The second is the Law now under discussion which went into effect on August 27, 1942. A copy of the first law is not available at the present time but can probably be supplied later. Some of the main points in this law are as follows:
3. The compulsory registration of all Jews is required.

4. Jews are forbidden to engage in certain professions and industries. For example, they cannot own, manage, or work in any factory, drugstore, or bakery. All Jews are required to practice only in proportion to the Jewish percentage of the total population of any town, e.g., if 5% of the population is Jewish, then 5% of the lawyers may be Jewish.

5. Jews are not allowed to use Bulgarian transliterations "ев", "ед", "едъ", and others on their Jewish names.

6. Jews are forbidden to marry Bulgarians. A percentage of Jews is fixed for admission into all schools.

7. Exception from some of these restrictions are granted to Jews who were decorated for valor in the World War, war invalids, minors and orphans, and to Jews who had been converted to Christianity before a certain date.

The purpose of this law was the restriction, robbery and humiliation of the Jewish population. A large percentage of the Jewish population of Bulgaria was thrown out of employment and impoverished by this law.

The Law of August 29, 1941:

As already stated, the purpose of the law of January 23, 1941, was the restriction, robbery and humiliation of the Jews in Bulgaria. The purpose of this second law is the complete destruction of the Jewish community in Bulgaria. An outline of the principal contents of this law follows:

Organization:

The Law creates a Commissioner or Department of Jewish Affairs under the Ministry of Interior. The head of this Department is called the Commissioner for Jewish Affairs. The first Commissioner appointed, and who now holds this post, is Alexander Belov, the author of the Law. The Commissioner is assisted by a Council composed of the following representatives: one member of the Supreme Administrative Court, appointed by the Minister of Justice; one member of the Ministry of Commerce, one of the Ministry of Interior,
one of the Ministry of Labor, one of the Ministry of Finance, one of the Bulgarian National Bank and one of the Civilian Mobilization. Great power is invested in the Commissioner and there is no appeal from his decisions. The expenses of the Department of Jewish Affairs are paid by the so-called "Fund Jewish Communities." This fund is collected from several sources: first, by a general tax of 20 to 25 per cent of Jewish property in accordance with the Law of January 23, 1941; second, by a tax on Jewish bank accounts beginning with 5 per cent on accounts of 100,000 leva and rising to 12 per cent on accounts of one million leva or more, the income from Jewish synagogues, schools and other Jewish institutions or organizations. This fund is used to pay the expenses of Jewish communities, to help poor Jews, to provide for the settlement of Jews in villages and camps, and to pay the salaries of members of the Council and of the employees of the Department of Jewish Affairs. Each Jewish community will have its own Jewish council of four to six members appointed by the Commissioner to handle its affairs including the control of Jewish schools, synagogues and other institutions and also to prepare for the deportation of Jews in accordance with Article 29 of the present law.

Definition of Term "Jewish Descent."

All persons are of Jewish descent:

1. Whose parents or grandparents are or were of the Jewish religion;

2. In case one of the parents or either two or three of the grandparents were of the Jewish religion.

3. In case one grandparent was of the Jewish religion and one other converted to the Jewish religion. Further details regarding descent may be found in Article 8 of the Law. Article 9 states "Whatever his citizenship or origin every person is considered of Jewish descent who was of the Jewish religion or had been converted to the Jewish religion before September 1, 1942."

4. Children born from the marriage of a Jew who in a Bulgarian citizen with a Bulgarian are not regarded as Jewish if the marriage took place before September 1, 1940 and was celebrated according to the Christian ritual, or if the Jewish parent had become a Christian before January 23, 1941.

Restrictions Enforced on Jews.

1. All Jews must make declaration of origin. This includes Jews who are Bulgarian citizens and Jews holding foreign citizenship.
2. All persons of Jewish descent must have Jewish names. They are not allowed Bulgarian given names or family names or Jewish names with Bulgarian suffixes such as "sof", "sof", "rich", "sky", at certain.

3. All Jews must wear the yellow badge - the Star of David - prominently displayed on an outer garment, such as the jacket of the coat or overskirt. These badges are made of cheap composition material and are sold to Jews at 20 leva each. The profits from the sale of these badges are supposed to go to the "Fund Jewish Communities." This regulation went into effect on September 19, 1942. The fact that the Bulgarian population took no notice of the badge indicated popular disapproval of the measure. By this date a great many people in Bulgaria had become sympathetic toward the Jews. Children under ten years of age and Jewish travelers holding tourist visas are not required to wear the badge.

4. Jews wearing badges may be refused admission to any establishment as hotels, restaurants, cafes, at certain, by the owner of the establishment by the police or by a member of the Council for Jewish Affairs. A Jew may not live in an apartment or house or an apartment with a Bulgarian unless they are relatives.

5. "Jews can not stay in a hotel for more than ten days within any period of six months."

6. From September 15, 1942 all Jews must have a special sign reading "Jewish residence" or "Jewish business" prominently displayed over the door of their living or business premises.

7. Jews are not allowed to own cars, radios or have a telephone in their home. Jews are forbidden to employ Bulgarian servants. It is apparent that a number of these regulations have as their purpose the humiliation of the Jews.

Place of Residence and Denomination of Jews.

1. Jewish families of one person may have only one room; families of three or four persons are allowed two rooms; families of five or six persons are allowed three rooms; and families of more than six persons are allowed four rooms. Kitchens, halls and bathrooms are not considered as rooms. This regulation is due in part to the overcrowding of Sofia but mainly to the desire of the Germans and Bulgarians to get possession of the Jewish apartments of the better grade.
2. Article 27 of the present law authorizes the Government to designate the streets and areas in any town where Jews must live; that is, to establish Jewish quarters or ghettos. A Jewish quarter was in fact established in Sofia in September of this year and all Jews living outside the district were ordered to move into it immediately. The physical impossibility of carrying out the order has led to some rising up on the enforcement.

3. Jews cannot leave the towns in which they reside without permission of the police.

4. The most oppressive article in the Law, Article 29, reads as follows: "Jews living in Sofia are subject to deportation to the province or outside of the country. In any case by November 1, 1942, all Jews living in Sofia who are unemployed in accordance with the Law for National Defense, or in accordance with the present decree, and who have no other occupation, must be deported."

We are reliably informed from Sofia that deportations under this article have already begun and that several thousand people are being rounded up for immediate deportation. The destination of the deportees is not known.

Restrictions on Jewish Business Enterprises.

1. Jews are not allowed to engage in commerce and industry and not invest their capital in any other business enterprise. Jews are not allowed to open any new business enterprise.

2. Jews have been allowed to retain their occupational rights as not allowed:
   a. to hold more than one job.
   b. to enlarge their business.
   c. to form new business connections.
   d. to invest more than 200,000 leva (§952 at $4, lev 1 equals one dollar) and this must be invested in one enterprise only.

3. Jews are entirely debarred from working in certain enterprises. Article 33 reads in part as follows: "Jews are debarred from production of drugs and medicines, sanitary materials, optical instruments, and chemicals, and they cannot own pharmacies, drug stores, or clinics, or engage in trade. Jews are also debarred from Industries, which, traded as agricultural products, import and export, shipping transport, and commission agencies. Jewish small craftsmen may continue to work if their working capital does not exceed 200,000 leva (§952.00 at $4, lev 1 equals one dollar)."
4. Jews practicing professions henceforth closed to them were liquidated on October 29, 1942.

5. Jews observed from commerce and industry by this act must deposit all their shares and holdings of any sort in the National Bank within two weeks after the law goes into effect. The proceeds will be turned over to the "Fund for Jewish Communities." Failure to conform to this regulation will be penalized by a fine of two million leva or six years imprisonment.

6. Jews dismissed out of employment by these two laws cannot enter a new job without the consent of the appropriate labor organization and of the Department for Jewish Affairs. This means that such of these will not be able to obtain any employment for a period of two years mentioned will not be given.

7. The working staff in Jewish enterprises working only with Jews must be exclusively Jewish. No enterprise in which Jews are allowed to work in accordance with the Law for National Defense can have a personnel which is more than 29 per cent Jewish. In such enterprises Jews are not allowed to be officers, managers, directors, legal consultants, commercial agents, technical advisors, employees and auditors. This reduces the employment of Jews in any business to the lowest degree.

**Note:**

Within one month after the publication of the Law for National Defense of January 21, 1941, all Jews had to declare to the National Bank all their movable and immovable property owned in Bulgaria. This regulation applies to Jews living abroad as well as those living in Bulgaria. It is enforced in the greatest detail. Property confiscated under this law becomes the property of the Government without any further proceeding or court procedures.

1. Jews cannot dispose of their movable property except their wages and household articles not exceeding 10,000 leva in value. If they wish to sell movable property in excess of this amount the permission of the Commissioner for Jewish Affairs must be obtained.

2. In addition to the declaration of their movable and immovable property Jews were required to deposit in the National Bank or local bank all precious, stocks and bonds and valuables of all sorts including watches, rings, earrings and precious stones. All these will be sold and the proceeds will be placed in the blocked account of the owner.
3. Money may be drawn from blocked accounts for certain purposes approved by the Department of Jewish Affairs and for the support of the owner and his family if he has no other income; in any case not more than 6,000 lira can be drawn in any one month for the support of the owner and his family.

Exceptions:

Jews who are Bulgarian citizens and who were married by a Christian ceremony before September 1, 1930, to Bulgarian citizens and who had been baptized before January 29, 1941, are exempted from the restrictions of this law.

Further comment on this law:

Reports received from Sofia on November 13, 1942, indicate that this law is being rigorously enforced. Previous reports that there was some leniency in the enforcement of the law applied only to a small number of Christian Jews with regard to wearing the Star of David. Also some postponement was found necessary due to the physical impossibility of moving so many Jews into the ghetto at one time. A prominent Jewish surgeon arrived in Sofia on November 13 after having been deprived of his right to practice his profession. He owned and operated a hospital and pharmacy, which in accordance with Article 33 of the law. All his property was taken away from him. Actually this man is a Catholic and has been such for thirty years. He declared that the reason for his severe treatment is jealousy of Bulgarian surgeons and doctors who take this action inviding themselves of competition.

As has already been mentioned several thousand Jews are now in the process of being deported from Sofia. Where they will be sent is not known. They are supposed to be deported to towns and villages in Bulgaria but some high placed persons believe many of them will be deported to Poland. Some think they will be put in concentration camps inside of Bulgaria where they will eventually die of disease and starvation. Others, including the surgeon referred to above, think that a large proportion of them will be shot as they are in Belgrade and other cities. In any case, the content of the law, together with the severity with which it is being enforced show that its purpose is the complete destruction of the Jewish community in Sofia.


Respectfully yours,

Samuel W. Hamaker
American Consul General
Under date of August 2, we received from Istanbul a message as follows:

For attention of Joseph Schwartz, Joint Distribution Committee, Lisbon.

No. 124.

A demand is being made by Hirschmann, who has been working very closely on the Bulgarian situation, that a revocation of anti-Jewish laws is necessary and he is desirous, in connection with the proposed revocation, of offering to the Bulgarian Government a plan for relief and assistance of all needy Jews in Bulgaria. It is his belief that these steps will help initiate a substantial program of economic rehabilitation in that country.

Hirschmann discussed the entire matter with me and that JDC agree in principle to undertake such a program was requested by him. Even though Hirschmann would like to say through appropriate channels that the JDC is willing to assist in such a program, it is quite obvious that at this time we cannot give estimates. A reply by cable is urgently requested.

Pending comments and advice from the Department, the Embassy.
Embassy is delaying delivery to Schwartz as the United States is at war with Bulgaria and as the telegram quoted in Section One suggests direct or indirect contact with Government that country by official or unofficial U. S. citizens. It is requested that instructions be transmitted by cable.
With reference to message Schwartz from Recentk Istanbul your 2410 August 4, the following cable has been sent to Hirschmann Ankara:

QUOTE It is assumed that you are aware of the fact that any discussions with Bulgarian or Romanian authorities must be strictly confined to questions of relief of refugees closely associated with their rescue and must not enter into the field of the domestic affairs of these countries. In view of the present situation and in view of information available here as to Balabanoff's aims the Board reemphasizes that the utmost caution must be exercised to avoid any inferences which might be drawn from your discussions that any promises or commitments have been made with respect to peace terms or postwar settlements or assistance in economic rehabilitation or of any other kind.

It will be appreciated in connection with the foregoing if you will clarify paragraph six of the cable under reference. (Your 141 August 2

In its present drafting the Department believes that Balabanoff may easily construe this paragraph as including an offer of postwar economic rehabilitation for his country. Obviously such an offer cannot be made by this Government acting alone, by the war refugee Board or by its representatives. Paragraph six
-2-2239, August 12, 3 p.m., to Lisbon

it is only in order provided it refers to an immediate program for the relief of Jews in Bulgaria associated with the Board's general rescue program. UNQUOTE

With reference to section two your 2410 you are authorized to deliver Resnik's cable to Schwartz explaining to him at the same time that Resnik's message must be understood and accepted in the light of the foregoing cable to Hirschmann at Ankara.

S. E. P. T. N. I. U. S.
ACTING
(OLW)

WERNH: KM
G/OR
6/11/44
HE
OK
WE
CABLE TO AMBASSADOR NORWEB, LISBON; FROM THE DEPARTMENT AND THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Please refer to your number 2410 of August 4 concerning message for Schwartz from Reenick.

The following cable has been sent to the Embassy in Ankara concerning this matter:

"Please refer to your number 1414 of August 2. Board appreciates information concerning your efforts to improve conditions of Jews in Bulgaria.

"We know that you are aware of the fact that any discussions with the Bulgarians or Romanians must be confined to questions of immediate relief and rescue of refugees. However, in view of the present situation and in view of information here as to the aims of Malabanoff we deem it desirable to reemphasize that great caution must be used to avoid any discussions which can be interpreted as involving any promises regarding peace or post war settlements or conditions.

"In connection with the foregoing it will be appreciated if you will clarify paragraph six of cable 1414. As stated, the State Department construes this paragraph as referring to an offer of post war economic rehabilitation in Bulgaria. Such an offer could not be made by the War Refugee Board or its representatives. If, however, paragraph six refers to an immediate program for the relief of Jews in Bulgaria in accordance with our general rescue and relief policy it is perfectly proper."

You are authorized to deliver Reenick's cable to Schwartz indicating to him the substance of the above communication with the Embassy in Ankara.

This is the same as message No. 784.

11:15 a.m.,
August 9, 1944

JBFriedman/1hh 8/9/44
FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Embassy, Ankara  
DATED: August 16, 1944  
NUMBER: 1956

FROM THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

In view of increasing difficulties in arranging for the evacuation of Jews from the Balkans by rail and sea and in view of the increasingly favorable war outlook, the War Refugee Board feels that greater emphasis should now be placed on convincing the satellites that it is to their interest to halt anti-Jewish activities and thereby make unnecessary the evacuation of Jews under present difficult and dangerous wartime conditions. With this in mind Hirschmann, the War Refugee Board representative in Turkey recently conferred with Balabanoff, the Bulgarian Minister to Ankara, and requested among other things, that the Bulgarian authorities take steps to cease persecution of the Jews in Bulgaria and to afford them protection in that country thus obviating the necessity of involuntary emigration. Balabanoff indicated his view that the Bulgarian authorities would be favorably disposed to taking such action.

In his conversation with Hirschmann, Balabanoff apparently indicated that the Bulgarian Government is on excellent terms with the Soviet Government and that Bulgaria would exert any reasonable effort to please the Soviets. If in your discretion you consider it desirable to do so, you may wish to approach the appropriate Soviet officials, informing them of the foregoing, and suggesting that they may wish to instruct their Charge d'Affaires in Bulgaria to urge the Bulgarians to take action of the nature indicated.

For your information, the Russian Embassy in Ankara has been advised of Hirschmann's talk with Balabanoff.

HULL
Cable from the War Refugee Board to Ambassador Harriman, Moscow, Russia.

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10:00 a.m.
August 16, 1944

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

Jef Friedmam/NAWAC488
The telegram No. 1955 was erroneously distributed to you as No. 1955 from "American Legation, Bern". It should have been No. 1955 from "American Embassy, Moscow".
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, Moscow
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: August 30, 1944
NUMBER: 3223

I have waited approaching the Foreign Office again on the subject of pressure by the Soviet Government on the Jewish question in view of the fact that developments regarding Bulgaria have been moving so rapidly since Department's cable of August 16, 1944, No. 1952, from War Refugee Board, has been received. It is felt by me that it would not be useful to make an approach here at the present time. It is assumed that such matters can now be taken up direct with Bulgarian Government representatives who are to meet with us to discuss an armistice and that the Soviet observer would be kept advised and asked to support us. Of course, I will gladly press the Soviet Government here in addition for its cooperation if, on the other hand, it develops that there is need for such action.

HARRISAN

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Library, 1-11-73
By R. H. Park Date SEP 15 1972
Dear Mr. Peter:

This is to acknowledge and thank you for your letter of January 8, 1945, (8/4/a), quoting for our information the text of a cable from your Delegate at Ankara concerning the situation of Jews in Bulgaria.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Marc Peter
Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross
2045 Connecticut Avenue, N. W.
Washington 9, D. C.
Mr. J.W. Fehle,  
Executive Director,  
Executive Office of the President,  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD,  
Washington 25, D.C.  

Dear Mr. Fehle,

On the request of our Headquarters in Geneva, we are quoting below for your information, the text of a cable received from our Delegation at Ankara which retransmits the text of a cable sent to Geneva by our Delegation at Sofia:-

"de Henry, Sofia, 12/9, received 28/9 - quote toutes ordonnances concernant Juifs annulées. Renoncent émigrer Palestine. Situation alimentaire suffisante, secours inutiles. unquote - Simond 177"

We trust that this information will prove of interest to you, and would ask you to kindly acknowledge receipt at your convenience.

Sincerely yours,

MARC PETER,  
Delegate.

sgo.
PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS
1834 BROADWAY
New York 23, N.Y.

CIRCLE 6-1900
April 27, 1944

Mr. I. M. Weinstein
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

The Bulgarian Jewish Representative Committee affiliated with the World Jewish Congress has been negotiating with the Bulgarian-Macedonian Committee for the issuance of a statement to be broadcast to the Bulgarian people on the question of the persecution of the Jews. I have just been informed that this statement will be signed tomorrow by Mr. Patef, President and Dr. Sharenkoff, Secretary of the said committee. It will be forwarded to Mr. Maroev of the O.W.I. who is in charge of the broadcasts to Bulgaria.

Sincerely yours

Dr. A. Leon Kubowitski, Head
Rescue Department
April 11, 1944

Hon. J. W. Pehle, Executive Director
War Refugees Board
Executive Office of the President
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I beg to inform you that we just received the following cable from Mr. Albert Romano, a Bulgarian Jewish leader in Istanbul:

"Please contact organisation Bulgarians in America inciting them to address in their names radio call to Bulgaria in the interest Bulgarian people absolutely necessary abolish or at least soften laws orders against Jews stop consider this action great importance for fate Bulgarian Jewry stop please inform by cable steps undertaken."

May I submit that this suggestion be complied with, as Mr. Romano seems to consider it of great importance.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Dr. A. Leon Libowitschi, Head
Rescue Department
CROSS REFERENCE ON MEASURES DIRECTED TOWARD HALTING PERSECUTIONS (BULGARIA)

FOR:

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FOR: MATERIAL RE: ENTRY OF KATZKI AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTATIVES INTO RUMANIA AND BULGARIA

SEE: RUMANIA "BREAKDOWN" (2)
Secretary of State
Washington

1148, March 25, 1945, 10 p.m.

On March 14 AHHQ requested Soviet clearance for Dr. Joseph Schwartz of American Joint Distribution Committee to enter Bulgaria and Rumania on business of his organization.

The following message has been received AHHQ from General Crisp in Bulgaria:

"Realying to your message of March 14, this is to inform you that Soviet High Command sees no necessity for visit to Sofia of Dr. Joseph Schwartz."

KIRK
In reply refer to #54.

May 9, 1944

Mr. I. M. Weinstein
War Refugees Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

I attach a translation of the appeal which I mentioned at the Wednesday meeting of the Committee on Special Refugee Problems, and which is being broadcast to Bulgaria from New York, London, Cairo and Bari.

This appeal was written by the President and Secretary of the Congress of Bulgarians and Macedonians in America, at the request of the Bulgarian Jewish Representative Committee affiliated with the World Jewish Congress.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. A. Leon Habowitski
Head, Rescue Department
APPEAL TO THE BULGARIAN PEOPLE FROM THE CONGRESS OF BULGARIANS AND MACEDONIANS
IN AMERICA

Bulgarian Brethren:

In the name of the Congress of Bulgarians and Macedonians uniting the majority of our immigrants to this country, we are addressing this appeal to the Bulgarian Government and people.

The war is approaching its logical end. The Armies of brotherly Russia who already once before sacrificed their blood for the liberation of our people from its dark yoke, now threw the German hordes from Russian soil and advanced to the heart of Romania.

In the West, the American and British Armies will shortly open a second front. The decisive blow for the crushing of German war power is inevitable.

During these decisive and historic days, we here in the United States have exclusively the vital interests of Bulgaria in mind, and so we implore all patriotic Bulgarians to do all they possibly can to prevent the situation of the Bulgarian people from getting worse than it already is. Do not forget that any active support given to the Germans, no matter in what form, will add to the responsibilities of our people.

We also appeal to you to help lightening the fate of the Jewish population. The annulment of those inexcusable anti-Jewish laws, and the alleviation of that inhuman regime under which they were forced to live, will very much facilitate our problems after cessation of hostilities. Do not forget, either, that, only a few weeks ago, Mr. Roosevelt, President of the United States, and Mr. Eden, British Foreign Secretary, declared very plainly that the behaviour of all enemy countries towards their Jewish minorities will be seriously considered at the time of deciding on the fate of the enemies of the United Nations. No excuse for the inhuman treatment of any minority will be convincing enough.

Rulers, keep the future of the Bulgarian people in your minds. Bulgarian Brethren, do not allow anybody to step on the ideals of the heroes of the Bulgarian liberation, and to obscure Bulgaria's name even more!

Peter Peef, President
Dr. Victor Sharenkow, Secretary

April 28, 1944
JAN 27 1945

$50,000 APPROPRIATED
FOR BULGARIAN JEWS

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc., 270 Madison Avenue, appropriated $50,000 last month for emergency relief for the surviving 40,000 Jews in Bulgaria, it was reported yesterday by Rabbi Jonah R. Wise, vice chairman of the committee.

The committee has completed arrangements for shipment to Bulgaria of $50,000 worth of medical supplies to combat typhus, diphtheria and malaria epidemics and to improve health conditions, he said.

The committee also has arranged for the purchase in Palestine of 10,000 pairs of shoes and of warm clothing for use in Bulgaria at a total cost of $180,000. This purchase was made in response to cabinet requests by Dr. Judah J. Schecter, chairman of the committee's European council, and Dr. Judah J. Magnes, chairman of the organization's Middle East advisory committee.
Jews in Bulgaria—In Pitiful Plight

Regime Does Nothing to Ease Starvation of 45,000—Many Envy Those Who Die

By JOSPEH M. LEVY

ISTANBUL, Turkey, Jan. 17 (Delayed)—Four months after Bulgaria's liberation from the Germans and the Bulgarian fascists' regime the situation of about 45,000 Jews there today is deplorable and desperate. They are clothesless, shoeless and starving. They are existing, not living, under the most inhuman conditions, three and four families sharing a dingy little room which is unheated and without windows.

The writer paid several visits to the quarters Hujbunar and Dort-bunar where the vast majority of the Sofia Jews are concentrated, where nothing has been done to alleviate the conditions of these unfortunate human beings. Most of them told the writer that they envy their 34,000 Macedonian co-strugglers who were deported to Poland, where they had been exterminated by the Germans. One woman, with infant in arms and two other children of 3 and 6 pulling frantically at her skirt crying for food, told me:

"My husband died in a forced labor camp and I was left with these children and my mother-in-law without the slightest means of support. If I were not for these poor little creatures I would have committed suicide long ago."

This is not an isolated case—hundreds of them told similarly. The children's bitter cries for food and the agitating moans of the sick are still ringing in the writer's ears.

Promise Not Fulfilled

Despite innumerable appeals for help, no relief from abroad has been forthcoming. The Bulgarian Government has done nothing to help these thousands of destitute Jews. It is not stingy with promises however. Months ago it declared that all property that had been confiscated from the Jews by the fascists regime would be returned to their owners, that Jewish loans blocked at different banks would be refunded and that the compulsory tax the Jews were forced to pay under the fascist government would be repaid. Craftsmen were to get back their tools to enable them to work, the manufacturers and traders would have their factories and businesses restored—all this was promised by the present so-called Liberal government but to this day not a single promise has been fulfilled.

The excuse is that the Government's treasury is empty. The Government announced that no Bulgarian who acquired Jewish property any description should suffer as a result of the Government's decision to restore Jewish belongings.

A highly placed Bulgarian functionary who is a great man but not fastidiously interested in trying to help solve the problem of Jewish misery in Bulgaria told the writer:

"If the Government paid a little more attention to acute social problems of the country rather than to politics, much could be done to alleviate the frightful conditions of the Jews here. There are hundreds of Bulgarians who made fortune during this war at the expense of Jewish-owned factories and businesses that were confiscated by the fascist Government and sold for a song to them."

"If the Government ordered no more than fifty of these war profiteers to contribute as little as 1 per cent of their fortunes there would be ample funds to repay in full the amount confiscated in property and cash from Bulgarian Jews. It would even cover the vast deploration in value of Bulgarian currency in the past years."

Political Exploitation

The Government could do much to alleviate the misery of Bulgarian Jews but does nothing. Yet, the Government rarely misses a chance to exploit the Jewish question for political or propaganda purposes. Over the radio and in the press it condemns the former Fascist regimes for enforcing anti-Jewish laws which it describes as cruel and inhuman. It declares that all Jews now are free and enjoying equal rights with all the rest of Bulgarians. This is a farce, for the only thing the Jews in Bulgaria are able to do with equal rights and freedom is to starve and freeze.
Bulgar Jews Get Rights Back

Hirschmann Says 48,000 Have Been Freed
From Camps in Romania

Washington, Oct. 17 (A. P.)—Ira Hirschmann, War Refugee Board representative at Ankara, said today on his return to Washington that Bulgaria has restored full rights to about 45,000 Jews and an unknown number of other refugees in that country.

He added at a news conference that something like 48,000 Jews had been released from concentration camps in Transnistria in Romania to emigrate to Palestine but that he did not know the total number left in Romania.

Mr. Hirschmann reported that the Turkish Government had been helpful in arranging to take care of refugees from Bulgaria and Romania as they passed through that country on their way to permanent resettlement in Palestine and to temporary relief centers elsewhere in the Mediterranean area.

John W. Peble, executive director of the War Refugee Board, said that the most pressing problem the board faces today is in Hungary where he described the situation as touch and go so far as the lives of thousands of Jews are concerned. He explained that as battle lines surrounded Hungary on the south and east this problem no longer could be tackled from Turkey but would have to be approached through the Swiss Government.

Mr. Peble said that he knew of no place to bring further contingents of refugees to this country, as at Oswego, N. Y., adding that temporary refuge in the Mediterranean countries is now easier to find and that some refugees from Yugoslavia and Greece may be expected to start returning to their countries.

Aside from Hungary, Mr. Peble said that the most pressing refugee problems are in Austria, Poland and Germany.
BULGARIANS OFFER TO MOVE FOR PEACE

Minister Cites Troops' Exit From Yugoslavia in Bid for Truce With Allies

ASKS AMITY WITH GREEKS

But Demurs at Yielding Land

Anti-Jewish Laws Being Eased, Turks Hear

ANKARA, Turkey, Aug. 22 — Foreign Minister Parvan Draganski of Bulgaria said tonight that Bulgaria was doing her utmost to make peace with the United States and Britain. In an address to the Bulgarian Parliament, he said Bulgaria had withdrawn her troops from Yugoslavia, advice reaching here said.

Bulgaria denies that the hour, always forecast by the Fuehrer, for the Wehrmacht to withdraw from the Inner Fortress of Germany itself, has now come.

Goebbels Signals Withdrawal

German Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels' latest directive to his Berlin "information agents" admits that "the hour, always forecast by the Fuehrer, for the Wehrmacht to withdraw from the Inner Fortress of Germany itself, has now come." The British radio said in a broadcast heard last night by the National Broadcasting Company.

A British reporter ferreted it out and called it to The London Daily Express.

Peace Progress Reported

Bulgaria's withdrawal from the first World War in September, 1918, marked the collapse of the Central Powers. Bulgaria, an ally of Germany, signed on Oct. 30 and eleven days later Germany signed an armistice.
Anti-Jewish Laws Eased

By JOSEPH M. LEVY

ORIANA, Turkey, Aug. 20—Although Bulgarian authorities believe that their new Jewish laws will be based on principles of equity and humanitarianism, they are not yet in operation. In fact, it is reported that the new laws will not take effect for several weeks.

The new laws, which were passed by the Bulgarian Parliament on August 18, are expected to be a step forward in the treatment of the Jewish community. They will replace the old anti-Jewish laws that were in force until recently. The new laws are expected to bring about a significant improvement in the status of Jews in Bulgaria.

Mr. Hirschmann, the representative of the War Refugee Board, met with representatives of the Jewish community in Bulgaria and discussed the situation of the Jews in the country. He expressed the hope that the new laws would bring about a significant improvement in the treatment of the Jews.

Mr. Hirschmann also met with the Bulgarian Premier, Ivan Bagrianoff, to discuss the situation of the Jews in Bulgaria. Mr. Bagrianoff expressed the hope that the new laws would bring about a significant improvement in the treatment of the Jews.

The new laws are expected to bring about a significant improvement in the status of Jews in Bulgaria. They will replace the old anti-Jewish laws that were in force until recently. The new laws are expected to bring about a significant improvement in the treatment of the Jews.

The new laws will not take effect for several weeks, and it is expected that they will be in operation soon.