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Subject: Dispatching four copies of a report on a visit to the ghetto of Theresienstadt (Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia) on June 23, 1944, drawn up by Dr. W. Hassel, delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I have the honor to enclose four copies (in English translation, the original report having been written in French) of a report concerning a visit to the well-known ghetto of Theresienstadt made by Dr. W. Hassel, Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross, on June 23, 1944. This document was communicated to me by a friend in the ICRC and in strictest confidence. I must, therefore, kindly request that no part of it be published. On the other hand, I wished to send it to you for your and the War Refugee Board's confidential information. It could perhaps be communicated in your discretion to certain members of reliable Jewish organizations.

In forwarding Dr. Hassel's report, which is in fact the first concerning Theresienstadt drawn up by a neutral observer, I feel that a number of qualifying statements are necessary. The picture he presents of the ghetto can unfortunately not be taken at its face value.

In the first place, as is almost always the case with such "official" visits to camps or prisons, the reception of the ICRC's representative as well as of the two delegates of the Danish Red Cross who also went along, was quite obviously prepared in advance. The various Jewish "officials" for example all gave interesting but clearly "prepared" speeches which they delivered without waiting to be questioned. The "party" spent only ten to twelve hours in Theresienstadt and was at all times accompanied by a number of SS men, including the ill-famed Dr. Günther from SS headquarters at Berlin, one of the German officials directly responsible for the creation of Theresienstadt. Dr. Hassel had only one or two very fleeting opportunities to exchange an unheard word with Dr. Paul Eppstein, the "Judenrat" (mayor) of the ghetto. The impression gained was consequently somewhat superficial. When the question of social welfare reports on persons thought to be in Theresienstadt came up, for instance, and particularly the means by

Mr. John W. Pehle,
Executive Director,
War Refugee Board,
Washington, D.C.
which such information could be obtained, Dr. Epstein was quite right to furnish the ICGW Delegate with a complete list of persons then in the Ghetto. This was promptly forbidden by the SS.

A number of factors were taken for granted by Dr. Hossel which merited closer examination. Describing their arrival at Theresienstadt, Dr. Hossel speaks of the "Kleine Festung" but gives the impression that it was quite separate from the rest of the town. As a matter of fact, according to persons who were several times in Theresienstadt before the war, it is an integral part of the Ghetto, and at present houses a considerable number of non-Jewish political prisoners as well as certain Jews. Its inmates are treated essentially as in other German concentration camps, and it is heavily guarded principally by armed Czech guards. Needless to say, the ICGW Delegate was not shown this part of Theresienstadt.

Dr. Hossel further underlines the absence of barbed wire and the general absence of SS guards. Had he spent the night in the Ghetto he would have seen, however, that the entire perimeter of the town was strongly flood-lit and with guard posts set up at regular intervals. This fact is known without a doubt from previous, reliable information concerning Theresienstadt.

On page three it will be noted that Theresienstadt is referred to as an "Endlager" (i.e., a final camp of destination from which no one is sent further). This may be true, as far as certain categories of Jews are concerned, particularly those of German origin. In the summer (July) of 1943, however, the population of Theresienstadt was 45,000 souls. At the time of Dr. Hossel's visit (June 1944) the number stood at about 35,000. In the intervening year some 8,000 persons have disappeared from the Ghetto. Naturally, considering the large percentage of old people in Theresienstadt, the mortality rate is high, and taking Dr. Hossel's lowest figure of twelve deaths per day one could therefore calculate the number deceased during the intervening year at roughly 4,300. This, nevertheless, leaves over 4,000 persons unaccounted for.

Undoubtedly considerable numbers of Jews have been deported from Theresienstadt to camps in Upper Silesia and Poland, such as Sbrzem, Litwansenstadt, Lublin-Blajaneck and Izbiza (see Auschwitz-Birkenau report on arrival of convoys of deportees from Theresienstadt). They seem, in the main, to have been Jews who were only temporarily in Theresienstadt, as the Ghetto, according to the most trustworthy reports, has also
been very largely used by the Germans as a transit camp. No figures exist on the number of deportees who have passed through Theresienstadt on this basis, although it is certainly many thousands.

It is definitely known, for example, that the wife and son of the former "Gedenkinstitut" of Theresienstadt, Dr. Jacob Eidelberg (whose signature still appears on the Theresienstadt banknotes) were sent to the extermination camp of Birkenau as postcards were received in Switzerland from her. It has never been possible to discover what has happened to Dr. Eidelberg himself since it is known that he was not deported with his wife.

In regard to locating people in Theresienstadt it is also significant to note that information can only be secured regarding people who are actually in the ghetto. If an individual about whom an inquiry is sent is not there, no answer whatsoever is returned. Dr. Eppstein confirmed this fact in conversation with the ICRC's Delegate, Dr. Ressel.

On page two the episode of the 240 persons (about 60 families) possessing Swedish passports is significant. When the question of the liberation of these persons was raised, the Germans replied characteristically that this was impossible since their documents had been issued only just prior to the outbreak of the war and that the bearers were in reality Germans and would continue to be considered as such. It will be noted that the Danish Red Cross Delegates also inquired about 100 Danish Jews who seemed to be missing. They received a similar answer to the effect that these people in reality possessed German passports and were merely arrested in Denmark. As a rule, the same standpoint of view is maintained by the Germans regarding all persons in Theresienstadt possessing papers other than those of the nationality which the Germans consider their true one. Due to this attitude there is no case on record of a person or family, as far as I know, ever having been "liberated" or transferred from Theresienstadt to a better camp or status. There are reported to be a number of persons in Theresienstadt, for instance, holding expired United States immigration visas, but efforts to confirm this fact have been unsuccessful.

The picture which Dr. Ressel paints in his report of physical and material conditions in the Ghetto is also somewhat misleading. He states, for example, that the Theresienstadt population receive the same rations as are distributed in the "Protectorate". He neglects to explain that they receive the same rations as the Jews in Bohemia and Moravia, which is quite another thing, since all the more nourishing foodstuffs (meat, eggs, sugar, butter, fats, fresh vegetables, etc.) are forbidden to the Jews in the Protectorate as in almost all German-occupied Europe.

The daily calory intake of 2400 is also open to doubt. In conversation with the ICRC's Delegate, Dr. Eppstein
Heppelein mentioned that at one time they had tried diminishing the rations of the older people (over 60) by 300 calories daily, with the result that the mortality rate rose sharply. If this were true, these people could scarcely have previously been receiving 2400 calories. In any event, gauging the degree of nourishment of interned populations solely in calories is at best misleading.

In the summer of 1943 (July, I believe), representatives of the German Red Cross were allowed to go to Theresienstadt, and according to the report of the most reliable man in the ICRC Joint Relief Commission at Geneva, who had a long talk with the returning German delegates, they were very upset and unfavorably impressed by their visit. It is interesting to note that this was the first occasion on which representatives of the German Red Cross had been permitted any contact with Jewish deportees. According to this confidential report material conditions in Theresienstadt were very bad. The Ghetto was frightfully overcrowded (over 47,000 people in a small town which had previously housed about 7,000 inhabitants), the deportees were seriously undernourished, and there was a general lack of clothing and medical supplies of all sorts. The German Red Cross did report, however, that the internal Jewish organization of the Ghetto under the circumstances was good.

In the light of this report from German sources, made somewhat over a year ago, it is most doubtful that the situation as regards food and medical supplies has improved in the intervening time as substantively as Dr. Rossel's report would lead one to believe. A thoroughly characteristic "Theresienstadt statement" appears on page ten of the ICRC report, where it is declared that despite the generally adequate supply of everything in the Ghetto certain products (special foods for children, milk and vitamin products, sardines and shoes) would still be most welcome. Similar statements have appeared on hundreds of postcards from Theresienstadt received in Switzerland in the course of the past two years, and almost invariably with this same turn of phrase: "We get plenty to eat, but we are always glad to receive packages containing condensed milk, sardines, etc." Dr. Rossel told the ICRC confidentially (and his report should have borne this out more clearly) that under no circumstances should food shipments to Theresienstadt be decreased or discontinued.

Dr. Rossel does clearly state, however, that there is a great lack of shoes. This is, unfortunately, almost axiomatic in all of Europe nowadays among "normal" civilian populations not to speak of refugees, internees or deportees. Numerous reports on conditions in the Jewish labor companies in Poland and Silesia, for instance, often speak of the men going to work barefooted.

In conclusion, I think it can truthfully be said that...
that Theresienstadt is, without doubt, a "camp" for certain "privileged" categories of Jews, as relative as this word privileged may be. The treatment they received, at least in the main, as little or nothing is known about conditions in the "Kleine Festung", cannot be compared to that meted out to Jews in the Polish camps. The burning question, of course, still remains: "What will finally become of these people?".

On one of the few brief occasions when Dr. Bossel could have a private word with Dr. Oppstein he asked him how he, Oppstein, explained this striking difference in treatment between Theresienstadt and other Jewish camps, and what he thought would be the ultimate fate of the ghetto population. Dr. Oppstein said that he knew no answer to this question and added that he personally saw no way out.

Frank, the "Reichsleiter" of the Protectorate at Prague, according to a trustworthy report, when recently asked what would become of Theresienstadt, replied to the effect that he personally did not know ("Wir fragen uns auch"), intimating that he was not informed concerning such matters.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Enclosure:

Four copies of confidential report made by Dr. Bossel.
THE THERESIENSTADT GHETTO

Visited on June 23rd, 1944.

PRELIMINARY NOTE.

The whole of this report is to be considered strictly confidential. Neither the documents, nor especially the pictures, are for publication. We had to give this assurance to the SS officers who accompanied us.

We take pleasure in mentioning the kindness and active collaboration of two Danes who were also present during the visit:

Mr. Frans HVASS, "Ministerialdirektor", and

Dr. J. Juel, Vice-director of the Health Service.

For the Germans:

The SS Chief of Police of the "Protectorate";

An SS Chief from the Sicherheits- Reichshauptamt in Berlin;

A member of the Auswärtiges Amt (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) charged with liaison with the SS;

A representative of the German Red Cross;

The SS Police Chief of the Ghetto.

ARRIVAL AT THE GHETTO.

Theresienstadt is reached by the highway running between Prague and Dresden which goes right by the fortress town of Theresienstadt. One first passes the "Kleine Festung" on the right, a small fort where political prisoners arrested in Protectorate territory are at present detained. The Ghetto lies off to the left, being separated from the road only by a wooden fence.
fence approximately two meters high. It has not been necessary to build a similar barrier all around the city as Theresienstadt is a fortified town built in the Vauban style, with large moats outside its walls. Never having been besieged its fortifications remain in perfect condition, with walls intact. This renders the isolation of the town easier and barbed wire is nowhere to be seen. A look at picture No. 5 makes any further explanation superfluous.

We were received by the German authorities in the only German house in Theresienstadt, the guards' quarters. Guarding the whole town, there are all told only 12 S.S men.

Soon afterwards we went to the Jewish town-hall, where the "Judenälteste" (the Senior Jew) Mr. Paul Israel Lopstein, gave a short explanatory talk on the ghetto organization and offered to begin our inspection immediately. His closing sentence was: "You are about to visit a normal provincial town".

**POPULATION.**

The population numbers about 35,000 people, distributed as follows:

From Reichs and Ostmark territory - 94%

From Holland (mainly Dutch of German extraction) - 5%

From Denmark - 0.1%

_N.B._ 1. There is no Jew belonging to any other nationality in Theresienstadt. This was confirmed on several occasions by the "Judenälteste".

2. A remark passed by a member of the S.S led us to understand that about 240 Reichs subjects there possessed Swedish passports, which are, however, not recognized as valid by the S.S Authorities.

3. Among the Danes, 100 Jews arrested in Denmark were missing. The Danish delegates closely investigated the status of their compatriots, and
and it was found that most of the missing 100 were Jews with German passports arrested in Denmark and now considered by the SS as of Reichs origin.

4. The representative of the Dutch in Theresienstadt is the painter SPIEB, who did the water-colors attached to the present report.

We were able to obtain other interesting details. Among the Ghetto population, as in most urban centers, older people predominate; it is the well known inverted pyramid. This characteristic is all the more marked here because Theresienstadt was at first only meant for elderly Jews.

- over 55 - 14,600 persons
- between 55 and 45 - 4,500 persons
- between 45 and 15 - 12,500 persons
- between 15 and 6 - 2,300 to 2,500 persons
- between 6 and 0 - 800 persons

Births in the Ghetto since it started in July 1942 have been about 40% in number.

Average age: 48 years.

Average age of death: 72 years.

Mortality rate: 12 to 15 deaths per day.

60% of the population is physically capable of work. (See "Work").

The "Camp" of Theresienstadt is a so-called "Endlager", which means that normally once admitted to the Ghetto no one leaves. There is no special "Arbeitskommando" attached to Theresienstadt; working parties go to the fields during the day, but return within the city walls every night.

No other Ghetto or camps for Jews are situated in the neighborhood.

ADMINISTRATION.
ADMINISTRATION.

The Ghetto was set up in July 1942. The SS Police leaves the Jews free to administer themselves as they see fit; and this administration is now well organized. The SS police force controlling the town numbers only twelve men, whereas the number of Jewish policemen is considerably larger. (See photo No. 5: a member of the Jewish police).

"Judenälteste": This post is filled very satisfactorily by Mr. Epstein, whose jurisdiction is extensive. In practice he controls every organization in the town. He is the supreme authority and only rarely consults the "Judenältestenrat" (Council of Senior Jews).

"Judenältestenrat": is composed of the outstanding members of the municipal administration.

District representatives: The town is divided into 4 districts, each having its own representative (or mayor) who is also a member of the "Judenältestenrat".

HOUSING CONDITIONS:

The little town of Theresienstadt, which must have had from 12 to 15,000 inhabitants, was originally a garrison town, and two thirds of the population consisted of soldiers. The city therefore contained very large barracks (in the sense of the French word "casernes"). This made the total evacuation of the civilian population as well as the compulsory transformation of the place into a ghetto easier.

Housing conditions therefore vary considerably according to districts; barracks of several stories on the one side, private houses on the other.

Immensely blocks of barracks are located in the center of each district and this is where the community organizations are installed, as well as the several infirmaries, medical, dental and surgical clinics.

In order to accommodate the overflow of population, it soon proved necessary to build one-story wooden barracks. These, however, are large and airy, well lighted, and the population often prefers them to the large central barracks.

Private
Private houses exist in the part of town previously inhabited by civilians. Comfortable, though space is restricted, these houses are often shared by two or three families.

Furniture is now generally available in sufficient quantities. The carpenter's workshop turns out a standard type which is most practical. It is hoped that shortly each family will be supplied with it.

There are enough curtains, carpets and wallpaper to make these houses attractive.

The amount of bedding is adequate so that sheets can be changed regularly. The woolen blankets are of excellent quality.

The children's homes are particularly well and sensibly furnished with mirrors whose decorative effect and educative value are remarkable.

Disinfection. All inhabited buildings are disinfected by a crew of specialists. The latter makes its rounds every three months and such disinfection is compulsory, even though no vermin is present.

(See photo No. 1: A view on the courtyard of one of the barrack blocks. See photo No. 2: Public square with orchestra. See photo No. 4: A street. See photo No. 3: Fire brigade practice).

FOOD:

Immediately on entering the Ghetto, we were convinced that its population did not suffer from undernourishment. Rations in Theresienstadt are the same as in the "Protectorate" of Bohemia and Moravia, with the difference that no eggs or cheese are received and butter is replaced by margarine. Outside, (in Prague), we understand that the civilian population, in spite of having tickets, is often unable to obtain these foodstuffs. Certain articles even reach the Ghetto, which are almost impossible to find in Prague. We attribute this to the fact that orders vis-à-vis by the SS Kommandantur are given priority since no one wishes to run the risk of incurring SS disapproval. Doctors specialized in medical dietetics who are in charge of the food control, calculate the rations at 2,400 calories daily. Taking into account supplements for manual workers, the rations are sufficient. Everywhere it was
was easy to see that the population got enough food and the photographic documents, especially of children's groups, substantiate this fact.

Rations are distributed in different ways. People living in private houses, with the use of a kitchen, can prepare their meals as they like, whereas those living in the big or small barracks generally prefer to eat in the community kitchens. These canteens are very spacious and pleasant. Patrons are served promptly by a waitress in a starched apron and cap, as in any restaurant.

The kitchens are supplied with modern appliances. Most of the cookers are steam-heated, practical to operate and easily cleaned. There are various types of kitchens. Certain of the large community kitchens serve as many as 9,000 meals per day.

The supply of meat corresponds to the normal needs of a small town.

The central bakery is well equipped with four ovens, the last of which is of the very latest model, recently installed, having been constructed entirely in the Theresienstadt workshops.

The vegetable gardens are excellently kept, chiefly by the young people and yield a maximum crop of greens. The potatoes at present distributed, in spite of the lateness of the season, are of excellent quality.

The town of Terezin is naturally not self-sufficient and must obtain from outside a large part of its food, such as flour, potatoes, etc.

CLOTHING.

Generally speaking the clothing appeared to be in good condition. The people we saw in the streets were suitably dressed, with considerable variety of styles, as is usual in a town, according to the respective purses. The smarter women were all wearing silk stockings, hats, foulards and carried modern handbags. The young men seemed also well turned out, some of them even being flashily dressed.

Photographic documents corroborate this fact.

The clothing stores were fairly well stocked. These consist entirely of second hand garments, which have
have been repaired in the sewing workshop and are sold at prices ranging from 80 to 120 Theresienstadt "kronen", against clothing coupons. The latter have been introduced so that everyone may obtain the same quantity of clothes, whatever his or her salary.

The internees had satisfactory shoes, but repairs were becoming increasingly difficult for lack of the necessary raw materials. From time to time, therefore, the Ghetto sends off a large quantity of shoes to the Bat'a works, which repairs the lot.

A community laundry washes about 110,000 kilos monthly. Everyone is allowed to send in 4 kilos of laundry each month, according to individual choice. Many people, however, prefer to do their own laundry.

WORK.

The physical ability to work is carefully checked in each case. Everyone belonging to the Ghetto has his own card in the central files, and doctors decide whether an individual is able to work and the category in which he should be classified.

There are four categories of workers:

1 - people fully able to work,
2 - people only fit for light work,
3 - invalids or convalescents, able to do only special work,
4 - people unable to work.

There is naturally more than enough labor in Theresienstadt. Here, it is not important to obtain a maximum output from everyone. The object is rather to keep everyone busy, even old people, if only for one or two hours a day, so that everybody may feel useful, and if possible, be stimulated to take an interest in his work.

On entering the Ghetto, each Jew, whatever his position or station in civilian life may have been, must become a member of a group of a hundred. These groups are the basic units of unskilled labor. Every-
one must go through a term of probation, and if his work is satisfactory, he may become head of his hundred, or else be allowed to work in the Ghetto in the same profession as he had before. Of course this rule is subject to a few exceptions. Physicians and trained nurses, for instance, are immediately given hospital work.

In Theresienstadt all the customary professions to be found in a small town are represented. For example, members of the municipal administration, police force, detectives, firemen, street cleaners and public service workers. Young men are preferably employed in agriculture, carpenters' shops, or as cabinet-makers or mechanics. There is a large corps of butchers and also of bakers. Even servants are to be found, members of the "Juden-Hilfestenrat" being allowed to have one servant.

Women are employed preferably in the sanitary service, for housework, in the laundries, but also in carpenters' shops and for agriculture and gardening, in which their efforts are much appreciated. A large number of girls are employed in the children's homes and kindergartens.

ECONOMICS - BANKING.

The Theresienstadt bank is not an independent firm. Placed under the control of the Elder’s Council, it is a community organization, which controls the whole of the Ghetto economic system. It has the right to issue money for circulation, such as the 100, 50, 10, 5 and 1 Theresienstadt Kronen notes, which serve as exchange. Everyone's salary is paid in that currency. Practically speaking the security lies in the value of work. Each inhabitant of Theresienstadt is supplied with a depositor's book. He can either save up money from his salary, or convert Reichsmarks sent from outside into Theresienstadt Kronen. An inhabitant of the Ghetto is not allowed to own Reichsmarks. These must be credited to the account of the Ghetto and used to pay whatever goods have to be bought outside, such as drugs, repairs, materials, etc. Should anybody receive money from outside, he is nevertheless able to keep it, and can obtain the countervalue in Theresienstadt money.

The average daily amount put in circulation by the bank is very large; about 100,000 Th.Kr. The sum total of bills issued is 14 millions. The manager of the bank explained to us that it had been
been necessary to devise all sorts of means to get money back into the bank. At first the Th. Kr. went through a period of dangerous inflation, but at present their stability is very satisfactory.

Considering the collectivist trend of the whole Ghetto life, many things are free of charge. Salaries are therefore adequate, though very low, varying between 65 and 500 Th.Kr. per month. Everyone gets a minimum salary, for instance the old people. Certain categories, such as cripples or wounded, enjoy special compensation. War cripples (14-18) who were pensioned, are also granted a special allowance. The "JudenHilfe" emphasized this fact, probably with a view to pointing out that even such veterans had not escaped being sent to the Ghetto.

**Collective parcels.**

In reply to questions 2 and 3 of memorandum 3662 of the IGRC dated 1.6.44, we can state that the Elder's Council are actively looking into those relief questions and that REIFSTEIN's signature is sufficient guarantee of an equitable and intelligent distribution of any collective or individual shipment of parcels.

While visiting the large Post office building, we personally saw a great many parcels being distributed. There were large quantities of sardines from Portugal. We called the JudenHilfe's special notice to the numbers of parcels for which receipts have never yet been returned to Geneva. He promised to send us particulars as soon as possible, after looking into the matter.

It is important to note that for any collective consignment of parcels customs' duties should, if possible, be prepaid. This makes their delivery in Theresienstadt considerably easier.

It is impossible to send packages to camps in Silesia via Theresienstadt. Contrary to belief this has never been and probably will not be done. (See enclosures under number 14: a sample card acknowledging receipt of a parcel. For sardines coming from Portugal, if parcels bore no sender's address, receipts were sent to the manufacturer)

See
See enclosure No. 17; a block of Theresienstadt stamps. These stamps are not used to pay postage on parcels leaving Theresienstadt, but rather serve as coupons rationing the number of parcels inhabitants of the Ghetto may receive from outside. Everyone is allotted one stamp per month which entitles bearer to receive a 20 kilos package. It is more or less similar to the parcel-label. (Such blocks of stamps are at present valued at several hundred Reichsmark by stamp-collectors in Germany).

Properly speaking no one article is particularly lacking in the Theresienstadt Ghetto. However the following items will always be most welcome:

shoes,

infants' foods, foods containing milk or vitamins,

sport articles of any kind,

Portuguese sardines, as sent in past.

See also, under heading "Medical Care", drugs in demand.

POST OFFICE.

We visited the Post office building, which was a very busy place. Each parcel must be signed for on delivery, and their distribution is well controlled. The head of the Post office told us that there is no limit to the number of cards and letters. We know, however, that postal relations with the outside world leave much to be desired, and the Danish delegates also stated that postal connections with Theresienstadt were very poor. The head of the Post office was unable to offer any plausible explanation of such a state of affairs. It would perhaps be advisable to inquire from the German Red Cross, who is in charge of our mail for Theresienstadt, what channels are used and the cause of delays.

Any inquiry as to an address may be sent to the "JudenHilfe"; he informs us that he is allowed to give the information, should the people inquired
inquired about be in the ghetto. We delivered to him personally the list of names given to us by the ICRC, and according to Dr. Eppstein's statement, a reply should be received in the near future.

WATER - SANITARY PLUMBING.

Water reaches the city and is drained from it under conditions satisfying the needs of a middle-sized town. The water is chlorinated. The sewerage system is normal, and disinfectants are used in sufficient quantity.

The wash-stands and showers are well installed and there are enough of them. They are especially satisfactory in the children's homes.

Baths: There is a large public bathing establishment, with showers and a warm water swimming bath, also chlorinated. Moreover, each district has its own public bath and private houses often have bathrooms. In Theresienstadt, bathing is compulsory and strictly controlled. In this respect as in the case of the disinfection of houses every three months, such steps are in no way superfluous, but dictated by mere prudence, considering the state of over-population of the town.

MEDICAL CARE.

There are 500 physicians, 400 of whom practise (several are well-known professors), in Theresienstadt.

Prevailing sanitary conditions are satisfactory. Each inhabitant must pass an extremely strict examination, everyone having his individual card in the central medical file. At present there are no epidemics in Theresienstadt. In the infectious diseases ward there were the following cases:

4 convalescing typhus cases,
2 meningitis cases,
1 case of scarlet fever,
1 case of diphtheria,
3 encephalities of a rather light type, with cardio-vascular trouble, generally easily cured.
No venereal disease, no gonorrhea. As far as lues is concerned, a few cases of tertiary lues.

Hospitals:
30 infirmaries,
40 medico-surgical clinics adequately equipped,
8 dental stations, plus 1 central laboratory,
1 hospital (2,150 beds, 1,170 patients),
1 home for the aged (280 beds, all full);
the oldest inmate is 94; 15 doctors look after this home.

Surgical instruments:
The supply of medico-surgical instruments and equipment is satisfactory from every standpoint. Certainly there are few populations whose health is as carefully looked after as in Theresienstadt. Doctors have frequently come to the ghetto bringing their personal surgical equipment which explains the very large range of instruments available.

Drugs:
(See enclosure No. 15: photocopy of a letter sent from Theresienstadt on November 30, 1943.) The Mixed Commission of the ICRC sent us this photocopy and was astonished at the affirmation that the supply of medicines was more than adequate. We showed this photocopy to the "Judenälteste", who was kind enough to sign it for the second time, underlining the fact that the quantity of drugs bought outside Theresienstadt, in the Protectorate, is sufficient. We had difficulty in believing him but were able to see for ourselves that this, in fact, was the case. Theresienstadt has a central pharmacy with several branches. The stock is large and varied. Several pharmacists assured us that they could satisfy practically all of the doctors' requests. Drugs cannot be bought privately; they are supplied free against medical prescription. Everybody seems to find this method satisfactory.

Memorandum 3659, dated 1.6.44 Pharmaceutical Division is therefore answered by this abundance.
of drugs. Unbelievable as it may be, we could but ascertain with pleasure this happy state of plenty.

briefly put, the 400 physicians practising in the Ghetto are able to follow each case closely. All sick people are examined by several specialists, and consultations held between doctors allow each symptom to be discussed. The utmost scientific care is applied as well as laboratory work, microscopical preparations, scientific drawings, etc.

WORSHIP, STUDIES, RECREATION.

Worship is practised regularly and freely.

The library contains 160,000 volumes, part of which forming a lending library, another part remaining at the library where readers have a pleasant reading room at their disposal.

Studies are rather limited. It is more a question of the Jewish population getting used to manual work, which is now always easy. Everyone maintains a lively interest in his former specialty, and studies to keep it up. Medical students cannot prepare for degree in spite of the presence of extremely competent teachers. The "JudenMilitenrat" has not felt that conditions conducive to a normal course of studies existed.

Music: There are several orchestras in the Ghetto. The "Staatskapelle" plays in the afternoons, at 5 o'clock, in the public square (see picture No. 2). Several groups have also been formed for chamber music. I heard a rehearsal of Verdi's Requiem. (See picture No. 20).

Theatre: At present two plays by Shakespeare and "Spiel im Schloss" are being given. The theatre is a very large one, the stage being well equipped and the scenery sufficiently varied.

Opera: "Carmen", "Tosca", the "Zauberflöte" and a children's opera, sung in Czech by children from the Protectorate, and composed by an actor at present
present in the Ghetto, were being given.

Sports: Football is extensively played, teams being recruited in two ways: according to occupations — for instance, the cooks play against the bakers — or according to the players' origin; for example Berlin against a Prague - Vienna team. (See picture of the last match, No. 13). The favorite sport of the Czech Jews is volley-ball.

FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS IN THERESIENSTADT.

Owing to the overpopulation, family life is unfortunately difficult in Theresienstadt. A great many people living in community barracks are thus separated. Of course, they are at liberty to spend the day together from the morning on, and as these people usually belong to the older generation, there is no complaint. Younger couples are supplied with small lodgings, either in the barracks or in the part of town where the civilian population formerly lived. Often two or three couples must share a single apartment.

No legal acts taking place in the Ghetto are recognized by German law. This puts couples married in the Ghetto in a delicate position. If two young people wish it or if, to regularize an existing relationship the "Judenälteste" demands it, a marriage takes place. The "Judenälteste" has freedom to authorize abortions and the SS police tolerates it. On the mere request on the woman's part, abortion may be performed by a competent gynaecologist. On the other hand, contraceptives are easily obtainable. Any woman who desires to keep her child is naturally entitled to do so. Nurseries, children's homes, kindergartens and children's hospitals are very well organized. The children's food is prepared in a special kitchen. Instruction is also very good and confined to classes of not more than 4 to 5 pupils, according to the most modern pedagogical principles. (See pictures 7 to 13, particularly photo No. 8, showing a comfortable children's room).

We just mentioned that official acts taking place in the Ghetto are not recognized as such by German law courts. There is one exception; death's certificates. A German law court can, on
on production of a death's certificate issued in Theresienstadt, take a decision in a lawsuit between heirs.

Police - Lawcourts.

We have already explained that the SS police only numbers 12 men, it is principally the Jewish police which maintain order and control crime.

The various Theresienstadt law courts are independent of the "Judenälteste"s" jurisdiction.

We attended, for a brief moment, the deliberations of the court in a case of theft. The sitting, with judge, prosecutor, defence, witnesses was in no way different from a similar sitting in a normal city.

Punishments inflicted by the Jewish tribunals run from a few days' arrest to 6 months' imprisonment.

1,200 cases in all have so far been judged, all for larceny (food, indispensable instruments). No immorality, nor serious crimes.

CONCLUSION.

If our report leaves any point in doubt, we are sorry, but we have classified and condensed all the various information obtainable, the simplest things being in many cases the most difficult to investigate. The photographs were taken in spite of SS disapproval.

We must say that we were astonished to find out that the Ghetto was a community leading an almost normal existence, as we were prepared for the worst. We told the SS police officers who escorted us that what astonished us most was, that it should have been so difficult for us to obtain permission to visit Theresienstadt.

This Jewish town is really surprising. Coming from different places, speaking different tongues,
accustomed to different conditions, possessing vastly different sums of money, these Jews had to create a whole, draw inspiration from the feeling of their unity. It has not always been easy. The Theresienstadt Ghetto is a communistic society, at the head of which sits a "Stalinist" of high personal value: ZEPPSIN.

The Jews who are there belong, according to their "Judenälteste", to two types:

1. The passive, vegetative kind. Those who live in the past and who do nothing but hope for the end of this war. They are naturally to be found chiefly among the older people.

2. The active, young ones, who are conscious of their Jewish unity, open to the esprit de corps and who get to work courageously, without looking back too much and without too many illusions about the immediate future.

Our report will change nobody's opinion. Each one remains free to condemn the Reich's attitude towards the solution of the Jewish problem. If, however, this report should contribute in some small measure to dispelling the mystery surrounding the Theresienstadt Ghetto, we shall be satisfied.

DR. H. Rossel,
Delegat of the I.C.R.C.

(Enclosures: See photographic documents and others, numbered from 1 to 38 and stitched together in two booklets).
FEB 3 1945

Dear Mr. Peter:

I wish to acknowledge with thanks your letter of January 18, 1945, (S/o) enclosing a copy of a letter from your Geneva headquarters concerning the Jewish people in Croatia.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Florence Hodel

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

Mr. Marc Peter,
Delegate to the International Committee of the Red Cross,
1645 Connecticut Avenue,
Washington 9, D. C.
January 18th, 1945.

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

Dear Mr. Pehle,

We are enclosing herewith, at the request of our Geneva Headquarters, copy of their letter No. 1409 dated December 8th, 1944, concerning Hebrews in Croatia. You will please note that this document is of a confidential nature.

Kindly acknowledge its receipt at your convenience.

Sincerely yours,

MARC PETER,
Delegate.

sgo.
Concerns the War Refugee Board.

G 8/P
G 89/2/151
BR/66

8 décembre 1944

Confidential

Note No. 1409

Note pour la Délegation du C.I.C.R. à WASHINGTON

Concernant la situation des Israélites en Croatie.

Nous portons à votre connaissance quelques informations qui viennent de nous parvenir de notre délégué à Zagreb et qui concernent la Communauté Juive de cette ville.

Le 15 octobre 1944 la police croate s'est rendue au siège de la Communauté Juive de Zagreb et a arrêté tous les membres de cette organisation qui se trouvaient sur les lieux et au nombre desquels figuraient les deux directeurs : Dr. Glückstahl et Mr. O. Kissicky.

La raison invoquée par les Autorités pour justifier cette mesure était que deux membres de la Communauté Juive possédaient de faux-papiers d'identité. Il s'agissait en l'occurrence de deux hommes faisant partie d'un convoi de 50 personnes Israélites transférées de la région côtière à Zagreb. Les deux Israélites en question avaient réussi à s'échapper lors de leur arrivée à Zagreb et avaient cherché refuge auprès de la Communauté Juive. Cette dernière les a hébergés, leur a donné des vêtements et, sur leur désir, les a employés pour les besoins de l'œuvre de secours aux Israélites (confection de collas, etc.).

Dès que la nouvelle de l'arrestation a été connue, le délégué du C.I.C.R. à Zagreb a été sollicité par les familles des intéressés d'intervenir auprès des Autorités pour obtenir leur libération.

Du 16 au 25 octobre le délégué du Comité international de la Croix-Rouge s'est rendu non moins de cinq fois au Ministère de l'Intérieur pour demander la libération, si possible de tous les membres de la Communauté...
Juive, ou du moins celle de ses deux directeurs.

Les efforts de notre délégué ont été finalement couronnés de succès par la libération le 26 octobre 1944 des deux directeurs de la Communauté Juive. En ce qui concerne les autres détenus, les démarches se poursuivent et on espère les voir libérer sous peu. En revanche, les autorités ont refusé de relâcher les deux porteurs de faux-papiers, alléguant qu'ils ont commis une infraction passible d'une peine d'emprisonnement.

La Communauté Juive a actuellement repris son activité, comme par le passé, mais a dû engager un grand nombre de nouveaux collaborateurs. L'essentiel est, toutefois, que les internés Juifs puissent à nouveau être secourus par une organisation autorisée à leur apporter une aide.

Nous vous prions de considérer comme confidentielles les informations sus-mentionnées, qui ne sont pas destinées à la presse.
Dear Mr. Leavitt:

In connection with the $100,000 which your Committee sent last winter to the International Red Cross for special relief work in occupied Europe, I am pleased to advise you that our Representative in Bern has sent the following report concerning this program.

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee $100,000 payment to the International Red Cross was spent exclusively for Jewish relief as follows:

100,000 Swiss francs (out of a total of 429,000) were sent to Rumania through the International Red Cross delegate in Bucharest for the purchase of food, clothing and for financial relief to Jewish refugees, especially deportees returning from Transnistria;

100,000 Swiss francs were paid to the pharmaceutical division of the International Red Cross Joint Relief Commission to finance the shipment of medical supplies to Bergenbelsen, Jewish community at Sarajevo (including camps in Croatia), Theresienstadt, Birkenau in Upper Silesia and "Juedisch Unterstutzungszelle" in Cracow;

Balance of 229,000 francs was spent by the Joint Relief Commission for food shipments (both collective and parcels) to Cracow (May, June and July), Theresienstadt (two shipments in July), Budapest (condensed milk for children in June), Birkenau (September), and Bergenbelsen (November).

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

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

Received 12/12/44
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
INCOMING TELEGRAM
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

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

Secretary of State,
Washington.

8044, December 9, 9 a.m. FOR TRB PIG: RECEIVED.
Department's 3227, November 18, TRB'S 260.

Simplified CRISTINI goods were made up into 25,600 parcels distributed to unessentialized persons in following concentration camps:

- Buchenwald, 7694 parcels
- Sachsenhausen-Granienburg, 7,273
- Dachau 3799 Revensbrueck
  (women's camp), 2888; Hamburg-Neuenegemane, 1277;
- Netzwiler, 1100; Neimer-Schlickscha, 685;
- Neuhausen, 520; Borgen-Bolm, 376; Feldpost 07702 (indication for camp containing number prominent French political deportees whose location Germans refuse to reveal) 206.

A certain limited number of Jewish internees (it is unfortunately not possible give exact
-2- 8044, December 9, 9 a.m. from Bern

...ome thousand figure) are present in camps of Ravensbrück (German women) Mauthausen and Buchenwald. Bergen-Belsen is exclusively Jewish.

I should like to point out that distribution of CRISTINA goods in agreement with ICRC was particularly designed to bring relief to the very large number of non-Jewish (repeat non) political detainees in the west German concentration camp system. Such non-Jews are treated practically as brutally as the Jews and up to the present exceedingly little has been done to help them. Relief shipments to Jewish deportees in the course of the past year on the other hand have been considerable. The JDC 100,000 contribution to the ICRC, for example, was spent exclusively for Jewish relief as follows: 100,000 Swiss francs (out of total of 429,000) went to Romania through ICRC delegate in Bucharest for purchase food, clothing and for financial relief to Jewish refugees, especially returning Transnistrian deportees; 100,000 francs to pharmaceutical division of ICRC Joint Relief Commission used to ship medical supplies...
supplies to Bergen-Belsen Jewish community at Zagreb (including camps in Croatia) Theresienstadt camp of Birkenau in Upper Silesia and "Juedisch Untertutsungsstelle" in Cracow; general government balance of 222,000 francs was also spent by Joint Commission for food (both collective and in parcels) shipments to Cracow (key, June and July) Theresienstadt (two shipments in July) Budapest (condensed milk for children in June) Birkenau (September) and Bergen-Belsen (November).

Consonant with ICRC'S expressed and logical wish that relief shipments handled by Committee for unassimilated persons in German controlled areas be on an impartial basis and not limited to any national, religious or racial groups, I agree with them that CRISTINA goods and first lot of 15023 MBR parcels should go primarily to non-Jews. Our decision regarding the 15023 MBR parcels which are being sent to Dachau, Buchenwald, Sachsenhausen-Orenburg, Hamburg-Neuengamm, Neuhausen, Fuldpost 07702 and Bergen-Belsen was also influenced by shipment in process of 40,000 World
-4- 8044, December 9, 9 a.m. from Bern

World Jewish Congress parcels exclusively to unassimilated Jews principally in Bergen-Belsen and Theresienstadt.

Future distribution of 224,328 WHE parcels, the news of whose shipment in Department's 4901, November 25 WHE 291, was most welcome, scheduled to arrive in Gothenburg this month will be carried out as equitably as possible to Jews and non-Jews on basis of degree of need previous relief received and possibility for ICRC to exercise satisfactory control over receipt.

List of camps included in your 3927 has been submitted to ICRC. Preliminary discussions of this list with them (in this respect see Legation's 5971, September 9) reveals that most of these places are not (repeat not) camps properly speaking; are located too near eastern fighting front to be accessible to ICRC and offer very little possibility of adequate control of receipt. ICRC states in this respect that, if FEM and MSW wish to waive distribution control hitherto required of Committee, attempts could be made.
6044, December 9, 9 a.m. from Bern

be made to send parcels to a larger number of

camps containing Jewish deportees.
I will send you shortly a separate message
regarding evidence submitted to me by ICRC that
food parcels distributed up to now satisfactorily
reach intended beneficiaries.

HUBBLE

WTD
MacClelland sends the following for the War Refugee Board,

Reference is made herewith to Department's cable of September 6, no. 3074.

The question of the Rosenstadt has been discussed by me with
IGOS and especially the question of their delegates visit to this
ghetto in the month of June, 1944.

In the main it is quite true that the Rosenstadt can be
termed a "privileged camp" in that the majority of the internees
there are Jews who served with distinction in the German army
during the last war (and their families) or who possess personal
connections with influential German circles such that the Nazis
were reluctant to exterminate them. The Rosenstadt has constant-
ly served as a transit camp for other less "privileged" Jews
in addition to the more or less stable permanent population of
about 30,000 souls. It has mainly been Jews of the former cate-
gory who have been deported to extermination camps of Auschwitz-
Birkenau. (see Legation's cable of July 6, no. 4293).

IGOS has expressly refrained from giving any publicity
whatevver to the June visit and observations of its delegate

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972
not wanting to furnish material gratuitously for German propaganda purposes (seeParagraph’s cable of July 31, No. 4927) being aware that the Germans permitted ICRC to visit the &Schonstadt quite possibly in the hope that any report from ICRC could be used to exonerate their treatment of Jews in general. It is felt by ICRC that since German authorities have never allowed them to visit any of the other and far worse Jewish camps (with the exception of a singly very limited visit to Trampy) relating their impressions of the &Schonstadt would be exceedingly unsound.

It is stated by ICRC that it exercises no activities with regard to Jewish camps at the &Schonstadt or elsewhere which could be interpreted as “protective” and has absolutely no authority to handle matters such as the distribution of documents and the like which are only within the competence of a protecting power. However, ICRC does not intend in the least to relax its efforts to continue the flow of relief goods to the &Schonstadt or to other camps containing Jewish deportees through whatever channels are available to it or which might be opened up.

ICRCcharge and has not lost sight of the War Refugee Board’s concern for such Jewish precarious situation.

HARRIETH
CORRECTION ON
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED
FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: September 18, 1944
NUMBER: 6106

Message No. 6106 dated September 18, was erroneously marked 6107. Please change serial number from 6107 to 6106.

HARRISON
FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: September 6, 1944
NUMBER: 3074

CABLE TO MCCLELLAND

Unofficial reports reaching WNB indicate that Intercross believes Theresienstadt a privileged camp and does not consider necessary any action calculated to bring its inmates within scope of Inter- cross activity.

Please advise Intercross that Board has received repeated reports of recent deportations from Theresienstadt to extermination camps which, if true, indicate that its inmates enjoy no security. In addition, well-known tendencies in certain official circles in Germany to exterminate maximum number of Jews before end of war make likely sudden deterioration of position in Theresienstadt and elsewhere unless adequate precautions are taken betimes. Board is therefore unable to share moral responsibility for possible loss of human lives involved in an express or tacit approval of reported Intercross position. Board is convinced that Intercross too would not like to bear such responsibility.

Accordingly, Board earnestly hopes that Intercross will extend its protective activities to Theresienstadt inmates including distribution of Palestine certificates and other documents entitling them...
them to partial assimilation with civilian internees, eligibility for exchange and general Intercross supervision.

In general, please submit to Intercross the Board's view that in dealing with Jews in German-controlled territory in the coming critical weeks, it is not enough to attempt to correct unsatisfactory situations already in existence. In the light of present circumstances it is urgent that all measures be taken to be prepared to deal with sudden deterioration. Therefore, Intercross is earnestly urged to take preventive as well as corrective action, however much this may go beyond the traditional pattern of Intercross activities. If this line of action is unprecedented, so is the situation.

If possible, discuss the foregoing points with Huber personally.

THIS IS WBB CABLE TO BERN NO. 159.

HULL
CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AND MCCLELLAND, BERN, SWITZERLAND

Unofficial reports reaching WBM indicate that Interross believes Theresienstadt a privileged camp and does not (repeat not) consider necessary any action calculated to bring its inmates within scope of Interross activity.

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If possible, discuss the foregoing points with Huber personally.

THIS IS WBM CABLE TO BERN NO. 159

11:45 a.m.
September 4, 1944

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

BakneniLesserar 9/2/44
This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government Agency.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

5764, September 2, 5 p.m.
FOR WRB FROM MCCLELLAND.
Department's 2198, June 28.

ICRC just reported United States visit their Zagreb delegate Schmidlin made between July 13 and July 17. Accompanied by Director General Police Department and Under Secretary for Work Camps in Ministry of Interior to camps of Jasenovac, Jablanac, Staro Gradiska and Gradjani Sales in Croatia. Conditions these camps on the whole tolerable though primitive. Health of internees in fair but working hours in shop and field are long (7 to 12 hours) and often insufficient diet consisting mainly of corn meal and vegetables. Camp house men and women (strictly separated) both Christian and Jewish.
#5764, September 2, 5 p.m., from Bern

Jewish under strict "ustachi" guard. There is a urgent and general need of clothing and shoes in all of these camps.

HARRISON

NFL
In reply refer to No. 227.

August 29, 1944

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I received a letter dated August 16 from Mr. Ernest Frischer, member of the Czechoslovak State Council, in which he expressed his serious apprehensions concerning the fate in store for the Theresienstadt inmates.

To his letter was attached a cable he had received from Dr. Fritz Ullmann through the Czechoslovak representative in Geneva. The text of this message follows:

"I have again proposed to the International Red Cross to send Palestine certificates to Terezin or else to take into consideration the question of a general exchange-action. Schwarzemberg of the International Red Cross is of the opinion that nothing should be done to interfere with the present state of affairs in Terezin, as Terezin is believed to be a privileged camp. I doubt that this is so. and request you repeatedly to consider the question of including Terezin collectively into an exchange-action. There is anxiety that one day Terezin will be defunct or used as an object for reprisals or that the inmates will be deported. A joint intervention by the Allied Governments at the Governments of neutral states and the Vatican might perhaps put forth for consideration the question of a collective exchange of Terezin. You will probably receive shortly a report on Terezin which was made by a representative of the International Red Cross who recently has visited Terezin for the first time. This report which is being kept secret by the International Red Cross here seems to give a far too favourable view of the situation there and must be considered with due caution."

Dr. Fritz Ullmann is a well known Jewish social worker from Czechoslovakia, who has spent recent years in Geneva, devoting his untiring efforts to the welfare of the Jews from the Protectorate. His opinion deserves serious consideration.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Leon Poliakovski
Head, Rescue Department
Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Doctor Schwartz (JDC No. 50) has been received through the American Embassy in Lisbon under date of August 8, 1944:

"Wish advise Gilbert Simon International Red Cross has arranged for additional car containing four tons each of figs, raisins and hazelnuts and three tons of soap which most urgently needed to be sent to Theresienstadt. This was done with balance of original $100,000 which we sent Simon. Concerning your latest remittance $100,000 plan to use this for purchase of shoes when and as license available. With the liquidation of the concentration in Transnistria food purchases for Rumania no longer necessary since sufficient supply available locally for local currency and transshipment through Rumania to Theresienstadt and other places becoming most complicated and difficult.

"You will be interested to know that Elik Jabotinsky alleges that he has received funds directly from Mr. Leon Leonidoff Buenos Aires although thus far War Refugee Board has not approved any project in which Jabotinsky interested and he in fact doing no rescue work."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

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

Model: 8/11/44
SECRETARY OF STATE,
Washington.

2451, eighth,

FOR LEAVITT FROM SCHWARTZ 1RD 147 JDC 50.

Please advise Gilbert Simond, International Red Cross, that they have arranged for additional aid containing four tons each of figs, raisins, and hazelnuts, and three tons of soap, which is most urgently needed to be sent to Theresienstadt. This was done with balance of original $100,000 which was sent Simond. Concerning your latest remittance of $100,000 plan to use this for purchase of shoes when and as license available. With the liquidation of the concentration in Transnistria food purchases for Rumania are no longer necessary since sufficient supplies are available locally for local currency and transshipment through Rumania to Theresienstadt and other places, becoming most complicated and difficult.

You will be interested to know that Eli Jabotinsky alleges...
-2- #2151, eighth, from Lisbon

alleges that he has received funds directly from
Mirelman Buenos Aires although thus far War Refugee
Board has not approved any project in which Jeshotinsky
interested and he in fact doing no rescue work.

MORB

UB
Dear Dr. Kubowitski:

The following confidential message for you from Mr. Ernest Frischer of the Czecholovak State Council was received through the American Embassy, London, under date of August 1, 1944:

"We greatly appreciate your report. It is now possible for me to obtain further means for Czecholovak relief action from (1) proceeds of funds donated by Czecholovak citizens and (2) the Government of Czecholovakia. Furthermore, the Central Council of Jewish Refugees in London has promised to allocate to the action 9,000 pounds for the purpose of buying food parcels and transporting them to Terezin and elsewhere from Lisbon. Consequently it will be possible for us to continue activities on the same scale as before. Kindly give JDC my cordial thanks for its understanding and invaluable assistance. The action of the gentlemen in New York in this matter is also greatly appreciated by me."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. N. Pohle

J. N. Pohle
Executive Director

Dr. A. Leon Kubowitski,
World Jewish Congress,
1834 Broadway,
New York, New York.
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: AMBASSAD, London
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: August 1, 1944, 2 p.m.
NUMBER: 5108

Delivery of the following message to Dr. Kubowitzky of World Jewish Congress, New York, is requested by Mr. Ernest Frischer of Czechoslovak State Council. This message is in reply to message from Kubowitzky transmitted by WHB in Department's telegram of July 21, no. 5764.

We greatly appreciate your report. It is now possible for me to obtain further means for Czechoslovak relief action from (1) proceeds of funds donated by Czechoslovak citizens and (2) the government of Czechoslovakia. Furthermore, the Central Council of Jewish Refugees in London has promised to allocate to the action 9,000 pounds for the purpose of buying food parcels and transporting them to Terezin and elsewhere from Lisbon. Consequently it will be possible for us to continue activities on the same scale as before. Kindly give JDC my cordial thanks for its understanding and invaluable assistance. The action of the gentlemen in New York in this matter is also greatly appreciated by me.

WINANT

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972

WINANT
Please deliver the following message to Mr. Ernest Frischer:

100 Oakwood Court, London W.14, from Dr. Kubowitzki of the World Jewish Congress:

"At the present time the Joint Distribution Committee is sending 16,000 parcels a month to internees in Theresienstadt along, and authorization has been given to its office in Lisbon to send parcels to the internees in Birkenau. In addition, the Czechoslovak representative in Lisbon, with whom the JDC clears its addresses, has sent such parcels to individuals who, the JDC believes, are mainly non-Jewish. Whether their 6,342 addresses in Theresienstadt are different from the 8,000 addresses that the JDC has, the JDC does not know. It is not clear from the letter whether the Czechoslovak Relief Action would continue to supply 3,000 pounds a month for their activity, and if, in addition thereto, 9,000 pounds for a one-time transfer has been given. Obviously, the JDC cannot operate on a license issued by the British Treasury. The JDC's licenses are secured from the United States Treasury, and Dr. Schwartz is authorized to send parcels to every person known to be in Theresienstadt whose address..."
address is made available to him from any source whatever.
The JDC is sending on to its Lisbon office the gist of your communication in order to secure a report on it. The JDC notes that Dr. Schwartz has been approached on this matter, but due to the fact that he is in the Near East he has not communicated with the JDC concerning it."

HULL
CABLE TO AMBASSADOR KERMIT, LONDON, FROM WAR REFUGEES BOARD

Please deliver the following message to Mr. Ernest Frischer,
100 Oakwood Court, London W.14, from Dr. Babinski of the
World Jewish Congress:

"At the present time the Joint Distribution Committee is
sending 15,000 parcels a month to interned in Theresienstadt
claw, and authorization has been given to its office in
Lisbon to send parcels to the Interned in Lisbon. In
addition, the Czechoslovak representative in Lisbon, with
whom the JDC has the address of the JDC does not
know. It is not clear from the letter whether the
Czechoslovak Relief Action would continue to supply 5,000
pounds a month for their activity, and if, in addition
thereof, 2,000 pounds for a one-time transfer has been given.
Obviously, the JDC cannot operate on a license issued
by the British Treasury. The JDC's license are secured
from the United States Treasury, and Dr. Schumacher is author-
ized to send parcels to every person known to be in
Theresienstadt whose address is made available to him
from any source whatever. The JDC is sending on to the
Lisbon office the list of your communications in order
so far as is possible, but due to the fact
that is in the Near East he has not communicated with
the JDC concerning it.

July 19, 1944
12:15 p.m.

cc; Sec'y, Abrahamson, Cohn, DiPaola, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann,
Stewart, Central Files, Cable Control Files.

FH/dh 7/19/44
This is OK with me if it is in accord with the facts and is OK with you.
L.S.L.
In reply refer to No. 155

To: Mr. Ernest Frischer, 100 Oakwood Court, London W.11, England

From: Dr. A. Leon Rubovitski, World Jewish Congress, New York

Dear Mr. Pehle:

You were kind enough to transmit to me on June 10 a message from Mr. Ernest Frischer of the Czechoslovak State Council.

May I ask you to have the following answer forwarded to Mr. Frischer through the facilities of the State Department:

"To: Mr. Ernest Frischer, 100 Oakwood Court, London W.11, England

From: Dr. A. Leon Rubovitski, World Jewish Congress, New York

At the present time the Joint Distribution Committee is sending 16,000 parcels a month to internees in Theresienstadt alone, and authorization has been given to its office in Lisbon to send parcels to the internees in Birkenau. In addition, the Czechoslovak representative in Lisbon, with whom the JDC clears its addresses, has sent such parcels to individuals who, the JDC believes, are mainly non-Jewish. Whether their Czech addresses in Theresienstadt are different from the 8,000 addresses that the JDC has, the JDC does not know. It is not clear from the letter whether the Czechoslovak Relief Action would continue to supply 3,000 pounds a month for their activity, and if, in addition thereto, 9,000 pounds for a one-time transfer has been given. Obviously, the JDC cannot operate on a license issued by the British Treasury. The JDC's licenses are secured from the United States Treasury, and Dr. Schwartz is authorized to send parcels to every person known to be in Theresienstadt whose address is made available to him from any source whatever. The JDC is sending on to its Lisbon office the gist of your communication in order to secure a report on it. The JDC notes that Dr. Schwartz has been approached on this matter, but due to the fact that he is in the Near East he has not communicated with the JDC concerning it."

Thanking you for obliging, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

A. Leon Rubovitski
Head, Rescue Department
July 16, 1944
11 p.m.

STOCKHOLM,
1418

The WRB cable 68 below is for Olsen.

The war Refugee Board requests that you deliver the following message to Mr. Hillel Storch, Furusundagatan 10, Stockholm:

"QUOTE Understand Amalie Posse, Rindalgatan 44, Stockholm informed Theresienstadt situation and in possession Theresienstadt lists. Please check recent news concerning deportations from Theresienstadt for extermination in Birkenau and send to us through War Refugee Board full reports as well as lists of Theresienstadt inmates. World Jewish Congress, Leon Kubovitski UNQUOTE,"

HULL
(GLW)

HULL

WRB: MOVING
7/16/44

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 1 5 1972
CABLE TO MINISTER JOHNSON AT STOCKHOLM AND OLSEN

The War Refugee Board requests that you deliver the following message to Mr. Hillel Storch, Furusundgatan 10, Stockholm:

QUOTE Understand Amalie Posse, Rindelgatan 44, Stockholm informed Theresienstadt situation and in possession Theresienstadt lists. Please check recent news concerning deportations from Theresienstadt for extermination in Birkenau and send to us through War Refugee Board full reports as well as lists of Theresienstadt inmates.

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS
LEON KUSORWITZKI UNQUOTE

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO STOCKHOLM NO. 53

10:00 a.m.
July 12, 1944

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

I would be extremely obliged to you for sending through the facilities of the State Department the following message to Mr. Hilel Storch, one of our representatives in Stockholm.

"To: Mr. Hilel Storch, Furusundagatan 10, Stockholm. From: Dr. Kubowitzki, World Jewish Congress, New York.

Understand Amalie Posse, Rindalgatan 44, Stockholm informed Theresienstadt situation and in possession Theresienstadt lists. Please check recent news concerning deportations from Theresienstadt for extermination in Birkenau and send to us through War Refugee Board full reports as well as lists of Theresienstadt inmates."

Thanking you in advance, I remain

Sincerely yours

Leon Kubowitzki, Head
Rescue Department

July 6, 1944
Attached is a chronological summary of the activities of the International Red Cross on the question of Jewish emigration in the Balkans. Indicated below are some of the more interesting facts revealed in the attached report.

April 4, 1943 - International Red Cross received a copy of a letter from Prime Minister Antonescu advising of the Romanian Government's consent to the emigration of Jews from Romania.

May 27, 1943 - International Red Cross received a letter from a member of the International Red Cross Committee advising that the Romanian Red Cross was attempting to obtain ships for evacuation purposes and further that the Romanian Government had requested the German Government's consent to the operation of these ships.

June 11, 1943 - The International Red Cross was offered free title to a Romanian ship in construction to be used for the evacuation of Jewish children. A month later the International Red Cross received further details concerning this ship which was to operate between a Romanian port and Istanbul or Mersine. This offer was subsequently withdrawn.

December 19, 1943 - International Red Cross received a telegram from the President of the Romanian Red Cross stating that the latter organization had the consent of the Romanian Government to utilise the Bulgarian ship "Belacutta" for refugee evacuation.

January 17, 1944 - International Red Cross was asked by its delegation in Ankara whether it would agree to charter for the duration the two Romanian ships, "Transylvania" and "Bessarabia", which were being offered by the Romanian Government.
February 24, 1944 — International Red Cross received a letter, dated February 5th, describing an interview between the International Red Cross representative in Bucharest and the Prime Minister of Romania concerning the Jewish emigration question.

March 30, 1944 — A special representative of the Romanian Government advised the International Red Cross that Prime Minister Antonescu had transmitted a note to the German Embassy requesting the German Government to agree to the Yari evacuation project.

If Hirschmann has not already seen the attached report, he should certainly have access to all the facts contained therein through Gilbert Simon, the International Red Cross representative at Ankara. Therefore, I don’t think it necessary to have this report translated and copied for Mr. Hirschmann.
June 28, 1944

Mr. Fohls
Mr. Marks

Attached is a chronological summary of the activities of the International Red Cross on the question of Jewish emigration in the Balkans. Indicated below are some of the more interesting facts revealed in the attached report.

April 4, 1943 — International Red Cross received a copy of a letter from Prime Minister Antonescu advising of the Romanian Government's consent to the emigration of Jews from Romania.

May 27, 1943 — International Red Cross received a letter from a member of the International Red Cross Committee advising that the Hungarian Red Cross was attempting to obtain ships for evacuation purposes and further that the Romanian Government had requested the German Government's consent to the operation of these ships.

June 11, 1943 — The International Red Cross was offered free title to a Hungarian ship in construction to be used for the evacuation of Jewish children. A month later the International Red Cross received further details concerning this ship which was to operate between a Romanian port and Istanbul or Marseilles. This offer was subsequently withdrawn.

December 19, 1943 — International Red Cross received a telegram from the President of the Romanian Red Cross stating that the latter organisation had the consent of the Hungarian Government to utilise the Bulgarian ship "Nevrokop" for refugee evacuation.

January 17, 1944 — International Red Cross was asked by its delegation in Ankara whether it would agree to charter for the duration of the two Hungarian ships, "Transylvania" and "Bessarabia", which were being offered by the Hungarian Government.
February 24, 1944 — International Red Cross received a letter, dated February 5th, describing an interview between the International Red Cross representative in Bucharest and the Prime Minister of Rumania concerning the Jewish emigration question.

March 30, 1944 — A special representative of the Rumanian Government advised the International Red Cross that Prime Minister Antonescu had transmitted a note to the German Embassy requesting the German Government to agree to the Tazi evacuation project.

If Hirschmann has not already seen the attached report, he should certainly have access to all the facts contained therein through Gilbert Simond, the International Red Cross representative at Ankara. Therefore, I don't think it necessary to have this report translated and copied for Mr. Hirschmann.
Dear Dr. Kubowitzi:

Thank you for your letter of June 21, 1944, submitting information which you received from the International Red Cross Headquarters in Geneva, concerning the food-package situation at Terezin.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pohle

J. W. Pohle
Executive Director

Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki,
Head, Rescue Department,
World Jewish Congress,
1834 Broadway,
Kubonitski is coming in Wednesday morning and you may want to discuss the food package situation with him.
June 21, 1944

In reply refer to No. 102

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I thought you might be interested in the following information emanating from the International Committee of the Red Cross Headquarters in Geneva, which was conveyed to me by Dr. Peter in his letter dated June 19.

"It is only since January 13, 1944, that the International Committee of the Red Cross started sending packages to Theresienstadt and none of them has been returned. On the contrary, their delivery is confirmed by receipts, duly signed, which regularly reach the International Committee of the Red Cross. The collective shipments of the Mixed Commission have also been duly acknowledged by the internees at Theresienstadt."

Sincerely yours,

Dr. A. Leon Rubowitski
Head, Rescue Department

In reply refer to No. 102
Dear Mr. Peter:

This is to acknowledge and thank you for your letter of June 21, 1944, (Ref), enclosing copies of a letter dated May 31, 1944, written to the American Legation in Bucharest by the International Committee of the Red Cross, concerning relief to Jews in Romania, and a program by Dr. Costiner dealing with the same problem.

Sincerely yours,

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Marc Peter,
Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross,
1665 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.,
Washington 9, D.C.
Mr. J. W. Pehle
Executive Director
Executive Office of the President
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Mr. Pehle:

I am sending you herewith the following copies:
1) program of relief for the Jews in Rumania, by Dr. Costinger;
2) letter written on May 31 to the American Legation in Berne, by the International Committee of the Red Cross, concerning the relief to Jews in Rumania.

Believe me, my dear Mr. Pehle,
yours sincerely:

MARC PETER
Depute of the International Committee of the Red Cross
Legation of the United States of America

BERNE

Re: Relief for Jews in Rumania.

Dear Sirs,

The International Committee have just received from their delegation in Rumania a particularly urgent appeal for emergency help on behalf of Jews in that country.

Through the efforts of the WRB, a sum of 100,000 Swiss francs was transferred to Rumania to meet the cost entailed by this relief work. This sum has unfortunately covered only a small proportion of the requirements of the Jews. Although only a certain number of the deportees in Transnistria have returned to Rumania, there are, on the other hand, a large number of evacuees and refugees who require help.

Our delegation seem to be afraid the consequences will be very serious if the Jewish organisations in Rumania do not receive substantial help promptly. The latter are overwhelmed by the increasing demands made upon them and can collect only small sums, because the well-to-do population have left Bucharest and are at present out of reach.

You will find enclosed in this communication the copy of a letter sent by Dr. Fildermann to our Delegate in Bucharest asking him to draw the attention of foreign Jewish organisations to the tragic plight of the Rumanian Jews.
We hope that the WRB will be able shortly to devote additional funds to the assistance of Jews in Rumania and shall appreciate any practical suggestions in this respect.

In accordance with the desire expressed by Dr. Fildermann, we are notifying the "World Jewish Congress" and Mr. Saly Mayer likewise of his appeal.

Yours sincerely,

J. E. Schwarzenberg

P.S.- Following the report of our delegation in Bucharest which forms the basis of the foregoing letter, we have just received a telegram from that delegation asking that fresh funds be sent them urgently to enable the Jewish organisation in Rumania to assist many people who are in need.
Mr. W. Filderman
Bucarest, le 25 avril, 1944

A Monsieur le Délégué de la Croix Rouge Internationale
à Bucarest

Cher Monsieur,

Les bombardements ont fait des victimes dans la population israélite. Le chiffre des morts à Bucarest est d'environ trois cents mais les dégâts matériels sont considérables, non seulement par la valeur des biens détruits, mais aussi par la stagnation de l'activité économique.

Il faut donc prévoir une réduction considérable du potentiel contributif aux œuvres d'assistance.

C'est pourquoi - sans attendre le résultat du recensement en cours - je vous prie de vouloir bien intervenir et auprès de l'American Joint Distribution Committee et auprès du Congrès Mondial, afin de les prier de ma part d'envoyer d'urgence des secours massifs.

Veuillez recevoir, cher Monsieur, l'expression de mes sentiments les meilleurs.

Signé: W. Filderman
ÉSQUISE D'UN PROGRAMME D'ASSISTANCE DE LA POPULATION JUIVE NÉCESSITÉE EN ROUMANIE

Dans le rapport précédent sur l'activité pendant les mois de novembre et décembre 1943, il a déjà été annoncé le développement considérable de notre programme.

Les circonstances nous ont empêché de réaliser nos intentions.

Ci-dessous on trouve les éléments résumés du programme des secours pour les 3 mois suivants - 15 mars, 15 juin 1944.

A) SECOURS PERIODIQUES:

1) Déportés: éventuellement rapatriés:
   40.000 personnes, à 2000 lei par mois, soit:
   par mois: 80,000,000
   3 mois: 240,000,000

2) Rapatriés: dans le district de Dorohoi:
   6.000 personnes, à 2000 lei - 12,000,000

3) Orphelins: rapatriés et à rapatrier:
   4.000 personnes à 500 lire - 20,000,000

4) Les communautés très obétries ou déficitaires, pour leurs œuvres d'assistance (plus de 25.000 évacués des villages, outre leurs propres 40.000 pauvres)
   25,000,000

5) Réfugiés étrangers:
   (surtout polonais), dont un nombre d'environ 400, séjournant dans le pays depuis le commencement de la guerre des autorités roumaines, à la suite d'un accord avec le gouvernement polonais, lei 4.500 chacun
   Un autre nombre d'environ 400, récemment réfugiés, reçoivent de nous le même secours, donc environ 2,000,000 lei par mois.

Etant donné la condition plus précaire de ces deux catégories,
il est nécessaire de compléter le secours de la première et d'augmenter celui de la deuxième, d'au moins 3.000 lei par mois, soit au total de lei 2,500,000, ce qui porte ce chapitre à:

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<td>13.500.000</td>
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Il est à prévoir que la charge des 4 premières catégories sera supportée, pour la moitié, par la contribution des juifs roumains, ceci qui réduit la notre à 73,000,000 par mois, ou: pour 3 mois: 219,000,000 lei.

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B) SECOURS EXCEPTIONNELS:

1) Equipement:

Ont besoin d'habits, chaussures et linge,

- 15.000 déportés, voir no. 1) ci-dessus
- 2.500 rapatriés
- 3.000 orphelins
- 250 réfugiés

Un nombre d'au moins:

- 20.250 équipements, à raison de 20.000 lei chacun, soit lei 415,000.

Nous laissons de côté pour le moment les nécessités de la 5e catégorie.

2) Rapatriement des 45.000 déportés:

Ces dépenses, calculées à raison de 2000 lei par personne, soit 90,000,000 lei, seront supportées par la moitié, par la Central des Juifs roumains et d'autres contributions exceptionnelles des juifs.

Ce chapitre comporte donc pour nous: Lei 45,000,000

les deux chapitres exceptionnels ensemble: Lei 460,000,000

---

Bucarest, le 17 mars, 1944

Dr. E. Costiner
JUN 27 1944

Dear Mr. Peter:

I wish to acknowledge with thanks your letter of June 20, 1944, (S/a/a), and its enclosures, concerning Jewish emigration from South Eastern Europe.

Sincerely yours,

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Marc Peter,
Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross,
1540 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.,
Washington D.C.
Mr. J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director  
Executive Office of the President  
War Refugee Board  
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Mr. Pehle:

I am sending you herewith a letter addressed by the International Committee of the Red Cross to the Legation of the United States of America, in Berne, concerning the Jewish emigration from South-Eastern Europe (Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria). This letter is accompanied by an annex, giving the chronological development of the subject.

These documents are confidential and I am not authorized to communicate them to Jewish organizations.

Believe me, my dear Mr. Pehle,

yours sincerely:

MARC PETER  
Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross  

1 letter (copy)  
1 annex (copy)  
AL
Dear Sirs,

Referring to your letter of April 7th, 1944, we have the honour to transmit to you a chronological summary of the activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross and their delegates concerning the question of Jewish emigration from the Balkans.

For your convenience, we have condensed this summary as follows:

At the beginning of 1942, M. Barlas, representative at Istanbul of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, consulted the International Committee's delegate at Ankara concerning the emigration of Jewish children from the Balkans. He enquired particularly as to the possibility of utilizing a steamer, which was at his disposal, for the transportation of these emigrants from Constantza to Istanbul under the protection of the Red Cross emblem.

The Committee hastened to inform M. Barlas of the conditions under which they were prepared to grant the use of their emblem and their protection to the said vessel. Such a step is necessarily subject to the granting of safe conducts by the belligerent governments; the Committee therefore invited the organizing institutions to supply the data which would permit the necessary application to the governments concerned.

The above plan for the conveyance by sea of children from Constantza to Istanbul seems to have failed, because of the delay in securing the needed authorizations and the difficulties arising in the technical organization of the voyage. At that moment, our representative in Ankara

To the Legation of the United States of America

B. R. N. E.
already made application to the Turkish Foreign Office, with a view to securing their consent, in principle, to the transit of Jewish emigrants.

This project was subsequently modified, and at the end of May 1942, the Jewish Agency for Palestine informed our delegate that supervision by the International Committee was no longer needed, since the Agency intended to send the children by rail to Istanbul, whence they would travel on board a Turkish steamer to Mersina or Alexandretta. The Agency requested the Committee, however, to secure the Bulgarian Government's permission for the transit of a number of Jewish children from Rumania and Hungary. The Bulgarian Government gave a favourable reply to this demand.

The Committee was furthermore requested to notify the next-of-kin of persons in whose name immigration visas to Palestine were being issued, and of whom lists were furnished. The Committee could not see their way to satisfying this demand, since they had learned that the British authorities had decided to deal with the problem of Jewish emigration through the channel of the Protecting Power. The Committee therefore handed the said lists to the Swiss Government until, on January 22nd, 1943, the British Legation asked to receive them.

In the meantime, the Turkish Government authorized the transit of a number of Jewish emigrants by the Taurus Express, and parties of Jews were conveyed, through Bulgaria, wholly by rail. In this matter also, the Committee and their representatives, acting at the request of the Jewish organizations concerned, made repeated application to various authorities, with a view to securing the necessary permits and facilities.

In March 1943, the Committee were again asked by the Jewish Agency to grant their protection to transports by sea. Following on the increase of immigration permits to Palestine for Jews from Eastern Europe, and seeing the limited number of emigrants (a few hundred monthly) who were allowed to travel through Turkey, the Jewish Agency attempted to organize transports by sea from Bedesten to Haifa. The Committee at once agreed to allow the use of their emblem, and to apply to the belligerent States, as soon as a neutral vessel had been chartered by the organizations concerned.
On April 5th, 1943, the Committee, through their representative in London, submitted a note to the Foreign Office concerning Jewish relief. The question of Jewish emigration was alluded to in the following terms:

"Finally, the International Red Cross Committee which to draw the attention of the Foreign Office to the following problem:

"Private organisations in the Balkan States - in Rumania in particular - as well as the World Jewish Congress, have urged the International Red Cross Committee to assist in organizing the emigration of Jews to Palestine.

"For the time being, and as long as they have received no official request, the International Committee do not contemplate any other course of action than to provide for the transport by sea of Jewish emigrants travelling to Palestine under the protection of the Red Cross emblem, as is already done in the case of ships carrying consignments for prisoners of war between Lisbon and Marseilles.

"The terms upon which the International Committee authorize the use of their particular emblems are the following:

" 1) Neutral vessels shall be chartered by the organisations concerned;
" 2) The costs involved shall be borne wholly by these organisations;
" 3) The ships shall be accompanied by convoy agents of the International Committee;
" 4) The ships shall serve solely for the transport of emigrants, to the exclusion of any other persons or cargoes.

"The International Committee would greatly appreciate information as to the views of the British authorities on this matter, and would be glad to learn whether they would be, in principle, prepared to lend their support to an action of the International Red Cross Committee carried out within the limits indicated above."
A reply to this note was received only on June 9th, the British Consulate in Geneva informing the Committee that the British authorities were considering the possibility - in case no other means offered - of chartering the "Lynn Drottningholm" for the transport of Jews from Turkey to Haifa, and asking that appropriate steps be taken with the German and Turkish Governments for the transfer of this vessel from the Baltic to Istanbul. The Consulate further informed us that the British Government agreed to the conditions specified in our note, and hoped that the ship would sail under the Committee's auspices, if the safe conduct were assured. Although the Committee knew by experience that there was no hope of the German Government's allowing the vessel to leave the Baltic, they submitted the matter to the said Government, while drawing the British Government's attention to the small prospect of carrying out this project.

Meanwhile the Bulgarian authorities had suspended the transit visas granted to a party of Jewish children from Rumania. In reply to their request, the Committee were informed by the Bulgarian Legation at Bern that, owing to police considerations, the Bulgarian Government were unable, for the present, to grant the said parties of children permission to travel through the country.

During the months of May and June 1943, a special delegation of the International Committee visited Eastern Europe, and especially Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria. Local Jewish organisations were consulted, and the particular attention of the authorities and of Red Cross Societies was drawn to the importance of the problem of Jewish emigration, and to the desirability of exploring with the greatest care all avenues that might lead to its favourable solution.

At the same time, our delegate in Bern reported that the Hungarian Red Cross was trying to find shipping for the transport of Jewish emigrants, and that the Hungarian Government was anxious that the Committee should grant the use of their embassies, and were applying for a German permit allowing such vessels to sail. The Committee then studied the possibility of organising transports through the Black Sea, and of purchasing or chartering ships for this purpose.

On July 5th, 1943, our representative at Ankara was instructed to obtain from the various Embassies the agreement in principle to issue American, British, German and Italian safe conduct for certain Turkish vessels directed, by the Jewish Agency for Palestine. We moreover requested our delegate to obtain assurances that these voyages could be
undertaken in proper conditions of safety. In reply the
Jewish Agency informed us that the British Legation in Borne
would give the Committee directly the desired information.
On July 9th, 1943, the Committee wrote to the said Legation.
Replying on July 10th, the latter informed the Committee
that, acting on instructions from its Government, it had made
application in this matter to the Protecting Power.

Subsequently, our delegation at Ankara advised us
that the utilisation of Turkish vessels was out of the
question.

On August 4th, the British Consulate at Geneva
informed the Committee that there was no further occasion
to employ the “Lyam Drottningholm” for transporting Jews,
since the S.S. “Sontay” was available for that purpose. The
Committee has not learned the issue of the proposal to make
use of the “Sontay”. During the following months, the Com-
mittee remained in contact with the Hungarian, Romanian,
Bulgarian and Turkish Governments, with a view to securing
the necessary facilities for Jewish emigration, and were
meanwhile pursuing negotiations in other quarters for the
purpose of chartering a vessel.

On December 19th, 1943, the Committee received a
telegram from Dr. J. Costinsson, President of the Romanian
Red Cross, stating that with the consent of the Government,
the Red Cross was planning to send to Istanbul, in about a
fortnight’s time, and afterwards weekly, parties of Jewish
child emigrants, between the ages of ten and sixteen. The
Romanian Red Cross requested the Committee to apply to the
belligerent parties with a view to safeguarding the steamer
“Bella-citta”, sailing under the Bulgarian ensign and the Ro-
manian Red Cross flag, between Constanța or Mangalia and
Istanbul. As regards Russia, the Romanian Red Cross had
applied to the Turkish Red Crescent.

On receiving the necessary data concerning the
vessel and the proposed trips, the Committee applied on
January 4th, 1944, through the Consulates at Geneva, for the
American, British and German safe conducts for the “Bella-
citta”.

The Red Crescent and the Turkish Foreign Office
having declined the requests made by the Romanian Red Cross,
that they should ask the Soviet Government for free passage,
the British Embassy at Ankara, acting on the wish expressed
by our delegation, submitted the matter to the Foreign Office
which agreed to approach the USSR in the matter. With the
exception of the German Government, all the Governments concerned have granted their safe conduct to the "Bellacitta". A further request made to the German Consulate in Geneva on February 29th has met with no reply. We thereupon offered the Rumanian Red Cross to notify the belligerents of the journeys of the "Bellacitta" without awaiting the safe conduct, should the Rumanian Red Cross deem it impossible to delay the proposed transports any longer. In this case, however, the vessel could not enjoy the benefit of protection by the Red Cross emblem. Difficulties arose meanwhile and prevented the emigrants from embarking, the organisers having been arrested in Rumania. The question remained in suspense and it was only on March 27th, 1944, that our delegate was able to inform the Committee that the sailing would take place on April 3rd. The departure was notified to the belligerents concerned, but was postponed, first to the 9th, and then to the 14th of April. Finally, the "Bellacitta" arrived at Istanbul on April 24th.

While the Rumanian Red Cross was thus organizing this emigration, the Jewish institutions in Turkey and Rumania were endeavouring to arrange for transports by sea and by land. At the end of March, 248 emigrants left on a small Bulgarian steamer, the "Milka", without protection and without any Turkish visa. On April 8th, 245 refugees reached Istanbul on the "Haritza", also sailing without protection.

In the hope of securing shipping for the transportation of emigrants under the Red Cross emblem, the Committee negotiated for the purchase of two modern Rumanian passenger steamers, the "Transilvania" and the "Bessarabia".

On March 20th, our delegate at Ankara informed us that the Turkish Government had agreed to a Turkish vessel being put at the disposal of the International Committee for the transportation of 1,500 Jewish emigrants from Constantza to Haifa.

On March 24th we received from our delegate in Ankara the necessary details concerning this vessel, the "Tari", of 4,000 tons. On the same day application was made for a German safe conduct, through the channel of the German Consulate in Geneva. Instructions were further given to our delegate to request the German Embassy at Ankara to recommend our application in Berlin.

The Committee have also been informed that the Rumanian Government are endeavouring to secure the approval of the German authorities to the proposed scheme of emigration.
by means of the "Tarit", to sail under the auspices of the International Committee.

No reply has yet been received on this matter from the German authorities.

The above notices furnish only a summary of the evolution of the emigration problem as it has been placed before the Committee. No mention is made of the numerous steps taken by the Committee and by numbers of their delegates, who have been in almost daily consultation with the authorities and the organisations concerned, with a view to removing the obstacles which constantly thwarted the execution of every project. These plans have also been ceaselessly modified, in consequence of difficulties arising. The Committee were happy to serve as intermediaries, whenever private organisations requested their assistance in facilitating emigration. The problem as a whole was beyond their scope, since the question of immigration into Palestine was, until a short time ago, considered by the Governments interested -- with the exception of the Russian Government -- as a matter to be dealt with through the intermediary of a Protecting Power.

The International Committee have always been ready to grant the use of their emblem and their guarantee to neutral vessels which were to be placed at their disposal for the transport of emigrants. This guarantee is, however, subject to two conditions:

1) that the emigrants hold entrance visas for Palestine;
2) that all Governments concerned grant free passage to the vessel.

Very truly yours,

R. Gallopin.
Résultats chronologiques de l'activité du Comité International de la Croix-Rouge relative à l'émigration de Juifs de Roumanie, de Bulgarie et de Hongrie.

1944
30 mars - Le Comité International de la Croix-Rouge est informé par son envoyé à Ankara que A. Sariya, de l'agence juive pour la relégation à Istanbul, désire savoir si le Comité de la Croix-Rouge peut apposer un bateau dont il dispose au moment pour le transport d'enfants juifs entre Constantinople et Istanbul.

31 mars - Le Comité International consulte à son délégué à Ankara les conditions auxquelles les transports effectués pourraient se faire sous ses auspices, soit : obtention des autorisations de la part des gouvernements des États intéressés; observation des règles auxquelles sont soumis les navires au service du Comité International; garanties relatives à une bonne organisation des transports, etc.


18 mai - Le Comité International est informé par son délégué qu'il est intervenu auprès du ministre des affaires étrangères turc en vue d'obtenir l'autorisation de transit de princeps. Celle-ci ne pourra être donnée que lorsqu'une autorisation d'entrée en Palestine aura été livrée par l'ambassade britannique à Istanbul. Par la même occasion le délégué du Comité International à Ankara fait part que M. Sariya est en pourparlers pour l'achat ou l'arrettement du bateau grec "Lily".

31 mai - Le Comité International est avisé par son délégué à Ankara que le programme du voyage est modifié. Les enfants se rendraient de Budapest et de Sinaie à Istanbul par train ferroviaire. Deux enfants se rendraient à Istanbul par train, le dernier trajet ne serait pas effectué par train. Le Comité International est sollicité d'obtenir l'autorisation de transit bulgare.
3 juin - Le Comité international reçoit de son délégué à Ankara une liste des enfants à l'émigration ainsi qu'une note de S. Karlas faisant mention de l'obtention de 20 certificats d'inscription en Palestine, donnant des recommandations sur l'organisation du voyage. Informé que les enfants seront identifiés par les soins des autorités turques à Budapest et, enfin, demandant au Comité international d'intervenir pour que le transit bulgare et turc soit accordé.

6 juin - Télégramme du Comité international au gouvernement bulgare lui demandant d'autoriser le passage d'un convoi de 20 enfants juifs de Roumanie et de Hongrie. Le Comité international adresse la lettre pour un télégramme à son délégué à Ankara le prét à obtenir la même autorisation de la part des autorités turques.

10 juin - Télégramme de secrétaire général aux faits arrêtés à Sofia informant le Comité international que le gouvernement bulgare autorise le passage à travers la Hongrie d'un convoi de 266 enfants juifs se rendant en Palestine si le gouvernement turc est d'accord à donner une autorisation analogue, et prét à obtenir les autorisations bulgares à l'avance de l'arrivée du convoi en Hongrie afin que les formalités pour les visas puissent être réglées en temps utile.

18 juin - Le Comité international donne connaissance du télégramme ci-dessus à son délégué à Ankara en le prét à bien vouloir faire le nécessaire pour l'obtention du visa bulgare.

22 juin - Le Comité international met l'agence juive pour la Palestine à Genève au courant des démarches entreprises.

23 juin - L'agence juive pour la Palestine à Genève parle le Comité international d'intervenir auprès du département politique fédéral afin que celui-ci donne suite à la demande de la légation britannique à Berlin de procéder à l'identification, par les moyens de ses agents consulaires à Budapest et Bucarest, des 200 enfants autorisés à passer un voyage.

4 juillet - Le Comité international est informé par son délégué à Ankara que S. Karlas demande également l'intervention du Comité international dans cette question d'identification.

9 juillet - Le Comité international informe l'agence juive à Genève qu'il ne lui parait pas possible d'intervenir auprès du département politique fédéral pour une question traitée par la légation britannique.

27 juillet - L'agence juive à Genève demande au Comité international de faire accompagner des transports par un agent-convoiur du Comité international.
6 août - Le Comité international informe l'Agence juive à Genève qu'il ne peut pas laisser de désigner un agent-convoyeur. Le Comité International, étant donné que c'est entre le mois d'une assistance tropélique que les autorités britanniques ont posé le problème de l'installation d'une installation de transit en Palestine des enfants juifs.

30 octobre - Le Comité international réagit de son bulletin à Anvers les conditions auquel le ministre des affaires étrangères turc aurait accordé le transit pour 2676 enfants, et est informé que les Turcs allaient pour avoir un agent-convoyeur du Comité international.

19 nov. - Le Comité international réagit continuellement au Suisse que la question de l'installation des enfants juifs est effectivement entre les mains de la Suisse, assigné, sur demande britannique, comme puissance protectrice.


4 déc. - Le Comité international est désigné à la légation de Bulgarie d'intervenir auprès du Gouvernement bulgare en faveur du visa de transit des 148 enfants juifs de Suisse.

22 déc. - Le Comité international réagit de son bulletin à Anvers un télégramme l'informant que le visa de transit bulgare n'a pas encore été accordé pour les enfants de Suisse.

23 déc. - Le Comité international réagit de son bulletin à Ankara la liste des personnes qui ont été, depuis leur arrivée à Istanbul, le visa palestinien et le visa de transit syrien. Le Comité international est en outre prié d'avertir les familles en question.

1843 - L'Agence juive pour la Palestine informe le Comité international que les difficultés de transit pour la Bulgarie ont été abordées et n'ont signalé que des difficultés de transport ont par courrier à l'Agence le 23 novembre. Les autorités allemandes, qui contrôlent la navigation sur le Danube, ont retiré l'autorisation hongroise d'embarquer les enfants juifs sur un vapeur danois. Il a donc fallu chercher encore un visa roumain afin de pouvoir partir par rail et le premier groupe pourrait partir dans le courant de la semaine.
11 janvier - L'agence juive à Genève informe le comité international qu'un premier groupe d'enfants est arrivé en Bulgarie le 8 courant et est reparti le même jour pour Athènes. Aucune demande si les listes de communication aux personnes intéressées sont fournies au comité international.

14 janvier - La situation en Bulgarie continue au comité international que l'accord pour le transit à ses accords conditionné que le comité international lui communiquera les renseignements demandés pour obtenir les visas.

16 janvier - Le comité international informe l'agence juive à Genève qu'il transmettra les listes aux autorités bulgares puisqu'elles sont chargées de paiement à leur disposition britannique de traiter la question, c'est donc elles qui transmettront les informations nécessaires aux intéressés.

22 janvier - La commission britannique à Rome, se référant à la lettre de la commission internationale du 1er janvier adressée à l'agence juive, demande au comité international de lui remettre les listes qui parviennent au comité international.

11 février - L'agence juive à Genève donne au comité international un exposé de la situation. Le comité international britannique aurait émis d'autres pour une ascension pour enfants juifs venant de Roumanie et de Hongrie, et pour une autre pour la Bulgarie comportant des enfants et des adultes.

25 février - Le comité international reçoit de son délégué à Bucarest un billet de la commission des agentes de débarquement au comité international pour un voyage pour Barcelone que le délégué de Stockholm a organisé de voir si arriver un bateau sauf pour le transport des juifs.

6 mars - Le comité international reçoit de son délégué à Ankara le télégramme suivant : "Vous informez arrivé de l'ambassadeur de la Bulgarie - n'avons pas voir arriver pareillement.

12 mars - Le comité international reçoit de son délégué à Ankara un télégramme disant que 6 Barlet a informé qu'il pourrait disposer de 200 visas palestiniens et que la Bulgarie semble disposée à accorder le transit, qui éviterait la navigation sur la mer Noire et permettrait d'embarquer les immigrants à Bodaghatch. Il aurait d'autre part obtenu une offre de bateaux suédois avec option jusqu'au 15 mars, mais il demande si d'un autre côté les bateaux suédois "Hardsvann" et "Porslin" seraient disponibles pour un ou deux voyages de Bodaghatch à Alexandrie. Y aurait-il possibilité de placer ces transports sous les auspices du comité international ? Cette proposition a été substituée dans la suite par une autre.

13 mars - Le comité international est informé par son délégué à Bucarest qu'un premier convoi de 75 enfants doit partir le 14 mars par chemin de fer via Bulgarie et Turquie.
16 mars - Le comité international reçoit de son côté un télégramme de l'Union soviétique qui a été traduit en français et qui précise que l'armée soviétique a occupé une grande partie de la Bavière, qu'elle a également occupé la Yougoslavie et qu'elle est prête à occuper toute l'Europe. Le comité international se réjouit de ce développement et demande aux organisations internationales de le soutenir.

16 mars - Le comité international envoie un télégramme à son délégué à Ankara pour demander des précisions sur l'organisation des transports de marchandises. Le télégramme précise que les organismes concernés pourraient être autorisés à utiliser les moyens de transport de la Türkiye, mais que les détails devront être précisés par les organisations locales.

19 mars - Le comité international envoie un télégramme à son délégué à Ankara.

24 mars - Le comité international est informé par son délégué à Ankara que l'organisation responsable est l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour la reconstruction et le développement. Le télégramme précise que les détails devront être précisés par les organisations locales.

25 mars - L'attention du comité international est officiellement attirée sur le fait que l'activité d'un de ses membres, un certain M. X., est préjudiciable à l'intérêt de l'organisation.

30 mars - Le comité international est informé par son délégué à Ankara qu'il compte poursuivre ses efforts pour obtenir des informations précises sur la situation des transports de marchandises.

3 avril - Le comité international est informé par son délégué à Ankara qu'il compte poursuivre ses efforts pour obtenir des informations précises sur la situation des transports de marchandises.

8 avril - Le comité international envoie un télégramme à son délégué à Ankara en réponse à une note pour le Foreign Office, dont nous extrayons le passage suivant :

"Finally, the International Committee wish to draw the attention of the Foreign Office to the following problem:

Private organisations in the Balkan countries (in Romania in particular) as well as the World Jewish Congress, have urged the International Committee of the Red Cross to help in organising the emigration of Jews of Palestine,"
- "For the time being, and as long as they have not received any official request, the International Committee do not contemplate any other course of action than to provide for the transport by sea of Jewish emigrants travelling to Palestine after the protection of the sea cross is given, as is already done in the case of ships carrying condemned war prisoners or war between Turkey and Armenia.

The terms upon which the international committees of the red cross authorize the use of their particular ships are the following:

1. Ships shall be chartered by the organizations concerned.
2. The expenses involved shall be a priori set by these organizations.
3. The ships shall be accompanied by convoy-agents of the international committee.
4. The ships shall serve solely for the transport of emigrants, to the exclusion of any other persons or cargoes.

The international committees of the red cross would greatly appreciate being informed of the views of the British authorities on this matter and would be glad to cooperate therewith, should be in principle prepared to lend their support to an action of the international committee of the red cross carried out within the limits indicated above."

4 avril - Le comité international reçoit par l'intermédiaire de son ambassadeur une lettre du ministre des affaires étrangères bulgare à l'adresse de l'intendant qu'il vient d'être avisé par l'agence juive que les visites de travail de 74 enfants, du groupe âgé de 270, dont le passage avait été suspendu par ordre du ministère des affaires étrangères à Sofia, et le principe d'intervenir pour que cette question soit reconsidérée.

15 avril - Le comité international envoie une lettre à la délégation de l'Ambassade de Bulgarie à Berne l'intendant qu'il vient d'être avisé par l'agence juive que les visites de travail de 74 enfants, du groupe âgé de 270, dont le passage avait été suspendu par ordre du ministère des affaires étrangères à Sofia, et le principe d'intervenir pour que cette question soit reconsidérée.

16 avril - Le comité international est informé par son ambassadeur à Ankara que le ministre de l'Intérieur juive pour la Palestine lui avait déclaré avoir obtenu l'accord du ministre de l'ambassade britannique pour le transport par bateau d'enfants juifs entre Istanbul et Haifa.

20 avril - Le comité international demande à son ambassadeur à Ankara de prêter l'ambassade britannique de bien vouloir concourir au comité international l'accord du Foreign Office pour les transports envisagés et lui faire savoir que...
Les certificats d'immigration sont accordés. Le Comité international lui demande de veiller à ce que le navire suisse soit placé à l'embarquement et à l'expédition des bagages concernant les conditions de la navigation à bord et le point de prise d'un convoyeur du Comité International sur place.

20 avril
Le Comité international reçoit un télégramme du son détaillé à Ushuaia reprochant au président du Comité de ne pas être présent lors des auditions pour un bateau turc. Le télégramme soutient que l'embarquement s'effectue à la suite de la plainte.

7 avril
Le Comité international reçoit un télégramme de son ambassadeur à Aden établissant la liste des passagers du bateau turc.

10 mai
Le Comité International demande à l'Ambassade turque de fournir une liste des passagers du bateau turc.

27 mai
Le Comité International est informé du fait que le bateau turc est à l'embarquement.

9 juin
Le Comité International est informé de la tentative de le faire embarquer par la Turquie.

11 juin
Le Comité International informe le président que les autorités turques ont accordé les permission pour l'embarquement.
11 juin - Le Comité International reçoit de son délégué à Bucarest une proposition de ceder à titre gratuit au Comité International un bateau roumain, actuellement en construction, pour le transport d'enfants juifs.

21 juin - Le Comité International réceptionne à son délégué à Bucarest des conditions auxquelles le bateau en question pourrait être transféré à la "Fondation pour l'organisation de transports de crois rouge".

23 juin - Le Comité International fait part au consulat britannique à Genève qu'il souhaite sortir le projet d'utilisation du "lymn brotningham" dans lequel il a été prévu que les autorités allemandes consentiront à laisser sortir ce bateau de la Baltique.

8 juillet - Le Comité International reçoit de sa délégation à Bucarest des détails sur le bateau en construction qui fut offert au Comité International pour servir entre un port roumain et Istanbul ou Persine.

Suite à cette offre, le Comité a répondu négativement.

9 juillet - Le Comité International demande certaines informations à la délégation britannique à Genève, et souhaite savoir si le bateau britannique qu'il a reçu a été effectivement transporté sans la consentement nécessaire.

10 juillet - Réponse de la délégation britannique à Genève informant le Comité International que conformément à ses instructions, elle s'est adressée au gouvernement britannique pour obtenir leur consentement.

14 juillet - Lettre de l'agent juif au Comité International l'informant que d'après son agence il y a jusqu'à 1000 juifs qui pourraient être transportés.

4 août - Le Comité International est informé par le consulat britannique à Genève qu'il est possible d'utiliser le "lymn brotningham" pour le transport des juifs, étant donné que le "Lyman" sera disponible à cet effet. Le Comité International ne reçoit toutefois aucun renseignement à ce sujet.

10 août - Déclaration personnelle par lettre du Dr. Chapuisat, membre de la délégation française, auprès du Directeur des Affaires polonaises du Ministère des Affaires étrangères à Sofia, concernant l'Affaire juive.

26 août - L'Agence juive informe le Comité International que le permis de sortie de Bulgarie est encore suspendu, et demande que le Comité International interroge auprès du Ministre de Bulgarie à Berne.
30 septembre - Étant donné qu'aucun des projets d'émigration à l'étranger ne semblait réalisable, la société internationale préconisait la méthode suivante pour en tirer parti par une des organisations la plus capable.

19 octobre - En réponse à la mise à disposition de son appareil à Ankara, la société internationale proposait l'utilisation directe d'un navire turc par une des organisations la plus compétente.

26 septembre - La société internationale refusa de prendre position concernant la question d'interdiction de la navigation sur le fleuve du Yémen.

2 octobre - M. Vallerin, conseiller juridique, informa la société internationale que son représentant, après discussion, avait obtenu de la délégation du bateau turc "Volcan" un accord pour le transport de réfugiés de la région du Yémen.

3 décembre - Le chef de la délégation à Ankara a été prié d'examiner la proposition présentée.

9 décembre - Le chef de la délégation à Ankara a été prié d'examiner la proposition présentée.

19 décembre - La société internationale reçut un télégramme du M. Vallerin, résident de la croisière romaine, indiquant que la croisière romaine a proposé, avec le consentement du gouvernement, d'évacuer, dans les jours à venir, les enfants juifs par navire à Istanbul par le bateau turc "Pelican". Il est la société internationale d'interroger auprès des parties concernées pour que ce bateau soit resserré et pris en charge. Il informe la société internationale que la croisière turque a été prise d'intervenir auprès du sauf-conduit, auprès des autorités italiennes.

21 décembre - Le chef de la délégation à Ankara a été informé par son représentant à Ankara que les visas et l'organisation technique du transport turc sont accordés, selon l'information reçue de M. Vallerin.

24 décembre - Le chef de la délégation internationale informa des délégations à Buenos Aires et à Ankara, ainsi que la croisière romaine, que la société internationale avait reçu des demandes auprès des représentants des gouvernantes allemande, américaine et britannique pour l'obtention du sauf-conduit, mais que le "Pelican" naviguera sans les signes ni convoyeur du sauf-conduit, étant donné que le bateau navigue sous pavillon britannique.

30 décembre - Le chef de la délégation internationale informa des délégations à Buenos Aires et à Ankara, ainsi que la croisière romaine, que le "Pelican" naviguera sans les signes ni convoyeur du sauf-conduit, étant donné que le bateau navigue sous pavillon britannique.

1944 4 janvier - Le chef de la délégation internationale demanda à l'intermédiaire des consulats à Genève les sauf-conduits pour les représentants des sociétés belge, allemande, américaine et britannique.
6 janvier - Le comité s'informe de la situation en Bulgarie, où les pressions ont conduit à la chute du régime. Les autorités continuent de réprimer les manifestations de protestation.

7 janvier - Le comité international reçoit un télégramme demandant de ne pas intervenir, car l'issue de la crise est encore incertaine.

11 janvier - La société internationale reçoit un télégramme demandant de dénoncer les violations des droits de l'homme en Bulgarie.

12 janvier - Le comité international reçoit un rapport détaillé sur les violations des droits de l'homme en Bulgarie. Les violations sont de nature intense, notamment dans les zones rurales.

13 janvier - Le comité international reçoit un rapport détaillé sur les violations des droits de l'homme en Bulgarie. Les violations sont de nature intense, notamment dans les zones rurales.

17 janvier - Le comité international reçoit une déclaration du secrétaire général de la commune de la région de Varna, affirmant que la situation y est particulièrement grave.

18 janvier - Télégramme du consulat britannique à Istanbul. Le comité international est informé que les autorités britanniques ont exprimé leurs préoccupations relatives à la situation en Bulgarie, et qu'elles ont demandé des mesures immédiates pour protéger les citoyens britanniques.

25 janvier - Le comité international reçoit un message dulord Joseph Congrès daté du 25 décembre 1945, dans lequel il souligne la nécessité de prendre des mesures immédiates pour protéger les citoyens britanniques.
21 janvier - La Société internationale demande de nouvelles instructions à son délégué à Ankara concernant la situation de l'émir de Palestine.

1 février - La Société internationale savois le rôle joué à sa délégation à Ankara en lui faisant remarquer que le texte ouvert serait probablement facilité s'il pouvait conserver sa part dans les négociations des autorités britanniques.

9 février - Le conseiller international informe la Société internationale qu'il sera probable que si les autorités roumaines obtiennent le plus d'avances dans les transports navigables, ils seront disposés à concilier les difficultés des délais de dépôt des navires sans attendre l'obtention des armes ennemies.

12 février - Le conseiller britannique demande au conseiller international que son délégué nommé au conseiller britannique pour la "Kulitschka" propose des règles pour la "Kulitschka" en service au "Kulitschka" et au "Kulitschka", précisant que le conseiller international lui communiquera le 12 février.

14 février - Le conseiller international transmet le texte suivant : "Société internationale probablement fin février.

15 février - Le conseiller international communique divers renseignements au sujet de la "Kulitschka" navire au "Kulitschka" et au "Société internationale".

23 février - Le conseiller international est informé par son délégué à Ankara que le "Kulitschka" a été demandé au délégué au "Kulitschka" au sujet de l'émir de Palestine et concernant ses interventions pour la libération des personnes juives arrêtées.

24 février - Le conseiller international reçoit une lettre, datée du 5 avril, de son délégué à Ankara, donnant un compte-rendu de son entretien avec le vice-président du conseil, révélant que des lettres qu'il lui a adressées au sujet de l'émir de Palestine ont été arrêtées par la Société internationale.

29 février - Nouvelle demande au conseiller international auprès du conseiller à Ankara pour le conseiller au "Kulitschka".

1 mars - Le conseiller international reçoit un message de son délégué à Ankara transmettant une proposition au "Kulitschka" (de l'office américain pour les réfugiés de Palestine) pour l'acquisition de navires au moyen de fonds qui seraient rendus au conseiller international par voie anonyme.

9 mars - Répondant au précédent message le conseiller international informe son délégué à Ankara qu'il accepte l'intervention du Conseil
le Comité International reçoit un télégramme du son délégué à Berlin, daté du 27 avril, dans lequel il lui demande de se prononcer en faveur de la tentative d'intervention d'un diplomate allemand auprès de l'ambassade d'Allemagne à Berlin pour obtenir le départ du délégué à Berlin.
28 mars - La Société Internationale d'Avions a été inaugurée à Paris. Parmi les dirigeants, on s'accorde à dire qu'elle doit être un grand avantage pour l'aviation en France.

29 mars - Le comité de révision de la loi sur les douanes a accordé une heure d'audience à un délégué du commerce. Il lui a été donné une heure pour son allocution.

30 mars - Le comité international des droits de l'homme a réuni une conférence sur les problèmes actuels en France. Les délégués ont discuté des questions de l'émigration et de la situation sociale.

30 mars - Le comité international des droits de l'homme a demandé au gouvernement français d'intervenir pour arrêter les exactions commises par les forces armées. Les délégués se sont réunis pour discuter de cette question.

30 mars - Le gouvernement a accordé un prêt à la société d'avions. Il a été décidé que le prêt serait remboursé en une seule fois.

31 mars - La Société Internationale a envoyé des instructions à son délégué à Ankara. Les délégués ont été autorisés à aller en Turquie pour assister à une réunion importante.

31 mars - Le gouvernement a accordé un prêt à la société d'avions. Il a été décidé que le prêt serait remboursé en une seule fois.
4 avril - La Société Internationale reçoit un message de son délégué en Allemagne,Exprimant l'information que l'Allemagne a arrêté son entrée, émise à Berlin pour l'Europe, à la fin de la guerre, et à Kiev pour l'Ukraine.

4 avril - La Société Internationale reçoit également une nouvelle de la fin de la guerre annoncée le 9 avril.

6 avril - La Société Internationale informe les nations alliées de l'arrivée d'un délégué soviétique à l'effet de la poursuite du conflit.

8 avril - La Société Internationale est informée par son délégué à Berlin que les armées allemandes ont arrêté leur avance le 10 avril.

11 avril - La Société Internationale reçoit un télégramme de son délégué à Berlin affirmant que le décollage de l'armée alliée est prévu pour le lendemain.

13 avril - La Société Internationale demande aux nations alliées d'adopter des mesures concrètes pour l'avenir.
Dear Dr. Kubowitski,

The American Embassy in London has received a letter from Ernest Princher of the Czechoslovak State Council, containing the following information which was requested to be transmitted to you:

"The Czechoslovak Relief Action is sending about 4,500 food parcels, each weighing 0.50 kg, per month to Terezín and 1,500 parcels to Birkenau. In addition to these approximately 10,000 parcels per month are being sent from Lisbon to individual recipients, Czechoslovak nationals and others in these two internment camps by the American Joint Distribution Committees. A check should be made in New York regarding this latter figure.

"A Treasury license for monthly transfers of 3,000 pounds to Lisbon is held by the Czechoslovak Relief Action in London, and MSF has signified a willingness to grant a license for 9,000 for one additional transfer. It is believed, however, that present difficulties in procuring the necessary means to use these licenses fully will not be overcome and it would be appreciated if the Joint Distribution Committee would take over those addresses who have been receiving parcels from the Czechoslovak Relief Action up to the present if the required means cannot be obtained. Through the Joint Distribution Committee's Office in London, Dr. Schwartz has been approached in this respect. To be able to continue his program it would be necessary for the Czechoslovak representative in Lisbon to have 4,000 pounds per month.

"The addresses of 1,321 Czechoslovak nationals in Birkenau and 5,942 in Terezín are on the records of the Czechoslovak Relief Action."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Dr. A. Leon Kubowitski,
World Jewish Congress,
1534 Broadway,
New York, New York.

Philab 6/9/44
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED
FROM: American Embassy, London
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
Dated: June 5, 1944
Number: 4592

Information which War Refugee Board requested in Department's cable of May 19, 1944 No. 3079, which information is to be transmitted to Leon Kubowitski of the World Jewish Congress, was contained in a letter received by the Embassy from Ernest Frischer of the Czechoslovak State Council. The Czechoslovak Relief Action is sending about 4,500 food parcels, each weighing 0.50 kg, per month to Terezin and 1600 parcels to Birkenau, according to Mr. Frischer. In addition to these approximately 10,000 parcels per month are being sent from Lisbon to individual recipients, Czechoslovak nationals and others in those two internment camps by the American Joint Distribution Committees. A check should be made in New York regarding this latter figure.

A Treasury license for monthly transfers of 3000 pounds to Lisbon is held by the Czechoslovak Relief Action in London and NW has signified a willingness to grant a license for 9,000 for one additional transfer. It is believed by Mr. Frischer, however, that he will not be able to overcome present difficulties in procuring the necessary means to use those licenses fully, and it is stated by him that he would appreciate it if the Joint Distribution Committee would take over those addresses who

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date, SEP 15 1972
addressees who have been receiving parcels from the Czechoslovak Relief Action up to the present if he is not able to obtain the required means. Through the Joint Distribution Committee's Office in London he has approached Dr. Schwartz in this respect. To be able to continue his program it would be necessary for the Czechoslovak representative in Lisbon to have 4000 pounds per month.

The addresses of 1321 Czechoslovak nationals in Birkenau and 6242 in Terezin are on the records of the Czechoslovak Relief Action.
The War Refugee requests that you deliver the following message to Mr. Ernest Fruchofer, member of the Czechoslovak National Council, 190 Oakwood Court, London W.14:

We are anxious to know how many Terezin inmates receive regularly food parcels. Understand 6000 people receive two parcels monthly from Lisbon. Ignore number of people provided from Switzerland and Istanbul. Also what frequency. Would be grateful for accurate survey covering individual collective dispatches. Also concerning Birkenau. Also number individual internees on your lists. World Jewish Congress, Leon Kubowitski.
CABLE TO AMERICAN EMBASSY, LONDON, ENGLAND

May 16, 1944

The War Refugee Board requests that you deliver the following message to Mr. Ernest Frischer, member of the Czechoslovak National Council, 100 Oakwood Court, London W.14:

"Are anxious to know how many Terezin inmates receive regularly food parcels. Understand 6000 people receive two parcels monthly from Lisbon. Ignore number of people provided from Switzerland and Istanbul. Also what frequency. Would be grateful for accurate survey covering individual collective dispatches. Also concerning Birkenau. Also number individual internees on your lists. World Jewish Congress Leon Kubowitzki"
May 9, 1944

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

Dear Mr. Lesser:

In the course of our various negotiations and discussions concerning food parcels for internment, concentration and labor camps, the most important problem we had to consider was the problem of the Terezin (Theresienstadt) and Birkenau Camps with a population of 43,000 and 36,000 Jews respectively.

We have been unable to ascertain the number of people who receive food under the arrangements which are presently being enforced.

We understand that Mr. Ernest Frischer, member of the Czechoslovak National Council, 100 Oakwood Court, London W.14, would be in a position to secure the information we need.

May I ask you to kindly have the following message conveyed to him through the American Embassy:

"From Leon Kubowitzki, World Jewish Congress

Are anxious to know how many Terezin inmates receive regularly food parcels. Understand 6000 people receive two parcels monthly from Lisbon. Ignore number of people provided from Switzerland and Istanbul. Also what frequency. Would be grateful for accurate survey covering individual collective dispatches. Also concerning Birkenau. Also number individual internees on your lists."
Please let me have the text of the message as you will forward it.

Sincerely yours

Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki, Head
Rescue Department

ALK:ef
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: ALLEGATION, BENG
TO: SECRETARY OF STATE, WASHINGTON
DATED: May 3, 1944
NUMBER: 2803

By cable of May 2, 1944, no. 2793 was crossed by the Department's telegram dated May 1, 1944, no. 1508.

Notification of approval of the entire list of medical supplies and foodstuffs in question is given to IRC today by the Legation.

The foregoing was repeated as my no. 738 to London for the information of our Embassy there.

HARRISON
Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Dr. Joseph Schwartz was received from Lisbon under date of May 2, 1944:

"International Red Cross Geneva suggests Portuguese authorities might grant export permits for foods other than sardines and dried fruits provided Portugal receive compensation corresponding additional imports. Suggest you investigate possibilities with authorities Washington since such arrangement would help feed labor camps especially Yugoslavia."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Moses A. Leavitt,
Secretary,
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,
Secretary of State,
Washington.

MAY 2 1944
1336, Second, 1 p.m.

12:31 p.m.

FOLLOWING FROM JOSEPH SCHWARZ FOR LEVITT

JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE NEW YORK:

URB sixteen. "International Red Cross Geneva suggests Portuguese authorities might grant export permits foods other than sardines and dried fruits provided Portugal received compensation corresponding to additional imports. Suggest you investigate possibilities with authorities Washington since such arrangement would help feed labor camps especially Yugoslavia."

NORWEB

OSB
USB