NOTE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: AMBASSADOR, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington,
DATE: May 2, 1944.
SUBJECT: 2763.

Reference is made hereon to the London telegram to the Legation of April 29, 1944, no. 97, re-entailing its cable to the Department in answer to the Department's telegram to London of April 29, 1944, no. 3326.

AFFECT 1923 has been received from MKW by my British colleague and this cable gives wide discretion to approve in this case even items which would be referred to London normally and my British colleague has informed London in reply that he is ready to give approval.

2. IRO will be informed by the Legation that it approves of the total $100,000 purchase program unless instructions to the contrary are received.

This withholding action is being taken because in anticipation of instructions from the Department regarding the question of policy raising in the Legation's
Legation's cables of April 6, and April 24, 1944, no. 2122, and 2612, and London's cable referred to above.

The foregoing message was repeated as no. 736 to London for information of our Embassy there.

HARRISON
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Paraphrased and sent May 1, 2 p.m.

Foreign Economic Administration

ANNEXATION,

BERN,

1508

FROM CRAWLEY AND STOKES, FEA.

from 1334, March 4, 2222 April 6, and 2305

April 13,

We are requesting you to approve immediately the entire list
of foodstuffs and medical supplies, and to instruct British Legation
at Bern accordingly. Please take prompt action subject to confirm-
ation by London.

HULL

(OHK)

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73
By R. H. Perkins Date: SEP 15 1972
FROM: AMBASSADOR, Bern,  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington,  
DATED: April 28, 1944.  
NUMBER: 2736.

1. In reply to telephonic request from Joint Relief Commission, the Commercial Attache, in absence of reply to Legation's cables of April 6, April 13, and April 24, no. 2122, no. 2306, no. 2612, and in view of the last paragraph D, Department's telegram, March 18, 1944, no. 886, has now supported with the Swiss authorities the application for export license referred to in the Legation's 2612, paragraph 1, being specifically for 100 cases of canned peas valued at 540 francs and 60 cases of apple jam valued at 900 francs, which are urgently required for the Rhenenstadt.

2. However, it is stated by the Commercial Attache that pending classification and instructions in reply to the cables from the Legation referred to above, he is withholding his approval of the remainder of program under joint distribution gift.

The foregoing message was repeated to London for information of our Embassy there.

HARRISON
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, London
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: April 28, 1944
NUMBER: 3481

FOLLOWING IS FOR THE ATTENTION OF FEA AND THE DEPARTMENT.

Lists of foodstuffs and medical supplies have not been received from Bern by either MEW or the Embassy. However, due to your request for immediate action, the British Legation was instructed by MEW on April 27 to exercise the widest possible discretion and to approve even items which would be referred normally. The sole qualification was that the British Legation should urgently refer if approval, even given exceptionally would serious (e) violate general line we have been taking with Swiss on exports for relief.

We urge that the same procedure as is now applied to other Red Cross exports apply to exports from Switzerland financed with funds remitted at the instance of War Refugee Board.

The difficulty in the present case of requesting the British to approve lists of exports which neither we...
we nor they have seen will, of course, be appreciated by you. We should not care to again make a similar request. Furthermore, we should not wish to suggest that War Refugee Board exports, unlike all other relief exports, be subject solely to American approval, in view of the excellent cooperation received by us from NEE in putting on a joint basis the control of relief shipments from Sweden, Portugal, Switzerland, etc.

The foregoing message was repeated to Bern for the information of our Legation there.

WINANT

(*) Apparent omission.

5-1-44
A conference was held in the office of Oscar Cox, General Counsel of FEA, today to discuss the International Red Cross cable, the $100,000 International Red Cross feeding program and the proposed cable to Riefler concerning more definitive assurances to the neutral governments with respect to transblockade shipments of food and clothing for refugees. Messrs. Cox, Handler, Stone, Baldwin, Kiser and Zarky were present for FEA, and Messrs. Pehle, Dubois and Abrahamson and Miss Hodel were present for the War Refugee Board.

With respect to the cable to the International Red Cross, FEA was willing to give its clearance provided we had no objection to their informing the British blockade authorities of our proposal to International Red Cross. It was further agreed that if the Germans should accept our proposal and if actual shipments to the internees became a real problem, such shipments would be cleared in accordance with usual blockade procedure.

With respect to the $100,000 feeding program, FEA felt strongly that the matter should be cleared with London and that there would be no difficulty in obtaining such clearance in a very short time. It was agreed that FEA would get a cable out to London today and that we would wait one week for a reply.

With respect to the proposed cable to Riefler, FEA indicated no objection and gave clearance to the dispatch of the cable.

F. Hodel
Referring to former letters the Joint Relief Commission requests your support for sales export license for specific foodstuffs purchased from joint distribution gift department in Switzerland.

Too. A reply has been made by CA that neither he nor his British colleague feels UNR program respect purchases under this $100,000 need be referred to the Legation for approval under system now being discussed in London for relief purchases in Switzerland, but CA added that the matter has been referred to the American Embassy, London, and Department pending receipt of definite instructions.

Three. Interpretation of the Legation is that L-C may under latitude of Treasury licenses to Joint Distribution Committee purchase Switzerland any and all types of products without reference to London or our prior approval. Please inform us whether this is a correct interpretation.

In
April 24, 7 p.m., from Bern

Four. In view of the urgency of Department's 279, January 27, and others, early instructions are respectfully requested so that definite reply can be made to the Joint Relief Commission.

The foregoing message has been repeated to London as the Legation's no. 676 and is in reference to my cable no. 2306, of April 3, and no. 2122 of April 6.

HARRISON.
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: April 22, 1944
NUMBER: 2581

Reference is made herewith to Department's cable of April 8, no. 1198.

It is stated by Intercross that it is preparing replies to questions one, two and four. Concerning three, Intercross believes that if Joint Distribution Committee purchase foodstuffs in Portugal for delivery to Intercross delegate in Lisbon, matter would be simplified.

HARRISON

From to Mitchell 4/4/44

[Signature]

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

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: April 20, 1944
NUMBER: 2508

Legation's cable dated March 6, no. 1366, is referred to herewith.

Regarding tent shipments of food parcels to Allied Nationals in German concentration camps, please see letter of September 1, 1943, from James, Special Representative in Geneva of American Red Cross to Mitchell, Director Insular and Foreign Operations of American Red Cross.

HARRISON

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 7-21-72
By R. H. Peas Date SEP 15 1972
Attached hereto is a copy of a letter from the American Red Cross with respect to the possibility of feeding Jews in Yugoslav concentration camps. The World Jewish Congress, who sent us the attached, are of the view that strenuous action should be taken to reverse the blockade authorities' position. I am inclined to agree and think that we ought to come to some conclusion as to how to pursue this matter further promptly.

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

FMH-967
This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government agency. (S000)

Dated April 18, 1944
Rec'd 7:46 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

310S, April 16, 10 p.m.

FOR DEPARTMENT AND FE A

It would be appreciated if Department would repeat to Embassy Department's reply to Bern's 2122, April 6, repeated to London as 539 and 2306 April 13 repeated to London as 889. In opinion of EWD there would be no particular difficulty or delay in clearing purchases in question with NEW. EWD urges that action on purchases financed with funds remitted at instance of War Refugee Board be acted on jointly by British and ourselves as in case of purchases for other relief purposes.

WINANT

RR

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R K Parks Date SEP 15 1972
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: The American Minister, Lisbon
TO: The Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: April 18, 1944
NUMBER: 1156

There follows in substance a paraphrased message for
Leavitt; Joint Distribution Committee, New York, and the War
Refugee Board from Mr. Joseph Schwartz:

The International Red Cross out of the funds supplied by
us has sent to Poland 100,000 Swiss francs worth of food and
medicine. During the last four or five weeks over three hundred
children from France have arrived in Switzerland and they are
being cared for by local groups. During the past two to three
weeks sixty-four refugees including two children have come to
Spain from France. Most of these recent arrivals who are in
Lerida are being maintained by our Barcelona office. Any day
we are expecting the arrival of a group of children. I shall
keep you informed.

NORWEB

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By H. H. Fields, SEP 1 5 1972
CABLE TO BERN

Reference your number 2122 of April 6, 1944.

In view of urgency, Department, War Refugee Board
and FRA feel that list specified in your number 1334 of
March 4, 1944, is not subject to joint approval of British and
American Legations, Bern. International Red Cross should be
advised at once that this program has full approval of this
government. International Red Cross is urgently requested to
get the program under way as soon as possible.
April 17, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

Not having heard from Mr. Kiser, I called Mr. Zarky and advised him of the problem and of the delay. Mr. Zarky checked into the matter with Mr. Kiser and was advised by him that Mr. Kiser had not even been able to obtain copies of the pertinent cables. I immediately called Mr. Kiser and arranged to supply him with copies. He later called at my office and I read to him the proposed reply which stated that the Department, War Refugee Board and FEA felt that the items in list 1 E of No. 1334 from Bern was not subject to joint approval of the British and American Legations at Bern. Mr. Kiser stated emphatically that FEA could not agree to such a cable without prior clearance with the British under standing arrangements. He stated that if the matter were referred to London we would undoubtedly encounter considerable delay because the British have expressed concern over the fact that this program had not originally been cleared with them.

In order to avoid further delay, it is recommended that we try to get State to agree to a cable stating flatly that the items need not be submitted for the joint approval of the British and American Legations. Even if we agree to the submission of these few items (insulin and narcotics) to the usual clearance procedure, the whole program may be endangered. Mr. Kiser indicated that if we did submit these items to the British, they would undoubtedly take that opportunity to question the whole program.

F. Hodel
Joseph Schwartz requests that following telegram be transmitted through War Refugee Board to Leavitt Joint Distributing Committee, New York.

"International Red Cross Lisbon advises possible sending of food packages in large quantities from Azores, provided authorization blockade authorities received. Package consisting 500 grams each of sardines in oil and cream of sweet potato and 50 cigarettes cost 57 escudos which is much cheaper than prices prevailing in Lisbon. Packages could be made up either in Azores to be sent directly various camps or sent in bulk to Lisbon to be packed here into individual parcels. If permission available International Red Cross would be ready handle entire operation for United States."

ORG.ED

RB
April 14, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

On April 13, 1944, an informal conference was held with Mr. Kiaer of FEA, concerning the proposed cable to the International Red Cross. Messrs. Abrahamson, McCormack, Aksin and Miss Hodel were present for the War Refugee Board. Mr. Kiaer was given a copy of the proposed message and the position of the War Refugee Board with respect to clearance with the blockade authorities in London was explained to him. Mr. Kiaer agreed to discuss the matter with Mr. Powell and Mr. Stone and to obtain their preliminary views which he agreed to convey to us as soon as possible.

On April 14, Mr. Kiaer telephoned Miss Hodel and advised her that both Mr. Powell and Mr. Stone were opposed to clearing the cable for FEA without prior clearance with the British blockade authorities. Mr. Kiaer stated that FEA would take this position formally with the State Department upon receiving a request from State for its views on the proposed action. Mr. Kiaer also raised the question of whether or not the cable had been cleared with the military authorities.

In view of the foregoing and the strong position we have taken with State concerning prior clearance with London, it is proposed that this matter be raised at once with Oscar Cox.

P. Hodel
SPE-313

PLANNED

London

April 13, 1944

Merritt, 3:20 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington,

April 13, 1944

FOURTH FOR RED REPORTS TO BE MADE ON RED CROSS

“Ready cable number 348 dated April 13, 1944: ‘An
informed official has reported to me today that all
foodstuffs in bulk for feeding purposes immediately
required in Jerusalem, including dried millet, dried
fruits and vegetables, are not available. However, the
British authorities have offered to sell portions of
such goods in smaller quantities and also have
offered to supply other goods that are available in
other countries. It is believed that the bulk of the
foodstuffs required is in fact in Switzerland, and
that it is under the control of the Swiss authorities.
It is believed that the foodstuffs are available in
Switzerland, and that they are under the control of
the Swiss authorities. It is therefore recommended
that negotiations be initiated with the Swiss
authorities to make arrangements for the
transshipment of the foodstuffs to Jerusalem.

Sincerely yours,”

Morris

Miss Grunkev (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Atkin, Bernstein,
Cohn, Dubois, Friedmann, Gaston, Have, Lau, Larner,
Lucas, Mann, Mann, Marks, McCormick, Paul, Pehle, Pollak,
Rains, Sayegh, Smith, Stain, Stewart, Weinsteini, H.D. White
April 13, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

Mr. Riegelman advised me today that the problem raised in Cable No. 2122 of April 6 from Bern has been under discussion between State and FEA. Mr. Kuppinger of State is strongly urging FEA to make a special case of this matter and to obtain their immediate clearance without raising the matter with London. Riegelman stated that Kuppinger is aware of the urgency and has impressed FEA with this fact. FEA agreed to clear the matter by Monday, April 17.

April 14, 1944

I discussed this matter with Mr. Kiaer of FEA, who stated that he realized the urgency and would have a reply on the matter very shortly. Before giving FEA's clearance, he desires to check into the regulations and instructions mentioned in the cable.

F. Hodel
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: April 13, 1944
NUMBER: 2308

Reference Legation's cable of March 4, no. 1324.

The whole of the projected purchase scheme from the $100,000 given by the Joint Distribution Committee has now been referred by the Joint Relief Commission to CA and CS for approval. An early reply is requested by the Legation to its cable of April 8, no. 2122 (to London # 539).

We have repeated the foregoing message to London for the Embassy's information.

HARRISON
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington.
TO: AMBASSADOR, Bern.
DATED: April 8, 1944, 7 p.m.
NUMBER: 1198

War Refugee Board sends the following for the Minister:

With respect to the proposed purchase of food by Inter­
cross in Portugal to aid three refugee camps in Croatia,
your telegram of March 24, 1944, no. 1829, you are requested
to deliver to Inter-cross the following urgent message
from the War Refugee Board:

In order that licensing of necessary remittances may
be expedited, it is requested that you inform the Board
immediately regarding the following: (1) the number and
nationality of the persons in the three camps who are to be
helped, (2) the estimate of the cost involved, (3) the
kind of food to be bought for packaging in Portugal and
(4) assurance that such food supplies will be received
by the intended beneficiaries.

HULL
April 5, 1944

2:15 p.m.

To: Mr. Garven

From: J. W. Fehrle

It will be appreciated if you will have the attached cable despatched as soon as possible.

Attachment:

Filelab 4/4/44
CABLE TO BERN

From War Refugee Board to Harrison

With reference to your No. 1228 of March 24, 1944, concerning proposed purchase by Interoross of food in Portugal to aid three refugee camps in Croatia, please deliver the following urgent message to Interoross from the War Refugee Board:

"In order to expedite licensing of necessary remittances and to secure navicarts, please advise the Board at once re (1) number and nationality of persons to be aided in the three camps, (2) approximate cost involved, (3) types of food to be purchased in Portugal for packaging, and (4) assurance that such food supplies will reach intended beneficiaries."
From War Refugee Board to Moroob.
Reference your 932 of March 28, 1944.

Please deliver following message to Joseph Schwartz, representative of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee in Lisbon, from War Refugee Board:

"(1) Can you send us immediately estimates of amount of foodstuffs in Spain and Portugal available for International Red Cross feeding programs. (2) Advise Board your personal views concerning building food stocks in Portugal as well as in Switzerland."

signed: Chaussey (For the Society), Abrahamson, Agin, Bernstein, Cohn-Dubois, Friedman, Kesten, Medal, Lauglin, Lesser, Lynford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McFarland, Murphy, Pench, Pehler, Pollak, Rain, Gershy, Smith, Stendahl, Stewart, Wainstein, H. D. White, Fikes
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: The American Minister, Bern
TO: The Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: April 8, 1944
NUMBER: 2122

CONTROL COPY

As outlined in paragraph one (E) of Legation's number 1334 dated March 4, the list of surgical dressings and medical supplies for purchase shipment to Jewish refugees has been submitted to two Legations by the mixed relief commission, International Red Cross. Insulin and what appears to be narcotics are among the supplies. Is the Legation correct in its belief that the list mentioned above is not subject to the joint approval of the British and this Legation and that narcotics and insulin not required be referred to London jointly under instructions contained in the exchange of messages between the British Legation and the Ministry of Economic Warfare since purch (*) it's funds turned over to the Red Cross under Treasury license with full leeway? In this connection please see telegram number 44 Embassy London to Legation dated February 25. To London this is being repeated.

Since the Legation is withholding a reply to the mixed relief commission, early instructions from the Department are requested.

HARRISON

(*): Apparent omission
A letter from the International Committee of the Red Cross dated March 27 is summarized as follows (please refer to my number 1850 dated March 25, 1944):

1. The activities of Interocross on behalf of war victims in that part of Europe will be affected by events in Hungary and the possible occupation of Hungary and Slovakia. Certain adjustments are necessary in the joint 100,000 dollar relief program since the last possibilities of obtaining relief foodstuffs within Europe apparently are dwindling.

2. If the plans of the War Refugee Board to rescue certain particularly stricken groups of refugees are not to be too late, rapid action is necessary. The necessity of accepting the suggestion to send it (Interocross) parcels of underwear and food is urged by Interocross - please refer to paragraph three of my number 1866 dated March 8). These parcels would be stored in Geneva and only after concurrence of a representative of the War Refugee Board to whom full information and control vouchers could be supplied, would they be despatched.
2- #2031 from Bern

3. The necessity of aid to children in certain parts of Europe and to prisoners in concentration camps is emphasized by Intercessors - please see paragraphs Bl and C1 in my number 1366.

4. Acceptance of Intercessor proposals is strongly recommended by the Legation.

HARRISON
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Washington, D.C.

October 23, 1918

Sir,

I have the honor to call your attention to the fact that the

International Red Cross is not able to make purchases of

food for other occupied countries there. It is therefore

proposed that, by obtaining supplies from South America

and the United States, we build stocks in Switzerland

for this purpose. Transportation facilities would be

furnished by the International Red Cross and all goods

brought to Switzerland would be distributed by

them to places where there is most urgent need. Because

of critical situation especially in labor camps, it is

urged that you consider this matter fully and advise

as soon as possible.

Roes, Roes (for the Society).

Abelson, Abolin, Barnstein, Cohen,

DeBoer, Friedman, Gaston, Golda, Laughlin, Lesser, Maudon, Maxey,

Marks, McComack, Murphy, Paul, Pollak, Raines, Smith, Sorgoy, Stedman,

Stewart, R.D. White, Pile, Ris.

DECLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

By R. H. Parks, Date: SEP 15, 1972
The following is the substance of a message from the War Refugee Board from Joint Distribution Committee for Joseph Schwartz, Care of Donald Hurwitz, 242 Rua Aurea, Lisbon.

Nothing is known here regarding any remittance of two hundred thousand dollars for medical supplies and food to Intercross. Joint Distribution Committee remitted one hundred thousand dollars for purchases of food and other supplies in Switzerland, Hungary and Rumania to be distributed by Intercross in Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Yugoslavia and Rumania. Our first remittance of one hundred thousand dollars to Ankara probably caused the confusion. An inquiry has to who remitted two hundred thousand dollars should be made through Saly Mayer from Intercross. The Joint Distribution Committee is ready to make an initial grant of one hundred thousand dollars for expense of bringing children into Spain. If abandoned children are brought from France to either Spain or Portugal, we expect United States Committee guarantee will be available. We have requested Washington to confirm this to the Legations in Spain and Portugal so that required assurances can be given to each country. We have remitted ten thousand dollars to you.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972
you for Portugal under special license no. W-2134 and twenty-five thousand dollars under special license no. W-2135 as first installment toward expense of children from France into Spain. The Legations in Madrid and Lisbon will supply you with information about these licenses. It is especially important that you ascertain London policy and procedures with respect to issuance of certificates for Palestine after March 31. It is sincerely hoped that the procedure can be greatly simplified so as to facilitate the issuing of certificates with the least possible delay taking into consideration the potential emigration from the countries of the Balkans. You should keep us informed through the War Refugee Board and the Legations.
March 11, 1944
10:30 a.m.

TO: Mr. Warren
FROM: J. W. Pohle

It will be appreciated if you will have the attached cable dispatched at once to Joseph Schwartz, Central Council for Jewish Refugees, Upper Woburn Place, London, from the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, and bill the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc., 270 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y., for the cost of the message and any answer thereto.

Attachment.
CABLE TO LONDON
From Fable to Staint for Cassiday

Please deliver the following message to Joseph Schwartz, 1 Central Council for Jewish Refugees, Upper Woburn Place, London, from the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

Message begins: No knowledge here of remittance of two hundred thousand dollars to International Red Cross for food, medical supplies. Stop We remitted one hundred thousand dollars for purchase of food other supplies in Switzerland, Hungary, Romania to be distributed by Red Cross in Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Romania and Hungary. Stop Perhaps confusion created by our first remittance one hundred thousand dollars to Turkey. Stop Can Saly Mayer ascertain from International Red Cross who remitted two hundred thousand dollars. Stop Strongly urge you do not plan trip to Sweden and risk danger being held there indefinitely. Stop Important you return Lisbon soon initiate rescue measures through Spain. Stop We ready authorize initial grant one hundred thousand dollars for costs bringing children into Spain. Stop So far as we know visas under United States committee guarantee available if abandoned children in France brought either Spain or Portugal. Stop We requesting Washington confirm this to Lagesons Spain and Portugal so that requisite assurances can be given both countries. Stop Remitting to you under special license No. W-2154 ten thousand dollars for Portugal and under special license No. W-2155 will remit to Segura on your return Lisbon twenty-five thousand dollars as first installment for bringing children from France. Please await receipt special license for

C.S.L. Cleared with Records 11/144
No knowledge here of remittance of two hundred thousand dollars to International Red Cross for food, medical supplies. We remitted one hundred thousand dollars for purchases of food and other supplies in Switzerland, Hungary, Romania to be distributed by Red Cross in Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Greece and Hungary. Perhaps confusion created by our first remittance one hundred thousand dollars to Turkey. Can Saly Mayer ascertain from International Red Cross who remitted two hundred thousand dollars? Strongly urge you do not plan trip to Sweden and risk danger being held there indefinitely. Stop. Important you return Lisbon soon initiate rescue measures through Spain. Stop We ready authorize initial grant one hundred thousand dollars for costs bringing children into Spain. Stop So far as we know visas under United States committee guarantee available if abandoned children in France brought either Spain or Portugal. Stop We request Washington confirm this to Legations in Spain and Portugal so that requisite assurances can be given both countries. Stop Remitting to you under special license number W1-2164 one thousand dollars for Portugal and under special license number W1-2155 will remit to Sequerra under your instructions up to the limit of your expectations for $500 bringing children from France. Please await receipt license for Portugal from American Legation Lisbon and license for Spain from American Embassy Madrid. Stop Important you ascertain London policy and particularly procedures regarding issuance of Palestine certificates after March thirty first. Hope procedures can be simplified and expedite issuance certificates with least delay in view pending immigration from Balkans.

Keep us or Pehle advised.
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: March 26, 1944
NUMBER: 1880

Reference is made to Legation's telegram of March 23, no. 1774.

It is stated by Intercross that recent developments in Balkans necessitate change in entire plan of action and that they doubt whether it is possible to obtain from Hungary any more foodstuffs. In a few days Intercross will report further, according to their statement.

HARRISON
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State
DATED: March 24, 1944
NO: 1828

Reference is made herewith to the Department’s telegram of March 20, 1944, no. 916 and previous.

The following is a summary of inquiry for War Refugee Board from International Committee of Red Cross:

If funds can be made available by Jewish organizations, Intercross desires to purchase certain food products in Portugal for relief of groups of Jewish refugees not included in the plan transmitted in the Legation’s telegram of March 12, 1944, no. 1334. Intercross desires to take such action in view of the increasing difficulties of purchasing food in central Europe which is further complicated by recent events in Hungary. In particular, Intercross wishes to add three refugee camps in Croatia where the delegate reports that food conditions are precarious. Intercross proposes to ship from Lisbon to Marseilles via Intercross ships as transportation from Portugal is expensive and slow. It would be necessary to obtain manifests and Intercross asks whether approval of this action could be obtained by War Refugee Board.

HABRETT
Given below is the substance of a message which you are requested to please deliver to Intercross, Geneva, from War Refugee Board, referring to your cable of March 4, no. 1354.

The following concerns the equivalent of $100,000 in Swiss francs received from the Joint Distribution Committee which was referred to in your letter of February 29, 1944, addressed to the United States Legation at Bern: Joint has informed the War Refugee Board that full discretion in respect to the use of the funds under reference has been placed in the Intercross, but Joint hopes that the Intercross will, after consulting with Saly Mayer, coordinate the proposals set forth in February 29 letter with the feeding program being carried out in Turkey at present and with the work which is being done by Saly Mayer. Joint assures the Intercross that no exploitation for propaganda purposes will be made of this relief action.
March 11, 1944
10:30 a.m.

TO: Mr. Farren
FROM: J. E. Fuhle

It will be appreciated if you will have the
attached cable to Mern dispatched at once.

Attachment.

Philab 3/10/44
CABLE TO BERN

Reference your 1334 of March 6, 1944.

War Refugees Board requests that following message be delivered to International Red Cross, Geneva:

"Reference your letter February 29 to the United States Legation, Bern, re Swiss franc equivalent of $100,000 received from American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. Joint has advised War Refugees Board that International Red Cross has full discretion with respect to the use of the funds mentioned above, but Joint hopes Intercess will consult with Saly Mayer and will coordinate program outlined in letter of February 29 with the work being done by Saly Mayer and with the feeding program now going on from Turkey. Joint assures Intercess it will not exploit this relief action for propaganda purposes."
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Embassy, London
DATED: March 17, 1944
NUMBER: 2073

CONTROL COPY

In connection with the following message we refer to your cable of February 24, 1944, No. 1541, regarding discussions with Nahum Goldman of World Jewish Congress.

1. The cabling to Intercross for a report regarding what areas in occupied Europe the International Red Cross could operate in to provide food and medicines to the Jews and other persecuted minorities in those areas and to advise Intercross that the War Refugee Board is ready to see that funds for necessary operations are made available immediately was one of the first actions of the War Refugee Board. Intercross's urgent request to Intergovernmental Committee for funds to purchase foodstuffs in Rumania, Hungary and neutral countries for distribution to internees in central Europe was expedited by the War Refugee Board and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee immediately made available to Intercross for this feeding program $100,000, as was stated in our cable to you of February 9, 1944, No. 1080.

No decision has been made by the War Refugee Board to approach the blockade authorities regarding the shipment of supplies to the Jews and other persecuted people of Europe from this country.

S. The license
DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972
2. The license which the State Department issued in December to the World Jewish Congress was amended later by the Treasury Department with the State Department's approval permitting rescue and relief operations in enemy and enemy occupied territories up to a total cost of $100,000, of which amount there has already been remitted to Switzerland $25,000. A license was given the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee to carry on similar operations costing $600,000, of which amount there has been remitted to Switzerland $200,000. Licenses to carry on similar relief and evacuation operations from Switzerland have also been issued to several other private organizations in the United States.

As stated in our telegram of February 29, 1945 No. 1503, a detailed statement of the actions already taken and of the programs initiated to bring rescue and relief to the persecuted people of Europe is being prepared by the War Refugee Board for your information and for submission to the British Government.

There is no objection on the part of the War Refugee Board to Jewish or other organizations in Great Britain appealing to the British Government for permission to finance and carry on operations similar to those which this Government has authorized.

HULL
MAR 9 1944
3:30 p.m.

TO:        MR. Warren
FROM:      J. W. Fehle

It will be appreciated if you will have the attached cable to London dispatched immediately.

(Signed) J. W. Fehle

Attachment.
CASE INPOINT

Reference is made to your cable No. 1541, February 24, 1944, concerning discussions with Dr. Nahum Goldmann of World Jewish Congress.

1. One of first actions of War Refugee Board was to cable International Red Cross for a report concerning what areas in occupied Europe the International Red Cross could operate in to provide food and medicines to the Jews and other persecuted minorities in those areas and to advise Inter Allies that War Refugee Board is prepared to see that funds are made available immediately for necessary operations. As stated in our cable to you, No. 1020 of February 9, 1944, urgent request of Inter Allies to Intergovernmental Committee for funds to purchase foodstuffs in Hungary, Rumania and neutral countries for distribution to interned in central Europe was expedited by War Refugee Board and American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee made $100,000 available at once to Inter Allies for this feeding program.

The War Refugee Board has not made any decision to approach the blockade authorities concerning the shipment of supplies from this country to the Jews and other persecuted people of Europe.

2. The World Jewish Congress license issued in December by the State Department was later amended by the Treasury Department with the approval of the State Department permitting rescue and relief operations in enemy and enemy-occupied territories up to a total cost of $100,000.
of which $25,000 have already been remitted to Switzerland. The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee has been licensed to carry on similar operations costing $600,000, of which $200,000 have been remitted to Switzerland. Licenses have also been issued to several other private organizations in the United States to carry on similar relief and evacuation operations from Switzerland.

The War Refugee Board, as stated in cable No. 1503 of February 29, is preparing for your information and for submission to the British Government a detailed statement of the actions already taken and of the programs initiated to bring rescue and relief to the persecuted people of Europe.

The War Refugee Board has no objection to Jewish or other organizations in Great Britain appealing to the British Government for permission to carry on and finance operations similar to those which have been authorized by this Government.
CABLE TO AMERICAN AMBASSADOR, LONDON

Reference, Embassy Dispatch #1541, February 24.

With respect to questions raised by Dr. Nahum Goldman, advise Goldman:

1. (a) WRB has approved the sending of $100,000 by the International Red Cross, funds made available by Joint Distribution Committee, with authority to purchase food in neutral countries and in Hungary and Rumania. (b) WRB does not deem it advisable at this time to request British navicerts for the safe carriage of the goods to Europe.

2. The United States Treasury on February 4, 1944, issued a license to the World Jewish Congress in New York for $100,000, to be used for Jewish rescue work in occupied countries. Periodic reports with regard to any operations engaged in under the license granted are to be filed with the Treasury Department through the United States Legation in Bern. The Joint Distribution Committee has not been granted a license for $3,000,000. (a) The British Government has been officially informed of the issuance of the United States Treasury licenses referred to, (b) the entire question of licenses is under discussion, (c) the WRB does not feel in a position to suggest policies to be pursued by British private organizations.
March 10, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

The contents of the attached cable were called to the attention of Mr. Leavitt yesterday. He discussed the problem raised in Paragraph 2 with his people in New York and requested that a cable be sent to Bern, advising the International Red Cross that it has full discretion with respect to the spending of the $100,000, but that the J.D.C. hopes International Red Cross will consult with Saly Mayer and coordinate their program with whatever Mayer is doing, as well as coordinate with the feeding program now going on from Turkey.

Mr. Leavitt advised with respect to the statement made in Paragraph 3 that he had already had this brought to his attention by the International Red Cross in Washington and the J.D.C. will not exploit this program for propaganda purposes.

F. Hodel
A letter dated February 29 has been submitted by the International Committee of the Red Cross furnishing information requested in the Department's telegram no. 279, and detailing its proposed expenditures of the Swiss franc equivalent of $100,000 (429,000 Swiss francs) received from Joint. (See Department's telegram of January 27, no. 279 and of February 9, no. 437 and Legation's telegram of February 18, no. 1028). Intercross proposes to expend this sum as follows:

(A) Transnistria and Bessarabia: 100,000 francs to put at disposal of Intercross delegate in Rumania, in cooperation with Rumanian Red Cross, to purchase and distribute to Jewish refugees clothing available in Rumania.

(B) The Reichenstadt: two alternative proposals for expenditures for food parcels of 119,000 francs. (A) 9,600 food parcels to be prepared in free port Geneva from materials purchased in Hungary; 86,400 francs to be spent for materials in Hungary and 34,800 for labor, packing freight, et cetera, in Switzerland; or (B) 90,000 food parcels containing materials of Swiss, Slovakian, or Hungarian origin; 89,000 francs to be spent in Switzerland, 30,000 in Hungary and Slovakian. Intercross states that the execution of the first plan is dependent upon receiving authorization from National Bank for expenditures in Hungary and the second dependent upon bank and (Swiss?) export licenses.

(C) Cracow: shipment of pharmaceutical products to Jews there has recently been authorized by German authorities. Intercross would dispatch 12,000 kilos of vitamin fortified milk lactose costing 9,300 francs; overhead 7,000 francs.

(D) Jews in camps in Holland and Upper Silesia: 40,000 francs to be spent for 2700 food parcels of Hungarian origin, 1260 parcels for each destination; 23,200 francs to be spent in Hungary and the balance in Switzerland. This is again subject to the National Bank's authorizations. (E) 7,000 francs to be spent for Swiss and foreign pharmaceutical products and Swiss surgical dressings to be distributed 26,000 to Judi Schuster Stiftung Stettin P Oracow, 12,000 to Transnistria, 7700 to Theresienstadt, 6,700 as emergency reserve, and 12,000 for Holland and Upper Silesia. A total of 2,500 francs of these drugs are of foreign origin (insulin, merbromochrom, perhaps and neoturom), the balance Swiss.

Before discussing the details of the above plan with Saly Mayer, Intercross inquiries were made of War Refugees Board as to whether it has discretionary authority subject to advice from Mayer or whether he has the final word on the use of funds which the Joint supplies.
3. Interross Lerrer warns strongly against exploitation of relief action for propaganda purposes by interested groups stating that publicity would likely result in the withdrawing of channels for relief which are now open.

4. A separate telegram will follow containing a summary of Interross reply to questions raised in Department's tele­

gram no. 279.
Concerning: Activities of the International Red Cross Committee in favor of Jews in Rumania.

My dear Director:

Pursuant to our general summary of December 9, 1943, regarding the situation of the Jews in Germany, Eastern Europe, and the Balkans, we take the liberty of giving you below information on the activities of the International Red Cross Committee in favor of the Jews in Rumania, leaving aside, however, the question of relief to the deportees of Transnistria, a question regarding which a note has been handed to Mr. Fullman on the occasion of his trip to Geneva.


In the course of a journey lasting from the 10th to the 21st of December 1943, a delegate of the International Committee was able to visit the principal centers where the Jews deported from Rumania to Transnistria are gathered. This mission will form the subject of a report which will be sent to you anon.

2. Repatriation of Jews deported to Transnistria.

With the front nearing Transnistria, the deportees show disquiet and seem to fear that military operations in that territory would become the occasion for new measures against them. It is appropriate, therefore, to speed up their repatriation to Rumania as much as possible. A first result has been obtained in this respect by the repatriation to Rumania, in the last days of 1943, of 5,944 Jews, natives of Dorohoi, and 163 natives of other regions of the Kingdom.

We try now to obtain the return to Rumania or to facilitate emigration to Palestine of other categories of deportees.

For several months the Rumanian authorities have let it be known that they are disposed to permit the return to Rumania of deported Jews belonging to one of the following categories:

Those who received military decorations

Public official
Pensioners of the state

Widows of those who received military decorations from 1916 to 1919

Those wounded in the War of 1916 to 1919

Since this decision has not yet been carried out to date, the question has been again brought to the attention of the competent authorities by our delegate.

We have also intervened in favor of those Jews of Transnistria who are the beneficiaries of immigration permits of the Palestinian Government, asking that they be authorized to enter Rumania and to reside there until the time when they will be able to leave for Palestine.

A similar intervention has been made in favor of 177 Polish Jews deported from Bessarabia and Bukovina or escaped from the General Government, who are among those deported to Transnistria. A particularly urgent appeal has come to us from the Jews of Tulchin (Transnistria) numbering about 700. We have asked the Rumanian authorities to bring them as well as all the Jews residing in localities east of the railroad line Zmeirinka-Odessa, to Odessa. This request seems to have been favorably accepted and is now being studied by the authorities.

Incidentally, there are among the deportees of Transnistria 4,800 Jewish orphans, most of them in the districts of Mogilev and Bulta, and a small number in the districts of Jugastra, Tulchin, Babnita, and Solta, i.e. in the north and center of Transnistria.

On the 23rd of December, 1943, the Rumanian authorities gave their agreement in principle to the transportation of 4,800 orphans accompanied by 500 adults out of Transnistria.

After discussing various plans with the competent authorities, it has been decided to assemble the children in Northern Moldavia where they will be able to wait in safety until they can emigrate either by land or by boat.

On January 24, 1944, our delegation informed us that the delegates of the Jewish institutions in Rumania have been called to the Ministry of the Interior and that a plan for repatriation has been established. A mission has gone to Transnistria in order to prepare the assembling of the orphans and their transfer to Moldavia, a transfer to which the Rumanian Red Cross will lend its assistance.

As soon as this mission will have returned from Transnistria, the date of the assembling of immigrants in Constanta could be fixed, depending on the time when the orphans will arrive in Moldavia (an undertaking for which certain transportation difficulties will have to be solved) and on the date on which they will be able to get their exit permit.
When the repatriation of different categories of deportees enumerated above from Transnistria will have been carried out, there will still remain in that region the Jews deported from Bessarabia and Bukovina, i.e. about 42,000 persons.

However, competent authority has given us the assurance that if the military situation will necessitate the evacuation of the civilian population of Transnistria, this operation will be carried out without distinction of race or religion.

3. Position of Jews in Bukovina

The Jews in Bukovina were compelled to wear the "Star of David", which fact exposed them to attacks. We succeeded in getting the Romanian authorities to suppress this measure beginning January 26, 1944.

On the other hand, the Jews of that territory feared that they would not be able to receive permission to go to the Old Kingdom in case of the evacuation of the civilian population of Bukovina and are afraid of mistreatments in case the Romanian administration disappears.

The administration of Bukovina has already given to 5,000 Jews, i.e. about 1/3 of the total number, permission to leave that province. We have asked the Romanian authorities to give these 5,000 people permission to enter and reside in the Old Kingdom where Jewish families and Jewish organizations could give them hospitality.

Similar permissions have been asked in favor of Jews from Bukovina in possession of immigration permits to Palestine and for 200 or 300 Jews of Polish nationality who are in Bukovina.

We try to get the assurance that all Jews will be treated on the basis of equality with other Romanian subjects in case of total or partial evacuation of the civilian population of Bukovina.

Finally, our delegation has intervened to ask that 75 Jews who came from German to Bucarest for medical treatment should not be compelled to return to Bukovina. According to the latest information on this subject, this request, although conceded in principle, has not yet received a definitive solution.

4. Emigration of Jews from Rumania by Land

Since this emigration would have to go by way of Bulgarian and Turkish territory, the consent of these two countries has been solicited.
The Turkish Government has declared that it would permit the transit of 150 people per week, the transport comprising 10 percent adults, the rest children.

The Bulgarian Government has approved this arrangement, but since it desired to limit the number of adults to one or two, a new request has been addressed to it in view of obtaining its permission that each transport comprises 10 percent adults.

It remains to establish the lists of emigrants and to obtain Romanian, Bulgarian, and Turkish visas. The Romanian Red Cross will ask the German military authorities to permit the passage of the Dambo.

Finally the Turkish authorities have been asked to permit the passage of more than 150 persons per week, it being understood that the surplus would use the maritime route.

5. Emigration of Romanian Jews by Boat.

The Bulgarian boat, "Bellacitta" will be ready to effect the transfer of 150 emigrants per week.

It is anticipated that the passage will be from Mangalia to Istanbul. No reply has been received yet to the request for safe conduct addressed to Russian and German authorities.

The Committee will serve as intermediary to notify the sailings of the "Bellacitta" to the belligerents without, however, assuming any responsibility.

In addition two Bulgarian ships sailing under the Bulgarian flag, the "Milka" and the "Maritza", are at the disposal of Jewish institutions. However, it appears that they will not be able to be employed if the Turkish Government does not permit the passage of more than 150 emigrants per week, since the "Bellacitta" would suffice for this service.

We shall not fail to keep you informed of the results of the different current interventions.

For the International Committee of the Red Cross, accept, sir, etc.

(Signed) R. Gallopin
Division of Interness and Civilians

Prisoner.

co. Miss Cununsey (Sec'y), Abrahamson, Aksin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, McCormack, Paul, Pollak, Reins, Smith, Standish, Stewart, H.D. White, Files.
My dear Director:

We have been informed by our delegation in London that, following an appeal of the World Jewish Congress, the American and British Governments have charged the Intergovernmental Refugee Committee with the task of investigating whether certain funds should be put at the disposal of the International Red Cross Committee so as to enable it to purchase in Europe relief goods for certain groups of needy Jews in Germany, in the occupied countries, and in Central Europe. We wish to express our gratitude for this generous gesture in which we see a mark of confidence and a valuable encouragement of our efforts to aid all the victims of the war.

In this connection, we take the liberty of drawing your attention to the following point:

When the World Jewish Congress has informed us a few months ago of its intention to launch an appeal to the Allied Governments requesting considerable funds be put at the disposal of the International Red Cross Committee for help in Europe, we were very happy to see that this action was to have been undertaken in favor of civilian victims of the war without distinction of race or religion. It seems, however, that this initial project has been abandoned and that it has been decided that the action under consideration should be limited to certain groups of Jews in Central Europe. We state with regret that this restriction renders exceedingly difficult, if not illusory, the carrying out of this project. It would have a better chance of acceptance by the other party, had it been organized within the framework of a general action. We are convinced that you will the better understand our remark since your committee, too, as would appear from an article in the Times of Friday, October 15 --- has the intention of extending its activities to all populations which had to leave their domiciles for racial, religious, or political reasons.

We could not be but happy over such an extension of the contemplated relief action, since it would enable us to secure the aid of certain circles whose concurrence in the circumstances is essentially indispensable and therefore to increase considerably our chances of obtaining tangible results.
To ensure that our action brings effective assistance to the largest possible number of beneficiaries, we must be able to send relief as soon as an opportunity arises and without waiting for months the arrival of the necessary sums. We would, therefore, be very grateful to the Intergovernmental Committee if it could consider whether it might...
not put the necessary sums at our disposal, leaving us to judge in each particular case whether a given action is justified and whether it could be accomplished under satisfactory conditions. Any other procedure would risk the loss of a number of occasions for efficient action.

In this connection, we should like to draw your attention to the fact that only those amounts are of practical value to us the use of which is not limited to neutral countries, since the opportunities for purchase in the latter countries are fairly restricted.

*Permit me, my dear Director, to say a word about the Joint Relief Commission of the International Red Cross, an agency of the International Red Cross which has already been able to carry out various relief actions in favor of Jews. It has been created in 1940, by the International Red Cross Committee together with the League of Red Cross Societies, and it has the task of coming to the aid of civilian populations which have been made victims of the war, more particularly of women, aged, and children. The closest collaboration exists between the International Red Cross Committee and the Joint Relief Commission over which I have the honor to preside.

The Joint Relief Commission, among other things, has sent food, pharmaceutical products, artificial teeth, spectacles, artificial limbs, etc., to Jews interned in the camps of Southern France. Moreover, it has insured the distribution in these same camps of several tons of clothing, the gift of an American charitable organization. The distribution of these gifts was supervised by the delegates of the International Red Cross Committee.

I should like now to review the different countries in which action in favor of Jews could be intensified or undertaken.

**Bulgaria**

About 70,000 Jewish deportees of Bulgarian nationality — men, women, and children — in Transnistria are now in a very precarious position, especially from the point of view of clothing. A delegation of the International Red Cross Committee was able to get into that region (also into Odessa) and to investigate on the spot the opportunities for helping them in cooperation with Jewish organizations in Bulgaria and with the Bulgarian Red Cross. All facilities have been accorded to us by the Bulgarian government, and we believe that our delegates will not encounter any difficulty in supervising the contemplated distribution. We don't have reason to fear, therefore, that relief sent to needy Jews would be utilized for the benefit of people other than those for whom it was intended. In the first place, if these deportees could return in the near future to the territory of Bulgaria proper, it would be necessary to be able quickly to procure for them clothing and shoes.
With this in view, we ought to cooperate on the basis of
of saving and helping. In the latter case, it would be "true" help,
that is, we should be able to send it to the Jewish refugees in any
country. Food would also be necessary, and this could be brought
in from Germany. We ask for your information that we have organized a relief
action on a small scale in these countries, which could serve as a model
for similar actions in other countries. Jewish groups operating in
abandoned or evacuated villages in Transylvania could be in close co-
operation with the National Red Cross. The distribution of relief
would be done by the delegation of the International Red Cross Committee supervising
its functioning. If this organization controls the purchases and vary
distributions of the relief items in need, then reports and statistics
of relief work could be used to judge whether the action is taking place in
coin tandem with the intentions of the donors. In this instance, a
report and comparison in appropriate time to continue it.

The same thing can be said of Jewish organizations in other
countries, where Jewish refugees have settled. The delegation in
Croatia, for example, would be in a position to ensure control of the action with
the Joint Relief Committee. It would be glad to undertake in sufficient means
that would be placed at its disposal, Croatian committees could certainly
finance the distribution and the distribution of gifts. Some authorities or
governmental bodies have made doings in Croatia and in Slovakia by the
Joint Relief Committee.

Certain Jewish circles in that country have asked us to require
the Red Cross to supply pharmaceutical products. Unfortunately,
we were unable to do so because of a lack of funds.

The International Red Cross Committee has not yet considered the
question of organizing a permanent delegation in that country, since the question of
organizing a relief action on a fairly large scale could not have been
envisioned in view of the reasons explained above. A delegation of the
International Committee which has visited that country a few months ago
has found, however, that the appointment of a permanent delegate would
be opportune in view of the difficult position in which certain categories
of the population find themselves. We would be happy to study this
question, but here again, in order to be able to undertake a relief action,
we would have to be able to count on the cooperation of donors.

Summary

We believe that a relief action in favor of Jewish refugees
in that country, who come mainly from Germany and from Poland, would be
necessary and that the authorities would need it in their assistance. We
...have been a delegate in Hungary to assist the suffering and to report
on the terrible neglect and everything of the Jews problem in
Hungary. This is because we did not have sufficient sources to
make quite efforts. We have thought it correct to utilize our means to
help the Jews in Hungary.

German and Jewish Relations

The condition in France was favorable although the situation
seemed worse than in other countries.

The Joint Commission has organized several deliveries in a
month and a half, to the Jews in occupied countries. The
compulsory authorities have permitted the sending and distribution
of individual packages and collective ones. Unfortunately these
packages cannot be sent in Switzerland without the greatest difficulty,
and we have asked the Federal authorities to permit us to avoid some
technical difficulties which could be resolved more easily. This activity of the
Joint Commission would essentially be impossible if there were not some
concessions on the part of the Swiss authorities.

Furthermore, the Joint Commission could send packages to the
large camps of Japan. It was only when different nations and focal
areas. This brings up the question of supervision in occupied
countries. We don't believe that direct control such as is permitted in the
occupied countries mentioned above could be obtained in the territories
occupied by Germany. It seems that only the German Red Cross could
assume this task. The Jewish authorities with whom we have cooperated for
years think that the distribution organized or supervised by the German Red
Cross could be considered as offering full guarantees. We hope that the
gifts which are entrusted to it come into the hands of those for whom
they are intended. It might happen, of course, that these gifts benefit
indirectly the detaining authorities. If they refuse to admit that these
grants are nothing but a supplementary ration and if they take the
outside gifts into account in establishing the food rations of the persons
under their administration.

As far as Poland is concerned, there is no question of the
country. Indeed, the German Red Cross has informed us that it could not
assume any responsibility for the distribution of such gifts among the
intended receivers. This does not mean that the situation would not change;
perhaps the German Red Cross could assume sending packages, etcetera. We
ask for your information that the Joint Commission has only been able to
receive the receipts for the collective gifts sent several months ago. The
receipts are signed by the President of the "Jewish Office of Assistance" in
London. If this letter interests you, you may take note of a report of the
Joint Commission regarding its
activities in Poland, a report which is in the possession of our delegation
in London. It will give you a precise idea of the manner in which the
Joint Commission accounts for its activities.
On the other hand, the opportunities for purchases to the Joint Relief Commission in Central Europe are as follows (no other quantities are in consideration for the moment for the purchase of food).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity</th>
<th>Price per Kilogram</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eggs</td>
<td>7.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butter</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essential oils</td>
<td>1425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Olive&quot; oil</td>
<td>7.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apples</td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wine</td>
<td>11.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pork of pork</td>
<td>11.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ground nuts</td>
<td>7.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ground meat</td>
<td>7.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milled rice</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flour of corn</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day's work and fruits of</td>
<td>12.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pecans</td>
<td>7.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Green and yellow peas</td>
<td>94.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunflower oil</td>
<td>707.301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Acide gras&quot; (1)</td>
<td>231.100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salt pork, hard and fat</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In conclusion, basing ourselves on the experience which the International Red Cross Committee and the Joint Relief Commission of the International Red Cross had in the course of their activities in favor of Jews in Europe during this war, we would like to submit to you the following suggestion. We would be grateful if you would put at our disposal a sum of about 300,000 Francs to begin with, which would permit us to act in the sense indicated above. It would be, of course, indispensable that we should be able to utilize this sum for purchases in Central Europe, notably in Hungary and Romania, where we have indicated above the opportunities for purchases are fairly extended. We would keep you informed of our projects, of the system of control which could be instituted, of the purchases and of the distribution which we would carry out. If the activities thus put on a new and broader basis produce satisfactory results, and if the reports of our delegation contain the promise of
an opportunity for extension, we shall submit new proposals with a view to increasing the funds that would be put at your disposal thanks to the generosity of the World Jewish Congress and of the interested authorities.

Accept, my dear Director, etc.

(Signed) Carl J. Burckhardt
Member of the International Red Cross Committee

* Probably misprint. Should read “at our disposal”.

Mr. Abrahamsen, Mr. Aksin, Mr. Bernstein, Mrs. Cohn, Mr. DuBois, Mr. Friedman, Mr. Gaston, Miss Hotel, Miss Laughlin, Mr. Lesser, Mr. Luxford, Mr. Mann, Mr. McCormack, Mr. Paul, Mr. Pollak, Mr. Rains, Mr. Smith, Mr. Standish, Mr. Stewart, Mr. H. D. White, Mr. Pehrle.
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington

DATED: March 6, 1944

NUMBER: 1366

Reference is made herein to the Department's 279, January 27; and 437, February 9; and the Legation's cable of March 4, no. 1334.

In addition to detailing the proposed expenditures of funds donated by the joint groups, the International Committee Red Cross letter dated February 29, includes following information requested by WBB in the Department's telegrams under reference: (a) - general possibilities and proposals for relief of Jewish refugees and other persecuted groups; (b) - proposals for relief for prisoners from occupied countries in German concentration camps; (c) - plan for relief of children of war victims in Serbia and Slovenia.

1. It is stated by the Interrose that they are almost certain relief consignments would reach their destinations to Rumania, the Resienstadt and Judisches Unterstutzung Stelle, Cracow; about consignments to Westerbork, Holland and camps in France and upper Silesia they are uncertain, but the Interrose proposes certain proportion of sums put at its disposal be devoted to test shipments through channels

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-79
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972
channels hitherto untried.

2. It is stated by the Intercross that it will endeavor to keep to the lowest possible minimum any purchases made in Hungary or Rumania and will try to procure goods as much as possible in neutral countries. Inquiry is made by the Intercross whether it can count on additional funds on condition that they be expended exclusively in neutral countries within limited available possibilities.

3. In order to avoid expenditures in enemy territory the Intercross proposes (Intercross apprehensive of dangers of enemy abuse entailed by expenditures of foreign exchange in enemy territory) that stocks of relief materials be shipped from overseas for deposit in Geneva which could be drawn upon as opportunities arise for despatch to relief centers. Opportunities for relief are often of short duration and cannot be anticipated with certain types without necessity of fresh appeals on each occasion and a reserve depot would permit immediate action. It is suggested by the Intercross that the depot be under control of War Refugee Board representatives. Warm clothing, underwear, and men's large size boots are the articles most urgently required in Transnistria. Suggests several thousand parcels each containing assortment of clothing, underwear.
underwear, pair of strong boots parcels to be made up separately for men, women and children (not infants). It is suggested by the Intercross that the depot contain several tens of thousands relief food parcels of overseas origin not weighing over 2 1/2 kilos and containing non-perishable articles including canned goods, sugar, condensed milk, ovaltine, etc. The Intercross is prepared to transport against reimbursement via Red Cross ships sailing from the United States and Canada to Lisbon and Marseilles, if the question of tonnage presents difficulties.

4. It is stated by the Intercross that cooperation among the various Jewish relief groups seems impossible and observes not in interest of "alm in view that it be revealed to one Jewish relief organization what the other organizations are doing. That relief plans be kept strictly secret is urgently requested.

5. Stressing the importance of the relief program to include oppressed groups "irrespective of race or religion", the Intercross expresses gratification that this principle was willingly agreed to by the War Refugee Board. It is believed by the Intercross that a broad relief program assisting various groups is less likely to arouse enemy opposition than one which is confined exclusively to the assistance of Jewish refugees only.

Intercross
Inhroross proposes as beginning relief Allied nationals in German concentration camps and children in Yugoslavia (see B and C below).

B-1. The Inhroross proposes, in accordance with A-5 above, that if funds are made available immediately tension relief to Belgians, Dutch, Norwegians, Poles, Greeks, Greeks and other Allied Nationals enduring privation in concentration camps and prisons in Germany under severe secret police control (Inhroross through informal channels has obtained names of nearly all Norwegians, Dutch and large numbers of Poles detained in German concentration camps and prisons and urgently requests this fact be kept strictly secret) Inhroross states organized relief has up to present been prevented by the British blockade authorities, who insisted as condition that Germans recognize these prisoners as prisoners of war and subject to convention of Geneva.

According to a statement of Inhroross it has made successful test shipments of individual relief parcels to these prisoners which were personally acknowledged by the recipients and in several camps Inhroross delegates were able to verify on the spot that shipments reached the person intended to receive them. The Inhroross is prepared to submit evidence of success of these operations.
operations and proposes as start food parcels be made available immediately to men and women in camps and prisons in Germany for 1,400 Norwegians, 1,000 Dutch men and women and 1,000 Polish. Risks of benefiting the enemy are far less than if free exchange expended in enemy territory for relief in Transnistria.

1. Two groups of children in Yugoslavia present a particularly alarming situation, according to statement of Intercross. 80,000 children evacuated from Croatia to Belgrade and other Serbian towns are a particularly critical problem as they are undernourished, in need of clothing and health conditions are pitiful. The same applies to where conditions which were already bad during the Italian occupation have now become increasingly serious since last summer and 100,000 children are suffering from malnutrition as a result of complete lack of fortifying foods such as milk, sugar, Ovaltine and chocolate.

2. It has been suggested by the Intercross that in order to alleviate this situation the War Refugee Board assign 220,000 francs, of which 200,000 for food and 20,000 for medical relief to be divided equally between children in Slovenia and Serbia. For the purchase of Slovakian sugar and Hungarian alimentary pastes about 46,000 francs would be used and balance of 200,000 francs less 17,000
less 17,000 for administration, transportation, et cetera for purchase of Swiss food products. To prepare Swiss pharmaceutical products and surgical dressings would use about 20,000 francs. It is proposed by the Intercross that these relief goods be shipped to Intercross delegate at Belgrade for distribution in cooperation with the Serbian Red Cross.

If desired the Legation can telegraph further details regarding the above proposals. Copy of letter is being sent by IRC through its own facilities and we will also endeavor to forward a copy.

HARRISON
A letter dated February 29 has been since submitted by the International Committee of the Red Cross furnishing information requested in the Department's telegram no. 279, and detailing its proposed expenditures of the Swiss franc equivalent of $100,000 (429,000 Swiss francs) received from joint (see Department's telegram of January 27, no. 279 and of February 9, no. 477 and Legation's telegram of February 18, no. 1029). Intercross proposes to expend this sum as follows: (A) Transnistria and Besarabia: 100,000 francs to put at disposition of Intercross delegate in Romania, in cooperation with Romanian Red Cross, to purchase and distribute to Jewish refugees clothing available in Romania. (B) The Seiestenstadt: two alternative proposals for expenditures for food parcels of 119,000 francs. (A) 9800 food parcels to be prepared in free port Geneva from materials purchased in Hungary: 8400 francs to be spent for materials in Hungary and 3400 for labor; packing freight, etcetera, in Switzerland; or (B) 900,000 food parcels containing materials of Swiss, Slovakian, or Hungarian origin: 8000 francs to be spent in Switzerland, 30,000 in Hungary and Slovakia. Intercross states that the execution of the first plan is dependent upon receiving authorization from National Bank for expenditures in Hungary and the second dependent upon bank and (Swiss) export licenses. (C) Cracow: shipment of pharmaceutical products to Jews there has recently been authorized by German authorities. Intercross would dispatch 12000 kilos of vitamin fortified milk lastissa costing 20000 francs; overhead 7000 francs. (D) Jews in camps in Holland and Upper Silesia: 40000 francs to be spent for 2700 food parcels of Hungarian origin, 1500 parcels for each destination; 22000 francs to be spent in Hungary and the balance in Switzerland. This is again subject to the National Bank's authorizations. (E) 7000 francs to be spent for Swiss and foreign pharmaceutical products and Swiss surgical dressings to be distributed 26000 to Judi Schmutter Stutung, Stahl, F Gacew, 12000 to Transnistria, 7700 to Theresienstadt, 6700 as emergency reserve, and 12000 for Holland and Upper Silesia. A total of 5500 francs of these drugs are of foreign origin (insulin, mercurichrome, perhegar and anterox), the balance Swiss.

3. Before discussing the details of the above plan with Swiss Mayor, Intercross inquiries were made of War Refugee Board as to whether it has discretionary authority subject to advice from Mayor or whether he has the final word on the use of funds which the joint supplies.
3. Intercross Lester warns strongly against exploitation of relief action for propaganda purposes by interested groups stating that publicity would likely result in the withdrawing of channels for relief which are now open.

4. A separate telegram will follow containing a summary of Intercross reply to questions raised in Department's telegram no. 279.

HARRISON
Geneva 20th February 1943.

Note

to the attention of the American Legation, Berne.

Propositions on the purchase of medical supplies and surgical dressings for relief action in favour of Jewish refugees.
(S Fr. 100,000,- from Card Refugees Board).

A. GENERALITIES

A sum of Fr. 70,000,- would be necessary for the purchase of medical supplies and surgical dressings. These purchasing propositions have been established on the basis of relief consignments which we send on account of other donors; this programme may be subject to modifications due to conditions of purchase.

An explanation is necessary for the following items:

- Swiss pharmaceutical products:
  Pharmaceutical specialties and products manufactured in Switzerland, according to the enclosed list (Assortment A, annex I), or properly mentioned;

- Foreign pharmaceutical products:
  Pharmaceutical specialties and products of foreign origin, according to the enclosed list (Assortment B, annex II), or properly mentioned (from Depot Sanitaires);

- Synthetic Surgical dressings:
  Synthetic gauze and cotton, manufactured in Switzerland and which can be exported.

B. PROPOSITIONS.
1. For Refugees in Transnistria:
   Swiss pharmaceutical products:
   - 50,000 Polyvitamin tablets  fr. 2,300
   - 50,000 Vitamin tablets       fr. 2,200
   - 20,000 olesdi tablets       fr. 1,700
   - 20,000 Phytin tablets       fr. 1,500

   Foreign pharmaceutical products:
   - 80,000 units Insulin         fr. 800
   - Synthetic Surgical dressings fr. 3,000

   **Total:** fr. 12,000

2. For Theresienstadt and camps in the neighborhood:
   Swiss pharmaceutical products:
   - 100,000 Polyvitamin tablets  fr. 4,600

   Foreign pharmaceutical products:
   - 20,000 units Insulin         fr. 200
   - 2 kg Mercurochrome           fr. 30
   - Synthetic Surgical dressings fr. 2,600

   **Total:** fr. 7,700

3. For östereichische Unterstüzungstelle Warsaw and camps in the neighborhood:
   Swiss pharmaceutical products:
   - Assortment A                  fr. 11,000
   - 150,000 Polyvitamin tablets  fr. 6,900

   Foreign pharmaceutical products:
   - Assortment B                  fr. 2,000
   - Synthetic Surgical dressings fr. 5,100

   **Total:** fr. 26,000

4. Reserve for camps in Holland and Upper Silesia:
   Swiss pharmaceutical products:
   - Assortment A                  fr. 14,000

   Foreign pharmaceutical products:
   - Assortment B                  fr. 2,000
   - Synthetic Surgical dressings fr. 1,600

   **Total:** fr. 18,000

   Emergency Reserve
   - Joint Belgian/Norwegian
   - Pharmaceuticals
   - fr. 12,000
### Annex I.

#### A. GESELLAH

- **List of Swiss pharmaceutical products.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Composition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 kg. tabl.</td>
<td>Acid. ascorbinic. 0.05 (Vitamin C)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 x 100 tabl.</td>
<td>Becoyan (Vitamin B-complex)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 x 100 tabl.</td>
<td>Benerva (Vitamin A)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 x 25 amp.</td>
<td>Benerva-forte (Vitamin A)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 x 25 amp.</td>
<td>Larotidina</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 x 250 tabl.</td>
<td>Sacron</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 x 25 amp.</td>
<td>Rederox-forte (Vitamin C)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 x 125 tabl.</td>
<td>Ferrox-Redoxon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 x 25 tabl.</td>
<td>Thicol</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 x 1.5 gr.</td>
<td>Larosan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000 tabl.</td>
<td>Spasmolytic (Atropin-Ropaverin)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 x 50 tabl.</td>
<td>Nitroglycerin 0.0025</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500 amp.</td>
<td>Coffein. natr. salicylic 0.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1000 tabl.</td>
<td>Coffein. natr. salicylic 0.25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000 tabl.</td>
<td>Natr. salicylic 0.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1000 tabl.</td>
<td>Naphtol. benzoic 0.25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1000 tabl.</td>
<td>Codein. phosphoric 0.02</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 x 150 tabl.</td>
<td>Calcium Bangon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 x 50 gr.</td>
<td>Calcium Bangon granulated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 x 10 amp.</td>
<td>Calcium Bangon 10% 5 cc</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 x 200 tabl.</td>
<td>Digilanid</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 x 10 cm</td>
<td>Digilanid liquide</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1000 cm</td>
<td>Digilanid liquide</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 x 1/2 tube</td>
<td>Baum Panthesin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 x 250 tabl.</td>
<td>Pelamin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 x 250 tabl.</td>
<td>Ipadrin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 x 50 amp.</td>
<td>Strophavid 1 cm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 x 50 amp.</td>
<td>Strophavid 0.5 cm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 x 100 amp.</td>
<td>Synsergen neueste</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 x 50 amp.</td>
<td>Serosan 0.5 cm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 x 250 tabl.</td>
<td>Natero-Vioform</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 x 20 amp.</td>
<td>Coramin 1,7 cm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>150 fl.</td>
<td>Ceramin Liquid 15 cm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 x 250</td>
<td>Gilagis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 x 1000 tabl.</td>
<td>Gilanisol</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 x 250 tabl.</td>
<td>Gilanisol</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 x 10 gr.</td>
<td>Gilanisol powder</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 fl.</td>
<td>Merfen &quot;solution aq.ous&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 fl.</td>
<td>Merfen &quot;teinture colore&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 fl.</td>
<td>Merfen &quot;solution masale&quot; 10 cm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantity</td>
<td>Item Description</td>
<td>Amount</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Jar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Jar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 x 500 gr.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 kg</td>
<td>Bismuth subgalllic.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 x 250 tabl.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 x 50 amp.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 tub.</td>
<td>Irgafen nasal ointment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250 gr.</td>
<td>Coffein pur.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500 gr.</td>
<td>Salicium chloricium</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 kg.</td>
<td>Magnes. sulfuric.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 kg.</td>
<td>Phenacetin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 kg.</td>
<td>Vasolimentum liquidum</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4000 tabl.</td>
<td>Acid. acetylosalicylic. 0,5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,0</td>
<td>Barbitale 0,5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500 tabl.</td>
<td>Dipyrini 0,3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1100 tabl.</td>
<td>Tannini albuminat 0,5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000 tabl.</td>
<td>Theobromino-natr. saliciolic 0,5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20/1 tabl.</td>
<td>Calmitol ointment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/1 flac.</td>
<td>Calmitol liquid.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 kg.</td>
<td>Ungt. hydrargyri prae. alb. cum. vasel. artific. 10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 kg.</td>
<td>Foata sinici cum vasel. artif.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 kg.</td>
<td>Fulvis adpersor, sinic.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPEND 2

A. OATH

Foreign pharmaceutical products

- 20 U a.u. Insulin
- 2 amp. Mercurochrome
- 500 amp. Dextrosan 5% 25 cc
- 500 amp. Perhepar
V/r>u

Je vous joins, le 20 février 1944,

Propositions relatives à une action
éventuelle de secours en faveur des
enfants sous-alimentés, en Serbie et en Slovénie.

En tant que nous, à la situation particulièrement aigüe
des plus âgés, à l'effort d'enfants et en Slovénie, nous
permisions de vous appeler ce projet concernant une action de secours en
faveur de ces bénéficiaires.

Les envois sont donc autant de besoins du C.T.A., de
sous-dosages, pour distribution, sous la conduite et celui de la Croix-Rouge
serbe, aux cités enfants.

Nous proposons donc l'envoi de produits suisses, car cela
nous permettra d'ajuster la fourche slovène et des pâtés honrois,
pour une somme totale de 200.000.-
<sup>1</sup> Repartir en solde pour emprunt des deux actions invloquées, soit:

1) <sup>1</sup> Destination de la Serbie, pour distribution aux enfants

réalisée dans ce pays.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Produits</th>
<th>Quantité</th>
<th>Prix (Fr.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>312 caisses de lait condensé sucré</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>16.600=-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>312 caisses de lait condensé sucré n/sucre</td>
<td>11.500=-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.000 kg de sucre</td>
<td>11.500=-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.000 kg de pâtes</td>
<td>11.500=-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.000 caisses de fromage</td>
<td>17.600=-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.000 kg de farine pour pâtes</td>
<td>11.500=-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.000 kg de marmelade de pommes</td>
<td>6.000=-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision pour frais d'assurances, de transport et participation à nos frais d'administration</td>
<td>8,460=-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montant total</td>
<td>91,560=-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2) <sup>1</sup> Destination en Slovénie, pour distribution aux

enfants de ce pays.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Produits</th>
<th>Quantité</th>
<th>Prix (Fr.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>312 caisses de lait condensé sucré</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>18.600=-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>312 caisses de lait condensé sucré n/sucre</td>
<td>18.480=-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.000 kg de sucre</td>
<td>11.600=-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.000 kg de pâtes</td>
<td>11.600=-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.000 caisses de fromage</td>
<td>17.600=-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.000 kg de farine pour pâtes</td>
<td>11.500=-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.000 kg de marmelade de pommes</td>
<td>6.000=-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision pour frais de transport, d'assurances, et participation à nos frais d'administration</td>
<td>8,460=-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montant total</td>
<td>100,000=-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Montant à déconsommer en Suisse

à l'étranger

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prix (Fr.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>155,000=-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45,000=-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200,000=-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sujet : Départ des familles en France et assistance aux déportés israélites.

Le Conseil International de la Croix-Rouge a reçu une demande d'aide de la part de plusieurs familles israéliennes se trouvant dans des pays d'Europe. Ces familles souhaitent retourner en Israël en raison de la situation politique actuelle.

Les départs se feront en trois phases :
1) Un premier lot de familles sera déporté en France en vue de l'aide aux déportés israélites.
2) Un deuxième lot de familles sera déporté en Israël pour assistance aux déportés.
3) Un troisième lot de familles sera déporté en Israël pour assistance aux déportés en France.

Total : Sfr. 300,000

Les soumissions sont à même de livrer tous les vivres nécessaires ainsi que les vêtements, à l'exclusion des chaussures, à ces personnes qui se trouvent dans des conditions de détresse. L'aide sera apportée par le biais de nos délégués en Roumanie et en France.

Le CICR a donc proposé à l'assistance de ces personnes à la disposition de son délégué en Roumanie, en France, de bien vouloir se charger des secrétariat et de la distribution de vêtements.
sous son contrôle et celui de la Croix-Rouge suisse, qui dispose des organisations nécessaires à cet effet.

Montant à débourser à l'étranger ........... SFr. 195,000.------

4. - Action de secours en faveur des Juifs déportés à

Terezin et au camp de Mauthausen.

SFr. 119,000.-----

Les instances compétentes allemandes n'autorisant pas les

envois collectifs destinés aux Juifs déportés à Terezin et au camp de Mauthausen,

nous proposons d'utiliser la somme prévue de SFr. 119,000, pour des envois individuels, sous forme du colis standard de provenance

hollandaise. Nous vous soumettons deux propositions:

1. **Colis de solidarité homologués** (les marchandises étant

assemblées en boîte et les colis confectionnés au port-franc de Leyde.)

a) Envoi d'environ 4000 colis contenant des marchandises nécessitant un carton et comprenant:

- 500 gr. de prunes en conserve
- 500 gr. de biscuits
- 500 gr. de viande pilée
- 1 kg. de sucre en morceaux.

Ce colis coûterait ainsi composé, participation aux frais

d’administration de la Commission mixte et frais d’emballage

y compris .................. .......... SFr. 6,13.------

A débourser à l'étranger .................. .......... SFr. 34,600.------

A débourser en Suisse .................. .......... SFr. 36,500.------

b) Envoi d’environ 6600 colis contenant des

marchandises qui ne nécessitent pas de

caisson et comprenant:

- 500 gr. de prunes en conserve
- 500 gr. de biscuits
- 2 boîtes de conserves, soit
- 1 de 250 gr. de pâté de volaille
- 1 de 250 gr. de pâté de chevreuil
- 1 kg. de sucre.

Ce colis coûterait ainsi composé, participation aux frais

d’administration de la Commission mixte et frais d’emballage

y compris .................. .......... SFr. 79,880.------

Montant à débourser à l'étranger : SFr. 79,880.------

Montant à débourser en Suisse : — SFr. 76,395.------

Total général : a) 36,500.------ + b) 76,395.------ = SFr. 112,915.------ à reporter...
Provision pour frais d'achats, transmissibles, assurances à dépenser en Suisse : 6,000.--
Total : 110,000.--

Envisageant cette première proposition, on dépenserait donc :
- en Suisse : 36,415.--
- à l'étranger : 119,000.--

Cette proposition est subordonnée à l'acceptation des instances compétentes suisses et notamment du comité de la banque nationale suisse et qu'en cas de dépense sur fonds à dépenser en Suisse.

1.2. Proposition de collis contenant des produits suisses et, d'autre part, des produits provenant de Hongrie et de Slovaquie.

Il s'agirait d'environ 1500 collis provenant essentiellement et participation aux frais d'administration de la commission (liste y compris), a 12,50 la collis se composant de :
- 1 boîte de lait condensé sucré
- 1 boîte de lait condensé n-sucré
- 1 boîte de fromage
- 1 boîte de mélange de vins de l'état
- 1 boîte de petits pois moyens
- 1 boîte de sucre
- 1 boîte de pâte alimentaire.

Sont à dépenser en Suisse : 50,050.--
Sont à dépenser à l'étranger : 50,150.--
Total : 100,200.--

provision de frais d'achats, transitaires, assurances etc. à dépenser en Suisse : 3,000.--
Total : 110,000.--

Envisageant cette seconde proposition, on dépenserait donc :
- en Suisse : 50,050.--
- à l'étranger : 50,150.--

Cette deuxième proposition reste évidemment subordonnée d'une part, comme la proposition précédente, concernant les produits hongrois et slovaques, à l'acceptation de la banque nationale suisse et, d'autre part, à l'autorisation d'exporter des produits suisses à livrer par les instances compétentes. Ces produits pourraient éventuellement être stockés au port-Prince de Genève-Cornavin, où ils pourraient être assemblés dans des collis qui seraient groupés dans des colis par 35, envoys, sous forme d'envoi collectif sans adresse particulière.
3. Action de secours en faveur des œuvres d'assistance aux Israélites à Czernowitz.

Sous les renseignements en notre possession, les instances compétentes allemandes auraient à nouveau autorisé l'envoi de produits pharmaceutiques à destination de Czernowitz. Nous pourrions donc envoyer, en faveur des personnes préalables, un lot vitaminé destiné aux salles d'assises fortifiées.

La somme de Fr. 100,000,- prévue permettrait l'envoi de 12,000 dosettes à Fr. 7,75 le dos. - Fr. 92,000,-

provision pour participation aux frais d'administration, assurances et transitaires ............... Fr. 7,300,-
Fr. 100,000,-

contant à dépendre en Suisse: Fr. 100,000,-

4. Action de secours destinée à une réserve en faveur des Israélites dans les camps de Hollande et de Haute Silésie.

Fr. 100,000,-

Pour les envois éventuels de colis dans les différents camps de déportés en Hollande et en Haute Silésie, soit pour un montant de Fr. 20,00,- pour la Hollande et autant pour la Haute Silésie, nous proposons l'envoi de colis standard de provenance normale, à savoir des colis dite "fruits" à Fr. 10,00 le colis, emballage et participation aux frais d'administration de la croix blanche y compris, ce qui permettrait l'expédition d'environ 2.000 colis dont un total de 2700 colis, représentant une somme de Fr. 40,000,-

0,109,-

et à l'étranger ............... 29,407,-
37,516,-

provision pour frais d'achat, transitaires, assurances etc. 2,497,-

40,000,-

Répartition pour utilisation des fonds:

Leth proposition:

A dépendre en Suisse:

1) Besançon et Transnistrie 34,505,-
2) Theresienstadt 100,000,-
3) Czernowitz 100,000,-
4) Hollande et Haute Silésie 95,697,- = Fr. 145,162,-

à reporter 185,162,-
A débourser à l'étranger :

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S/V au 28.2.1944.
February 29th, 1944.

Dear Sirs,

Following upon our letter of February 17th, 1941, to H.E. the American Minister in Bern, we venture to submit for your consideration the following particulars concerning relief action in regard to which the support of the War Refugee Board of the United States would be highly desirable.

The War Refugee Board, in accepting a suggestion made by us to the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees in London last autumn, was good enough to notify us that the equivalent in Swiss francs of 100,000 dollars would be available free from restrictions as to geographical areas, for use in Hungary, Rumania and neutral countries, and that the licence had been issued under the name of the "Joint Distribution Committee".

The International Committee have just been credited with the sum of 429,000 Swiss francs through the Swiss National Bank, on behalf of the "Joint", and we assume that it will be mainly a matter for Mr. Saly Mayer to discuss with us particulars for the utilization of this sum. We feel, however, that it may be useful to send you herewith a scheme which has been drawn up by the "Joint Relief Commission of the International Red Cross (Commission Mixte)". Subject to an agreement being reached with the "Joint Distribution Committee", this scheme would provide for the utilization of a sum of 429,000 Swiss francs for the benefit of groups of Jews whom we consider to be in great need. This scheme aims at speedy action, without awaiting the putting into effect of any projects which might be evolved subsequently.

To the
Legation of the United States of America,

BERN
We have thought it advisable to apply certain rules in drawing up this programme.

I. Relief for Jews.

1. The peculiar position of Jews in the Axis countries is not a crystallised one, and the possibilities of extending relief to them which exist at any given moment may suddenly disappear. It is therefore necessary to proceed by test cases in the absence of any basis which is firmly established by international law. We have been able more than once, by means of tests, to open up fresh channels for the distribution of relief, the facilities offered to us being very variable and differing from one area to another. We should therefore very much appreciate if a certain proportion of the sums which are placed at our disposal was to be set aside for test consignments the despatch of which would be attempted through hitherto untired channels. Whereas we are able to state almost with certainty that relief consignments to Rumania, to Theresienstadt and to the "Jüdische Unterstüztungsstelle" in Cracow will reach the beneficiaries, we cannot vouch in the same way for the delivery of relief to, say, the Jews in the camp at Westerbork (Netherlands), in the camps in France and in certain camps in Upper Silesia, where we should like to make the test.

2. Being apprised of the views of the blockade authorities as regards transfer of currency to Axis countries, we shall endeavour to reduce to the lowest possible minimum any purchases which may have to be made in Hungary and Rumania, and to procure goods as far as possible in the neutral countries of Europe (pharmaceutical products and some foodstuffs, which have however become very rarefied). In this connection, we should like to know if we could count on additional funds if they were to be used exclusively in Switzerland, Portugal, Sweden and possibly Turkey.

3. In order, however, to limit as far as possible the purchases which would be made in Hungary and Rumania, we wonder if the War Refugee Board would consider shipping from overseas relief in kind which we propose to stock in Geneva, and upon which we would draw according as supplies were required. This method would have the advantage of enabling us to seize as they occur certain opportunities of despatching relief supplies, without having to send out fresh appeals on each occasion. The stock which would thus be built up in Switzerland could remain under the control of the War Refugee Board which, through their representative at the
American Legation in Bern, would authorize us to draw upon these reserves to the extent of the amounts proposed in the schemes and projects which would be submitted by us.

The articles which are most urgently required are:

a) warm clothing and underwear. Certain groups of Jews in Transnistria, for instance, whom our delegate has been able to visit, are practically completely deprived of clothing.

b) boots (large sizes for men).

It would meet one of the most urgent needs if, as the War Refugee Board proposes to do, we had several thousand parcels available, containing each an assortment of clothing, underwear and possibly a pair of strong boots (parcels made up separately according as they are intended for men, women or children (not infants)).

4. The same system of warehousing could usefully be applied for food parcels, perhaps several tens of thousands of these or a maximum weight of 2 kg. 1/2. The distribution of relief to Theresienstadt is most easily carried out in the form of standard parcels. These should contain only articles which will keep some time (canned goods, sugar, condensed milk, oatmeal, etc.). These parcels could be sent also to the camps in Upper Silesia (if this is found to be possible), Chezeta, the Netherlands and France. If, on the other hand, the War Refugee Board do not see their way to entertaining our proposal that clothing and food parcels be sent to us from overseas, we should be compelled to make them up ourselves, which unavoidably entail the purchasing of certain goods (e.g., hungary, and rumansia, and this would mean transfer of Swiss francs to Axis countries.

Should the question of tonnage be an obstacle in the way of the War Refugee Board accepting our proposal to place food parcels at our disposal, we should be willing to have these consignments conveyed, against reimbursement of the freight charges, and in so far as the available tonnage would permit, by the ships which are at present plying under the sign of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and which carry supplies for the allied prisoners of war between the United States, Canada and Lisbon, on the one hand, and Lisbon-Relais and Genova, on the other.
5. As a general rule, we should like to stress that in this matter of relief for Jews, we proceed very discreetly, and that we endeavour to avoid any form of publicity as far as our own work is concerned. The reasons for this are:

a) the fact that the various Jewish associations, for certain reasons, prefer to act independently one from the other, and it would seem impossible to succeed in centralizing the various relief undertakings which are organized by each of these groups. It is therefore not in the interest of the aim in view to reveal to one Jewish organization what is done by another.

b) Neither is it in the interest of the Jews whom we wish to rescue from a critical situation to draw too much attention to the proposed relief action. In view of certain tendencies, it is to be feared that authorizations which already exist might be withdrawn and new difficulties raised if this plan to save certain groups of Jews were exploited for propaganda purposes.

II. Relief for concentration camps in Germany.

This desire to avoid as far as possible attracting attention to our scheme has led us to propose relief work for certain groups of civil war-victims, irrespective of race and religion. The War Refugee Board willingly agreed to this principle, and we are therefore venturing to mention certain groups who, we feel, are deserving of assistance by the War Refugee Board in like manner to the Jews.

These groups include nationals of allied countries (Belgians, Dutch, Norwegians, Poles, Greeks, Czechs, etc.) who have been deported and are detained in the prisons and concentration camps in Germany.

Political prisoners are detained in Germany in concentration camps which are under the control of the secret police. The régime is more severe than in the prisoner of war and civilian internment camps, and all the information we receive corroborates that the food in these camps is inadequate. The International Committee therefore, in response to the urgent appeals which they received from these political prisoners and from their next-of-kin, applied on many occasions to the allied authorities and Red Cross Societies, with the object of obtaining permission to reforward food parcels to these concentration camps, as is done for allied prisoners of war and civilian internees in Germany. To their great regret, the blockade authorities firmly refused to authorize
these consignments, insisting, as an essential condition, for such an authorization that these detainees should be assimilated with prisoners of war, i.e. that the stipulations of the Geneva Convention should be applied to them. Such a measure depends, however, upon the German authorities, which refuse to allow this assimilation. The International Committee regret that the blockade authorities should have laid down this condition which makes relief entirely dependent upon a decision to be taken by the detaining authorities and prevents the detainees from receiving what are very necessary food supplies.

Judging that the blockade authorities are not opposed on principle to this category of peculiarly afflicted war-victims receiving assistance, but that they are concerned chiefly with preventing the detaining country from deriving any benefit from the foodstuffs, the International Committee have endeavoured to discover some means of ensuring the safe distribution of relief in these camps. At the same time, they have sought to provide the blockade authorities with guarantees which would be equivalent (if not superior) to the means of control which are provided for under the Conventions of Geneva, the latter being unfortunately inapplicable in the present instance.

These guarantees are the following: thanks to certain small sums which have been received in Switzerland, we have been able to send some parcels to the principal concentration camps in Germany and even to certain camps and prisons in the occupied countries, asking that acknowledgements be returned to us personally by the beneficiaries. In certain camps (Oranienburg and Ravensbrück), our delegates have been able to ascertain on the spot that the parcels were actually delivered, and that there was no reason to fear that they had been misappropriated. We are thus able at present to send parcels to Norwegian (also to the students from Oslo), Dutch, Polish, Belgian, Greek, Czech and other deportees in Dachau, Buchenwald, Sachsenhausen-Oranienburg, Ravensbrück, and in certain other camps, but for lack of funds and parcels, we are not in a position to develop this relief action on the scale which would be necessary, at present it is still in the stage of a test process undertaken to furnish the blockade authorities with evidence that the scheme is feasible, and that fully adequate guarantees could be supplied and which we should be ready to submit for the attention of the representative of the American Legation, should the latter be interested in these various test cases.

Although the detaining authorities decline to supply the International Committee with the names of political prisoners and even with information on the
strengths of the camps, this action has had a noteworthy result. The parcels which we have nevertheless been able to deliver to certain detainees have as a matter of fact acted as a mousetrap, and the next-of-kin, in the home countries of the deportees, having doubtless been notified by letters from the camps, are now advising us spontaneously of the names and addresses of the deportees. Thus we possess the names - and we would ask you to treat this as strictly confidential - of nearly all the Norwegians, Dutch and a large number of Poles who are political prisoners in the concentration camps. Consignments could therefore be organized systematically and we would even be in a position to receive acknowledgments from the prisoners' representatives - similarly to the procedure applied in prisoner of war camps - for any collective consignments which might be despatched.

The present problem would be to send food supplies by means of standard parcels to several thousand political prisoners (approximately 1,450 Norwegians, a thousand Dutch men and women, or thereabouts, and as many Polish men and women). We do not know the strengths of the other nationalities, but feel convinced that we would have their names communicated to us if we were able at last to undertake this relief action.

We are profiting by the opportunity afforded us by the War Refugee Board, thanks to their generous support, of drawing their attention once more to this very urgent problem, and of warmly recommending that they contribute to supplying a particularly deserving and severely stricken category of war-victims with relief which might be instrumental in saving the lives of many of them.

III. Relief for children war-victims, particularly in Serbia and Slovenia

From accurate information received from Belgrade we hear that there are at present in Belgrade and several other Serbian towns more than 80,000 children who have escaped from the areas which used to be included formerly in Yugoslavia, and which are now attached to Croatia. These refugee children are in a particularly critical condition; they are undernourished and require clothing. Their health condition is pitiful. It would be necessary to organize emergency relief action for their benefit.

The same may be said of children in Slovenia (the northern section of Yugoslavia). This area was first annexed by Italy which undertook to supply it. The situation which was already serious has become worse since the events in Italy in the summer of 1943. More than 100,000 children
are suffering from malnutrition. Products such as milk, sugar, chocolate, malted milk and other strengthening foods are entirely lacking. Here too relief consignments are urgently required. We enclose a distribution plan in case it should prove useful.

* * *

The International Committee of the Red Cross and the Joint Relief Commission (Commission Mixte) undertake to apply in any future action - as in the past - measures of control as strict as possible, and to prevent any misappropriation of relief consignments. We shall proceed to carry out relief only when we have gained the conviction as far as possible that the detaining authorities will not derive any direct benefit from the relief supplies. We shall submit to the War Refugee Board - if possible through their representative at the American Legation in Bern - all the evidence which we can gather vouching for the safe arrival of relief supplies, and reports on their distribution, in all cases where our delegates have been able to be present. Thus the War Refugee Board will be in a position to judge whether it is possible to carry out a specific undertaking or not.

Further we do not think that rigid regulations for control are expedient; we have already mentioned the example (cf. point II) of political prisoners in German concentration camps to whom the blockade authorities do not consider it permissible to send relief parcels so long as they are not assimilated with prisoners of war. The criterion to be selected for control should, in our opinion, be as flexible as the relief action itself; one principle must however be strictly applied, i.e. that relief must benefit only those for whom it is intended.

We are at the entire disposal of the War Refugee Board to supply them with any additional information they may desire to receive.

yours truly,

Carl J. Fürchtegott
Member of the International Committee of the Red Cross.
Dr. Nahum Goldmann has recently discussed with me and with Casaday, Coville and Hothier certain problems connected with the efforts to bring relief and rescue to the Jews of Nazi-occupied Europe, and the following questions are submitted at his request. He would like to receive answers from Washington while he is still in this country as the answers will affect his activities here. Dr. Goldmann plans to leave for Washington at the end of the first week in March.

1. Goldmann states that the American and British Governments are ready to put 8 million to 10 million dollars at the disposal of the International Red Cross for sending food, clothing and medical supplies.
to the Jews of Nazi-occupied Europe. He is assured by International Red Cross representatives, however, that it will be impossible to utilize anything like this amount of money if purchases must be confined to the neutral European countries. This is said to be due to shortages of goods and to existing priorities in the countries concerned. One of the International Red Cross representatives referred to is Alfred E. Zollinger who recently passed through London and is now in Washington. Goldmann urges that Zollinger be consulted there for confirmation of the described position in the neutral countries of Europe.

In view of the circumstances as stated the International Red Cross according to Goldmann asks specifically whether the War Refugee Board is in a position to take one or both of the following two courses of action: (a) seek to obtain from the appropriate American and British authorities permission to spend "a major part" of the $8 to 10 million dollars in Rumania and Hungary where conditions for the effective use of the funds are said to be more favorable; (b) seek to obtain authorization to purchase supplies in the United
in the United States or other American countries
and, what is most important, to obtain British
navicerts for the safe passage of the goods to European
ports.

In regard to proposal (b) the International Red
Cross is stated to be prepared to give assurance that,
in the event navicerts are granted, no extra demand
will be made upon shipping facilities. The International
Red Cross is willing to assume full responsibility
for transportation.

It is stated that for various reasons the
International Red Cross does not feel in a position
to approach the British Government directly on the
above two proposals and they ask therefore whether
the desired results might be effected through the
intervention of the War Refugee Board.

2. Goldmann states that at the beginning of
December the U. S. Treasury issued a license to the
World Jewish Congress in New York for $25,000 to be
transferred to its representative in Geneva and to be
used for Jewish rescue work in occupied European
countries with the provision that regular reports about
the use of
the use of this money be given to the American Legation in Bern, Switzerland. It is understood by Goldmann that this license was later increased to $100,000. Goldmann believes that the Joint Distribution Committee then applied for a license for $3,000,000 for similar purposes and that this license was granted.

Various Jewish organizations in Great Britain as well as a committee of members of Parliament headed by Eleanor Rathbone are said to be eager to approach the British Government requesting similar licenses and using the precedent established in Washington. Goldmann has asked these groups to refrain from approaching the British Government pending clarification of the specific points listed below. He is anxious on the one hand not to risk a flat refusal by the British if such risk could be minimized by using the American licenses as an argument of if possible by a direct appeal to the British by the U.S. Government or War Refugee Board. On the other hand he is anxious to avoid causing any embarrassment to the U.S. Government. He asks therefore:

(a) whether the British Government has been officially (repeat officially) informed of the issuance of the

U.S. Treasury
U. S. Treasury licenses referred to; (b) whether either the U. S. Government or the War Refugee Board would consider appealing directly to the British Government to issue similar licenses; (c) whether in any event there is any objection to an appeal to the British Government by Jewish or other organizations here utilizing the precedent of the U. S. Treasury licenses as an argument.

In view of Dr. Goldmann's planned early departure, I am sure he would appreciate early consideration of the above inquiries.

WINANT