

Programs of Relief to Poland and
Rescue of Refugees Relief Projects

Relief Aid in Rumania, Hungary, Slovakia,
Croatia, and Theresienstadt

Folder 2
Dated
50-15

000490

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000491

*was Refused by
Mr. Riddle*
copy only

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: AMLEGATI R, Bern,
TO: Secretary of State, Washington,
DATED: May 2, 1944.
NUMBER: 2793.

CONTROL COPY

Reference is made herewith ^{to} ~~your~~ London telegram to the Legation of April 28, 1944, no. 97, requesting its cable to the Department in answer to the Department's telegram to London of April 20, 1944, no. 3325. *not in files*

APFAR 1523 has been received from MEW 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. IRC 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 ^{raised} ~~rising~~ in the Legation's

-2-

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

SI 2 MR 3 YAM ACP
RECEIVED
J.D. HOLLAND
J.D. HOLLAND
J.D. HOLLAND

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00049

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Paraphrased and sent May 1, 2 p.m.

Foreign Economic Administration

AMLEGATION,

BERN.

1508

FROM CROMLAY AND STONE, FEA.

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

April 13.

We are requesting MEN 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 confirmation by London.

HULL
(GHK)

DOR:RLH:ATM SWP

WTSone
LAIson:
BA-813-HEKlar
4/25/44
cc: Gorden

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

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over Rf. Bl. - Mr. [unclear]
Copy only
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: AMLEGATION, Bern,
TO: Secretary of State, Washington,
DATED: April 29, 1944.
NUMBER: 2726. [REDACTED]

CONTROL COPY

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. 2305, no. 2612, and in view of the last paragraph D, Department's telegram, March 15, 1944, no. 856, 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 8940 francs and 60 cases of apple jam valued at 9000 francs which are urgently required for the Resienstadt.

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 with-holding his approval of the remainder of ~~your~~ program under joint distribution gift.

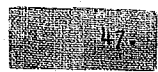
The fore-going message was repeated to London for information of our Embassy there.

HARRISON

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

AMERICAN BOARD
OF REFUGEE COMMISSIONERS
RECEIVED

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10049

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, London

TO: Secretary of State, Washington

DATED: April 28, 1944

NUMBER: 3481

CONTROL COPY

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 seriously (*) compromise 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

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

10049

-2-

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 MEW 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

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April 25, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

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, Kiaer and Zarky were present for FEA, and Messrs. Fehle, 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 despatch of the cable.



F. Hodel

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0050

*was 'Refugee' Bd
JW Pelt*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

CONTROL COPY

FROM: AMEMBASSY, Bern

TO: Secretary of State, Washington,

DATE: April 24, 1944

NUMBER: 2612.

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

Two. A reply has been made by CA that neither he nor his British colleague feels IRO 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 I.C. may under latitude of Treasury license 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

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

-2- #2612, 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. 678 and is in reference to my cable no. 2305, of April 3, and no. 2122 of April 6.

HARRISON.

APR 24 1935

RECEIVED
WAR RELIEF BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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and Able
Copy only

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

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

CONTROL COPY

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

James to Mitchell 9/1/43

1944 APR 22 AM 11 09

WASHINGTON D.C.
WAB BELUGEE BOVBO
RECEIVED

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

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*See Copy
in
Division*

*War Refugee Board
(Mr. Pelt)*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

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

1 copy only

CONTROL COPY

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

Regarding test 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.

RECEIVED
DIVISION OF
WAR RELIEF
APR 24 1944

HARRISON

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State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73
By R. H. Parks Date **SEP 15 1972**

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1051

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE

April 20, 1944

TO Mr. Pehle
FROM L. S. Lesser

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.

*What do
you
suggest?
JL*

LM

*No attachments when
received in files*

700511

41.

000512

COPY

CONTROL COPY
London

FMH-967

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

Dated April 18, 1944

Rec'd 7:48 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

^x
3185, April 18, 10 p.m.

FOR DEPARTMENT AND FEA

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 2305 April 13 repeated to London as 589. In opinion of EWD there would be no particular difficulty or delay in clearing purchases in question with MEW. 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

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

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*over Refugee Bd
2nd Palle*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: The American Minister, Lisbon
TO: The Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: April 18, 1944
NUMBER: 1155

1 copy only

files

CONTROL COPY

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 ~~thirty~~ ^{one} hundred
children from France have arrived in Switzerland and they are
being cared for by local groups. During the past ~~two~~ ^{three} 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

DOR:MPL
4/19/44

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

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1005 10

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 1 B of~~ 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.

4/17/44
Processed into
Mr. Hais on 6/10
Slated 7 E. H. Wright
not a 1200 to 1215
without prior clearance
with Bureau

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April 17, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

Not having heard from Mr. Kiaer, I called Mr. Zarky and advised him of the problem and of the delay. Mr. Zarky checked into the matter with Mr. Kiaer and was advised by him that Mr. Kiaer had not even been able to obtain copies of the pertinent cables. I immediately called Mr. Kiaer 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. Kiaer 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. Kiaer indicated that if we did submit these items to the British, they would undoubtedly take that opportunity to question the whole program.

F. Hodel

Mr. Hodel
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Jones
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Nease
Mr. Gandy

7005

100520

Adm. Serv. Div. / Ref. Sec.

CONTROL COPY

*4 - 1-1m Refugee
Bd /m
Behl*

*4/19/44
Message sent
to board
JF*

GAR-160

PLAIN

Lisbon

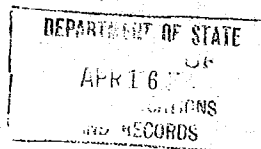
Dated April 15, 1944

Rec'd 2:48 p.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

1123, 15th



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 send food packages in large quantities from Azores provided authorization blockade authorities received. Package consisting 500 gram each of TUNNY in oil, mackerel in oil and cream of sweet potato and 40 cigarettes cost 57 escudos which is much cheaper than prices prevailing Lisbon. Packages could be made up either Azores to be sent directly various camps or sent in bulk to Lisbon to be packed here in individual parcels. If permission available International Red Cross would be ready handle entire operation for United States."

NORWEB

RB

copy in gsc file

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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, Akzin 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.


F. Hodel

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ENE-513

PLATN

Lisbon

Dated April 13, 1944

Rec'd, 6:20 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

1095, thirteenth

FOLLOWING FOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD FROM LISBON JDC.

"Reply cable number 938 dated April 7, 1944. Am informed only foodstuffs available in Portugal in bulk for feeding programs International Red Cross services, dried fish, dried fruits and almonds for which British navicart required. Quantities of coffee, sugar and tea also available but Portuguese authorities don't permit export. Other important products such as vegetable oils, extracts, condensed and powdered milk available in substantial quantities any foodstuffs available Spain. Believe in most desirable for stocks at food in Switzerland for distribution labor camps, other concentration points occupied Europe. In this connection, Switzerland offers better facilities than Portugal because of better warehouse facilities and distribution possibilities. Also certain foods which most urgently required cannot be stored Portugal because intense humidity, therefore, would urgently recommend original suggestion foodstocks be established Switzerland for distribution under auspices International Red Cross. If agreement in principle forthcoming believe can work out with International Red Cross all necessary arrangements utilization space their ships".
Signed Joseph Schwartz.

NORMED

EJH

cc: Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Akzin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Leaser, Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Paul, Pehle, Pollak, Rains, Sargoy, Smith, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H.D. White

100526

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

*Noted copy and reviewed
in files*

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100520

*was Refused by
Mr. Peller
Copy*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: April 13, 1944
NUMBER: 2305

CONTROL COPY

Reference Legation's cable of March 4, no. 1334.

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 6, no. 2122 (to London as 539).

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

HARRISON

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APR 14 1944
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE
820 PM 11 AM 10 28

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

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*ad Refugee
Mr. Pella*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

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

File

CONTROL COPY

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. 1828, 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

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

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APR 13 1964

2:15 p.m.

FROM: J. W. Pohle

Attachement.

FH:lab 4/4/44

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CABLE TO BERN

From War Refugee Board to Harrison

With reference to your No. 1828 of March 24, 1944,
concerning proposed purchase by Intercross of food in Portugal
to aid three refugee camps in Croatia, please deliver the
following urgent message to Intercross from the War Refugee Board:

"In order to expedite licensing of necessary
remittances and to secure navicerts, 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."

jt Pjm aa

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ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Lisbon
DATED: April 7, 1944
NUMBER: 988

[REDACTED]
From War Refugee Board to Norweb.

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."

cc: Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akain, Bernstein,
Cohn DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luskford,
Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Murphy, Paul, Penle, Pollak,
Rains, Sargoy, Smith, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H. D. White,
Files

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State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972

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was R. L. Luger Bk
M. W. Piller
1 copy only

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: The American Minister, Bern
TO: The Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: April 6, 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 purchase (*) involves 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

APR 7 1944
DON:MPL
4/7/44

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

Page 1

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*over to Eugene G. H.
3/24/44*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: The American Minister, Bern ✓
TO: The Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: April 1, 1944
NUMBER: 2031

CONTROL COPY

Cross ✓
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 Interoross 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 feedstuffs 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 (Interoross) parcels of underwear and food is urged by Interoross - please refer to paragraph three of my number 1366 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.

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

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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 Intercross - please see paragraphs B1 and C1 in my number 1366.

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

HARRISON

APR 4 1944

DOR:MPL
4/3/44

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PARAGRAPH OF FOREIGN NEWS

Foreign Legation, Lisbon

State of State, Washington

DATE 20 1940

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[REDACTED]

of the cable sent to the [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Service of Joint Distribution [REDACTED] by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Because of recent developments in Hungary, International Red Cross is not able to make purchases of food for other occupied countries there. So it is 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 thus 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.

Klaus Chauncey (for the Sec'y.), ^{FORWARDED} Abrahamson, Aknin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Marks, McCormack, Murphy, Paul, Pollak, Rains, Smith, Sargoy, Standish, Stewart, H.D. White, Fehle, Files.

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972

10054

*was R. H. Parka
J. W. P. (b. 1)*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: SECRETARY OF STATE, WASHINGTON
TO: AMEEGATION, LISBON
DATED: MARCH 25, 1944
NUMBER: 860
x

CONTROL COPY

file

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 ^{prepared} pressed 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

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

you

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-2-

you for Portugal under special license no. W-2134 and twenty-five thousand dollars under special license no. W-2155 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.

HULL

00054

10:50 a.m.

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

FH:hd 3/9/44

✓

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CABLE TO LONDON
From Fehle to Winkler for Cassaday

Please deliver the following message to Joseph Schwartz,
% 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 purchases
food other supplies in Switzerland, Hungary, Rumania to be distributed
by Red Cross in Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Rumania 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 Legations 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 Sequerra on your
return Lisbon twenty-five thousand dollars as first installment for
bringing children from France. Please await receipt special license for

10054

- 2 -

Portugal from American Legation Lisbon and license for Spain from
American Embassy Madrid Stop Important you ascertain London policy
and particularly procedures regarding issuance Palestine certificates
after March thirty first Stop Hope procedures can be simplified order
expedite issuance certificates with least delay in view pending immigration
from Balkans Stop Keep us or Pehls advised Leavitt End of Message.

*L.S.L. Cleared
with Mr. Pehls 11/14/44*

1054

76 Central
Council of J. P.
Refugees
Woburn, Mass.
Schwartz - London

~~Direct~~
~~Am. & Can. from France~~

SCHWARTZ - LONDON

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 purchases food other supplies in Switzerland, Hungary, Rumania to be distributed by Red Cross in Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Rumania 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 up 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 ^{ing} Washington confirm this to Legations Spain and Portugal so that requisite assurances can be given both countries Stop Remitting to you under special license number W-2154 ten thousand dollars for Portugal and under special license number W-2155 will remit to Sequerra ^{on return his \$25,000 and first installment} under your instructions up to the limit of ^{Special} license for ~~bringing~~ 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 Palestine certificates after March thirty first. Hope procedures can be simplified order expedite issuance certificates with least delay in view pending immigration from Blakans. Keep us or Pehle advised. ^{Leavitt}

7 0 5 4



10055

*war Refugee Ch
(M. P. H.)*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: March 25, 1944
NUMBER: 1850

CONTROL COPY

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

It is stated by Inter-cross 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 Inter-
cross will report further, according to their statement.

HARRISON

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

100-100000-00

15

100550

*was Refugee Bd
(Mr. Peltus)*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

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

CONTROL COPY

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 4, 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 Interross ships as transportation from Portugal is expensive and slow. It would be necessary to obtain manifests and Interross asks whether approval of Portuguese authorities could be obtained by War Refugee Board.

HARRISON

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By E. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972

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000554

[Faint handwritten notes]

050294

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



10055

*War Refugee Board
Mr. Pehle*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: March 20, 1944
NUMBER: 916
X

CONTROL COPY

File

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. 1334.

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.

AAEI 88 RAM

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date **SEP 15 1972**

HULL
(SLW)

10055

March 11, 1944


10:50 a.m.

TO: Mr. Warren

FROM: J. W. Pehle

It will be appreciated if you will have the
attached cable to Bern despatched at once.

Attachment.

 FH:lab 3/10/44

7 0 0 5 5

CABLE TO BERN

Reference your 1334 of March 4, 1944.

War Refugee 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 Refugee Board that International Red Cross has full discretion with respect to the use of the funds mentioned above, but Joint hopes Intercross will consult with Saly Mayer and will coordinate programs 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 Intercross it will not exploit this relief action for propaganda purposes."

761 Received
Wil GWP 3/11/44

00055

*war Refugee Bd
(ms Pella)*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Embassy, London
DATED: March 17, 1944
NUMBER: 2033

CONTROL COPY *plc*

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. 1020.

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.

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

70056

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

7 0 0 5 6 2

MAR 9 1944

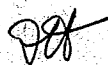
3:30 p.m.

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

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

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

Attachment.

 FH:hd 3/9/44

10056

CABLE TO LONDON

Reference is made to your cable No. 1541, February 24, 1944, concerning discussions with Dr. Nahum Goldman 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 Interseross 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 Interseross to Intergovernmental Committee for funds to purchase foodstuffs in Hungary, Rumania and neutral countries for distribution to internees in central Europe was expedited by War Refugee Board and American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee made \$100,000 available at once to Interseross 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

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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.

EH *JED*
FHH:d 3/8/44

000565

Draft - AlLaughlin jh 3/3/44

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 spending 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 passage 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.

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21

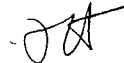
000567

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

7 0 0 5 6 8

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: March 4, 1944
NUMBER: 1334

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. 437 and Legation's telegram of February 18, no. 1028). Interross proposes to expend this sum as follows: (A) Transnistria and Bessarabia: 100,000 francs to put at disposition of Interross delegate in Rumania, in cooperation with Rumanian Red Cross, to purchase and distribute to Jewish refugees clothing available in Rumania. (B) The Reisenstadt: two alternative proposals for expenditures for food parcels of 119,000 francs. (A) 9500 food parcels to be prepared in free port Geneva from materials purchased in Hungary; 84400 francs to be spent for materials in Hungary and 34600 for labor, packing freight, et cetera, in Switzerland; or (B) 900,000 food parcels containing materials of Swiss, Slovakian, or Hungarian origin; 89000 francs to be spent in Switzerland, 30,000 in Hungary and Slovakia. Interross 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. Interross would dispatch 12000 kilos of vitamin fortified milk lactissa costing 93000 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, 1350 parcels for each destination; 29500 francs to be spent in Hungary and the balance in Switzerland. This is again subject to the National Bank's authorizations. (E) 70000 francs to be spent for Swiss and foreign pharmaceutical products and Swiss surgical dressings to be distributed 26000 to Judi Scheunter Stutzung Stell P Cracow, 12000 to Transnistria, 7700 to Thresismstadt, 6700 as emergency reserve, and 12000 for Holland and Upper Silesia. A total of 5300 francs of these drugs are of foreign origin (insulin, mercurochrome, perhepar and aextrosum), the balance Swiss.

2. Before discussing the details of the above plan with Saly Mayer, Interross inquiries were made of War Refugee 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.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73

By R. H. Parks Date, SEP 15 1972

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APR 1 1951
FBI

3. Intercross Lexter warns strongly against exploitation of relief action for propagandas purposes by interested groups stating that publicity would likely result in the withdrawing of channels for relief which are now open.

HARRISON

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000571

1. The International Committee of the Red Cross
has been established since 1864, and its object
is to promote and protect the welfare of the wounded
and sick of armed forces in the field.

2. The Committee is composed of five members
elected by the Conference of the Great Powers
which meets every four years in Geneva.
The Committee is assisted by a Bureau of
the Committee in Geneva.

3. The Committee is
composed of the following members:

1. The
2. The

Marc Tilly
Deputy of the International
Committee of the Red Cross

original not
record in file

TRANSLATION FROM FRENCH

February 25, 1944

G.59/2/R
PK/HL

The Director of the Intergovernmental
Committee 11 D Regent Street, London
SW 1

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. Kullmann on the occasion of his trip to Geneva.

1. Mission of the Delegate of the International Red Cross Committee in Transnistria.

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

000573

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 Bucovina 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 Tulcin (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 Zamerinka-Odeessa, to Odeessa. This request seems to have been favorably accepted and is now being studied by the authorities.

Incidentally, there are among the deportees of Transnistria 4,500 Jewish orphans, most of them in the districts of Mogilev and Balta, and a small number in the districts of Jugastru, Tulcin, Babnita, and Goltu, 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 4,500 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 Constanza 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.

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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 Bucovina, 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 Bucovina

The Jews in Bucovina were compelled to wear the "Star of David", which fact exposed them to attacks. We succeeded in getting the Rumanian 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 Bucovina and are afraid of mistreatments in case the Rumanian administration disappears.

The administration of Bucovina 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 Rumanian 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 Bucovina in possession of immigration permits to Palestine and for 200 or 300 Jews of Polish nationality who are in Bucovina.

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

Finally, our delegation has intervened to ask that 73 Jews who came from Gernauti to Bucarest for medical treatment should not be compelled to return to Bucovina. 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.

000573

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 comprise 10 percent adults.

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

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 Rumanian 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 Internees and Civilian
Prisoner.

cc. Miss Chauncey (Sec'y), Abrahamson, Aksin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois
Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, McCormack
Paul, Pollak, Rains, Smith, Standish, Stewart, H.D. White, Files.

000576

TRANSLATION FROM FRENCH

December 2, 1943

G.59/2
G.59/4
G.59/7/W.J.C.

The Director of the Intergovern-
mental Refugee Committee
11, D'Almeida Street, London S.W.

By airmail

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 eventually 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 occasionally indispensable and therefore to increase considerably our chances of obtaining tangible results.

17

1. The first point to be considered is the question of the disposal of the bodies of the victims of the German air raids on the cities of Poland. It is a question of the greatest importance, and one which has already become acute. The bodies of the victims are being found in great numbers, and it is necessary to take steps to dispose of them in a hygienic and dignified manner. It is also necessary to take steps to identify the bodies, and to return them to the families of the victims, if possible.

2. The second point to be considered is the question of the disposal of the property of the victims. It is a question of the greatest importance, and one which has already become acute. The property of the victims is being found in great numbers, and it is necessary to take steps to dispose of it in a hygienic and dignified manner. It is also necessary to take steps to identify the property, and to return it to the families of the victims, if possible.

3. The third point to be considered is the question of the disposal of the bodies of the victims of the German air raids on the cities of Poland. It is a question of the greatest importance, and one which has already become acute. The bodies of the victims are being found in great numbers, and it is necessary to take steps to dispose of them in a hygienic and dignified manner. It is also necessary to take steps to identify the bodies, and to return them to the families of the victims, if possible.

4. The fourth point to be considered is the question of the disposal of the property of the victims. It is a question of the greatest importance, and one which has already become acute. The property of the victims is being found in great numbers, and it is necessary to take steps to dispose of it in a hygienic and dignified manner. It is also necessary to take steps to identify the property, and to return it to the families of the victims, if possible.

5. The fifth point to be considered is the question of the disposal of the bodies of the victims of the German air raids on the cities of Poland. It is a question of the greatest importance, and one which has already become acute. The bodies of the victims are being found in great numbers, and it is necessary to take steps to dispose of them in a hygienic and dignified manner. It is also necessary to take steps to identify the bodies, and to return them to the families of the victims, if possible.

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.

Rumania

About 70,000 Jewish deportees of Rumanian 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 Rumania and with the Rumanian Red Cross. All facilities have been accorded to us by the Rumanian 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, it would be necessary to find shoes, which are lacking in Rumania for these Jews in need. If these deportees could return in the near future to the territory of Rumania proper, it would be necessary to be able quickly to procure for them clothing and shoes.

With this in view, we want to dispose either of the money or of money to buy it. In the latter case, it should be "free" money, that is, we should be able to spend it in continental countries (Germany) excepted. Food would also be necessary, but this could be bought partly in Hungary. We add for your information that we have organized a relief action on a small scale for these deportees, which could serve as a model for similar actions in other countries. Jewish groups dispersed in abandoned or evacuated villages in Transnistria assume in close co-operation with the National Red Cross the distribution of gift packages, while the delegates of the International Red Cross Committee supervise the functioning of this organization, control the purchases and verify distributions on the spot from time to time. Their reports and bills of sales permit us to judge whether the action is taking place in accordance with the intentions of the donors -- who in this instance are Swiss -- and whether it is appropriate to continue it.

The same thing can be said of about 600 Jews who, as distinct from the position in Rumania, are partly detained in three camps in this country: Jasenovac, Stara Gradiska, Gredjani Dolac. Our delegate in Zagreb could be in a position to insure control of the action which the Joint Relief Commission would be glad to undertake if sufficient means would be placed at its disposal. Croatian authorities would certainly permit the distribution and the distribution of gifts. Some deliveries of gifts have already been made to Jews in Croatia and in Slovakia by the Joint Relief Commission.

Certain Jewish circles in that country have asked us to secure relief and especially to provide 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 creation of a permanent delegation in that country, since the question of organizing a relief action on a fairly large scale could not have been envisaged 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.

Hungary

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 lend it their assistance. We

have just sent a delegate to Hungary to study the situation and to report to us. If we have not yet basised ourselves with the Jewish problem in Hungary, this is because we did not have sufficiently large amounts to spread our efforts. We have thought it correct to utilize our means to help the Jews in Germany.

Germany and Occupied Countries

The outlook is less and less favorable, although the problem appears there in a more acute form than elsewhere.

The Joint Commission has organized several deliveries, on a small scale, to the Jews in forced residence in Theresienstadt (about 10,000) and coming from all the countries occupied by Germany. The competent authorities have permitted the sending and distribution of individual packages and of stimulants. Unfortunately these products cannot be found in Switzerland without the greatest difficulty, and we have asked the Federal Authorities to permit us to send some foodstuffs which could be bought more easily. This activity of the Joint Commission could certainly be pursued on a much larger scale if more considerable means were at our disposal.

Outside of Theresienstadt, we could try to send packages to the labor camps of Upper Silesia where many Jews of different nationalities are found. This brings up the question of supervision in occupied countries. We don't believe that direct control such as is permitted in the 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 circles with whom we have cooperated for years think, just as we do, that distributions organized or supervised by the German Red Cross could be considered as offering full guarantee. We know 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 gifts 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, it seems unfortunate that for the present at least one would have to renounce the sending of relief to that 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 could not change; perhaps the Joint Commission could resume sending packages some day. We add for your information that the Joint Commission has only now received the receipts for the collective gifts sent several months ago. The receipts are signed by the President of the "Jüdische Unterstützungsstelle" (Jewish Office of Assistance) in Cracow. If the matter 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 by the Joint Commission in Central Europe are as follows, (no other countries come in consideration for the moment for the purchase of food).

	Poussin	per kilogram
Dehydrated onions	"	7.15 "
Julienne "	"	7. " "
Green and yellow peas	"	205 " 100 kilogram
String beans	"	125. " 100 kilogram
"BB" soup, ready for cooking	"	5.50 " kilogram
"Kalamalt" nutritive flour for baking	"	9 " "
Apples	"	4 " "
Milk	"	81 " 100 kilogram
Pate of game	"	13.00 " kilogram
Game conserves	"	Different prices, with a basic price of 9.50 per kilogram
Refined millet	"	100 " per quintal
Pate of game	"	12.35 " kilogram
Hind quart and breast of Maccaroni	"	12.95 " "
		2.20 " "
	Les	per kilogram
Green and yellow peas	"	74. " "
Sunflower oil	"	297,361. " ton
"Acide gras" (?)	"	231,110. " "
Salt pork, lard and fat	"	270 " kilogram

Prices shown are subject to some variations.

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 could 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 Rumania, where we have indicated above the opportunities for purchase 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 delegates contain the promise of

- 7 -

an opportunity for extension, we shall submit new propositions 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. Burkhardt

Member of the International Red Cross
Committee

* Probably missprint. Should read "at our disposal".

cc: Mr. Abrahamson, Mr. Aksin, Mr. Bernstein, Mrs. Cohn, Mr. DuBois,
Mr. Friedman, Mr. Gaston, Miss Hodel, 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. Pehle.

19

00058

*Wark Pigeon Bd
(Mr. Keller)*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

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

* DATED: March 6, 1944

NUMBER: 1366
x

CONTROL COPY

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 WRB 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 Interoross that they are almost certain relief consignments would reach their destinations to Rumania, the Resienstadt and Judische Unterstutzung Stelle, Gracow; about consignments to Westerbork, Holland and camps in France and upper Silesia they are uncertain, but the Interoross proposes certain proportion of sums put at its disposal be devoted to test shipments through channels

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

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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 aim 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

000587

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

B-1. The Intercross proposes, in accordance with A-5 above, that if funds are made available immediately tension relief to Belgians, Dutch, Norwegians, Poles, Greeks, Czechs and other Allied Nationals enduring privation in concentration camps and prisons in Germany under severe secret police control (Intercross 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) Intercross 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 Intercross it has made successful test shipments of individual relief parcels to these prisoners which were personally acknowledged by the recipients and in several camps Intercross delegates were able to verify on the spot that shipments reached the person intended to receive them. The Inter-cross 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 1,450 Norwegians, 1000 Dutch men and women and 1000 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 45,000 francs would be used and balance of 200,000 francs
less 17,000

000583

-6-

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

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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: March 4, 1944
NUMBER: 1334

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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. 437 and Legation's telegram of February 18, no. 1028). Interdross proposes to expend this sum as follows: (A) Transnistria and Bessarabia: 100,000 francs to put at disposition of Interdross delegate in Rumania, in cooperation with Rumanian Red Cross, to purchase and distribute to Jewish refugees clothing available in Rumania. (B) The Reisenstadt: two alternative proposals for expenditures for food parcels of 119,000 francs. (A) 9500 food parcels to be prepared in free port Geneva from materials purchased in Hungary: 84400 francs to be spent for materials in Hungary and 34600 for labor, packing freight, et cetera, in Switzerland; or (B) 900,000 food parcels containing materials of Swiss, Slovakian, or Hungarian origin; 89000 francs to be spent in Switzerland; 30,000 in Hungary and Slovakia. Interdross states that the execution of the first plan is dependent upon receiving authorization from National Bank for expenditures in Hungary and the second dependant upon bank, and (Swiss?) export licenses. (C) Cracow: shipment of pharmaceutical products to Jews there has recently been authorized by German authorities. Interdross would dispatch 12000 kilos of vitamin fortified milk lactissa costing 93000 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, 1350 parcels for each destination; 29500 francs to be spent in Hungary and the balance in Switzerland. This is again subject to the National Bank's authorizations. (E) 70000 francs to be spent for Swiss and foreign pharmaceutical products and Swiss surgical dressings to be distributed 26000 to Judi Scheunter Stutzung Stettin P Cracow, 12000 to Transnistria, 7700 to Thresienstadt, 6700 as emergency reserve, and 12000 for Holland and Upper Silesia. A total of 5300 francs of these drugs are of foreign origin (insulin, mercuriochrome, perhepar and aextrosum), the balance Swiss.

2. Before discussing the details of the above plan with Saly Mayer, Interdross inquiries were made of War Refugee 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.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972

000592

-2-

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

HARRISON

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17

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Geneva 28th February 1944.

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.
(\$ 100.000.- from Ward 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 specialities and products manufactured in Switzerland, according to the enclosed list (Assortment A, annex 1), or properly mentioned;
- Foreign pharmaceutical products:
Pharmaceutical specialities and products of foreign origin, according to the enclosed list (Assortment B, annex 2), or properly mentioned (from Depot Sanitaire);
- Synthetic Surgical dressings:
Synthetic gauze and cotton, manufactured in Switzerland and which can be exported.

B. PROPOSITIONS.

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1. For Refugees in Transnistria:

Swiss pharmaceutical products:

50.000 Polyvitamin tablets	fr. 2.300.-
50.000 Vitaquin tablets	" 3.200.-
5.000 Oleg-Bi ampoules	" 1.700.-
16.000 Phytin tablets	" 1.000.-

Foreign pharmaceutical products:

80.000 units Insulin	" 800.-
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Synthetic Surgical dressings	" 3.000.-
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total:	fr. 12.000.-
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2. For Theresienstadt and camps in the neighbourhood:

Swiss pharmaceutical products:

100.000 Polyvitamin tablets	fr. 4.600.-
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Foreign pharmaceutical products:

20.000 units Insulin	" 200.-
2 kgs Mercurchrome	" 300.-

Synthetic Surgical dressings:	" 2.600.-
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total	fr. 7.700.-
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3. For Jüdische Unterstützungsstelle Gpaw and camps in the neighbourhood:

Swiss pharmaceutical products:

two Assortments A	fr. 14.000.-
190.000 Polyvitamin tablets	6.900.-

Foreign pharmaceutical products:

two Assortment B	" 2.000.-
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Synthetic Surgical dressings	" 3.100.-
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total	fr. 26.000.-
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4. Reserve for camps in Holland and Upper Silesia:

Swiss pharmaceutical products:

two Assortments A	fr. 14.000.-
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Foreign pharmaceutical products:

two Assortments B	" 2.000.-
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Synthetic Surgical dressings	" 1.600.-
------------------------------	-----------

total	fr. 18.000.-
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total	fr. 63.300.-
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Emergency reserve
Joint Relief Commission of the
International Red Cross
Pharmaceutical service

6.700.-
fr. 70.000.-

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Annex 1.

A. ORIENT A

List of Swiss pharmaceutical products.

1 kg. tabl.	Acid. ascorbinic. 0,05 (Vitamin C)
50 x 100 tabl.	Beconym (Vitamin B-Complex)
20 x 100 tabl.	Benerva (Vitamin B ₁)
3 x 25 amp.	Benerva-forte (Vitamin B ₁)
6 x 25 amp.	Larostidin
2 x 250 tabl.	Saridon
6 x 25 amp.	Redoxon-forte (Vitamin C)
100 x 125 tabl.	Ferre-Redoxon
10 x 25 tabl.	Thioceol
100 x 100 gr.	Larosan
2000 tabl.	Spasmolytic (Atropin-Papaverin)
20 x 50 tabl.	Nitroglycerin 0,0005
500 amp.	Coffein. natr. salicylic. 0,2
1000 tabl.	Coffein. natr. salicylic. 0,25
2000 tabl.	Natr. salicylic. 0,5
1000 tabl.	Naphtol. benzoic. 0,25
3000 tabl.	Codein. phosphoric. 0,02
15 x 150 tabl.	Calcium Sandos
20 x 500 gr.	Calcium Sandos granulated
20 x 10 amp.	Calcium Sandos 10% 5 cc
20 x 200 tabl.	Digilanid
25 x 10 com	Digilanid liquide
4 x 100 com	Digilanid liquide
30 x 1/2 tube	Baum Panthemin
5 x 250 tabl.	Felamin
6 x 250 tabl.	Ipedrin
6 x 50 amp.	Strophosid 1 com
6 x 50 amp.	Strophosid 0,5 com
5 x 100 tabl.	Synergen xxxxxxx
3 x 50 amp	Synergen 0,5 com
10 x 250 tabl.	Antero-Vioform
20 x 20 amp.	Coramin 1,7 com
150 fl.	Coramin Liquid 15 com
4 x 250	Gibalgin
5 x 1000 tabl.	Gibazol
2 x 250 tabl.	Gibazol
10 x 10 gr.	Gibazol powder
20 fl.	Merfen "solution aqueuse"
20 fl.	Merfen "teinture colorée"
100 fl.	Merfen "solution nasale" 10 com

000597

20	jars	Merfen ointment 500 gr.
2	jars	Merfen ophthalmic ointment
10 x 500	gr.	Desogem
1	kg	Bismuth. subgallic.
2	kg	Bismuth subnitric.
10 x 250	tabl.	Irgafen
10 x 50	amp.	Irgafen
50	tub.	Irgamid nasal ointment
250 gm.	gr.	Coffein pur.
500	gr.	Salium chloricum
5	kg.	Magnes. sulfuric.
1	kg.	Phenacetin
1	kg.	Vasolimentum liquidum
4000	tabl.	Acid. acetylosalicylic. 0,5
100	tabl.	Barbital 0,5
500	tabl.	Di-Pyrini 0,3
1000	tabl.	Hexamini 0,5
1000	tabl.	Tannini albuminati 0,5
2000	tabl.	Theobromino-natr. salicylic. 0,5
20/1	tub.	Calmitol ointment
10/1	flac.	Calmitol liquid.
1	kg.	Ungt. hydrargyri praeco. alb.
		cum. vasel. artific. 10%
2	kg.	Pasta zinci cum vasel. artif.
5	kg.	Pulvis adpersor, zinci.

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INDEX 2.

APPENDIX B

Foreign pharmaceutical products

20'000 i.u. Insulin
2 kg. Mercurochrome
500 amp. Dextrosum 500 20 ccn
500 amp. Parhepar

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IV/rm

Genève, le 28 février 1944.

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

En tenant compte de la situation particulièrement alarmante des plusieurs milliers d'enfants en Serbie et en Slovaquie, nous nous permettons de soumettre au projet concernant une action de secours en faveur de ces déshérités.

Les envois seraient adressés au délégué du C.I.C.F. à Belgrade, pour distribution, sous son contrôle et celui de la Croix-Rouge serbe, aux dits enfants.

Nous proposons donc l'envoi de produits suisses, auxquels nous pourrions ajouter du sucre slovaque et des pâtes hongroises, pour une somme de:

Fr. 3. 200.000.--

à répartir par moitié pour chacune des deux sections envisagées, soit:

1) à destination de la Serbie, pour distribution aux enfants
réfugiés dans ce pays:

300 caisses de lait condensé sucré.	Fr. 18.500.--
300 " " " " n/sucre	" 16.450.--
10.000 kgs. de sucre	" 11.500.--
5.000 " " pâtes	" 11.000.--
10.000 boîtes de fromage	" 17.500.--
5.000 kgs. de farine pour potages	" 11.500.--
2.000 kgs. de marmelade de pommes	" 6.000.--
	<u>Fr. 91.550.--</u>

Provision pour frais d'assurances, de transitaires	" 8.450.--
et participation à nos frais d'administration	<u>Fr. 100.000.--</u>
	Fr. 155.000.--

2) à destination de la Slovaquie, pour distribution aux
enfants de ce pays.

300 caisses de lait condensé sucré	Fr. 18.500.--
300 " " " " n/sucre	" 16.450.--
10.000 kgs. de sucre	" 11.500.--
5.000 kgs. de pâtes	" 11.000.--
10.000 boîtes de fromage	" 17.500.--
5.000 kgs. de farine pour potages	" 11.500.--
2.000 kgs. " marmelade de pommes	" 6.000.--
	<u>Fr. 91.550.--</u>

Provision pour frais de transitaires, d'assurances, et participation à nos frais d'administration	" 8.450.--
	<u>Fr. 100.000.--</u>
	Fr. 155.000.--

Montant à dépenser en Suisse
" " " à l'étranger

Fr. 155.000.--
" 45.000.--

Fr. 200.000.--

Objet : Répartition d'un don de 369.000.- francs suisses en faveur des déportés israéliques de différents pays.

Tous sommes en mesure de répartir le montant de 369.000.- francs suisses, représentant en francs suisses une somme de sfr. 420.000.-

sfr. 70.000.- pour le service d'urgence.
et sfr. 359.000.- pour le service d'urgence et vêtements.

Le service "vêtements et chaussures" propose d'utiliser la somme de sfr. 359.000.- afin d'être disposée, comme suit :

- 1) un montant de sfr. 100.000.- en faveur des déportés israéliques en Transnistrie et en Bessarabie.
- 2) un montant de sfr. 110.000.- en faveur des déportés israéliques à Ierresenstadt.
- 3) un montant de sfr. 100.000.- en faveur des œuvres d'assistance aux israéliques à Cracovie.
- 4) un montant de sfr. 49.000.- aux fins de réserves en faveur des déportés dans les différents camps de Pologne et de Haute Silésie.

Total: sfr. 369.000.-

1.- Action de secours en faveur des déportés israéliques en Transnistrie et Bessarabie.-

sfr. 100.000.-

La Roumanie étant à même de livrer tous les vivres nécessaires ainsi que les vêtements, à l'exclusion des chaussures, nous pensons qu'il serait erroné de procéder à des achats de vivres en Suisse pour les expédier ensuite à l'intention de ces déportés. L'expérience nous a appris que M. Kolb, délégué du Comité International de la Croix-Rouge en Roumanie a la possibilité de se procurer des vêtements à des conditions intéressantes. Nous savons que les déportés israéliques en sont totalement dépourvus, et nous proposons donc que la Trésorerie du CICR mette la somme prévue à l'assistance de ces personnes à la disposition de son délégué en Roumanie, en demandant à ce dernier de bien vouloir se charger des achats et de la distribution de vêtements.

000601

sous son contrôle et celui de la Croix-Rouge de Roumanie, qui dispose des organisations nécessaires à cet effet.

Montant à dépenser à l'étranger sFr. 100.000.-

2.- Action de secours en faveur des Israélites déportés à Theresienstadt.-

sFr. 110.000.-

Les instances compétentes allemandes n'autorisant pas les envois collectifs destinés aux Israélites déportés à Theresienstadt, nous proposons d'utiliser la somme prévue de sFr. 110.000. pour des envois individuels, sous forme de colis standard de provenance hongroise. Nous vous soumettons deux propositions:

1. Envoi de colis standard hongrois. (La marchandise étant achetée en Hongrie et les colis confectionnés au port-franc de Genève.)

a). envoi d'environ 4000 colis contenant des marchandises nécessitant en partie une cuisson et comprenant:

- 800 gr. de marmelade de pruneaux
- 500 gr. de pâtes avec goût de bœufillon pour potages.
- 300 gr. de biscuits
- 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. 9,13.-

A dépenser à l'étranger sFr. 24.520.-

A dépenser en Suisse sFr. 12.000.-

sFr. 36.520.-

b) envoi d'environ 5500 colis contenant des marchandises qui ne nécessitent pas de cuisson et comprenant:

- 800 gr. de marmelade de pruneaux
- 500 gr. de biscuits
- 2 boîtes de conserves, soit
 - 1 de 250 gr. pâté de volaille
 - 1 de 250 gr. 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. 13,86.-

Montant à dépenser à l'étranger : sFr. 59.895.-

Montant à dépenser en Suisse: " 16.500.-

sFr. 76.395.-

Total général: a) 36.520.-

+ b) 76.395.- = sFr. 112.915.- à reporter

provision pour frais d'achats, transitaires,	Report: sFr. 112.016.--
assurances à dépenser en Suisse	6.085.--
	<hr/>
Total:	sFr. 119.000.--

En envisageant cette première proposition, on dépenserait donc:

en Suisse	sFr. 34.585.-
à l'étranger	sFr. 84.415.-
	<hr/>
	sFr. 119.000.-

Cette proposition est subordonnée à l'acceptation des instances compétentes suisses et notamment à celle de la Banque Nationale S. quant aux fonds à dépenser en Hongrie.

1. confection de colis contenant d'une part des produits suisses et, d'autre part, des produits provenant de Hongrie et de Slovaquie. Il s'agirait d'environ 9000 colis revenant emballage et participation aux frais d'administration de la Commission d'acte y compris, à sFr. 12,50 le colis se composant de:

- 1 boîte de lait condensé sucré
- 1 boîte de lait condensé n.-sucré
- 1 boîte de fromage
- 1 boîte de hachis de veau rôti
- 1 boîte de petits pois moyens
- 1 kg. de sucre
- 1 kg. de pâtes alimentaires.

montent à dépenser en Suisse:	sFr. 85.050.-
montent à dépenser à l'étranger:	30.150.- = sFr. 115.200.--
provision p/ frais d'achats, transitaires,	
assurances etc. à dépenser en Suisse:	3.800.--
	<hr/>
Total:	119.000.--

En envisageant cette seconde proposition, on dépenserait donc:

en Suisse	sFr. 85.050.--
à l'étranger	sFr. 33.950.--
	<hr/>
	sFr. 119.000.--

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 délivrer par les instances compétentes. Ces produits pourraient éventuellement être acheminés au Port-Franc de Genève-Cornavin, où ils pourraient être emballés dans des colis qui seraient groupés dans des caisses par 25 colis et envoyés, sous forme d'envoi collectif sans adresse particulière.

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3.- Action de secours en faveur des oeuvres d'assistance aux
Israélites à Cracovie.

CHF. 100.000.-

Suivant les renseignements en notre possession, les instances
compétentes allemandes auraient à nouveau autorisé l'envoi de
produits pharmaceutiques à destination de Cracovie. Nous pourrions
donc envoyer, en faveur des personnes précitées, du lait vitaminé
LACTISOL adosé comme fortifiant.

La somme de frs. 100.000.- prévis permettrait l'envoi de
ce lait à Cracovie à frs. 7,75 le kg = 93.000.-
provision pour participation aux frais d'adminis-
tration, assurance et transitaires CHF. 7.000.-

CHF. 100.000.-

montant à dépenser en Suisse: CHF. 100.000.-

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

CHF. 40.000.-

Pour les envois éventuels de colis dans les différents camps de
déportés en Hollande et en Haute Silésie, soit pour un montant de
frs. 20.000.- pour la Hollande et autant pour la Haute Silésie, nous
proposons l'envoi de colis standard de provenance hongroise, à
savoir des colis dits "froids" à CHF. 13,89 le colis, emballage et
participation aux frais d'administration de la Croix Rouge y compris,
ce qui permettrait l'expédition d'environ 2 fois 1350 colis, c.a.d.
un total de 2700 colis, représentant une somme de.....CHF.40.000.-
dont seraient dépensés en Suisse 8.100.-

et à l'étranger 29.403.-
37.503.-

provision pour frais d'achat, transi-
taires, assurances etc. 2.497.-
40.000.-

Répartition pour utilisation des fonds.-

1ère proposition:

A dépenser en Suisse.-

1) Bessarabie et Transnistrie	34.805.-	
2) Theresienstadt	100.000.-	
3) Cracovie	10.597.-	
4) Hollande et Hte. Silésie		CHF. 145.182.-
	A reporter	CHF. 185.182.-

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Report: . 188.182.--

A dépenser à l'étranger.-

.....

1) Bessarabie et Transnistrie	100.000.--	
2) Theresienstadt	84.415.--	
3) Cracovie	-----	
4) Hollande et Hte. Silésie	29.403.--	213.818.--

Apr. 359.000.--

2eme proposition:

A dépenser en Suisse.-

.....

1) Bessarabie et Transnistrie	-----	
2) Theresienstadt	85.050.--	
3) Cracovie	100.000.--	
4) Hollande et Hte. Silésie	10.597.--	195.647.--

A dépenser à l'étranger.-

.....

1) Bessarabie et Transnistrie	100.000.--	
2) Theresienstadt	33.950.--	
3) Cracovie	-----	
4) Hollande et Hte. Silésie	29.403.--	163.353.--

Apr. 359.000.--

SV/na 28.2.1944.

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G.85
G.59/2

February 29th, 1944.

~~Confidential~~

Dear Sirs,

Following upon our letter of February 17th, 1944, 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,
B E R N

10060

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 untried channels. Whereas we are able to state almost with certainty that relief consignments to Rumania, to Theresienstadt and to the "Jüdische Unterstützungsstelle" 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 of 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, ovaltine, etc.). These parcels could be sent also to the camps in Upper Silesia (if this is found to be possible), Croatia, 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 foodstuffs in Hungary and Rumania, 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-Marseilles (Geneva), on the other.

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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 the 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 schemes 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 civil 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 guaranteeing 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 acknowledgments 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 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

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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 snowball, 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 1450 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, Ovaltine 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 delegate 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. Burckhardt
Member of the International Committee
of the Red Cross.

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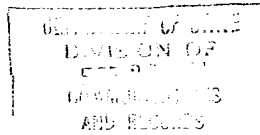
PLAIN
London

Dated February 24, 1944

Rec'd 11:59 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

1541, 24th.



[REDACTED] FOR LIMITED DISTRIBUTION FOR THE
WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Dr. Nahum Goldmann has recently discussed with me and with Casaday, Coville and Hoshler 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

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

-2- #1541, February 24, - from London

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

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-3- #1541, February 24, - from London

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 intercession 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

-4- #1541, February 24, - from London

the use of this money be given to the American Legation in Berne 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

-5- #1541, February 24, - from London

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 enquiries.

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