

Agreements with respect to Relief and
Rescue of Refugees: Relief Projects

Red Cross Aid in Rumania, Hungary, Slovakia,
Croatia, and Theresienstadt

File 3
Descending order
14-1

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174

7 0 0 6 2

CONTROL COPY

File out

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: February 19, 1944
NUMBER: 1051
x

FEB 22 1944

*512 Proposed call
2/26
confidential copy
not received*

We refer to the Department's 411, February 8.

Although he has not yet had an opportunity to do so, Salzmayr has been requested to call in order to be informed of the contents of Department's telegram under reference.

HARRISON

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

13

CONTROL COPY

Wm. Ruff see Bd (Mr. Kelly)

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: February 17, 1944
NUMBER: 995
x



In connection with Department's message number 437 dated February 9 Schwarenburg, a member of the Secretariat of the Intercross Committee, called at the Legation on February 17. Mr. Schwarenburg said that Intercross will report its proposed action to the Legation very soon, and he said that since publicity would undoubtedly prompt German measures to thwart relief, the surrounding of the program for relief action with complete secrecy would be absolutely necessary. That this aspect be brought to the attention of groups in the United States who are taking part in the program was requested by him.

Concerning the relief program, Saly Mayer is in contact with Intercross.

HARRISON

DOR:MPL
2/19/44

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

10062

MEMORANDUM

February 14, 1944

The State Department has advised that the cable to London making reference to the Embassy's No. 12660 of December 8 and stating the Treasury is issuing appropriate licenses to the Jewish Joint Distribution Committee for food and other supplies in Rumania and Hungary was despatched at 11 P. M., February 9, 1944. The cable was numbered 1020.

M. G. Taylor



00062

*War Refugee Bd
(Mr. Pehle)*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: February 13, 1944
NUMBER: 891
x

On February 11 there was transmitted by letter to Maxhuber, President of Intercross, the message contained in the Department's telegram of February 9, 1944, No. 437. On the same day a copy of the Legation's letter was sent to Saly, Mayer.

HARRISON

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

100620

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100624

2/12/44
OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

176



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

February 12, 1944

To: Mr. Pehle, Acting Director,
War Refugee Board

From: Mr. Raynor

There is attached a paraphrase of a
telegram from the American Legation in
Bern regarding the message recently sent
to the International Red Cross.

Enclosure:
Paraphrase of telegram
No. 838, February 10, 10 p.m.
from Bern.

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM

FROM American Legation at Bern
TO Secretary of State
DATED February 10, 1944
NO. 838

On February 8 Dr. Huber acknowledged the message communicated to the International Red Cross regarding war refugee work in Rumania, Slovakia, et cetera. He stated that the Committee is gratified by this evidence of interest in this problem and that it is happy to take advantage of the offer to transmit its reply to Washington. Several days will be required, however, in order to give consideration to the reply.

840.48 Refugees/5147

U:IJ
2-12-44

000631

9

000632

FEB 14 1944

AMT-198
This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Government
agency. (BR)

Bern
Dated February 10, 1944
Rec'd 5:25 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

838, February 10, 10 p.m.

Department's 279, January 27, 11 p.m.

Message communicated to International Red Cross
acknowledged on February 8 by Dr. Huber who states that
Committee is gratified by this evidence of interest in
this problem, that it will gladly avail itself of my
offer to transmit its reply to Washington, that reply
will however, require several days' consideration.

HARRISON

LMS

Re war refugee work in Rumania; Slovakia, et cetera.

10 6 3

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110153

C O P Y

CABLE #437 TO BEAM FROM THE BOARD

FEBRUARY 9, 1944

The following cable for the Minister from the War Refugee Board.

You are requested to transmit the following urgent message to International Red Cross, Geneva, Switzerland:

You are herewith referred to our recent cable requesting information concerning possible relief operations for Jews and other persecuted groups. We have examined your proposal made to Intergovernmental Committee in December through your London Delegation in which you requested that 300,000 Swiss francs be placed at your disposal to enable you to carry out the indicated relief program in Rumania, Hungary, Croatia, Slovakia and Theresienstadt, and such other relief actions as may become feasible. The necessary funds for this project are being made available to you immediately by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, and the Treasury Department has issued a license authorizing the Joint Distribution Committee to transmit to you the Swiss franc equivalent of \$100,000 for this purpose. You are authorized by the license to use the funds for the purchase of food and other supplies in neutral countries and in Rumania and Hungary and otherwise to carry out the above mentioned relief activities. You are requested to keep the War Refugee Board fully informed of the action which you take, as well as to indicate to the board what other assistance is needed to carry out this and similar operations.

It is requested that you fully cooperate with the International Red Cross and with representatives of the Joint Distribution Committee in this matter. You should transmit a copy of the above message promptly to Saly Mayer, in St. Gall, Switzerland, who is the Joint Distribution Committee representative.

HULL

(This copy was made from the one
in the bible)

7

1063

February 8, 1944

TO: Under Secretary Stettinius

FROM: J. W. Pehle

It will be appreciated if you will have dispatched immediately the attached cables to London and Bern.

It is to be noted that the cables pertain to a feeding program to be handled by the International Red Cross in Hungary, Rumania, Croatia and Czechoslovakia. This matter has been before the Intergovernmental Committee and was referred to me by Mr. Raynor on February 2, 1944, together with State's file on the matter which I am returning to you herewith.

/s/ J. W. Pehle

Sent via special messenger

*2/9/44 Mr. Raynor advised
that these two cables
will go out to-day
JWP.*

JWP
FHodel:hd 2/8/44

000630

*Call 1020
x
2/9 see memo
of 2/14 from State*

CABLE TO AMERICAN EMBASSY, LONDON

Refer Embassy despatch No. 12660, December 6, and enclosed letter from Director Intergovernmental Committee dated December 7, with respect to relief proposal of International Red Cross. Advise Director that War Refugee Board has approved proposal of Joint Distribution Committee here to make available at once to Red Cross \$100,000 to carry out program indicated, including purchase of food and other supplies in Hungary and Rumania. Appropriate licenses have been issued to Joint Distribution Committee by Treasury. War Refugee Board appreciates opportunity of expediting this project in which Intergovernmental Committee is interested. Licensing of the sending of private funds from United States for refugee projects will of course continue to be handled by Treasury upon approval of project by War Refugee Board.

JEF:dbk - 2/1/44

JEF JEF JEF

10630

RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JAN 10 1944
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR REFUGEE RELIEF
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Case 411 2/8

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON, BERN

Please transmit following urgent message to International Red Cross, Geneva, Switzerland, from War Refugee Board:

"Refer our recent cable requesting information regarding possible relief operations for Jews and other persecuted groups. We have examined your proposal made in December to Intergovernmental Committee through your London Delegation in which you requested that 300,000 Swiss francs be placed at your disposal in order to carry out the indicated relief program in Rumania, Croatia, Hungary, Slovakia and Theresienstadt, and such other relief actions as may become feasible. The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee is making available to you at once the necessary funds for this project, and the Treasury Department has issued a license authorizing the Joint Distribution Committee to transmit to you for the purpose the Swiss franc equivalent of \$100,000. The license authorizes you to use the funds for the purchase of food, and other supplies in neutral countries and in Hungary and Rumania and otherwise to carry out the above mentioned relief activities. You are requested to keep the War Refugee Board fully advised of the action taken by you, as well as to indicate to the Board what other assistance is needed to carry out this and similar operations."

You are instructed to cooperate fully with the International Red Cross and with representatives of the Joint Distribution Committee in this matter. You should transmit a copy of the above message promptly to Joint Distribution Committee representative, Saly Mayer in St. Gall, Switzerland.

BBF:bbk - 2/8/44

JH 8/37 Geo JMS

00063

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000640

February 5, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

The attached proposal of the International Red Cross to feed refugees in Rumania, Croatia, Hungary and Czechoslovakia was discussed at a meeting in Mr. Pehle's office today. In view of the immediate need for 300,000 Swiss francs and the possible delays contemplated by the regular Intergovernmental Committee procedures, it was decided that the War Refugee Board would approach the JDC for an immediate remittance to the International Red Cross of \$100,000 so that the program could get under way at once.

The matter was raised with Mr. Leavitt of the JDC and, after clearance with his people in New York, the War Refugee Board was advised that the JDC would be willing to remit \$100,000 at once to the International Red Cross in order that the program could get under way immediately.

In view of the foregoing, it was decided to refer the matter to Foreign Funds Control for the issuance of the necessary licenses. Mr. E. M. Bernstein was consulted on the Swiss franc problem. He agreed to make the Swiss francs available to the JDC from the Stabilization Fund.

Appropriate cables will be sent to the International Red Cross in Geneva through Minister Harrison and to London for the information of the Intergovernmental Committee.



F. Hodel

100641

RELIEF TO JEWS IN RUMANIA, SLOVAKIA, CROATIA
AND THERESIENSTADT THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL
COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS.

There is attached a report dated October 12, 1943 sent by the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva to the Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Washington. It will be noted that according to this report the International Committee of the Red Cross is in a position to bring substantial relief to Jews in Rumania, Slovakia, Croatia and Theresienstadt provided that substantial funds can be put at the disposal of this organization. The following is a brief summary of what can be done.

(a) Rumania. The Red Cross delegation in Bucharest has obtained from the Rumanian Government an authorization to visit the places where Jewish deportees are living, particularly Transnistria, and can supervise the distribution of food to these persons. It is indicated that the continued efforts of the Red Cross on behalf of these Jewish deportees will have tangible results, at least in the case of Transnistria. It is indicated at the same time that unfortunately funds have not been received from overseas to support this activity so that this assistance remains very limited and depends on contributions which have to be collected on the spot.

(b) Slovakia. The Red Cross has been in a position to distribute pharmaceutical products to Jews in Slovakia, which have been urgently needed. The Red Cross has submitted a list of these products to the interested Jewish organizations in Switzerland but these organizations have not been able to supply the Red Cross with funds. For this reason the desired medicines, which could have been bought in Switzerland, have not been secured.

(c) Croatia. It is indicated that if money can be made available, food can be obtained in sufficient quantities to bring relief to the Jews interned in Croatia. The

7 0 0 6 4 2

Red Cross has the names and internment places of the Jews in Croatia who it is stated are in great need of help.

(d) Theresienstadt. It is indicated that the Red Cross is now in a position to make shipments of food, tonics and medicines, including individual food parcels, to the Jews in Theresienstadt whose names are known, provided that funds can be put at their disposal for this purpose.

It will be noted that all of the above mentioned projects can go forward immediately if sufficient funds are made available to the International Committee of the Red Cross. It is recommended, therefore, that the Board take the necessary steps at once, including the obtaining of necessary licenses, so that \$2,000,000 will be made immediately available to the Committee to pay for the expenses of providing relief to the Jews in Rumania, Slovakia, Croatia and Theresienstadt, as well as relief to Jews and other persecuted peoples in any other areas in which the Red Cross may be able to bring relief.

Some of the funds required will come from private sources. If it is necessary to augment these private funds, funds will be obtained from the President's Emergency Fund for this purpose.

JRDuBois:ecr
1/24/44

0 0 0 6 4 3

*List by Mr. Shulman &
Roll Miller on 1/17/44*

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

Geneva, October 12, 1943

No 571

Central Agency
for Prisoners of War

Note to the Delegation of
the International Committee
of the Red Cross in Washington

G. 8/Pe. 659/2
G. 59/5 JES/HL

Re: your cable No. 510 of September 28, 1943 concerning
the Jewish problems.

We are glad to give you hereafter a new survey of this
question and answer you by letter to your above mentioned
cable because of the complexity of these problems.

ROUMANIA

The Relief action on behalf of the Jewish deportees
in Transnistria (Ukraine) seems to begin under ~~favorable~~
~~auspices~~ favorable auspices and we hope to be able to
have food distributed to these deportees with money
raised in Switzerland and with the assistance of the
Roumanian authorities and Red Cross. Unfortunately,
we do not receive any funds from overseas, not more
for this action than for similar others, so that this
assistance must remain very limited and depends on con-
tributions which we have to collect on the spot.

Our delegation in Bucarest has obtained from the Roumanian
government an authorization to visit the places where
these deportees are living and to supervise the distri-
bution. We also receive lists of names of these depor-
tees. We are therefore entitled to hope that the con-
tinued efforts of the International Committee of the
Red Cross on behalf of the Jewish deportees, will have
some tangible result, at least in the case of Trans-
nistria.

We can add that a first report of our delegate has just
announced a certain number of ~~improvements~~ improvements obtained
because of our intervention. For instance, Jewish
children have been gathered at Odessa, in view of their
emigration to Palestine. All facilities of travel and
supervision in Transnistria have been granted to our de-
legation during a conference with the President of the
Council of Ministers, who showed his sympathy towards
the initiative taken by the International Committee of
the Red Cross in the question of assistance to the Jews
and promised ~~his~~ his entire support.

100643

Geneva, October 12, 1943

EMIGRATION

This problem has reached a deadlock at this time. As Bulgaria has declared not to be in a position to authorize the passage of Jews, the emigration by railroad has become impossible.

Although the International Committee of the Red Cross did not want to assume itself the charge of organization of transports by sea, it has nevertheless promised to support the efforts displayed in Rumania, especially by the Red Cross, in order to find ways and means of securing exit permits for Jews admitted to emigrate to Palestine. Unfortunately, these plans have not had any success until now, and we have only very little hope to succeed. The reasons are in the first place, the lack of appropriate ships and also, as we believe, lack of funds. Moreover, the situation in the Black Sea does not seem to allow at present, travel by sea, and we ask ourselves even whether, under these circumstances, the necessary safe-conducts could be secured from the belligerents for these ships. But this problem has also a financial aspect. The present regulations concerning the transfer of funds from overseas, do not allow the persons desirous to emigrate, to count on outside financial support. It is therefore up to the Rumanians to secure themselves the necessary funds. This financial question is in direct relation with the possibility of finding appropriate ships for the transport of these persons. The ships which were considered, so far, do not meet the conditions governing the grant of the insignia of the International Committee of the Red Cross and of its protection; Besides these ships will not be authorized to leave the Rumanian ports. We follow, however, this question very closely and we shall not fail to intervene in case the least change should occur which would let foresee a possible favorable solution of this matter.

SLOVAKIA

The situation is unchanged, and we have no further knowledge of deportations. The only help which was urgently requested, concerned pharmaceutical products, and we communicated the list of these products to the interested Jewish organizations in Switzerland. As these organizations could not supply us with funds, we have not been able to secure the desired medicines, although we could have bought them in Switzerland.

000645

Geneva Letter

Geneva, October 12, 1943

CROATIA

The Jews whose names and internment place in that country we know, seem indeed to be in great need of help, a Jewish organization in Switzerland makes efforts to assist them but the clothes which are especially lacking, are absolutely unfindable, and all exportation from Switzerland, even of used clothing, is prohibited. (Money can ~~not~~ buy food in sufficient quantity in that country.) The hostilities going on at present in Croatia do not allow a clear picture of the situation and of the perspectives concerning the Jews. We do not receive any ~~more~~ information on the entire southern part of the country.

our

With/note No. 528 of September 16, we sent you copies of certain letters concerning the activity of the "Juedische Unterstuetzungsstelle fuer das Generalgouvernement". Unfortunately, shipments ready to be sent, had to be ~~withheld~~ held back and we do not think to be able, until further notice, to send shipments to Gracow. The letters we sent you have, therefore, only a documentary interest. There are constant variations in this question, and what is allowed and can be realized one day, might be suspended the ~~next~~ following day. We are, therefore, not in a position to give ~~any~~ assurance for the future.

We received the following cable from the World Jewish Congress: "submitting you through your Washington office list Jewish internees in Theresienstadt with the request to transmit parcels with food to them stop kindly inform us your decision." (WJC Arish Tartakower)

May we ask you to answer the World Jewish Congress along the following lines:

We have delayed our answer to this ~~with~~ cable, dated September 7, for technical reasons. The International Committee of the Red Cross has not concerned itself so far, with the dispatch of individual parcels to persons other than prisoner of war or civilian internees. In Germany and in the occupied countries, the Jews are not considered as civilian internees, neither in the ghettos nor in the concentration- or labor camps. The shipments of food, tonics and ~~and~~ medicines made by the "Commission

100646

Geneva Letter

-4-

Geneva, October 12, 1945

Mixte" to the Jews in Theresienstadt, for instance, have always been collective shipments. The creation within the Committee of a new service concerning itself with individual food parcels has become necessary, and we have, therefore, waited for the solution of this problem ~~is~~ before answering the cable of the WJC. This question is now solved. and we will be in a position, in the future, to dispatch individual parcels among others also to the Jews in Theresienstadt whose names we know, provided of course that funds be put at our disposal to this effect. We would consequently be ~~extremely~~ grateful if this last point which was not dealt with in the above mentioned cable of Mr. Tartakower, could be settled, as soon as possible, if it is desired that the International Committee of the Red Cross be able to act.

For the International Committee of the
Red Cross

(signed) Schwayenberg

Division of Prisoners, Internees and
Civilians

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000648

OFFICE OF
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

February 2, 1944

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I enclose herewith a Department of State file pertaining to the administration of relief for surviving refugees in Europe together with a copy of a cable on the matter which has been prepared in the Department. It appears, however, that the proposed cable and cable No. 279 to Bern, sent at the request of the War Refugee Board, are not entirely consistent. We think, therefore, that appropriate representatives of the War Refugee Board may wish to review this file and perhaps draft a more appropriate communication to London on the matter. Will you be good enough to return the enclosed file to me after it has been reviewed.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Hayden Raynor
Hayden Raynor

Encs.

Mr. John W. Pehle,
Director of Foreign Funds Control,
Department of the Treasury,
Washington, D. C.

No. A

Time

AMEMBASSY,

LONDON.

Concerning the proposal that relief for surviving Jewish refugees in Europe be administered by the International Red Cross referred to in the Embassy's despatch No. 12660, December 8, and its enclosure of a letter from the Director of the Intergovernmental Committee, dated December 7, the Department requests that you transmit to the Director the following comments which refer to numbered paragraphs of his letter under reference:

2. The Department agrees to the sum of three hundred thousand Swiss francs, but this Government cannot contribute its share until funds which have been requested have been authorized. You will be advised as soon as funds for this purpose are available.

The request of the International Red Cross for permission to purchase food and supplies in Hungary and Rumania will be considered jointly by the State Department, the Treasury Department and the British Embassy. The Department will advise you as soon as possible concerning the results of the discussions.

3. (a) Approximately two million dollars.
(b) This Government is prepared to share equally with the British Government such part of the total cost as remains after contributions have been received from private organizations. The share of each

of the

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

of the two governments may amount to four million dollars. In this connection the President has approved a request for funds, and we are asking Congress for an appropriation.

The Department concurs in the suggestions concerning the Intergovernmental Committee contained in sub-paragraphs (1), (2) and (3) of the Director's letter under reference.

The Department also concurs in the proposal that the Intergovernmental Committee should be the authority through which private as well as government funds are received and disbursed for the purpose of aiding and transporting refugees.

With further reference to the Director's letter, the Department is studying the suggestion that the Intergovernmental Committee be designated as the authority through which private organizations would approach the American and British Governments for licenses directly concerned with the relief of refugees in Europe and be the authority responsible for the fulfillment of conditions imposed. As there is no necessity for an immediate decision concerning this proposal, the Department will advise you further regarding it.

Please advise the Department when the project under reference is submitted to the Executive Committee of the Intergovernmental Committee.

840.48 Refugees/4870

1/26/44

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AMERICAN EMBASSY

No. 12660

London, December 8, 1943.

Subject: Refugee Relief Project Through
The International Red Cross.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

In pursuance of the Department's telegram No. 7287, November 17, 1943 and the Embassy's telegram No. 8328, November 29, to the Department, I have the honor to enclose herewith the text of a letter dated December 7, 1943 from the Director of the Intergovernmental Committee setting forth the present status of the proposal for relief of refugees in Europe through the International Red Cross. It will be noted that the Director seeks clarification from the American and British Governments with regard to certain points, after which the proposal will be submitted to the Executive Committee.

The Department's instructions are requested.

Respectfully yours,
For the Charge d'Affaires ad interim:

/s/ W. J. GALLMAN
W. J. Gallman
First Secretary of Embassy

Enclosures:

1. Copy of letter of December 7, 1943 (171/98) from the Director of the Intergovernmental Committee.
2. Copy of translation of telegram from International Red Cross Committee to London Delegation.
3. Copy of Memorandum by Mr. Schwartz, dated November 14, 1943.

CC/PB

840.48 REFUGEES/AS70

PS/JB

1055

COPY

Enclosure No. 1 to despatch
No. 12660 of December 8, 1943,
from the Embassy at London,
England.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE

Director:
Sir Herbert Emerson,
G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I., C.B.E.

11d Regent Street,
London, S.W.1.

7th December, 1943.

171/98

Dear Mr. Bucknell:

In continuation of my letter No. 17/98, dated 26th November, 1943, relating to the question of relief to groups of surviving Jews in Europe, I am now writing to say that we have received through the London Delegation, a reply from the International Red Cross. This was in German, and was sent in cipher through the Swiss Legation in London. I attach a copy of the translation. (Enclosure I). You will see from this, first, that the International Red Cross is already in a position, through existing Red Cross Delegates, to undertake distribution and to exercise effective control in Rumania, Croatia and Hungary; second, that it is prepared to set up a Delegation for the purpose in Slovakia and, third, that so far as Germany and occupied territories are concerned, both the opportunities and agencies for affording relief are much more uncertain, except that relief can be given to internees in Theresienstadt. Even in these territories, however, other opportunities are likely to arise from time to time.

2. In order to take advantage of existing and potential opportunities, the International Red Cross has suggested that the sum of 300,000 Swiss francs should be placed at its disposal. This appears to be a reasonable request. It would render regular accounts, and would observe the other conditions stated by us, and mentioned in my letter to you of 26th November. You will observe, however, that the International Red Cross has laid stress on the difficulty of purchasing food and other requirements in neutral countries, and has, therefore, suggested that it should have authority to make purchases in Hungary and in Roumania, where it is still possible to obtain certain varieties of food. This suggestion raises a question of policy affecting the blockade, on which we are not in a position to express any opinion, but which will, no doubt, be considered by the American and British Governments.

3. Before we are in a position to place the scheme before the Executive Committee, there are several points which require clarification:-

First there is the question of the source, or sources from which the necessary funds will be furnished. In your letter of the 1st October, 1943, there was the suggestion that private funds were available in the United States, but that in any case your Government, in consultation with the British Government, would be prepared to regard the project, if approved by the Executive Committee, as one, the cost of which, should be shared equally by the American and British Governments, subject, of course, to previous consultation with the two Governments before the project was sanctioned or expenditure incurred thereon. The matters requiring clarification from the financial point of view are, therefore, the following:-

- (a) What part of the funds, if any, will be supplied from private sources? and
- (b) are the British and American Governments prepared to share the cost in so far as it is not met from private funds?

The further point relates to the functions of the Intergovernmental Committee. It is suggested, as implied in your letter of October 1, 1943, that the Intergovernmental Committee should be the authority,

- (1) through which funds are placed at the disposal of the International Red Cross,
- (2) to which the International Red Cross would render regular accounts, and
- (3) which would be responsible to see that the conditions attaching to the grant are satisfied by the International Red Cross.

We would suggest that this should apply not only to funds from Government sources, but also to funds, if any, from private sources. You will remember that one of the recommendations adopted by the Executive Committee at its meeting of the 4th August, 1943, was that "the Executive Committee shall be empowered to receive and disperse for the purposes of preserving, maintaining and transporting refugees, funds both public and private."

The present occasion seems to be a suitable one to introduce the principle of utilising the Intergovernmental Committee, in suitable cases, for the expenditure of private funds, and since the manner in which the funds in this particular case

are to be expended is subject to certain conditions, and can only be made available in the countries concerned through licence, it seems reasonable that, if the Intergovernmental Committee is to be the authority responsible to see that the conditions are satisfied, it should be the agency through which funds are placed at the disposal of the International Red Cross.

When the above points are clarified the case will be submitted to the Executive Committee for consideration.

4. During the course of our enquiry, we have obtained some information regarding the relief which is already being given to Jews in Europe. We had the advantage of discussion, while he was in London, with Mr. Schwartz, Executive Head in Europe of the Joint Distribution Committee, and he was good enough to give us a memorandum of what his organisation is doing in this direction. I attach a copy of his note (Enclosure II).

In this connection I may also refer to my letter to you of the 10th November, requesting certain information relating to licences granted by the United States Treasury for similar purposes. We have not received a reply to that letter, or to a similar letter which was addressed to the British Foreign Office. We are, therefore, not in a position to comment fully on this means of assistance, but we would suggest that, where it is organised and carried out by reliable and experienced bodies, such as the Joint Distribution Committee, it deserves all the encouragement that can be given, consistent with considerations of policy. It might be convenient for the Intergovernmental Committee to become the authority through which all private bodies should approach the American and British Governments for licences directly concerned with the relief of refugees in Europe, and to be the authority responsible to see that such conditions as may be imposed by those Governments are satisfied. This, however, is a matter of a more general character, which should not be allowed to delay the disposal of the specific case now under consideration.

I have sent a copy of this letter to Mr. Randall.

Yours sincerely,

/s/ H. M. Emerson.

Howard Bucknell, Jr.,
Embassy of the United States of America,
1, Grosvenor Square, W.1.

Enclosure 2 to despatch
No. 12660 of December 8, 1948
from the Embassy at London,
England.

ENCLOSURE I

INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS COMMITTEE TO LONDON DELEGATION

(Translation of Telegram received in German in cipher by
Swiss Legation, London, on December 3rd, 1948)

Your cable No. 2508 and letter No. 2671 clarified the questions referred to us. International Red Cross Committee is grateful to have confidence of World Jewish Congress and Intergovernmental Committee. According to them, relief action is envisaged only for Jews, and not, as World Jewish Congress anticipated at the beginning, generally for people affected by war without discrimination as to race and religion. The difficulties pointed out in our No. 7636 concerning Jewish relief are due to the fact that the German authorities do not recognise any official immixture of the International Red Cross Committee in such matters, which they regard as having internal political character. There are, however, the following possibilities of relief action:

1. Roumania, Croatia, Hungary. The presence of Red Cross Delegate permits the setting up of distribution machinery and effective control. Needs in those parts are known to us.

2. Slovakia. We would foresee setting up of Delegation in so far as means put at our disposal would justify relief action.

3. Germany and Occupied Territories. Possibilities of action much more limited and in part recently entirely suppressed. Lack of funds prevented us frequently from starting relief work on behalf of Jews, particularly in Poland. At present Theresienstadt with a minimum of 50,000 Jews plus deportees from Denmark is probably only place where relief despatches would certainly reach recipients. Extension of relief action might open new possibilities which previously had to be abandoned owing to lack of funds. We propose to Intergovernmental Committee to put a maximum of 300,000 Swiss Francs at our disposal in order to be able to carry out quickly relief actions as the occasion arises, and in so far as there is a guarantee to administer relief according to purpose for which designed. We would report in respect of each relief action carried out as well as in respect of goods purchased and despatched and about success. In view of the

fact that possibilities of purchase from neutrals are extremely limited and insufficient, it would be desirable to have authority to use funds for purchases in Hungary and especially Roumania, where it is possible to obtain dried vegetables, soups, farinaceous products (pates alimentaires), tinned goods, flour, cured meats, venison and fats. From neutrals medicaments and pharmaceutical products are obtainable. We accept without any reservations conditions (1) to (4) of your cable 2508. Detailed letter will follow shortly.

C O P Y

Enclosure 3 to despatch No.
12660 of December 8, 1943,
from the Embassy at London,
England.

MEMORANDUM BY MR. SCHWARTZ

HELP TO GROUPS OF REFUGEES IN EUROPE

The Joint Distribution Committee sends food parcels from Lisbon to the Jews in the Theresienstadt Concentration Camp and also to the Jews in Poland, particularly those in the ghettos. In the case of Theresienstadt the Czech Government sends food parcels to their nationals who are interned in that Camp while the J.D.C. sends its parcels largely to non-Czechs who are in the Camp. The Czech Government are sending to-day about 6,000 parcels a month to 3,000 of its nationals while the J.D.C. sends about 5,000 packages to 2,500 non-Czech nationals. The packages contain sardines, dried fruits and almonds, and each package weighs about 500 grammes so that each internee on our list receives 1 kg. of food per month. These packages are sent under License from the United States Treasury which has authorised the expenditure of 12,000 dollars a month for this purpose. Only food indigenous to Portugal may be sent under the Licence. The United States Legation at Lisbon must be satisfied that the parcels are reaching their proper destination.

In the case of Poland the evidence of receipt has become scarcer and scarcer and because of this the sending of parcels has, for the time, been stopped. Later, communication has been taken up with the Jewish Community in Cracow which has acknowledged receipt of parcels addressed to them. They undertook further distribution of these parcels. It is hoped that through the Jewish Committee in Cracow, it will now be possible to distribute more food parcels to Jews in Poland. Under our Licence, we are authorised to spend \$12,000 a month for packages to Poland.

At the present time, the J.D.C. is sending about 1000 parcels a month from Teheran to Polish refugees in Russia. Customs' duties and postage account for two thirds of the total cost of the packages. Sending a case with \$12 worth of food costs in the neighbourhood of \$40. Recently, we have been able to purchase food supplies and clothing in India, South Africa and Palestine for the refugees in Russia, and it is hoped that these supplies will make up about 20,000 packages to be sent between October 15th and December 31st, 1943. The purchase of

these supplies and the dispatch to Russia will cost about 140,000 Pound Sterling of which the J.D.C. is furnishing £90,000 and relatives in Palestine are putting up the balance. It is hoped that in time we shall be able to develop facilities for the dispatch of about 10,000 parcels per month to Polish refugees in Russia.

The Lend-Lease Organisation has stock of goods in Iran intended originally for the Poles. Owing to strained official relations, the U.S.S.R. does not permit the importation of these goods through Polish channels but would grant import permission if the J.D.C. took the goods over. Negotiations concerning this are now in progress. Also the Polish Red Cross owns some stocks in Iran which they are not now able to send to Russia. We are negotiating with the Poles for the purchase of these supplies to be sent on a non-sectarian basis to Polish refugees in Russia.

The Turkish Government has agreed to permit the export of 250 tons of food stuffs from Turkey to the 75,000 Jews actually in Transnistria. The goods will be sent out in individual packages, and the distribution will be under the auspices of the International Red Cross whose Ankara delegate is co-operating very closely. The J.D.C. has applied to the State Department for a licence to remit funds for the purchase of these supplies. The State Department has indicated that this may be referred to the Inter-Governmental Committee for decision and has also indicated that, in future, all projects for the sending of food packages to any part of occupied Europe may have to be passed upon by the Inter-Governmental Committee.

It is estimated that there are now some 30,000 Jews in Dutch concentration camps, particularly, at Westerbork. Our information is to the effect that the food situation is particularly bad, and we have applied for a licence to send food packages from Lisbon. The matter is now pending.

It is not possible to export food or clothing from Switzerland, but some medical supplies as well as an occasional shipment of powdered milk in bulk can be sent. The organizations in Switzerland, with the co-operation of the International Red Cross, occasionally send such bulk supplies to institutions in Poland as well as to Theresienstadt.

1065

Summing it up, it can be stated that the chief difficulties in sending help to refugee groups in occupied Europe are:-

- 1.) to get the parcels through to them.
- 2.) to obtain the necessary Licence.
- 3.) to find the necessary food supplies.

In general, the International Red Cross has signified its readiness to help when a definite proposal is placed before them, and the necessary funds are provided for a particular project.



1 0 0 0 1

Official File Copy

LML - 441

PLAIN

London

Dated February 1, 1944

Rec'd 6:19 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

883, February 1.

Please instruct what reply Embassy should make to Foreign Office letter of January 28 requesting comments on IGC directors December 7 letter (enclosure one despatch 12660 December 8) and suggesting that advice of British and American blockade authorities should now be invited on proposal that three hundred thousand Swiss francs be placed at disposal of International Red Cross for relief action in favor of Jews in enemy territory. Foreign Office letter states that this could conveniently be done by consultation with MEW and EWD which have appropriate procedure established.

Foreign Office further states: "We should under the usual safeguards be glad to facilitate help from Jewish organizations to their coreligionists in enemy occupied

-2- 883, February 1, from London

occupied territory insofar as blockade requirements permit and the demands on foreign exchange facilities for this purpose can be fairly and conveniently coordinated with those of Allied governments for the general relief of their nationals in such territory; and would be glad to know in particular what the views of the State Department would be regarding the provision of funds from public sources as opposed to contributions by private charitable organizations. This point seems to us to raise important questions of principle and we should be glad to discuss it further with you if you can indicate your government's attitude."

WINANT

WWC

7 0 0 6 6

3

000664

TELEGRAM SENT

MO
This telegram must be
paraphrased before being 11 p.m.
communicated to anyone
other than a Government
Agency. (BR)

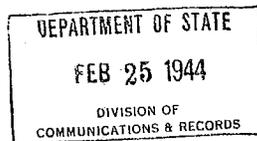
January 27, 1944

Cheney (FFC)
W. H. Hadel
Room 190
FEB 28 1944

U.S. URGENT

AMERICAN LEGATION

BERN
*
279



FOR THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS, GENEVA, FROM THE
WAR REFUGEE BOARD. We are familiar with the report (con-
tained in your Cable 571 of October 12, 1943, to your
Washington Delegation) concerning possible feeding pro-
grams in Rumania, Theresienstadt, Slovakia and Croatia
and the need of funds therefor. We desire immediate
information concerning what areas you could operate in
right now, assuming that necessary funds are made
available to you, to provide food and medicines to
Jews and other persecuted groups in German-occupied
areas who are denied the facilities available to the
rest of the population. Please advise where food,
medicines, and other supplies can be purchased and how
much money is needed. We are prepared to see that funds
are made available at once for necessary operations.

HULL
(AAB)

J. W. PEHLE, TREASURY DEPARTMENT
PER PHONE CONVERSATION WITH E. R. STETTINIUS, JR.

U:HW:W

000665



000666

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

INTER OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE January 27, 1944

TO Miss Hodel
FROM J. W. Pehle

Mr. Berle advised me at 4:20 this afternoon that the cable
on the International Red Cross would go out today.

J. W. Pehle

CC: DuBois, Lesser, Schmidt, Fox
Friedman

70066

Official File Copy

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

January 27, 1944

I am transmitting to you herewith for urgent despatch to
Minister Harrison at Bern a cable to the International Red Cross,
which is self-explanatory.

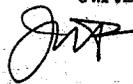
I am advising the War Department.

(signed) J. W. Pehle

H. Morgenthau, Jr.

(Secret Service Agent Sherwood carried this to Stettinius at 11:20 A. M.)

JWP:mgf 1/27/44



1066

CABLE TO BERN

Please transmit the following urgent message to the International Red Cross, Geneva, Switzerland, from the War Refugee Board:

"We are familiar with the report (contained in your cable No. 571 of October 12, 1943, to your Washington Delegation) concerning possible feeding programs in Rumania, Theresienstadt, Slovakia and Croatia and the need of funds therefor. We desire immediate information concerning what areas you could operate in right now, assuming that necessary funds are made available to you, to provide food and medicines to Jews and other persecuted groups in German-occupied areas who are denied the facilities available to the rest of the population. Please advise where food, medicines, and other supplies can be purchased and how much money is needed. We are prepared to see that funds are made available at once for necessary operations."

JH JSP MM JWP

7 0 0 6 6 3

CABLE TO BERN

Please transmit the following urgent message to the International Red Cross, Geneva, Switzerland, from the War Refugee Board:

"We are familiar with the report (contained in your cable No. 571 of October 12, 1943, to your Washington Delegation) concerning possible feeding programs in Rumania, Theresienstadt, Slovakia and Croatia and the need of funds therefor. We desire immediate information concerning what areas you could operate in right now, assuming that necessary funds are made available to you, to provide food and medicines to Jews and other persecuted groups in German-occupied areas who are denied the facilities available to the rest of the population. Please advise where food, medicines, and other supplies can be purchased and how much money is needed. We are prepared to see that funds are made available at once for necessary operations."



000671

The two following cables were dictated to Mrs. Sheppe over 'phone by Mr. Leavitt on January 27, 1944.

CABLE 594

REGARDING FOOD SHIPMENTS TRANSNISTRIA CHAIM BARLASH BEYOOLU ADVISES EVERYTHING READY FOR EXPEDITION BUT FOR TIME BEING INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS ADVISES DELAY STOP MEANWHILE SUGGEST YOU AMEND LICENSE ORDER INCLUDE THERESIENSTADT, GREECE, YUGOSLAVIA THIS SCHEME STOP INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS PROPOSES SEND THREE WAGONS THERESIENSTADT STOP PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST.

JOS. SCHWARTZ

CABLE 607

COMMISSION MIXTE OF INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS ADVISES POSSIBLE SEND INDIVIDUAL FOOD PACKAGES FROM SWITZERLAND TO INTERNEES THERESIENSTADT OTHER CAMPS STOP EACH PACKAGE WILL CONTAIN VARIETY OF FOOD NOT OBTAINABLE PORTUGAL INCLUDING FATS, BISCUITS, BOUILLON, SOUP CUBES ETC. COST OF EACH PACKAGE SEVENTEEN SWISS FRANCS. STOP PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER WE MAY USE FUNDS AUTHORIZED FOR THERESIENSTADT OTHER CAMPS FOR PURCHASE PACKAGES IN SWITZERLAND ALSO WHETHER ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THIS PURPOSE WILL BE LICENSED.

JOS. SCHWARTZ

CC - Messrs. Pehle, Luxford, DuBois, E. M. Bernstein, Lesser, Friedman
Miss Hodel

000672

The Following Pages Are the Best Available

110673

Food Parcel Service to Romania to Theresienstadt.

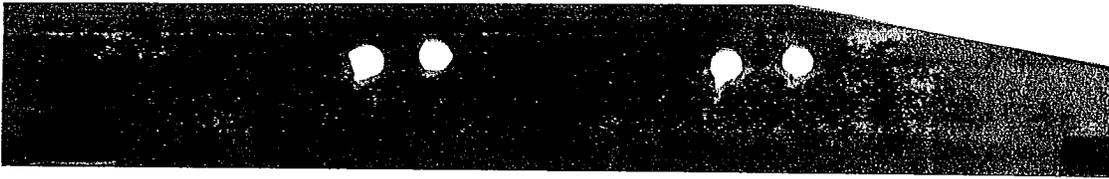
This is a series of photos showing the packing of 10,000 parcels of food sent by the American Joint Distribution Committee to refugees and evacuees from Transylvania and to internees in Theresienstadt.

The total shipment weighed in excess of 50 tons which were shipped by carload from Istanbul to Bucharest and there redistributed by the International Red Cross.

Each parcel weighing 15 lbs, wrapped in textile bags, (which can be used for clothing) contained hazel nuts, figs, raisins, banana, a refined residue of raisin, and apricots and soap.

This shipment of fifty tons is the first of a total initial shipment of two-hundred-and fifty tons of supplies on licence to this area.

This project is carried out under the supervision of Reuben B. Resnik, Middle East Director of American Joint Distribution Committee.



000675



No: 8

Supplies being loaded into Romanian freight cars.
(Note name on side of cars)

7 0 6 7



000677



N:10
Ready for Shipment. R. B. Resnik and shipment experts examining food supplies, part of the 10,000 food parcels for Refugees, before loading on freight cars.

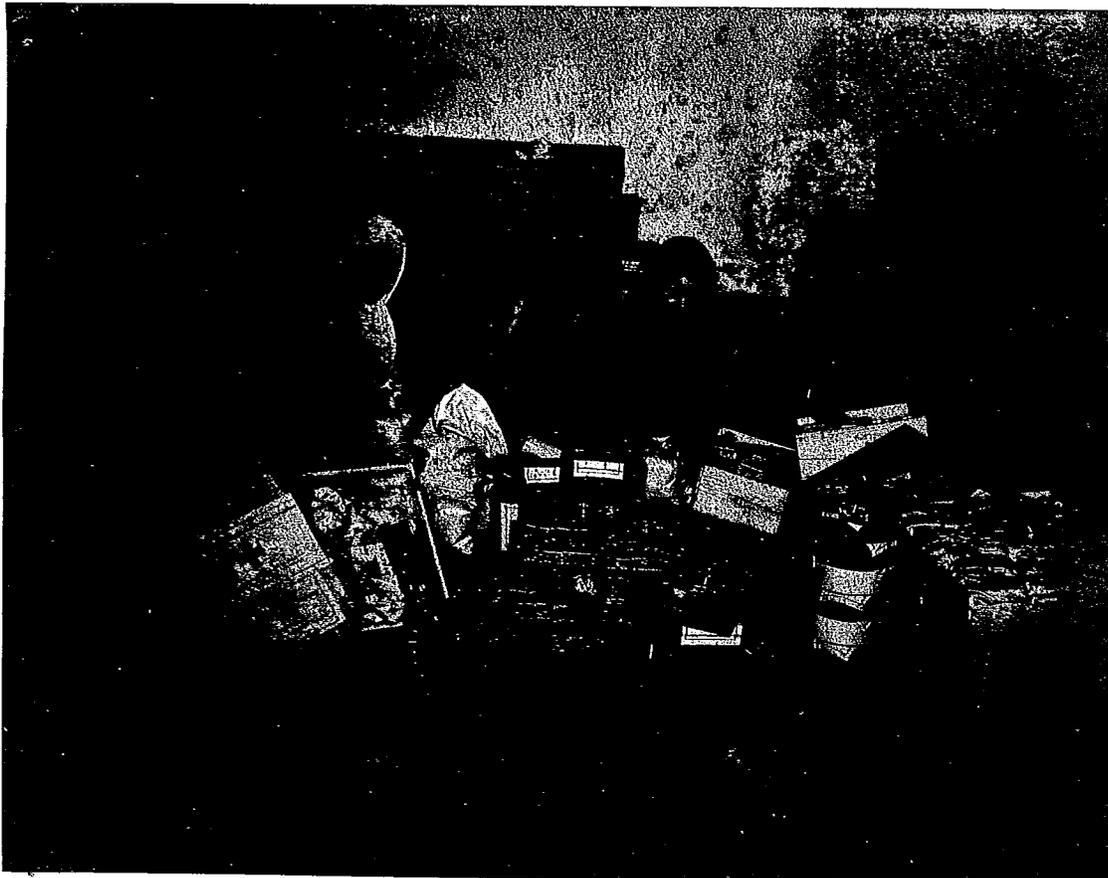
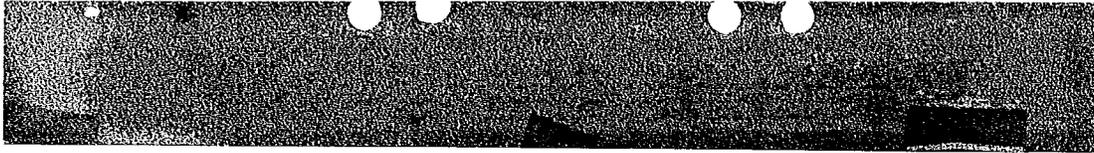
000678



000679

Mill
Food supplies for Romanian in burlap bags and officially
stamped with international Red Cross seals. Note burlap
any of quality that they can be used for clothing Mate-
rial.

000680



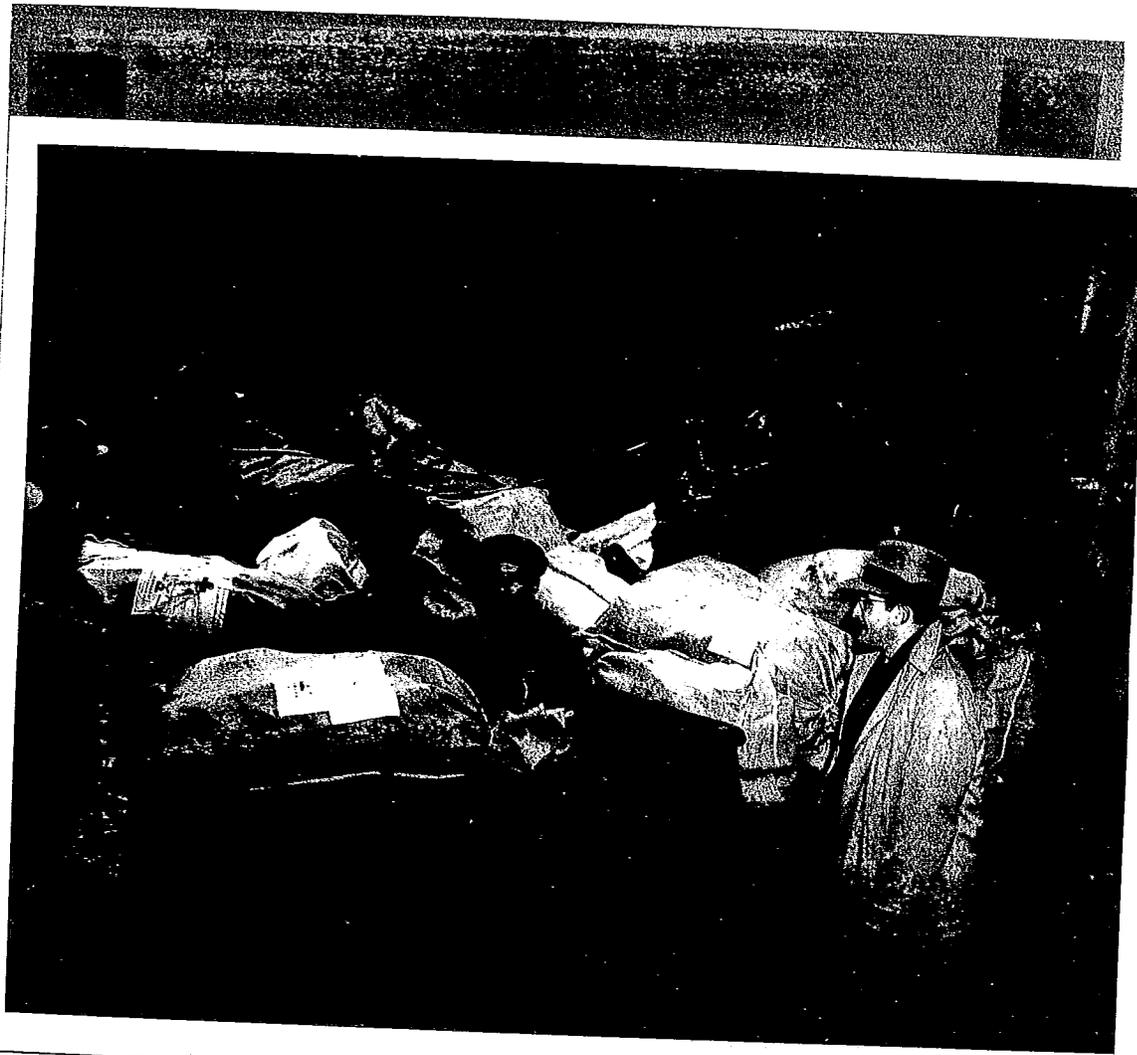
000681



No:1

Photo shows packing and wrapping food and supplies which consisted of hazel nuts, figs, raisins, biscuits, a conspicuous residue from raisins, apricots, figs and soap.

000682



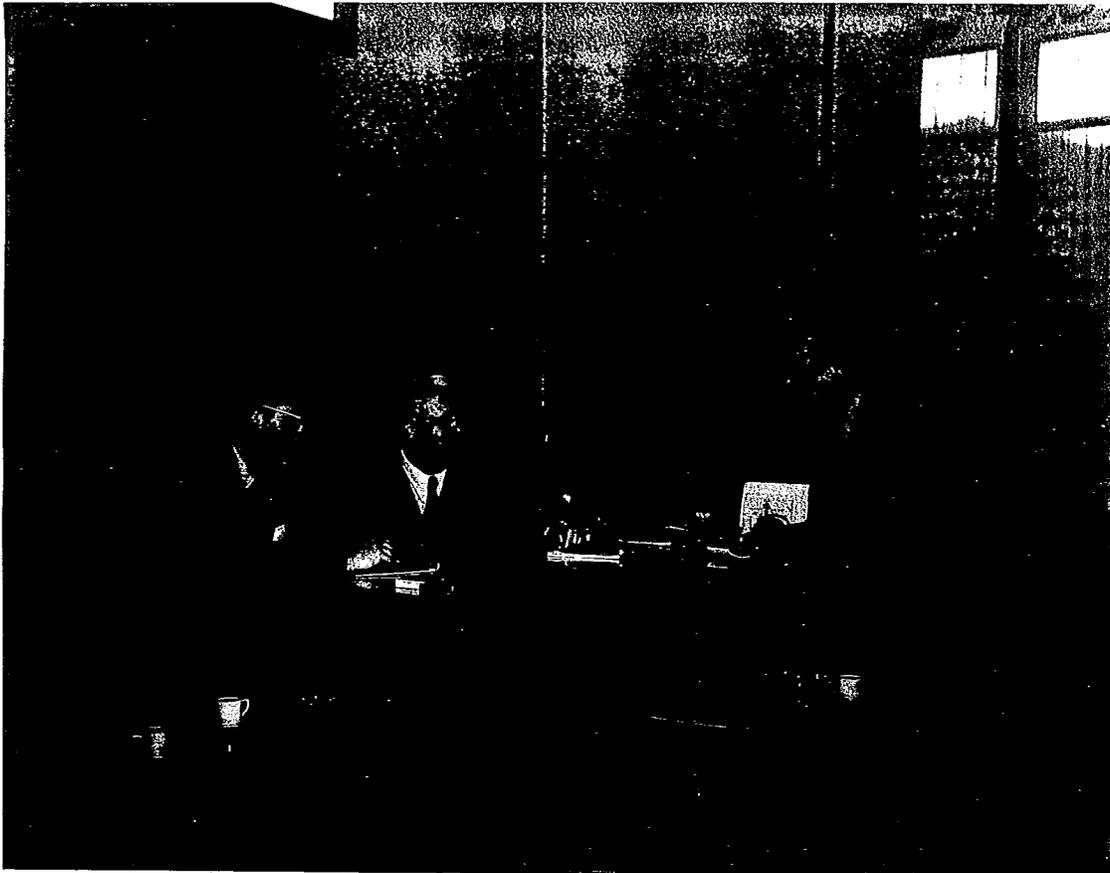
7 0 6 8 3



No:2.

Loading the supplies onto gray wagons. Mr. R.E. Rennie, standing to the right of photo checking each load.

7 0 0 6 8 4



000000

No:5

International Red Cross and American Relief
Experts with Turkish shipping executive.
Left right: Reuben B. Resnik, Middle East Director
of American Joint Distribution Committee--and
Sipiahioglu, Turkish shipping Director and Joseph Beretta
representative of the International Red Cross.

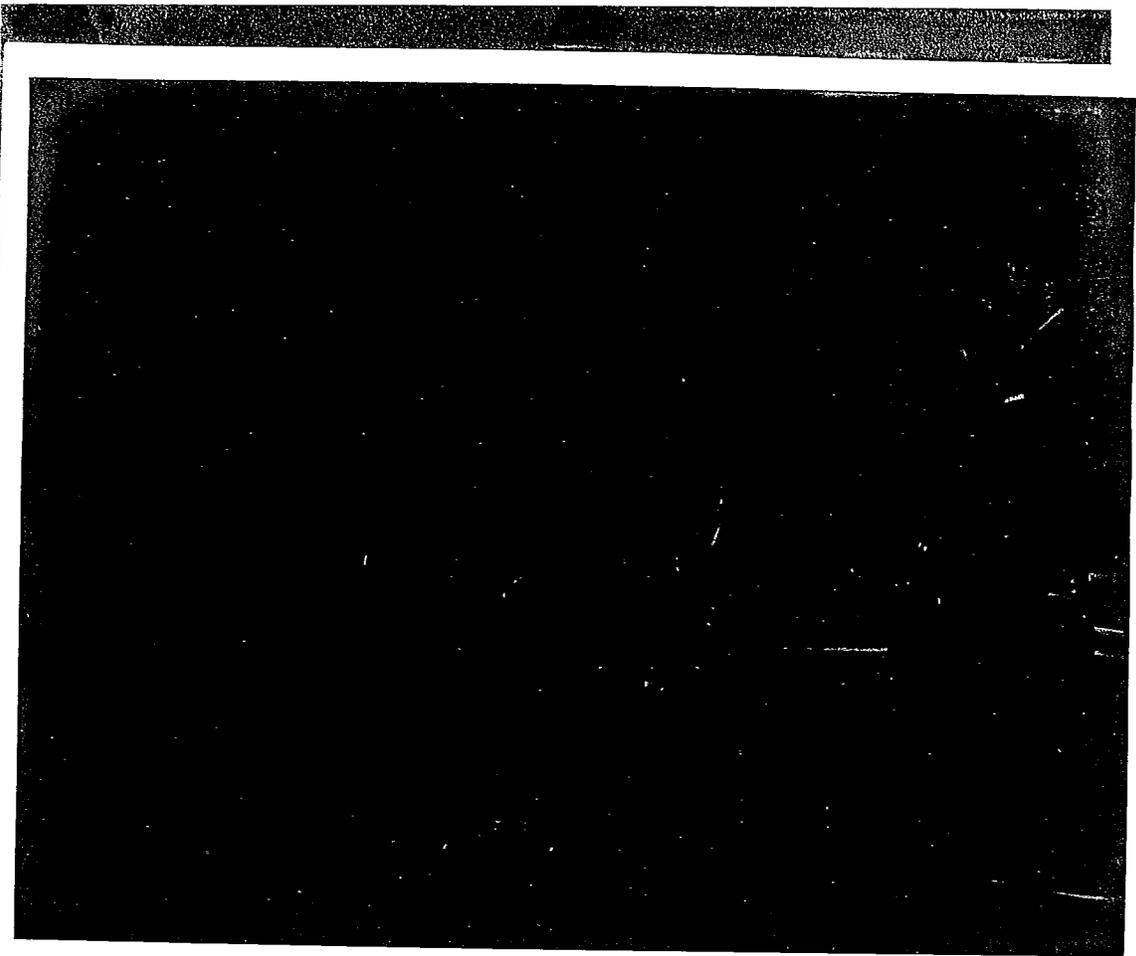
1065



7 0 6 8

No:5

International Red Cross and American Relief
Experts with Turkish shipping executive.
Left to right: Reuben D. Resnik, Middle East Director
of American Joint Distribution Committee--Metos
Sipiahoglu, Turkish shipping Director and Joseph Beretta
representative of the International Red Cross.



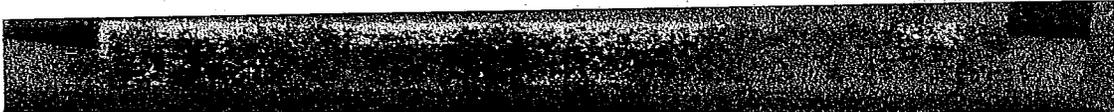
000689



No:6 International Red Cross and American Relief Experts
with Turkish shipping executive.
Left to right: Joseph Beretta, representative of the
International Red Cross--Kemal Siplanoglu, Turkish
Shipping director and R.B. Resnik, Middle East Director
of American Joint Distribution Committee



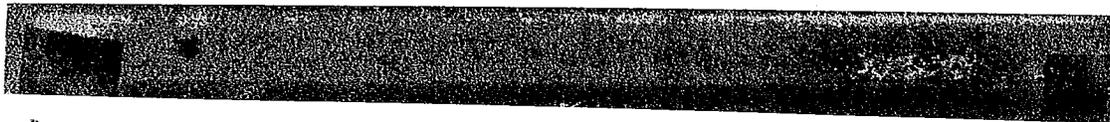
70069



No:6-a

International Red Cross and American Relief
experts with Turkish shipping executive.
Left to right: Joseph Beretta, representative of the
International Red Cross--R.S. Resnik, Middle East Direc-
tor of American Joint Distribution Committee, and Mehmet
Sipiaoglu, Turkish shipping director.

0069

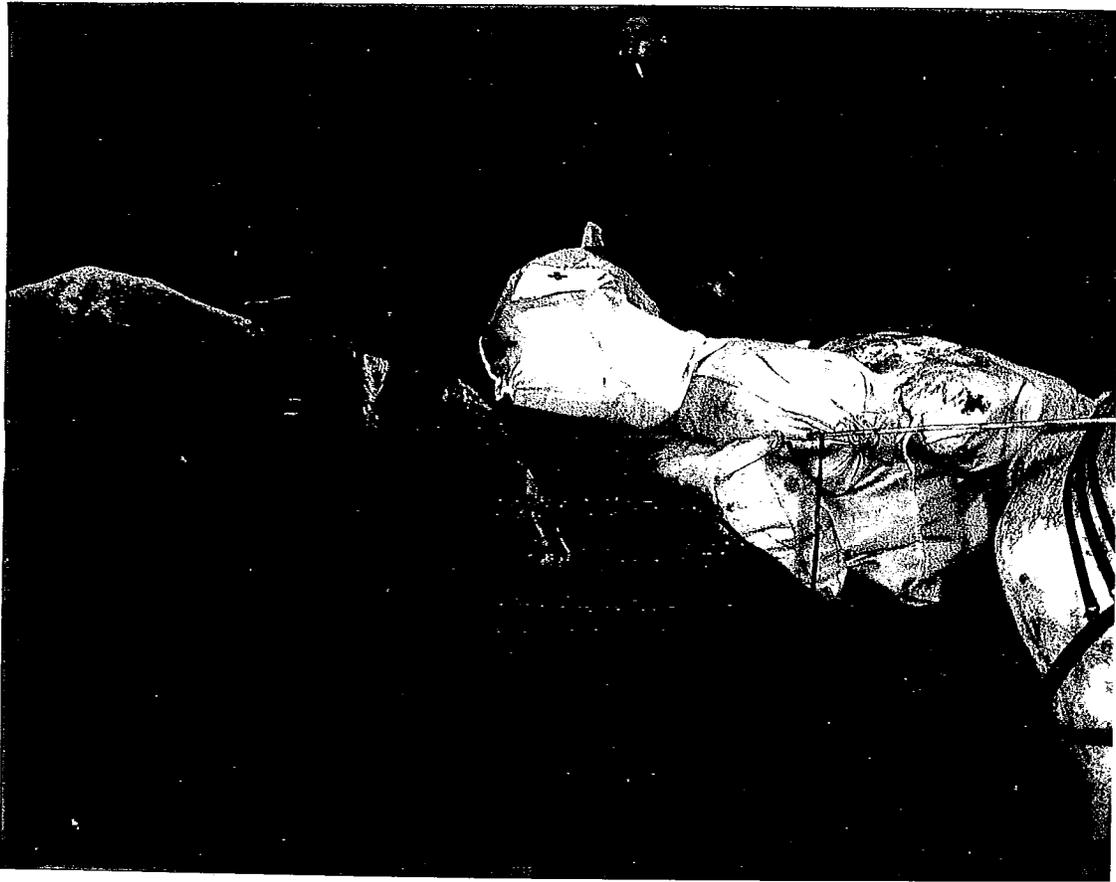


700693

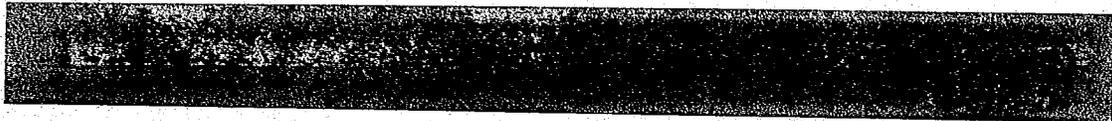


No:7

Supplies being loaded into Romanian freight cars.
(Note made on side of car)



10069



No:2-a

Loading the supplies onto draywagons. M. R.S.
Resnik standing to the right of photo checking each
load.

1069



100691

No:3

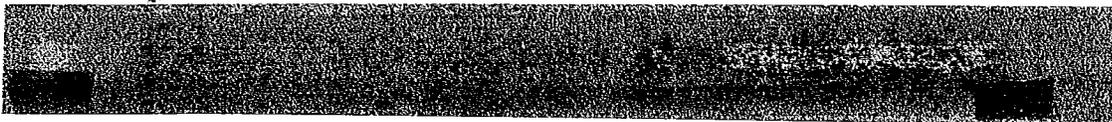
part of the stock of 10,000 parcels in the ware-
house being prepared for shipment.



7 1 0 6 9



No. 3-a
part of the stock of 10,000 parcels in the ware-
house being prepared for shipment.



7 0 0 7 0



No 4

R.B. Resnik examining the parcels ready for shipment. The large bag in center contains 10 packages of the smaller size as shown to the right and left of the large bag.

1 0 7 0 1