Suggestions with Respect to Relief and Rescue of Refugees: Relief Projects

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

Ltr 8
December 6th
14-1
We refer to the Department's 411, February 8.

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

HARRISON
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
T.O.: Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: February 17, 1944
NUMBER: 995

In connection with Department's message number 437 dated February 9 Schwabenburg, a member of the Secretariat of the Intercess Committee, called at the Legation on February 17. Mr. Schwabenburg said that Intercess 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, Salty Mayer is in contact with Intercess.

HARRISON

DOR: IML
2/19/44
MEMORANDUM

February 14, 1944

The State Department has advised that the cable to London making reference to the Embassy's No. 12660 of December 3 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. C. Taylor
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

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

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
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:13
2-12-44
AWT-198
This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Government
agency. (SR)

Dated February 10, 1944
Received 9:25 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 6 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.

KEMISCH

LHS

Re war refugee work in Rumania; Slovakia, et cetera.
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 Romania, 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 Romania 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 Sally Meyer, in St. Gall, Switzerland, who is the Joint Distribution Committee representative.

Hull

(This copy was made from the one in the bible)
February 8, 1944

TO: Under Secretary Stettinius

FROM: J. W. Peble

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 Rumania, Croatia and Czecoslovakia. 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. Peble

Sent via special messenger

2/8/44 Mr. Raynor advised that these two cables will go out today.

Frederica 2/8/44
CABLE TO AMERICAN EMBASSY, LONDON

Ref: Embassy despatch No. 12660, December 8, 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 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.

JFR/563 - 2/7/44
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 November 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 Romania, 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 francs 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 Romania and elsewhere 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, Salo Wely in St. Gall, Switzerland.

The cable was transmitted on 2/3/44.
February 5, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

The attached proposal of the International Red Cross to feed refugees in Rumania, Croatia, Hungary and Czecho-Slovakia 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. N. 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.

[Signature]

F. Hodel
RELIEF TO JEWS IN ROMANIA, 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 Romania, 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) Romania. The Red Cross delegation in Bucharest
has obtained from the Romanian 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 over-
seas to support this activity so that this assistance re-
 mains 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 sub-
mitted 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 quanti-
ties to bring relief to the Jews interned in Croatia. The
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 take 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 be carried 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 Hungary, 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.
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. 3/Pe. 669/2
G. 69/6 JES/RL

Re: yours cable No. 510 of September 28, 1943 concerning the Jewish problem.

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 of behalf of the Jewish deportees in Transnistria (Ukraine) seems to begin under 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 Romanian 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 contributions which we have to collect on the spot.

Our delegation in Bucarest has obtained from the Romanian government an authorization to visit the places where these deportees are living and to supervise the distribution. We also receive lists of names of these deportees. We are therefore entitled to hope that the continued 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 Transnistria.

We can add that a first report of our delegate has just announced a certain number of 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 delegation 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 entire support.
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 make immigrations 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 chance 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 assure the desired medicines, although we could have bought them in Switzerland.
GROATIA

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 only 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 news information on the entire southern part of the country.

With note No. 628 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 and we do not think it to be able, until further notice, to send shipments to Cracow. The letters we sent to you, therefore, only in documentary interest. There are constant variations in this question, and what is allowed and can be realised one day, might be suspended the next following day. We are, therefore, not in a position to give you assurance for the future.

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

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

We have delayed our answer to this 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 internes. In Germany and in the occupied countries, the Jews are not considered as civilian internes, neither in the ghettos nor in the concentration or labor camps. The dispatch of food, tonics and medical medicines made by the "Commission
Mizwas 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 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
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,

Encs.

Hayden Raynor

Mr. John W. Pehle,
Director of Foreign Funds Control,
Department of the Treasury,
Washington, D. C.
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. 12560, December 6, 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 the 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 Romania 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
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 organisations 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 fulfilment 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/4670

1/28/44
No. 12660

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:

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

Enclosures:

1. Copy of letter of December 7, 1943 (17/96) 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
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 1). 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 Rumania, 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.

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

7th December, 1943.

7th December, 1943.

Director:

Sir Herbert Emerson,

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, Jun.,
Embassy of the United States of America,
1, Grosvenor Square, W.1.
Your cable No. 2508 and letter No. 2871 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. Romania, Croatia, Hungary. The presence of Red Cross Delegates 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 Romania, where it is possible to obtain dried vegetables, soups, farinaceous products (pates alimentaires), tinned goods, flour, cured meats, venison and fats. From neutrals medications and pharmaceutical products are obtainable. We accept without any reservations conditions (1) to (4) of your cable 2608. Detailed letter will follow shortly.

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 Licence 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 1,000 parcels a month from Tehran 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 80,000 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 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 Hungarian concentration camps, particularly, at Westerbrook. 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 organisations 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.
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.
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 BEW 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
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 organisations. 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

WGC
This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government Agency. (BR)

U.S. URGENT
AMERICAN LEGATION
BERN
279

FOR THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS, GENEVA, FROM THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD. We are familiar with the report (contained in your Cable 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.

HULL
(AAB)

J. W. PEHLE, TREASURY DEPARTMENT
PER PHONE CONVERSATION WITH E. R. STETTINIUS, JR.
U: W:W
Miss Model

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

DuBois, Lesser, Schmidt, Fox
Friedman
January 27, 1944

TO: Mr. Stettinius

FROM: J. W. Pehle

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. Morgenthaler, Jr.

(Secret Service Agent Sherwood carried this to Stettinius at 11:20 A. M.)
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."
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."
The two following cables were dictated to Mrs. Sheppe over 'phone by Mr. Leavitt on January 27, 1944:

Cable 594

REGARDING FOOD SHIPMENTS: TRANSNISTRIA CHAIN BARIASH BEOCZUJ ADVISES EVERYTHING READY FOR EXPEDITION BUT FOR TIME BEING INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS ADVISER DELAY STOP MEANWHILE SUGGEST YOU AMEND LICENCE ORDER INCLUDING THERESIENSTADT, OSCEC, YUGOSLAVIA THIS SCHEME STOP INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS PROPOSED SEND THREE WAGONS THERESIENSTADT STOP PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST.

JOE. SCHWARTZ

Cable 607

COMMISSION WANTS OF INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS ADVISES POSSIBLY SEND INDIVIDUAL FOOD PACKAGES FROM SWITZERLAND TO THERESIENSTADT OTHER CAMPS STOP EACH PACKAGE WILL CONTAIN VARIETY OF FOOD NOT OBTAINABLE REGULARLY INCLUDING PAST, BISCUITS, BOUILLON, SOUP CUBES ETC. COST OF EACH PACKAGE SEVENTY 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.

JOE. SCHWARTZ

CC: Messrs. Pehle, Luxford, Dulles, E. M. Bernstein, Lessar, Friedman

Miss Hodel
The Following Pages Are the Best Available
Food Parcel Service to Romania to Theresienstadt.

This is a picture of cloth showing the packaging of 10,000 parcels of food sent by the American Joint Distribution Committee to refugees and evacuees from Transnistria and to internment at 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 basal ruts, figs, raisins, green, a refined residue of raisin, and apricots and sheep.

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. Rosinik, Middle East Director of American Joint Distribution Committee.
No: 9
Supplies being loaded into Romanian freight cars.
(Note cars on side of cars)
Ready for Shipment. R. J. Reutik and shipment experts examining food supplies, part of the 10,000 food parcels for Refugees, before loading on freight cars.
Mill
Food supplies for Romanians in burlap bags and officially stamped with International Red Cross seals. Note: burlap of quality that they can be used for clothing material.
Neil

Note some parties and wrapping food and
supplies often consisted of hazel nuts, figs, raisins,
bulmers, and various residue from raisins, apricots,
figs and maple.
Note:

Locating the supplies onto 15-wagons. ...R.S.
Raneik, standing to the right of photo checking each load.
International Red Cross and American Relief
Experts with Rania, shipping executive,
Left to Right: Regeen J. Reznik, Middle East Director of American Joint Distribution Committee-Mecca
Sipahioğlu, Turkish ambulance director and Joseph Beretta, representative of the International Red Cross.
International Red Cross and American Relief
Expedition, Paris, shipping executive,
Left to right: Soudan J. Aboul, Middle East Director
of American Joint Distribution Committee—Mosul
Sipahioglu, Turkish shipping director; and Joseph Gereza
representative of the International Red Cross.
International Red Cross and American Relief experts with Turkish shipping executive. Left to right: Joseph Darutta, representative of the International Red Cross—Kemal Sipahioğlu, Turkish Shipping Director and A.M. Resnick, Middle East Director of American Joint Distribution Committee.
International Red Cross and American Relief
Exhibit 6-a: Joseph Jurutta, executive.
Left to right: Joseph Jurutta, representative of the
International Red Cross--R. A. Ansalk, Middle East Di-
cutor of America, Joint Distribution Committee, and
Manuel Bigliandolu, Turkish Shipping Director.
No: 7

Supplies rain loaded into Romanian freight cars.

(Note was on site of car)
Nota-a

- Loading the supplies onto drawings, etc. in each Log.

- Reflect whether to the right of each check, etc.
Note

Part of the stock of 10,000 parcels in the warehouse being prepared for shipment.
No. 3-a

Part of the stock of 10,000 parcels in the warehouse being prepared for shipment.
Nor4

Examining the parcels ready for ship-

ments. The smaller center packages of the same size as shown do the flat end lift of the larger box as shown.