Preparation for the presentation of a plan: Relief to refugees; Relief Projects

Relief in Shanghai, Febr. 1
1. GENERAL

2. RELIGIOUS GROUP IN SHANGHAI

3. LICENSES ISSUED FOR RELIEF IN SHANGHAI

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>A. Jewish Labor Committee</td>
<td>New York, NY 663999</td>
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<td>B. Zionist Organization</td>
<td>New York, NY 567685</td>
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<td>C. American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee</td>
<td>New York, NY 567690</td>
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<td>D. American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee</td>
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<td>E. Bankers Trust Company, NY</td>
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<td>F. American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee</td>
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<td>G. Bankers Trust Company, NY</td>
<td>New York, NY 681675</td>
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WAR REFUGEE BOARD RECORDS
CROSS-REFERENCE

(Name of Applicant)

(Application Number)

For letters or cables which may have been indexed to "HELICOPHY #1" and which refer to the evacuation of the rabbincal group in Shanghai.

SEE: BREAKDOWN #2
June 8, 1945

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Biele was received through the United States Embassy in Lisbon under date of June 8, 1945, as your No. 246:

"As a result of recent information, assistance of following was given: 10,976 refugees Shanghal being given assistance. Bought clothing for most needy only from 20% April funds. Seems advisable to purchase large reserve food for which 20% April reserve used. While rapid rise in prices everything, exchange rates remain stable.

"Sent detailed monthly balance sheets which accountant controls, to Stockholm."

Very truly yours,

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

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

1209, June 5, 3 p.m.

THIS IS WRB 421, JDC 246, FOR LEAVITT FROM BIEBER.

Substance of following given Salty as result of recent information: Assistance being given 10,976 refugees Shanghai. Clothing for most needy only bought from 20% April funds. 20% April reserve used to purchase large reserve food which seemed advisable. Exchange rates remain stable while rapid rise in prices everywhere. Sent Stockholm detailed monthly balance sheets which accountant controls.

BARUCH

For security reason the text of this report must be closely guarded.
Secretary of State,
Washington,

20th, Eighteenth

We have received following messages from Shanghai:
Remittance finally availed after assured A.W. Rezach.
Your soonest confirmation therefore urgently confirm
unless discredited distributed per instructions original
list actually 233 increased Rosenberg, Szymonowicz
Josef model's new born Rabinovich Labavich married total
237 Josef model's son meanwhile died. Leaving 106 francs
over balance report clearly amounts mendel Zywica
Kendeleger asking support Rabbi Hochumberlow signed
in name groups Rabbi Askahneszi. Long borrowed 213 francs
for each clothing Mirror Yoshiva and Kolol pay debt
immediately urgent. Don't support TAT from Yoshiva.
Sources as all sick under my care due my health don't
send to address Orthodox support signed Szmulowicz."

This message
315, Eighteenth, from Bern

This message is more or less unintelligible to Union Rabbis representatives Switzerland and to us. To have repeatedly attempted to "Rabbis in Shanghai to wire in Polish or German instead of garbled English but without avail. 2132.

HARRIS

MJP
MAY 10 1945

Dear Sirs:

The following message for you from Sternbuch was received through the United States Legation in Bern under date of May 5, 1945:

"The following wire from Samuelo Wiez, Shanghai, has been received by us 'received support specify yes Nivah unconditionally urging 12,000 francs monthly expenditure'."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Florence Modell

Florence Modell
Acting Executive Director

Veed Hahatsala Emergency Committee,
132 Nassau Street,

[Handwritten note: RNShinp 5/9/45]
Secretary of State,
Washington.

2631, May 5, 9 a.m.

From McClelland

Following from Sternbuch to Vaad Hahatzala New York.

"We have received following wire from Samulo
Wiz Shanghai: support received specify yes Hivah
expenditure unconditionally urging 12,000 francs
monthly"

HARRISON

JMB

For security reasons the

text of this message must

be closely guarded.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73
By R. H. Parkes Date SEP 5 1972
Department of State

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

PER CONTROL COPY

Plain

April 24, 1945

Ambassador

Lisbon

645, Twenty-Fourth

Please deliver the following message (MD 173) to

Harold Trobo, Lisbon, from M. A. Leavitt, American

Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

"NOTE Your March 29th remitted 1,000 Swedish

under license for test parcels to Shanghai.

GREW

(Acting)"
TO Mr. llevar, Lisbon, from the Joint Board

Please deliver the following message to Adolph Proba, Lisbon, from E. C. Lott, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

$100,000 in March 1945 and $1,000,000 in August 1945. This is for Yiddish Home Center.

E. C. Lott, Lisbon, April 19, 1945

Copy sent to E. C. Lott, April 19, 1945.

Lass Chauncey (for the Sec'y), John, Dufour, Carter, Rodol, Handerdon, McDermott, O'Dwyer, Siles.

FH:hd 4/19/45
2. To Harold Trobe, Lisbon

YOUR MARCH 29th REMITTED $1,000 SWEDEN UNDER LICENSE FOR TEST PARCELS TO

SHANGHAI

M A LEAVITT
J D C
Dear Sirs:

The following message for you from Sternbuch was received through the United States Legation in Bern under date of April 4, 1945:

"Samelowits in Shanghai cabled as follows:
all need special holiday support and are requesting considerable clothing relief. Rabbis Wolmark, Skymowicz, Krawiec, et cetera have cabled as follows:
Amromsoh Mincer 10,000 Kletsker 3,000 Talsog 3,000
Rabbis and Kollelim 2,000 Habad 2,000 Kazenitzer
1,000 Lubliner 1,000 Betjosef 500 Slonimer 250 Radiner
250 total 23,000. Urgent your confirmation receipt otherwise it will be impossible for these individuals and groups enjoy Vaad HaHatsala emergency support. Please answer soonest!".

Very truly yours,

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

Vaad HaHatsala Emergency Committee,
132 Nassau Street,

BBH:inp 4/12/45
INCOMING
TELEGRAM

Secretary of State,
Washington

1957, Fourth

FOR WRB FROM MCCLELLAND

Sternbuch is having difficulty relaying messages from Shanghai to USA concerning relief questions and has therefore asked me pass following message on to you for Vaad Hatzala:

"Samuelowitz in Shanghai has cabled as follows:
'all need special holiday support and are requesting considerable clothing relief. Rabbis Wolmark, Szymanowicz, Krawiec, et cetera have cabled as follows:
Arnombach Mirer 10,000 Kletzker 3,000 Telszer 3,000
Rabbis and Kollelim 2,000 Habad 2,000 Kamenitzer 1,000 Lubliner 1,000 Betjosef 500 Slonimer 250 Radiner 250 total 23,000. Urgent your confirmation receipt otherwise it will be impossible for these individuals and groups enjoy Vaad Hatzala emergency support. Please answer soonest!".

HARRISON

EDA

Note: Delay due to non-receipt.
March 31, 1945

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Harold Trobe was received through the United States Embassy in Lisbon under date of March 27, 1945:

"He cable from Gottfarb substance of which follows please advise: Insured registered letters to Shanghai up to two kilos weight may be sent. The rail connections via Russia are open. Plan I would like to carry out of sending injection syringes, medicines and first rate food this way has been discussed with Hitkar. Hitkar is interested and states according customs regulations permissible provided the material corresponds to the value declared when mailed. Is it possible to receive approximately $1,000 from JDC for first experiment. American Legation's opinion best that blockade be cleared by New York.""

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Florence Hodel

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

Mr. M.A. Leavitt, Secretary,
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,

VEstini 3/31/45
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

682, March 29, 11 a.m.

THIS IS WRB 317 JDC 206 FOR LEAVITT PRO LEVIT.

Please advise us re cable from Gottfarb substance of which follows: possible send insured registered letters to Shanghai up to two kilos weight. Mail connections open via Russia. Have discussed with Bitkar plan I would like to carry out of sending injection syringes medicines and first rate food this way. Bitkar interested states permissible according customs regulations provided material corresponds to value declared when mailed. Is it possible receive first experiment appropriation of $1,000 from Joint? In opinion American Legation best that blockade be cleared by New York.

WTD

For security reason text of this message must be closely guarded.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972
February 26, 1945
Noon

AMBASSADOR
LISBON 332X

The cable below is WRD 146.

Please deliver paraphrase of following message to Harold Trobe from H. A. Leavitt of American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

"QUOTE Remitted today Mayor 6100,000 Shanghai grant for Jewish Joint February and 6600,000 second half February Switzerland. UNQUOTE"

GREW
(Acting)
(GLW)

For security reasons the text of this message must be closely guarded.
CABLE TO AMERICAN EMBASSY LISBON, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Please deliver following message to Harold Trobe from
M. A. Leavitt of American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

QUOTE REMITTED SALV MAYER $100,000 SHANGHAI GRANT
FEBRUARY AND $400,000 SECOND HALF FEBRUARY SWITZERLAND.
UNQUOTE

THIS IS WAR LUS-11 CABLE NO. 148

2:30 p.m. February 21, 1945

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Aksin, Cohn, Dubois, Gaston, Hodel, Hutchison, McCormack, O'Dwyer, Files

RSHutchison 2/20/45
Cable to Harold Trobe, Lisbon, thru WRB

REMITT SALTY WATER $100,000 SHANGHAI GRANT FEBRUARY AND $400,000 SECOND HALF
FEBRUARY SWITZERLAND

Leavitt – JDC
February 15, 1945

Mr. M. A. Leavitt,

Secretary,
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,

The following message for you from Harold Trobe was received through the American Legation in Lisbon under date of February 12, 1945:

"JDC 167. Spent about 810,000 for relief in Shanghai during January, 86% of which Mr. Mayer advises was for food. For February only already transferred 200,000 Swiss Francs and he expects transfer this month 200,000 Swiss Francs additional."

Very truly yours,

Florence Model
Assistant Executive Director

Mr. M. A. Leavitt, Secretary,
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,

February 2/15/45
SECRETARY OF STATE,
Washington,

315, February 12, 6 p.m.

THIS IS WRB 311 JDC 167 FOR LEAVITT FROM HAROLD TROBE.

Approximately $110,000 spent for relief during January in Shanghai of which 86% for food. Saly Mayer advises 200,000 Swiss francs already transferred by Saly for February and he plans this month transfer additional 200,000 Swiss francs.

NORWEB

JMS

FILE COPY

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By H. H. Parks Date SEP 1 5 1972
JANUARY 4, 1945

To Mr. Sternbush

Please deliver following message to Isaac Sternbush, 3 Teufener Strasse, St. Gall, from Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz of the Vaad Nahatzala Emergency Committee:

"Sent you six remittances of 428,016 francs each. Advise whether any developments on Shanghai evacuation and whether you remitted there all funds with complete instructions. You must inform Kalmanowitz we greatly disturbed at continued unjustified complaints. Our funds from various sources such as Vaad Nahatzala, Yeshivoth and individuals. Our distribution scheme equitable and funds distributed as given and ordered. Please endeavor avoid disagreements since our work suffers thereby. UNQUOTE"

STATMINUS
(GOV)

WR1: MAY: KG
1/4/45
Please deliver following message to Isaac Sternbuch, J Teufenor
Strassse, St. Gall, from Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz of the Vaad Habzala

Emergency Committee:

QUOTE SENT YOU SIX REMITTANCES OF 429,616 FRANCS EACH. ADVISE WHETHER ANY DEVELOPMENTS ON SHORHAL EVACUATION AND WHETHER YOU received them. ALL FUNDS WITH COMPLETE INSTRUCTIONS, YOU MUST INFORM.SAMRALNIT WE GREATLY DISTRIBUIT AT CONTINUED UNJUSTIFIED COMPLAINTS. OUR FUNDS FROM VARIOUS SOURCES SUCH AS VAAD HABZALA, TUSHIVAH AND INDIVIDUALS, OUR DISTRIBUTION SCHEME HABZALA AND FUNDS DISTRIBUTED AS GIVEN AND ORDERED, PLEASE REMOVIA EVACUATION SITES NO MORE SUPPERS THEREB UNQUOTE.

THIS IS THE BOTH CABLE NO. 349.

10:30 a.m.,
January 3, 1945

Miss Chauncey (For the Secy) Ackermann, Alzin, Cohn, Drury, DuBois, Gaston,
Hodel, Marks, McCormack, Feld, Files

FILED 1/2/45
December 29, 1944

War Refugees Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Miss F. Hodel

Dear Miss Hodel:

May we ask you to please expedite the enclosed message through facilities of the War Refugee Board.

We are indeed thankful for the many courtesies which you have extended to us on the many occasions that we have had to turn to the War Refugee Board during the year.

With our deepest appreciation,

Very respectfully yours,

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

To rescue, save and preserve from war destruction the Torah values
(Yeshivoth, Rabbis, Scholars and Communal Leaders)
To utilize the possibilities for rescue of European Jewry where the Vaad Hahatzala program is especially needed.
Message to Isaac Sternbuch
3 Teufenstrasse
St. Gallen, Switzerland
through American Legation, Bern.

December 29, 1944

Best you six remittances of 420,016 francs each. You must insist that bank pay you complete sum remitted without deducting since funds consecrated for rescue. Advise whether any developments on Shanghai evacuation and whether you remitted there all funds with complete instructions. You must inform Semulewitz we greatly disturbed at continued unjustified complaints. Our funds from various sources such as Vaad Hahatzala, Yeshivot and individuals. Our distribution scheme equitable and funds distributed as given and ordered. Please endeavor avoid disagreements since our work suffers thereby.

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE
RABBI ABRAHAM KALMANOWITZ

To rescue, save and preserve from war destruction the Torah values (Yeshivot, Rabbinic, Scholars and Communal Leaders)
To utilize the possibilities for rescue of European Jewry where the Vaad Hahatzala program is especially needed.
December 27, 1944.

Dear Sirs:

The following message for Rabbis Grosowsky, Kalmansitos, Kotler and Lwowitz from Rabbi Wolf Jacobson, Abraham Jacobsohn, and S. Holbo was received through the American Legation in Stockholm under date of December 21, 1944:

"Received following message through Foreign Office of Sweden: At Mirer College in Shanghai there are 13 females, 215 males, 18 children, in addition to 31 families, 128 males, and 51 children from the other affiliated organizations. They are out of money and request immediate transfer of funds, figuring 400 Swiss francs per month per person, and in addition one extraordinary support for relief fund "TAT" of Rabbi Lewenstein.

"Also we have received during past few days messages with exasperated complaints cables from every college (Kamenits, Lublin, Kloid, Lubomitsch, Wiloshkovno-Kolel, Radin, Rabbinical group) also from the older pupils of Mirer. Heads of the other colleges are demanding that support for them be sent to Rabbi Ashkenazi directly. Pupils of Mirer demand that their support be sent personally to each student and ask that you demand their signature on receipts covering future transfers and past transfers also.

"Mail contact with Shanghai since August not possible.

"With relief appeal we are working for the colleges. Even the Government of Sweden however is not able to obtain emigration allowance for citizens of Sweden residing in Shanghai. We will again report to you soon. Please do not appeal to authorities of Sweden before consulting us.

"Regarding Rabbis who were deported from Lithuania, we are unable to do anything."

Very truly yours,

[Signature] J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

United Hahatzit Emergency Committee,
122 Nassau Street,
Secretary of State, Washington.

5516, December 21, 1944

Addressed to Rabbi Grosowsky, Kalmanovitz, Kotler and Lukowitz, Vaad Hahazalah Emergency Committee New York is following message from Rabbi Wolf Jacobson, Avenches Jacobsohn and S. Wolbe. This is our number 115 for U.S.

"Following message received through Swedish Foreign Office: In Shanghai there are at Mirer College 205 males, 18 females, 16 children, besides 149 males, 31 females, 51 children from the other connected institutions. They have no more money and ask for immediate money transfer calculating 120 Swiss francs per person each month, and further one extraordinary support for Rabbi Levenstein's relief fund "TAT".

During last few days we have also received cables from every college (Kamenitz, Kletz, Lublin, Luckowitsh, Rozin, Wilnaaskowsko-Kolel, Rabbinical group) as well as from the older Mirer pupils with exaggerated complaints.

Legers

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972
December 26, 1944

Mr. M. A. Leavitt,
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,

Dec. 23, 1944

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Joseph Schwartz has
received through the American Legation in Peking, under date
of December 21, 1944:

"We transmitted to Shanghai 15 million Chinese
dollars in October, 80 in November and 91 in December.
In addition 70 million for December is being requested
by the committee and this we had to deny since we have
already exceeded our budget. However we did allow
120,000 false frames for clothing in December as a
special one time grant, then a like amount in January
for the same purpose. It is reported by the committee
that 12,000 persons are present on full relief and
many of them are aged and sick. Also there are a number
of frostbite cases as a result of severe winter weather.

"In view of the uncontrolled inflation and greatly
increasing prices we will have to expect even increas-
ing demands for further aid. A great number of refugees
have been in Shanghai six years with no new clothing;
therefore a one time grant is absolutely necessary for
this purpose. In view also of increasing prices committee
wishes to lay in stock some stocks for the coming months
of winter.

"You should, I believe, figure budget minimum 2100,000
beginning with January."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J.W. Phale

J. W. Peale
Executive Director

[Handwritten note: "RDrury 12/26/44"]
This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government Agency.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

December 21, 6 p.m.

FOR WHR FROM MCCLELLAND.

Kindly deliver the following message from Schwartz to Leavitt of JDC:

"We sent to Shanghai in October 65, in November 80 and in December 91 million Chinese dollars. The committee is asking for an additional 70 millions for December which we had to refuse because our budget has already been exceeded. We did however grant 100,000 Swiss francs as a special one time grant for clothing in December and a similar amount for the same purpose for January. Committee reports that 12,000 people are now on full relief many of them sick and aged. There are also numerous cases of frostbite due to hard winter weather.

With present uncontrolled inflation and tremendously increasing prices we can look forward to ever increasing demand for additional help. Many refugees have been in Shanghai..."
December 21, 6 p.m., from Bern.

Shanghai six years now without any new clothes, a one time grant therefore for this purpose was absolutely necessary. Also with rising prices committee wishes lay in some stocks now for coming winter months.

Believe you should figure budget beginning January minimum $100,000.

Huddle

DU
November 28, 1944

Dear Sirs:

The following message for you from Isaac Sternbach was received through the American Legation in Bern under date of November 22, 1944:

"Efforts are being made by us to reorganize the dispatch of parcels being sent to Shanghai. Repeated complaints have been coming to us recently regarding the method of distribution of relief funds in Shanghai and we have requested S. Z. Neklowicz to provide to us for each group accurate figures. The following reply has been received: Mirer Kollel 36 persons, Mirer Joseph 103, Rabbin 44, Milno Kowner Kollelim 35, Mirer Hanhala 3, married students of Rabbis 23, Kaminetz 14, Lubliner 30, Kletzker (including 3 families) 15, Beth Joseph (including 1 couple) 10, Telesh (including 4 families totaling 13 persons), Chabad 3, Kadumer 3, Sienimer 3, Boledin 7, (*) 18. Total number 454 people.

"Separate from Rabbin group is Mirer Kowner Kollelim. We request that distributions in the future, to avoid any misunderstandings, be based precisely on this new plan." (* ) apparent omission.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

J. R. Pehle
Executive Director

Vass Hahutzala Emergency Committee,
132 Nassau Street,

February 11/28/44
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement.

Bern

Date: November 22, 1944

Rec'd 2:55 a.m., 23rd

Secretary of State,
Washington

7635, November 22, 4 p.m.

For WRB from McClelland. For Rabbi Kalmanowitz, R.E.

Emergency Committee, Union of Orthodox Rabbis, from Sternbuch.

We are attempting reorganize sending of parcels to Shanghai. Since we have recently received repeated complaints concerning distribution scheme of relief funds in Shanghai we asked S. Z. Muñowicz to furnish us with exact figures for each group. We have received following answer: Mirer Jiespilwah 161 persons, Mirer Kallet 36, Rabbis 44, Mirer Hanhala 8, Wilno Kownistor Kalletim 35, married students of Rabbis 23, Lubliner 30 Kamencetzar 14, Klettzer (including 3 families) 15, Telsher (including 4 families numbering 13 persons) 18, Beth Joseph (including 1 couple) 10, Chabad 3, Sionimar 3, Raduner 3, Boledim 7. Total 454 persons.

Wilner Kownistor

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 11-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972
Wilner Konner Kollel is separate from Rabbis group. We ask that future distributions be exactly based on this new scheme to avoid misunderstandings.

Huddle

HR

(* apparent omission
STOCKHOLM 2227

The cable below for Olsen is WBB 242.

Please deliver paraphrase of the following message to Rabbi Wilhelm Kolbe, II Olafsogotten, Stockholm, from Rabbi Abraham Kalsmanowitz of the Voed Mahatzala Emergency Committee:

NOTE: Recent Shanghai reports alarming. Inflationary prices and sickness endanger existence. Urge you take following measures

(1) endeavor send food clothing parcels medicines to our rabbinical group in Shanghai by arrangement of Swedish and Japanese Governments. (2) urge intercession of Swedish Government for outright release of this religious rabbinical group. (3) endeavor secure Swedish citizenship for entire group to facilitate release

Will send you entire list. Enlist cooperation support Rabbi Kalsmanowitz these projects. UNQUOTE

STETTINUS

ACTING

(GLW)

WRITING

11/13/44

NOE

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R.H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972
TABLE TO REGISTER JOHNSON, STOCKHOLM, FOR OCHS, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Please deliver the following message to Rabbi Wilhelm Holbe,

11 Olafsgatan, Stockholm, from Rabbi Abraham Kalmenson of the Yiddish Emergency Committee:

QUOTE CHANGAI REPORT ALARMING. INFLATIONARY PRICES AND STICKIES ENDANGER EXISTENCE, URGE FOR TAKING FOLLOWING MEASURES:

1. PREPARE SMALL FOOD CLOTHING PARCELS MEDICATI0NS TO JEWISH HABDICAL GROUP IN CHANGAI BY ARRANGEMENT OF DANISH AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

2. URGE INTERVENTION OF SWEDISH GOVERNMENT FOR OUTRIGHT RELEASE OF JEWISH HABDICAL GROUP.

3. PREPARE A CURE SWEDISH CITIZENSHIP FOR ENTIRE GROUP TO FACILITATE ENTRANCE TO SWEDEN FOR ENTIRE LIST. URGE COOPERATION SUPPORT JEWISH IMMIGRATION THEIR PROJECTS.

UNQUOTE

THIS IS WRB STOCKHOLM CABLE NO. 242.

November 9, 1944

Urie (for the Society) Abrahamson, Ackermann, Cohn, Dubois, Friedman, Hoffer, Lesser, Mannen, McCormack, Miles

11/8/44
VAAD HAHATZALA

(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)

132 NASSAU STREET
(Room 610)
NEW YORK 7, N. Y.
PHONE Rector 2-4238

Message to Rabbi Wilhelm Wolbe
11 Olefsgotten
Stockholm, Sweden
through American Embassy, Stockholm

Recent Shanghai reports alarming. Inflationary prices and sickness endanger existence. Urge you take following measures 1) endeavor send food clothing parcels medicaments to our Rabbinical group in Shanghai by arrangement of Swedish and Japanese Governments. 2) Urge intercession of Swedish Government for outright release of this religious Rabbinical group 3) Endeavor secure Swedish citizenship for entire group to facilitate release Will send you entire list stop Enlist cooperation support Rabbi Ehrenpreis these projects

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

[Signature]
Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

To rescue, save and preserve from war destruction the Torah values (Yeshivot, Rabbis, Scholars and Communal Leaders)

To utilize the possibilities for rescue of European Jewry where the Vaad Hatzala program is especially needed.
ANLEGATION

STOCKHOLM

The cable below for Olsen is WRB 24.X.

Please deliver paraphrase of the following message to Rabbi Marcus Ehrenpreis, Stockholm, from Rabbi Abraham Almanowitz of the Vaad Mahatzala Emergency Committee:

QUOTE Recent Shanghai reports alarming. Inflationary prices and sickness endanger existence. Urge you take following measures (1) endeavor send food clothing parcels medicaments to our rabbinical group in Shanghai by arrangement of Swedish and Japanese Governments. (2) Urge intervention of Swedish Government for outright release of this religious rabbinical group (3) Endeavor secure Swedish citizenship for entire group to facilitate release. Will send you entire list. Urge you lend fullest cooperation Rabbi Wolbe and Committee. UNQUOTE

STETTIUS

(DECSP)

WRB: MWY: KG
11/15/44

NOX

DECLASSIFIED

By R. H. Parks Date, SEP 15 1972
CABLE TO MINISTER JOHNSON, STOCKHOLM, FOR OLSEN, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Please deliver the following message to Rabbi Marcus Ehrenpreis, Stockholm, from Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz of the Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee:

QUOTE RECENT SHANGHAI REPORTS ALARMING. INFLATIONARY PRICES AND SICKNESS ENDANGER EXISTENCE. URGE YOU TAKE FOLLOWING MEASURES:

(1) ENDEAVOR SEND FOOD, CLOTHING PARCELS, MEDICAMENTS TO OUR RABBIICAL GROUP IN SHANGHAI BY ARRANGEMENT OF SWEDISH AND JAPANESE GOVERNMENTS.

(2) URGE INTERCESSION OF SWEDISH GOVERNMENT FOR OUTRIGHT RELEASE OF THIS RELIGIOUS RABBIICAL GROUP. (3) ENDEAVOR SECURE SWEDISH CITIZENSHIP FOR ENTIRE GROUP TO FACILITATE RELEASE. WILL SEND YOU ENTIRE LIST.

URGE YOU FULFILL COOPERATION RABBI WOLBE AND COMMITTEE. UNQUOTE

THIS IS WAR STOCKHOLM CABLE NO. 243.

3:45 P.M.
November 8, 1944

Abrahamson, Ackerman, Cohn, DuBois, Fried, Friedman, Hodel, Isser, Marson, McCormack, Pless
VAAD HAHATZALA
(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)
122 NASSAU STREET
ROOM 409
NEW YORK 7, N. Y.
PHONE SECTOR 2-4238

Message to Rabbi Marcus Ehrenpreis
Stockholm, Sweden
through American Embassy
Stockholm, Sweden

------------------------
Recent Shanghai reports alarming. Inflationary prices and sickness endanger existence. Urge you take following measures 1) endeavor to send food clothing parcels medications to our Rabbinical group in Shanghai by arrangement of Swedish and Japanese Governments. 2) Urge intercession of Swedish Government for outright release of this religious Rabbinical group 3) Endeavor secure Swedish citizenship for entire group to facilitate release Will send you entire list. Urge you lend fullest cooperation Rabbi Wolbe and Committee.

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

[Signature]
Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

To rescue, save and preserve from war destruction the Torah values (Yeshivot, Rabbis, Scholars and Communal Leaders)
To utilize the possibilities for rescue of European Jewry where the Vaad Hahatzala program is especially needed.
For Relief and Other Refugees.

Please deliver the following cables to Isaac Sternbach, St. Bell, from Abraham Malachovitch and the Yesh Mahanua.

Emergency Committee:

Quote recent Shanghai reports alarming. Inflationary prices and food and clothing materials are not available. You can take following measures (1) deliver some food, clothing,和个人 and educational materials to our rabbinical group in Shanghai by Swiss and Japanese Governments.

(2) urge intervention of Swiss Government for outright release of this religious rabbinical group. Have cable for $10,750 Swiss francs through Polish Consulate. Forward to Rabbi Szmulvez with exact instructive message. Advise us when receipt confirmed.

Unquote

This is JRB Bern cable No. 266.

R. H. Parks

State Dept., Letter 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks

SEP 15 1972
CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON, BERN, FOR VC CLEVELAND, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Please deliver the following message to Isaac Sternbuch, St. Gall, from Abraham Kalmanowitz of the Vaad Nahatzola Emergency Committee:

QUOTE RECENT SHANGHAI REPORTS ALARMING. INFLATIONARY PRICES AND SICKNESS ENDANGER EXISTENCE. URGE YOU TAKE FOLLOWING MEASURES
(1) ENDEAVOR SEND FOOD CLOTHING PARCELS MEDICAMENTS TO OUR RABBINICAL GROUP IN SHANGHAI BY SWISS AND JAPANESE GOVERNMENTS (2) URGE INTERCESSION OF SWISS GOVERNMENT FOR OUTRIGHT RELEASE OF THIS RELIGIOUS RABBINICAL GROUP. HAVE CABLED TO YOU 106,750 SWISS FRANCS THROUGH POLISH CONSULATE. forward to Rabbi Szmulwics with exact instructive message. Advise us when receipt confirmed. UNQUOTE

THIS IS BERN CABLE NO. 266.

3:45 P.M., NOVEMBER 9, 1944,

Miss MacIntyre [for the Society] Abrahamson, Ackermann, Coln, Davis, Friedman, Heidel, Lesser, Mannan, McCormack, Milac

RDrury 11/9/44
November 6, 1944

War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Attn: Miss F. Hodel

Dear Miss Hodel:

We would greatly appreciate the dispatch of the enclosed messages through the War Refugee Board.

With sincerest appreciation,

Very respectfully yours,

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

To rescue, save and preserve from war destruction the Torah values (Yeshivot, Rabbis, Scholars and Communal Leaders)
To utilize the possibilities for rescue of European Jewry where the Vaad Hahatzala program is especially needed.
Message to Isaac Sternbuch
St. Gallen, Switzerland
Through American Legation, Berne.

Recent Shanghai reports alarming. Inflationary prices and sickness endanger existence. Urge you take following measures:

1) Endeavor send food clothing parcels medicaments to our Rabbinical group in Shanghai by Swiss and Japanese Governments

2) Urge intercession of Swiss Government for outright release of this religious Rabbinical group stop Have cabled you 106,750 Swiss francs through Polish Consulate. Forward to Rabbi Szmulewich with exact instructive message Advise us when receipt confirmed

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz
FROM: Secretary of State, Washington

TO: American Legation, Bern

DATE: November 4, 1944

NUMBER: 3765

For McClelland, from War Refugee Board.

Please deliver the following message to Isaac Sternbuch, St. Gall, from Rabbi Kalmanowits of the Vard HaNatzala Emergency Committee:

QUOTE Have cabled you 25,641 Swiss francs through Polish Consulate. Please forward to Rabbi Szmulewicz together with exact instructive message and details of distribution. Advise us when receipt confirmed by Szmulewicz. UNQUOTE

This is WAR Bern cable No. 257.

STETTINIUS

ACTING

CONTROL COPY
CABLE TO DIRECTOR OF JEWISH AGENCY, ENVELOPE IN ISRAEL, FROM MR. SHERMAN RUBIN.

Please deliver the following message to Isaac Sternbach, St. Gall, from Rabbi Salzman of the Rushaiah Emergency Committee:

QUOTE: HAVE CABLED YOU 25,641 SWISS FRANCS THROUGH POLISH CONSULATE. PLEASE FORWARD TO RABBI SZMULSZITZ TOGETHER WITH EXACT INSTRUCTIVE MESSAGE AND DETAILS OF DISTRIBUTION. ADVISE US WHEN RECEIPT CONFIRMED BY SZMULSZITZ. UNQUOTE.

THIS IS MESSAGE NO. 257.

NDrury: 11/2/44
October 31, 1944

MESSAGE TO ISAAC STERNBUCH
ST. GALLEN, SWITZERLAND
THROUGH AMERICAN LEGATION, BERN

HAVE CABLED YOU 25,641 SWISS FRANCS THROUGH POLISH CONSULATE.
PLEASE FORWARD TO RABBI SEMULEWICZ TOGETHER WITH EXACT INSTRUCTIVE MESSAGE AND DETAILS OF DISTRIBUTION. ADVISE US WHEN RECEIPT CONFIRMED BY SEMULEWICZ

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE
A. Kalmanowitz
RABBI ABIGAIL KALMANOWITZ

To rescue, save and preserve from war destruction the Torah values (Yeshivot, Rabbis, Scholars and Communal Leaders)
To utilize the possibilities for rescue of European Jewry where the Vaad Hahatzala program is especially needed.
OUTGOING TELEGRAM

AMBASSADOR

LISBON

The cable below is WRB 107. Please deliver the following message to Robert Filpel from M. a. Leavitt of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

"QUOTE Advise Sal Mayer we remitted to him $45,000 for Shanghai representing $10,000 increase for month of September and $35,000 for October budget. UNQUOTE"

HULL

(GLP)

CONTROL COPY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OUTGOING

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

October 15, 1944

6 p.m.

DEPARTMENT

WRB:MMV:KG

10/15/44

WZ

SWP

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-1972

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972
CABLE TO MURGEN, LISBON, FROM JSP FUGUE S FARE.

Please deliver the following message to Robert Pipel from:

M. A. Lowvit of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

QUOTE ADVICE SALLY MADE BE REMITTIT TO HIM $45,000 FOR CHARITABLE REPRESEN'TING $10,000 INCREASE FOR MONTH OF SEPTEMBER AND $35,000 FOR OCTOBER BUDGET. UNQUOTE

THIS IS WB Cable TO LISBON NO. 107.

9 a.m.
October 14, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Secty) Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Lesser, Mann, McCormack, Files

[Signature]

[Date: 10/13/44]
October 2, 1944

Dear Sirs:

The following message for you from Rabbi Tolya was received through the American Legation in Stockholm under date of September 29, 1944:

"The latest cable from Rabbi Shmulowitz in Shanghai states that rapid inflation is resulting in unforeseen requirements for funds necessary to support immediately our own program as well as the Miryeshivahs and Mirerkolals part of the community program. It is reported by Shanghai that all is well."

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Vaad Hakotel Emergency Committee
132 Nassau Street,

RDrury 10/2/44
Stockholm

Dated September 29, 1944
Rec'd 11:55 a.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

3946, September 27, 2 p.m.

This is our No. 88 for our Refugee Board.

The following is for Rabbi Kalmanovitz from Rabbi Wolbe.

According to most recent cable from Rabbi Shaulovitz in Shanghai rapid inflation is causing unforeseen demands for funds necessitating immediate support for our own program as well as Miryamishva and Miryeikells portion of community program. Shanghai reports that all is well.

JOHNSON

CSB

[Redacted for security reasons]

CONTROL COPY

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 2 5 1972
September 26, 1944

War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Attn: Miss F. Rodell

Dear Miss Rodell,

We enclose two cables which we would respectfully
ask the War Refugee Board to expedite to Rabbi Wilhelm Wolbe and
Dr. Ehrspriet.

We anxiously await your call in reference to our
requests for the licenses which would enable us to cable and for­
ward funds to Rabbis and scholars in the territories of Lithuania
and Poland freed by the U.S.S.R.

With sincerest appreciation,

Very respectfully yours,

VAAD HA'HATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

Rabbi Abraham Kalmansowitz

To rescue, save and preserve from war destruction the Torah values
(Yeshivot, Rabbinic Scholars and Command Leaders)
To utilize the possibilities for rescue of European Jewry where the
VAAD HA'HATZALA program is especially needed.
The following WRB cable no. 51 is for Olsen.

Please deliver paraphrase of following message to

Rabbi Wilhelm Wolbs, 11 Olefagotten Strasse, Stockholm,

for Olsen.

QUOTE Have forwarded to Rabbi Chaim Szmulowitz

Shanghai via Polish Consul and Sternau in Switzerland

214,300 Swiss francs for distribution among rabbis and

rabbinical scholars in Shanghai Stop Cooperate with Olsen and endeavor send

courier to Lithuania with funds for rescue of great rabbis

and religious leaders UNQUOTE.

HULL

(GIN)

WRB:PMV:KO
7/13/44
S/CR

NOE

SWP

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks

SEP 5 1972
CABLE TO STOCKHOLM

To Johnson for Olsen from War Refugee Board.

Please deliver following message to Rabbi Wilhelm Wolbe, 11 Olafsgatan Strasse, Stockholm, from Vaad Nahatzala Emergency Committee:

"Have forwarded to Rabbi Chaim Samulewics Shanghai via Polish Consul and Sternuch in Switzerland 214,300 Swiss francs for distribution among rabbi and rabbinical scholars in Shanghai. Contact Samulewics inquire if above sums received and distributed as instructed. Cooperate with Olsen and endeavor send courier to Lithuania with funds for rescue of great rabbis and religious leaders."

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO STOCKHOLM NO. 51.

**************

4:35 p.m.
July 10, 1944

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

C. C. Towler July 8, 1944

Copy sent to
Vaad Nahatzala
July 7, 1944

War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Attn: Miss F. Hodell

Dear Miss Hodell,

We enclose copy of a message which we would respectfully request the Board to expedite to Rabbi Wolbe.

May we also inquire whether the license for an additional sum of $100,000.00 to our Committee in Switzerland, has been cleared.

With sincerest appreciation,

Very respectfully yours,

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitcz

P.S.: I have received a letter from Mr. Park that will authorize issuance of license as requested by my Feds today and W. 2117 is being appropriately amended.

To rescue, save and preserve from war destruction the Torah values (Yeshivot, Rabbis, Scholars and Community Leaders)

To utilize the possibilities for rescue of European Jewry where the Vaad Hahatzala program is especially needed.
MESSAGE TO RABBI WILHELM WOLHE
11 OLEFSGOTTER STRASSE
STOCKHOLM SWEDEN
through AMERICAN EMBASSY, STOCKHOLM

July 7, 1944

HAVEN FORWARD TO RABBI CHAIM SMELEWICZ SHANGHAI VIA
POLISH CONSUL AND STERNBUCH IN SWITZERLAND 214,300 SWISS
FRANCS FOR DISTRIBUTION AMONG RABBIS AND RABBINICAL SCHOLARS
IN SHANGHAI STOP CONTACT SMELEWICZ INQUIRE IF ABOVE SUMS
RECEIVED AND DISTRIBUTED AS INSTRUCTED STOP INQUIRE ALSO IF
RECEIVED FROM DAVID AND ASHKENASI STOP COOPERATE WITH OLSEN
AND ENDEAVOR SEND COURIER TO LITHUANIA WITH FUNDS FOR RESCUE
OF GREAT RABBIS AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

To rescue, save and preserve from war destruction the Torah values
(Yeshivoth, Rabbis, Scholars and Community Leaders)
To utilize the possibilities for rescue of European Jewry where the
Vaad Hahatzala program is especially needed.
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D.C.

Att: Miss F. Hodell
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

In reply refer to
SWP 893.4241/2

June 2, 1944

The Secretary of State presents his compliments to the Secretary of the Treasury and in accordance with a previous conversation between Mr. Robert B. Parke of the Foreign Funds Control and an officer of the Department of State encloses herewith for the information of the Foreign Funds Control and such action as it may deem appropriate a copy of dispatch No. 8038 dated April 29, 1944, from the American Legation at Bern and a copy of its enclosure, a translation of a note dated April 26, 1944 from the Swiss Foreign Office which quotes a telegram from the Swiss Consulate General at Shanghai containing a message for the “Institution Chinese Blind” of 156 Fifth Avenue, New York from a Mr. Fryer.

Enclosure:

From Legation Bern,
no. 8038, April 29,
1944, with enclosure.
Via Airmail Pouch.

Bern, April 29, 1944.

Subject: American Interests - China
Financial transaction
"Institution Chinese Blind".

The American Minister at Bern has the honor to enclose, for the Department's information and for such action as it may deem appropriate, a translation of a note dated April 26, 1944, from the Swiss Foreign office which quotes a telegram from the Swiss Consulate General at Shanghai, containing a message for the "Institution Chinese Blind" of 156 Fifth Avenue, New York, from Mr. Fryer.

The Swiss Foreign Office has been informed by the Legation, in view of the provisions of the Department's telegram No. 195 of January 23, 1943, that it is not in a position to accept the message for transmission to the addressee in the United States and has suggested that reimbursement of the telegraphic charges incurred be sought from Mr. Fryer.

It is believed that the Department may possibly wish to inform the Treasury Department of the message contained in the enclosed note with a view to appropriate investigation.

Echoes:
Translation of Swiss Foreign Office note dated April 26, 1944.

File No. 310
TUI/dmh
In quintuplicate to Department.
The Division of Foreign Interests of the Federal Political Department has the honor to inform the Legation of the United States of America that it has received from the Swiss Consulate General at Shanghai the following message which Mr. Fryer desires forwarded to the "Institution Chinese Blind", 156 Fifth Avenue, New York:

"Since beginning 1942 have drawn on you for equivalent of Sw. francs 50,000 payable after war. May I continue drawing on you monthly Sw. francs 4,000 maximum requirement for continuation work and maintenance myself and daughter thereby assuring exemption internment."

The cost of transmitting this message amounts to 50 Swiss francs.

Bern, April 26, 1944.

TJB/ag
FULL

Sent to State
May 20, 1944 2:00 p.m.

Bakzin: 5/19/44
MAY 29 1944

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Dr. Joseph Schwartz was received from Lisbon under date of May 23, 1944:

"Received report from Shanghai indicating number on relief increased to 7,400. Giving these bread and one hot meal per day. Second meal given aged, undernourished and ill may have to be discontinued for lack of money. Some receive cash in place meals. Five camps being managed by committee who supply soap, baths and operate hospital, medical and dental clinics, also aid patients in isolation and insane hospitals and give aid toward funerals. Minimum required monthly budget 120,000 Swiss francs. Borrowing locally no longer feasible. Committee set up by Margolis still carrying on.

"Think it possible arrange Lisbon through International Red Cross for buying food here and Azores for Yugoslavian work camps. Request you apply license making it possible for us to do so.

"Requesting Salzmayer find out whether $200,000 payment may be blocked Switzerland to be paid end of war. Will advise soon as possible."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pohle

J. W. Pohle
Executive Director

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

PHILAB 5/27/44 8701
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement.

DSH-436

Lisbon

Dated May 23, 1944

Rec'd 3:21 p.m.

SECRETARY OF STATE,

Washington.

May 23, 1944, noon.

This WRB 48. JDC 7. SCHWARTZ FOR LEAVITT.

Received report from Shanghai indicating number on relief increased to 7,400. Giving these bread and one hot meal per day. Second meal given aged, undernourished and ill may have to be discontinued for lack of money. Some receive cash in place of meals. Five camps being managed by committee who supply soap, baths and operate hospital, medical and dental clinics, also aid patients in isolation and insane hospitals and give aid toward funerals. Minimum required monthly budget 140,000 Swiss francs. Borrowing locally no longer feasible. Committee set up by Margolis still carrying on.

Think it possible arrange Lisbon through International Red Cross for buying food here and Azores for Yugoslavian work camps. Request you apply license making it possible for us to do so.

Requesting Selzmayr find out whether $200,000 payment may be blocked Switzerland to be paid end of war. Will advise soon as possible.

DECLASSIFIED

STATE DEPT. LETTER, 1-11-72

R. H. PARKS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972
You will recall that in December 1943, the Treasury licensed the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (NY 595343) to send a message through the International Red Cross to the JDC Committee in Shanghai, authorising the latter to borrow the local currency equivalent of 110,000 Swiss francs per month for a period of 12 months. Operating under this borrowing authorisation, the JDC Shanghai Committee has been able to provide one meal a day for some 10,000 stateless refugees in Shanghai whose very lives depend upon this meager relief.

The JDC here has recently been advised through Lisbon and Stockholm (cables attached) that the Shanghai Committee is no longer able to borrow locally against the above-mentioned authorisation and that financial assistance is needed immediately if the feeding program is to continue.

In view of the fact that the lives of these 10,000 refugees are at stake, and in view of the fact that there appears to be no other way to save their lives except by direct financial help from the United States, I strongly recommend and urge that the Treasury grant a license at once to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee to remit $25,000 a month either through Sweden or Switzerland to the International Red Cross delegate in Shanghai for the use of the JDC Committee in Shanghai for this refugee relief program.

Favorable action by the Treasury on this request would appear to be supported by the licenses recently issued to the Polish Government, permitting remittances totalling $30,000 through Switzerland for the relief of some 500 refugee Polish Rabbis and scholars in Shanghai.

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

MAY 17, 1944.
Mr. Schmidt
J. W. Poble

Re: Relief to destitute refugees in Shanghai.

You will recall that in December 1943, the Treasury licensed the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (NY 595343) to send a message through the International Red Cross to the JDC Committee in Shanghai, authorizing the latter to borrow the local currency equivalent of 110,000 Swiss francs per month for a period of 12 months. Operating under this borrowing authorization, the JDC Shanghai Committee has been able to provide one meal a day for some 10,000 stateless refugees in Shanghai whose very lives depend upon this meager relief.

The JDC here has recently been advised through Lisbon and Stockholm (cables attached) that the Shanghai Committee is no longer able to borrow locally against the above-mentioned authorization and that financial assistance is needed immediately if the feeding program is to continue.

In view of the fact that the lives of these 10,000 refugees are at stake, and in view of the fact that there appears to be no other way to save their lives except by direct financial help from the United States, I strongly recommend and urge that the Treasury grant a license at once to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee to remit $25,000 a month either through Sweden or Switzerland to the International Red Cross delegate in Shanghai for the use of the JDC Committee in Shanghai for this refugee relief program.

Favorable action by the Treasury on this request would appear to be supported by the licenses recently issued to the Polish Government, permitting remittances totalling $50,000 through Switzerland for the relief of some 500 refugee Polish Rabbis and scholars in Shanghai.

Phileb 5/11/44
Secretary of State,  
Washington.  

1316, May 1, 6 p.m.  

WRB 13.  

FOLLOWING FROM JOSEPH SCHWARTZ FOR LEAVITT JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE NEW YORK.  

"Following report received from Shanghai first four months 1944 through local community:  

All figures below mentioned are local dollars and in thousands. Our credit balance first January 1758 received during January February March 1944 various local loans and Swiss donation total 21694 receipts in April almost nil total receipts 26652. Expenditures for feeding, 13487; housing, 3911; medical, 992; cash instead of food 2039; monetary assistance loans 143; various donations, 240; administration expenses, 96; total, expenditure until 31st March approximately 23000. Since April first till today spent entire cash balance approximately 3652. Are without funds and without possibility of paying overdue bills and without money for my expenditures estimated 110.00 Swiss francs. At present impossible borrowing locally urgent help required telegraph immediately in case no assistance forthcoming immediately will be forced to stop next week hot meals and reduce bread distribution. Mail monthly statements with fullest particulars.∗ ∗ ∗ ∗ ∗  

NORWEB"
ATTENTION OF WAR REFUGE BOARD, OUR NO. 7.

The following message has been received from the Shanghai agent of the Joint Distribution Committee by Rabbi Wolbe:

Owing to difficulties of raising sufficient funds, the local joint position is most desperate. It is immediately desirable that arrangements be made to pay Swedish kroner to Stockholm's Knivsta Bank for the account of Banque Indo-China Shanghai, up to 110,000 kroner, which are actually the requirements for one month. Money should be placed at disposal of C. Brahn, 133 Ruen Minguen Road, and we ask that this request be made to the Stockholm bank. Brahn is Chairman of the local joint, and we submit this for your information. Please telegraph possibilities promptly and immediately. Signed Brahn.

I have suggested to Wolbe that while this matter is being considered he cable Brahn and inquire whether, against guaranteed credits, he is not able to borrow funds locally.

JOHNSON
May 11, 1944

Mr. Schmidt

J. W. Fehle

Re: Relief to destitute refugees in Shanghai.

You will recall, that in December, 1943, the Treasury licensed the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (NY 59534) to send a message through the International Red Cross to the JDC in Shanghai, authorizing the latter to borrow the local currency equivalent of 110,000 Swiss francs per month for a period of 12 months. Operating under this borrowing authorization, the JDC Shanghai Committee has been able to provide one meal a day for some 10,000 stateless refugees in Shanghai whose very lives depend upon this meager relief.

The JDC here has recently been advised through Lisbon and Stockholm (cables attached) that the Shanghai Committee is no longer able to borrow locally against the above-mentioned authorization and that financial assistance is needed immediately if the feeding program is to continue.

In view of the fact that the lives of these 10,000 refugees are at stake, and in view of the fact that there appears to be no other way to save their lives except by direct financial help from the United States, I strongly recommend and urge that the Treasury grant a license at once to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee to remit $25,000 a month either through Sweden or Switzerland to the International Red Cross delegate in Shanghai for the use of the JDC in Shanghai for this refugee relief program.

(Signed) J. W. Fehle
Executive Director
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAF RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Stockholm
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: May 5, 1944
NUMBER: 1683

ATTENTION OF WAR REFUGEE BOARD, OUR NO. 7.

The following message has been received from the Shanghai agent of the Joint Distribution Committee by Rabbi Wolbe:

Owing to difficulties of raising sufficient funds, the local Joint position is most desperate. It is immediately desirable that arrangements be made to pay Swedish kroner to Stockholm's Enskilda Bank for the account of Banque Indo-China Shanghai up to 110,000 kroner, which are actually the requirements for one month. Money should be placed at disposal of C. Brahn, 133 Yuen Minguen Road, and we ask that this request be made to the Stockholm bank. Brahn is Chairman of the local Joint and we submit this for your information. Please telegraph possibilities promptly and immediately.

Signed Brahn.

I have

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972
-2-

I have suggested to Wolbe that while this matter is being considered he cable Brahm and inquire whether, against guaranteed credits, he is not able to borrow funds locally.

Vadba Hazalah of the Emergency Committee received from Rabbi Wolbe the following:

Regarding Lithuania I have received some information. There were still 9,000 in ghetto at Kaunas and 2,000 in ghetto in Siauliai in January. Further information is awaited as to whether there are still rabbis and scholars among them. Secure permits to enable immediate transfer when required and please keep larger amount ready. We must keep strictly confidential any information regarding this support.

JOHNSON
Dear Rabbi Kalmanovitz:

The following confidential message for the Vaad Mahasniaa Emergency Committee from Rabbi Wolbe was received under date of May 8, 1944, from the American Legation in Stockholm:

"Regarding Lithuania I have received some information. There are still 9,000 in ghetto at Kaunas and 2,000 in ghetto in Bialystok in January. Further information is awaited as to whether there are still rabbis and scholars among them. Secure permits to enable immediate transfer when required and please keep larger amount ready. We must keep strictly confidential any information regarding this support."

Very truly yours,

J. W. Fehl
Executive Director

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanovitz,
Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada,
132 Nassau Street,
Dear Mr. Leavitt:

Under date of May 6, 1944, the American Legation in Stockholm advised us that the following confidential message has been received by Rabbi Wolbe from the Shanghai agent of the Joint Distribution Committee:

"Owing to difficulties of raising sufficient funds, the local Joint position is most desperate. It is immediately desirable that arrangements be made to pay Swedish kroner to Stockholm's Enskilda Bank for the account of Banque Indo-Chine Shanghai up to 110,000 kroner, which are actually the requirements for one month. Money should be placed at disposal of O. Brahn, 133 Yuen Mingyen Road, and we ask that this request be made to the Stockholm bank. Brahn is Chairman of the local Joint and we submit this for your information. Please telegraph possibilities promptly and immediately.

Signed Brahn."

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pahle
Executive Director

Mr. Moses A. Leavitt,
Secretary,
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,
TO:  AMERICAN, BAGH

DATE: May 4, 1944

SECRETARY OF STATE, WASHINGTON

F. E. MUSSOLINI HAD TO MARRISE

PIANO AND ITALIAN SONGS TO JUDE

Please deliver the following message to Yeruham Laish, a Professor at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, to the local committee of the Jewish Emigration Committee:

"Advises Mussolini that Hesedale Aqev to the Jewish Committee, to give any financial support. All requests for aid on behalf of Rabbis must be directed to Yehuda Helman. Helman is also at the Jewish Emigration Committee. Advises him also to receive additional aid transmissions - if this method is preferable, advisable temporarily postpone support additional fifty adana."

This is the cable No. 18.
FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Stockholm
DATED: May 4, 1944
NUMBER: 831

FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD TO JOHNSON.
For Wilhelm Wolbe, 11 Olafsgotten Strasse, Stockholm, from Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz of the Vaad Hanatzala Emergency Committee.

Your April 24th received. Please inform Szmulowicz that 8,000 Swiss francs remitted through Sternbuch Switzerland - if this transfer method preferable, advisable temporarily postpone support additional fifty Rabbis. Greatly concerned fate great Rabbis religious leaders in Lithuania - if possible arrange courier to Lithuania endeavor rescue maximum number we guarantee expenditures and necessary funs. Advise through American Legation.

This is WRB Stockholm cable no. 8.
CABLE TO STOCKHOLM

From War Refugee Board to Johnson

Please deliver the following message to Wilhelm Wolbe,
11 Olleagotten Strasse, Stockholm, from Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowits
of the Vaad Nahatsala Emergency Committee:

"Your April 24th received please inform Samulewics
that 85,000 Swiss francs remitted through Sternbuch
Switzerland - if this transfer method preferable, advisable
temporarily postpone support additional fifty Rabbis Stop
Greatly concerned fate of great Rabbis religious leaders in
Lithuania - if possible arrange courier to Lithuania
endeavor rescue maximal number we guarantee expenditures
and necessary funds. Advise through American Legation
THIS IS WFB STOCKHOLM CABLE NO. 8

May 2, 1944

[Signature]

[Handwritten Note: "Filab 4/29/44"]
Following report received from Shanghai first four months 1944 through local community:

'All figures below mentioned are local dollars and in thousands. Our credit balance first January 1758 received during January February March 1944 various local loans and Swiss donation total 24994 receipts in April almost nil total receipts 26652.

Expenditures for feeding, 15487; housing, 3911; medical, 992; cash instead of food 2039; monetary assistance loans 143; various donations, 240; administration expenses, 96, total, expenditure until 31st March approximately 23000. Since April first till today spent entire cash balance approximately 3652. Are without funds and without possibility of paying overdue bills and without money for May expenditures estimated 140,00 Swiss francs. At present impossible borrowing
NCB-1316, May 1, 6 p.m. from Lisbon.

Borrowing locally urgent help required telegraph immediately in case no assistance forthcoming immediately will be forced to stop next week hot meals and reduce bread distribution. mailing monthly statements with fullest particulars.

Local community will make special one time grant £5,000 to meet emergency. SS MILCA arrived Istanbul from Constanza yesterday carrying 272 refugees who leaving by train today for Palestine. This is fourth boatload to arrive.

NORWEB

EJH
WTD
Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Dr. Joseph Schwartz
was received from Lisbon under date of May 1, 1944:

"Following report received from Shanghai first four months
1944 through local community:

All figures below mentioned are local dollars and in
thousands. Our credit balance first January 1758 received
during January February March 1944 various local loans
and Swiss donation total 24894 receipts in April almost
nil total receipts 26652. Expenditures for feeding,
15687; housing, 3911; medical, 992; cash instead of
food 2039; monetary assistance loans 143; various dona-
tions, 210; administration expenses, 96, total, expenditure
until 31st March approximately 23000. Since April first
till today spent entire cash balance approximately 2652.
Are without funds and without possibility of paying over-
due bills and without money for May expenditures esti-
imated 140000 Swiss francs. At present impossible borrowing
locally urgent help required telegraph immediately in
case no assistance forthcoming immediately will be forced
to stop next week hot meals and reduce bread distribution.
Mailing monthly statements with fullest particulars."

"Local community will make special one time grant $50000
to meet emergency. SSHEIKK arrived Istanbul from
Constanta yesterday carrying 272 refugees who leaving
by train today for Palestine. This is fourth boatload
to arrive."

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Moses A. Leavitt,
Secretary, American Jewish
Joint Distribution Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,
Ph: lab 3/4/44.
April 22, 1924

[Handwritten text]

[Signature]
April 25, 1946

AMLEGATION,
STOCKHOLM.

TO THE MINISTER AND OLSEN FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Please deliver a paraphrase of the following message
from War Refugee Board to Rabbi W. S. Wolbe, 11 Glofgatan,
Stockholm, Sweden:

"Gravely disturbed your report of Lithuania. Cable
War Refugee Board for us through American Legation your rescue
plans and if you can utilize funds for relief and rescue of
Rabbi and religious leaders in Lithuania. Have cabled
85,000 Swiss francs to Rabbi Shmulewitz through Switzerland.
Vaad Hatzalah Emergency Committee, Rabbi Aaron Kotler and
Abraham Kalmanowitz UNQUOTE.

HULL
(G.K)

HULL

4/22/44
CABLE TO MINISTER JOHNSON AND OLSEN, STOCKHOLM, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Please deliver the following message from War Refugee Board to Rabbi W. S. Wolbe, 11 Olofsgatan, Stockholm, Sweden:

QUOTE: Gravely disturbed your report of Lithuania. Cable War Refugee Board for us through American Legation your rescue plans and if you can utilize funds for relief and rescue of Rabbis and religious leaders in Lithuania. Have cabled 85,800 Swiss francs to Rabbi Shulewits through Switzerland. Vaad Habataalah Emergency Committee, Rabbi Aaron Kotler and Abraham Kalmanowitz. UNQUOTE

THIS IS WAR STOCKHOLM CABLE NO. 5

***************
April 22, 1944
11:15 a.m.

L. S. L.
Baksei LES5serials 4/21/44
Message to be transmitted to
Rabbi W. S. Wolbe
11 Olofsgatan Stockholm, Sweden.

Gravely disturbed your report of Lithuania, cable us through your legation your rescue plans and if you can utilize funds for relief and rescue of Rabbis and religious leaders in Lithuania stop. Have cabled $85,900 Swiss Francs to Rabbi Shmulewitz through Switzerland

Vaad Hatzalah
Rabbis Aaron Kotler
Abraham Kalmanovitz
CONTROL COPY

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

BJR - 792

Secretary of State,

Washington.

Dated April 24, 1944

Rec'd 8:20 p.m.

Rabbi Wilhelm Wolbe requests the following message to be transmitted to Rabbi Abraham Kalmanovitz, 540 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, New York:

"Have constant contact with Rabbi Shmuloivetz, Shanghai. Price increase there enormous. If transfer via Stockholm possible please try to obtain joint DISCO support also religious groups and advise exact proportion of funds contributed by each and how it should be expended. Please help Rabbis Rogow and Koidanowsky. Every connection with Balticum absolutely unavailable and we are trying utmost obtain information."

I discussed above message with Wolbe and advised him that he should (*) more specific details of situation in Shanghai, particularly as to what type of program can be carried out and what funds are needed. He will comply. Also explained general desirability of transfers of free.
of free exchange and suggested he inquire of Shanghai group whether they could borrow funds locally against authorization and guarantee of joint DISCO or other groups to repay dollar equivalent after the war. Am not too impressed with Wolbe's ability to grasp necessities of this type of problem.

JOHNSON

BB

(*) apparent omission
April 13, 1944

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

Attn: Miss F. Hodell

Dear Miss Hodell:

We enclose copy of a message sent to the State Department for transmission to Mr. Isaac Sternbuch in Switzerland. In the draft of the message which we sent you on April 12th for transmission to Mr. Sternbuch, sum 85,000 francs was mentioned. It should be corrected to read 85,800. May we ask you to please make the correction if the message has not been dispatched.

During the discussions concerning the transfer of the above sum, we were advised that the Legation in Bern would be notified to assist the relay of the funds from Switzerland, and we therefore respectfully request the cooperation of the Board that such advices be given to the Legation in Bern.

With our devoted thanks and appreciation,

Very respectfully yours,

Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz
MESSAGE TO BE TRANSMITTED TO
ISAAC STERNBUCH IN SWITZERLAND
THRU AMERICAN LEGATION IN SUIRZ

POLISH MINISTRY OF FINANCE IN UNITED STATES REMITTED TODAY
OUR 85,800 SWISS FRANCS TO POLISH EMBASSY TO BE GIVEN YOU
FOR TRANSMISSION TO RABBI SZMULEWICZ IN SHANGHAI.
PLEASE ARRANGE IMMEDIATE TRANSFER AND ADVISE US WHEN REMITTED.

VAAD HANATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE
RABBI ABRAHAM KALMANOWITZ
MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

March 9, 1944

I discussed the attached proposals of the Vaad Hahatzala and the Jewish Labor Committee with Mr. Leavitt of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. He advised me that Miss Margolis was convinced that no harm would come to the refugees in Shanghai or to the persons lending money for their support inasmuch as the Japanese authorities have been fully informed of the borrowing technique used to support refugees in Shanghai. She states that the Japanese have no objection to the borrowing so long as the money is obtained from neutrals.

Leavitt also pointed out that the sending of remittances to Shanghai are channeled through Geneva and Tokio, and made at the official rate which is somewhat higher than the rate obtained in borrowing locally.

F. Hodel
MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

March 9, 1944

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F. Hodel

Filed 3/11/44
March 9, 1944.

Miss Florence Rosei,
Far Eastern Bureau,
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Miss Powell:

For your information, I enclose copy of a cablegram re Shanghai, which we received from Mr. Max Peter.

Sincerely yours,

Moses A. Leavitt
Secretary
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MURDOCH TROPPER, New York
EDWARD M. WARBURG, New York
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS
in Geneva, Switzerland
Legation to the
United States of America.
1645 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington 9, D.C.

March 3, 1944  Ref. S/4/1

Mr. Moses A. Leavitt, Secretary
The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee
270 Madison Avenue
N.Y. City, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

Referring to my letter of Feb. 1st and your letter of Feb. 4, I am sending you here-
with a copy of a cable I received from Geneva.

Believe me, dear Mr. Leavitt,

Yours sincerely,

signed Marc Peter

Deputy of the International
Committee of the Red Cross

Copy of incoming cablegram received from: INTERACTION
Geneva, Switzerland

SAYS YOUR 689 REFERENCE OUR 50/49 DOES NOT ACTUALLY ENABLE RELIEF ASSISTANCE BUT
SUPERVISION AND CONTROL DISTRIBUTION FUNDS BY HIM ASKED UNRESOLVABLE DURING
CONTINUOUS DISPUTES AMONG Factions in the specified area. STOP HAVE NEVER THELESS
RECEIVED CABLES REQUESTING HIM CONTINUE ASSISTING INSO FAR AS CONDITIONS DO NOT RENDER SUCH
ASSISTANCE IMPOSSIBLE. STOP WILL KEEP YOU ADVISED STOP PLEASE INFORM LEAVITT OF
DIFFICULTIES AND QUESTION IN SUSPENSE STOP FOR YOUR INFORMATION NEW REGULATION BY
AUTHORITIES IN SHANGHAI SPECIFIED ALL MONEY TRANSFERS BY INCO FOR RELIEF PURPOSES MUST
HENCEFORTH FOLLOW GENEVA TOKYO SHANGHAI ROUTE AND RATE EXCHANGE FIXED AT C$5 DOLLARS 5
POINT 50 EQUALS 1 SWISS FRANC

INTERACTION 50671
Internationa Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva, Switzerland, and Delegation to the United States of America
1645 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington 9, D.C.

February 1, 1944

Mr. Moses A. Leavitt, Secretary
The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Incorporated
270 Madison Avenue
New York 16, New York

My dear Mr. Leavitt:

We have received the following message from Geneva:

In reference to Mr. Leavitt's cable of December 29, 1943, the Shanghai Joint Distribution Committee replies: "GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT MESSAGE FROM JOINT HEAD OFFICE AND SHANGHAI JOINT WILL ACT ACCORDINGLY EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO JOINTHEADOFFICE AND THANKING MISE MARGOLIS FOR QUICK AND EFFICIENT ASSISTANCE."

The International Committee of the Red Cross fears that owing to new regulations, the Delegate in Shanghai, Mr. Eglé, will be unable to assist. They will revert, however, when more details are available.

Sincerely yours,

Marc Peter
Delegate
Memorandum of Conversation
A-L

DATE:
October 4, 1943

SUBJECT:

PARTICIPANTS: Rabbi Goldman, Rabbi Kalmanowitz, Mr. Træs, of Agudath Youth Council, and Mr. Long.

COPIES TO:

[illegible]

Mr. Træs came in with the two rabbis by appointment. They stated that Rabbi Kalmanowitz had been one of the delegation received by the Secretary of State about ten days ago in which the Secretary was reported to have stated that he would talk to me and to Mr. Norman Davis and suggested that they see each of us.

They presented the case of 464 members of a rabbinical group which had miraculously been kept together since they left Poland and were now in Shanghai. They were stated to have been suffering and that the great desire of the rabbis was that they be saved as a unit and brought out of the jurisdiction of the Japanese in order that the culture, education, intellect and religious significance which they embodied could be saved to the Jewish people and to the world. They stated that they had heard from Jerusalem that these people needed help in an emergent manner and they wanted to have them exchanged. They realized the United States was making an exchange to get Americans out of Japanese control. They would like to present the thought that we undertake to exchange the rabbinical group out. They desired them to be included in the third exchange if there was to be one. They assumed there would be one. They had discussed the matter, apparently, about the exchange with the British. They had not succeeded as the Polish quota was very small. All of these persons bear Polish passports and are of Polish nationality. Most of them have visas either for the United States, Canada or Palestine, except a number which the Polish Ambassador here is alleged to have stated he would permit to join the Polish group presently resident in Mexico. Consequently, destination was not the trouble. The real difficulty was transportation and something to exchange for them. They had nothing
nothing to offer in the way of good pro muo. They hoped that the United States could include them amongst its citizens in the next exchange.

I professed our deep interest in their situation and the hope that the Department of State could continue to be of service to them and for them. I reminded them that this group had been amongst the thousands of persons the Department of State had saved out of Poland, Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania and Western Russia during 1940 and 1941 and that we had not lost interest in them and would be glad to do anything within the range of our possibilities to further their movement out of the hands of the Japanese.

I then proceeded to paint the picture of the Americans in Japanese hands both in the Philippines and in China, stated the real hardships that they were undergoing and the fact that as regards the Philippines there was no person to represent the American interests or to protect the American citizens from the vicious treatments imposed upon them by the Japanese and that our people in China were all interned and suffering from great privations. I further stated that it would be most difficult to justify to the American people the inclusion of non-Americans in a passenger list for exchange if they displaced American citizens who would thereby be forced to wait in internment camps and under privations and cruel treatments which they were undergoing in the Far East. I stated that we should speak frankly and understand all of the difficulties which lay in the path of an exchange. However, in spite of these difficulties, if they would think of ways and means which the United States Government might adopt to further the cause of removing these rabbis from Shanghai, we would be very glad to hear from them and would be willing to adopt any practical method which they suggested and to give it our help. In addition to that we would exert our thought and we would be very glad to devise ways and means if it were at all possible and that our interest would continue and that we would do whatever we could to arrange for their withdrawal, but it was necessary to face the realities in order that they might not be too optimistic. It had taken us more than a year to arrange for the exchange now taking place. In the immediate future we propose to suggest another exchange. Whether they could be included in that depended upon a variety of factors, but if they could not be included in that we would be very glad to have suggestions from the rabbis here in America as to how the release of their colleagues in Shanghai might be effected and we would do everything practical along that line.

They left with me a copy of a telegram from Jerusalem, a list of the persons in Shanghai (464) and a typewritten signed plea for the Department’s help. They said they wanted to talk
to Mr. Norman Davis and I agreed to talk to Mr. Davis and to ask him to receive them. He was out of the city today.

B. L.