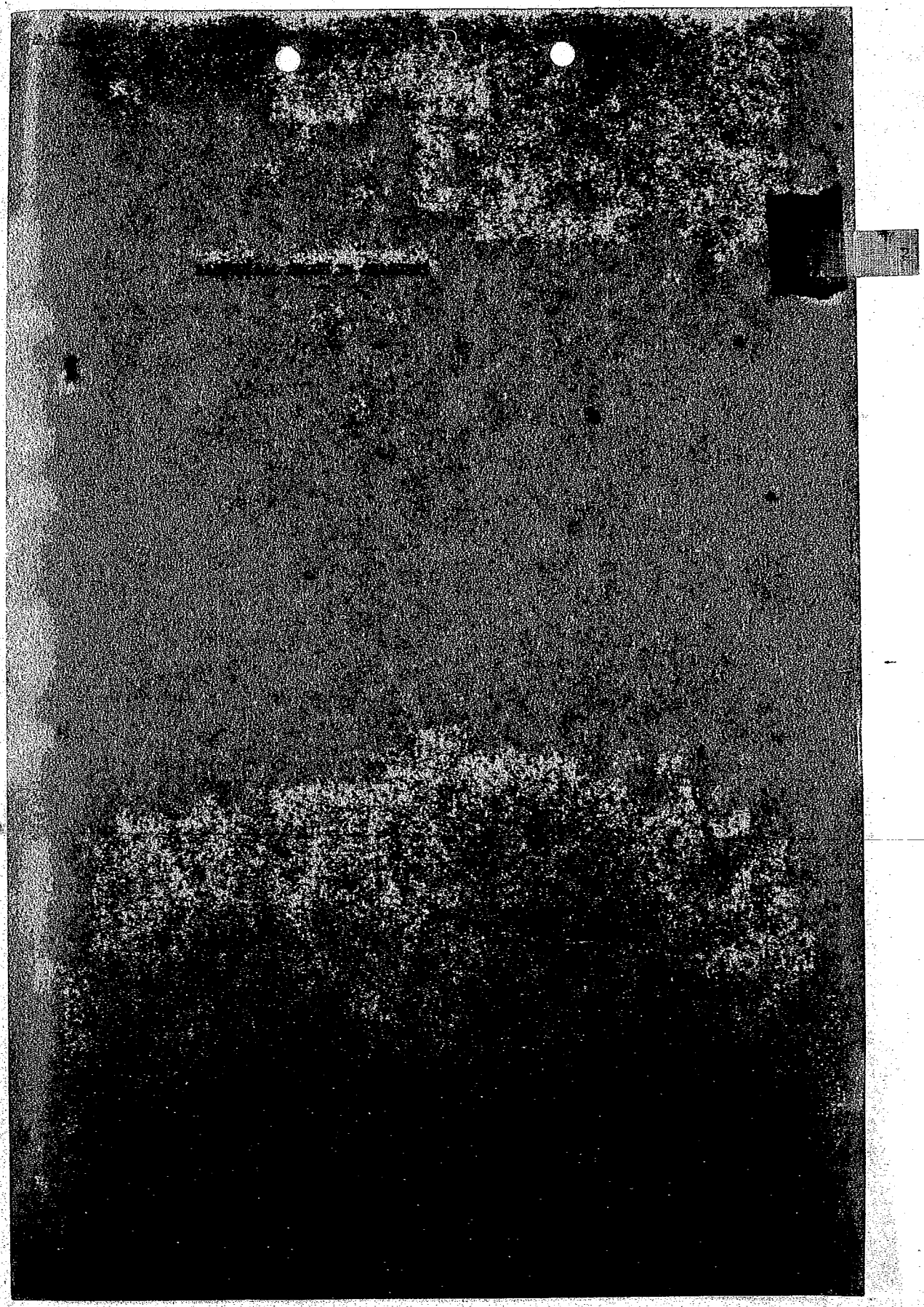
grams with Respect to Relief and
Rescue of Refugees: Relief Projects

Relief in Shanghai, Folder 2



Relief in Shanghai

(2)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

DSH

1945 JUL 14 PM 12 35

PLAIN

July 13, 1945

DC/L

CONTROL COPY

ALLEGATION

STOCKHOLM
1336, Thirteenth

Please deliver following message to Rabbi Wilhelm Wölbe, 11 Clefsgotten, Stockholm from Rabbis Kotler and Kalmanowitz and Irving Bunim of Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee:

QUOTE Worried about Rabbinical college in Shanghai. Cable us if exit permission definitely confirmed and if transit via Russia assured. Rabbinical group inquired whether evacuation to Tientsin advisable. We cannot decide. Urge you intercede with Swedish Government that their consul in Shanghai give fullest consideration and protection to the Rabbinical group. UNQUOTE

GREW
(Acting)
(SEL)

WRB:IMVance:kg
7/13/45

NOE

Imp cable retained in files

Relief in Shanghai
(2)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

War Ref Bd
(Dr. Lenger)

PEM

PLAIN

1945 JUL 2 AM 9 30

June 30, 1945

DC/L

CONTROL COPY

AMLEGATION

STOCKHOLM

1232, Thirtieth

Please deliver the following message (WRB 575) to Rabbi Wilhelm Wolbe, 11 Olofsgotten, from the Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee, Inc.

QUOTE Please cable immediately if exit permission of Shanghai Rabbinical Group certain since Swedish Council advised Chief Rabbi of London that permission for exit from Shanghai still doubtful. UNQUOTE

GREW
(Acting)

WRB:MAVance:kg
6/29/45

NOE

CABLE TO AMERICAN LEGATION, STOCKHOLM, FOR JOHNSON, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Please deliver the following message to Rabbi Wilhelm Wolbe, 11 Olofsgotten, from the Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee, Inc.

QUOTE PLEASE CABLE IMMEDIATELY IF EXIT PERMISSION OF SHANGHAI RABBINICAL GROUP CERTAIN SINCE SWEDISH COUNCIL ADVISED CHIEF RABBI OF LONDON THAT PERMISSION FOR EXIT FROM SHANGHAI STILL DOUBTFUL. UNQUOTE

THIS IS WRB STOCKHOLM CABLE NO. 275

Copy sent to Vaad 6/25/45

5:00 p.m.
June 25, 1945

RBH HBH: 6/25/45

Mrs Hutchison

Cable should go to Minister Johnson

Price Olsen has left.

ועד החצלה
VAAD HAHATZALA
(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)
132 NASSAU STREET
(ROOM 919)
NEW YORK 7, N. Y.
PHONE REctor 2-4235

June 22, 1945

War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D.C.

Attention: Miss Florence Hodell

Gentlemen:

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

May we again express our sincerest appreciation for the devoted cooperation which you, at all times gave to our humane effort.

With sincerest appreciation,

Very sincerely yours,

Vaad Hatzala Emergency Committee,
Inc.

Rabbi Jacob Karlinsky
Executive Secretary

K:Q
encl.

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

ועד ההצלה
VAAD HAHATZALA
(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)
132 NASSAU STREET
(ROOM 919)
NEW YORK 7, N. Y.
PHONE REctor 2-4235

June 22, 1945

Message to Rabbi Wilhelm Wolbe

11 Olefsgotten

Stockholm, Sweden

Please cable immediately if exit permission of Shanghai Rabbinical Group certain since Swedish Council advised Chief Rabbi of London that permission for exit from Shanghai still doubtful.

Vaad Hatzala Emergency Committee, Inc.
Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

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

Relief Projects - Relief in Shanghai - (1)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

April 21, 1945

6 p.m.

SB

Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement ([redacted] W)

War Ref Bd

CONTROL COPY

AMLEGATION

STOCKHOLM

723

The cable below for Olsen is WRB 355.

Please deliver paraphrase of the following message to Rabbi Wilhelm Kolbe - 11 Clefsgotten Strasse, Stockholm, from Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz of Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee:

QUOTE State Department advised us of Legations report re your work release Rabbinical groups from Shanghai suggest you contact Sven Olsen Steamship Agency endeavor charter lease buy ship. Explore also possibility evacuation of group via neutral air transport. Contact International Red Cross. UNQUOTE

[redacted]

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

STETTINIUS
(GLW)

STETTINIUS

WRB:MMV:KG
4/21/45

NOE

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

CABLE TO AMERICAN LEGATION, STOCKHOLM, FOR OLSEN, FROM THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Please deliver the following message to Rabbi Wilhelm Wolbe - 11 Olofsgottan Strasse, Stockholm, from Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz of Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee:

QUOTE STATE DEPARTMENT ADVISED US OF LEGATIONS REPORT RE YOUR WORK RELEASE RABBINICAL GROUPS FROM SHANGHAI SUGGEST YOU CONTACT SVEN SALEN STEAMSHIP AGENCY ENDEAVOR CHARTER LEASE BUY SHIP STOP EXPLORE ALSO POSSIBILITY EVACUATION OF GROUP VIA NEUTRAL AIR TRANSPORT. CONTACT INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS. UNQUOTE

THIS IS WRB STOCKHOLM CABLE NO. 355

Copy sent to Vaad 4/19/45

10:50 a.m.
April ~~17~~ 18, 1945

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

RBH

RBH: 4/16/45

ועד ההצלה
VAAD HAHATZALA
(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)
132 NASSAU STREET
(ROOM 919)
NEW YORK 7, N. Y.
PHONE REctor 2-4235

April 13, 1945

War Refugee Board
Treasury Department
Washington, D. C.

Att: Miss Florence Hodel

Dear Miss Hodel:-

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

We enclose also a copy of the report from the American Legation Stockholm in reference to the release of the Shanghai group.

With our deepest appreciation,

Very respectfully yours,

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

A. Kalmanowitz

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

K:K
Enc. 2

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

ועד ההצלה
VAAD HAHATZALA
(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)
132 NASSAU STREET
(ROOM 919)
NEW YORK 7, N. Y.
PHONE REctor 2-4235

Message to Rabbi Wilhelm Wolbe - 11 Olefsgottan Strasse, Stockholm

Thru American Legation Stockholm

STATE DEPARTMENT ADVISED US OF LEGATIONS REPORT RE YOUR WORK RELEASE RABBINICAL GROUPS FROM SHANGHAI SUGGEST YOU CONTACT SVEN SALEN STEAMSHIP AGENCY ENDEAVOR CHARTER LEASE BUY SHIP STOP EXPLORE ALSO POSSIBILITY EVACUATION OF GROUP VIA NEUTRAL AIR TRANSPORT. CONTACT INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS.

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

RABBI ABRAHAM KALMANOWITZ

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

Paraphrase of telegram
from American Legation at
Stockholm

****
* Special War Problems *
* Division **
* April 12, 1945 *
* Department of State *
****

Rabbis Wolbe and Jacobson have been very active for several months in discussing with Japanese, Russians and Swedes the possible release of the Rabbinical Group at Shanghai.

The question was taken up with the highest levels of the Swedish Government. Even the Crown Prince took a personal interest in the matter. The Rabbis obtained a promise which still is valid that the Swedish Government would give the group a collective visa, would receive them in Sweden and that it would support them in that country.

From the beginning the Japanese indicated consistently that they would permit the release of the Rabbinical group. They never indicated that they would ask for anything in return. In fact they stated that it would be an advantage to them to let the Rabbinical group go, since the congested situation at Shanghai has lead to unmanageable living conditions in that city. However, the Japanese Legation pointed out that they could not handle the question of transportation of the group from Shanghai since they have no ships to go to Vladivostok and since all facilities on the railroad to the Russian border, a week away, is reserved for military purposes.

The Rabbis state that the Russians have consistently been sympathetic to their proposals but have maintained throughout that they cannot provide means of transportation. They have pointed out that it would be foolish to promise transportation facilities, since the Siberian railway is overloaded and no Russian vessels run between Shanghai and Vladivostok.

The Swedish Government has pointed out that it has no shipping in East Asian waters.

It appears that the problem of moving the Rabbinical group out of Shanghai has been thoroughly explored from every possible angle and that the way things are going to be, itis technically impossible to solve such a problem. Any further efforts which might be taken could only go over the same ground that has previously been covered and existing developments in relations between Russia and Japan have only served to introduce new difficulties.

War Ref. Bd.
(O'Dwyer)

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Stockholm

TO: Secretary of State, Washington

DATED: April 9, 1945 (Rec'd April 10th)

NUMBER: 1326

[redacted]

CONTROL COPY

The following message for the War Refugee Board and for the Department is transmitted.

It is in response to message from the Department dated March 27, No. 563.

Conversations have been actively pursued with the Japanese, the Russians and the Swedes reference the release and transport of Rabbinical group from Shanghai, by Rabbis Jacobson and Wolbe over a period of several months.

At high levels the interest of the Government of Sweden was secured (a personal interest in the matter was taken by ~~the Crown Prince) and there were promises made which are still~~ in effect that the Rabbinical group would be given a collective Swedish visa and would be received in Sweden and supported there.

The position that release of the Rabbinical group would be allowed has apparently been consistently taken by the Government of Japan. There has been no quid pro quo so far as is known; it is our understanding that the Japanese insist that, because living conditions and congestion of civilians in Shanghai are practically unmanageable, they would be glad to get rid of the Rabbinical group. Nevertheless, the Japanese have stated that

outside

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

outside transportation facilities must be furnished, adding that they have no shipping between Shanghai and Vladivostok and that rail transportation to the Russian border from Shanghai (which is a weeks run) is equally impracticable in view of the fact that the facilities are reserved for military purposes entirely.

The Russians have expressed sympathy with the program but have insisted that it is technically impossible for the Russians to furnish the transportation needed according to Jacobson and Wolbe, who state that no Russian vessels are running between Shanghai and Vladivostok which they call a prolonged run and an extremely dangerous one. The Russians state that the Siberian railway is overloaded and that no promises of transportation would be based on realism, furthermore.

There is no shipping belonging to the Swedes in the Shanghai area according to statement made by the Swedes.

It is the belief of the Legation that the problem of moving the Rabbinical group from Shanghai has been examined into thoroughly and that it is a technical impossibility under conditions existing at present. For this reason we believe that nothing can be gained through additional efforts in that direction which would merely retrace the identical steps which have already been taken and in addition it would seem likely that additional obstacles may be caused by the deterioration of Russo-Japanese relations.

JOHNSON

Lerr

DC/L:LCW:MEM 4/11/45

2 War Ref. Bd.
(O. Dwyer)

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington

TO: American Legation, Stockholm

DATED: March 27, 1945

NUMBER: 563

CONTROL COPY

[redacted]

At various times since 1942, the situation at Shanghai of a group of Jewish scholars comprising the staff and student body of the Rabbinical College of Mir has been brought forcibly to the attention of the Department by the Vatican and by the Union of Orthodox Rabbis and other Jewish organizations. It is stated that this group comprises the only surviving center of orthodox Jewish learning, and, in view of the possible approach of active warfare to the Shanghai area and the increased measures of restriction applied by the Japanese against this group and enemy aliens in general in that area, the concern of religious and learned circles for its welfare and safety has recently been renewed.

Information has been conveyed to the Department that the Orthodox Rabbis in Sweden have obtained either a definite commitment or some form of encouragement which leads them to believe that the Japanese Government would be willing to permit the entire group to leave the territory under its control for a neutral destination; these arrangements were made by direct communication

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

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

communication with the Japanese diplomatic mission in Sweden. It is the further understanding of the Department that willingness to admit the entire group into its territory has been shown by the Swedish Government.

If this Government were formally to express to the Japanese any interest in the group in question, explanation has been given to the Union of Orthodox Rabbis in this country that it would probably prejudice such measure of success as has been obtained in the negotiations between their colleagues in Sweden and the Japanese. However, in an effort to rescue the group from its present hazardous situation, the Department would like to support any action which may be possible to take.

It is requested that you try to ascertain the exact nature and extent of the negotiations between the Orthodox Rabbis in Sweden and the Japanese diplomatic mission, including the extent to which commitments have been made by the Japanese. Ascertainment as to whether the Japanese expect any quid pro quo for the release of the group would be useful, as this point has not been clarified.

It might be desirable, if in your opinion and that of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis in Sweden the situation warrants it, for you and them separately to approach the Swedish Government with the suggestion that the Swedish Government undertake to

ascertain

ascertain from the Soviet Government whether the latter is willing, in view of the important cultural aspect of the problem and the insistence of the Japanese Government that the entire group if released must pass on to neutral territory, to authorize the transit of the group to Sweden across Soviet territory. Association of the United States Government with the Swedish Government in any negotiations which the latter might undertake with the Japanese Government or the Soviet Government would not seem feasible.

It is requested that the Department be kept advised.

GREW
(Acting)

SWP:AEClattenburg:BB

DC/L:MAS:AN
4-6-45

3/21/45

TO: Miss Hasell
~~Mr. McCormack~~

Please call me on this.

F. Hodel

4/4/45
What to do about this?
PJM

ועד ההצלה
VAAD HAHATZALA
(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)
132 NASSAU STREET
(ROOM 919)
NEW YORK 7, N. Y.
PHONE REctor 2-4235

March 15, 1945

General William O'Dwyer
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear General O'Dwyer:

We received a cable from Stockholm which reads:

> "PLEASE INFORM IMMEDIATELY ABOUT YOUR TRANSACTIONS WITH RUSSIA STOP PERTURBATION ABOUT RABBINICAL COLLEGE IN SHANGHAI INCREASING"
>
> VAAD HATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE SCANDINAVIAN SECTION RABBI WILHELM WOLBE

We are reluctant to contact the Russian government to permit through-transit from Japanese territory to Sweden because the nationalities of these Rabbis and scholars has not been established, and they may encounter untold difficulties upon reaching Russian soil, since most of them are of Polish citizenship.

The only possible means to effect the rescue of this religious group would be to urge upon the Japanese government to make available a ship which would take this group a short distance to meet a neutral ship would then carry this group most of the way to Sweden which has already granted entry visas for this group.

We are most anxious to effect this release and we would be grateful for your earnest consideration of the matter and the assistance of the War Refugee Board and other departments to make possible the transfer of this group by ship.

With sincerest appreciation,

Very respectfully yours,

A. Kalmanowitz

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

K:L

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

O
P
Y

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE
132 Nassau Street
New York

March 15, 1945

General William O'Dwyer
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear General O'Dwyer:

We received a cable from Stockholm which reads:

"PLEASE INFORM IMMEDIATELY ABOUT YOUR TRANSACTIONS WITH RUSSIA STOP PERTURBATION ABOUT RABBINICAL COLLEGE IN SHANGHAI INCREASING"
VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE SCANDINAVIAN SECTION RABBI WILHELM WOLBE

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We are most anxious to effect this release and we would be grateful for your earnest consideration of the matter and the assistance of the War Refugee Board and other departments to make possible the transfer of this group by ship.

With sincerest appreciation,

Very respectfully yours,

/s/ A. Kalmanowitz

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

K:L

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

WESTERN UNION CABLEGRAM

(14)

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS	
LC	Deferred Cablegram
NLT	Cable Night Letter
	Ship Radiogram

1945 FEB 14 PM 11 [illegible]

Received at

[illegible] INTL CD=STOCKHOLM 66/62 9 1550 VIA RCA

NLT [illegible] ABRAHAM KALVANOWITZ=

540 BEDFORDAVE BROOKLYNNY=

SWEDISH GOVERNMENT GRANTS ENTRANCEVISUM FOR MIRRER AND ATTACHED COLLEGES ACCORDING SHANGHAI SWEDISH CONSULATE RAPPORT ABOUT 470 PERSONS STOP VISUM GIVES INDIVIDUALLY OR COLLECTIVELY STOP SWEDISH LEGATION WASHINGTON GETTING INSTRUCTIONS STOP RUSSIAN TRANSITVISUM PREFERABLE COLLECTIVELY STOP NEGOTIATIONS LEAVING-PERMIT SHANGHAI POSSIBLE THROUGH JAPANMINISTER HERE HE IS WILLINGLY HELP US KEEP DISCRET=

RABBIS ABRAHAM ISRAEL JACOBSON WILHELM WOLBE=

THE QUICKEST, SUREST AND SAFEST WAY TO SEND MONEY IS BY TELEGRAPH OR CABLE

PARTMENT OF STATE

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

LFR
Distribution by one reading only by special arrangement. [redacted])

1945 FEB 9 PM 1 04

February 9, 1945
5 p.m.

AMLEGATION

STOCKHOLM
224

CONTROL COPY

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

The cable below is WRB 305.

Please deliver paraphrase of following message to Rabbi Wilhelm Wolbe, 11 Olefsgotten, Stockholm, from Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee:

QUOTE To decrease danger of persecution of refugee rabbinical scholars in Shanghai while in Shanghai and to improve their chances of being granted exit permits by Japanese authorities and eventual transit facilities via Russia, please intercede with Swedish government to grant them Swedish passports along the lines of the generous policy adopted by Sweden in connection with Jews in Budapest. By doing this, Swedish government will help preserve lives of principal survivors of great religious tradition of Judaism. UNQUOTE

To Minister Johnson and Olsen from Department and WRB:

Above matter refers to Department's 100 of January 18 and Legation's 128 of January 11.

It appears that Vaad Hahatzala contemplates evacuation of rabbinical group from Shanghai by one of the following methods:

First--

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

First--exchange against suitable contingent of Japanese civilians in a Western Hemisphere country other than the United States; or Second--overland evacuation via USSR to neutral territory, pending arrangements for permanent destination, without quid pro quo for Japan. The two methods should be kept entirely separate.

First method involves negotiations via Vatican and complicated shipping and technical arrangements. Regarding second method, according to the Vatican, there is no indication of Japanese consent to unilateral removal. In addition, there is serious doubt whether transit via Russia is feasible, since Soviet authorities will probably regard persons concerned as Russian or Polish citizens. In the circumstances, Rabbis are anxious to safeguard position of Shanghai rabbinical scholars by Swedish passports which might protect them either on the spot or in transit.

GREW
(Acting)
(GLW)

WRB:HMV:KG
2/7/45

NOE

EE

CABLE TO MINISTER JOHNSON AND OLSEN, STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN

Please deliver following message to Rabbi Wilhelm Wolbe, 11 Olofsgotten, Stockholm, from Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee:

QUOTE To decrease danger of persecution of refugee rabbinical scholars in Shanghai while in Shanghai and to improve their chances of being granted exit permits by Japanese authorities and eventual transit facilities via Russia, please intercede with Swedish government to grant them Swedish passports along the lines of the generous policy adopted by Sweden in connection with Jews in Budapest. By doing this, Swedish government will help preserve lives of principal survivors of great religious tradition of Judaism. UNQUOTE

To Minister Johnson and Olsen from Department and WRB:

Above matter refers to Department's 103 of January 18 and Legation's 128 of January 11.

It appears that Vaad Hahatzala contemplates evacuation of rabbinical group from Shanghai by one of the following methods:

First--exchange against suitable contingent of Japanese civilians in a Western Hemisphere country other than the United States; or
Second--overland evacuation via USSR to neutral territory, pending arrangements for permanent destination, without quid pro quo for Japan. The two methods should be kept entirely separate.

First method involves negotiations via Vatican and complicated shipping and technical arrangements. Regarding second method, according to the Vatican, there is no indication of Japanese consent to unilateral removal. In addition, there is serious doubt whether transit via Russia is feasible, since Soviet authorities will probably regard persons concerned as Russian or Polish citizens. In the circumstances, Rabbis are anxious to safeguard position of Shanghai rabbinical scholars by Swedish passports which might protect them either on the spot or in transit. ~~If you deem it advisable, you may lend your support to Wolbe in connection with the above message.~~

2/7/45
Bevan -

Swedish
as Swedes are
[illegible] different
this with Soviet
re Baltic refugees -
Swedes recently
recognized those who
arrived in 1940 as
Soviet nationals
Swedes would be in
position in view of
granting Swedish citizenship
to Soviet nationals -

RAkeinsar 2/2/45

CABLE TO MINISTER JOHNSON AND OLSEN, STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN

copy sent David Hunter 2/3/45 RG

Please deliver following message to Rabbi Wilhelm Wolbe, 11 Olefsgotten, Stockholm, from Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee:

QUOTE To decrease danger of persecution of refugee rabbinical scholars in Shanghai while in Shanghai and to improve their chances of being granted exit permits by Japanese authorities and eventual transit facilities via Russia, please intercede with Swedish government to grant them Swedish passports along the lines of the generous policy adopted by Sweden in connection with Jews in Budapest. By doing this, Swedish government will help preserve lives of principal survivors of great religious tradition of Judaism. UNQUOTE

To Minister Johnson and Olsen from Department and WRB:

Above matter refers to Department's 100 of January 18 and Legation's 128 of January 11.

It appears that Vaad Hahatzala contemplates evacuation of rabbinical group from Shanghai by one of the following methods:

First--exchange against suitable contingent of Japanese civilians in a Western Hemisphere country other than the United States; or Second--overland evacuation via USSR to neutral territory, pending arrangements for permanent destination, without quid pro quo for Japan. The two methods should be kept entirely separate.

First method involves negotiations via Vatican and complicated shipping and technical arrangements. Regarding second method, according to the Vatican, there is no indication of Japanese consent to unilateral removal. In addition, there is serious doubt whether transit via Russia is feasible, since Soviet authorities will probably regard persons concerned as Russian or Polish citizens. In the circumstances, Rabbis are anxious to safeguard position of Shanghai rabbinical scholars by Swedish passports which might protect them either on the spot or in transit. If you deem it advisable, you may lend your support to Wolbe in connection with the above message.

THIS IS WRB CABLE STOCKHOLM NO. 305.

11:00 a.m.
February,3, 1945

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y(Ackermann, Akzin, Cohn, Drury, DuBois, Gaston, Hodel, McCormack, O'Dwyer, Files

BAkzin:ar 2/2/45 Ba

0 0 2

Same as: #774 a/17

Check to see if this cable went out.

CABLE TO MINISTER JOHNSON AND OLSEN, STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN, FROM DEPARTMENT AND WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Reference is made to Department's 100 of January 18 and Legation's 128 of January 11.

It appears that Vaad Hahatzala contemplates evacuation of rabbinical group from Shanghai by one of the following methods:

First--exchange against suitable contingent of Japanese civilians in a Western Hemisphere country other than the United States; or

Second--overland evacuation via USSR to neutral territory, pending arrangements for permanent destination, without quid pro quo for Japan. The two methods should be kept entirely separate.

First method involves negotiations via Vatican and complicated shipping and technical arrangements. The following message from Jerusalem addressed to Vaad Hahatzala in New York bears on this suggestion:

> QUOTE CHIEF RABBI ISAAC HERZOG JERUSALEM RECEIVED MESSAGE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT MADE REPRESENTATIONS JAPAN INFORMED SCHEME REMOVING FROM SHANGHAI IMPOSSIBLE MESSAGE FROM VATICAN JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AGREE ONLY UNDER EXCHANGE SCHEME UNQUOTE

American delegate to Vatican has been asked to cable all available information on this point, and your comments thereon would also be appreciated.

Regarding second method, you may inform Rabbi Wolbe that Department and WRB are inquiring in Moscow whether USSR would grant transit and guarantee exit of rabbinical group in Shanghai should Japan agree to their departure overland. In case of positive reply, you will be asked to support Wolbe's request to Swedish government for a temporary asylum for this group in Sweden.

THIS IS WRB STOCKHOLM CABLE NO. 298.

12:30
January 24, 1945

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Ackermann, Akzin, Cohn, Drury, DuBois, Gaston, Hodel, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Files.

BAkzin:ar 1/24/45 BA JG

ועד ההצלה
VAAD HAHATZALA
(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)
132 NASSAU STREET
(ROOM 919)
NEW YORK 7, N. Y.
PHONE RECTOR 2-4235

Copy sent to Warren 2/2

January 31, 1945

War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D.C.

Attention: Miss F. Hodel

Dear Miss Hodel:

On January 29th we wrote to the Honorable John W. Pehle in reference to the release and transfer of the Rabbinical group in Shanghai. After deep consideration of the problem we find that for the best interests of the Rabbis and Students of this group it would be extremely advisable to first secure the citizenships from the Swedish Government and to have every assurance that this group would travel under their full protection.

We therefore would respectfully request that at the present moment the cable to the Russian Government should not be sent and that the War Refugee Board should first contact the Swedish Government and endeavor to secure the protection which we request.

We wish also to call to your attention the matter of the 148,000 Jews of Transylvania who were recently deported to Germany proper. It is extremely necessary, since their lives are in danger, to request the Government of the USSR to issue a warning through its Commanders in the Field that these persons must be treated as civilian internees and that they must receive the fullest protection under International Law. It is also necessary to request of the Russian Government that they propose an exchange of these persons for Germans held by the USSR. We consider this matter of extreme importance and we have had a preliminary discussion about it with Dr. Aksen of your staff. We tried to reach you by phone all day but were not successful.

I would also ask you to please expedite the matter of passports and other documents for Rabbi S.P. Wohlgelernter. His papers have been submitted to Miss Shipley of the Passport Division.

With our sincerest appreciation,

Very respectfully yours,

A. Kalmanowitz

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

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

P
Y

VAAD HAHATZALA
EMERGENCY COMMITTEE
132 Nassau Street
New York 7

January 31, 1945

War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Miss F. Hodel

Dear Miss Hodel:

On January 29th we wrote to the Honorable John W. Pehle in reference to the release and transfer of the Rabbinical group in Shanghai. After deep consideration of the problem we find that for the best interests of the Rabbis and Students of this group it would be extremely advisable to first secure the citizenships from the Swedish Government and to have every assurance that this group would travel under their full protection.

We therefore would respectfully request that at the present moment the cable to the Russian Government should not be sent and that the War Refugee Board should first contact the Swedish Government and endeavor to secure the protection which we request.

We wish also to call to your attention the matter of the 148,000 Jews of Transylvania who were recently deported to Germany proper. It is extremely necessary, since their lives are in danger, to request the Government of the USSR to issue a warning through its Commanders in the Field that these persons must be treated as civilian internees and that they must receive the fullest protection under International Law. It is also necessary to request of the Russian Government that they propose an exchange of these persons for Germans held by the USSR. We consider this matter of extreme importance and we have had a preliminary discussion about it with Dr. Aksen of your staff. We tried to reach you by phone all day but were not successful.

I would also ask you to please expedite the matter of passports and other documents for Rabbi S. P. Wohlgelernter. His papers have been submitted to Miss Shipley of the Passport Division.

With our sincerest appreciation,

Very respectfully yours,

/s/ A. Kalmanowitz

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

ועד ההצלה
VAAD HAHATZALA
(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)
132 NASSAU STREET
(ROOM 919)
NEW YORK 7, N. Y.
PHONE RECTOR 2-4235

February 6, 1945

Honorable William O'Dwyer
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Treasury Department
Washington, D.C.

Honorable Sir:

Allow us to thank you sincerely for your courtesy in receiving us on February 5 and for giving your earnest consideration to the several matters which we presented. We feel certain that the necessary action will follow on the matters which we discussed.

We wish to particularly call to your attention the matter of the release of the Rabbinical Group from Shanghai. We have noted your enthusiasm for the plan that was proposed. We feel that a direct appeal to the Vatican would be productive of the best results. We are enclosing a short memorandum on the subject together with copies of the authorized communications and documents pertaining to the release of this group. We shall within several days also send you a copy of the list of those in Shanghai and their history.

We again express our congratulations to you on your assuming the portfolio of Executive Director and wish you every good fortune in your great humanitarian task.

With deepest appreciation.

Very respectfully yours,

Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee

A. Kalmanowitz

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

K:Q
Encls.

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

ועד ההצלה
VAAD HAHATZALA
(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)
132 NASSAU STREET
(ROOM 819)
NEW YORK 7, N. Y.
PHONE REctor 2-4235

February 6, 1945

MEMORANDUM IN REFERENCE TO THE RELEASE OF THE RABBINICAL GROUP IN SHANGHAI

The only remaining Rabbinical College of Poland, comprising some 465 persons, and including deans, rabbis, faculty members and scholars, escaped Poland late in 1939 and after wandering through Siberia and China, finally reached Shanghai where they are presently interned under Japanese supervision. The latest reports received through the International Red Cross confirm their danger and urge their immediate evacuation.

The rescue of this Group is the deep concern of religious Jewry. This one remaining college represents the cultural and religious basis of Jewry. It is a pitiful remnant that we may turn to for the spiritual rebirth which must precede the rehabilitation of our sorely afflicted people. On several occasions we have presented to the State Department memoranda concerning the release of this Rabbinical Group in Shanghai. We have also interceded with the Vatican and the Government of Spain and Sweden for the unilateral release of this Group from Shanghai and also for their inclusion in whatever exchanges there are to be made. We stressed to the Vatican the outstanding and exceptional religious status of this Group and requested that they be given especial consideration in the matter of exchange or release. We would therefore respectfully appeal to you to proceed with your proposed plan to request His Excellency, The Archbishop Spellman to present this matter to the Vatican and to request an urgent intercession for the release of this Group.

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

AMBASADA
RZECZYPOSPOLITEJ P[illegible]KIEJ
W WASZYNGTONIE

POLISH EMBASSY
2640 16th Street, N.W.
Washington, 9, D.C.

November 27, 1944.

851 - e/SZ-t/255

Dear Rabbi,

To my great regret I missed seeing you during your last visit to Washington. The problem of the evacuation of the rabbinical group from Shanghai has the continued interest of the Polish Government in London. This Embassy also keeps in very close touch with the situation which at present is in the following stage:

All the technical difficulties have been overcome by the Allies who are awaiting the final consent of the Japanese Government. The Japanese side, however, is delaying a reply in spite of certain far-reaching decisions made by the British Government regarding the evacuation of Japanese merchant marine seamen interned in Australia. It seems also that transport difficulties are playing an important part, particularly in view of the fact that the ship on which the evacuees were to depart from Shanghai has been in the meanwhile turned over to the disposal of the Japanese navy.

I shall be very happy to have an opportunity of seeing you when you are next in Washington.

Very sincerely yours,

M. Kwapiszewski
Minister Plenipotentiary
Counselor of Embassy

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz
Vaad Hahatzala
Emergency Committee
132 Nassau Street
New York, 7, N.Y.

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

1201

1945 Jan 2 PM 2 52

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter
NL = Night Letter
LC = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

N43 INTL - GPR JERUSALEM VIA WUCABLES 47/46 Dec 26

NLT RABBI ABRAHAM KALMANOWITZ
540 BEDFORD AVE BROOKLYN NEW YORK-

CHIEF RABBI ISAAC HERZOG JERUSALEM RECEIVED MESSAGE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT MADE REPRESENTATIONS JAPAN INFORMED SCHEME REMOVING FROM SHANGHAI IMPOSSIBLE MESSAGE FROM VATICAN JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AGREE ONLY UNDER EXCHANGE SCHEME INTEREST YOURSELF POSSIBILITY LARGESCALE EXCHANGELARGE NUMBER STUDENTS SICK

RABBI ELIEZER FINKEL

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

LEGATION OF SWEDEN

WASHINGTON 8, D.C.

December 23, 1944

Rabbis Aron Kotler & Abraham Kalmanowitz
Emergency Committee for War-Torn Yeshivoth
132 Nassau Street
New York, New York

Dear Sirs:

This Legation has received information from the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs that you have asked His Majesty the King of Sweden to intervene in favour of 500 rabbis and rabbinical scholars from the rabbi-school of Mir, Poland, at present in Shanghai. It is understood that this request refers to the same persons considered in your memorandum, handed over to the Swedish Consul General in New York in November 1943.

I am instructed by the Ministry in Stockholm to convey to you the following message from His Majesty. After careful consideration of your request, the Swedish Government found it most unlikely that the granting of Swedish citizenship would facilitate the departure from Shanghai of the persons in question. Moreover, the Government does not see its way to arrange for the transport by means of a Swedish ship.

In this connection, I would like to mention confidentially that energetic attempts have been made since 1942 to obtain permission to bring Swedish citizens in Shanghai home to Sweden, but these attempts have, so far, not met with any success.

Therefore, although the Swedish Government fully recognises the tragic circumstances under which your unfortunate compatriots are living, they deeply regret not to be able to accede to your request for intervention.

Very truly yours,

REPUBLIC OF POLAND

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

s/851 - e/CH/44

London, November 28th, 1944.

[redacted]

Dear Mr. Springer,

In connection with our telephonic conversation of yesterday I am sending you a few details as to the present state of the pending exchange from Shanghai.

First of all, I should like to express my regret that I cannot confirm your information about any substantial change in the allied contingents.

At the present moment, the materialization of the exchange, which, as you know, has for over a year been in the process of negotiation between the Allied and Japanese governments, depends on obtaining a ship to carry the allied contingents out of Shanghai and since the Japanese have refused to use a ship of their own for this purpose, a neutral ship must be found. The matter of chartering a neutral ship is being considered by the British and American Governments, in whose hands, as you may well be aware of, the technical side of the exchange rests. In view of what has been said above it seems that the carrying out of the exchange cannot be visualized in the too near future.

We are very anxious, I may assure you, to see this matter concluded at an earliest possible date and especially the fate of rabbis, who may contribute in no small degree to reviving the spiritual life of the Polish Jewry in the future, is a matter of a deep concern to us. Although the present exchange cannot bring liberation to all the rabbis and rabbinical students at present in Shanghai, we hope that the next exchanges, if negotiated, will bring a successful conclusion to the matter. With this end in view, we shall appreciate every help, which the Agudah may be able to give, using their own channels, to speed up the technical process of this and further exchanges.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) L. Kosiebrodski.

M. R. Springer, Esq.,
55, Queen's Drive,
London, N.4.

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

Apostolic Delegation
United States of America

3339 Massachusetts Avenue
Washington, D. C.

NO. 581/42

March 10, 1944

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz
Union of Orthodox Rabbis
132 Nassau St.
New York City 7, N.Y.

Dear Rabbi Kalmanowitz,

I have received your letter of March 7th in which you inquire into possible available information from the Vatican regarding the outcome of its recommendation to the Japanese Government with reference to the lot of the members of the Rabbinical College in Shanghai. As I advised you through the Most Reverend Auxiliary Bishop of New York on January 1, 1944, the Cardinal Secretary of State had taken up the matter with the Ambassador of Japan to the Holy See, but stated that he could give no assurance as to the outcome of his recommendations, because of the many difficulties inherent in the case. I regret that to date no further developments have been communicated to me by the Cardinal Secretary of State. You may rest assured that any information transmitted to me will be forwarded to you at once.

With sentiments of esteem and with every best wish I remain

Sincerely yours,

A. G. Cicognani

Archbishop of Laodicea
Apostolic Delegate

71 Broadway

NEW YORK

October 4, 1943

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz,
Chairman, Vaad Hatzala
Emergency Committee,
132 Nassau St., New York.

Dear Sir:

Mr. Taylor, who left for Washington this afternoon, directed us to say that he has received a letter from H. E. the Apostolic Delegate in Washington dated October 1st reading as follows:

"In reference to my letter of September 18th concerning the exchange of the members of the Rabbinical College of Mir, now in Shanghai, I am now pleased to inform Your Excellency that His Eminence, the Cardinal Secretary of State, has directed me to present the matter for the consideration of the Government of the United States.

"His Eminence has declared that the Holy See is most anxious to come to the assistance of all those who suffer, and will be pleased to treat of the matter with the British Government if there is some positive hope of success.

"I shall be grateful for Your Excellency's kind offices in recommending this group to the benevolent consideration of the competent American authorities."

Mr. Taylor wishes us to suggest that your proper course now is to take this matter up with the Department of State in Washington.

Yours very truly,

Secretary to Mr. Myron Taylor.

0 0 3

BRITISH EMBASSY

WASHINGTON, D.C.

November 10, 1943

Dear Rabbi Kalmanowitz,

I write to thank you for your letter of November 5th enclosing the memorandum on the subject of the exchange of Rabbis and Rabbinical Scholars now in Japanese hands.

A telegram on this subject has been despatched to the Foreign Office in London, and as soon as a reply is received I will write to you again.

Yours very sincerely,

Halifax

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz,
The Union of Orthodox Rabbis
of the United States and Canada,
Suite 1221, 132 Nassau Street,
New York 7, New York

00083

The Personal Repr ntative of the
President of the United States of America
to His Holiness the Pope

August 10, 1944

Dear Sirs:

I did not fail to bring to the attention of the appropriate Vatican Authorities the contents of your telegram to me of June 18 last, requesting the intervention of the Vatican in behalf of some 500 Rabbinical scholars and Rabbis exiled in Shanghai.

I have no received a reply from the Vatican dated August 6 to the effect that the Holy See, after failing in its efforts to have these persons included in a possible exchange of persons, approached the Japanese Government with a view to having them released as a unilateral act on the part of that Government. Unfortunately, the Vatican states that up to the present time no reply to these latest representations has been received from the Japanese authorities.

If further communications are received from the Vatican on this subject, you will be advised without delay.

Sincerely yours,

Myron C. Taylor

Union of Orthodox Rabbis of
the United States and Canada
132 Nassau Street,
New York City.

Policy re Shanghai

768 Bern 1/3

February 7, 1945

Dear Sirs:

The following message for you from M. Sternbuch was received through the American Legation in Bern under date of February 3, 1945:

"It has been possible to make plans for exchanging only a small number of Orthodox Rabbis by way of Russia despite Polish Government's intensive intercession. Since names have been confirmed through protecting power, this exchange list cannot now be changed. Japanese refused to provide vessel for purpose of exchange. Therefore, exchange can only be accomplished if neutral vessel can be made available by Allies."

Very truly yours,

(S) Florence Hodel

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee,
132 Nassau Street,
New York 7, New York.

RDrury 2/7/45

00083

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

1945 FEB 4 AM 10 27

CONFIDENTIAL FILES AND RECORDS (LIAISON)

INCOMING TELEGRAM

CONTROL COPY

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

Mar Ref. Bel. Belle

MHe 784

Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement [redacted] W)

Bern

Dated February 3, 1945

Rec'd 12:16 p.m.

Sent 2/7/45 RS

Secretary of State,

Washington.

768, February 3, 10 a.m.

FOR WRB FROM MCCLELLAND

Kindly deliver following from Sternbuch to Union of Orthodox Rabbis:

Despite intensive intercession on part of Polish Government it has only been possible to plan for the exchange of small number of Orthodox Rabbis via the USSR. This exchange list can no (repeat no) longer be changed since the names have been confirmed through the protecting power. The Japanese refused to supply ship for the exchange. Exchange can therefore only take place if the Allies can make available neutral ship.

HUDDLE

BB

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

000842

ועד החצלה
VAAD HAHATZALA
(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)
132 NASSAU STREET
(ROOM 919)
NEW YORK 7, N. Y.
PHONE REctor 2-4235

Copy sent to Warren - 2/2

January 29, 1945

Hon. J.W. Pehle, Executive Director
Executive Office of the President
War Refugee Board
Washington, D. C.

Honorable Sir:

I refer to your letter of January 27, in which you request that we advise you in reference to the proposed message which was to be transmitted to the Soviet Government to determine whether transit facilities across the Soviet Union, and exit permits would be granted to the group of 500 interned in Shanghai.

We agree with your statement that from all appearances the Soviet Government considers all Jews in those areas of Poland occupied by the Soviet Union since 1939 as natives of the USSR. However, my proposal to the War Refugee Board was to determine and make certain whether a form of guarantee could be obtained from the Russian Government that exception to this group would be made and that their passage into the USSR would only be transit to an ultimate destination. I feel therefore that the inquiry should be made in this vein and that the Ambassador to the USSR would discover through conversation with the Russian Foreign Office whether such assurances would be forthcoming.

To further make certain the safe conduct of this group, we have initiated intervention with the Swedish Government for the grant of Swedish citizenship to this group. When I requested intervention I had in mind only the protection which such Swedish citizenship would give to the group while they are in Shanghai.

However, the additional reason is now apparent. The Russian Government would then not be obligated to adhere strictly

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

00084

to its policy of considering all Polish citizens as natives of the USSR and would consider this group as Swedish citizens travelling through their country enroute to a final destination.

I would therefore respectfully request that the War Refugee Board facilitate by an intercession with the Swedish Government through its Ambassador in this country and through our own Ambassador in Sweden the grant of these citizenship rights.

The lists of all the 500 Rabbis in Shanghai can be made available to you by us or they can be secured from Rabbi Shmulewitz at 21-3 Baikal Road, Shanghai.

We therefore feel that the War Refugee Board can proceed and transmit the proposed message on the basis of our above reasons.

With our sincere appreciation.

Very respectfully yours,

A. Kalmanowitz

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

K:Q

00084

ועד ההצלה
VAAD HAHATZALA
(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)
132 NASSAU STREET
(ROOM 919)
NEW YORK 7, N. Y.
PHONE RECTOR 2-4235

January 28, 1945

War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D.C.

Attention: Miss F. Hodell

Gentlemen:

We are most anxious to know whether you have received any reply to the communications which were directed by the War Refugee Board to the Vatican and to the American Ambassador in Sweden in reference to the release of the rabbinical group in Shanghai.

We shall await your early advice in the matter.

With our deepest appreciation.

Yours respectively,

Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee

A. Kalmanowitz

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

K:Q

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

00084

JAN 27 1945

Dear Rabbi Kalmanowitz:

The War Refugee Board has given further consideration to your recent suggestion for the transmission of an inquiry to the Soviet Government to determine whether transit facilities across Soviet Union and exit permits will be granted to a group of five hundred Rabbis now interned at Shanghai.

The Board is prepared to arrange for the transmission of the inquiry in the name of your Committee but desires to inform you that the Department of State has advised the Board that the Soviet Government appears to consider all Jews natives of those areas of Poland occupied by the Soviet Union in 1939 to be Soviet citizens.

It is the feeling of the Board therefore that should the message be transmitted full responsibility for any consequences which may ensue rests with the Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee.

It would be appreciated if you would advise the Board whether in view of the foregoing Vaad Hahatzala still desires that the proposed message be transmitted.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz,
Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee,
132 Nassau Street,
New York 7, N. Y.

FH. Cleared with Mrs. Pehle
FHthd 1/27/45

00084

CABLE TO HARRIMAN, MOSCOW, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

The Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada has requested that a paraphrase of the following inquiry be submitted to the Soviet Government:

QUOTE The Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee requests the Soviet Government to grant transit and reasonable transportation facilities across the Soviet Union and exit permits to neutral territory to some five hundred faculty members and students of a rabbinical academy formerly situated in Mir, Poland, who are reported to be in great distress and danger in Shanghai. It is desired that these persons be removed from Shanghai so that they may resume their teaching activities deemed to be of great importance to Jewish religious traditions. Japanese Minister at Stockholm according to reports there has stated to local Rabbis that Japan interposes no objection to the group leaving Shanghai provided their reception in some neutral country can be guaranteed. UNQUOTE

For the information of the Ambassador. In view of the fact that Mir, Poland, is east of the Curzon Line the War Refugee Board has advised Vaad Hahatzala that the foregoing request to the Soviet authorities may result in the retention of the entire group in Soviet territory because the Soviet Government appears to consider all Jews natives of those areas of Poland occupied by the Soviet Union in 1939 to be Soviet citizens and that consequently full responsibility for any consequences which may ensue rests with the Vaad Hahatzala. Vaad Hahatzala requested the transmission of the message in any event.

00084

CABLE TO HARRIMAN, MOSCOW, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

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00084b

~~(Draft WRB:GLWarren 1/25/45)~~

1/26/45
Cleared with Pehle

My dear Rabbi Kalmanowitz:

The War Refugee Board has given further consideration to your recent suggestion for the transmission of an inquiry to the Soviet Government to determine whether transit facilities across Soviet Union and exit permits will be granted to a group of five hundred Rabbis now interned at Shanghai.

The Board is prepared to ~~transmit~~ arrange for the transmission of the inquiry in the name of your committee but desires to ~~advise~~ inform you that the Department of State has ~~suggested~~ advised to the Board that the Soviet Government appears to consider all Jews natives of those areas of Poland occupied by the Soviet Union in 1939 to be Soviet citizens.

It is the feeling of the Board therefore that should the message be transmitted full responsibility ~~in the matter~~ for any subsequent action rests with the Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee.

It would be appreciated if you would advise the Board whether in view of the foregoing Vaad Hahatzala still desires that the proposed message be transmitted.

~~Sincerely yours~~, V T J

JWP
4 Dir

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz
Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee,
132 Nassau Street,
New York 7, New York.

000847

(I TT WRB:GLWarren 1/25/45)

Charge War Refugee Board [redacted] "W"

AMEMBASSY
MOSCOW

FOR HARRIMAN FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

The Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada has requested that a paraphrase of the following inquiry be submitted to the Soviet Government:

QUOTE The Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee requests the Soviet Government to grant transit and reasonable transportation facilities across the Soviet Union and exit permits to neutral territory to some five hundred faculty members and students of a rabbinical academy formerly situated in Mir, Poland, who are reported to be in great distress and danger in Shanghai. It is desired that these persons be removed from Shanghai so that they may resume their teaching activities deemed to be of great importance to Jewish religious traditions. Japanese Minister at Stockholm according to reports there has stated to local Rabbis that Japan interposes no objection to the group leaving Shanghai provided their reception in some neutral country can be guaranteed. END QUOTE

For the information of the Ambassador. In view of the fact that Mir, Poland is east of the Curzon Line the War Refugee Board has advised Vaad Hahatzala that the foregoing request to the Soviet authorities may result in ~~(a)~~ the retention of the entire group in Soviet territory, because the Soviet Government appears to consider ~~or (b) the retention of those born east of the Curzon Line in Soviet territory, and the sending of those born west of the Line to the area of~~ all Jews natives of these areas east of Poland occupied by the Soviet Union in 1939 to be Soviet citizens ~~liberated Poland~~ and that consequently ~~the Board assumes no~~ full responsibility for any consequences which may ensue, as far as the Vaad Hahatzala Vaad Hahatzala requested the transmission of the message in any event.

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

000848

(Draft WRB:GLWarren 1/25/45)

My dear Rabbi Kalmanowitz:

The War Refugee Board has given further consideration to your recent suggestion for the transmission of an inquiry to the Soviet Government to determine whether transit facilities across Soviet Union and exit permits will be granted to a group of five hundred Rabbis now interned at Shanghai.

The Board is prepared to transmit the inquiry but desires to advise you that the Department of State has suggested to the Board that the Soviet Government appears to consider all Jews natives of those areas of Poland occupied by the Soviet Union in 1939 to be Soviet citizens.

It is the feeling of the Board therefore that should the message be transmitted full responsibility in the matter rests with the Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee.

It would be appreciated if you would advise the Board whether in view of the foregoing Vaad Hahatzala still desires that the proposed message be transmitted.

Sincerely yours,

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz
Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee,
132 Nassau Street,
New York 7, New York.

000849

(D[illegible]T WRB:GLWarren 1/25/45)

Charge War Refugee Board

[redacted]

AMEMBASSY
MOSCOW

FOR HARRIMAN FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

The Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada has requested that a paraphrase of the following inquiry be submitted to the Soviet Government:

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For the information of the Ambassador. In view of the fact that Mir, Poland is east of the Curzon Line the War Refugee Board has advised Vaad Hahatzala that the foregoing request to the Soviet authorities may result in (a) the retention of the entire group in Soviet territory, or (b) the retention of those born east of the Curzon Line in Soviet territory, and the sending of those born west of the Line to the area of liberated Poland and that consequently the Board assumes no responsibility for any consequences which may ensue. Vaad Hahatzala requested the transmission of the message in any event.

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

000850

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

WAR REFUGEE BOARD

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

To: Mr. Warren

From: J. W. Pehle

It will be appreciated if you will arrange for the appropriate clearance and immediate despatch, in cipher, of the attached proposed cable to Minister Johnson and Olsen, Stockholm, from War Refugee Board.

The costs of this cable and any answer thereto are to be billed to the Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee, 132 Nassau Street, New York 7, New York.

Attachment.

CABLE TO MINISTER JOHNSON AND OLSEN, STOCKHOLM, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

The War Refugee Board requests that the following message from Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee be transmitted to Rabbi Wilhelm Wolbe.

QUOTE. RECEIVED YOUR CABLE VIA RABBI FINKEL. PLEASE DIRECT ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO US ALSO. CLARIFY YOUR STATEMENT EMIGRATION ALLOWANCE CAN BE OBTAINED. WHAT IS ITS SOURCE AND WHETHER YOU MEAN EXCHANGE OR OUTRIGHT RELEASE. MATTER OF RUSSIAN TRANSIT BEING CONSIDERED. TO FURTHER INSURE RUSSIAN TRANSIT ADVISABLE YOU AGAIN REQUEST GRANT OF SWEDISH CITIZENSHIP ENTIRE RABBINICAL GROUP. SUCH GRANT TO BE MADE BY DIRECT INSTRUCTION TO SWEDISH CONSUL IN SHANGHAI WHO SHOULD CONFER IN MATTER WITH RABBIS SHMULEWITZ LEVINSTEIN AND ROGOFF AS GROUP LEADERS. OUR STANDPOINT THAT THIS GROUP BE CONSIDERED ON EXCEPTIONAL RELIGIOUS STATUS SUPPORTED BY VATICAN. PLEASE CABLE IN DETAIL. UNQUOTE

CABLE TO MINISTER JOHNSON AND OLSEN, STOCKHOLM, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

The War Refugee Board requests that the following message from Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee be transmitted to Rabbi Wilhelm Wolbe.

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BAkzinmagr 1/25/45 BA

FEB 3 1945

~~Strictly Confidential~~

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz
Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee
132 Nassau Street
New York 7, New York

Dear Rabbi Kalmanowitz:

In accordance with your request, the Board has requested the United States Delegate to the Holy See to ascertain whatever information is available at the Vatican concerning the alleged consent of the Japanese government to the removal of refugee rabbinical scholars interned in Shanghai.

A reply has now been received from Ambassador Taylor, the substance of which is as follows:

> In reply to a communication from the Union of Orthodox Rabbis in New York, that organization was informed in July 1944 that, after failing in its attempts to include refugee rabbinical scholars in Shanghai in an exchange agreement, the Vatican had approached the Japanese government with a view to having these scholars released on a unilateral basis, and that these attempts had produced no results. On receipt of your recent communication, the matter was again taken up with the Vatican, but no word has been received to date from Japan.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Florence Hodel

Florence Hodel
Acting Executive Director

BAkzin:ar 2/2/45 Ba. Pd -

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

2 War Ref Bd
(Pehle)

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: AMERICAN EMBASSY, VATICAN CITY

TO: Secretary of State, Washington

DATED: January 25, 1945 (Rec'd 8:55 a.m., 26th)

NUMBER: 25

[redacted] CONTROL COPY

Replying to a message from Union of Orthodox Rabbis New York we advised latter last July that Vatican after failing in its attempts to include refugee Rabbinical scholars in Shanghai in an exchange agreement had approached the Government of Japan with a view to having them released on a unilateral basis by the Government of that country. However, the Vatican stated that up to that time these attempts had been without results. The matter was again taken up with the Vatican, on receipt of the message under reference from the Department, however, to date we learn that still no word has been received from Japan. It is stated by the Vatican that original exchange plan failed to materialize as British and American Governments indicated that it was not possible to include persons in question in an exchange agreement as their citizenship was neither British or American. I am assured by the Vatican that it will follow closely developments in the matter.

TAYLOR

DC/L:MLG
1-29-45 1148.

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

January 25, 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

Mr. Warren of the State Department called today to advise that the State Department had strong objections to the sending of the War Refugee Board cable to Moscow concerning the group of 500 faculty members and students of a Rabbinical academy now in Shanghai, in view of the present controversy with the Russians over their policy with respect to claiming as Soviet citizens all persons who are natives of those areas occupied by the Soviets in 1939. Mr. Warren stated, however, that it was possible that a message could be sent to Ambassador Harriman through War Refugee Board facilities but only in the name of the Vaad Hahatzala. The State Department is of the view that the Vaad should be notified in writing of the Soviet views and that this Government will assume no responsibility in transmitting the message requested by the Vaad Hahatzala. State also insists that any cable which is sent to Ambassador Harriman contain in its text a reference to the effect that the Vaad had been so notified in writing.

Mr. Warren agreed to submit to the Board drafts of appropriate cable and letter which he would clear with the appropriate desks at the State Department before submitting to the Board for consideration. Mr. Warren stated that the Department fears that the Russians may insist upon keeping this group even if it should agree in advance to their transportation across Russia and exit to a neutral country.

F. Hodel

CABLE TO AMBASSADOR HARRIMAN, MOSCOW, FROM DEPARTMENT AND WAR REFUGEE BOARD

About 500 faculty members and students of Rabbinical academy formerly located in Mir, east of Curzon line, are reported to be in great distress and in danger in Shanghai, and rabbinical groups in this country are extremely anxious that these 500 persons be brought to a safe place where they may resume their teaching activities deemed to be of great importance to Jewish religious tradition. According to reports from Stockholm, Japanese minister there stated to local rabbis that Japan interposes no objection to that group leaving Shanghai provided they can be guaranteed reception in some neutral country.

Accordingly, please inquire whether Soviet authorities would be willing to grant to said group transit and reasonable transportation facilities across Soviet Union and exit permits to neutral territory.

Bakzin:ar 1/24/45 Ba JA -

ועד ההצלה
VAAD HAHATZALA
(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)
132 NASSAU STREET
(ROOM 919)
NEW YORK 7, N. Y.
PHONE REctor 2-4235

January 24, 1945

War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D.C.

Attention: Miss F. Hodel

Dear Miss Hodel:

We enclose herewith a copy of another cable which came today from Rabbi Wilhelm Wolbe. The rescue matter which he mentions we assume to be the release from Shanghai. We forwarded you a letter yesterday in which we made several requests concerning this matter.

May we again emphasize the existing potentialities and possibilities for the release of this group, and to urge that the War Refugee Board request the American Ambassador in Sweden to give his fullest support to the release plan. We detailed to you at the last two conferences the importance which Swedish passports would play in the actual release of the group and also in providing them with the protection which they will need in view of the developing events. May we ask you therefore to emphasize in your message to the Ambassador this phase of the project.

With our sincerest appreciation,

Very respectfully yours,

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

A. Kalmanowitz

RABBI ABRAHAM KALMANOWITZ

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

OF SERVICE
This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

1201

SYMBOLS
DL = Day Letter
NL = Night Letter
LC = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

COPY

B10CC 9Y INTL

CD STOCKHOLM 28 19 1456

NLT RABBI ABRAHAM KALMANOWITZ

540 BEDFORD AVENUE BROOKLYNNY (EMD)

WE ASKED AMERICAN EMBASSADOR SUPPORT OUR RESCUE APPEAL

HE WILL ASK GOVERNMENT HOW TO ACT PLEASE DO YOUR BEST

WILHELM WOLBE
12498 Jan 24

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

00085

ועד החצלה
VAAD HAHATZALA
(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)
132 NASSAU STREET
(ROOM 819)
NEW YORK 7, N. Y.
PHONE REctor 2-4235

January 23, 1945

War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Miss F. Hodel

Dear Miss Hodel:

Allow us to express our devoted thanks and appreciation for making possible the conference which was held on January 22nd in the State Department and at which were present Messrs. Clattenberg and Warren and Dr. Aksen as well as yourself and our Committee. We sincerely and deeply appreciate your continued devoted efforts in every phase of the rescue problems which we have brought to your attention. We shall continue to rely on your judgment, devotion and earnestness in these rescue matters.

On my return to the city I found a copy of a cable which I am enclosing. It speaks for itself. I would therefore ask you again to expedite the cable to Ambassador Harriman in reference to the Russian transit. I am of the opinion that to insure the safe conduct of this entire religious group, arrangements should be made, and a ship made ready to receive this group so that their land route would be a very small one. I would also further emphasize the need for an intervention with the Swiss Government for grant of Swiss citizenship to this entire Rabbinical group. Not only would it give them a measure of security but it would also make more certain the matter of Russian transit.

I refer again to the matter of an intervention with the Swiss Government in reference to the admission of the many thousands of refugees who I think are about ready to secure entry into that country. Assurances by the Swiss Government that entry is possible would make their rescue certain.

I must again also call to your attention the matter of substantiating the Ecuadorian documents to assure their continued validity. May we also call to your attention the matter of transmission of funds to Lithuania and I await your word after your conference with Mr. Parke and Mr. Price in reference to the lifting of the temporary censorship

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.

January 23, 1945

ban which has made these fund transfers momentarily impossible.

We would also appreciate very much your making available to us the Belsen Bergen list of Polish Citizens with South American documentation which is now in the possession of the War Refugee Board and of which Mr. Sternbuch has cabled us. You understand that this list is most necessary to us.

I wish to again thank you most cordially and voice my deepest appreciation.

Very respectfully yours,

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

A. Kalmanowitz

AK:R

RABBI ABRAHAM KALMANOWITZ

P.S. - May we ask you to please dispatch the enclosed cable to Rabbi W. Wolbe through the facilities of the War Refugee Board.

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

1201

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter
NL = Night Letter
LC = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

N61 INTL-CD JERUSALEM 66/66 Jan 17

NLT RABBI ABRAHAM KALMANOWITZ
540 BEDFORD AVE BROOKLYN NY

RABBI WOLBE STOCKHOLM CABLED QUOTE OUR APPEAL CONTINUING STOP MARITIMEROUTE IMPOSSIBLE STOP EMIGRATION ALLOWANCE CAN BE OBTAINED PLEASE CABLE IF TRANSIT THROUGH RUSSIA RECOMMENDABLE

RABBI ELIEZER FINKEL

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

ועד ההצלה
VAAD HAHATZALA
(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)
132 NASSAU STREET
(ROOM 919)
NEW YORK 7, N. Y.
PHONE REctor 2-4235

January 23, 1945

MESSAGE TO RABBI WILHELM WOLBE
11 OLOFSGOTTAN
STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN
THROUGH AMERICAN LEGATION, STOCKHOLM

RECEIVED YOUR CABLE VIA RABBI FINKEL. PLEASE DIRECT ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO US ALSO. STOP CLARIFY YOUR STATEMENT EMIGRATION ALLOWANCE CAN BE OBTAINED. WHAT IS ITS SOURCE AND WHETHER YOU MEAN EXCHANGE OR OUTRIGHT RELEASE. STOP MATTER OF RUSSIAN TRANSIT BEING CONSIDERED. WAR REFUGEE BOARD CABLED THE AMBASSADOR HARRIMAN FOR OPINION. REPLY AWAITED STOP TO FURTHER INSURE RUSSIAN TRANSIT ADVISABLE YOU AGAIN REQUEST GRANT OF SWEDISH CITIZENSHIP ENTIRE RABBINICAL GROUP. SUCH GRANT TO BE MADE BY DIRECT ORDER TO SWEDISH AMBASSADOR IN SHANGHAI WHO SHOULD CONFER IN MATTER WITH RABBIS SHMULEWITZ LEVINSTEIN AND ROGOFF AS GROUP LEADERS. STOP OUR STANDPOINT THAT THIS GROUP BE CONSIDERED ON EXCEPTIONAL RELIGIOUS STATUS SUPPORTED BY VATICAN AND U. S. STATE DEPARTMENT. PLEASE CABLE IN DETAIL.

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

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

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement. [redacted]

January 18, 1945

8 p.m.

War Ref Bd, Pehle

CONTROL COPY

AMLEGATION

STOCKHOLM

100

The cable below for Olsen is WRB 291.

Please deliver following message to Rabbi Wilhelm Wolbe, 11 Olofsgatten, Stockholm, from Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee:

QUOTE Cable from Chief Rabbi Palestine advised us that Vatican informed him Japanese Government ready negotiate exchange entire Shanghai Rabbinical group. Inquire Foreign Office if Swedish Government received similar communication inquire also extent possible technical cooperation Swedish Government. Reply American Legation. UNQUOTE

STETTINIUS
(SEC.)

For security reasons this text of this message should be closely guarded.

WRB:MMV:KG
1/18/45

NOE

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

CABLE TO AMERICAN LEGATION, STOCKHOLM, FOR OLSEN, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Please deliver following message to Rabbi Wilhelm Wolbe, 11 Olofsgotten, Stockholm, from Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee:

QUOTE CABLE FROM CHIEF RABBI PALESTINE ADVISED US THAT VATICAN INFORMED HIM JAPANESE GOVERNMENT READY NEGOTIATE EXCHANGE ENTIRE SHANGHAI RABBINICAL GROUP. INQUIRE FOREIGN OFFICE IF SWEDISH GOVERNMENT RECEIVED SIMILAR COMMUNICATION INQUIRE ALSO EXTENT POSSIBLE TECHNICAL COOPERATION SWEDISH GOVERNMENT. REPLY AMERICAN LEGATION. UNQUOTE

THIS IS WRB STOCKHOLM CABLE NO. 291.

3:45 p.m.
January 15, 1945

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Ackermann, Akzin, Cohn, Drury, DuBois, Gaston, Hodel, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Files

copy sent Vaad Hatzala 1/15/45 RD

RDrury 1/13/45 BG. FCX

January 12, 1945

MESSAGE TO RABBI WILHELM WOLBE
11 OLOFSGOTTAN
STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN
THROUGH AMERICAN LEGATION, STOCKHOLM

CABLE FROM CHIEF RABBI PALESTINE ADVISED US THAT VATICAN INFORMED HIM JAPANESE GOVERNMENT READY NEGOTIATE EXCHANGE ENTIRE SHANGHAI RABBINICAL GROUP STOP INQUIRE FOREIGN OFFICE IF SWEDISH GOVERNMENT RECEIVED SIMILAR COMMUNICATION INQUIRE ALSO EXTENT POSSIBLE TECHNICAL COOPERATION SWEDISH GOVERNMENT. REPLY AMERICAN LEGATION.

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

File

MEMORANDUM January 15, 1945.

To: Miss Florence Hodel, War Refugee Board

From: George L. Warren

Following is a memorandum from Mr. Clattenburg about the Rabbis in Shanghai which I discussed with you over the telephone:

" I discussed the subject matter of Stockholm's No. 100 of January 9, 1945 and No. 128 of January 11, 1945 with Rabbi Frankel on January 11. I told him that I thoroughly agreed with the opinion of Miss Margolis that it is not compatible with the safety of the Rabbinical group at Shanghai to invite the attention of the Japanese authorities to them and that talk of obtaining a release of a group of 500 people from Shanghai was impracticable unless there were physical means available for their transportation. I pointed out the lack of Japanese shipping and the improbability that the Japanese could transport 500 persons under their straitened communicated system to the Siberian frontier. I also indicated that if the Rabbinical group were merely allowed to leave Shanghai and walk overland to Chungking at least half of them would die en route.

In the circumstances I suggested to Rabbi Frankel that it would be best to keep negotiations regarding the release of the Rabbinical group secret, if they had to be conducted at all (Rabbi Frankel insists that they must be conducted because otherwise the group may be injured or destroyed during the Allied battle to re-occupy Shanghai). It would be desirable to conduct negotiations exclusively through religious channels not associating any of Japan's enemies with them and if possible leaving out of the negotiations any of the European nations whom Japan naturally distrusts. I suggested that the transportation problem might be met by chartering a Spanish or Portuguese vessel sailing around Cape Horn, picking up 500 Japanese in Peru who are in desperate circumstance, continuing the voyage to Seattle replacing the Spanish crew with a Soviet crew, sailing the vessel to a Siberian port, replacing the Soviet crew with a Japanese crew, continuing the voyage to Shanghai and returning in due course with the Rabbinical group on board. In my opinion that is the only feasible way that the evacuation can be carried out unless the Rabbis in Sweden are able to come to some satisfactory direct arrangement with the Japanese Minister there involving, of course, some substantial quid pro quo to the Japanese.

Assumably the only neutral territory to which the Rabbinical group could travel across Russia is Sweden or, alternatively, Turkey.

I expect that Rabbi Frankel will call on me on this subject within the next two weeks and if there are any developments I should appreciate being informed regarding them. "

2 Warlf Bd.
(Pehle)

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: The Secretary of State

TO: American Delegation, Vatican City, for Mr. Myron Taylor

DATED: January 15, 1945

NUMBER: 4

CONTROL COPY

WRB has been informed by rabbinical group of a cable from Chief Rabbi Herzog and Rabbi Eliezer Finkel of Palestine stating that a message had been received from the Vatican to the effect that Japanese government agrees to removal of refugee rabbinical scholars interned in Shanghai provided this is done under an exchange scheme.

Please ascertain precise facts regarding this matter and cable to War Refugee Board such information as you may be able to obtain.

GREW
(ACTING)

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

CABLE TO AMERICAN DELEGATION, VATICAN CITY, FOR MR. MYRON TAYLOR

WRB has been informed by rabbinical group of a cable from the Chief Rabbi Herzog and Rabbi Eliezer Finkel of Palestine stating that a message had been received from the Vatican to the effect that Japanese government agrees to removal of refugee rabbinical scholars interned in Shanghai provided this is done under an exchange scheme.

Please ascertain precise facts regarding this matter and cable to War Refugee Board such information as you may be able to obtain.

4:45 p.m.
January 13, 1945

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Ackermann, Akzin, Cohn, Drury, DuBois, Gaston, Hodel, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Files

BAkzin:ar 1/13/45 BA

January 15, 1945

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Laura Margolis was received through the American Legation in Stockholm under date of January 11, 1945:

"This afternoon Rabbis Wolbe, Jacobson called on me to discuss Rabbinical group in Shanghai. They gave me information which is quite at variance with information contained in my No. 100 of January 9. It was stated by them that they have conferred with the Japanese Minister here and that the Japanese Minister said that no objection would be interposed by Japanese to Rabbinical group leaving Shanghai provided some neutral country will guarantee their reception. There is only one practicable method for them to get away and that is via Russia; Rabbis desire aid of USA in order to persuade Moscow to grant transit visas. Also they desire intervention on my part with the Government of Sweden to give entry permits for entering Sweden and my certification to the Government of Sweden that Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee is office officially recognized by Government of United States.

"Rabbis were informed by me that though sympathetic to their requests I could take no action in this connection with the Government of Sweden without receiving instructions. I told them their requests with respect to both Russia and Sweden would be reported by me.

"Rabbis were questioned carefully by me with respect to their reasons for requesting that special efforts be made behalf this particular group. It is very clear from admissions by them that Rabbinical group is not undergoing greater difficulties nor is in greater jeopardy than any other foreign group in Japanese territory. The desperate desire of the Rabbis is to save this group since they are scholars and Rabbinical teachers, and they claim this group is only intellectual group which exists which is capable of carrying forward Judaism traditions. They wish to save them as a group, not because of any special peril but because the group can no longer carry on its work in Shanghai."

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

Very truly yours,
(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

RDrury 1/15/45

ENT

ATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

EK-1917
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement. ([redacted]W)

Stockholm

Dated January 11, 1945

Rec'd 10:34 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

CONTROL COPY

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

128, January 11, 7 p.m.

FROM MISS MARGOLIS TO MOSES LEAVITT.

Sent 1/15/45 RV

Rabbis Wolbe(*) Jacobson called to see me this p.m. regarding Jewish Rabbi Nical group in Shanghai. Information they gave is somewhat at variance with that in my 100 January 9, 3 p.m. They claim they have talked with Japanese Minister here who said Japanese interpose no objection to Rabbi Nical group leaving Shanghai provided they can be guaranteed reception in some neutral country. Only practicable way for them to get out is via Russia and Rabbis want help of USA to induce Moscow to give transit visas. They also wish my intervention with Swedish Government to grant entry permits into Sweden and for me to certify to Swedish Government that Vaadhahazalah Emergency Committee is office officially acknowledged by United States Government.

I informed Rabbis that I sympathized with their desires but

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

desires but that I could not take action in this matter toward Swedish Government without instructions. I said I would report their request both with respect to Sweden and Russia.

I questioned Rabbis closely as to their reasons for desiring special efforts made for this particular group of people. From their admissions it is quite clear Rabbi Nical group is under no greater difficulties nor in greater jeopardy than any other group of foreigners in Japanese territory. What Rabbis desperately want to do is save this group because they are Rabbi Nical teachers and scholars, claiming it is only * intellectual group existing capable of carrying on traditions of Judaism. They want to save group as such because it can not carry on its work in Shanghai, not because it is in special peril.

Department doubtless has much fuller information re the situation of this Rabbi Nical group than I and I would appreciate Department's comments and instructions as to attitude to be taken by Legation in this matter.

JOHNSON

JMS

(*) apparent omission. Repetition requested.

Relay in Shanghai

January 12, 1945

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Laura Margolis was received through the American Legation in Stockholm under date of January 9, 1945:

"Desire to report for your information that from Palestine Rabbi Herzog cabled message to the King here during December requesting that Swedish protection passports be given to Yeshivah and Rabbinical groups in Shanghai and vessel be sent by Sweden to evacuate them. Ehrenpreis' assistance was also requested by Herzog. Foreign Office was requested by Ehrenpreis to ask their Shanghai consul to investigate situation fully and this was done. Dispatched to Lisbon full report this investigation and will request that it be forwarded since there is no copy here. It is clearly indicated by report that this group no greater emergency than all others and states evacuation from Japanese areas impossible. From Joseph Bitker our committee have received personally cable requesting all possible steps be taken to stop interference Rabbinical groups. Must say, knowing the situation as I do, that further interference behalf Rabbinical groups concerning their people within Japanese areas will imperil all refugees' security. This matter of utmost seriousness and Vaad Hahatzala does not have right to imperil lives of 20,000 people by endeavoring help their own group, especially in view fact that it is completely impossible evacuate. That all groups are given equal treatment is clearly indicated by Bitker's reports."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

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

R.V.

RDrury 1/12/45

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

EAK-1092
Distribution of true reading only be special arrangement. ([redacted]W).

Stockholm

Dated January 9, 1945

Rec'd 2:36 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

CONTROL COPY

Sent 1/12/44 RS

100, January 9, 3 p.m.

TO MOSES LEAVITT, JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, 270 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK, LAURA MARGOLIS, JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, STOCKHOLM, SENDS FOLLOWING MESSAGE. THIS IS OUR NO. 120 FOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD

"For your information wish to report that Rabbi Herzog Palestine cabled to King here in December asking that Yeshivah and Rabbi Nical groups Shanghai be given Swedish protection passports and Sweden send ship to evacuate them. Herzog also asked professor Ehrenpreis' help. Ehrenpreis asked Foreign Office request their consul Shanghai make complete investigation situation, which was done. Full contents this investigation sent to Lisbon and having no copy here will ask they forward. Report clearly indicates no greater emergency this group than all others and stating no evacuation from Japanese territory possible. Have personally received cable from Joseph Bitker our

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

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

committee asking everything possible be done to check interference ~~Rabbi Nical~~ Rabbinical groups. Knowing situation as I do must state that continued interference behalf ~~Rabbi Nical~~ Rabbinical groups regarding their people in Japanese territory will endanger security all refugees. This extremely serious and Vaadhatzala has no right endanger lives 20,000 persons while trying to help their group, especially since evacuation complete impossibility. Bitker's reports clearly indicated all groups receiving equal treatment.

JOHNSON

JM

00873

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Relief in Shanghai

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

Non Ref Bd

Rush

FAS

Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement. ([redacted]W)

January 9, 1945

7 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF

1945 JAN 11 AM 10 09

COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS (LIAISON)

CONTROL COPY

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

AMLEGATION

STOCKHOLM

50

The cable below is WRB 282.

Please deliver following message to Rabbi Wilhelm Wolbe, 11 Olofsgotten, Stockholm, from Rabbis Aron Kotler, Abraham Kalmanowitz, Ruwen Grosowski of Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee:

QUOTE Cable December 21st received. Must urge your continued efforts re Shanghai release. We continuing through Vatican other governments. Swedish citizenships for group necessary also for added protection under uncertain conditions. Advise Shanghai complainants that aside from Vaad Hahatzala and Ezras Torah funds larger sums are given by treasuries of different Yeshivoth and individuals therefore some receive more than others. All must rely implicitly on Shmulewitz and avoid disagreements. UNQUOTE

STETTINIUS

(GHW)

WRB:MMV:KG
1/8/45

NOE

SWP

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

CABLE TO AMERICAN LEGATION, STOCKHOLM, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Please deliver following message to Rabbi Wilhelm Wolbe, 11 Olefsgotten, Stockholm, from Rabbis Aron Kotler, Abraham Kalmanowitz, Ruwen Grosowski of Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee:

QUOTE CABLE DECEMBER 21ST RECEIVED. MUST URGE YOUR CONTINUED EFFORTS RE SHANGHAI RELEASE. WE CONTINUING THROUGH VATICAN OTHER GOVERNMENTS. SWEDISH CITIZENSHIPS FOR GROUP NECESSARY ALSO FOR ADDED PROTECTION UNDER UNCERTAIN CONDITIONS. ADVISE SHANGHAI COMPLAINANTS THAT ASIDE FROM VAAD HAHATZALA AND EZRAS TORAH FUNDS LARGER SUMS ARE GIVEN BY TREASURIES OF DIFFERENT YESHIVOTH AND INDIVIDUALS THEREFORE SOME RECEIVE MORE THAN OTHERS. ALL MUST RELY IMPLICITLY ON SHMULEWITZ AND AVOID DISAGREEMENTS. UNQUOTE

THIS IS WRB STOCKHOLM CABLE NO. 282.

2:00 p.m.
January 05, 1945

Mrs Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Ackermann, Akzin, Cohn, Drury, DuBois, Gaston, Hodel, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Files

Copy sent Dave Hotzpel 1/8/45 RD

RDrury 1/4/45 FCA

ועד ההצלה
VAAD HAHATZALA
(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)
132 NASSAU STREET
(ROOM 819)
NEW YORK 7, N. Y.
PHONE REctor 2-4235

Jan. 1, 1945.

War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D.C.

Att. Miss Florence Hodel:

Dear Miss Hodel:-

May we ask you to please have the attached message expedited through the facilities of the War Refugee Board.

The Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee takes this occasion to express it seasons greetings, and to wish you and all the members of your staff every happiness.

With our deepest appreciation,

Very respectfully yours,

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

A. Kalmanowitz

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.

ועד ההצלה
VAAD HAHATZALA
(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)
132 NASSAU STREET
(ROOM 819)
NEW YORK 7, N. Y.
PHONE REctor 2-4235

MESSAGE TO RABBI WILHELM WOLBE 11 OLEFSGOTTEN
STOCKHOLM SWEDEN THROUGH AMERICAN LEGATION STOCKHOLM

Cable December 21st received. Must urge your continued efforts re Shanghai release. We continuing through Vatican other governments. Swedish citizenships for group necessary also for added protection under uncertain conditions . Advise Shanghai complainants that aside from Vaad Hahatzala and Ezras Torah funds larger sums are given by treasuries of different Yeshivoth and individuals therefore some receive more than others. All must rely implicitly on Shmulewitz and avoid disagreements.

VAAD HAHATZALA, EMERGENCY COMMITTEE
RABBI AARON KOTLER
RABBI ABRAHAM KALMANOWITZ
RABBI RUWEN GROSOWSKI

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.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF

December 27, 1944

10 p.m.

PEM
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement. [redacted]

1945 JAN 2 AM 11 02

COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS (LIAISON)

[redacted] CONTROL COPY

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

AMEMBASSY

LISBON

3209

The cable below is WRB 123.

Please deliver the following message to Robert Pilpel from M.A. Leavitt, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

QUOTE Your 128. Vaad Hahatzala greatly disturbed by Margolis discussion Ehrenpreis and his subsequent action regarding rabbinical group Shanghai. Please ask Margolis cable us fully reasons for her conviction that requests for Swedish passports and evacuation rabbinical group will cause hardships to entire refugee population Shanghai. Advise Margolis we received her very excellent report on refugee situation Sweden which clarified many questions our minds. UNQUOTE

STETTINIUS
(GHW)

WRB:MMV:BM
12/26/44

WE

NOE

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

CABLE TO AMERICAN LEGATION, LISBON, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Please deliver the following message to Robert Pilpel from

M. A. Leavitt, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

QUOTE YOUR 128 VAAD HAHATZALA GREATLY DISTURBED BY MARGOLIS DISCUSSION EHRENPREIS AND HIS SUBSEQUENT ACTION REGARDING RABBINICAL GROUP SHANGHAI. PLEASE ASK MARGOLIS CABLE US FULLY REASONS FOR HER CONVICTION THAT REQUEST FOR SWEDISH PASSPORTS AND EVACUATION RABBINICAL GROUP WILL CAUSE HARDSHIPS TO ENTIRE REFUGEE POPULATION SHANGHAI. ADVISE MARGOLIS WE RECEIVED HER VERY EXCELLENT REPORT ON REFUGEE SITUATION SWEDEN WHICH CLARIFIED MANY QUESTIONS OUR MINDS. UNQUOTE

THIS IS WRB LISBON CABLE NO. 123.

2:15 p.m.
December 21, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Ackermann, Cohn, DuBois, Hodel, Mannon, McCormack, Miles

copy rec'd JDC 12/27/44 RD

FH:hd 12/21/44

DECEMBER 20, 1944.

Cable to Robert Pilpel, Lisbon, through WRB

YOUR 128 VAAD HAHATZALA GREATLY DISTURBED BY MARGOLIS DISCUSSION EHRENPREIS AND HIS SUBSEQUENT ACTION REGARDING RABBINICAL GROUP SHANGHAI. PLEASE ASK MARGOLIS CABLE US FULLY REASONS FOR HER CONVICTION THAT REQUEST FOR SWEDISH PASSPORTS AND EVACUATION RABBINICAL GROUP WILL CAUSE HARDSHIPS TO ENTIRE REFUGEE POPULATION SHANGHAI. ADVISE MARGOLIS WE RECEIVED HER VERY EXCELLENT REPORT ON REFUGEE SITUATION SWEDEN WHICH CLARIFIED MANY QUESTIONS OUR MINDS

LEAVITT
J D C

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

1944 DEC 22 PM 4 44

DHC-326
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement.
[redacted]-W)

Stockholm

Dated December 21, 1944

Rec'd 9:15 p.m.,

[redacted]

Secretary of State,

Washington.

5216, December 21, 5 p.m.

Addressed to Rabbis Grosowsky, Kalmanowitz, Kotler and Lwowitz, Vaad Hahazalah Emergency Committee New York is following message from Rabbis Wolf Jacobson, Abraham Jakobsohn and S. Wolbe. This is our number 115 for URE.

"Following message received through Swedish Foreign Office: In Shanghai there are at Mirer College 205 males, 18 females, 16 children, besides 148 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 extra ordinary support for Rabbi Lewenstein's relief fund "TAT".

During last few days we have also received cables from every college (Kamenitz, Klezk, Lublin, Lubawitsch, Radin, Wiladashkovno-Kolel, Rabbinical group) as well as from the older Mirer pupils with exasperated complaints.

Leggers

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

Leaders of the other colleges demand their support be sent directly to Rabbi Ashkenazi. Mirer pupils want their support sent to each student personally and want you to demand their signature on receipt for future transfers and also for past transfers.

Since August mail contact with Shanghai impossible.

We are working with relief appeal for the colleges. However even Swedish Government cannot obtain emigration allowance for Swedish citizens living in Shanghai. We will soon report to you again. Please don't make appeals to Swedish authorities without first consulting us.

We cannot do anything concerning Rabbis deported from Lithuania.

JOHNSON

WSB

0088

Orthodox

Jack Dempsey
HOTEL GREAT NORTHERN

December 15, 1944

The Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee
132 Nassau Street
New York, 7, N.Y.

Attention Rabbi Kalmanowitz

Gentlemen:

I regret very much that, in view of the fact that the date of my departure has been unexpectedly advanced, I shall not be able to see you personally to thank you for the honor of your visit.

Please accept my assurances that immediately upon my arrival in London, I shall take up with redoubled energy the matter of the postulates and projects you have submitted to me.

Permit me to express my opinion that your idea of chartering a boat to remove the entire rabbinical school from Shanghai is of tremendous importance. Its success is not only in our interest, but in that of all mankind.

I shall appreciate your keeping me posted on the progress of your work. On the other hand rest assured that the Government agencies will do all they can to help the realization of this far reaching plan.

Sincerely yours,

(signed)
Prof. Dr. Olgierd Gorka
Chief Nationalities Department
Department of Interior
Polish Government in London

Take upon Hirschmann's file

AMBASADA
RZECZYPOSPOLITEJ PO IEJ
W WASZYNGTONIE

POLISH EMBASSY
2640 16th Street, N.W.
Washington, 9, D.C.

November 27, 1944.

851 - e/SZ-t/255

Dear Rabbi,

To my great regret I missed seeing you during your last visit to Washington. The problem of the evacuation of the rabbinical group from Shanghai has the continued interest of the Polish Government in London. This Embassy also keeps in very close touch with the situation which at present is in the following stage:

All the technical difficulties have been overcome by the Allies who are awaiting the final consent of the Japanese Government. The Japanese side, however, is delaying a reply in spite of certain far-reaching decisions made by the British Government regarding the evacuation of Japanese merchant marine seamen interned in Australia. It seems also that transport difficulties are playing an important part, particularly in view of the fact that the ship on which the evacuees were to depart from Shanghai has been in the meanwhile turned over to the disposal of the Japanese navy.

I shall be very happy to have an opportunity of seeing you when you are next in Washington.

Very sincerely yours,

M. Kwapiszewski
Minister Plenipotentiary
Counselor of Embassy

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz
Vaad Hahatzala
Emergency Committee
132 Nassau Street
New York, 7, N.Y.

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

1201

A. N. WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter
NL = Night Letter
LC = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram

1945 Jan 2 PM 2 52

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

N43 INTL = CPR JERUSALEM VIA WUCABLES 47/46 Dec 26

NLT RABBI ABRAHAM KALMANOWITZ
540 BEDFORD AVE BROOKLYN NEW YORK=

CHIEF RABBI ISAAC HERZOG JERUSALEM RECEIVED MESSAGE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT MADE REPRESENTATIONS JAPAN INFORMED SCHEME REMOVING FROM SHANGHAI IMPOSSIBLE MESSAGE FROM VATICAN JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AGREE ONLY UNDER EXCHANGE SCHEME INTEREST YOURSELF POSSIBILITY LARGESCALE EXCHANGELARGE NUMBER STUDENTS SICK

RABBI ELIEZER FINKEL

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

REPUBLIC OF POLAND

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

z/851 - e/CH/44

London, November 28th, 1944.
[redacted].

Dear Mr. Springer,

In connection with our telephonic conversation of yesterday I am sending you a few details as to the present state of the pending exchange from Shanghai.

First of all, I should like to express my regret that I cannot confirm your information about any substantial change in the allied contingents.

At the present moment, the materialization of the exchange, which, as you know, has for over a year been in the process of negotiation between the Allied and Japanese governments, depends on obtaining a ship to carry the allied contingents out of Shanghai and since the Japanese have refused to use a ship of their own for this purpose, a neutral ship must be found. The matter of chartering a neutral ship is being considered by the British and American Governments, in whose hands, as you may well be aware of, the technical side of the exchange rests. In view of what has been said above it seems that the carrying out of the exchange cannot be visualized in the too near future.

We are very anxious, I may assure you, to see this matter concluded at an earliest possible date and especially the fate of rabbis, who may contribute in no small degree to reviving the spiritual life of the Polish Jewry in the future, is a matter of a deep concern to us. Although the present exchange cannot bring liberation to all the rabbis and rabbinical students at present in Shanghai, we hope that the next exchanges, if negotiated, will bring a successful conclusion to the matter. With this end in view, we shall appreciate every help, which the Agudah may be able to give, using their own channels, to speed up the technical process of this and further exchanges.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) L. Koziebrodzki.

M. R. Springer, Esq.,
53, Queen's Drive,
London, N.4.

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

LEGATION OF SWEDEN

WASHINGTON 8, D.C.

December 28, 1944

Rabbis Aron Kotler & Abraham Kalmanowitz
Emergency Committee for War-Torn Yeshivoth
132 Nassau Street
New York, New York

Dear Sirs:

This Legation has received information from the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs that you have asked His Majesty the King of Sweden to intervene in favour of 500 rabbis and rabbinical scholars from the rabbi-school of Mir, Poland, at present in Shanghai. It is understood that this request refers to the same persons considered in your memorandum, handed over to the Swedish Consul General in New York in November 1943.

I am instructed by the Ministry in Stockholm to convey to you the following message from His Majesty. After careful consideration of your request, the Swedish Government found it most unlikely that the granting of Swedish citizenship would facilitate the departure from Shanghai of the persons in question. Moreover, the Government does not see its way to arrange for the transport by means of a Swedish ship.

In this connection, I would like to mention confidentially that energetic attempts have been made since 1942 to obtain permission to bring Swedish citizens in Shanghai home to Sweden, but these attempts have, so far, not met with any success.

Therefore, although the Swedish Government fully recognizes the tragic circumstances under which your unfortunate compatriots are living, they deeply regret not to be able to accede to your request for intervention.

Very truly yours,

The Personal Representative of the
President of the United States of America
to His Holiness the Pope

August 10, 1944

Dear Sirs:

I did not fail to bring to the attention of the appropriate Vatican Authorities the contents of your telegram to me of June 18 last, requesting the intervention of the Vatican in behalf of some 500 Rabbinical scholars and Rabbis exiled in Shanghai.

I have no received a reply from the Vatican dated August 6 to the effect that the Holy See, after failing in its efforts to have these persons included in a possible exchange of persons, approached the Japanese Government with a view to having them released as a unilateral act on the part of that Government. Unfortunately, the Vatican states that up to the present time no reply to these latest representations has been received from the Japanese authorities.

If further communications are received from the Vatican on this subject, you will be advised without delay.

Sincerely yours,

Myron C. Taylor

Union of Orthodox Rabbis of
the United States and Canada
132 Nassau Street,
New York City.

71 Broadway

NEW YORK

October 4, 1943

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz,
Chairman, Vaad Hatzala
Emergency Committee,
132 Nassau St., New York.

Dear Sir:

Mr. Taylor, who left for Washington this afternoon, directed us to say that he has received a letter from H. E. the Apostolic Delegate in Washington dated October 1st reading as follows:

"In reference to my letter of September 18th concerning the exchange of the members of the Rabbinical College of Mir, now in Shanghai, I am now pleased to inform Your Excellency that His Eminence, the Cardinal Secretary of State, has directed me to present the matter for the consideration of the Government of the United States.

"His Eminence has declared that the Holy See is most anxious to come to the assistance of all those who suffer, and will be pleased to treat of the matter with the British Government if there is some positive hope of success.

"I shall be grateful for Your Excellency's kind offices in recommending this group to the benevolent consideration of the competent American authorities."

Mr. Taylor wishes us to suggest that your proper course now is to take this matter up with the Department of State in Washington.

Yours very truly,

Secretary to Mr. Myron Taylor.

Apostolic Delegation
United States of America

NO. 581/42

3339 Massachusetts Avenue
Washington, D. C.

March 10, 1944

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz
Union of Orthodox Rabbis
132 Nassau St.
New York City 7, N.Y.

Dear Rabbi Kalmanowitz,

I have received your letter of March 7th in which you inquire into possible available information from the Vatican regarding the outcome of its recommendation to the Japanese Government with reference to the lot of the members of the Rabbinical College in Shanghai. As I advised you through the Most Reverend Auxiliary Bishop of New York on January 1, 1944, the Cardinal Secretary of State had taken up the matter with the Ambassador of Japan to the Holy See, but stated that he could give no assurance as to the outcome of his recommendations, because of the many difficulties inherent in the case. I regret that to date no further developments have been communicated to me by the Cardinal Secretary of State. You may rest assured that any information transmitted to me will be forwarded to you at once.

With sentiments of esteem and with every best wish I remain

Sincerely yours,

A. G. Cicognani

Archbishop of Laodicea
Apostolic Delegate

BRITISH EMBASSY

WASHINGTON, D.C.

November 10, 1943

Dear Rabbi Kalmanowitz,

I write to thank you for your letter of November 5th enclosing the memorandum on the subject of the exchange of Rabbis and Rabbinical Scholars now in Japanese hands.

A telegram on this subject has been despatched to the Foreign Office in London, and as soon as a reply is received I will write to you again.

Yours very sincerely,

Halifax

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz,
The Union of Orthodox Rabbis
of the United States and Canada,
Suite 1221, 132 Nassau Street,
New York 7, New York

Relief in Shanghai

(1)

4107

December 4, 1944

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Robert Pilpel was received through the American Legation in Lisbon under date of December 1, 1944:

"128. To the Swedish King and Crown Prince Chief Rabbi Hertzog has appealed for issuance of Swedish passports and evacuation on Swedish vessels of all Rabbis in Shanghai. From Rabbinical groups in Palestine similar requests are bombarding Ehrenpreis. Laura Margolis provided this information and on basis of her knowledge of the Japanese she feels that reaction to a proposal of this nature will likely cause serious hardships and disadvantage to all of the group of 20,000 persons. Ehrenpreis agrees with Margolis and he has submitted counter proposal that Foreign Office of Sweden obtain report from Swedish Consulate in Shanghai regarding situation. Greater reasonableness should be urged on Vaad Hahatzala by you. We have not been in communication with Magees."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

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

RD
RDrury 12/4/44

ARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

Way Rep Bd
(Mr Pehle)

MOB-489
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement. ([redacted])

Lisbon 03

Dated December 1, 1944

Rec'd 11:59 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

CONTROL COPY

Message sent 12/4/44 RS

4107, December 1, 3 p.m.

This is WRB 266 JDC 128 FOR LEAVITT FROM PEIPEL.

Chief Rabbi Hertzog has appealed to Swedish King and Crown Prince to issue Swedish passports and evacuate on Swedish ships all Rabbis in Shanghai. Ehren Preis being bombarded with similar requests from Rabbi Nical groups in Palestine. This information from Laura Margolis who on basis her knowledge Japanese believes reaction to such a proposal likely result in serious disadvantage and hardships to entire group of 20,000. Ehren Preis who agrees with Margolis has made counter proposal that Swedish Foreign Office secure report on situation from Swedish Consulate Shanghai. Please urge greater reasonableness on Vaad Hatzala. We have not communicated with Magees.

NORWEB

JMS

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

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

REB

Distribution of true reading only special arrangement. ([redacted] V)

November 14, 1944

9 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
NOV 18 1944
COMMUNICATIONS

AMLEGATION

STOCKHOLM

2286

The cable below for Olsen is WRB 243.

Please deliver paraphrase of 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 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. UNQUOTE

STETTINIUS
(ACTING)

WRB:MMV:KG
11/13/44

NOE

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

2286
1114

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 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 HOLBE AND COMMITTEE. UNQUOTE

THIS IS WRB STOCKHOLM CABLE NO. 243.

3:45 p.m.
November 8, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Ackermann, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Lesser, Mannon, McCormack, Files

[illegible] 11/8/44

Distribution of this reading only by special (SECRET W)

NOVEMBER [illegible]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE RECEIVED

1944 NOV 18 AM 10 28

COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS (LIAISON)

[redacted]

Security reasons this message must be carefully guarded.

AMLEGATION

STOCKHOLM
2287
The cable below for Olsen is WRE 242.

Please deliver paraphrase of the following message to Rabbi Wilhelm Wolbe, 11 Olofsgotten, 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 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 Ehrenpreis these projects. UNQUOTE

STETTINIUS
ACTING
(GLW)

WRE:MMV:AG
11/13/44

NOE

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
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 Wilhelm Kolbe, 11 Olofsgatten, Stockholm, from Rabbi Abraham Kulmanowitz 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 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 EHRENPREIS THESE PROJECTS UNQUOTE

THIS IS WRB STOCKHOLM CABLE NO. 242.

3:45 p.m.
November 8, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Ackermann, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Lesser, Mannon, McCormack, Files

RDrury 11/8/44

3004

November 14, 1944

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Robert Pilpel was received through the American Legation in Lisbon under date of November 9, 1944:

"116. It is stated by Blickenstaff that information with regard to release of group Rabbis Shanghai has not been sent by Spanish Embassy in Washington to the Foreign Office. This refers to your October 25 (WRB No. 108 to Lisbon)."

Very truly yours,
(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

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

RDrury 11/14/44

MENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

War Ref Bd
(M. Pehle)

1944 NOV 11 AM 9 37

DCG-795
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement. ([redacted]W)

Lisbon

Dated November 9, 1944

Rec'd 10:54 a.m. 10th

Secretary of State,

Washington.

3904, November 9, 7 p.m.

Blickenstaff says Spanish Embassy Washington has not sent information concerning release group rabbis Shanghai to Foreign Office. This is WRB 250 JDC 116 from Pilpel for Leavitt. Refers to WRB 108 your SOF October 25.

NORWEB

WSB

CONTROL COPY

Message Sent
11/14/44
RS

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

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

EK
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement. ([redacted] W)

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

OCTOBER 25, 1944
8 p.m.

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

CONTROL COPY

[redacted]

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

AMEMBASSY

LISBON

2808

The cable below is WRB 108.

Please deliver paraphrase of the following message to Robert Pilpel from M. A. Leavitt of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

QUOTE Vaad Hahatzala has asked Spanish Ambassador Washington intervene with Japanese regarding release 500 rabbis, deans and scholars now Shanghai to a neutral country. Spanish Ambassador has referred matter to his Government by cable. View fact Spanish Government is protecting power Japanese interests here, Ambassador believes such intervention might bring results. Please urge Blickenstaff follow up matter with appropriate authorities and push it yourself. For your information Vatican has also intervened but thus far received no reply from Japanese authorities. Please keep us advised. UNQUOTE

STETTINIUS
(Acting)

WRB:MMVIKG
10/23/44

JA

WE

SWP

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

CABLE TO NORWEB, LISBON, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Please deliver the following message to Robert Pilpel from M. A. Leavitt of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

QUOTE VAAD HAHATZALA HAS ASKED SPANISH AMBASSADOR WASHINGTON INTERVENE WITH JAPANESE REGARDING RELEASE 500 RABBIS, DRANS AND SCHOLARS NOW SHANGHAI TO A NEUTRAL COUNTRY. SPANISH AMBASSADOR HAS REFERRED MATTER TO HIS GOVERNMENT BY CABLE. VIEW FACT SPANISH GOVERNMENT IS PROTECTING POWER JAPANESE INTERESTS HERE, AMBASSADOR BELIEVES SUCH INTERVENTION MIGHT BRING RESULTS. PLEASE URGE BLICKENSTAFF FOLLOW UP MATTER WITH APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES AND PUSH IT YOURSELF. FOR YOUR INFORMATION VATICAN HAS ALSO INTERVENED BUT THUS FAR RECEIVED NO REPLY FROM JAPANESE AUTHORITIES. PLEASE KEEP US ADVISED. UNQUOTE

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO LISBON NO. 108.

11:15 a.m.
October 19, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Lesser, Mannon, McCormack, Files

Copy sent SDC 10/20/44 RS

RDrury 10/19/44 764

"JDISCO" NEW YORK

TELEPHONE: LExington 2-5200

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LOUIS H. SOBEL, *Assistant Secretary*

October 17, 1944

Miss Florence Hodel
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D.C.

My dear Miss Hodel:

Would you be good enough to transmit the following message to Mr. Robert Pilpel, at our office in Lisbon, Portugal:

"VAAD HAHATZALA HAS ASKED SPANISH AMBASSADOR WASHINGTON INTERVENE WITH JAPANESE REGARDING RELEASE 500 RABBIS, DEANS AND SCHOLARS NOW SHANGHAI TO A NEUTRAL COUNTRY. SPANISH AMBASSADOR HAS REFERRED MATTER TO HIS GOVERNMENT BY CABLE. VIEW FACT SPANISH GOVERNMENT IS PROTECTING POWER JAPANESE INTERESTS HERE, AMBASSADOR BELIEVES SUCH INTERVENTION MIGHT BRING RESULTS. PLEASE URGE BLICKENSTAFF FOLLOW UP MATTER WITH APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES AND PUSH IT YOURSELF. FOR YOUR INFORMATION VATICAN HAS ALSO INTERVENED BUT THUS FAR RECEIVED NO REPLY FROM JAPANESE AUTHORITIES. PLEASE KEEP US ADVISED."

Sincerely yours,

Moses A. Leavitt
Secretary

MAL:RS

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LOUIS BROIDO, *New York*
ABE BRONFMAN, *Montreal*
FRED M. BUTZEL, *Detroit*
EDDIE CANTOR, *Beverly Hills, Cal.*
LOUIS CAPLAN, *Pittsburgh*
AVERY CARP, *Granite City, Ill.*
NATHAN CHANIN, *New York*
MORRIS R. COHEN, *Washington*
ALFRED E. COHN, *New York*
RALPH F. COLIN, *New York*
AMOS S. DEINARD, *Minneapolis*
DAVID DUBINSKY, *New York*
G. A. EFROYMSON, *Indianapolis*
LOUIS H. EHRLICH, *Kansas City, Mo.*
ABRAM I. ELKUS, *New York*
MORRIS ENGELMAN, *New York*
MAX EPSTEIN, *Chicago*
LEON FALK, JR., *Pittsburgh*
MRS. MYRON S. FALK, JR., *New York*
JOSEPH L. FINK, *Buffalo*
LOUIS FINKELSTEIN, *New York*
HARRY FISCHEL, *New York*
ARTHUR FLUEGELMAN, *New York*
PHILLIP FORMAN, *Trenton*
A. RICHARD FRANK, *Chicago*
MAX FREEDMAN, *Cleveland*
JONAH J. GOLDSTEIN, *New York*
I. EDWIN GOLDWASSER, *New York*
MONROE GOLDWATER, *New York*
J. J. GOLUB, *New York*
D. SAMUEL GOTTESMAN, *New York*
JOEL GROSS, *Newark*
REUBEN GUSKIN, *New York*
MORRIS W. HAFT, *New York*
SALMON P. HALLE, *Cleveland*
DAVID E. HARLEM, *Denver*
LEO H. HEIMERDINGER, *Philadelphia*
ADOLPH HELD, *New York*
SIDNEY L. HEROLD, *Shreveport*
WALTER S. HILBORN, *Beverly Hills, Cal.*
MRS. WALTER A. HIRSCH, *New York*
HARRY A. HOLLZER, *Los Angeles*
ABRAHAM HOROWITZ, *New York*
ALBERT D. HUTZLER, *Baltimore*
STANLEY M. ISAACS, *New York*
LESLIE L. JACOBS, *Dallas*
MORRIS E. JACOBS, *Omaha*
ALFRED JARETZKI, JR., *New York*
LEO JUNG, *New York*
ALEXANDER KAHN, *New York*
MILTON KAHN, *Boston*
E. I. KAUFMANN, *Washington*
MILTON W. KING, *Washington*
JOSEPH J. KLEIN, *New York*
JEROME H. KOHN, *Hartford*
ABRAHAM KRASNE, *New York*
MILTON KUTZ, *Wilmington*
SAUL J. LANCE, *New York*
ALEXANDER A. LANDESCO, *New York*
SIDNEY LANSBURGH, *Baltimore*
ALBERT D. LASKER, *New York*
EDWARD LAZANSKY, *Brooklyn*
MORRIS S. LAZARON, *Baltimore*
CARL LEFF, *New York*
AL PAUL LEFTON, *Philadelphia*
LEO LEHMAN, *Pittsburgh*
ROBERT LEHMAN, *New York*
SAMUEL D. LEIDESDORF, *New York*
EMIL W. LEIPZIGER, *New Orleans*
JACOB LEVINSON, *Brooklyn*
MRS. DAVID M. LEVY, *New York*
ISAAC H. LEVY, *New York*
SAM A. LEWISOHN, *New York*
ALBERT H. LIEBERMAN, *Philadelphia*
CHARLES J. LIEBMAN, *New York*
MAX LIVINGSTON, *New Haven*
CARL M. LOEB, *New York*
JOSEPH P. LOEB, *Los Angeles*
SAMUEL MARKELL, *Boston*
JAMES MARSHALL, *New York*
ARMAND MAY, *Atlanta*
GEORGE Z. MEDALIE, *New York*
JEROME MICHAEL, *New York*
ABRAHAM MILLER, *New York*
HENRY MONSKY, *Omaha*
CHARLES W. MORRIS, *Louisville*
PAUL MUNI, *Glen Head, L. I.*
STANLEY C. MYERS, *Miami*
MARCUS NADLER, *New York*
MAX OGUST, *New York*
NATHAN M. OHRBACH, *New York*
KURT PEISER, *Philadelphia*
HARRIS PERLSTEIN, *Chicago*
DAVID deSOLA POOL, *New York*
JACOB S. POTOFSKY, *New York*
MEYER L. PRENTIS, *Detroit*
JOSEPH M. PROSKAUER, *New York*
BENJAMIN J. RABIN, *New York*
AARON S. RAUH, *St. Louis*
RICHARD S. RAUH, *Pittsburgh*
A. J. RONGY, *New York*
JAMES N. ROSENBERG, *New York*
LESSING J. ROSENWALD, *Philadelphia*
WILLIAM ROSENWALD, *Greenwich, Conn.*
MORRIS ROTHENBERG, *New York*
BERNARD SACHS, *New York*
BEN SADOWSKI, *Toronto*
SIMON SAKOWITZ, *Houston*
A. L. SALTZSTEIN, *Milwaukee*
E. J. SCHANFARBER, *Columbus*
ULYSSES S. SCHWARTZ, *Chicago*
WILLIAM H. SCHWARZSCHILD, *Richmond*
MURRAY SEASONGOOD, *Cincinnati*
EUSTACE SELIGMAN, *New York*
BERNARD SEMEL, *New York*
ALFRED SHEMANSKI, *Seattle*
I. H. SHERMAN, *New York*
SAMUEL SHORE, *New York*
WILLIAM J. SHRODER, *Cincinnati*
MENDEL B. SILBERBERG, *Los Angeles*
ARCHIBALD SILVERMAN, *Providence*
M. C. SLOSS, *San Francisco*
ABRAHAM SRERE, *Detroit*
JESSE H. STEINHART, *San Francisco*
EDGAR B. STERN, *New Orleans*
HENRY M. STERN, *Rochester*
HORACE STERN, *Philadelphia*
HUGH GRANT STRAUS, *Brooklyn*
MRS. ROGER W. STRAUS, *New York*
FRANK L. SULZBERGER, *Chicago*
LEON C. SUNSTEIN, *Philadelphia*
AARON TEITELBAUM, *New York*
JEROME I. UDELL, *New York*
F. FRANK VORENBERG, *Boston*
MRS. FELIX M. WARBURG, *New York*
MAX M. WARBURG, *New York*
DAVID M. WATCHMAKER, *Boston*
ADOLPH WEIL, *Montgomery*
FRANK L. WEIL, *New York*
HENRY WINEMAN, *Detroit*
MOSES WINKELSTEIN, *Syracuse*
JONAH B. WISE, *New York*
DAVID P. WOHL, *St. Louis*
MORRIS WOLF, *Philadelphia*
HARRY ZEITZ, *Brooklyn*

IN THE ARMED FORCES

ABNER BREGMAN, *New York*
WILLIAM W. GOODMAN, *Memphis*
MARCO F. HELLMAN, *New York*
HAROLD F. LINDER, *New York*
EDWARD A. NORMAN, *New York*
LEWIS L. STRAUSS, *New York*
MORRIS C. TROPER, *New York*
EDWARD M. M. WARBURG, *New York*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

September 28, 1944

4 p.m.

AB
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement ([redacted])

[redacted]

to

AMLEGATION

STOCKHOLM

1941

The cable below is WRB 91.

Please deliver paraphrase of the following message to Chief Rabbi Marcus Ehrenpreis, Stockholm, from the Vaad-Hahatzala Emergency Committee:

QUOTE Greatly disturbed growing danger to group of 500 rabbis and rabbinical scholars (with almost complete Mirer Rabbinical College) in Shanghai. Have directed several pleas to Vatican to intervene with Japanese Government for unilateral release of entire group. Negotiations in progress. Respectfully urge you contact Swedish Government that presentations be made by Swedish Government and King to Japanese Government for release of group. Necessary also consult Swedish Government and request make available ship for transport of group and permit temporary entry into Sweden. Almost entire group possess final entry visas to Palestine, Canada, United States and other lands. We guavantee cost of transport and maintenance while in Sweden. This group represents the remnant of the great rabbinical colleges of Poland and Lithuania. Their rescue and rehabilitation

CONTROL COPY

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

[redacted]

#1941, September 28, 4 p.m., to Stockholm

rehabilitation would be an historic undertaking. We appeal to you to consult Rabbi Wolbe and lend your influential support to our committee in Switzerland. UNQUOTE

HULL
(GTF)

WRB:MMV:KG
9/28/44

NOE

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

CABLE TO MINISTER JOHNSON, STOCKHOLM, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Please deliver the following message to Chief Rabbi Marcus Ehrenpries, Stockholm, from the Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee:

QUOTE GREATLY DISTURBED GROWING DANGER TO GROUP OF 500 RABBIS AND RABBINICAL SCHOLARS (WITH ALMOST COMPLETE MIRER RABBINICAL COLLEGE) IN SHANGHAI. HAVE DIRECTED SEVERAL PLEAS TO VATICAN TO INTERVENE WITH JAPANESE GOVERNMENT FOR UNILATERAL RELEASE OF ENTIRE GROUP. NEGOTIATIONS IN PROGRESS STOP RESPECTFULLY URGE YOU CONTACT SWEDISH GOVERNMENT THAT PRESENTATIONS BE MADE BY SWEDISH GOVERNMENT AND KING TO JAPANESE GOVERNMENT FOR RELEASE OF GROUP. NECESSARY ALSO CONSULT SWEDISH GOVERNMENT AND REQUEST MAKE AVAILABLE SHIP FOR TRANSPORT OF GROUP AND PERMIT TEMPORARY ENTRY INTO SWEDEN. ALMOST ENTIRE GROUP POSSESS FINAL ENTRY VISAS TO PALESTINE, CANADA, UNITED STATES AND OTHER LANDS. WE GUARANTEE COST OF TRANSPORT AND MAINTENANCE WHILE IN SWEDEN STOP THIS GROUP REPRESENTS THE REMNANT OF THE GREAT RABBINICAL COLLEGES OF POLAND AND LITHUANIA. THEIR RESCUE AND REHABILITATION WOULD BE AN HISTORIC UNDERTAKING. WE APPEAL TO YOU TO CONSULT RABBI WOLBE AND LEND YOUR INFLUENTIAL SUPPORT TO OUR COMMITTEE IN SWITZERLAND UNQUOTE

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO STOCKHOLM NO. 91

10:30 a.m.
September 26, 1944

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

Copy sent to Vaad Hatzalah 9/29/44 RVP

Cleared with Mr. Pehle

Drury:hd 9/25/44

ועד ההצלה
VAAD HAHATZALA
(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)
132 NASSAU STREET
(ROOM 619)
NEW YORK 7, N. Y.
PHONE RECTOR 2-4235

September 20, 1944

Cable to ChiefRabbi Marcus Ehrenpries
Stockholm (Sweden)
Through American Embassy in Stockholm

Greatly disturbed growing danger to group of 500 Rabbis and Rabbinical scholars (with almost complete Mirer Rabbinical College) in Shanghai. Have directed several pleas to Vatican to intervene with Japanese Government for unilateral release of entire group. Negotiations in progress stop Respectfully urge you contact Swedish Government that presentations be made by Swedish Government and King to Japanese Government for release of group. Necessary also consult Swedish Government and request make available ship for transport of group and permit temporary entry into Sweden. Almost entire group possess final entry visas to Palestine, Canada, United States and other lands. We guarantee cost of transport and maintenance while in Sweden stop This group represents the remnant of the great Rabbinical Colleges of Poland and Lithuania. Their rescue and rehabilitation would be an historic undertaking. We appeal to you to consult Rabbi Wolbe and lend your influential support to our Committee in Switzerland

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

RABBIS ISRAEL ROSENBERG
ARON KOTLER
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.

ועד ההצלה
VAAD HAHATZALA
(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)
132 NASSAU STREET
(ROOM 819)
NEW YORK 7, N. Y.
PHONE RECTOR 2-4235

FCL

September 26, 1944

Honorable John W. Pehle, Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Honorable Sir:

We anxiously await your communication in reference to the licenses we requested which would enable us to forward funds and send vital cables to the territories recently freed by the U.S.S.R.

We attach herewith copy of a cable which we have requested your Board to send to Stockholm in our behalf.

The matter contained therein has been brought to your attention previously. We would, at this time, respectfully request you to lend the assistance of the War Refugee Board to the matter and to direct a presentation to the Government of Sweden to intervene with the Japanese Government for the release of the group in Shanghai.

We would greatly appreciate your earnest consideration in this matter.

With deepest appreciation,

Very respectfully yours,

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

A. Kalmanowitz

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

AK:r

Informed V.H. orally that this is not feasible
B.A.
Sept. 28, 1944

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.

7. War Refugee Bd File

AIRGRAM SENT

MJB

April 10, 1944

6 p.m.

AMLEGATION,

STOCKHOLM.

CONTROL COPY

A-90

Department's 528, March 28, 1944.

For the Minister.

In order that the Legation may be fully informed of the problems involved in trying to arrange for the evacuation from Shanghai of members of the Rabbinical College of Mir, most or all of whom are understood to be Polish nationals, there is set forth below, for background purposes and for your guidance when discussing the question, a summary of available information regarding this matter.

1. Last fall, Rabbi Kalmanowitz requested of the Department directly and also through the Apostolic Delegate that efforts be made to evacuate from Shanghai members of the Rabbinical group in a future United States-Japanese exchange operation.

2. In an interview at the Department and in correspondence directly with him and through the Apostolic Delegation, Rabbi Kalmanowitz was informed that the Department was deeply sympathetic concerning the plight of these religious leaders and that it was interested in helping them in every

feasible

feasible way. He was also informed of the extremely difficult problems confronting the United States in trying to arrange for the repatriation of Japanese-held United States citizens whose situation, generally speaking, is no less desperate than that of the individuals in whom he expressed interest. (Department estimates that United States and Western Hemisphere countries associated with us in exchange negotiations have approximately 15,000 civilian nationals still in Japanese custody who are regarded as eligible for repatriation. Furthermore, it may be difficult to find an equal number of Japanese eligible to be exchanged for them whom the Japanese Government will agree to accept).

With the foregoing in mind, Assistant Secretary Long on December 4, 1943 ended a letter regarding this matter with the following statement: "While I cannot hold out any hope of arranging to include the Polish Rabbinical group at Shanghai in future American-Japanese exchanges in displacement of American nationals, I shall be happy to consider whether the Department might be helpful in any other plan which you and your associates can suggest for rescuing these unfortunate people from Shanghai."

3. Subsequently, Rabbi Kalmanowitz requested the Department to recommend to the British Government that the

Polish

Polish allocations in the next British-Japanese exchange operation be increased for the purpose of enabling a larger number of members of the Rabbinical group to be evacuated in such an exchange. An excerpt from a letter sent to Rabbi Kalmanowitz on January 17, 1944 by the Under Secretary follows: "The question of deciding who may be included in the next British-Japanese exchange is one for decision by the Governments whose nationals are eligible for inclusion in that exchange. The same principle governs the American-Japanese exchange arrangements. In the circumstances you will, I believe, appreciate that this Government could not properly suggest to the British Government the inclusion in its exchange of certain persons to the exclusion of others."

4. Since last January the Department has not been formally approached in the matter of including the Rabbinical group in any exchanges which we or the British might be able to arrange with the Japanese.

HULL
(BL)

SWP:EJD:FIG EE CA FE A-B VD WRB NOE

00013

Case 7

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

March 29, 1944
7 p.m.

Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee,
132 Nassau Street,
New York 7, New York.

AMELIORATION.

BERN,

1045

FOR THE MINISTER FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Following for Isaac Sternbuch, 3 Teufener Strasse, St. Gallen, from the Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee:

QUOTE: Greatly concerned fate Lithuanian Jews. Do everything possible to save maximum number especially great religious leaders. Take all available addresses from Dotcko, Eis, Erlanger and others. Consult Griffel in Turkey about all phases rescue work send him money for rescue if required. Expand rescue work in every way. Give us concrete plans and money will be no object. Advise if received answer from Shanghai. Please send periodic reports on all phases of rescue program. UNQUOTE.

WRS:GLW:AMM WM NE SWF HULL (GLW)
3/27/44

3/OB

March 27, 1944
Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akein, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Marks, McCormack, Murphy, Paul, Pollak, Raine, Smith, Sargent, Standish, Stewart, White, Pehle, Mennen, Weinstein

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

CONTROL COPY

TELEGRAM SENT

This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone outside the Department

March 28, 1944

2 pm

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAR 30 1944
COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

War Refugee Bd
Mr. Pehle

File

ALLEGATION,

STOCKHOLM

NR 8

FOR THE MINISTER FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Following for Rabbi Wilhelm Wolbe, 11 Olofsgatten St., Stockholm, from Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz of Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee:

QUOTE Contact Rabbi Zemulewicz inquire health economic status of Rabbinical group in Shanghai. Utilize every possible way to help them. Concerned fate Lithuanian Jewry advise condition there. How you can help especially Rabbis and scholars. Organize rescue Committee will make money available. Contact American Legation inform us through Legation. UNQUOTE

HULL
(CLW)

WRB:CLW:AMM NOR SWP
3/27/44

CABLE TO STOCKHOLM

From War Refugee Board to Johnson

Please deliver the following message to Rabbi Wilhelm Wolbe, 11 Olofsgatten St., Stockholm, from Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz of Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee:

"Contact Rabbi Szmulewicz inquire health economic status of Rabbinical group in Shanghai. Utilize every possible way to help them stop Concerned fate Lithuanian Jewry advise condition there. How you can help especially Rabbis and scholars stop Organize rescue Committee will make money available. Contact American Legation inform us through legation."

Discussed with Rabbi 3/22/44 JH

March 17, 1944

Message to be transmitted to

Rabbi Wilhelm Wolbe
11 Olofsgatten St.
Stockholm, Sweden.

Contact Rabbi Szmulewicz inquire health economic status of Rabbinical group in Shanghai. Utilize every possible way to help them stop Concerned fate Lithuanian Jewry advise condition there. How you can help especially Rabbis and scholars stop Organize rescue Committee will make money available. Contact American Legation inform us through legation.

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

00091

ועד ההצלה
VAAD HAHATZALA
(Emergency Committee for Refugee Scholars, Yeshivoth, Rabbis and Communal Leaders)
132 NASSAU STREET
(ROOM 819)
NEW YORK 7, N. Y.
PHONE REctor 2-4235

March 17, 1944

Message to be transmitted to

Rabbi Wilhelm Wolbe
11 Olefsgatten St.
Stockholm, Sweden.

Contact Rabbi Szmulewicz inquire health economic status of Rabbinical group in Shanghai. Utilize every possible way to help them stop Concerned fate Lithuanian Jewry advise condition there. How you can help especially Rabbis and scholars stop Organize rescue Committee will make money available. Contact American Legation inform us through legation.

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

Transmitted by letter
March 17, 1944

Official File Copy

MEMORANDUM February 12, 1944

Rabbinical Refugees in Shanghai

On January 20, 1944, the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada presented a memorandum to Assistant Secretary of State Berle dealing with the plight of some 465 Rabbis and Rabbinical students who have sought refuge in Shanghai. The memorandum advances three proposals. The first, that the Union be permitted to remit $100,000 to Switzerland for the use of these refugees, has already been facilitated by the issuance of a Treasury license which was transmitted to Bern by the Department of State. The remaining two proposals are:

1- "Persons arriving in this country recently, after repatriation from Shanghai, have informed us that the material condition of the Rabbinical group of 465 persons there is rapidly deteriorating and they face slow extenction, if they do not receive financial assistance from time to time. We have also been informed that a group of substantial persons in Shanghai are ready to advance sums for their maintenance provided deposits of similar sums are made in this country and which would eventually be considered as payments of the sums expended. A request is respectfully submitted to the State Department for their intervention in the grant of a license to make payment in this country to persons made known to us by the International Red Cross. Our request is for a license to pay the sum of $60,000 for a period of six months.

2- "The problem of the evacuation of this Rabbinical group in Shanghai has been presented to the State Department on several occasions. It is a matter of vital concern to American Jewry and our anxiety for this remnant of religious and cultural Jewry is most acute. We again respectfully request every possible action in the diplomatic exchange of this group of 463 Rabbis and scholars.

"May we advise the department that more recently on the receipt of a communication that the evacuation of this group is vitally necessary, we appealed to the Vatican to intervene either directly or through neutral countries for the release of this group. On Friday, January 14, 1944, we were advised that the Vatican had made such intervention and was waiting further word.

"However, their release must be joined with their actual transfer and admission to a country of final entry.

"May we, therefore, appeal to the State Department, which has always considered the religious status of this group and given them exceptional consideration to allocate visas for the admission of this group and to make possible the use of a neutral ship for their transfer to a near by port in Alaska."

The proposal to borrow funds in Shanghai for the support of the Rabbinical group is deemed to raise a substantial problem. It has been pointed out that the JDC has embarked on a similar program for the maintenance of needy Jewish refugees in Shanghai, including the Rabbinical group, and it is thought that to permit the Union to borrow funds specifically for the students and Rabbis would be to permit a duplication of effort and discrimination in favor of such group.

With neither of these propositions can I agree. In the first place, "needy" is a relative term. To the extent that funds borrowed by the Union can be made available to the Rabbinical group, the funds borrowed by the JDC will be available for wider distribution or more adequate relief. Thus, the charge of discrimination in favor of the Rabbinical group is not only illusory, but the contribution of the Union will in fact be a contribution for the benefit of all.

It is, therefore, recommended that immediate steps be taken to facilitate the activation of this proposal of the Union.

With respect to the proposed evacuation of the Rabbinical group the objection of "discrimination" has again been made. Of course the ideal proposal would be the evacuation of all of the refugees now in Shanghai, and failing this, the evacuation of those whose physical condition permits them least to withstand the rigors of their refuge. Whether any such program, however, could be worked out is, of course, highly doubtful. The Vatican has, however, we are informed, already interceded, in accordance with its traditional policy, with the Japanese government on behalf of the Rabbinical group. It is possible that with assistance from that quarter the evacuation of the Rabbinical group may be accomplished. To refrain from saving a drowning man because there is a second man drowning who possibly cannot be saved, for fear that one might be discriminating in favor of the first, is a horrible proposition. Consequently, it is recommended, with the reservation hereinafter made, that steps be taken to strengthen the stand of the Vatican and to make arrangements to facilitate the

evacuation of this group, should the Vatican succeed with the Japanese. My reservation, which may or may not be worthy of consideration, is:

Recent disclosures of the treatment of American and British prisoners of war and internees at the hands of the Japanese have aroused public opinion. Concededly, everything that can be done on behalf of these unfortunates is being done but, concededly again, with little hope of ameliorating their condition. Under these circumstances, the public reaction to the evacuation from Shanghai, through the efforts of the United States, of a group of alien refugees, might not only be uncharitable but unfortunate. The possibility that an unfavorable public reaction to such a project might result in a diminution of aid generally to refugees may create, to my mind, a problem.

Lester

Official File Copy

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

EASTERN HEMISPHERE

February 11, 1944

The War Refugee Board,

Attention: Mr. L. L. Lesser:

Attached please find a copy of the memorandum to the State Department, from the Union of Orthodox Rabbis, dated January 20, 1944.

The material under paragraph "a" has already been dealt with in the form of a license, issued by the Treasury Department, and transmitted by this Department to Bern.

The War Refugee Board may wish to consider whether the suggestions contained in paragraph "b" can be carried into effect.

With regard to paragraph "c" and the unnumbered paragraph immediately thereafter, this Department has now been advised by Rabbi Kalmanowitz that the Vatican has in fact directed a note to the Japanese Government in this connection. Further details with respect to the note can, I presume, be secured from Rabbi Kalmanowitz. The War Refugee Board may wish to consider whether other neutral countries should be requested to support the Vatican in their approach to the Japanese Government.

William I. Riegelman

EH:WIR:AMN

Rec'd from Mr. Lesser's office 2/21/44 [illegible]

C
O
P
Y

MEMORANDUM TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

ATTENTION OF THE HONORABLE ADOLPH A. BERLE, JR.

The State Department of our government has on various occasions receiged our memoranda and given considerate attention to the various problems presented by us.

There are several matters which we present in this memorandum and in which we respectfully urge your earnest consideration and attention.

a- Advices have been received through diplomatic channels, that large numbers of Jews remain hidden in the forests on the borders of several European countries, living under the most extreme conditions and falling easy prey to hunger and disease. Many of these can be saved. A committee of responsible and authoritative Jews in Switzerland would actively concern themselves in their rescue provided the necessary funds were sent them. We would respectfully urge the intervention of the State Department in securing the necessary license to send the sum of $100,000 to Switzerland for use in the rescue of these unfortunates and also to request the Swiss government to receive this sum into their country and allow payment on the old exchange rate of $.23 to the franc.

b- a/ Persons arriving in this country recently, after repatriation from Shanghai, have informed us that the material condition of the Rabbinical group of 465 persons there is rapidly deteriorating and they face slow extenction, if they do not receive financial assistance from time to time. We have also been informed that a group of substantial persons in Shanghai are ready to advance sums for their maintenance provided desposits of similar sums are made in this country and which would eventually be considered as payments of the sums expended. A request is respectfully submitted to the State Department for their intervention in the grant of a license to make payment in this country to persons made known to us by the International Red Cross. Our request is for a license to pay the sum of $60,000 for a period of six months./a

c- b/ The problem of the evacuation of this Rabbinical group in Shanghai has been presented to the State Department on several occasions. It is a matter

of vital concern to American Jewry and our anxiety for this remnant of religious and cultural Jewry is most acute. We again respectfully request every possible action in the diplomatic exchange of this group of 463 Rabbis and scholars.

May we advise the department that more recently on the receipt of a communication that the evacuation of this group is vitally necessary, we appealed to the Vatican to intervene either directly or through neutral countries for the release of this group. On Friday, January 14, 1944, we were advised that the Vatican had made such intervention and was waiting further word.

However, their release must be joined with their actual transfer and admission to a country of final entry.

May we, therefore, appeal to the State Department, which has always considered the religious status of this group and given them exceptional consideration to allocate visas for the admission of this group and to make possible the use of a neutral ship for their transfer to a near by port in Alaska.

Such action by the State Department would hasten the release of this group by the Japanese government which would have no reason for the retention of these religious people, whose only desire is to serve their God.

These matters are respectfully submitted to you with an earnest request for early consideration of the vital problems involved.

Presented by:

UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS OF
THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

(s) A. Kalmanowitz

RABBI Abraham Kalmanowitz

Received January 20, 1944

Memorandum to State Department

Orthodox

I. Shanghai- On several occasions we have presented to the State Department memoranda concerning the release of the group of Rabbis and Yiddish scholars in Shanghai. This group comprises some 500 persons in which is included in entirety the Rabbinical College of Mir, one of the most outstanding rabbinical schools in Poland. We have interceded with the Vatican, the Government of Spain and the Government of Sweden for the unilateral release of this group from Japan and also for their inclusion in whatever exchanges there are to be made. We stressed to the Vatican and to the Governments of Sweden and Spain the outstanding and exceptional religious status of this group and requested that they be specially considered in the matter of exchange or release. We were recently informed that the Japanese Government was ready to consider the exchange of these persons. We would therefore respectfully request our State Department to give immediate consideration to the matter of their exchange and to express a willingness to the Government of Japan that our country was ready to consider the exchange of these persons.

II. We are enclosing a copy of the list of Belsen Bergen deportees possessing Ecuadorian passports which expire early in January. This report we received from the War Refugee Board and we are returning it to you with a request that the War Refugee Board take the necessary action. You Understand, and surely appreciate, that the lives of these persons depend entirely on the extension of the passports and as the time is so short we must respectfully urge the immediate intervention of the State Department with the Government of Ecuador to extend the life of these passports and to assure their validity till the end of the war. In conjunction with this intervention, we are sure the necessary requests will be made to the protecting powers.

III. Switzerland - We received a report that large groups of Hungarian Jews and others are hopefully awaiting entry into Switzerland. We would therefore respectfully request that the State Department intervene with the Government of Switzerland to continue to keep its doors open. The success of all present and future rescue measures involving hundreds of thousands of lives, is entirely and directly dependent on the certainty that the admission of those rescued, will be assured. The action which

Switzerland has taken heretofore in the admission of refugees was done so at the suggestion of the Government of the United States.

Respectfully submitted:

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE
132 Nassau St., New York 7, N.Y.

by:

RABBI ABRAHAM KALMANOWITZ

January 21, 1944

Taken from Mr. Hirschmann's files