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

Spanish Republican Refugees in France

International Rescue and Relief Council
CROSS REFERENCE ON PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF & RESCUE OF REFUGEES: RELIEF PROJECT (SPANISH REPUB. REFUGEES IN FRANCE IRRC)

FOR:

- Amendment to this License
- Extension of this License
- Renewal of this License
- Correspondence concerning this application
- Other (Specify)

FOR: RELATIVE MATERIAL TO THIS FILE

SEE: PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF & RESCUE OF REFUGEES: EVACUATION TO SWITZERLAND (RESCUE OF REFUGEES FROM FRANCE & ITALY (IRRC))
MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

November 20, 1944

Subject: Revocation of NY 643665 and NY 643666 issued to International Rescue and Relief Committee, Inc., New York City.

NY 643665 issued September 9, 1944, permits the International Rescue and Relief Committee, Inc. to remit the Swiss franc equivalent of $60,000 over a period of six months to a representative in Zurich, Switzerland, to finance a rescue and relief program in France and Northern Italy.

NY 643666 issued August 14, 1944, permits the International Rescue and Relief Committee, Inc. to remit the Swiss franc equivalent of $5,000 for a period of six months to its representative in Zurich, Switzerland, for the relief of Spanish republicans interned in France.

In view of the lifting of France from "enemy territory" with the amendment on November 4 to General Ruling No. 11, the International Rescue and Relief Committee, Inc. was informed through the War Refugee Board that funds to finance the activities of the International Rescue and Relief Committee, Inc. in France should be remitted directly to that country rather than through Switzerland. It was suggested, therefore, that the Committee file an application for a license to effect remittances directly to France whereupon the subject licenses would be revoked.

As license No. NY 643665 was issued in conjunction with license No. W-2138, which governs the financing of the Committee's rescue operations in enemy or enemy occupied territory, Miss Strunsky, the Executive Secretary of the International Rescue and Relief Committee, was asked whether the Committee intended to remit funds to Switzerland for the continuation of its rescue operations in Northern Italy. Miss Strunsky stated that at this time the Committee's activities in Italy were being carried out only in the liberated areas of Italy. While agreeing that NY 643665 might be revoked at this time, Miss Strunsky requested that the Committee's "basic" license (W-2138) be left to remain in effect as the Committee might wish to continue its activities in Northern Italy at a later date.

In the meantime, the Committee will remit funds directly to France to finance its activities there under the new license for which application was made under NY 660475.

R. B. Parke

cc: Miss Hodel

RBPark@1 1/20/44
FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: August 14, 1944
NUMBER: 2792

FOR McCLELLAND FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

The following message is sent to you by Frank Kingdon, International Rescue and Relief Committee:

"In reply to your message received July 15th regarding distribution of IRRC funds for Spaniards in France we suggest your consulting with Berthelet to arrange between you distribution via all groups that have contact with Spanish refugees. Accordingly, license has been revised for payments up to five thousand dollars monthly to be made to Berthelet for him to apportion money subject to your approval to each agency having necessary contacts and to distribute some part himself. Also Unitarians suggest contacting Field for possible contribution to Spaniards. Would appreciate your giving Berthelet copy of this message."

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 120.

HULL
CABLE TO HARRISON, BERN, FOR WECHELLAND FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

The following message is sent to you by Frank Kingdon,
International Rescue and Relief Committee:

"In reply to your message received July 15th regarding
distribution of IRRC funds for Spaniards in France we suggest
your consulting with Bertholet to arrange between you distri-
bution via all groups that have contact with Spanish refugees.
Accordingly, license has been revised for payments up to
five thousand dollars monthly to be made to Bertholet for
him to apportion money subject to your approval to each
agency having necessary contacts and to distribute some part
himself. Also Unitarians suggest contacting Field for possible
contribution to Spaniards. Would appreciate your giving
Bertholet copy of this message."

THIS IS OUR CABLE TO BERL NO. 120.

4:15 p.m.
August 11, 1944

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

Fifth 8/11/44
International Rescue and Relief Committee
Incorporated
103 Park Avenue, New York 17, N.Y.
Lexington 2-7916

August 10, 1944

Miss Florence Hodel
Assistant to the Executive
War Refugee Board
Room 190
Main Treasury Building
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Miss Hodel:

We enclose herewith our committee's reply to Mr. McClelland's message addressed to Dr. Kingdon. Mr. Park has informed me that the revised license for the Spaniards is granted so I believe that this message can go off without further delay.

Since I will be away on vacation from August 12th until September 7th, either Miss Rosenberg or Miss Lewinski, both of our staff, should be contacted if you wish to get in touch with us.

Very sincerely yours,

Sheba Strunsky
Executive Secretary

SS/ir
Enc.
August 10, 1944

Message for Mr. McClelland in Berne, Switzerland:

IN REPLY TO YOUR MESSAGE RECEIVED JULY 15TH REGARDING DISTRIBUTION OF IRRC FUNDS FOR SPANIARDS IN FRANCE WE SUGGEST YOUR CONSULTING WITH BERTHOLET TO ARRANGE BETWEEN YOU DISTRIBUTION VIA ALL GROUPS THAT HAVE CONTACT WITH SPANISH REFUGEES. ACCORDINGLY, WE HAVE REVISED LICENSE, FOR PAYMENTS UP TO FIVETHOUSAND DOLLARS MONTHLY TO BE MADE TO BERTHOLET FOR HIM TO APPORTION MONEY TO EACH AGENCY HAVING NECESSARY CONTACTS AND TO DISTRIBUTE SOME PART HIMSELF. ALSO UNITARIANS SUGGEST CONTACTING FIELD FOR POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTION TO SPANIARDS. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR GIVING BERTHOLET COPY OF THIS MESSAGE.

FRANK KINGDON
INTERNATIONAL RESCUE AND RELIEF COMMITTEE
Please inform Rene Bertholet, 14 Wasserstrasse, Zurich, Switzerland, that Treasury Department has issued license to International Rescue and Relief Committee, Inc., New York City, permitting it to remit to him the Swiss franc equivalent of $5,000 per month for a period of six months to continue relief of Spanish refugees in camps in southern France. This license stipulates funds remitted thereunder shall be utilized by Mr. Bertholet only as authorized by the War Refugee Board representative at Bern. These operations are a continuation of those contemplated in the Department's telegram No. 740 of March 6, 1944 and are approved by the Department, the War Refugee Board, and Treasury.

THIS IS WIRE CABLE TO BERN NO. 119.

STETTINIUS
(Acting)
Please inform Gene Berthold, 14 Memstrasse, Furien, Switzerland, that Treasury Department has been licensed by the International Rescue and Relief Committee, Inc., New York City, permitting it to remit to him the Swiss francs equivalent of $5,000 per month for a period of six months to continue relief of Spanish refugees in camps in southern France. This license stipulates funds remitted thereunder shall be utilized by Mr. Berthold only as authorized by the War Refugees Board representative at Bern. These operations are a continuation of those contemplated in the Department's telegram No. 740 of March 6, 1944 and are approved by the Department, the War Refugees Board, and Treasury.

3:20 p.m.,
August 10, 1944

Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Frieden, Model, Laughlin, Lee, Lepp, Mann, Nathan, Neeleman, Cables Control Files

With reference 0-9-44
TO: Miss Hodel
FROM: R. B. Parke
DATE: August 9, 1944

Subject: Draft of cable to Bern relative to issuance of license to
International Rescue and Relief Committee, New York City, for
relief of Spanish refugees in southern France.

In accordance with your request, there is transmitted herewith a draft of a cable to our Mission in Bern, relative to the issuance of the subject license, which you wish to despatch through official channels.

You will receive confirmed copies of this Department's wire authorizing the issuance of such license as soon as they are available.

[Signature]

R. B. Parke
Subject: Draft of cable to Bern relative to issuance of license to
International Rescue and Relief Committee, New York City, for
relief of Spanish refugees in southern France.

In accordance with your request, there is transmitted herewith a draft of a cable to our Mission in Bern,
relative to the issuance of the subject license, which you
wish to despatch through official channels.

You will receive conformed copies of this Department's wire authorising the issuance of such license as
soon as they are available.

R. B. Parke
TO: Liaison Officer, Foreign Funds Control
FROM: War Refugee Board
Subject: Relief of Spanish refugees in France

There is transmitted herewith a copy of a letter dated July 28, 1944 from the International Rescue & Relief Committee, dealing with remittance of $5,000 per month for six months to Rene Borthalet, Zurich, Switzerland for relief of Spanish refugees in southern France.

The War Refugee Board recommends that appropriate Treasury licenses and other necessary documents be issued permitting the execution of the project contemplated in the letter described above.

Remarks:

Action:

Basic license No. W- issued
Remittance license No. W-645066 issued August 10, 1944
Other: Letter No. 76075 issued August 11, 1944

Date: Aug 11, 1944

For the War Refugee Board

For the War Refugee Board

Foreign Funds Control
Pursuant to application filed directly with this Department, you are hereby authorized to issue license to International Rescue Committee, Inc., 105 Park Avenue, New York City, permitting it, notwithstanding General Ruling No. 11, to remit the Swiss franc equivalent of $2,000 per month for a period of six months to Hans Barthollet, Zurich, Switzerland, provided such funds will be utilized by Mr. Barthollet only as authorized by the War Refugee Board representative at Berno, Switzerland. The licensee, or its bank of account, is authorized (a) to pay the dollar amount involved to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York for credit to the Banque Nationale Suisse, Zurich, for payment of the Swiss franc equivalent to the payee designated herein or (b) to purchase the Swiss francs involved from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York as Fiscal Agent of the United States, as shall be prescribed by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Please send signed copy of license to Mr. Anderson, Federal Reserve Bank of New York, and advise him this remittance is for humanitarian purposes.

[Initialed] O.A.H.

[Signature: Schmidt]

Acting Director

[Date]: 6-8-44

(Markerted: 6-8-44)
Mr. Robert B. Park
Treasury Department
Foreign Funds Control
12th and G. Streets
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Park:

We hereby wish to apply for a renewal and amendment to our license No. NY 60829-X-K, which expires July 31st. This license covers remittance to Service Sociale d'Aide Aux Enigrants for relief of Spanish Republican refugees in France. We wish to have it amended to remit to our representative, Rene Bertholet, 14 Wasserstrasse, Zurich, Switzerland, five thousand dollars per month for a period of six months, the funds to be earmarked for the relief of Spanish Republican Refugees in France. Upon the suggestion of Mr. McClelland in Bern we wish to broaden the distribution of these funds by having Mr. Bertholet consult with Mr. McClelland on their disbursement.

We also call to your attention that our license No. NY 608161-X-K, for remittance to Rene Bertholet, expires August 18th. May we have it renewed on the same terms and conditions as the original license?

Would you kindly expedite the license for the Spanish refugees in France, so that we may send funds as soon as possible.

Very sincerely yours,
(Signed) Sheba Strunsky

(Signed) Sheba Strunsky
Executive Secretary

Miss Strunsky informed me by phone that $60,000 will have been remitted by Aug. 18, 1944. They require new license for same amount and amendment of W-2138.

RSParke
9/9/44

MH/ob
Further reference is made to your letter of July 28, 1944, relative to the renewal and amendment of license No. 606719-X-R, you are informed that this Department has authorized the Federal Reserve Bank of New York to issue to you a license permitting the remittance of the Swiss franc equivalent of 15,000 per month for a period of six months to your representative in Switzerland, Mr. Henri Bertholet, through the special facilities available to this Government. You will note that the remittance of such funds is subject to the stipulation that they will be utilized by Mr. Bertholet only as authorized by the war refugee board representative at Bern, Switzerland.

The war refugee board is notifying its representative at Bern, Switzerland of the issuance of such license and that the funds remitted thereunder are earmarked for the relief of Spanish refugees in France.

Sincerely yours,

(Covered) Orvis A. Schmidt
Acting Director

International Rescue and Relief Committee, Inc.,
10J Park Avenue,
New York 17, New York.

8/9/44
Dear Dr. Kingdon:

The following confidential message for you from Mr. McClelland in Bern was received under date of July 15, 1944:

"The question of distribution of INRCS monies for relief of Spaniards in France entirely through Ferrières committee was broached during recent talks with the Spanish Comité du National's representative in Switzerland. This representative has splendid contacts with Spanish organizations in France and we have been cooperating with him in removing endangered refugees from France over the Pyrenees. The possibilities of Service Sociale d'aide aux Réfugiés in France are well known to me, as I worked with their Paris, Marseille and Lyon agents during 1942-1943 and believed as principal outlet his organization limited to some degree. Within limits its semi-official standing with prefectures, SSAE is competent, and this is no reflection on it. However, would it be possible to disburse on a broader basis, inasmuch as this is sole funds available for Spaniards in France at this time? I presume to make the suggestion that distribution be made partially through Spanish Cun (especially for endangered political refugees in prisons and hiding camps), partially through American Friends Service Committee which has widespread contacts with Spanish refugees in Montauban, Perpignan and Toulouse, and through Ferrier in part. I would appreciate a statement as to your opinion regarding this suggestion."

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

J. W. Fehl
Executive Director

Dr. Frank Kingdon,
International Rescue and Relief Committee,
103 Park Avenue,
New York 17, New York.
McClelland sends the following for WRB for Frank Kingston
International Rescue and Relief Committee.

The question of distribution of IRROs monies for relief of Spaniards in France entirely through Ferrrie's committee was broached during recent talks with the Spanish Comite du National's representative in Switzerland. This representative has splendid contacts with Spanish organizations in France and we have been cooperating with him in removing endangered refugees from France over the Pyrenees. The possibilities of Service Sociale d'aide aux Refugies in France are well known to me, as I worked with their Paris, Marseilles and Lyon agents during 1942-1943 and believed as principal outlet his organization limited to some degree. Within limits its semi-official standing with prefectures, SARS is competent, and this is no reflection on it. However, would it be possible to disburse on a broader basis, inasmuch as this is sole funds available for Spaniards in France at this time? I presume to make the suggestion that distribution be made partially through Spanish Com (especially for endangered political refugees in prisons and hiding camps), partially through American Friends Service Committee which has widespread contacts with Spanish refugees in

Montauban

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Fitze Date SEP 15 1972
Montauban, Perpignan and Toulouse, and through Ferrier in part. I would appreciate a statement as to your opinion regarding this suggestion.

HARRISON
NY 608719-
Int. Rescue Relief
Comm. $7,500 monthly
Remittance to Erit.
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Division of World Trade Intelligence

April 1, 1944

FFC - Treasury - Mr. Perke:
War Refugee Board.

Reference: 59307

This will confirm the fact that the amendment contained in your reference message has been prepared for transmission to the Legation at Bern.

(Initialled) W.I.R.
William I. Riegelman
By 608719, please amend license issued pursuant to certain February 19 and February 24, 1944, so as to permit licensees to effect remittances involved direct to Services Sociales d'Outre aux Enfants, 1, Quai de Saint Pierre, Genève, Switzerland, instead of to International Red Cross. Other terms and conditions unchanged.

[Initialed] G.A.S.

Unit 402 5BParkenorth 3-20-44
In reply please refer to 99377

To:
Chief, H.T.L., Division,
Department of State.

From: David B. Smith

Attention: Mr. William Ainscough

Reference is made to the telephone conversation on March 24, 1944, between Mr. Ainscough and Mr. R. E. Parks, the Foreign Funds Central Liaison Officer with the War Refugee Board, relative to Sora's cable No. 1409, dated March 11, 1944, in which the Legation reported that the International Red Cross would rather not act as an intermediary for the transmission of funds on behalf of the International Rescue and Relief Committee, New York City, to the Service Social de Hôpitaux et de Sapeurs aux Réfugiés pour le relief of Spanish refugees in camps in southern France.

This is to advise you that in view of such communication, the International Rescue and Relief Committee has requested that its license be secured so as to permit it to effect the remittances involved directly to the Geneva office of the Service Social de Hôpitaux et de Sapeurs aux Réfugiés.

Accordingly, it will be expedited if the attached cable may be dispatched to the American Legation in Rome through the facilities available to the Department of State.

Please advise Mr. Parks when such cable is dispatched.

Attachment.

ABParks3th 3-29-44
Subject: Cable No. 1439, dated March 11, 1944, from American Legation, Bern, relative to License No. NY 630779 issued to International Rescue and Relief Committee.

Miss Strunsky, the Executive Secretary of the International Rescue and Relief Committee was informed of the substance of the subject cable in accordance with your suggestion.

Miss Strunsky stated that at the time the license to remit $7,500 monthly for six months to the International Red Cross in Geneva was received, they were "afraid of the reaction of the Intercross" as Miss Ferriero, the delegate of the International Red Cross who brought to the attention of the International Rescue and Relief Committee the plight of the Spanish refugees in concentration camps in Southern France, had been unable to return to Switzerland in time to inform the International Red Cross in Geneva of this program and to make arrangements with respect thereto. (Miss Ferriero, it was learned, has to my last Washington for Philadelphia, from which port she is expected to sail in the very near future.)

Miss Strunsky stated, however, that the International Rescue and Relief Committee would now soon remit the funds in question to the Geneva office of the Service Sociaux d'ide aux Etrangers, as to the International Red Cross. She explained that they had originally intended to remit the funds to the International Red Cross for the reason that Miss Ferriero had indicated that she would make the necessary arrangements with that organization. Miss Strunsky indicated, therefore, that so far as the International Rescue and Relief Committee was concerned, the license could be amended to permit the remittance of the funds to the Geneva office of the Service Sociaux. She requested that the amended license be made valid for a period of six months beginning April 1, 1944, since the Committee has been unable to remit any funds as yet. She indicated that the National War Fund had allowed a small additional appropriation but that it had not been received to date.

May I have your recommendation with respect to the case at hand?

R. D. Parke
DRAFT OF TELEGRAM

Reference your March 11, 1944, No. 1407. Treasury Department has resided licensed to permit International Rescue and Relief Committee, New York City, to effect assistance involved direct to Geneva office of Service Social d'Alsace aux Baignants, 1 Court Saint Pierre, instead of to Interross. Please advise Interross and inform Service Social of particulars.

Rfarkus, 3-30-44
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: AMERICAN LEGATION, BERN
TO: SECRETARY OF STATE, WASHINGTON
DATE: MARCH 11, 1944
NUMBER: 1489

We refer herewith to our previous cable of March 8, 1944, no. 1408 and the Department's wire dated March 6, 1944, no. 740.

It is stated in a letter from Intercross that Service Sociale d'Aide aux Emigrants is completely independent of Intercross and is the European section of International Migration Service of New York. Intercross would rather not act as an intermediary for transmitting funds to an organization the activities of which it cannot control. It is suggested by Intercross that monthly payments be sent directly to the service by the donor.

HARRISON
FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: March 8, 1944
NUMBER: 1408

In a letter dated March 7 we transmitted to the
Red Cross the confidential message given in the Department's
telegram of March 6, 1944, no 740.

HARRISON

cc: Miss Chestoe (Sec'y), Abrahamsen, Bernstein, (aha, DuBois,
Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, McCormack, Paul, Pollak, Raino,
Akin, Laughlin, Lester, Luxford, Mann, Standish, Stewart,
E.H. White, Files.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-18
By R. H. Parks Date
SEP 15 1972
March 7, 1944

FPC - Treasury - Mr. Schmidt:

Re: International Rescue and Relief Committee, New York.

Your reference, 59279, February 19, 1944.

This is to advise you that the cable attached to your message under reference has been dispatched to Bern.

William J. Biegelman
TO:      Liaison Officer, Foreign Funds Control  
FROM:   War Refugees Board  
SUBJECT: Spanish-Republican refugees in France.  

There is transmitted herewith a copy of a MEMO dated February 10, 1944, from the International Rescue & Relief Committee dealing with the situation of Spanish-Republican refugees in France and a proposed license to send $7,500 a month to the International Red Cross, Geneva, for transmission to the Service Sociaux d'Arrivistes aux Emigrants for relief to these Spaniards.

The War Refugees Board recommends that appropriate Treasury licenses and other necessary documents be issued permitting the execution of the project contemplated in the MEMO described above.

Remainder:  
Suggest six months for license period.  
Special facilities through New York Federal.

(signed) Florence Rodel  

For the War Refugee Board  

ACTION:  
Basic License No. 670055 issued  
Redemption License No. 703504 issued  
Cable to Burn (Date: 2/2/44)  
Letter No. 59278  

Foreign Funds Control  

Date: 2/2/44
According to well authenticated reports, there are several thousand Spanish-Republican refugees most of whom are interned in concentration camps in Southern France and some of whom were released from the camps but are living in hiding in that country. These Spanish refugees who fled from Spain in 1938 have been the most neglected of all refugee groups. They are not only completely debilitated physically as the result of years of internment but were so undernourished for so long a time that many have died of starvation.

Of the approximately 500,000 Spanish refugees who originally escaped to France, over 475,000 were either forced to return to Spain or fled to other countries and several thousand more died of starvation and exposure.

The International Rescue and Relief Committee wishes to propose that a licence be granted to our organization to send $7,500 a month (which is the minimum amount estimated to be needed) to the International Red Cross in Geneva for transmission to the Service Sociale d'Aide aux Enigrants for relief to these Spaniards. The Service Sociale d'Aide aux Enigrants with limited funds at its disposal has...
International Rescue and Relief Committee
Incorporated
Combining: Emergency Rescue Committee, Inc.
International Relief Association, Inc.
2 WEST 43rd STREET, NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

Honorary Chairman
Charles A. Beard
Chairman
Frank Kingdon
Vice-Chairmen
Freda Kirchwey
Sterling D. Sproul
Ingrid Warburg
L. Hollingsworth Wood
Treasurer
David F. Seiferheld
Executive Secretary
Sheba Stroomb
National Committee
Roger Baldwin
Paul F. Brissenden
Stuart Chase
George S. Counts
Frank Crowninshield
Margaret DeSilver
John Dewey
Louis D. Brandeis
Henry Giddens
James G. Heller
John Haynes Holmes
William H. Kilgallen
Weaver C. Mitchell
Raimond Niebuhr
William Allan Neilson
John Dos Passos
Cecilia Razovsky
Abba Hillel Silver
Upton Sinclair
Dorothy Thompson
Osmond G. Villard
William Allen White

assisted these refugees in the past but its funds for this purpose were exhausted as of November 1st, 1943. Every precaution has been taken by this organization against funds falling into enemy hands and they have effectively conducted direct relief transmissions to individual refugees.

There is no doubt that if help does not reach these Spanish fighters for Democracy very soon they will all die. Our committee makes an urgent plea that we be permitted to assist them.

February 10, 1944