

Relief to Greeks in Italy

0001

MAR 4 - 1944

OF RICHMOND

XXXXXXXXXXXX

Richmond 8113 Approved for issuance of license permitting applicant, notwithstanding General Ruling No. 11, to remit to the debit of the account of Prime Minister of Greece, Mr. Manuel Tsouderos, Special Account, the sum of 20,000 Swiss francs to the Greek Legation, Bern, Switzerland, for the relief of Greek nationals held as hostages in northern Italy. The licensee, or its New York correspondent, is authorized either 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 to purchase the Swiss francs involved from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York as fiscal agent of the United States. Please send signed copy of license to Mr. Rushmore, Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

P.A.S.

247

REParke:jfh 3-3-44

WAB 7 - 1877

MEMORANDUM

For attachment to:

WFC Letter No:

Date:

Project No.:

TO: Liaison Officer, Foreign Funds Control

FROM: War Refugee Board

Subject: **Relief of Greek nationals in Italy**

There is transmitted herewith <sup>application No. Rich. 8113</sup> a copy of a letter dated  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

from the Hamilton National Bank, Washington, D.C. dealing with **debit of account of Prime Minister of Greece, Emanuel Tsouderos, the sum of 20,000 Swiss francs remit to Greek Legation, Bern, for the relief of Greek nationals held as hostages in northern Italy. The War Refugee Board recommends that an appropriate license be issued at once.**

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:

**F. Hodal**

For the War Refugee Board

Action:

Basic license No. W- issued  
Remittance License No. ~~issued~~  
Other:

Richmond 8113 approved March 4, 1944

Liaison Officer  
Foreign Funds Control

Date: **March 4, 1944**

11051

**CROSS-REFERENCE**

.....  
(Name of Applicant)

.....  
(Application Number)

Material from Mr. Mann's Files -

SEE:

1061

Mr. J. Blaine Gwin  
Director, Records & Reports  
5th Flr., 18th St. Bldg.

December 17, 1943

V. A. Turner

Thank you so much for permitting me to see this interesting and well prepared report.

I found only one statement which seems to me to be open to question. It occurs in the second paragraph of the next to the last page and concerns the establishment of the relief commission in Greece. It is my understanding that the delegation which was originally sent to Greece, and which consisted of representatives of the Joint Relief Commission of the International Red Cross, established two committees, the Comité de Haute Direction and the Comité de Gestion. The Comité de Haute Direction acted as the liaison between the Greek authorities and those of the occupying powers and represented the interests of the Delegation as a whole with both administrations. The Comité de Gestion was the administrative body which controlled the distribution and manufacture of cereals and also supervised the distribution of the bread and other commodities.

The membership of the original Comité de Haute Direction consisted of four members, only one of whom, M. Brunel, is a Swiss citizen. The second member was the President of the Greek Red Cross. The third and fourth members were delegates of the Italian Red Cross and the German Red Cross.

Regarding the membership of the original Comité de Gestion I could find very little information where I dug into the Greek files some months ago. The report of the International Red Cross Committee dated August 24th, 1942, merely states "M. Gredinger, Swiss, delegate adjunct of the International Red Cross Committee presided his collaborators being a certain number of Greek citizens."

"Section VII of that report states: 'With the enlarging of the Delegation's functions its former membership was found to be too small. In consideration of the unstinted energy with which the Swedish Red Cross and the Swedish shipping world had cooperated with the I.R.C.C. in all its relief work for Greece, it was no more than their fair due that Swedish members should be invited to join the hitherto all-Swiss Commission (sic), now augmented to a membership of fifteen. The sub division into Comité de Direction and Commission de Gestion has been maintained, all executive functions being performed by the latter. Its president is M. Paul Mohn of Sweden, the members being Swedish, Greek and Swiss. The Comité de Haute Direction has been increased by one member, the I.R.C.C. Delegate M. Jean d'Amman, Swiss, and is presided over by M. Robert Brunel, also of Swiss nationality, who is at the same time the responsible head of the Delegation. The Swedish Charge d'Affaires in Sofia, M. Sven Allard, will also take part in an advisory capacity in the sessions of the Comité de Direction. The Delegation as it now stands has been formally approved by all the interested Powers, and is at liberty to add to the number of its

its collaborators and consultants as circumstances may require. "

In a memorandum on the supervision of relief distribution in Greece which I prepared for Mr. Mitchell's signature on November 27, 1942, I said concerning the change in the membership of the Committee:

"Actually, we know from other sources that the enlargement of the Delegation and the acceptance of M. Paul Mohn as President of the Comité de Gestion was brought about by the insistence of the British Government at the time it entered into the agreement with the Swedish Government for the shipment of Canadian wheat to Greece.

"Regardless of the reasons, the change was a short step in the right direction. I believe that instead of increasing the membership of the Comité de Haute Direction from four to five it should have been increased to seven; three of whom should be Swiss and one a Swede. In matters requiring prompt decision it is difficult to understand how the Swedish Charge d'Affaires at Sofia can be of much help, even in an advisory capacity.

"Section VII does not shed much light on the new composition of the Comité de Gestion but it is safe to presume that it consists of M. Paul Mohn, M. Gredinger, such other Swiss representatives of the I.R.C.C. as are now in Greece, representatives of the Swiss and Swedish Red Cross Societies. The report states that membership of the entire I.R.C.C. Delegation has been augmented from fifteen to twenty. In this connection, however, the statement in Mr. de Rouge's letter of October 8 to the Chairman should be taken into account: 'The Secretary General of the Swiss Red Cross is now in Greece, with seven collaborators, supervising the distribution of milk sent to that country by the Swiss Red Cross. The Swiss delegation works in close cooperation with the eight delegates of the Swedish Red Cross now in Athens. The delegates of these two countries form a Commission which is presided over by a Swede, and collaborate with the Delegate of the International Red Cross Committee, M. Brunel.' This is entirely different from the organization indicated in the report, and, in size at least, should make for a strong Commission de Gestion."

My only point about the matter is that in my view the Committee in Greece was organized by the Joint Relief Commission of the International Red Cross rather than by governmental action, and that its membership has consisted of representatives of that Commission and of the Swedish, Swiss and Greek Red Cross Societies rather than of representatives of Governments.

The point is probably of slight importance, and I mention it only because you asked me to bring to your attention anything which I thought might possibly be regarded as an inaccuracy.

VAT:ml

Van Arsdale Turner  
Acting Assistant Director  
Civilian Relief  
Insular and Foreign Operations

Files

March 15, 1943

V. A. Turner

Foodstuffs Shipped to Greece from  
All Sources Prior to February 10,  
1943.

The General Report of the International Red Cross Committee on the "Supervision of the Distribution of Food Relief Shipments from Overseas and Neutral European Countries," transmitted by Prof. Carl J. Burkhardt under date of August 24, 1942, lists as arriving prior to June 3, 1942 the cargoes of four voyages of a Turkish ship with a total of 7,000 tons of various foodstuffs; one Swedish ship with 7,000 tons of Egyptian grain; one Swedish ship with 4,500 tons of medical food (sic) supplies from Sweden and Swiss grain purchased in Lisbon by the Greek Government; one Swedish ship with 2,300 tons of American flour from the Greek War Relief Association; and two Swedish ships with flour from Haifa, purchased in part by the Greek Government and in part by the British authorities. Total: nine cargoes containing 11,500 tons of grain, 9,000 tons of flour and 7,000 tons of various foodstuffs - 27,500 tons in all.

In February 1942, according to the report, the Greek Government bought dairy products in Switzerland to a value of 1,000,000 Swiss francs through the Joint Commission. The first installment, to a value of 700,000 Sw. francs arrived in Greece in May. Further contingents were dispatched in July together with smaller contributions of food made by the Papal Nuncio in Switzerland, the Swiss Red Cross and various Swiss charitable organizations. Through the Commission the Swiss Red Cross had purchased 500 tons of dried peas in Rumania.

The large importations of the Powers of Occupation must also be taken into consideration, the report states. In September 1941 Germany and Italy undertook to make 56,000 tons each available. Out of this total of 112,000 tons, 70,000 tons have been sent from Italy, according to an Italian statement. Germany has thus 36,000 tons still to deliver. The German expert in Athens stated that 18,000 tons would be shipped to Piraeus in May, the remaining 18,000 tons to Saloniki. The Occupying Powers, however, reserve the right to dispose of these 36,000 tons at their own discretion and they are now being applied to an increased bread ration for various categories of workers. The Delegation requested and received a loan of 7,000 tons from the Occupying authorities to insure the population's bread supply for September.

With regard to the American Red Cross gift of milk, the report states:

"In view of the prevailing situation, the gift of 65 tons of dried milk from the American Red Cross could not have been more welcome or more timely. The milk sent did not, however, actually come to Greece but was used in Eritrea. At the time of its despatch from the United States, Greece was already included in the British Blockade zone around Egypt, but the problem was solved by an exchange negotiated between the Delegation of the IRCC and the Italian Red Cross, the American milk being diverted to the use of the Italian Government who released an equivalent amount in quality from their stocks for our use in Greece."

A second transfer of American Red Cross supplies to Greece occurred in the early part of August, 1942. In his cable #180 from Cairo, October 5, 1942, Ralph Bain reported:

"About August 1, Matthews (of the Middle East Relief and Refugee Administration) forwarded to Athens from Beirut 816 bags American Red Cross flour, weighing 35 tons, and 727 cases American Red Cross powdered milk, grapefruit juice and soup powder weighing 13 tons, on the S.S. Halloran, conducted by Enbon, Swedish Red Cross Delegate." (Total 48 tons).

A paragraph in the February 10, 1943 issue of the Greek War Relief Association's News Letter reports on recent shipments and gives the totals of food shipped between August, 1942 and the date of issue. The paragraph states:

"Four of the Swedish ships in Greek relief service left a Canadian port January 31st and are now on the ocean bound for Greece. One of the ships, the Bardaland, is sailing to Salonika. Her cargo consists mostly of wheat, but also contains approximately 450 tons of dried beans. Advices from Salonika say the situation there is now worse than at Athens and Piraeus, and the Bardaland will be welcome. Another ship, the Fenris, will dock at Smyrna. It carries approximately 2,000 tons of wheat in bags, also dried vegetables, for distribution to some of the Greek islands in which conditions have been extremely bad. The other two ships, the Fornosa and the Mongabarra, are bound for Piraeus, carrying wheat, dried beans, medical supplies from the American Red Cross, evaporated milk, food supplies for the Red Cross delegation at Athens, and other supplies. This brings the totals of food shipped, beginning last August 7, to 91,000 tons of wheat, 8,400 tons of dried vegetables, and 600 tons of milk.

Van Arsdale Turner  
Special Assistant  
Insular and Foreign Operations

VAT:km1

SWEDISH AID TO GREECE

Excerpts from a bulletin entitled News from Sweden published by the American-Swedish News Exchange, Inc.

Release No. 63, June 3, 1942.

STOCKHOLM, June 1 (By wireless) -

The Swedish steamer "Hallaren" under charter to the Swedish Red Cross, left the port of Haifa, Palestine today, with a cargo of 4,500 tons of flour for Piraeus, Greece, for the relief of the starving civilian population there.

Release No. 66, June 19 1942.

STOCKHOLM, June 19 (By wireless) -

Dr. Marcel Junod, a Swiss physician, and delegate of the International Red Cross arrived in Stockholm today to discuss with the Swedish Foreign Office technical arrangements for shipments of wheat from Canada to Greece using Swedish bottoms. It is planned to use oil-driven ships lying idle in Swedish harbors, and to have the operation and distribution handled by Swedish personnel. (It was announced late in April that both the United States and British Governments had authorized the shipment of some 15,000 tons of Canadian grain a month for the relief of the Greek civilian population. See release No. 57.)

Release No. 75, August 26, 1942

STOCKHOLM, August 24 (By wireless) -

Members of a commission named by the Swedish Red Cross, to work with a similar group of Swiss named by the International Red Cross at Geneva in the distribution of grain to the civilian population of Greece, are en route to Athens today. Those who left Stockholm on August 22 include Major H. Porry, who has done relief among Swedes in Russia and Esthonia; Captain M. Nordenstrom; Beng Helger, secretary of the Swedish Welfare Board; G. Wallden and E. Widlund. They are to be met at Rome by Paul Mohn, counsellor at the Swedish Legation there, who has been named chairman of the Commission. The other two members, G. F. Risberg and G. Enbom, are already in Athens, Mr. Risberg being Swedish Consul there. Mr. Enbom, an engineer, has been the Swedish Red Cross representative handling relief work carried on by the Swedish steamer "Hallaren" since February of this year. E. Danielsson, a flour milling expert, accompanies the Commission. It was reported today that "Hallaren" had arrived at Piraeus, with a cargo of 2,200 tons of flour from Haifa, Palestine. (Eight Swedish ships are under charter to the Swedish Red Cross to carry 15,000 tons of grain a month from Canada to Greece. The ships will operate under safe conduct from all belligerents. The Greek War Relief Association reported on August 22, that the first three grain-laden ships had passed Gibraltar headed for Greece. Five other ships are loading similar cargoes at Montreal. See Releases Nos. 57, 66, 69 and 72.)

Swedish aid to Greece, cont'd.

Release No. 87, November 18, 1942

STOCKHOLM, November 12 (By wireless)

In an interview in the newspaper Stockholms-Tidningen of November 5, Mrs. Margit Kondos, Swedish-born wife of an Athens physician described the work of the joint Swedish-Swiss Red Cross Commission in charge of relief work among the Greek civilian population. Installed in the former American School building in Athens, the Commission works under high pressure, distributing the 15,000 tons of Canadian wheat arriving monthly in Swedish ships, under safe conduct from the belligerents. In addition other foodstuffs and medical supplies are distributed. Supplies of edible oils are being secured, and daily rations of wheat are distributed, while some reserves are being built up. "The Commission has made Sweden, hitherto not generally well-known among the poorer Greeks, enormously popular throughout the country by its work," Mrs. Kondos was quoted as saying. (For previous stories on the work of the Swedish Red Cross in Greece, see Releases Nos. 57, 66, 69, 72 and 75.)

Release No. 92, December 23, 1942

STOCKHOLM, December 17 (By wireless)

Eight Swedish ships, chartered by the Swedish Red Cross and sailing under safe conduct from the belligerents, have since August of this year carried more than 76,000 tons of grain and 3,000 tons of dried vegetables, powdered milk and medicines to Greek ports from Canada, for the relief of the starving civilian population, it was stated here today by Prince Carl, chairman of the Swedish Red Cross, and brother of King Gustaf V. Three other Swedish ships are engaged in carrying relief supplies to Greece in the Mediterranean.

A joint Swedish-Swiss Commission of the International Red Cross is administering the relief work in Greece. During October food and medicines were provided for more than 1,000,000 civilians throughout Greece. Paul Mohn, counselor of the Swedish Legation in Rome, is the chairman of the Joint Commission, and is assisted by eight other Swedes and a similar number of Swiss citizens. Offices have been opened in the former American School at Athens. Some 550 persons are employed, 120 of whom work from a branch office in Piraeus.

In Athens 140 persons inspect shops and food kitchens, and carry out the work of distribution. At times as many as 60,000 persons have been fed by the Athens soup kitchens. Bakeries in Athens and Piraeus are supervised by the Commission which also operates three large flour mills in Greece under the direction of E. Danielson, a Swedish milling expert. Local committees to the number of 1,600, inform the Commission as to Country-wide conditions. Owing to a lack of land transport, the Swedish ships in the future will call at other Greek ports in addition to Piraeus, so as to facilitate distribution of supplies. A depot will be established at Smyrna for the delivery of supplies to the Greek Aegean Islands.

Release No. 94, January 6, 1943

STOCKHOLM, January 5 (By wireless) -

Loss of the Swedish motorship "Eros" during a gale in the Aegean Sea, was reported here today. The vessel was one of eight under charter to the Swedish Red Cross engaged in carrying grain, foodstuffs and medical supplies from Canada to Greece for civilian relief. The report stated that the "Eros" foundered about 150 meters off-shore while en route from Piraeus to Salonika. The crew was saved,

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Swedish aid to Greece, cont'd

but the vessel and its cargo of grain were lost. (The "Eros" owned by the Helsingborg Shipping Company, was built in 1941. According to officials of the Greek War Relief Association in New York City, the fact that the vessel was bound for Salonika can be taken as evidence that this port has been opened for a re-distribution point for the supplies which, since last August, have been shipped each month from Canada under safe conduct from all belligerents. For other news regarding Swedish aid in Greek relief, see Release No. 92.)

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**The Following Pages Are the Best Available**

1062

D R A F T

To: Mr. Fleser

Date: December 15, 1942

From: Mr. Mitchell

Subject: Contributions for Greek Relief

On September 25 I sent you a memorandum explaining the plan for sending relief supplies to Greece from Canada, with the suggestion that it would presumably be helpful to the Area Managers to have further information regarding this relief effort.

Recently a new development in the Greek relief situation has materialized as a result of the publication of two articles in the December issue of the Readers Digest describing the sufferings of the population of that country as a consequence of food shortages and bombings by our Axis enemies.

At the conclusion of the article "This is Starvation," which was condensed from the American Mercury, the editorial statement is made that the only way to send food to Greece is by contributing through the authorized organizations, which include Greek War Relief, Near East Foundation, American Red Cross.

As a result of this suggestion various small contributions have been sent in to National Headquarters, as well as many requests for information as to how individuals and groups might best be of help in this cause. It is presumed that the Chapters have been receiving similar donations and inquiries.

Since the burden of answering most of these inquiries will devolve upon them, it may be well to explain to the Chapters that National Headquarters is prepared to accept contributions in any amount for Greek relief, either directly or through the Chapters, and that such contributions will be held in a restricted account, to be used solely for Greek relief, either within Greece or for relief to Greek refugees.

It must be kept in view, however, that because Greece is now enemy-controlled territory the American Red Cross, mindful of the responsibilities as a quasi-governmental organization and constrained by the moral obligation resting upon it to its membership and to the American people who have contributed to its support, cannot enter into a general relief program involving the shipment of foodstuffs and clothing to that country.

It may be opportune at this time to restate for the benefit of the Chapters the position of the American Red Cross with reference to extending relief to populations in enemy-occupied areas. This position, briefly, is as follows:

The American Red Cross is sympathetic toward distress in such areas. However, there are certain limitations and obligations placed upon the activities of the American Red Cross by the Geneva Convention and the Congressional charter under which it operates. Because of these limitations and obligations, and the precedents and experience accumulated in previous and current foreign relief activities, certain minimum standards are required by the American Red Cross before undertaking such activities in any foreign country. These standards are necessary for the proper discharge of its responsibilities to its contributors and the United States Government.

In order to fulfill these responsibilities, the American Red Cross should have:

An invitation from the Government or the Red Cross Society of the country in which it is to operate.

Guarantees that the relief supplies it sends will reach those and only those for whom they are intended.

Freedom of action in the conduct of its relief activities.

Permission for the continued presence of its personnel to observe and supervise the relief distribution.

Unhampered communication with its personnel at all times.

Channels free from effective blockades for the shipment of its relief supplies from the United States.

Certain modifications of these standards have been deemed advisable, but these modifications have thus far been limited to the sending of medical supplies, the distribution of which can be more exactly controlled than that of foodstuffs or clothing.

Mr. Fleser

- 3 -

December 15, 1942

Reports received by the Department of State and the American Red Cross indicate that the distribution of Canadian wheat by the International Red Cross Delegation now in Greece is being satisfactorily supervised and that the supplies are reaching only those for whom they are intended. It is possible that an arrangement may be effected by which the American Red Cross will later make a direct contribution to the work being done by this Delegation.

For the present, however, the American Red Cross will confine its activities with regard to Greece to the sending of medical supplies, and to the relief of Greek refugees in various portions of the Middle East.

The letters containing contributions received at National Headquarters will be returned to the Chapters for acknowledgment.

L. M. Mitchell  
Director  
Inland and Foreign Operations

Mr. Mitchell

November 27, 1943

W. A. Turner

Supervision of Relief Distribution  
in Greece.

You have asked me to submit an opinion as to the adequacy of the relief organization in Greece, based upon the reports the International Red Cross Committee sent us under date of August 24th, and particularly with regard to certain points about which it is your understanding that we have had general reservations.

These points are:

1. The adequacy of the supervision of the relief operations.
2. The arrangement which involves the sale in public markets of a substantial part of the relief supplies.
3. The utilization of Greek personnel and acting officials of the present Greek Government.

I have read the reports with considerable care, having these points definitely in view.

1. The adequacy of the supervision of the relief operations is contingent first of all upon the establishment of a well organized, neutral and efficient Delegation. Two sections of the report are devoted to the structure and functions of the Delegation. Section II describes the Delegation as previously organized; Section VII describes the new organization.

According to Section II, the Delegation was originally divided into two Committees, the Comité de Haute Direction and the Comité de Gestion. The Comité de Haute Direction acted as the liaison between the Greek authorities and those of the occupying powers and represented the interests of the Delegation as a whole with both administrations. The Comité de Gestion was the administrative body which controlled the distribution and manufacture of cereals and also supervised the distribution of the bread and other commodities.

I see no objection to such a division of the duties of the Delegation, provided the membership of the Committees is such as to insure the safeguarding of the supplies and the efficiency of their distribution. At this point, however, uncertainty attends. The membership of the previous Comité de Haute Direction consisted of four members, only one of whom, M. Brunel, is a Swiss citizen. The second member, M. Athanasiou, is President of the Greek Red Cross. The third and fourth members are delegates of the Italian Red Cross and the German Red Cross. It seems plain that the direct representation of the International Red Cross Committee in this body was inadequate.

Of the membership of the previous Comité de Gestion the report merely says "M. Greninger, Swiss, delegate adjunct of the International Red Cross Committee presided, his collaborators being a certain number of Greek citizens." A well organized relief operation of fair proportions usually requires a port officer, traffic officer,

November 27, 1912

Call on the Division  
Division is responsible  
the Secretary for the  
Secretary for the  
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Secretary for the

warehouseman, accountant and several assistants to organize kitchens, make allocations and inspections, and obtain receipts. It is evident that, unless he depended for the performance of these important duties on persons of whose reliability he could have had but slight knowledge, M. Gredinger must have been kept busy.

Section VII of the report states: "With the enlarging of the Delegation's functions its former membership was found to be too small. In consideration of the unstinted energy with which the Swedish Red Cross and the Swedish shipping would had cooperated with the I.R.C.C. in all its relief work for Greece, it was no more than their fair due that Swedish members should be invited to join the hitherto all-Swiss Commission (sic), now augmented to a membership of fifteen. The sub-division into Comités de Direction and Commission de Gestion has been maintained, all executive functions being performed by the latter. Its president is H. Paul Mohm of Sweden, the members being Swedish, Greek and Swiss. The Comité de Haute Direction has been increased by one member, the I.R.C.C. Delegate M. Jean d'Avion, Swiss, and is presided over by H. Robert Brunel, also of Swiss nationality, who is at the same time the responsible head of the Delegation. The Swedish Charge d'Affaires in Sofia, H. Sven Allard, will also take part in an advisory capacity in the sessions of the Comité de Direction. The Delegation as it now stands has been formally approved by all the interested Powers, and is at liberty to add to the number of its collaborators and consultants as circumstances may require."

Actually, we know from other sources that the enlargement of the Delegation and the acceptance of H. Paul Mohm as President of the Comité de Gestion was brought about by the insistence of the British Government at the time it entered into the agreement with the Swedish Government for the shipment of Canadian wheat to Greece.

Regardless of the reasons, the change was a short step in the right direction. I believe that instead of increasing the membership of the Comité de Haute Direction from four to five it should have been increased to seven; three of whom should be Swiss and one a Swede. In matters requiring prompt decision it is difficult to understand how the Swedish Charge d'Affaires at Sofia can be of much help, even in an advisory capacity.

Section VII does not shed much light on the new composition of the Comité de Gestion but it is safe to presume that it consists of H. Paul Mohm, H. Gredinger, and other Swiss representatives of the I.R.C.C. who are now in Greece, representatives of the Swiss and Swedish Red Cross Societies. The report states that membership of the entire I.R.C.C. Delegation has been augmented from fifteen to twenty. In this connection, however, the statement in M. de Rouge's letter of October 6 to the Chairman should be taken into account. "The Secretary General of the Swiss Red Cross is now in Greece, with seven collaborators, supervising the distribution of milk sent to that country by the Swiss Red Cross. The Swiss delegation works in close cooperation with the eight delegates of the Swedish Red Cross who are in Athens. The delegates of these two countries form a Commission which is presided over by a Swede, and collaborate with the Delegate of the International Red Cross Committee, H. Brunel." This is entirely different from the organization indicated in the report, and, in case at least, should make for a strong Commission de Gestion.

As to the expediency of the supervision of the relief operations under the new organization, the statement is made that "the Commission de Gestion controls the carriage of the grain to the mill, the distribution of the flour to the city bakeries and the delivery of the bread against coupons. The collaboration of additional experts has been solicited to assist in carrying out this difficult task, and ensuring the observance of the regulations. For the regulation of deliveries to the kitchens, an

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For bread, the situation would become intolerable. The decision was made chiefly in view of the imminent arrivals of the Canadian contingent. Nothing is said regarding the possibility of distributing gratis to the neediest among the population the supplies sent in as gifts.

In Section IV, the three categories of soup kitchens that have been set up are described, and the statement is made that "the soups in all categories, are gratis." It is evident from this that the sale of supplies has been confined to breadstuffs.

In Section VI, sub-section (a) it is stated: "The I.N.C.C. Delegation have applied the funds at its disposal first of all to children's homes, orphanages, and day nurseries for school children. By increasing the food supplies of these institutions the Commission de Gestion has enabled them to take in those children," etc. No explanation is given as to whether the Delegation uses its funds for the purchase of food supplies at the fixed Government prices for this purpose, or in what manner the plan is worked, nor is it stated what kinds of foodstuffs are supplied. It can safely be taken for granted however that no charge is made for the rations assigned to these institutions. Elsewhere in the report it is stated that the I.N.C.C. Delegation does its foremost task in aid to children, invalids, women and in general the most helpless among the destitute. Again it can be taken for granted that no charge is made for food supplied to the members of these impoverished groups.

As to the new rationing plan the Delegation states it "must have at its disposal some 5,000 tons of rice and dried vegetables per month. It would then be in a position to organize 'Peoples Soup kitchens throughout Greece next winter, gratis to the destitute. These in slightly better circumstances would come under the new card-system enabling them to buy their rice and dried vegetables in the groceries at nominal prices. It will be left to the people to choose whether they will receive the relief offered in the form of free soup, or whether they prefer to take the modest card ration. The newly organized card-system, and above all the maintenance of regular distributions, will go farther than anything else towards combatting the evils of the black market."

In my opinion, this plan is unsatisfactory. The soup ration should either be supplemented or alternated with a bread ration. I cannot believe that a steady diet of a daily portion of soup made with rice or dried vegetables will alone prevent the diseases concomitant with malnutrition. A certain portion of breadstuffs should by some means be included, and gratis.

In connection with this subject of charges, I am attaching a copy of the Aide-memoire of the British Minister at Stockholm to the Swedish Government dated July 7, 1942 stating the attitude of the British Government. It is evident that the latter is willing to concede a small charge for supplies, but is entirely opposed to the charge of 21 dracmas per kilogramme.

3. Only a few references to the utilization of Greek personnel are made in the report. On page 2 it is stated that in the previous Comite de Gestion H. Gredinger presided, "his collaborators being a certain number of Greek citizens." On page 6, in connection with the distribution of the flour to the city markets and the delivery of bread against coupons, the statement is made that additional experts have been selected to assist in carrying out this difficult task and ensuring the observance of the regulations. On page 13: "The Delegation as it now stands has been approved by all the interested Powers, and is at liberty to add to the number of its collaborators and consultants as circumstances may require." On page 14: "The I.N.C.C. Delegation

100-20-100-100  
These files  
should be  
checked  
1/17

100-1062

is, as pointed out above, now mounted to a membership of from fifteen to twenty. These neutral observers, assisted by hundreds of Greek citizens, chosen from among members of the Greek Red Cross and former army officers, all persons whose perfect integrity can be confidently relied upon, accomplish the difficult task of distribution and supervision. This vast organization now covers the whole famine-stricken territory, even to the remotest villages of the Provinces and islands, delivering the rescue supplies from foreign sympathizers, and watching over their distribution.

The Delegation is evidently quite convinced of the dependability of these assistants and, without reliable evidence to the contrary I think we must accept their judgment. At no point in the report is there anything to indicate that acting officials of the present Greek Government have anything to do with the distribution or supervision of the distribution.

The report on the distribution of relief on the Islands of Chios, Samos and Mytilene need hardly be taken into consideration in connection with the points dealt with above.

1. The procedure with regard to distribution was practically identical on each island. The small quantities of supplies were conveyed to the Island by the Delegate of the I.R.C.G. in Turkey, a local committee, headed by the Metropolitan who is also the head of the local Red Cross, which was probably as good as could be obtained among the limited material available, was appointed; staffs of people of Greek nationality, "collected from amongst the most enterprising families," were organized and put to work under the Distributing Committee. At Samos this Committee contained as members the Prefect, the Mayor, the manager of the Banque Agricole and some tradesmen of the town. Lists were drawn up, and the distribution was effected either through the local groceries, to which Red Cross signs were affixed, or direct from the landing stages of the principal towns. The first to be helped were the destitute, then the hospitals and children's homes. The Delegate and the members of the Committee made occasional rounds to inspect the distribution and the Delegate remained long enough to satisfy himself with the distribution supervision. I can find nothing to criticize with regard to the adequacy of the supervision of this operation.

2. The supplies were distributed gratis on each island. This caused some argument when first proposed but the Delegate stood his ground and won his point.

3. I see no objection to the utilization of Greek personnel in the distribution and supervision in these or even less difficult circumstances. In fact, I know of no way by which the work can be done without drawing upon the native personnel.

There is no evidence that officials of the present Greek Government were utilized unless it is presumed that the civil administration of these islands has been replaced and that the Prefect and Mayor are now a part of the present Greek Government. Because of the remoteness of the islands from the Greek mainland and their proximity to Turkey I think this is extremely doubtful.

#### Conclusions

1. It is my opinion that the I.R.C.G. undertook a large and unusually difficult relief job in Greece without adequate planning and without sufficient personnel on the ground to take hold of it firmly. Its representation on the Comite de Direction was too small, and it was necessary to draw on local personnel to fill out the membership

of the Comité de Gestion and assign to them duties which should from the outset have been performed by neutral delegates.

Because of the arrival of the representatives of the Swiss and Swedish Red Cross Societies and the resultant reorganization of the Delegation, I see no reason to believe that the Delegation is not now fully in control of the distribution. The neutral personnel now in Greece is sufficient, in my belief, to provide adequate supervision of the entire operation.

2. It is unfortunate that the first breadstuffs to arrive in Greece after the I.R.C.S. took over the supervision were the property of the Greek Government. This situation made it possible for the Greek Government to impose a sale plan which, unfortunately, was continued even after the arrival of supplies which were intended for free distribution. It is probable that the high price originally set has been materially reduced insofar as the Canadian wheat is concerned, but in any case since the British Government, and apparently the Swedish Government, have endorsed the sale of breadstuffs and are satisfied with the arrangement now in effect I think we must believe the plan has merits that are not explained in the report.

3. I find no evidence in this or any other reliable report now in our files that acting officials of the Greek Government are being used in the distribution or supervision of the distribution. The use of local personnel is necessary in such an operation, and the Delegation is positive that it has selected persons of entire reliability.

I believe the evidence contained in this, and other reports that have been received, indicates that regardless of past mistakes the present supervision of the operation in Greece is probably as satisfactory as present conditions in that country will permit. In support of this belief, I submit the following pertinent paragraph from the report:

"One encouraging feature is the gratitude and confidence with which the Greek people meet the efforts of the I.R.C.S. representatives in their behalf, not only in the matter of food relief but in every other connection also. Wherever official measures often encounter the deepest mistrust, whilst the terrible distress has destroyed all sense of order and solidarity to such an extent that the people, made desperate by suffering, oppose all official attempts to distribute the necessities of life in an equitable manner, these same people manifest towards the Red Cross an astounding discipline, even in circumstances of the utmost hardship. Such docility is plainly the expression of an invincible hope that salvation may come after all, but sooner through the Red Cross than from any other quarter."

Van Arsdale Turner  
Special Assistant  
Insular and Foreign Operations

VAT/1h

10063

November 24, 1942.

Dr. Homer W. Davis,  
Executive Vice-President,  
Greek War Relief Association, Inc.,  
730 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City.

Dear Dr. Davis:

I know you and your associates will be interested in the enclosed copies of two letters from Dr. de Jonge and the accompanying reports from Dr. de Fischer, Secretary-General of the Swiss Red Cross on the situation in Greece and from Dr. Carl J. Burckhardt on the health and food situation in Macedonia.

You will note that Dr. de Fischer's report is dated at Athens, October 6th and that of Dr. Burckhardt is dated at Salonika, October 14th. They are the latest reports we have received from Greece and contain much that is of value concerning the situation there.

Sincerely yours,

Van Arsdale Turner,  
Special Assistant.

VAT/d

C O P Y

LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES

6, rue de l'Athenee,  
Geneva  
Switzerland,

22nd October 1942.

The Hon. Norman H. Davis,  
Chairman,  
American Red Cross,  
National Headquarters,  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Norman Davis,

Please find enclosed a copy of a report, dated 6 October, which has been sent to me from Athens by Captain de Fischer, Secretary General of the Swiss Red Cross, who is now in (Switzerland) Greece \*, acting in a double capacity: (a) he is acting as supervisor for the Swiss Red Cross for the distribution of the supplies sent by that Society to Greece for Greek children; and (b) he is, moreover, a member of the Joint Commission, composed of Swiss and Greek representatives, which is dealing with the supervision of the wheat, medical supplies and other relief, sent by different Red Cross Societies for the civilian population in Greece.

I am sure you will find this report exceedingly interesting, since it gives a view of the situation as seen by a very reliable person.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) B. de Rouge,  
Secretary-General.

\* Corrected in letter of September 29 from de Rouge.

C O P Y

Translation

Athens, 6 October 1942.

Count B. de Rouge,  
Joint Relief Commission  
of the International Red Cross,  
6, rue de l'Athenee, Geneva.

Mon cher ami,

Before leaving for Greece, I promised to let you have some information about the situation in that country. I have delayed doing so, because I wanted first of all to form my own personal opinion of this situation, and because the information coming in from different sources always has to be checked carefully.

My first impression, on arriving in Athens, was that the situation had greatly improved in contrast to last winter. This was thought to be due to the consignments of foodstuffs being sent by the Joint Commission, and in part, also, by the Swiss Red Cross. This impression seems to be justified to a certain point; but there was still another factor which contributed to the improvement of the health of the population, - and particularly of the children, - that is to say, the summer months are the best season in Greece, on account of the fairly large quantities of vegetables and fruits which the country produces. These crops are now diminishing noticeably, and soon 50% of the inhabitants will have no other food than that sent by the Red Cross, and that distributed as rations by the Government.

From the experience gained last year, it can be predicted with certainty that the latter (i.e. the official rations) will be so small as to be practically negligible. There remains, therefore, so far as concerns the large towns, certain mountainous regions, and most of the islands, only the food supplied by the Red Cross as the principal ration. The Red Cross disposes of 15,000 tons of wheat per month. A general plan for the distribution of this wheat has been drawn up. According to it, half will be given to Athens and the Piraeus, whilst the remainder will be reserved for the provincial towns, the mountain districts, and the islands. It is planned to distribute a daily ration of 180 grammes per person for those who have no other means of obtaining bread. There will remain, moreover, a certain quantity of wheat, calculated at about 800 tons, either in the form of flour, or macaroni, semolina, etc; this will be shared out between children's soup-kitchens and hospitals.

Although the quantities of food distributed by the Red Cross up to the present are not very large, it can be said that there has been a noticeable improvement in the people's health, and above all in that of the children; but it must not be forgotten that last year the country still possessed resources which no longer exist today. Many households had reserves, and the British forces had considerable stocks of food which were turned over to the inhabitants when these forces were withdrawn.

The financial resources of a large part of the population were less precarious than they are today; even if money was lacking, many people, especially among the more prosperous classes, possessed works of art, jewelry, valuable furniture, etc.

A good many families sold all these in the course of last year, in order to get enough food to prevent them from dying of hunger.

Today, it is by no means rare to find households, formerly well-to-do, whose only furnishing at present is a single bed, with no blankets, covers, etc., and a few chairs. Added to this, the price of food is extremely high; for example, 1 luke of oil (e.g. 1-1/4 liters, or about 2 pints), which, with bread, is the basic diet of the Greek people, now costs 15,000 drachmas, whilst the salaries of State officials vary from 20,000 to 50,000 drachmas per month.

Besides food, there is a complete lack of clothing and shoes. Although the children could go barefoot and almost without clothing in summer, this will be impossible in winter. It will easily be understood that the 180 grammes of bread per person which the Red Cross can supply will not be enough to maintain life, if there is no possibility of obtaining other foodstuffs.

In spite of the great efforts of the Red Cross, the situation this winter will be disastrous. If the number of deaths from hunger and cold are not to exceed those of last year (to give you an idea of the figures for last year, I am enclosing a few examples of statistics collected during recent voyages and checked by myself with the official lists established by the local authorities) - it is absolutely necessary to supplement the supply of wheat by substantial shipments of other foods, especially milk and dried vegetables.

The functioning of the "children's soup-kitchens", which are under my personal supervision, at Athens and the Piraeus (120 distributing centres), for two months, is proof that the foodstuffs sent by the Red Cross do in fact reach those for whom they are intended.

The organization of certain other "soup-kitchens", is not yet altogether perfect, and it is possible that a certain part of the food has gone to the "black market".

A very strict system of supervision of these "soup-kitchens" is to be instituted by the new "Food Management Committee" of the International Red Cross, and there is no doubt but that it will be possible to do away with these abuses in the same way as has been done for the canteens belonging to the first-mentioned category.

The fear of donors that foodstuffs sent to Greece are not distributed in accordance with their wishes and intentions are quite without foundation.

As chief of the "Children's Section" of the Managing Committee, I undertake to be responsible for seeing that consignments forwarded for the children of Greece will in fact be used for those of them who are in need; but these supplies are very urgently needed, and, as I see it, only North and South America would be in a position to send relief sufficiently substantial to save Greek children from famine.

I beg you to inform the American Red Cross, as well as the Red Cross Societies of the different South American countries, of the urgency of the need for relief on a large scale for the children of Greece.

(signed) Dr. F. de Fischer  
Secretary-General of the Swiss Red Cross.

VIA AIRMAIL

October 29, 1942

Mrs. Robert Joyce  
Cuban - American Allied Relief Fund  
Cuba No. 316  
Havana, Cuba

My dear Mrs. Joyce:

We have received your letter of October 6 in which you request information regarding the activities of the International Red Cross in Greece and are glad to be able to inform you that an arrangement has recently been effected by which 15,000 tons of wheat are to be shipped monthly from Canada in Swedish vessels for distribution in Greece under the general supervision of Delegates sent to that country by the Joint Relief Commission of the International Red Cross Committee and the League of Red Cross Societies.

Under this arrangement, to which our Government in association with the British and Canadian Governments, was glad to give its approval, three vessels loaded with wheat left Montreal on August 7 and arrived safely at their destination. Five more vessels were dispatched from that port during the early part of September. A plan for the inclusion of dried vegetables in future shipments is now under consideration by Lend-Lease. As its part in the program the American Red Cross has made a substantial contribution of medical supplies and is planning a further shipment at an early date.

The Joint Relief Commission of the International Red Cross has also been able to arrange for the sending of some milk to Greece and has shipped considerable quantities of foodstuffs from Turkey to the Aegean Islands. Efforts are also being made by the Commission to obtain supplies from Syria, but thus far without success because of transport difficulties.

The delegates of the Joint Relief Commission who carry the responsibility of unloading, warehousing and distributing these foodstuffs and medicines are acting under a definite agreement with the German and Italian Governments by the terms of which the technical control has been assumed by an administrative commission composed of the neutral delegates and representatives of the Greek Red Cross, the Food Ministry, and the Government Agricultural Bank. The Commission has named sub committees composed of some neutrals and Greek persons who function in the provinces and islands where the supplies are sent. The Italian and German authorities have made available the freight cars and trucks necessary for transport. Numerous reports of the success of this plan have been received and there is satisfactory evidence that the supplies are being consumed by the people for whom they were intended.

Mrs. Robert Joyce

- 2 -

October 29, 1942

It is fortunately true that as a result of these activities the situation in Greece has been somewhat ameliorated. Nevertheless, it must be kept in mind that the amounts of foodstuffs being sent there represent only a small percentage of the normal imports of such commodities. Unquestionably, there will be severe suffering throughout the coming winter.

The International Red Cross, in its efforts to alleviate that suffering, will welcome the aid of your organization and will put to excellent use any contribution it may receive.

Sincerely,

Van Arsdale Turner  
Special Assistant  
Insular and Foreign Operations

VAT/lh

1063

C O P Y

Translation

Athens, 6 October 1942.

Count B. de Rouge,  
Joint Relief Commission  
of the International Red Cross,  
6, rue de l'Athenee, Geneva.

Mon cher ami,

Before leaving for Greece, I promised to let you have some information about the situation in that country. I have delayed doing so, because I wanted first of all to form my own personal opinion of this situation, and because the information coming in from different sources always has to be checked carefully.

My first impression, on arriving in Athens, was that the situation had greatly improved in contrast to last winter. This was thought to be due to the consignments of foodstuffs being sent by the Joint Commission, and in part, also, by the Swiss Red Cross. This impression seems to be justified to a certain point; but there was still another factor which contributed to the improvement of the health of the population, - and particularly of the children, - that is to say, the summer months are the best season in Greece, on account of the fairly large quantities of vegetables and fruits which the country produces. These crops are now diminishing noticeably, and soon 50% of the inhabitants will have no other food than that sent by the Red Cross, and that distributed as rations by the Government.

From the experience gained last year, it can be predicted with certainty that the latter (i.e. the official rations) will be so small as to be practically negligible. There remains, therefore, so far as concerns the large towns, certain mountainous regions, and most of the islands, only the food supplied by the Red Cross as the principal ration. The Red Cross disposes of 15,000 tons of wheat per month. A general plan for the distribution of this wheat has been drawn up. According to it, half will be given to Athens and the Piraeus, whilst the remainder will be reserved for the provincial towns, the mountain districts, and the islands. It is planned to distribute a daily ration of 180 grammes per person for those who have no other means of obtaining bread. There will remain, moreover, a certain quantity of wheat, calculated at about 800 tons, either in the form of flour, or macaroni, semolina, etc; this will be shared out between children's soup-kitchen and hospitals.

Although the quantities of food distributed by the Red Cross up to the present are not very large, it can be said that there has been a noticeable improvement in the people's health, and above all in that of the children; but it must not be forgotten that last year the country still possessed resources which no longer exist today. Many households had reserves, and the British forces had considerable stocks of food which were turned over to the inhabitants when these forces were withdrawn.

The financial resources of a large part of the population were less precarious then than they are today; even if money was lacking, many people

especially among the more prosperous classes, possessed works of art, jewelry, valuable furniture, etc.

A good many families sold all these in the course of last year, in order to get enough food to prevent them from dying of hunger.

Today, it is by no means rare to find households, formerly well-to-do, whose only furnishing at present is a single bed, with no blankets, covers, etc., and a few chairs. Added to this, the price of food is extremely high; for example, 1 oke of oil (e.g. 1-1/4 liters, or about 2 pints), which, with bread, is the basic diet of the Greek people, now costs 15,000 drachmas, whilst the salaries of State officials vary from 20,000 to 50,000 drachmas per month.

Besides food, there is a complete lack of clothing and shoes. Although the children could go barefoot and almost without clothing in summer, this will be impossible in winter. It will easily be understood that the 180 grammes of bread per person which the Red Cross can supply will not be enough to maintain life, if there is no possibility of obtaining other foodstuffs.

In spite of the great efforts of the Red Cross, the situation this winter will be disastrous. If the number of deaths from hunger and cold are not to exceed those of last year (to give you an idea of the figures for last year, I am enclosing a few examples of statistics collected during recent voyages and checked by myself with the official lists established by the local authorities) - it is absolutely necessary to supplement the supply of wheat by substantial shipments of other foods, especially milk and dried vegetables.

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The fear of donors that foodstuffs sent to Greece are not distributed in accordance with their wishes and intentions are quite without foundation.

As chief of the "Children's Section" of the Managing Committee, I undertake to be responsible for seeing that consignments forwarded for the children of Greece will in fact be used for those of them who are in need; but these supplies are very urgently needed, and, as I see it, only North and South America would be in a position to send relief sufficiently substantial to save Greek children from famine.

I beg you to inform the American Red Cross, as well as the Red Cross Societies of the different South American countries, of the urgency of the need for relief on a large scale for the children of Greece.

(signed) Dr. F. de Fischer  
Secretary-General of the Swiss Red Cross

SUMMARY OF I.R.C. COMMITTEE'S REPORT ON DISTRIBUTION OF RELIEF IN THE GREEK ISLANDS OF CHIOS, SAMOS AND MYTILENE. (REPORT PREPARED AUGUST 1942)

I.R.C. Committee agreed to the supervision by their Delegate in Turkey, M. Nayaond Courvoisier, of distribution in these Islands of supplies purchased in Turkey with "Greek War Relief" funds. Arrangements were made with Turkish Government and Italian Embassy; the Greek, British and American Embassies in Ankara agreeing. Delegate was able to secure four chance sailing vessels in which the supplies were transported to the Islands.

THE ISLAND OF CHIOS: The Delegate landed on June 17th. He was given every facility by the occupying forces and was received by the civil and ecclesiastical authorities. After lengthy discussions he obtained permission to distribute the foodstuffs gratis. To carry out the distribution and supervision three staffs of thirty Greeks were organized to work under a distributing Committee. Chairman was the Archbishop of Chios who is President of local Red Cross. The 200 tons of foodstuffs, consisting of haricot beans 70 tons, raisins 50 tons, dried prunes 7 tons, fish 22 tons, and figs and hazelnuts 25 tons each, were distributed to 4,000 persons in the C, and 20,500 persons in the D and E categories on presentation of food cards. Distribution was made in town of Chios and in the villages including those of neighboring islands of Encouae and Psara. Delegate made an inspection and was satisfied with the way in which distribution was effected. Supplies were given first to the most destitute, then to the hospitals. The production of this island is poor. On a basis of 260 grams per day its 70,000 inhabitants would require a minimum of 4,600 tons of foodstuffs each year. Since May 1941 bread has completely disappeared due to cessation of all trade with outside. All staple foods except fish are entirely lacking. Very occasionally small quantities of fresh vegetables are distributed.

THE ISLAND OF SAMOS: Delegate was received by the Metropolitan of Samos who is President of local Red Cross, and saw the authorities of occupation and those of the civil administration. Distribution was complicated for there was no list of the population and no food card system. Relief Committee consisted of the Metropolitan, Mayor, Manager of the Banque Agricole and some tradesmen. The 209 tons of foodstuffs were distributed gratis through groceries to which Red Cross sign was affixed. Ladies of the island supervised the work and lists of applicants while Delegate and members of Committee made continual rounds of supervision. Hospitals, children's homes and other humanitarian institutions participated. Foodstuffs were also dispatched to small neighboring island of Nicaria. A total of 69,589 persons were benefitted. Three tons of supplies were lost by theft. Situation at Samos is better than at Chios because of a rich soil producing wheat, fruit and vegetables. In the poorer quarters, however, the Delegate became aware of lamentable plight of the working classes and the lack of all assistance.

THE ISLAND OF MYTILENE: The Delegate visited the Island between July 8th and 11th 1942. A relief committee was formed and the distribution, beginning with the indigent and the hospitals and dispensaries was at once undertaken through intermediary of grocers under surveillance of trustworthy persons. Of the 104,581 inhabitants, 74,881 were found to be necessitous and that number benefitted by the distribution of approximately 58 tons of beans, 64 tons of raisins, 19 tons of figs and 23 tons of fish. Except for the distribution of oil, the situation here is same as at Chios. The "Soupes Populaires" which had been organized for the benefit of children and the working classes had gradually ceased for want of materials. The hospital here is new and well arranged but lacking in drugs and medicines.

The I.R.C.C. Delegate in Turkey will remain in touch with American and Greek Embassies and endeavor to effect new distributions. The next one due was that of 1,000 tons of flour brought from Haifa to Smyrna in the S.S. "Hallaren." Accounts of later missions will follow.

10, 965-23  
F. H. S.  
July 1942

AMERICAN RED CROSS  
AID TO GREECE  
(Since the Fall of that Country)

In the spring of 1941 events in Greece moved with dramatic swiftness. On April 6 Hitler declared war on Greece and Yugoslavia and, in spite of the heroic efforts of the defending armies, only twenty days later, April 26, his soldiers entered Athens.

Because it was no longer possible to carry on a relief program under the terms and conditions required by the Red Cross, our representatives were withdrawn from Greece, and the ships carrying our cargoes of supplies for the relief of the Greek civilian population, since they could not enter the Piraeus or find haven in Crete, were unloaded at Suez. In the absence of pressing need for Greek refugee relief in Egypt and on the recommendation of the American Red Cross Representative at Cairo, these supplies were diverted in part to the British Red Cross. The remainder were used to aid Greek refugees in other parts of the Middle East, as well as to meet relief needs in Middle Eastern territory where the American Red Cross was still free to operate. This arrangement met with the full approval of the President of the Greek Red Cross and of the Greek Minister of Marine as well as that of the Greek Minister to the United States.

Because the American Red Cross cannot ship food supplies into occupied territory without guarantees that it will be used only for the relief of the local population, and because in order to supervise the distribution it is necessary to have American Red Cross representatives within the country, with freedom to act for the protection of the supplies, it has not been possible for the Red Cross to send foodstuffs to Greece.

A number of plans for Greek relief have from time to time been given consideration by the Red Cross but have had to be discarded as unfeasible. Nevertheless, the American Red Cross has been of service in an advisory capacity, and has extended to other relief organizations the benefit not only of its experience but also the use of its facilities for purchase and supply.

In several other ways the Red Cross has been able to bring direct relief to the stricken people of Greece. In June 1941 an arrangement was entered into for the delivery of 100 tons of milk for the relief of Italian women and children in Eritrea, with the understanding that the Italian Red Cross would deliver an equivalent amount of supplies for relief in Greece. Although this bargain was not carried out in its entirety by the Italians since 12 tons of milk are still undelivered, and although the charge was made (but not proven) that the German authorities had seized a portion of the shipment, it is still true that a considerable amount of good was accomplished by this exchange of supplies.

Another transaction resulting in the delivery of American Red Cross

supplies to Greece was carried out in December 1941. Certain of our medical supplies available in Egypt having a value of \$7,831., were transferred through the Greek Red Cross representative in Cairo to Turkey and made a part of a shipment of five tons of drugs that were sent to Greece and distributed under the supervision of the representatives of the International Red Cross Committee. This was followed by a second shipment of approximately ten tons of medical supplies, sent in March of this year.

Of the many plans for bringing relief to Greece submitted by other organizations for the consideration of the American Red Cross a few have been productive of benefit to the people of Greece. Because it is not under the same limitations with regard to shipments of supplies to enemy occupied territory, the Greek War Relief Association has been very successful in its efforts to furnish aid to Greece. Temporarily discarding the idea of sending supplies from America because of the time and risks involved, the Association arranged for a transfer of funds with which to purchase foodstuffs and other materials in Turkey and Egypt. To try out the plan the sum of \$300,000 was sent to the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation, a non-profit financial unit of the British Government, for the purchase of food to be shipped in a Turkish vessel and distributed by the Greek Red Cross under the supervision of the International Red Cross Committee.

The vessel assigned by the Turkish Government was the SS Kurtulus, with a capacity of about 1,500 tons. Five trips were made between October 15, 1941 and January 5, 1942, with cargoes consisting mainly of beans, chick-peas, onions, eggs, and salted fish, amounting in all to 6,736 tons of foodstuffs. Wheat was not available for purchase in Turkey. Unfortunately, on her sixth trip the vessel went aground in the Marmara Sea and sank with the entire cargo. However, a second vessel, the SS Domlupinar was substituted shortly thereafter and has made two trips, carrying a total of 2,413 tons of supplies. In order to protect the distribution of these supplies we suggested a strengthening of the delegation of the International Red Cross Committee, and this was done. According to reports received the control that has been established is working satisfactorily.

The successful distribution of these supplies from Turkey offered hope that larger shipments might also be safely sent, and therefore the Red Cross attempted to arrange a shipment of wheat and also a shipment of drugs for distribution in Greece. The plan was to purchase the wheat in Turkey, to be replaced later by shipments either from ports in the Middle East or from the United States and the drugs to be drawn from our supplies in Egypt. This plan was abandoned because of the impossibility of furnishing guarantees for delivery of the return shipments.

On March 1, 1942 a cable was received from Prince Karl of Sweden informing us that a Swedish vessel had been chartered by the Swedish Red Cross for the transportation of provisions from Turkey. The vessel chartered by the Swedish Red Cross was the 3,200 ton motor ship, SS Hallaren. On March 21, 1942, the Joint Relief Commission informed us by cable (Croscaixt 211) that the Italian Government would be compelled to stop delivering wheat to Greece at the end of March, thus creating an urgent need for action by April to avoid a crisis. The Commission calculated that 20,000 tons of wheat must be found to cover the

requirements of the civilian population of Athens until the end of June. It was suggested by the Commission that we assist in obtaining the necessary permits for the purchase of 2,000 tons of lentils in Syria and 20,000 tons of wheat from Egypt or America, to be shipped on the SS Hallaren which the Swedish Red Cross was ready to place at the disposal of the Commission.

A copy of this cable was sent by the Red Cross to the State Department for its information. A reply was received that "the Department is not able to suggest means by which funds could be provided from the United States for further purchases in the Near East of relief supplies for Greece, unless the Greek War Relief Association should be in a position to provide additional funds."

Prior to this time the Greek War Relief Association had informed the Red Cross that they had received permission to ship flour directly from America to Greece and that a shipment of 2,150 tons, procured through Lend-Lease was to leave on or about March 14 on the Swedish boat SS Sicilia. Actually, the vessel sailed from New York on March 25 with a cargo consisting of 2,300 tons of flour and 9.5 tons of medical supplies assembled from Government purchased items the American Red Cross had on hand.

On February 24 the British Government had announced that a safe conduct for a ship (the SS Radmanso) carrying a cargo of wheat to Greece, had been received from the German Government. Shortly thereafter a further announcement was made to the effect that by agreement with the Greek Government the British Government had also financed the chartering by the Swedish Red Cross of the SS Hallaren to help in carrying relief for Greece. The SS Radmanso arrived at the Piraeus during March, and the distribution of bread was begun almost immediately, under the supervision of the International Red Cross delegation.

A cable (195, dated May 24) from the American Red Cross representative at Cairo gives the following information obtained from the British Ministry of Trade, regarding these cargoes:

"Relief supplies from Egypt, Palestine, Syria--6,900 tons wheat delivered to Greece by steamship Radmanso; 1,815 tons of flour left yesterday on Stureborg; 4,500 tons flour due to leave on Halloran May 30 for Greece. Shipment from other areas: Sicilia delivered relief supplies from America; Halloran carried supplies from Lisbon. Negotiations were under way in Switzerland for the use of Generoso, Swiss ship between Lisbon and Greece. Donalupinar which replaced Kurtulus now carrying supplies from Turkey to Greece. Blockade authorities at present permit only breadstuff to enter Greece from Turkey which is considered within blockade area."

A recent report received from the International Red Cross Committee places the total tonnage received by the Committee for Greek relief at 22,958 tons. It also states that negotiations are in process for the SS Generoso to sail from Lisbon to carry 2,000 tons of wheat, and that other ships, to sail from Canada, are to carry 15,000 tons of wheat per month. The SS Stureborg,\*

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a Swedish ship, will sail from Alexandria with 2,000 tons of wheat. The Committee states that 500 tons of peas are en route to Greece via the Danube and that, in addition, the Germans have promised to supply 18,000 tons of Serbian wheat, 6,000 of which have passed through Venice en route to Greece.

In addition to these shipments of grain and legumes, the Joint Relief Commission reported on April 14: "It was finally possible to bring about the transfer of one million Swiss Francs needed to buy the milk foods, the exportation of which had been authorized by the Federal Government. This was done thanks to the intervention of the American Red Cross. Purchasing was begun immediately, and 20 to 30 truck-loads of various food products will shortly leave Switzerland." However, the report continued: "In spite of these consignments and others now being carried by the Hallaren and Sicilia, the situation in Greece remains serious; the amount of wheat being brought by these two ships and the Radmanso will not be enough to tide over the population until the next harvest. Redoubled efforts must therefore be made to continue relief for this country."

\*  
A Reuter dispatch from Cairo dated May 23, published in the New York Times of May 24, reports: "The Swedish steamer Stureborg left Haifa, Palestine, this morning for Piraeus, Greece, carrying 1,815 tons of flour for the relief of the Greek population. Distribution will be under the direction of the International Red Cross."

#### Aid to Refugees

Immediately after the evacuation of Crete, the British Repatriation Office reported 1,800 refugees in Egypt of which approximately 500 were Greeks. The Office estimated that there would be 4,000 or 5,000 more refugees within the next month or two. The British Government is understood to have guaranteed to the Egyptian Government that it would provide temporary relief to all refugees until they could be evacuated. To deal with this problem, a Refugee Committee was formed at Cairo under the patronage of Lady Lumsden, the wife of the British Ambassador. Supplies of an estimated value of more than \$25,000 were allocated to this Committee by the American Red Cross. Large allocations were also made to the Greek Red Cross for use in refugee relief. The Greek Orphans Home and the Greek civilian hospitals were supplied in the name of the Greek Red Cross. Plans were rapidly completed for the shipment from Beirut of foodstuffs and blankets for the relief of Greek refugees in Turkey and in Palestine.

By the middle of January 1942, American Red Cross supplies to be used largely for the relief of refugees, were allocated throughout the Mideast as follows: Egypt, 3,078 tons; East Africa, Eritrea and Abyssinia, 3,092 tons; Syria, Lebanon, Palestine and Turkey, 2,534 tons; Cyrenaica, 501 tons; Cyprus, 150 lbs. A balance of 905 tons remained unallocated. Distribution in all areas was being handled through the British authorities and/or cooperating agencies.

One of these cooperating agencies was a strong Greek Committee at Beirut Syria, where in November, 1941, approximately 700 refugees from Greece then living in a colony at Ain Said were supplied with clothes, blankets, foodstuffs, and medicines. By the following month the number of Greek refugees at this place had increased to 1,000. Supplementary rations were also furnished to Greek refugees in transit at Aleppo and Damascus. These refugees, mostly women and children and aged persons, had escaped to Turkey in small boats and were sent to Syria immediately. Over 2,000 Greek refugees in Cyprus also benefited from American Red Cross supplies allocated through the British Embassy at Cairo.

On April 29, 1942 the American Embassy at Ankara advised the State Department that 3,000 new Greek refugees had just arrived at Chios, a small village on the Turkish coast, from Chios, "starving, destitute and ill." The Department reported the fact to the Red Cross and as a result 45 tons of foodstuffs from the American Red Cross stocks at Beirut were transferred by sea to meet this emergency situation. The British Ministry of State later reported the number of refugees at Chios as 4,200, many of whom were loaded into a ship for return to Greece, but the German authorities would not accept them en masse and they were returned to Chios, where the Turkish Government allowed them to remain under a guarantee by the British to feed and eventually evacuate them. The plans of the Ministry of State were to remove them in small boats to nearby Greek islands and feed them as part of the Greek relief program.

In March 1942 it was decided to divide the unallocated American Red Cross supplies held at Cairo. An offer of first choice was made to the Greek Red Cross for Greek children and other Middle East relief work, and they requested and received: 85 drums of dry milk, 300 bags of beans, 1,200 bags of flour, and considerable quantities of clothing, drugs, and medical supplies.

The Beirut Committee also received sizeable quantities of American Red Cross supplies for Greek children. The remainder of the unallocated supplies were transported by the British military authorities to Tehran for Polish relief in southern Russia.

#### Evacuation of Greek Children

On December 24, 1941 the American Red Cross Representative at Cairo was invited to attend a meeting of representatives of the Greek Red Cross, the British Embassy and the British Ministry of State, to discuss the possibility of evacuating 40,000 Greek children to South Africa, the Middle East, India, and possibly the United States.

According to the plans discussed, the evacuation would be organized by the International Red Cross Committee. Babies up to the age of four together with their mothers, and children up to the age of 13 would be selected. Guarantees of safe conduct would be secured from the belligerent Governments. Care and return of the evacuated children and mothers to Greece following the

cessation of hostilities would be guaranteed by the British Government. Co-operation for the care of the children would be secured, possibly under the British Central Social Welfare Committee, from the International Red Cross Committee, the Greek Red Cross, the American Red Cross and others. A plan envisaging placement in foster homes, analogous to the British air raid evacuation program, would be adopted, under which children would be placed with Greek families so far as possible and newly arrived children would be given shelter care.

Lengthy negotiations regarding this plan have since been carried on but apparently no children have as yet been evacuated. The Italian Government has agreed to the evacuation of Greek children to Egypt, but not beyond. At a meeting of the Council of Patrons, held on May 12, the Egyptian Government stated that 5,000 refugee children would be allowed to remain in Egypt for the duration. Approval had previously been given for an additional 3,000 children to remain in transit in Egypt if and when the belligerent Governments approve the plan whereby the children would be moved on to South Africa and other points of the British Empire.

At the time this meeting was held the British Government had available two ships which would require fourteen days to be put into condition to bring 3,000 evacuee children to Egypt as soon as the International Red Cross Committee advises that the children have been selected and are ready for removal. Camp accommodations were being completed for the care of 3,000 children at Moses Well on the Red Sea.

The American Red Cross representative at Cairo has reported that the Egyptian authorities were greatly pleased with the American Red Cross supplies which were handed over to the Greek Red Cross for utilization in connection with this project.

A cablegram dated May 26 has been received from the American Red Cross Representative at Cairo in which he tells of a visit to the Moses Well camp "on the Red Sea near Suez." He reports that the camp is nearing completion in anticipation of the arrival of 3,000 Greek children.

Meanwhile, the American Red Cross has arranged for the transfer of twelve tons of milk from supplies at Beirut, to be consigned to the International Red Cross Committee, for the use of these children until such time as the arrangements for their evacuation have been completed.

July 1, 1942

Van Arsdale Turner  
Special Assistant  
Insular and Foreign Operations

May 29, 41

*Van T...*  
*See slight modification suggested...*

AMERICAN RED CROSS  
AID TO GREECE  
(Since the Fall of that Country)

In the spring of 1941 events in Greece moved with dramatic swiftness. On April 6 Hitler declared war on Greece and Yougoslavia and, in spite of the heroic efforts of the defending Armies, only twenty days later, April 26, his soldiers entered Athens.

Because it was no longer possible to carry on a relief program under the terms and conditions required by the Red Cross, our representatives were withdrawn from Greece, and the ships carrying our cargoes of supplies for the relief of the Greek civilian population, since they could not enter the Piraeus or find haven in Crete, were unloaded at Suez. In the absence of pressing need for Greek refugee relief in Egypt and on the recommendation of the American Red Cross Representative at Cairo, these supplies were diverted in part to the British Red Cross. The remainder were used to aid Greek refugees in other parts of the Middle East, as well as to meet relief needs in Middle Eastern territory where the American Red Cross was still free to operate. This arrangement met with the full approval of the President of the Greek Red Cross and of the Greek Minister of Marine as well as that of the Greek Minister to the United States.

Because the American Red Cross cannot ship food supplies into occupied territory without guarantees that it will be used only for the relief of the local population, and because in order to supervise the distribution it is necessary to have American Red Cross representatives within the country, with freedom to act for the protection of the supplies, it has not been possible for the Red Cross to send foodstuffs to Greece.

A number of plans for Greek relief have from time to time been given consideration by the Red Cross but have had to be discarded as unfeasible. Nevertheless, the American Red Cross has been of service in an advisory capacity, and has extended to other relief organizations the benefit not only of ~~our~~ experience but also the use of its facilities for purchase and supply.

In several other ways the Red Cross has been able to bring direct relief to the stricken people of Greece. In June 1941 an arrangement was entered into for the delivery of 100 tons of milk for the relief of Italian ~~women~~ children in Eritrea, with the understanding that the Italian Red Cross would deliver an equivalent amount of supplies for relief in Greece. Although this bargain was not carried out in its entirety by the Italians since 12 tons of milk are still undelivered, and although the charge was made (but not proven) that the German authorities had seized a portion of the shipment, it is still true that a considerable amount of good was accomplished by this exchange of supplies.

Another transaction resulting in the delivery of American Red Cross

10 15 14

supplies to Greece was carried out in December 1941. Certain of our medical supplies available in Egypt having a value of \$7,831., were transferred through the Greek Red Cross representative in Cairo to Turkey and ~~added to~~ *made a part* of a shipment of five tons of drugs that were sent to Greece and distributed under the supervision of the representatives of the International Red Cross Committee. This was followed by a second shipment of approximately ten tons of medical supplies, sent in March of this year.

Of the many plans for bringing relief to Greece submitted by other organizations for the consideration of the American Red Cross a few have been productive of benefit to the people of Greece. Because it is not under the same limitations with regard to shipments of supplies to enemy occupied territory, the Greek War Relief Association has been very successful in its efforts to furnish aid to Greece. Temporarily discarding the idea of sending supplies from America because of the time and risks involved, the Association arranged for a transfer of funds with which to purchase foodstuffs and other materials in Turkey and Egypt. To try out the plan the sum of \$300,000 was sent to the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation, a non-profit financial unit of the British Government, for the purchase of food to be shipped in a Turkish vessel and distributed by the Greek Red Cross under the supervision of the International Red Cross Committee.

The vessel assigned by the Turkish Government was the SS Kurtulus, with a capacity of about 1,500 tons. Five trips were made between October 15, 1941 and January 5, 1942, with cargoes consisting mainly of beans, chick-peas, onions, eggs, and salted fish, amounting in all to 6,736 tons of foodstuffs. Wheat was not available for purchase in Turkey. Unfortunately, on her sixth trip the vessel went aground in the Marmara Sea and sank with the entire cargo. However, a second vessel, the SS Domlupinar was substituted shortly thereafter and has made two trips, carrying a total of 2,413 tons of supplies. In order to protect the distribution of these supplies we suggested a strengthening of the delegation of the International Red Cross Committee, and this was done. According to reports received the control that has been established is working satisfactorily.

The successful distribution of these supplies from Turkey offered hope that larger shipments might also be safely sent, and therefore the Red Cross attempted to arrange a shipment of wheat and also a shipment of drugs for distribution in Greece. The plan was to purchase the wheat in Turkey, to be replaced later by shipments either from ports in the Middle East or from the United States and the drugs to be drawn from our supplies in Egypt. This plan was abandoned because of the impossibility of furnishing guarantees for delivery of the return shipments.

On March 1, 1942 a cable was received from Prince Karl of Sweden informing us that a Swedish ~~steamer~~ had been chartered by the Swedish Red Cross for the transportation of provisions from Turkey, ~~and that ten Swedish steamers of about 6,000 tons registry were available for use in the delivery of supplies from America.~~ In answer to this cable the Chairman informed Prince Karl that the United States had already expressed to the British Government its concurrence with a plan which the British Government has previously submitted to Sweden. This plan involves the sending of foodstuffs on Swedish steamers from a number

*to omit  
make definite*

*Print #1*

11 15 4

*What  
is new cable  
from James Hill  
at present*

*especially from Canada,*  
of countries and requires supervision by the Swedish Red Cross in cooperation with the International Red Cross Committee, over distributions to be made in Greece, with the condition that the occupying authorities will permit the Swedish Red Cross representatives to communicate with and report to the British on the distribution. *The agreement contemplates the shipment of 15,000 tons of wheat per month, 15,000 tons of flour, 15,000 tons of peas, and 15,000 tons of other supplies, but the British will handle a new agreement for the State Department.*  
The Swedish ship referred to in Prince Carl's cable was the Sicilia, under charter by the Greek War Relief Association. She sailed from New York on March 25 with a cargo consisting of 2,300 tons of wheat provided through Lead-base, and 9.5 tons of medical supplies assembled from Government purchased items the Red Cross already had on hand. *and the British will take care.*

~~Prior to the departure of this shipment, the British Government announced on February 24 that a safe conduct for a ship (the SS Redmanso) carrying a cargo of wheat to Greece, had been received from the German Government. Shortly thereafter a further announcement was made to the effect that by agreement with the Greek Government the British Government had also financed the chartering by the Swedish Red Cross of the SS Hallaren to help in carrying relief for Greece.~~

A cable (135, dated May 24) from the American Red Cross representative at Cairo gives the following information obtained from the British Ministry of Trade, regarding these cargoes:

"Relief supplies from Egypt, Palestine, Syria--6,900 tons wheat delivered to Greece by steamship Redmanso; 1,815 tons of flour left yesterday on Stureborg; 4,500 tons flour due to leave on Halloran May 30 for Greece. Shipment from other areas: Sicilia delivered relief supplies from America; Halloran carried supplies from Lisbon. Negotiations were under way in Switzerland for the use of Genoroso, Swiss ship between Lisbon and Greece. Domiupinar which replaced Kurtulus now carrying supplies from Turkey to Greece. Blockade authorities at present permit only breadstuff to enter Greece from Turkey which is considered within blockade area."

A recent report received from the International Red Cross Committee places the total tonnage received by the Committee for Greek relief at 22,958 tons. It also states that negotiations are in process for the SS Genoroso to sail from Lisbon to carry 2,000 tons of wheat, and that other ships, to sail from Canada, are to carry 15,000 tons of wheat per month. The SS Stureborg,\* a Swedish ship, will sail from Alexandria with 2,000 tons of wheat. The Committee states that 500 tons of peas are en route to Greece via the Danube and that, in addition, the Germans have promised to supply 18,000 tons of Serbian wheat, 6,000 of which have passed through Venice en route to Greece.

*insert (2)*

It is evident that in spite of almost insurmountable difficulties a great deal has been accomplished toward ameliorating the distressing conditions existing in Greece.

\* A Reuter dispatch from Cairo dated May 23, published in the New York Times of May 24, reports: "The Swedish steamer Stureborg left Haifa, Palestine, this morning for Piraeus, Greece, carrying 1,815 tons of flour for the relief of the Greek population. Distribution will be under the direction of the International Red Cross."

1114

Aid to Refugees

Immediately after the evacuation of Crete, the British Repatriation Office reported 1,800 refugees in Egypt of which approximately 500 were Greeks. The Office estimated that there would be 4,000 or 5,000 more refugees within the next month or two. The British Government is understood to have guaranteed to the Egyptian Government that it would provide temporary relief to all refugees until they could be evacuated. To deal with this problem, a Refugee Committee was formed at Cairo under the patronage of Lady Lampson, the wife of the British Ambassador. Supplies of an estimated value of more than \$25,000 were allocated to this Committee by the American Red Cross. Large allocations were also made to the Greek Red Cross for use in refugee relief. The Greek Orphans Home and the Greek civilian hospitals were supplied in the name of the Greek Red Cross. Plans were rapidly completed for the shipment from Beirut of foodstuffs and blankets for the relief of Greek refugees in Turkey and in Palestine.

By the middle of January 1942, American Red Cross supplies to be used largely for the relief of refugees, were allocated throughout the Mideast as follows: Egypt, 3,078 tons; East Africa, Eritrea and Abyssinia, 3,092 tons; Syria, Lebanon, Palestine and Turkey, 2,534 tons; Cyrenaica, 501 tons; Cyprus, 150 lbs. A balance of 905 tons remained unallocated. Distribution in all areas was being handled through the British authorities and/or cooperating agencies.

One of these cooperating agencies was a strong Greek Committee at Beirut Syria, where in November 1941 approximately 700 refugees from Greece then living in a colony at Ain Said were supplied with clothes, blankets, foodstuffs, and medicines. By the following month the number of Greek refugees at this place had increased to 1,000. Supplementary rations were also furnished to Greek refugees in transit at Aleppo and Damascus. These refugees, mostly women and children and aged persons, had escaped to Turkey in small boats and were sent to Syria immediately. Over 2,000 Greek refugees in Cyprus also benefited from American Red Cross supplies allocated through the British Embassy at Cairo.

On April 29, 1942 the American Embassy at Ankara advised the State Department that 3,000 new Greek refugees had just arrived at Chesme, a small village on the Turkish coast, from Chios, "starving, destitute and ill." The Department reported the fact to the Red Cross and as a result 45 tons of foodstuffs from the American Red Cross stocks at Beirut were transferred by sea to meet this emergency situation. The British Ministry of State later reported the number of refugees at Chesme as 4,200, many of whom were loaded into a ship for return to Greece, but the German authorities would not accept them on board and they were returned to Chesme, where the Turkish Government allowed them to remain under a guarantee by the British to feed and eventually evacuate them. The plans of the Ministry of State were to remove them in small boats to nearby Greek islands and feed them as part of the Greek relief

program.

In March 1942 it was decided to divide the unallocated American Red Cross supplies held at Cairo. An offer of first choice was made to the Greek Red Cross for Greek children and other Middle East relief work, and they requested and received: 85 drums of dry milk, 300 bags of beans, 1,200 bags of flour, and considerable quantities of clothing, drugs, and medical supplies.

The Beirut Committee also received sizeable quantities of American Red Cross supplies for Greek children. The remainder of the unallocated supplies were transported by the British military authorities to Tehran for Polish relief in southern Russia.

#### Evacuation of Greek Children

On December 24, 1941 the American Red Cross Representative at Cairo was invited to attend a meeting of representatives of the Greek Red Cross, the British Embassy and the British Ministry of State, to discuss the possibility of evacuating 40,000 Greek children to South Africa, the Middle East, India, and possibly the United States.

According to the plans discussed, the evacuation would be organized by the International Red Cross Committee. Babies up to the age of four together with their mothers, and children up to the age of 13 would be selected. Guarantees of safe conduct would be secured from the belligerent Governments. Care and return of the evacuated children and mothers to Greece following the cessation of hostilities would be guaranteed by the British Government. Co-operation for the care of the children would be secured, possibly under the British Central Social Welfare Committee, from the International Red Cross Committee, the Greek Red Cross, the American Red Cross and others. A plan envisaging placement in foster homes, analogous to the British air raid evacuation program, would be adopted, under which children would be placed with Greek families so far as possible and newly arrived children would be given shelter care.

Lengthy negotiations regarding this plan have since been carried on but apparently no children have as yet been evacuated. The Italian Government has agreed to the evacuation of Greek children to Egypt, but not beyond. At a meeting of the Council of Patrons, held on May 12, the Egyptian Government stated that 5,000 refugee children would be allowed to remain in Egypt for the duration. Approval had previously been given for an additional 3,000 children to remain in transit in Egypt if and when the belligerent Governments approve the plan whereby the children would be moved on to South Africa and other points of the British Empire.

At the time this meeting was held the British Government had available two ships which would require fourteen days to be put into condition to bring 3,000 evacuee children to Egypt as soon as the International Red Cross Committee advises that the children have been selected and are ready for removal. Camp accommodations were being completed for the care of 3,000 children at

Moses Well on the Red Sea.

The American Red Cross Representative at Cairo has reported that the Egyptian authorities were greatly pleased with the American Red Cross supplies which were handed over to the Greek Red Cross for utilization in connection with this project.

A cablegram dated May 26 has just been received from the American Red Cross Representative at Cairo in which he tells of a visit to the Moses Well camp "on the Red Sea near Suez." He reports that the camp is nearing completion in anticipation of the arrival of 3,000 Greek children.

The cablegram also contains information qualifying in some measure and adding to the contents of this report. From the Officer in control of the SS Holloran which recently took supplies from Lisbon to Greece and left Athens on May 4, the Representative learned that the wheat from the SS Radmaso had been converted into flour but was still undistributed, pending instructions from the Geneva office of the International Red Cross Committee. The Officer estimated that relief supplies from Turkey brought by the SS Daulupiner and SS Kurtulus total only about 8,000 tons. These supplies were consigned to the International Red Cross Committee and are being distributed through the Greek Red Cross to soup kitchens. According to the Officer, there are discrepancies between the number of meals reported served by the Greek Red Cross and the number reported by the general public receiving the meals. It is indicated that the Greek Red Cross, whose management includes many Government officials, are receiving larger quantities of supplies than are actually distributed to the needy and that some of these supplies are being sold on the "black market." Apparently, again according to the Officer, the International Red Cross Committee has very little control over the distribution. Gredinger is apparently the only International Red Cross Representative from Geneva, the other three, including Brunnell, of the Nestle Company, are Swiss merchants in Greece. The Officer stated that reports of German seizure of supplies are unfounded. However, certain supplies have been lost through pilferage by half-starved civilians.

The Officer further reported that relief supplies brought to Greece have been distributed only in Athens and Piraeus, where 400 to 450 deaths occur daily from hunger and diseases, but that there is also great distress in the islands and other mainland areas. Only very limited supplies are available through rations at three to five times their former cost, and "black market" purchases are made at 80 to 100 times the former prices. The Officer estimates that 20,000 to 30,000 tons of supplies are needed monthly to bring effective relief to Greece and that a stronger control of distribution is necessary.

May 29, 1942

Van A. Dale Turner  
Special Assistant  
Insular and Foreign Operations

*Handwritten notes:*  
referred to  
PP-5  
recently  
approved  
shipped by  
Moses to  
Greece  
in  
Moses

DRAFT

(To be inserted as paragraph 2 on page 3.)

Insert 1.

<sup>no #</sup> The vessel chartered by the Swedish Red Cross was the 5,200 ton motor ship, SS Hallaren. On March 21, 1942 the Joint Relief Commission informed us by cable (Croixmixt 211) that the Italian Government would be compelled to stop delivering wheat to Greece at the end of March, thus creating an urgent need for action by April to avoid a crisis. The Commission calculated that 20,000 tons of wheat must be found to cover the requirements of the civilian population of Athens until the end of June. It was suggested by the Commission that we assist in obtaining the necessary permits for the purchase of 2,000 tons of lentils in Syria and 20,000 tons of wheat from Egypt or America, to be shipped on the SS Hallaren which the Swedish Red Cross was ready to place at the disposal of the Commission.

A copy of this cable was sent by the Red Cross to the State Department for its information. A reply was received that "the Department is not able to suggest means by which funds could be provided from the United States for further purchases in the Near East of relief supplies for Greece, unless the Greek War Relief Association should be in a position to provide additional funds".

Prior to this time the Greek War Relief Association had informed the Red Cross that they had received permission to ship flour directly from America to Greece and that a shipment of 2,150 tons, procured ~~at the suggestion of the Red Cross through the Lend-Lease Act~~, was to leave on or about March 14 on the Swedish boat SS Sicilia. Actually, the vessel sailed from New York on March 25 with a cargo consisting of 2,300 tons of flour and 9.5 tons of medical supplies assembled from Government purchased items the American Red Cross had on hand.

On February 24 the British Government had announced that a safe conduct for a ship (the SS Radmanso) carrying (etc.)

DRAFT

(To be inserted as a continuation of paragraph 3 on page 3.)

*Insert 2*

The SS Radmanso arrived at the Piraeus during March, and the distribution of bread was begun almost immediately, under the supervision of the International Red Cross delegation.

1055

DRAFT

Insert (3) to be inserted on page 3 as indicated.

In addition to these shipments of grain and legumes, the Joint Relief Commission reported on April 14: "It was finally possible to bring about the transfer of one million Swiss francs needed to buy the milk foods, the exportation of which had been authorized by the Federal Government. This was done thanks to the intervention of the American Red Cross. Purchasing was begun immediately, and 20 to 30 truck-loads of various food products will shortly leave Switzerland." However, the report continued: "In spite of these consignments and others now being carried by the Hallaren and Sicilia, the situation in Greece remains serious; the amount of wheat being brought by these two ships and the Radmanso will not be enough to tide over the population until the next harvest. Redoubled efforts must therefore be made to continue relief for this country."

**AMERICAN RED CROSS**  
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Translation of Cable received from  
Geneva (Switzerland) March 25, 1942 by Marc Peter  
and received by American Red Cross for information

Date received: Rec'd Message Center  
March 30, 1942

Cablegram received from:

NLT

PETER DELEGATE

INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS

WASHINGTON

34. We are informed that subject to certain reservations British authorities will accord facilities for importing from across the sea provisions intended for Greek soldiers severely wounded and sick of which according to our information the number would be approximately ten thousand. Would Greek War Relief, American Red Cross or other organizations be disposed to give non perishable provisions to this end? If reply favorable, shipments of standard packages or provisions in bulk should be consigned Brunel Athens, if you have disposal of a ship direct for Greece, or address them Comite International Croixrouge, transit Geneva, c/o Iselin, Lisbon. Our delegates in Athens will have supervision over distributions to beneficiaries.

INTERCROIXROUGESG8304

cc The Chairman  
Mr. Allen  
Mr. Jay  
Mr. Stewart Brown  
Mr. Mitchell  
Mr. Ryan  
Mr. Hubbell  
Mr. Foy  
Mr. Taff  
Mr. George Smith  
Miss Hardisty  
Mr. Wesselius

AMERICAN RED CROSS  
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

FORM 124B

MILITARY - POLITICAL DATE KEY

Greece and Middle East Files

1940

October 28 Italy invades Greece.

1941

January

1 Italian Army bogs down in snow, with Greeks capturing Khimara on December 23. Local Greek successes around heights dominating Tepelini.

5 British take Bardia in beginning of sweep across Libya. German shadow falls on Greece as Nazis threaten to occupy Bulgaria.  
10 Greeks capture Klisura, Balkans on edge as Hitler threatens invasion of Yugo-Slavia.

February

20 Wavell sweeps on past Tobruk. Mussolini and Hitler confer.  
29 Metaxas dies. Korosia, Governor of Bank of Greece, succeeds him.  
10 Wavell almost to Benghazi, begins pinch on Ethiopia-Eritrea.

March

17 Wavell mops up in Libya. Germans infiltrate into Bulgaria.  
1 Indications that Wavell will move part of Army of Nile to aid Greece. Yugo-Slavia being pressed to join Axis.  
2 Eden and Dill at Athens after visits Cairo and Ankara. Bulgaria joins axis March 1 and Nazi troops occupy Sofia. British occupy Greek Islands, such as Lemnos, to set up air bases.  
15 Fully equipped B.E.F. lands in Greece. British cutting up Italian East Africa with five separate drives. Turkish help to British and Greeks a question mark.

April

21 Germans take up positions in Struma Valley facing Greece. Amid violent popular protests, Yugo-Slav Premier prepares to join axis.  
27 Yugo-Slav coup d'etat nullifies new Axis pledge, 17 year old Peter now king.  
28 Great British sea victory off Crete - five Italian war craft destroyed.  
3 British abandon Benghazi to German-Italian panzers.  
6 Hitler declares war on Yugo-Slavia and Greece. British enter Addis Ababa. British protect 200,000 Italian civilians from Ethiopian revenge.  
9 Germans capture Salinika, isolate Greek Macedonian Army.  
10 Germans break Yugo-Slav and Greek mountain defenses.  
12 British in hasty retreat across Libya lost Bardia, are hemmed in at Tobruk. Greek-civil population from North reported fleeing to islands. British and Greek armies retreat slowly south to mountains, break up first German onslaughts but fail to hold.  
17 Greek Army in Albania, after long victories over Italians, almost cut off by swift German advance.  
19 Greek Premier Korizis commits suicide. Tsouderos, Manager of Bank of Greece, succeeds him. British having trouble in Iraq, send strong forces.

AMERICAN RED CROSS  
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

FORM 194B

#2

Greece and Middle East

1941

April

25 Greek collapse begins. Gallant army of Epirus, surrounded, surrenders. King George II and Government flee to Crete. Soldiers of captured Greek Armies are demobilized instead of interned in camps, start their terrible wanderings back to their broken homes. A new British Dunkerque starts. Main British escape points are from Piraeus and from Mauplia, in the Peloponnese.

May

26 First German troops enter Athens at 9 A.M. Athens never bombed but nearby Port of Piraeus severely damaged. Likewise Patras, Corfu, Volo and Salonika. Fighting from now on is of rear guard type by British alone. Nazi curtain falls over Greece.

1 British announce 48,000 of original 60,000 B.E.F. escaped from Greece. Thousands of stranded British go into hiding with friendly Greeks.  
2 British and Iraqis troops clash near Bagdad. Iraq Premier asks Hitler's aid.

June

19 Heat slows Libyan fighting. British dug in at Tobruk. Slow but good progress made quelling Iraq rebellion.

20 Germans begin invasion of Crete by air. King George escapes to Egypt. Within four days, fighting Germans gain secure foothold.

1 Britain announces evacuation of Crete. British troops enter Bagdad. Pre-Axis Government flees.

8 British and Free French invade Syria.

10 Turkey signs friendship pact with Germany.

21 British and Free French take Damascus.

22 Germany begins war against Russia.

July

1 Wavell transferred from Cairo to India.

3 Marks the practical end of Italian resistance in Ethiopia.

12 Armistice signed in Syria.

28 End of Syrian campaign, sporadic raids against Axis in Libya.

Continued Resistance at Tobruk. All point possible new British effort in Libya.

August

11 Both sides in Mid-East take advantage of lull caused by Russian war to build up supplies and general strength. Action limited to sea and air raids.

18 Sustained British air attacks on Tripoli, Benghazi, Italian shipping but Axis air attacks on Suez, Alexandria, delta towns.

No direct news from Greece during all this period save what was brought in by returning American citizens. Fairly accurately established that Germans stripped country of foodstuffs. Believed that peasants will fare better than population of cities where suffering from hunger is severe.

25 After being held by Russia, to world's surprise, Germans at last make first big gains in Ukraine.

26 British and Russians move simultaneously in Iran, preparing for possible future break thru by Germans into Caucasus and Middle East.

28 Iranian resistance ends.

*1 Mos. and*

WHEAT: 15,000 tons per month, furnished by the Canadian Government. An increase has been authorized for 9,000 tons per month donated by the Argentine Government to be shipped directly from Argentina, depending upon whether shipping space can be made available.

PULSE (Dried Vegetables): 4,700 tons monthly provided by Lend Lease. An additional 1,000 tons per month has been authorized.

MILK: 300 tons monthly of evaporated milk and 300 tons monthly of sweetened condensed milk. Provided by Lend Lease.

RICE: 2,500 tons total, to be shipped in November and December, 1943, and January and February, 1944. Provided by Lend Lease.

COD LIVER OIL: 25 tons monthly procured by the Canadian Red Cross and financed by the Greek War Relief Association of New York.

OVALTINE: 10 tons monthly, purchased in Canada and financed by the Greek War Relief Association of New York. 9,984 tons to be procured in the United States in January, 1944, and financed by the Greek War Relief Association.

PILCHARD LOAF: 100 tons monthly starting January, 1944, provided by Lend Lease.

CANNED SQUID: 200 tons monthly starting January, 1944, provided by Lend Lease.

GROUND FISH: 400 tons monthly starting January, 1944, provided by Lend Lease.

CANNED PILCHARD OR HERRING: 200 tons monthly starting January, 1944, provided by Lend Lease.

MINESTRONE VEGETABLE STEW (Dehydrated): 300 tons monthly starting February, 1944, provided by Lend Lease.

PROTEIN SPAGHETTI: 300 tons monthly starting February, 1944, provided by Lend Lease.

SALT DRIED FISH: 100 tons monthly starting when supplies become available. To be provided by Lend Lease.

*Spunk Situation*  
*Compton*  
*FPA*

ORVILLE R. WATKINS  
Civilian Relief  
Insular and Foreign Operations

ORW/bls

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Handwritten notes and numbers, including "1943" and "28 100".

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