Program with Respect to Relief and Rescue of Refugees Relief Projects

Relief to Italians in Switzerland (World Jewish Congress)
MEMORANDUM

TO: Liaison Officer, Foreign Funds Control
FROM: War Refugee Board
Subject: Relief to Italian refugees in Switzerland

There is transmitted herewith a copy of a letter dated April 26, 1944, from the World Jewish Congress dealing with the transfer of $4,000 to Dr. Gerhard Riehn, Geneva, for relief to Italian refugees in Switzerland.

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: Special facilities

Action: Basic license No. W-
Remittance License No. issued NY 624166 issued May 1, 1944
Other:

Date: MAY 1 1944
FOREIGN FUNDS CONTROL DEPARTMENT

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK

NEW YORK CITY

NY 624366

Pursuant to application filed directly with this Department, you are hereby authorized to issue license to the World Jewish Congress, 1834 Broadway, New York City, permitting it to remit, on behalf of the Italian Jewish Community of Sao Paulo, the Swiss franc equivalent of $2,000 to Mr. Gerhart Miegner, Geneva, Switzerland, for relief to Italian refugees in Switzerland. The license, or its bank of account, is authorized 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, and advise him this remittance is for humanitarian purposes.

[Initialed] C.A.N.
April 26, 1944

Miss Florence Hodell
Assistant to the Executive Director
War Refugee Board
190 Main Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

My dear Miss Hodell:

With reference to license #N.Y.618103-R, dated April 13, issued by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York for $8,010 to Dr. Gerhard Riegner, Switzerland, for relief to Italian refugees in Switzerland, we beg to inform you that we have received today $4,000 by the Italian Jewish Community of Sao Paulo, Brazil, to be used for the same purpose.

Would you be good enough to see to it that a license for $4,000 is issued by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, permitting us to transfer this amount to Dr. Gerhard Riegner, Geneva, for relief to Italian refugees in Switzerland, at the same rate as granted before.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Nachum Goldmann
Chairman of Executive Committee
MEMORANDUM

TO: Liaison Officer, Foreign Funds Control
FROM: War Refugee Board
Subject: Relief to Italian refugees in Switzerland.

There is transmitted herewith a copy of a letter dated March 27, 1944, from the World Jewish Congress dealing with remittance of $6,000 to Geneva for the specific purpose of relief to Italian refugees in Switzerland.

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:
Special facilities re Swiss francs: [Signature]

For the War Refugee Board

Action:
Basic License No. 618103 issued April 3, 1944
Remittance License No. Other:

Date: APR 3, 1944

Liaison Officer
Foreign Funds Control
Pursuant to application filed directly with this Department, you are hereby authorized to issue license to the World Jewish Congress, 330 West 42nd Street, New York City, permitting it to remit, on behalf of the Italian Community of Rio de Janeiro, the Swiss franc equivalent of $6,010 to Dr. Gerhart Wegner, Geneva, Switzerland, for relief to Italian refugees in Switzerland. The license, or its bank of account, is authorized 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. Buschero, Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

[Initialed] O.A.S.

Unit 402 RBParker sfh 3-31-44
The President has instructed the Secretaries of State, Treasury and War to make action for the immediate rescue and relief of the Jews of Europe and other victims of enemy persecution. In an executive order issued January 22 the President declared: "It is the policy of this Government to take all measures within its power to rescue the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death and otherwise to afford such victims all possible relief and assistance consistent with the successful prosecution of the war." The order established special governmental machinery for executing this policy. It created a War Refugee Board consisting of the Secretaries of State, Treasury and War. The Board is charged with direct responsibility to the President in seeing that the announced policy is carried out. The President indicated that while he would look directly to the Board for the execution of this policy, the Board would cooperate with the Intergovernmental Committee, UNRRA, and other interested international organizations. The President stated that he expected the cooperation of all members of the United Nations and other governments in carrying out this difficult but important task. He stated that the existing facilities of the State, Treasury and War Departments would be employed to furnish aid to Axis victims to the fullest extent possible. He stressed that it was urgent that action be taken to forestall the plot of the Nazi's to exterminate the Jews and other persecuted minorities in Europe.

You should do everything possible to effectuate this policy of this Government, bearing in mind that time is of the essence. You should cooperate closely with all public and established private agencies who are active in your area in this field, aiding them in the development of coordinated programs aimed at the effective execution of integrated measures for the rescue, transportation, maintenance and relief of victims of enemy oppression, etc.

The communication facilities should be made freely available to these private agencies for all appropriate messages for carrying out the policy of this Government herein stated, keeping the War Refugee Board advised through the Department. You should give them every assistance in obtaining and verifying information.

You are requested to render an immediate report concerning the actual situation as it exists today in the country to which you are accredited. This report should include a full statement as to what is being done to rescue the Jews and other persecuted minorities from Hitler, including particularly (a) the extent to which these war refugees are permitted to enter the country to which you are accredited (b) the extent to which such country actually encourages and cooperates...
in their entry and (a) the extent to which such refugees are not able to enter such country because of the failure of such country to cooperate in their entry. This report should cover actual cases which have come to your attention involving refugees being turned back at the border and the reasons why such refugees were turned back. You should also report periodically on cases of this character which come to your attention in the future.

You should include in your report your recommendations as to what you feel this Government can do to effectuate with all possible speed the rescue and relief of the victims of enemy oppression, including particularly what can be done to make the government of the country to which you are accredited cooperate more fully in carrying out this policy. Your report should cover any special obstacles which you feel are interfering with the rescue and relief of these victims and your recommendations as to what can be done to remove those obstacles.

You are requested to approach the Government to which you are accredited, explain the policy expressed in the President’s Executive Order referred to above, and ascertain from such Government the extent to which it is prepared to cooperate.

Diplomatic and consular officers are instructed to do everything possible to carry out the policy expressed in the President’s Executive Order. This cablegram has been transmitted by telegram or airgram to all diplomatic and consular offices.

Repeat to consular offices under your jurisdiction.

HULL

CODE ROOM – Repeat to Missions at Lisbon as 200, Madrid as 207, Stockholm as 131, Bern as 251, and Ankara as 68.

840.48 Refugees.

DIR/RS 1/25/44 WEA A-B

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Distributed to: Secretary (Mr. E.M. Bernstein); Mr. D.W. Bell (Mr. Dietrich); Mr. Paul; Mr. White (Mr. E.M. Bernstein-Orig); Mr. Luxford; Mr. Peleh; Mr. Ed Bernstein; Mr. Glasser; Mr. Taylor; Mr. Noss.

From Miss E. Hynes – Rm.225