Evacuation To and Through Spain (and Portugal)
CROSS REFERENCE ON PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES: EVACUATION TO AND THRU SPAIN (AND PORTUGAL)

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1. FOR FURTHER MATERIAL RELATIVE TO THIS FILE

SEE:

1. COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES: INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE

COOPERATION WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS: NEUTRAL EUROPEAN (SPAIN)

PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES: EVACUATION TO SWITZERLAND (EVACUATION OF ABANDONED CHILDREN FROM FRANCE)

REPRESENTATIVES AND SPECIAL ATTACHES: APPOINTMENTS

COOPERATION WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS: NEUTRAL EUROPEAN (PORTUGAL)

PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES: EVACUATION TO AND THRU SPAIN (AND PORTUGAL) (EVACUATION OF REPUBLICAN REFUGEES FROM SPAIN AND PORTUGAL (UGC))

PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES: EVACUATION TO AND THRU SPAIN (AND PORTUGAL) (EVACUATION OF CHILDREN FROM FRANCE TO SPAIN AND PORTUGAL (JDC))

PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES: EVACUATION TO AND THRU SPAIN (AND PORTUGAL) (EVACUATIONS FROM SPAIN TO LYAUTEY)
CROSS REFERENCE ON PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF &
RESUE OF REFUGEES: EVACUATION TO
AND THRU SPAIN (AND PORTUGAL)

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DESPATCH #1967, 1/31/44 IS A SECRET DESPATCH, OF WHICH WE MAY
NOT HAVE A COPY, PER MISS MYERS, AFTER A CALL TO STATE DEPT.
Dear Chancery,

Would you please refer to your despatch no. 14 of 10th January about the proposed survey of refugees in Portugal?

We have since had an opportunity of discussing with Beckelman of the Intergovernmental Committee the question of the survey of refugees in the Iberian Peninsula. He says that this has already been largely undertaken by voluntary societies. Secondly, in his opinion, with which we agree, the question of who should pay for such a survey has been superseded by the proposal recently submitted to the British and United States Governments by the Intergovernmental Committee that it should undertake operational expenditure in Spain and Portugal, on behalf of refugees falling within its mandate. The survey, according to Beckelman, only involves expenditure on a small amount of printing. The existing staff of voluntary agencies can do the work without any increase in staff or salaries.

If the above-mentioned proposal is accepted by the British and United States Governments, then any expenditure involved will be met by the Intergovernmental Committee (whose operational expenditure is at present jointly financed by the two governments).

We have told the United States Embassy here (who approached us having received a repetition of a telegram on this matter from the State Department to the United States Embassy in Lisbon) that there is no intention of any expenditure in this connection falling on the British or United States Governments outside that arising from their contributions to Intergovernmental Committee operational expenditure. We are anxious, therefore, that you should not incur any official expenditure on this survey.

The observations of the Intergovernmental Committee about the refugee centre at Philippeville made in the enclosure to our letter of 8th December no longer hold good and the State Department have called our attention to this. In point of fact accommodation can be provided at this centre by U.N.R.R.A. for 7,000 - 8,000 refugees if tents are used in addition to barracks, and existing barracks can shelter between 2,000 and 3,000. Medical facilities are available for 600 patients and can be doubled in an emergency. U.N.R.R.A. has already made plans for the sheltering and maintenance of 2,500 refugees at Philippeville.

Yours ever,

REFUGEE DEPARTMENT

The Chancery,  
British Embassy,  
Lisbon.
No. 1703.

SUBJECT: Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees to Conduct Survey of Refugees in Portugal.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

With reference to the Embassy's despatch no. 1319, of January 6, 1945, in respect of certain proposals for the removal of refugees now in Portugal, and a prospective survey of such refugees in Portugal and Spain, on behalf of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees with headquarters in London, I have the honor to enclose a copy of a communication concerning the survey, received by the British Embassy in Lisbon from the Refugee Department of the Foreign Office at London. It is now contended that the refugee camp at Phillippeville can shelter between 2,000 and 3,000 persons in existing barracks, instead of being limited to 300, as reported in the Embassy's despatch no. 1319.

It seems clear, in reference to the proposed survey of refugees, that no expenditure need be incurred on the part of the United States Government.

Respectfully yours,

EDWARD S. CROCKER

Edward S. Crocker,
Charge d'Affaires ad interim.

Enclosure:
AIR MAIL  LONDON, April 2, 1945.

No. 22,107

SUBJECT: Removal of Refugees Now in Portugal.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

With reference to the Department’s Instruction No. 5158 of March 1, 1945, enclosing copies of despatch No. 1319 of January 6, 1945, from the Embassy at Lisbon and of the Department’s airgram No. A-175 of February 22, 1945, in reply thereto, I have the honor to inform the Department that the contents of its airgram No. A-175 was brought to the attention of the Foreign Office on March 12, 1945. The Foreign Office has now replied as follows:

"May I refer to your letter of 12th March about the refugee situation in the Iberian Peninsula?"

I learn from the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees that the survey of refugees mentioned in paragraph 3 of the State Department’s despatch quoted by you has already been largely undertaken by voluntary societies both in Spain and in Portugal. Further, the question of who should pay for such a survey has been superseded by the proposal that the Intergovernmental Committee should undertake operational expenditure in the Iberian Peninsula; a proposal which, I understand, the Intergovernmental Committee submitted to you about 15th February last. The only expenditure involved in making the survey is on a small amount of printing; the existing staff of voluntary agencies can do the work without any increase in staff or salaries. In regard to the penultimate paragraph of the State Department’s communication, there is no intention of any expenditure in this connexion falling on the British or United States Governments outside that arising from their contributions to Intergovernmental Committee operational expenditure.

The/
The further information about Philippeville contained in your letter is now being made available to the British Embassy at Lisbon and Madrid."

Respectfully yours,
For the ambassador:

Carlos J. Warner
Second Secretary of Embassy

CJ:CHA

Copy to American Embassy, Lisbon.
Secretary of State,
Washington.

692, Thirtieth
WRB 372 JDC 208

FOR LEAVITT FROM HAROLD TROBE.

DROTTNINGHOLM arrived left Lisbon yesterday with
133 Turkish Sephardics ex Bergen Belsen on route Istanbul
for exchange. Group left Bergen Belsen March 4 embarked
DROTTNINGHOLM at Goteborg where they received clothing,
food, some money from community. Ship then proceeded
Liverpool where Easter bread, etc. were put aboard.

Group includes 32 women lately interned Ravensbruck two
Auschwitz five Theresienstadt. Understand between 45
and 50 thousand persons still interned Bergen Belsen
many whom lately transferred from camps Poland including
Birkenau. Report group 169 Spanish Sephardics from
Athens still Bergen Belsen but expected leave camp
soon for Switzerland. Ravensbruck has approximately
50 thousand internees among whom 5 thousand Jews mostly
Hungarians. Conditions camps terrible but no basic
change since
-2-3622, Thirtieth, from Lisbon.

Change since last reliable reports but all persons urge food be sent camps. DROTTNINGHOLM group previously resided Italy, France, Holland, Belgium, Germany, Poland and most of them anxious immigrate Palestine. We distributed Board money put fresh fruits aboard attended personal needs passengers. Ship will stop Port Said en route Istanbul.

CROCKER

WTD
LISBON

Reference is made to the Embassy's despatch no. 1319 of January 6, 1945.

For the information of the Embassy it may be stated that, whereas its sources place the capacity of the refugee camp at ralliesville at 200 persons, actually accommodations can be provided at this camp by tents for seven to eight thousand refugees if tents are used in addition to barracks, and that existing barracks can shelter between two and three thousand. Medical facilities are available for 600 patients. These facilities can be doubled in case of an emergency. Under has already made plans for the sheltering and maintenance of 5000 refugees at this camp.

The Department understands that the private relief agencies which are currently providing maintenance for refugees in Portugal and Spain have begun work, without direct reference to the Inter-governmental Committee on Refugees, on a survey of the type proposed in the despatch in order reference with a view to furnishing the Committee with data concerning numbers and kinds of titular refugee and the number and kinds of repatriables, also
also (c) to persuade that Committee, which has funds as well as jurisdiction, to assume the financial obligation of current and subsequent maintenance together with ultimate resettlement and repatriation of the respective groups, both of which are within the scope of its mandate.

The Department also understands that the Committee in question has ample funds, should it desire to complete this survey, to do so without calling on either the British Foreign Office or the Department for financial assistance.

A copy of this airgram is being transmitted to the Embassy at London for its information and for appropriate action.

GUS

ACTING

2/22/45
Subject: Removal of Refugees now in Portugal; Views of British Foreign Office and Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees at London.

Reference is made to your despatch No. 1319 of January 6, 1945.

With respect to paragraphs one and two therein, please be informed that whereas your sources put Philippeville’s capacity at 300 persons, actually accommodations can be provided at that camp by UNRRA to the extent of 7,000 refugees if tents are employed in addition to barracks, and that even existing barracks provide facilities for the shelter of 2,000 refugees. This, quite apart from the fact that medical facilities are available for 600 patients (1,200 in an emergency). In this connection, plans have already been made by UNRRA for the sheltering and maintenance of 2,000 refugees at this camp.

With respect to paragraphs three, four, and five, there is called to your attention the following:

1. It is the Department's understanding that the private relief agencies which are currently providing maintenance for refugees in Portugal and Spain, have, without direct reference to the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, been at work on the survey under reference with the view to (a) furnishing IGC with data as to numbers and kinds of stateless refugees as well as numbers and kinds who are repatriable and (b) persuading IGC, which has funds as well as jurisdiction, to assume the financial obligation of both current and subsequent maintenance together with ultimate resettlement and repatriation of the respective groups, which is within the scope of their mandate.

2. It is also the Department's understanding that IGC has ample funds,
should they be motivated to the conduct of this survey, to underwrite it without reference to either the British Foreign Office or the Department.

The foregoing is being called to the attention of the American Embassy in London with the view to correcting the capacity figure at Philippeville as reported in Lisbon as well as to apprise ICO of the performance of the private agencies with respect to the survey under reference.

Draft submitted to G. L. Warren 2/21/45

PM

PMcGormack 2/19/45
Lisbon, January 6, 1945.

No. 1319

SUBJECT: Removal of Refugees now in Portugal; Views of British Foreign Office and Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees at London.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

In continuation of the Embassy's despatch no. 1071 of October 18, 1944, concerning the care of refugees now in Portugal, and advancing the suggestion that such refugees might be removed to the camp at Fedhala, in North Africa, I have the honor to report that the British Foreign Office has now informed the British Embassy in Lisbon that in London's opinion it would be best that the refugees now in Portugal remain here until it becomes necessary to remove them.

The decision of the British Foreign Office, which is understood to be shared by the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees at London, was apparently partially predicated on the belief that the problem here might solve itself in time. The British Embassy is also informed that the camp at Fedhala has been closed, and the only other alternative, the refugee camp at Philippeville, with a capacity of only 300 persons, is now completely filled and unable to receive more people.

The British Embassy yesterday approached this mission with respect to a communication received through the British Foreign Office from the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees proposing a survey of all refugees in Portugal and in Spain. Such a survey would indicate in each case the previous situation in Europe of the individual in question, his preference as to destination outside of Portugal and the practical possibility of his being able, eventually, to arrive at the destination of his choice. It was anticipated that were the survey to be made, the facilities of relief organizations presently established in Portugal could be enlisted, as well as the facilities of the British and American missions here. A joint Anglo-American list of refugees could then be drawn up, checked for accuracy and,

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.
subsequent to a joint intelligence check, forwarded to the Department and to the Foreign Office for informational purposes.

A copy of the communication of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees addressed to the British Foreign Office proposing this survey has been seen by a member of my staff. The Intergovernmental Committee divides refugees in Portugal into two general categories. The first category consists of refugees who were legally admitted into France or Belgium, but who were not permitted to engage in gainful pursuits in those countries. The second category consists of refugees who not only had a legal residence in France or Belgium, but who also were permitted to work and were thus considered permanent members of the economic community. The Intergovernmental Committee believes that neither France nor Belgium will permit the return of refugees of the first category and that, in view of the past generosity of both countries in giving shelter and protection to refugees, this point should not be pressed. The second category would doubtless be permitted to return.

In discussing the matter of the survey with the British Embassy, the willingness of this mission to cooperate was expressed, with the understanding that no financial commitment could be entered into without prior consultation with the Department. In this respect, the Intergovernmental Committee has undertaken to contribute its share of any necessary financing in connection with the survey. It is not anticipated that the financial burden would be at all unreasonable and the Embassy could receive the comments of the Department on the subject. It is thought that a survey of the kind proposed should be extremely valuable in conjunction with any effort which may be made to dispose of the problem of refugees in Portugal.

Respectfully yours,
For the Ambassador:

Edward H. G. Crocker,
Counselor of Embassy.
Subject: Care for Refugees now in Portugal.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to invite the attention of the Department to a matter which has been giving the Embassy a great deal of concern of late, due to the decision of the War Refugee Board to withdraw its representative from Portugal on or about December 1. The matter concerns plans for refugees still in Portugal who will presumably not be able to leave the country for some time unless some definite action is taken by the authorities of the United Nations.

It is not possible to fix absolutely the number of such refugees but at the present moment there are approximately 700 from various European countries in Portugal who are receiving assistance from the four American private agencies here, the American Friends Service Committee, the Joint Distribution Committee, the Unitarian Service Committee and the Refugee Relief Section of the National Catholic Welfare Council. In addition there are some hundreds of Spanish Republican Refugees. There is also a small number of refugees who are receiving aid from their Consulates, particularly Dutch, Belgians, French and Poles, but these need not concern us at the moment. In addition there is a certain number of refugees who still have funds of their own who are supporting themselves in Portugal. Those also do not present any special problems. I should add that of the seven hundred of refugees above mentioned, most of whom are stateless, approximately five hundred are Jewish.

While there is no legal obligation, either on the part of the United States Government or governments of any of the other United Nations in respect to these people, there is a possible moral obligation. Many of them were admitted to Portugal either at the direct request of the American organizations mentioned or in some cases through the intervention of

cc: Miss Chauncey (For the Soc'y.), Abrahamson, Akzin, Cohn, Drury, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Lossor, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pohlo

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73
By T. H. Fiske Date, SEP 15 1972
the War Refugee Board. It was the understanding of the Portuguese Government in most cases that they would ultimately be evacuated from this country. Portugal, as the Department realizes, has always considered itself a country of transit and not a country of final destination for refugees. It should also be made clear that none of these refugees is permitted to work in Portugal and consequently, for the most part, they are being supported by private funds which come from the United States. Further, the fact that they cannot work and support themselves has resulted in a great deal of moral deterioration. Some of them have definitely taken the position, almost inevitable under the circumstances, that they should be cared for.

A further problem which is very disturbing concerns what is going to happen to these individuals at the end of the war. Some of them ultimately may be returned to the country of their origin and others may conceivably secure visas for other lands. However, this will only be done after very considerable effort on the part of the organizations which are now taking care of them, and it is the feeling of the organizations that if they remain here, the chances of their leaving are very small. Another complicating factor in this connection is that most of the organizations, which for obvious reasons have maintained their European headquarters in Portugal since 1940, will sooner or later be moving their personnel to other areas where there are greater needs, and this will leave this particular group of refugees without anyone to look after their interests. This would not only be unfortunate for the refugees themselves but the Embassy feels that it might present a problem in American-Portuguese relations as the Portuguese might feel that American interests were responsible for bringing these people here and that we have left them holding the bag. A sad aspect of the situation is that these are the refugees who for one reason or another would find it the most difficult to move unless there were considerable pressure behind them.

In view of these facts, the Embassy has not only given considerable thought to what might be done to these unfortunate people but has also consulted the various private agencies involved. It has occurred to the Embassy that if the camp at Fedhala is to be maintained for some time, one solution would be to send as many of these people as possible, excluding those who have possibilities for visas elsewhere or who can perhaps shortly return to their native lands, to Fedhala. There are several obvious advantages to such a plan:

1. There is no question but that the refugees will be far better cared for in the camp at Fedhala than they are here in Portugal at present, and they would be provided with a certain amount of occupation. If they were able to work and opportunities were available, they could possibly be given remunerative employment. In addition, there are in the camp excellent schools for children which are entirely missing here in Portugal and there is good medical and social care.
2. They would have a far better chance of being returned to their homelands or sent elsewhere from Fedhala than they would have here in Portugal. At the end of the war or even sooner, the refugees here would be forgotten. There would be no particular foreign pressure for their care or plans made for their ultimate destination. If they were in Fedhala, obviously the camp would sooner or later be liquidated and careful plans could be made for each individual.

3. This plan would obviously be looked on with favor by the Portuguese authorities and it would inevitably result in a willingness on the part of the Portuguese to grant Portuguese transit visas for other refugees still in occupied territory. It seems true that not many of them would ultimately reach Portugal but the fact that the Portuguese granted visas might save the lives of many in occupied territories even if they never came to Portugal.

Of course, this suggestion is being made only tentatively by the Embassy as it has no definite information as to the plans for Fedhala. At the same time, the Embassy understands that both the British and the American Governments have decided for the time being not to liquidate the camp and it seems that the suggestion, if it were possible to carry it out, would accomplish several results. First, it would sweeten American-Portuguese relations; second, it would fulfill whatever moral obligations the United States and the United Nations have toward these unfortunate peoples; and third, it would give them far better care for the present and infinitely better prospects for the future.

The Embassy should add that reports which it has had regarding Fedhala are excellent. The people there are well cared for and everything possible is being done to set them on their feet. It is impossible to do anything here except simply provide for their maintenance.

There would, of course, be certain difficulties in the way. Some of the refugees who are thoroughly demoralized would not be willing to go voluntarily to a place where they had to work. Others would object to going to a camp. Incidentally, the name might be changed to reception center or something of this sort which would meet that objection. Still others would feel that they had an immediate chance to go back to their homeland when such chance was by no means immediate. All of these problems would have to be met here but the Embassy believes that it would have the cooperation of the private agencies and that it itself could do a good deal in the way of persuasion.

In view of the fact that the Representative of the War Refugees Board is scheduled for withdrawal December 1, and since the major part of the work, if the plan were approved by the authorities concerned, would fall upon him so far as it is an Embassy responsibility, it is hoped that the
Embassy may have the comments of the Department and the War Refugee Board and, if possible, a definite decision at an early date.

It is assumed that the War Refugee Board will be interested in this despatch, and if the Department perceives no objection, it is hoped that it will be transmitted to the Board.

Respectfully yours,

For the Ambassador:

/s/ Edward S. Crocker,
Edward S. Crocker,
Counselor of Embassy
Distribution of notes, reading only by special arrangement.

AGENIASST

LISBON

2656

The cable below is WIB 301.

Please refer to your No. 2675 of September 24 (DEB18)

As you were advised in Department's No. 1118 of July 28

and 2332 of August 24, this Government has guaranteed that

it will arrange for the maintenance in Portugal and the

removal to the United States or to other areas outside

Portugal of all refugees who are admitted to Portugal in

accordance with the terms of these cables. It is the firm

intention of this Government to comply fully with the terms

of this guarantee, should the necessity arise. Until the

number of such refugees and other similar facts are known,

it is neither possible nor desirable to determine exactly

where they will be taken. You may assume that all available

barracks, including facilities, will be used to 90% of this government's

guarantee.

WMR-727/8

26/9/44
Secretary of State,
Washington.

2875, September 14, 5 p.m.

THIS IS WRB 189.

The Embassy has given much thought to the question of destination for refugees admitted to Portugal in accordance with terms of Embassy's notes 498 August 17 and 315 August 31. Would it perhaps be possible to send those who do not receive American visas to Camp Fedhale?

Further NOTEBS telegram 2804, September 14. This might mean postponement of liquidation of camp but seems such definite arrangements seems only possible way to assure affirmative action from Portugal.

WSB

For security reasons the text of this message must be closely guarded.
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement.

AMBASSADOR, 2265

The following is for Averett and Deter from Department and War Refugee Board in NA 74:

(1) In order to take all possible advantage of report set out in Article I of Department 2265 of July 28, 1944, this Government is prepared to take similar action on behalf of relatives of American citizens and resident aliens entitled under the law to nonquota or preference quota immigration status.

(2) Accordingly, consular officers in Portugal are hereby authorized to issue immigration visas to any alien who is the husband, wife, parent, or unmarried minor child of an American citizen and on whose behalf nonquota or preference quota status has been established by the approval by the Department of Justice or a petition filed by such citizen relating, or who, in the case of an unmarried minor child of an alien lawfully admitted into the United States as a permanent resident and as such is entitled to preference immigration status. The issuance of visas is subject to the proviso, however, that (a) such person is not over 16 years of age and (b) such person is not a parent of the alien.

(3) Consular officers in Switzerland, Sweden, Turkey, and Spain are authorized to issue immigration visas to any alien who is the spouse, parent, or unmarried minor child of an American citizen and on whose behalf nonquota or preference quota status has been established by the approval by the Department of Justice or a petition filed by such citizen relating, or who, in the case of an unmarried minor child of an alien lawfully admitted into the United States as a permanent resident and as such is entitled to preference immigration status. The issuance of visas is subject to the proviso, however, that (a) such person is not over 16 years of age and (b) such person is not a parent of the alien.

August 24, 1944

Midnight
for the issuance of a visa will be evacuated as promptly as possible. Similar requests are being made of Switzerland, Spain, Sweden, and Turkey.

(4) Appropriate private agencies are being advised of the foregoing so that the filing of petitions by citizens and resident alien relatives of victims of persecution may be expedited, and names of persons whose status within the categories above mentioned is established will be relayed to you from time to time. If any persons within such categories should arrive in Portugal after Portugal has advised enemy governments in accordance with item 3 above, but prior to any notification to you of the establishment of their status, please advise Board promptly of their names and of the names and addresses of relatives claimed in the United States.

(5) Please keep Department and Board advised of any developments in this program.

 Hull

VIENNA
8/22/44
VD

Mlle. Chammay (for the Society), Abrahamson, Akin, Bernstein, Cohn, Robbins, Drury, Friedman, Garson, Hadel, Laughlin, Lessow, Mann, Mannik, Marks, McCormack, Pfeil, Sergey, Standish, Weinstein, Cable Control Files.
July 26, 1944
10 p.m.

Embassy,
Lisbon

2118

The cable below from Department and Board is War Refugee Board 52:

1. There follows the substance of a message received from
   Ambassador Berns:

   "QUOTE A note from the Foreign Office, dated yesterday, stated that
   according to a telegram from the Swiss Legation at Budapest, authorisation
   has been given by the Government of Hungary for the departure of all Jews
   from Hungary who hold entry permits for another country, including
   Palestine.

   This same message states that transit through occupied territories
   will be permitted by the German Government. As soon as possible the Swiss
   Legation, in collaboration with the Palestinian bureau, Budapest, will take
   necessary measures for evacuation. It is probable that Hungarian police
   passports will constitute travel documents. UNQUOTE"

2. There are a number of persons in enemy-controlled areas to
   whom American visas were issued on and after July 1, 1941, the date
   when present existing procedures and security checks became effective,
   who, by reason of transportation difficulties and the advent
   of war, were unable to make effective use of such visas. It is be-
   lieved that a large proportion of such persons are among those
   groups subject to enemy persecution. In the belief that the
   availability of new American visas for such persons may save their
   lives, the Swiss Government is being requested to advise enemy
   governments that American consuls in neutral countries have
   been authorised to issue an immigration visa to any person to whom
   an American immigration visa was issued on or after July 1, 1941
   and who has been in areas controlled by Germany or any of Germany's
   allies since December 8, 1941, provided that such person presents
   himself to an American consular officer in a neutral country and is
   found not to have been disqualified for the issuance of a visa.

   Accordingly, American consular officers in Portugal are hereby
   authorised to issue new American immigration visas to any such person.
TO WHOM AN AMERICAN VISA WAS ISSUED OR FOR WHOM SUCH VISA WAS AUTHORIZED AFTER JULY 1, 1941, PROVIDED THAT (a) SUCH PERSON OTHER THAN A CHILD UNDER 16 YEARS OF AGE IS FOUND UPON TELEGRAPHIC REFERENCE TO THE DEPARTMENT IN QUESTION TO BE THE SUBJECT OF AN ADVISORY REPORT DATED SUBSEQUENT TO THE PREVIOUS APPROVAL, (b) SUCH PERSON IS NOT AFFIRMATIVELY FOUND BY THE CONSUL TO BE INADMISSIBLE INTO THE UNITED STATES UNDER THE LAW, OR (c) THE CONSEL DOES NOT CONSIDER THE CASE ONE WHICH SHOULD BE RECOMMENDED FOR CONSIDERATION UNDER THE COMMITTEE PROCEDURE.

PLEASE ADVISE APPROPRIATE PORTUGUESE OFFICIALS OF THE FOREGOING AUTHORIZATION AND ATTEMPT TO SECURE THEIR PROMPT AGREEMENT TO ADVISE ENEMY GOVERNMENTS OF PORTUGAL'S WILLINGNESS TO PERMIT THE ENTRY INTO PORTUGAL, WITH OR WITHOUT TRANSIT VISAS, OF ALL PERSONS TO WHOM AMERICAN IMMIGRATION VISES WERE ISSUED ON OR SUBSEQUENT TO JULY 1, 1941. YOU MAY ASSURE SUCH OFFICIALS THAT ANY SUCH PERSONS SO ADMITTED WILL BE ADEQUATELY MAINTAINED AND THAT ANY WHO MAY BE FOUND NOT (REPEAT NOT) TO BE QUALIFIED FOR THE IssUANCE OF A VISA WILL BE EVACUATED AS PROMPTLY AS POSSIBLE. DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE ISSUANCE OF NEW AMERICAN IMMIGRATION VISES PURSUANT TO THE FOREGOING AUTHORITY WILL FOLLOW PROMPTLY. THE SAME REQUEST IS BEING MADE OF SWITZERLAND, TURKEY, SPAIN, SWEDEN, AND PORTUGAL.

3. THERE FOLLOWS THE SUBSTANCE OF THE PERTINENT PORTION OF A MESSAGE TO MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, LONDON:

QUOTE: IN FURTHER RESPONSE TO MESSAGE FROM AGENCY HERE, THE SUBSTANCE OF WHICH IS QUOTED ABOVE, THIS GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO ADVISE THE HUNGARIAN AND NEUTRAL GOVERNMENTS THAT ALL JEWISH ARRIVING IN NEUTRAL COUNTRIES FROM HUNGARY WILL BE OFFERED REFUGE IN UNITED NATIONS TERRITORY JUST AS PROMPTLY AS MILITARY CONSIDERATIONS PERMIT. NEUTRAL GOVERNMENTS WILL BE GIVEN ADEQUATE ASSURANCES AS TO THE MAINTENANCE OF SUCH PERSONS IN THE MEANTIME AND TO BE REQUESTED TO ADVISE THE HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT OF THEIR WILLINGNESS TO RECEIVE SUCH PERSONS. PLEASE ADOPT MEASURES TO ASK FOR INFORMATION FROM THE FOREIGN OFFICE WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM WILL JOIN THIS GOVERNMENT IN THIS ATTEMPT TO SAVE LIVES. AMERICAN MISSIONS IN NEUTRAL COUNTRIES ARE BEING INSTRUCTED TO TAKE APPROPRIATE MEASURES IN COLLABORATION WITH THEIR BRITISH COLLEAGUES, IF POSSIBLE, ALONG IF NECESSARY. BRIEFLY THIS IS THE ESSENCE. BRITISH MISSIONS SHOULD BE INFORMED OF FOREIGN OFFICE WASHINGTON ADEQUATELY. UNQUOTE.

ACCORDINGLY, YOU ARE REQUESTED TO CONSULT WITH YOUR BRITISH COLLEAGUES AND ENSURE IN COLLABORATION WITH THEM OR ALONE.
as the circumstances may develop, approach appropriate officials of the Portuguese Government with the request that Portugal advise the Hungarian Government that it is prepared to receive Jews released by Hungary and permitted to go to Portugal. You may assure appropriate Portuguese officials that if Portugal so advises the Hungarian Government, Jews arriving in Portugal from Hungary will be evacuated to United Nations territory as promptly as possible and that in the meantime the United States will undertake to make arrangements for their maintenance and support in Portugal. You should inform the Department and the Board promptly of the results of your consultation with your British colleague and your approach to the Portuguese government.

4. Please keep department and Board currently advised of all developments and any difficulties you may encounter.

HULL

STEINMUDY
(Acting)
(MG)

cc: Miss Changney (for the snovy), Abramson, Abel, Bernstein, Cohn, DeBois, Friedan, Glick, Gold, Halkin, Lessy, Hann, Marmen, Marks, McConnell, Fein, Sadey, Standish, Weinstain, Files
The Honorable  
The Secretary of State,  
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to my telegram No. 3873,  
November 23, 9 a.m., in reply to the Department's No. 3009,  
November 11, p.m., concerning the situation of the Sephardic Jews at Bergen Belsen, Germany, whose temporary entry into Switzerland it is desired to facilitate and to expedite.

There is transmitted herewith a copy of the memorandum of November 13, 1944, to which my telegram made reference. The Foreign Office official to whom the memorandum was handed stated, as telegraphically reported, that some days before, but after Bern's telegram of November 4 to the Department, instructions had been sent to the Spanish Embassy at Berlin which it was thought already were adequate. However, the Foreign Office would send further instructions to the Spanish Legation at Bern to cooperate with the Swiss Government to the end mutually desired.

The following paragraph relating to the subject memorandum is taken from Foreign Office Note No. 875 of November 16, 1944, which includes reply on the Sephardites with another Jewish question which is engaging the Embassy's attention:

"... appropriate instructions have been transmitted to the Legation of Spain at Bern that the collaboration of the Swiss Government is to be requested to the end of securing the transfer to its territory of a group of Sephardites whose liberation from the Bergen Belsen camp had already concerned the Embassy of Spain at Berlin."

Respectfully yours,

Carlton J. H. Hayes.

Enclosure:

1/ Copy of Embassy's Memorandum of November 13, 1944, to Foreign Office.

File No. 800
FFP:phf

Single copy to Dept.  
(for Ozalid machine),  
Copy to Legation, Bern.
MEMORANDUM

Reference is made to the memorandum left at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on September 25, 1944, by Mr. Bond concerning the precarious situation of some 155 Sephardic Jews at Bergen-Belsen, Germany, who are in the possession of Spanish passports but whose departure for Switzerland is being impeded by Nazi authorities.

It will be recalled that in the ensuing discussion of this matter, Mr. Bond was informed that instructions had already been sent by the Ministry to the Embassy at Berlin and to the Legation at Bern that the efforts of those missions should be directed to endeavoring to arrange for the temporary admission of these persons into Switzerland.

The Embassy has lately had telegraphic information from the Department of State stating, in effect, that permission for the entry into Switzerland of the Sephardic Jews in question was given by the Swiss Federal Police several weeks ago and that the problem of securing their release from Bergen-Belsen is of principal present concern. The telegraph continues that the Government of Switzerland would welcome and would be assisted by a formal request from the Spanish Government, as the Swiss might then have a basis for taking up with the German Government the specific question of the departure of the Sephardic group from Germany.

The Embassy is confident that, in view of the overwhelming humanitarian issue, the Spanish Legation at Bern will be appropriately and promptly instructed by the Ministry to approach the Swiss Government in the sense indicated in the immediately preceding paragraph.

Madrid, November 16, 1944.
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, Madrid
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: November 20, 1944 (Rec'd 2:42 a.m., 20th)
NUMBER: 2973

CONTROL COPY

Following request to Bern,

Reference is made herewith to Department's cable of November 11, no. 3068.

In memorandum and discussion at Foreign Office on November 15 the situation of Sephardic Jews at Bergenbelsen was treated.
The Embassy was informed that adequate covering instructions had been sent to the Spanish Embassy in Berlin subsequent to Bern cable November 4 quoted by the Department but that additional instructions/would be sent to the Spanish Minister at Bern.

The November 16 Foreign Office note confirmed that appropriate instructions have been sent to the Spanish Legation in Bern to request the Swiss Government's collaboration to the end of obtaining the transfer to Swiss territory of the group of Sephardites in whose liberation from the Bergenbelsen camp interest had already been taken by the Spanish Embassy in Berlin.

HAYES

DEC: YAG 11/30/44

DECLASSIFIED
State Sect. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972
Reference your 3840 of November 3. The following is the substance of a message from Amlegation Bern dated November 4.

QUOTE Swiss Federal Police gave permission some weeks ago for entry into Switzerland of 150 Sephardie Jews. Getting them out of Bergen Belsen is the present problem. Formal request from Spanish Government concerning this group would be welcomed by Swiss. Specific raising by Swiss of question with Germans of their departure might thus be successful. END QUOTE

Please take necessary steps to ensure Spanish action in accord with foregoing suggestion.

STULLBUS (GMM)

CONTROL COPY

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

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

308728
CARLS TO EMBASSY, MADRID, SPAIN

Reference your 3840 of November 3. The following is the substance of a message from Amelagion Bern dated November 4:

"Permission for entry into Switzerland for 155 Sephardic Jews was obtained from Swiss Federal Police some weeks ago. Problem is how to get them out of Bergen Belsen. Swiss would welcome formal request from Spanish Government concerning this group as this might permit Swiss to specifically raise question of their departure with Germans."

Please take necessary steps to ensure Spanish action in accord with foregoing suggestion.

4:45 p.m.
November 10, 1944

Miss Chauncy (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Ackerman, John, Dafois, Friedman, Hodel, Lesser, Mannon, McCormack, Files

[Signature: L. S. L. Joe]
October 2 that Embassy on its own initiative suggested to Spanish Government on September 25 desirability of letters endeavoring to arrange for temporary entry into Switzerland of 155 Sephardic Jews mentioned in Department's 2904 October 28. Foreign Office official states that instructions in pursuance of Embassy's suggestion have already been sent to Berlin and are being sent also to Spanish Minister in Bern.

HAYES
AMERICAN EMBASSY
MADRID
2904 X

Reference is made to Department's 2519 of September 11.

In view of difficulty of transportation of 185 Sephardic in
bergenbelsen to Spain, it is requested that the Spanish
government exercise its good offices to obtain their release
from Germany and temporary admission into Switzerland. It
would be appreciated by this Government if requests to that
effect were made by Spanish missions in Berlin and in Bern.

American Minister in Bern has been instructed to support
request to that end from his Spanish colleague.

STETTINUS
ACTING
(Acting)

[Signature]

10/27/44

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks into, SEP 15  1972
CABLE TO AMBASSADOR, MADRID, SPAIN

Reference is made to Department's 2619 of September 11.
In view of difficulty of transportation of 155 Sephardic's in Belsen-bergren to Spain, it is requested that the Spanish government exercise its good offices to obtain their release from Germany and temporary admission into Switzerland. It would be appreciated if this government if requests to that effect were made by Spanish missions in Berlin and in Bern. American Minister in Bern has been instructed to support request to that end from his Spanish colleague.

11:03 a.m.,
October 27, 1944

Bakzin 10/25/44
Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, Daniel, Friedman, Hodel, Jasser, Manning, McCormack, Files
Department and Legation Board are advised that there are in Casa Prensa, near Havana, about 150 Segovia Jews having Spanish passports whose entry into Spain has been promised by the Spanish Government and for whom, it is understood, exit permits are now available.

In view of imminent danger to lives of these persons, you are requested to intercede with Spanish government to bring about their release and admission into Spain.

Assurances previously given regarding speedy evacuation of refugees from Spanish territory fully apply to these persons.

Should transportation be impossible in view of military developments, please urge Spanish Government to exercise greatest possible vigilance in safeguarding the lives of these persons, by placing them under direct protection of Spanish diplomatic or consular personnel and by all other appropriate methods.

Bull

(162)

LEGATION
9/17/44

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1/11/72
By R. P. Harris Date SEP 15 1972
Subject: Transmitting Copy of Memorandum Presented by Embassy to Ministry of Foreign Affairs Concerning Group of 155 Sephardic Jews Interned in Germany

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington,

With reference to the Department's telegram No. 2519 of September 11, 1944, 10 p.m., concerning the precarious situation of a group of approximately 155 Sephardic Jews, in possession of Spanish passports, who are reported to be interned at Belsen-Bergen in Germany pending completion of arrangements for their onward travel to Spain, I have the honor to enclose a copy of a memorandum dated September 25, 1944 which the Embassy has presented to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on this subject, in which the hope is expressed that the Spanish Government will use every means at its disposal to facilitate the transfer of these persons to Spain and that, in the meantime, it will exercise the greatest vigilance in protecting them from persecution at the hands of the German authorities. It will be noted that the suggestion is made in the Embassy's memorandum that, should the early transfer of this group to Spain prove to be impracticable, the Spanish Government endeavor to arrange for their temporary entry into Switzerland, information having been brought to the Embassy's attention through the representatives of private American charitable organizations to the effect that the Swiss Government is disposed to accord sympathetic consideration to a proposal of that nature.

An official of the Ministry has stated, in response to the considerations set forth in the Embassy's Memorandum, that the Spanish Government is actively concerning itself with the welfare of the persons in question, and that it will continue to make every effort to have them brought safely out of Germany custody at the earliest possible moment.

Respectfully yours,

Carlton J. H. Hayes

Enclosure:
Memorandum, as stated

File No. 800

Original to Department
(Control Copy)
(For Osvald machine)
Copy to Tangier
Enclosure to despatch No. 3169 dated October 2, 1944 from
Carlton J. H. Hayes, American Ambassador, At Madrid, Spain,
on subject of Group of 155 Sephardic Jews Interned in Germany.

MEMORANDUM

The Embassy has been informed that there are
interned at the present time in a camp near Belsen
Bergen in Germany a group of approximately one hundred
and fifty-five Sephardic Jews, in possession of Spanish
passports, whose entry into Spain has already been
agreed to by the Spanish Government and the appropriate
German authorities but whose onward transportation to
Spanish territory has been held up by recent military
developments. Assuming the above-mentioned facts to
be essentially accurate, the United States Government
desires to express the hope that the Spanish Government
will use every means at its disposal to facilitate the
transfer of these persons to Spain and, in the meantime,
will exercise the greatest vigilance in safeguarding them
from possible persecution at the hands of the German
authorities.

Should the early transfer of this group to Spain
prove to be impracticable, the Embassy would suggest
the possible desirability of the Spanish Government's
efforts to arrange for their temporary entry into
Switzerland until such time as other more permanent
arrangements can be made on their behalf, it being
understood that the Swiss Government has given evidence
of its willingness to accord sympathetic consideration to
such a proposal of that nature.

The United States Government wishes to repeat, in
connection with the possible arrival of such persons in
Spain, its previous assurances concerning the evacuation
of such persons, should such be the desire of the Spanish
Government.

Madrid, September 25, 1944.

MWB/30

735
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement.

Secretary of State, Washington.

2982, September 14, 7 p.m.

MEMO FROM DEXTER FOR PEHLE

There will be everything pending could be cleared by December first or earlier, provided Mexican and United States transit visas for Spanish Republican refugees here are received soon. Please push. One ship for Palestine definitely arranged for October and second pending. By December or earlier Hungarian refugee question will be cleared one way or other. Refugees remaining here must be left to care of private organizations as neither UNRRA nor Inter-Governmental Committee function in Portugal. REURTAL 2493, September 12.

Therefore suggest December first as date for conclusion VRB activities, although earlier date may be possible for Dexter if he were urgently needed elsewhere. Videm should probably stay till December first and Dexter would gladly, if desired, give her guidance in clearing.

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

CONTROL COPY
2-#2882, September 14, 7 p.m., from Lisbon.

Decks if he were available. Terminus ad quem depends largely on speed arrival Mexican and United States transit visas and possibilities transport. Thanks notification Unitarians of Dexter's and Widen's availability. If one or both not needed in Europe will make plans to return United States early December. Sincerely appreciate words of thanks for services.

NORWEB

JT
Department and War Refugee Board are advised that there are in one detention camp near Hanover about 150 Jewish refugees having Czech passports whose entry into Spain has been promised by the Spanish Government and for whom, it is understood, exit permits are now available.

In view of imminent danger to lives of these persons, you are requested to interfere with Spanish government to bring about their release and admission into Spain.

Assurances previously given regarding speedy evacuation of refugees from Spanish territory fully apply to these persons.

Should transportation be impossible in view of military developments, please urge Spanish Government to exercise greatest possible vigilance in safeguarding the lives of these persons, by placing them under direct protection of Spanish diplomatic or consular personnel and by all other appropriate methods.
CABLE TO AMBASSADOR, MADRID, SPAIN

Department and Bureau are advised that there are in camp Belsenberg near Hanover about 150 Sephardic Jews having Spanish passports whose entry into Spain has been promised by the Spanish government and for whom, it is understood, exit permits are not available.

In view of imminent danger to lives of these persons, you are requested immediately and vigorously to intercede with Spanish government to bring about their release and admission into Spain. Assurances previously given regarding speedy evacuation of refugees from Spanish territory fully apply to these persons.

Should transportation as impossible in view of military developments, Spanish government should be urged to exercise greatest possible vigilance in safeguarding the lives of these persons, by placing them under direct protection of Spanish diplomatic or consular personnel and by all other appropriate methods.

4:30 p.m.
September 9, 1944

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

Bakwin 9/9/44
Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Dr. Joseph Schmetz was received through the American Legation in Lisbon under date of August 29, 1944:

"View your cable and similar message from MBR we have instructed our representatives Spain discontinue further efforts to bring out either adults or children from France through Spain. We are in agreement with the decisions taken in this matter. Are now concentrating our efforts to transport to Palestine visa holders in Iberian Peninsula and Tangiers, especially the children and young people who arrived in recent months from France. In this connection we have possibility of Spanish ship to Palestine sometime in September concerning which will advise more fully next days also continue negotiations for Portuguese steamer which will transport balance Palestine certificate holders these areas and make possible complete evacuation all Palestine visa holders. There are in Burgos about 125 Sephardic Jews having Spanish passports whose entry into Spain has been promised by the Spanish Government and for whom we understand exit permits are now available. We believe it of utmost importance that American Embassy, Madrid, intervenes vigorously with Spanish Government to effect release of these people and their admission into Spain. In order do this it may be necessary give guarantee to Spanish Government that this group will be rescued from Spain within reasonable time. We urge you undertake all necessary steps your end. We doing everything possible from here."

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

J. W. Peble
Executive Director

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

[Handwritten note]"SEP 2 44"
we have instructed our representatives in Spain to discontinue further efforts to bring out either adults or children from France through Spain. We are in agreement with the decisions taken in this matter. We are now concentrating our efforts on transport to Palestine visa holders in Iberian Peninsula and Tangiers, especially the children and young people who arrived in recent months from France. In this connection we have the possibility of Spanish ship to Palestine sometime in September concerning which will advise more fully next days also continue negotiations for Portuguese steamer which will transport balance Palestine certificate holders these areas and make possible complete evacuation.
Twenty-ninth, 7 p.m., from Lisbon

Evacuation all Palestine visa holders. There are in Bergenbelsen about 155 Sephardic Jews having Spanish passports whose entry into Spain has been promised by the Spanish Government and for whom we understand exit permits are now available. We believe it of utmost importance that American Embassy, Madrid, intervene vigorously with Spanish Government to effect release of these people and their admission into Spain. In order to do this it may be necessary give guarantee to Spanish Government that this group will be removed from Spain within reasonable time. We urge you undertake all necessary steps at your end. We doing everything possible from here.

NORWEB

ECO
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement.

Secretary of State, Washington.

2657, August 29, noon (SECTION ONE OF TWO).

Referring first paragraph agree that rescue operations through Spain and Portugal now unnecessary and unwise. Have communicated your decision all private organizations concerned and they all state that no further efforts will be made to rescue either children or adults from France through Spain and are so notifying their representatives. Repeat 2331

VRB 81, August 24. THIS VRB 166 FOR PEBBLE FROM DEXTER.

Answering your inquiry unfinished tasks before

VRB here are (A) evacuation Spanish Republican refugees from Portugal on which some beginning has been made.

Repeat 1619, June 24 and following telegrams same subject. Mexico City and Washington both dilatory. If political situation should change this task unnecessary. Should not take more than three months if responses come quickly. Procedure once established by Board might be left to consular section in less than three months. (B) War Refugee Board should help with evacuation

Declassified
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
evacuation to Palestine of Jewish refugees now in Spain and Portugal. Indications now are that ship may be available October. (C) WRB should probably be represented here as long as Lisbon remains headquarters for Europe for private American agencies. All agencies planning to leave but time for departure will depend on when they can enter France or Switzerland. (D) While Government has no specific obligation it would help create good feelings with Portugal if every effort were made within next few weeks to evacuate as many as possible of refugees now here and to see that best possible arrangements were made for care of residue. In view various notes sent Portuguese Government at instigation of WRB, Board has moral if not legal obligation to assist every way possible.

NORWEB

EDA
Secretary of State,

Washington.

2657, August 29, noon (SECTION TWO)

(E) In view Embassy's assurances to Portuguese Government, arrangements should be made for any Hungarian Jewish refugees who arrive here. Very doubtful their arrival however.

Believe all above could be accomplished or put in trains or that they could be cared for by regular diplomatic staff within three months possibly two.

Suggest that Dexter and Widon could at end of that period or possibly before (one) go to France representing WRB if Mann's negotiations admit that possibility; (two) accept any assignment elsewhere which WRB or Department makes; (three) if Unitarian Service Committee desires their services here or elsewhere they could return to previous employment; (four) if no longer needed in Europe by WRB, Department or USC they be returned home and resign from service. Urge once more importance of

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 11-73
By R. H. Fiske Date, SEP 15 1972
-2-#2556, August 29, noon (SECTION TWO) from Lisbon.

importance of American representative in France whether under WRB or other auspices as soon as possible to pre-
vent duplication of refugee situation that occurred in
Italy. Hope Mann's trip to England will result in staff
going there soon.

(END OF MESSAGE)

WPS

ER.
Secretary of State,

Washington.

2662, Twenty-ninth, 7 a.m.

For L. Vitt From Schwartz JDC 59 4/20 169

View your cable and similar message from DdB

we have instructed our representatives in Spain to discontinue further efforts to bring out either adults or children from France through Spain. We are in agreement with the decisions taken in this matter. Are now concentrating our efforts to facilitate the transport to Palestine of visa holders in Iberian Peninsula and Tangiers, especially the children and young people who arrived in recent months from France. In this connection we have the possibility of a Spanish ship to Palestine sometime in September concerning which will advise more fully next days also continue negotiations for Portuguese steamer which will transport balance Palestine certificate holders these areas and make possible completion of evacuation.
-2- #2662, Twenty-ninth, 7 p.m., from Lisbon

evacuation all Palestine visa holders. There are
in Bergenbelsen about 368 Sephardic Jews having
Spanish passports whose entry into Spain has been
promised by the Spanish Government and for whom
we understand exit permits are now available. We
believe it of utmost importance that American
Embassy, Madrid, intervene vigorously with Spanish
Government to effect release of these people and
their admission into Spain. In order to do this it
may be necessary give guarantee to Spanish Government
that this group will be removed from Spain within
reasonable time. We urge you undertake all necessary
steps your end. We doing everything possible from
here.

NORMEB

EEO
The following is for Ambassador from Peble.

Recent military developments lead me to believe that at this time there are no longer the possibilities of doing important rescue work from Spain which formerly existed. In view of such developments the War Refugee Board has decided that James H. Mann would be able to do more effective work from London for the rescue of persons in imminent danger of death. Accordingly Mann will be presently situated at the American Embassy in London and will not come to the American Embassy in Madrid as Special Attache on refugee matters. However, it is possible that if in the future important problems arise in that area he may if you perceive no objection come to Madrid from London in the same capacity as on his previous trip there. I extend to you my appreciation for your having consented to receive Mann as an Attache to the Embassy.
The following W&N cable no. 81 is for Dexter from Fehle.

In view of recent military developments in France, the War Refugees Board feels that no further efforts should be made to rescue either children or adults from France through Spain. This matter has been discussed with Dr. Nahum Goldman who agreed and it is understood that the JDC is cabling its Lisbon office along the lines of the Board's decision. You should advise those persons and organizations in Portugal interested in rescue operations of this decision of the Board and ask them to advise their associates in Spain. In the event that any persons of such or organizations are planning to continue such rescue work from France through Spain you should promptly advise me by cable.

Since the above-mentioned rescue operations are ended insofar as the Board is concerned, I would appreciate your views concerning what, if any, worthwhile projects consistent with the Executive Order creating the Board remain to be carried out in or from Portugal.

With

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 7411-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972
-2-3331, August 24, 11 p.m., to Lisbon

With reference your WMB 184 (Embassy's No. 2809), Mann is going to England shortly where he will study problem and submit recommendations to the Board for its consideration regarding any action which it should take.

(GLW)

WMB: KMW: KG
8/24/44

WE
TO AMBASSADOR NORWEB FOR DIXTER FROM PERLE.

In view of recent military developments in France the War Refugee Board feels that no further efforts should be made to rescue either children or adults from France through Spain. This matter has been discussed with Dr. Nahum Goldman who agreed and it is understood that the JDC is canceling its Lisbon office along the lines of the Board's decision. You should advise those persons and organizations in Portugal interested in rescue operations of this decision of the Board and ask them to advise their associates in Spain. In the event that any of such persons or organizations are planning to continue such rescue work from France through Spain you should promptly advise me by cable.

Since the above-mentioned rescue operations are ended insofar as the Board is concerned, I would appreciate your views concerning what, if any, worthwhile projects consistent with the Executive Order creating the Board remain to be carried out in or from Portugal.

With reference your WAB 154 (Embassy's No. 2609), Mann is going to England shortly where he will study problem and submit recommendations to the Board for its consideration regarding any action which it should take.

THIS IS WAB LIGSBN CABLE NO. 81

JIMANN:des
August 23, 1944
5:10 p.m.
August 23, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Nannon, McCormack, Cable Control Files
Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Doctor Schwartz (JDC No. 46) has been received through the American Embassy in Lisbon:

"Additional number 35 adults just came into Spain over mountains. Among them were parents of 3 children previously rescued. Total rescued now 402."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

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

Philadelph 8/9/44
THIS IS WRB 140 JDC 46 FOR LEAVITT FROM SCHWARTZ

Additional number 35 adults just came into Spain over mountains. Among them were parents of 3 children previously rescued. Total rescued now 402.
Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Mr. Pilpel was received from Lisbon under date of July 27, 1944:

"JDC J.D. Further our 27 total recent arrivals Spain now 360 including 31 children without parents."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

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

PH:lab 7/29/44 red
SECRETARY OF STATE
Washington.

2326 twenty-seventh, 6 p.m. JUL 28 44.
FOR LEVITT FROM PILPEL

JMB 122 JDC 36. Further our 275 total recent arrivals Spain now 360 including 31 children without parents.

JTH
For Lehman from Cochran UNRRA. For Mershikov. No. 2
Subject visit Philippeville. Site excellent altho in part
slightly malarious.

1. Capacity planned for 8000 possible expansion to 40,000.
2. accommodations; present buildings adequate for administrative,
kitchens, storage etc., also some recreational and provision for hous­
ing 3000 refugees balance planned for 150 pound tents.
3. Medical 600 beds being established already equipped to con-
considerable extent. Italian and refugee doctors aid to be available.
UNRRA head Doctor enroute can report further on this subject.
4. General. APO believes strongly that camp would be made avail­
able at once to meet possible need perhaps temporary, but definitely in
reserve. They desire that UNRRA be ready to assume responsibility as
early as possible for need if it arises. In this decision facilities
in Middle East camps and possible the less probable use of locations
in Italy were considered. They say if and when there is better alternative
first consideration will be given it. That in meantime no solution other
than above appears practicable. In any event wherever located additional
personnel needed. From here I think above position sound but desire to
withhold full comments until after I have had conversation with Mershikov
in Cairo. Will depart for there as soon as possible after arrival

UNRRA
personnel mentioned your number one. Please advise if they have left or probable date of leaving that I may plan trip accordingly. Repeated to UNRRA Cairo as No. 100 and to London as No. 252.

CHAPIN

sent: do
el
Secretary of State,
Washington,

1459, 15th, noon.

WRB 35. FOR LEAVITT JOINED FROM ROBERT FELPE.

Jules Jefroykin Spain leader group 55 adults
followed by 11 more total 66. Total recently arrived
Spain 200, all our care.

NORWEB

EJH
MEV
MAY 18, 1944

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Robert Pilpel was received from Lisbon under date of May 18, 1944:

"Jules Jefroykin Spain leader group 55 adults followed by 11 more total 66. Total recently arrived Spain 200, all our care."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J.W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Moses A. Leavitt,
Secretary,
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,
New York, New York.
This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government agency.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

1166, April 19, 11 P.M., (SECTION ONE)

S.P.E. number one.

Special instructions regarding granting of visas to rescue children noted. Instructions have been sent to consular offices under this legation. In view of difficulties in getting children out it is doubtful if any large number will be available before July 1, 1944. Department's 1017 April 12.

Legation has advised Portuguese Government of arrangements made and has requested it to grant necessary transit visas and hospitality; also that arrangements for financing children in Portugal will be undertaken by War Refugee Board. Will advise later reactions.

We are in contact with Isaac Weizmann regarding plans for reception centers. See Department's telegram 1048, April 15. Extensive plans not necessary now but may be later. Will keep you advised of developments. Think reception will not present great difficulties.

Isaac Weizmann, representative of World Jewish Congress, is attempting to bring 6000 hidden children clandestinely out of France through Spain to Portugal, and 3000 others who are registered in France; the latter, if possible, through legal channels. He must have War Refugee Board's cooperation, both financial and practical, otherwise promising plans may fail. Advise giving him all cooperation possible.

NORIE:

WEB

CC: Miss Chauncey (for the Society), Mr. Abrahamson, Mr. Akzin, Mr. Bernstein, Mrs. Cohn, Mr. Dubois, Mr. Friedman, Mr. Gaston, Miss Hodel, Miss Laughlin, Mr. Issac, Mr. Luxford, Mr. Mann, Mrs. Hoffman, Mrs. Marks, Mr. McCormack, Mr. Paul, Mr. Pohle, Mr. Pollock, Mr. Reina, Mr. Sargent, Mr. Smith, Mr. Standish, Mr. Stewart, Dr. Weinstein, Mr. H. D. White, Files.
December 12

Dear [Sender's Name],

This telegraph must be completed before being transmitted to anyone other than a Governmental agency.

Respectfully,

[Your Signature]

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

December 12, 1941

The problem has now been sufficient funds to finance projects. Estimate each child to be $35 per month. The exact number of children per month may lead to a possibility of increased production of $250,000. In the event the Board prepares to guarantee those children to all persons in need, this would involve $3,000,000; however, we doubt any such number. Considerable funds must be available immediately as only small groups are expected through within a few days. Request immediate authorization to exceed up to $100,000 on this project. Cable reply soon.

It is of interest to the world Jewish Congress to send Jewish children to the United States. The only conflict between John's and non-Jewish Jewish organizations regarding ultimate destination of children. From here it seems better for the purpose to send children to Palestine than to United States. Would suggest original plan be carried through unless strong objection your part. We will clear directives from Department and SFH on this point. Cable advice.

Any publicity regarding plans/condition evaporation from us would call upon concerted action. Publicity any project must be correctly utilized and caution should be exercised in advance. Although response for publicity a visible, thereof will ensure most effective work.

END MESSAGE.

HONORS

60: Miss Cheaney (For the Society), Mr. Abrahamson, Mr. Akrim, Mr. Bernabe, Mrs. Cohn, Mr. Dubois, Mr. Friedman, Mr. Wax, Miss Holden, Miss Laughlin, Mr. Loomer, Mr. Larkin, Mr. Mann, Mrs. Mann, Mr. Marks, Mr. McCormack, Mr. Paul, Mr. Pollock, Mr. Reing, Mr. Sargey, Mr. Smith, Mr. Stauduh, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Weinstein, Mr. H. D. White. All
Call April 19, 1944
This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government agency.

AMERICA
MADRID

1006

In an endeavor to cause the Spanish and Portuguese Governments to give refuge to additional refugee children from France, the following special instructions relating to the issuance of visas to refugee children are issued pursuant to Section 283.28(a)(15) of the Regulations of November 19, 1941 as amended regarding aliens entering the United States.

Consular officers in Spain and Portugal are authorized to issue, during the present quota year in the aggregate up to one thousand immigration visas to refugee children from France who shall have arrived in Spain and Portugal in or after January 1, 1944 and before July 1, 1944. This latter date may be extended by specific instruction from the Department. The visas are to be issued to the children without regard to the question of availability of spaces or transportation to the United States and without regard to religion, nationality or stateless status. The children covered by this instruction shall be under sixteen years of age at the time of the issuance of the visas and are, of course, subject to the statutory immigration requirements of Section 3 of the Act of February 5, 1929, except that they may be considered to meet the public charge requirements in view of the fact that the Attorney General has found that satisfactory arrangements have been made for their support. In connection with the determination of questions under Section 283.47 of the Regulations of November 19, 1941, as amended, regarding aliens entering the United States, the existence of the relationships described in Section 283.45 thereof shall not be considered. Replace visas may be issued during the same quota year to those children who are under sixteen years of age at the time of the issuance of such replace visas. Subject to the quota law it is the Department's intention to assign numbers from next year's quota to cover visas issued pursuant to this instruction under this year's quota. The foregoing further assumes no permanent adverse change in policy with respect to children who have passed their sixteenth birthday in the interim desiring to obtain new or replace visas should be reported to the Department for further instructions. Children under 14 years of age need not be registered and fingerprinted.

The Embassy at Madrid will be the supervisory and central office for the assignment of quota numbers to offices in Spain and Portugal. For this purpose the following inclusive nonpreference quota numbers are allotted to Madrid.
The visas may be issued at the rate of one-third of each allotment per month. Consolidated quota reports should be submitted by telegraph by Madrid at the end of each month returning any unused numbers and giving name of child, quota number, date and place of issuance. If additional quota numbers of the countries mentioned or of any other country are desired, they should be requested by telegraph. Estimate by telegraph before June 30 last estimate of quota numbers needed for fiscal year 1944-1945. Inform consular officers in Spain and Portugal. Advise the appropriate Spanish and Portuguese authorities regarding this instruction and state that it is the earnest hope of this Government that the Spanish and Portuguese Governments will promptly take such action, direct or indirect as will facilitate and expedite the movement of children from France. You may also inform the Spanish and Portuguese Governments that the Far East Bureau will undertake to arrange for any financing that may be necessary to provide maintenance for refugees from enemy oppression arriving in Spain and Portugal.

Report Spanish and Portuguese reaction and any Department advised regarding developments in this matter which may be of interest. Repeated to LUSICK at Lisbon.

[Code Text: Please report the foregoing telegrams to our DEPARTMENT by telegraph with the following opening. Forward: "The following was sent to [Name of Department's Name] on [Date]"

[Additional code text: VENICE 190, 4/13/39, to [Name of Department's Name], via [Other Department's Name], [Other Department's Address].

[Signature: [Signature of Author]]

Your Request 23rd 9 p.m.

Refugee Jewish refugees on our rolls after inventory refugee group approximately by 250 number
2,000 refugees including about 1000 females
1,000 leaving estimate 150 said 1 of this group
Hoping to estimate another refugees again as our situation
worse unless but total does not exceed 450 unloading
of Jewish refugees who being constantly examined.
Of total 150 refugees our rolls 355 have applied for
North African camp but French authorities have rejected
approximately 10 percent making total likely to be
moved about 470 which will include at least 386.
Refugee group. Believe many others might be willing
do away after first group leaves provided French
authorities accept additional groups but must point
out very little enthusiasm among refugees for any type
of camp and difficult for Deicholmen or us utilize mission
especially view uncertainty regarding right to work
and other conditions which will prevail. Also many
refugees especially Barcelona have close relatives in
France whom they feel they can help from Spain there-
fore refuse to leave in any group from which contact
impossible. Even nevertheless cooperated fully and
you may be certain we shall try get out maximum
number without using undue pressure.

Signature

Joseph Schwarts

Miss Chauncey (Fore the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Kaisin, Bernstein, Cohn,
Friedman, Friedman, Gishon, Haas, Haas, Hens, Lander, Rich, Mora,
Holman, Paul, Pfeiler, Pollak, Reiner, Sachs, Smith, Standish,
Stewart, Web, Ylles.
With respect to your telegram of February 23, 1944, I appreciate the earnest and urgent action taken in relation to the Spanish Board of Commissioners. The Spanish Board wishes to point out that these measures will not be the only means to which Spain can be removed from Spain. The Board will consider them in present for other reasons and you should report on.

The Board knows that the number of voluntary exiles entering Spain from occupied areas is relatively small at this present time but the Board desires to inform you that it is taking vigorous steps at the present time with the United Nations and the United Nations Commission to accelerate expected voluntary exiles from Spain and other neutral countries from occupied areas. The Board will continue to take all possible action to this end. In any event, in the coming months the exiles from Spain are certain to increase.

The Board believes that Spain is most likely to receive substantial numbers of refugees during the coming spring as a result of the pressure now being brought to bear on the Axis. The Board is extremely anxious that the Government of Spain be relieved of as many problems as possible connected with this influx, including supply and evacuation of refugees. Therefore the following plan of proposed operations in Spain is submitted by the Board for your consideration, advice, and comment and such action as is indicated.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 5/17/45
By R. H. Parker Date, SEP 15 1972
All the SICOC's operations in Spain, including the setting up and maintenance of refugee camps, would be supervised by the Spanish Attaché to your Embassy under your direction. He would have assigned to him a small staff which might include transportation, supply and finance officers. As a base for operations the SICOC and his small staff might use Madrid. It is proposed that an early or establishment centers be established along the French border should the volume of refugees so warrant. If each of these centers a supervisory function in refugee work should be in charge. Such supervisory would have a small staff. There would also be attached to such center a medical officer and possibly a small nursing staff. Important portions of the staff of each center would be a qualified Security Officers approved by the War Department. These Security Officers would be attached to the respective center or centers which are to be in charge. These Security Officers would be in constant contact with the War Department and would be expected to establish and maintain close contact with the U.S. officials in Madrid. They would be expected to provide the War Department with information of any military security that may be considered. They would be expected to maintain the morale and safety of the refugees in the centers. Their duties can be further defined by the War Department in their supervision of the operation.

The function of the present plan for reception is to provide care, shelter, and protection.

(3) The refugees will require immediate relief. In food, clothing and medical attention since they have passed the Spanish border as many of them will have previously been in hiding in France and have been subject to the harassment there. Over the mountain, on foot, the refugees would be brought out of the populated population areas, into Madrid, so far as possible. The attention paid to the presence of refugees would also be reduced by the presence of the proposed centers.

(4) The function of the centers near the border would result in close cooperation between the staff of the center and the Spanish Attache's staff. The refugees would remain in the centers only so long as to assure medical officers that they are in condition to travel to other for temporary temporary reception and to supply them with current travel documents when
Since the basic plan is to move these refugees who may enter Spain from occupied areas to North Africa as rapidly as possible, it is hoped that the French authorities will assign to the reception centers appropriately qualified officers to screen the refugees for security and to affix to their travel documents the necessary visas. In regard to the problem of screening, it is of course possible and probable that many agents may try to enter Spain as refugees. Therefore, it is most desirable that when any agents are identified by the security officers, such identification not be disclosed in Spain but the agents be removed to North Africa for apprehension. This policy has been used in the past with respect to enemy agents and it is clearly preferable that they be held in restraint by United Nations forces only without threat of liberty in a neutral country.

It is requested that you report any objection which you may have raised by the Spanish government to the establishment of these centers in the following manner:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]
To: The Secretary of State, Washington
Date: March 25, 1944

SUBJECT: The Atrocities in Spain

Enclosed is a part of a longer dispatch which has been delivered to the Secretary of State by the Resident Coordinator in Madrid, Mr. John G. McVay. The document details the atrocities committed by the Nationalists in Spain and the need for immediate action to prevent further atrocities. The dispatch also highlights the importance of maintaining the assistance provided to the Spanish Republican government.

I regret to inform you that the situation in Spain has deteriorated significantly since our last communication. The Nationalists' continued efforts to suppress the Republican movement have resulted in widespread suffering and loss of life. It is imperative that we take immediate action to address this crisis.

Please find attached a copy of the document for your review.

Sincerely,

R. H. Parks DAVID

cc: Miss Chamberlain (For the Sec'y), Aikin, Bernstein, Cohn, Dubois, Friedman, Gasken, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mans, McCormack, Paul, Pollock, Raines, Standish, Stewart, H. D. White, Pfeffer, Files.
Given below is the substance of License No. A-2156 issued to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee of New York City by the Treasury Department. It is requested that the substance of this license be transmitted urgently to Mr. Samuel Samarra, 338 representative, whose address is Hotel Bristol, Barcelona.

(1) Notwithstanding General Ruling No. 11, authorization is hereby granted to your representative in Spain, together with such agents as he may appoint, to communicate with persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory by any means which he may deem expedient or necessary for the purpose of arranging the evacuation, to such areas of safety or relative safety as may be selected by such representatives of persons in such territory as imminent danger or threat of death and to arrange for the safeguarding and maintenance of such persons until such evacuation is possible and to pursue any other action which may be appropriate for said purposes, including the payment of food to persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory who may have provided either goods or services in connection with the foregoing. In order to acquire the necessary local currency for the purpose of financing the operations referred to above, the following three methods are authorized: provided that method No. 3 should not be used if it is feasible to use either method No. 1 or No. 2 to obtain the local currency or exchange. (1) The currency or exchange of the country or countries in which the operations are to take place may be purchased in Spain if your representative reasonably certain that the sellers have held such currency or exchange since before the date as of which such countries were frozen by the Government of the United States or, if acquired subsequent to that time, that the seller acquired such currency or exchange under circumstances which were not beneficial to the enemy, your representative to consult with the United States Embassy in Madrid when possible in such cases. The sellers of such local currency or exchange may be reimbursed in pesetas at the prevailing unofficial rates of exchange in

DECLASSIFIED

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972
Periodic reports with respect to the operations conducted under this license should be filed with the United States Embassy in Madrid by your representative.

It is requested that you inform Mr. Segarra that Dr. Joseph Schwartz, the JDC representative in Lisbon, will give him instructions with regard to beginning the operations envisaged by License W-215 and that he should comply with such instructions. The operations envisaged by the above quoted license are approved by the Treasury, the Department, and the War Refugee Board and we request you to take such reasonable steps as may be necessary to facilitate carrying them into effect. Furthermore, you are requested to report to the Department at once with respect to any difficulties, especially in connection with financial operations, that may be encountered and an indication as to progress made should be contained in your report. You should promptly forward to the Department reports filed with you pursuant to paragraph (D) of the license.

Delays are to be avoided as time is of the essence.
In matters of this kind, we are required to make liberal interpretations concerning the authority granted under licenses, reporting any such interpretations to the Department as and when made. It should be noted in this connection that license V-3156 is substantially the same as license issued previously to this and other private agencies for the purchase of carrying out similar operations from Switzerland. We wish specifically to call your attention in the provisions of paragraphs (A-1) and (A-3) of the license. Paragraph (A-3) has already been construed as authorizing the purchase of services in Spain of local currency or exchange representing the currency or exchange used in fact or theory. You would note that even though under paragraph (A-1) foreign exchange may be used where necessary, it may not be used for the purchase of services in Spain of local currency or exchange representing the currency or exchange used in fact or theory. This method should be used in so far as possible where the public interest, the welfare and evacuation operations which the Treasury accomplishes can be carried into immediate execution, more effectively thereby. Although stating one of the first conditions should be used in preference to the third method, operations will not be prejudiced in any way.

This Government considers the saving of lives to be of paramount importance, as will have been recognized from previous communications concerning the War Refugee Board's programs, and although a vital part of our economic warfare is still preventing the enemy from acquiring foreign exchange, this consideration is to be subordinated to the maximum fulfillment of the rescue program being undertaken at the present time, of which the operations envisaged by the license discussed, are a part.

The Treasury Department has issued to the JDC a license, authorizing operations from Portugal which is identical, in all respects with V-3156. The JDC representative in Lisbon, Dr. Joseph Schwartz, is expected to return to Lisbon in the near future and the operations by Mr. Secker, in Spain and the operations in Portugal are to be carried out under the general supervision of Dr. Schwartz.

Hull

Miss Channay (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akin, Bernstein, Cohn, Dubois, Friedman, Gantos, Hadeil, Laughlin, Lessar, Luxford, Mann, McCormack, Paul, Pollak, Roins, Sargoy, Standish, Stuart, White, Fehlau, Feller
Secretary of State,
Washington.

X
1835, Sixth

Foreign Office in letter dated March 6 suggests that if Department agrees an approach be made by our Embassies in Madrid to Spanish Government to agree to establishment of an IGO office and to appointment of Blickenstaff as its representative. Emerson agrees with this suggestion. Foreign Office states in explanation: "We have now heard from His Majesty's Embassy at Madrid about the proposal to appoint a representative of the IGO there.

They are of the opinion that the Spanish Government will not welcome a new refugee mission or office there. Blickenstaff's office is dealing very well with existing problems and as you know the United States Embassy and His Majesty's Embassy have given

Blickenstaff
Blickenstaff himself every possible support in helping him to overcome a certain amount of obstacles and difficulty from the Spanish Government in the course of his negotiations with them. From the point of view of prestige also it would appear to the Spaniards that Blickenstaff is being superseded if there were two refugee officers to deal with instead of one.

His Majesty's Embassy consider also that the appointment of a Spanish representative in Madrid would not be suitable as no Spanish national under present conditions could be expected to take as strong a line as is often required with the Spanish authorities. They think it would be hard to find anyone as good as Blickenstaff for such an appointment and suggest that he should be the representative of the I.C.G.

We understand that the United States Ambassador fully agrees with this opinion of Blickenstaff and is emphatic on the necessity of any other refugee organization working through him and not independently.
This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Governmental agency. (SC-00)

Dated February 28, 1944.

Recorded 11:44 p.m., March 1

Secretary of State
Washington

683, February 28, 6 p.m. (SECTION THAT)

It is my feeling that Spanish Government could best expedite release of refugees from German controlled areas of Europe by directly approaching German Government with offer to grant transit or temporary residence visas to refugees wishing to leave those areas in much the same way that it has recently effected release of above mentioned Sephardic Jews to the ultimate destinations for such refugees to be arranged by the War Refugee Board or other such organization. It should be emphasized, however, that sympathetic consideration of Spanish Government to such a proposal can hardly be expected until there is found more adequate solution to problem of destinations for these refugees than provided by Pedhala project in order that effective evacuation of stateless refugees still in Spain can be expeditiously accomplished.
accomplished and assurances given Spanish Government that all refugees admitted to Spain in future under such an arrangement would be removed without delay to further destinations. This would necessarily involve postponement of screening of refugees until after their departure from Spain although it is appreciated that adequate measures would have to be taken at some later point to sift out agents which Germans would be certain, as in the past, to plant among them.

I have no idea as to what reaction of Spanish Government would be to such a proposal or how successful it would be should it agree to take up matter with German Government. In view of fact that principle obstacles to escape of refugees from German held territory appear to lie within that territory rather than a the Spanish frontier, however, I feel that this approach would come closer to heart of the problem.

I am, for the present, making no approaches to Spanish Government on subject of department's
-3- 683, February 28, 6 p.m. (SECTION THREE) from Madrid

telegram pending consideration of points raised herein. I may say in this connection that it is still my opinion that present political and economic crisis with Spain is apt to have adverse effect on receptivity of Spanish Government even to proposals of purely humanitarian character.

Repeated to London and Lisbon and by pouch to Algiers.

HAYES

EDA
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: AMERICAN EMBASSY, Madrid
DATED: February 18, 1944, midnight
NUMBER: 463

The foregoing is for the Ambassador's attention.

Please refer to the Department's telegram of January 26, 1944, no. 207 with reference to War Refugee Board.

The Board has resolved, in formulating a program of immediate action, that an attempt to facilitate the evacuation from occupied areas to Spain of as many Jewish refugees and others as possible is one of the projects which should be pushed with the greatest of speed. It is understood by the Board that French refugee movement is well organized and functioning and that some thousands have already been transferred to North Africa. Furthermore the Board understands that arrangements are being made at the present time to transfer to North African stateless refugees and those lacking protection of their own government.

It is felt by the Board that the most feasible way of accomplishing this extremely urgent task is: (a) to remove refugees now in Spain from there as rapidly as possible, thus making room for more and (b) to obtain
from the Government of Spain the greatest possible relaxation of the border and other controls and other action designed to encourage the entry into Spain of refugees.

The Board has agreed upon the following concrete proposals with the object of increasing the movement of refugees from occupied areas through Spain to refuge elsewhere. (1) A substantial number of refugees now in Spain can be moved to a camp in North Africa which is now established and which is ready to receive refugees and the transfer should be facilitated. (2) In order to care for new refugees who will arrive in the future, especially stateless refugees and those lacking the protection of their government, and to effect their removal from Spain, if necessary on an involuntary basis, the government of Spain should be requested to maintain reception camps in which future arrivals may remain until they are transferred to North Africa. As a basis for obtaining the necessary action by the Government of Spain, they should be informed (a) that necessary arrangements will be made by War Refugee Board to finance the maintenance and support of such stateless and unprotected refugees as arrive in Spain in accordance with these arrangements until they can be removed to North Africa and (b) that responsibility for arranging for the transfer of stateless and unprotected refugees
refugees to North Africa as rapidly as possible will be assumed by War Refugee Board. The Government of Spain may be reminded in this connection of the recent evacuation of refugees to Palestine and of arrangements being made at the present time for the removal of stateless refugees to the North African camp which has already been established. (3) You should request the Spanish Government in the strongest manner possible to take effective steps to encourage the entry into Spain of more refugees. Besides relaxation of border control and the taking of other actions, it will be extremely helpful if steps will be taken by the Government of Spain to facilitate the spread of information to the occupied areas that Spain is ready to grant asylum to refugees until they are removed to another country.

The commitments given above are not intended in any way to replace the French Committee of National Liberation's activities or responsibilities with respect to the flow through Spain of French refugees.

We anxiously desire to support the Board's program given above and it is requested that you approach the Spanish Government at the earliest possible moment with a view to obtaining their agreement to the plan. It is requested that you report as soon as possible regarding practical
practical measures that would be necessary, including the requirements of funds, to put the proposed plan into operation in Spain.

Of course it will be appreciated by you if these negotiations with Spain are on an entirely different level than the political and economic negotiations being carried on with that Government. This Government is simply addressing to the Spanish Government a humanitarian appeal rather than a request to take certain action favorable to us at a sacrifice to them. Therefore we desire that the proposed negotiations with respect to refugees should be carried rapidly and effectively to a conclusion without becoming entangled in other pending problems being discussed with the Spanish.

Furthermore it is important to remember that it is this Government's policy to move to Camp Lyauty promptly as many stateless and unprotected refugees as facilities allow. Consequently you should make every attempt to encourage the voluntary migration to the camp of the greatest possible number of eligible persons in Spain at the present time. Of course this evacuation operation should be executed as rapidly as possible.

The progress being made in this matter should be reported to the Department as soon as possible.

STATENIUS
Acting

cc: Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Messrs. Paul, Caston, White, Pool, Amsford, DuBois, R. N. Bernstein, Stewert, Lesser, Friedman, Pollock, Bundy, Miss Rodal.
February 10, 1944

TO: Mr. Stettinius
FROM: J. W. Penle

Attached hereto is a proposed cable to Ambassador Hayes in Madrid designed to set further cooperation from the Spanish Government on the war refugee problem.

This action has been cleared with the Treasury, the War Department and UNRRA.

(signed) J. W. Penle

Attachment
CABLE TO AMBASSADOR HAYES, MADRID

Refer to our No. 207 of January 25, 1949, with reference to War Refugee Board.

In formulating a program of immediate action the Board has resolved that one of the projects which should be pushed with greatest speed is an effort to facilitate the evacuation of as many Jewish and other war refugees as possible from occupied areas to Spain.

The Board feels that the most feasible way of accomplishing this extremely urgent task is: (a) To remove from Spain as rapidly as possible refugees now there, thus making room for more and (b) to obtain from the Spanish Government the greatest possible relaxation of border and other controls and other action designed to encourage the entry of refugees into Spain, as well as an unambiguous public statement of Spain's willingness to receive refugees.

With the object of establishing a moving belt which will carry refugees from occupied areas through Spain to refugee elsewhere, the following concrete proposals have been agreed upon by the Board. (1) In view of the establishment of a camp in North Africa which is ready to receive refugees, a substantial number of refugees now in Spain can be moved to such camp and the transfer should be facilitated. (2) In order to take care of new refugees, particularly stateless refugees and those lacking the protection of their government, who will arrive in the future and to effect their removal from Spain on an involuntary basis if necessary, the Spanish Government should be asked to maintain reception camps in which future arrivals will live. As a basis for obtaining the necessary action by the Spanish Government they should be advised (a) that the War Refugee Board will make the necessary arrangements for financing the maintenance of the camps in Spain and the support of the refugees, and (b) that the War Refugee Board will assume responsibility for removing as rapidly as possible from Spain the stateless and unprotected refugees in the camps, emphasizing that arrangements are presently being made for the prompt removal from Spain of a substantial number of such refugees to the camp already established in North Africa. In this connection, the recent evacuation of refugees to Palestine may also be
recalled. (3) The Spanish Government should be requested in the strongest manner possible to take effective steps to encourage the entry of more refugees into Spain. In addition to the relaxation of border and similar controls, there should be made public in as nearly an official manner as possible an announcement indicating what is to be done and, above all, that entry of refugees into the country is permitted.

The Department is in full accord with the above program of the Board and you are instructed at the earliest possible moment to approach the Spanish Government with a view to obtaining their agreement to the plan. You should also undertake immediately a study to determine the practical measures that will be necessary to put the plan into operation in Spain, including questions of financial necessities.

It is important to bear in mind that it is the policy of this Government to move promptly to Camp Lyautey as many refugees as there are facilities for. Accordingly, our Government's representatives should make every effort to encourage the voluntary migration to the Camp of the greatest possible number of eligible persons now in Spain. This evacuation operation should, of course, be executed as rapidly as possible.

You should report to the Department as soon as possible the progress that is being made in this matter.
It is important to bear in mind that it is the policy of this Government to move promptly to Camp Lyautey as many refugees as there are facilities for. Accordingly, our Government's representatives should make every effort to encourage the voluntary migration to the camp of the greatest possible number of eligible persons now in Spain. This evacuation operation should, of course, be executed as rapidly as possible.

In your discussions with the Spanish you should not give them any excuse for taking more restrictive measures with respect to refugees now in Spain. If they raise the question of what is to be done with respect to such refugees you will, of course, explain that all efforts are being made to effect promptly the evacuation of the largest possible number. In the event that the Spanish insist that stateless refugees now in Spain outside of camps be placed in camps pending their removal to North Africa and you are convinced that the full cooperation of the Spanish Government in this project can only be thus obtained you are authorized to state that refugees of this class placed in camps in Spain will be taken to Camp Lyautey. This concession should only be made in the ultimate case indicated and should not be made unless there is reasonable certainty that it will result in our getting the full cooperation requested.
CABLE TO AMBASSADOR BATES, MADRID

Refer to our No. 707 of January 25, 1944, with reference to War Refugees Board.

In formulating a program of immediate action the Board has resolved that one of the projects which should be pushed with greatest speed is an effort to facilitate the evacuation of as many Jewish and other war refugees as possible from occupied areas to Spain. The Board understands that the movement of French refugees is well organized and functioning and that some thousands have already been transferred to North Africa. It also understands that arrangements are presently being made to transfer stateless refugees and those lacking the protection of their government to North Africa.

The Board feels that the most feasible way of accomplishing this extremely urgent task is: (a) to remove from Spain as rapidly as possible refugees now there, thus making room for more and (b) to obtain from the Spanish Government the greatest possible relaxation of border and other controls and other action designed to encourage the entry of refugees into Spain.

With the object of increasing the movement of refugees from occupied areas through Spain to refuge elsewhere, the following concrete proposals have been agreed upon by the Board: (1) In view of the establishment of a camp in North Africa which is ready to receive refugees, a substantial number of refugees now in Spain can be moved to such camp and the transfer should be facilitated. (2) In order to take care of new refugees, particularly stateless refugees and those lacking the protection of their government, who will arrive in the future and to effect their removal from Spain, the Spanish Government should be asked to maintain reception camps in which future arrivals may remain until their transfer to North Africa. As a basis for obtaining the necessary action by the Spanish Government they should be advised (a) that the War Refugees Board will make the necessary arrangements to finance the maintenance and support of such stateless and unprotected refugees as are accepted in Spain in accordance with these arrangements until the refugees can be removed to North Africa, and (b) that the War Refugees Board will assume responsibility for arranging for the transfer to North Africa of stateless and unprotected refugees as rapidly as possible. In this connection, the Spanish Government may be reminded of the recent evacuation of refugees to Palestine and of arrangements presently being made for the removal of stateless refugees to the camp already established in North Africa. (3) The Spanish Government should be requested in the strongest manner possible to take effective steps to
CABLE TO AMBASSADOR HAYES, MADRID

Refer to our No. 207 of January 25, 1944, with reference to War Refugees Board.

In formulating a program of immediate action the Board has resolved that one of the projects which should be pushed with greatest speed is an effort to facilitate the evacuation of as many Jewish and other war refugees as possible from occupied areas to Spain.

The Board feels that the most feasible way of accomplishing this extremely urgent task is: (a) To remove from Spain as rapidly as possible refugees now there, thus making room for more and (b) To obtain from the Spanish Government the greatest possible relaxation of border and other controls and other action designed to encourage the entry of refugees into Spain.

With the object of increasing the movement of refugees from occupied areas through Spain to refuge elsewhere, the following concrete proposals have been agreed upon by the Board. (1) In view of the establishment of a camp in North Africa which is ready to receive refugees, a substantial number of refugees now in Spain can be moved to such camp and the transfer should be facilitated. (2) In order to take care of new refugees, particularly stateless refugees and those lacking the protection of their government, who will arrive in the future and to effect their removal from Spain, the Spanish Government should be asked to maintain reception camps in which future arrivals may remain until their transfer to North Africa. As a basis for obtaining the necessary action by the Spanish Government they should be advised (a) that the War Refugee Board will make the necessary arrangements to provide funds, clothing and supplies for the maintenance of such refugees as are accepted in Spain in accordance with these arrangements until the refugees can be removed to North Africa, and (b) that the War Refugee Board will assume responsibility for arranging for the transfer to North Africa of stateless and unprotected refugees as rapidly as possible. In this connection, the Spanish Government may be reminded of the recent evacuation of refugees to Palestine and of arrangements presently being made for the removal of stateless refugees to the camp already established in North Africa. (3) The Spanish Government should be requested in the strongest manner possible to take effective steps to encourage the entry of more refugees into Spain. Consideration might be given to the possibility of requesting the Spanish Government to take steps to facilitate the spread of information to the occupied areas that Spain is prepared to grant asylum to refugees pending their removal to another country.
The Department anxiously desires to support the foregoing program of the Board and you are requested at the earliest possible moment to approach the Spanish Government with a view to obtaining their agreement to the plan. You should also undertake immediately a study to determine the practical measures that will be necessary to put the plan into operation in Spain, including questions of financial necessities.

It is important to bear in mind that it is the policy of this Government to move promptly to Lyautey as many refugees as can be provided for. Accordingly, our Government's representatives should make every effort to encourage the voluntary migration to the Camp of the greatest possible number of eligible persons now in Spain. This evacuation operation should, of course, be executed as rapidly as possible.

Kindly report to the Department as soon as possible the progress that is being made in this matter.
CABLE TO AMBASSADOR HAYES, MADRID.

Refer to our No. 207 of January 25, 1944 with reference to War Refugee Board.

In formulating a program of immediate action the Board has resolved that one of the projects which should be pushed with greatest speed is an effort to facilitate the evacuation of as many refugees as possible from occupied areas to Spain.

The Board feels that the most feasible way of accomplishing this extremely urgent task is: (a) To remove from Spain as rapidly as possible refugees now there, thus making room for more and (b) To obtain from the Spanish Government the greatest possible relaxation of border and other controls and other action designed to encourage the entry of refugees into Spain, as well as an unambiguous public statement of Spain's willingness to receive refugees.

The following concrete proposals have been agreed upon by the Board. (1) As many as possible of the refugees now in Spain will be moved to camps established in North Africa. In view of the necessity of speedy action the question of removal cannot be left to the will of the refugees themselves but must be handled, if necessary, on a compulsory basis. (2) In order to handle efficiently the removal problem and to take care of new refugees who will arrive in the future, the Spanish Government should be asked to establish at once refugee camps in which all refugees now in the country as well as future arrivals will live. The object, of course, is to establish a moving belt which will carry refugees from occupied areas through Spain to a more permanent refuge elsewhere. As a basis for obtaining the necessary action by the Spanish Government they should be advised (a) that the War Refugee Board will assume full financial responsibility for the establishment and maintenance of the camps in Spain and the support of the refugees, and (b) that the War Refugee Board will assume responsibility for removing as rapidly as possible from Spain the refugees who will be in the camps, emphasizing that arrangements have been completed for the prompt
removal of up to 2000 refugees to a camp already established in North Africa. (3) The Spanish Government should be requested in the strongest manner possible to take effective steps to encourage the entry of more refugees into Spain. In addition to the relaxation of border and similar controls, there should be made public from Spanish sources an announcement indicating what is to be done and, above all, that entry of refugees into the country is permitted.

The Department is in full accord with the above program of the Board and you are instructed at the earliest possible moment to approach the Spanish Government with a view to obtaining their agreement to the plan. You should also undertake immediately a study to determine the practical measures that will be necessary to put the plan into operation in Spain, including questions of financial necessities.

In these matters you should enlist the aid of and work with Mr. Moses Beckleman, an employee of F.E.A., presently in Spain, who is fully familiar with the program of evacuation to Camp Iyautey at Fedhala, Morocco, and who is to be in charge of the camp. It is important to bear in mind that it is the policy of this Government to move promptly from Spain to Camp Iyautey as many refugees as there are facilities for (at least 2000), and, if necessary, this movement should be effected on an involuntary basis with the aid of the Spanish Government. Accordingly, if it is not feasible to establish camps in Spain rapidly enough to insure a speedy transfer of up to 2000 refugees to the camp established in North Africa, you should request that the Spanish Government take other steps to cooperate with American authorities in effectuating the evacuation in an expeditious manner.

You should report to the Department as soon as possible the progress that is being made in this matter.
MEMORANDUM TO GOVERNOR LEHMAN, UNHRA

Attached is a copy of a cable which is being sent to Ambassador Hayes in Spain. This is the cable we discussed with you and it has, of course, been cleared with the War and State Departments.

During our discussions you indicated that when the above cable was ready to go UNHRA would send appropriate instructions to Moses Beekeman informing him of the policy adopted by the War Refugee Board and emphasizing the necessity of effecting the evacuation to Camp Lyautay as rapidly as possible. It occurs to me that in your cable to Beekeman you may also wish to request special advice as to the earliest possible date on which refugees will be ready to be taken to North Africa. UNHRA will then be in a position to arrange promptly for necessary shipping. I believe that no stone should be left unturned in obtaining a shipping commitment as quickly as possible. The Board will, of course, be glad to be of any assistance to UNHRA in this matter.
CABLE TO AMBASSADOR HAYES, MADRID

Kindly refer to our No. 207 of January 25, 1944 with reference to the War Refugee Board.

In formulating a program of immediate action the Board has resolved that one of the projects which should be pushed with greatest speed is an effort to facilitate the evacuation of as many Jewish and other war refugees as possible from occupied areas to Spain. The Board understands that the movement of French refugees is well organized and functioning and that some thousands have already been transferred to North Africa. It also understands that arrangements are presently being made to transfer stateless refugees and those lacking the protection of their government to North Africa.

The Board now anxiously desires to increase the flow of refugees of all categories through Spain. It believes that this can be accomplished by securing the cooperation of the Spanish Government in the following measures:

(1) The relaxation of Spanish border controls on the entry of refugees and other persons facilitating the admission of refugees. (2) The establishment by the Spanish Government of reception camps or centers for new arrivals. (3) The dissemination of information to occupied areas that Spain is prepared to grant asylum to refugees pending their removal to another country.

You are authorized to advise the Spanish Government that the War Refugee Board is prepared, (1) to make necessary arrangements for financing the maintenance and support of such stateless and other refugees unprotected by their governments as may be accepted under these arrangements pending their removal from the camps to North Africa, and (2) to arrange for the transfer of such refugees as are accepted in Spain to North Africa as soon as possible after their arrival. The Department requests you to present the foregoing proposals to the Spanish Government with the greatest urgency to increase the flow of refugees through Spain. The foregoing commitments are not intended to replace in any way the activities or responsibilities of the French National Committee of Liberation with respect to the flow of refugees through Spain.

It is specifically requested that everything possible be done to speed up the removal of refugees presently in Spain to North Africa.

Kindly report as soon as possible the progress which is being made in these plans, including the requirements for funds.

WWM
15 Feb 44
CABLE TO AMBASSADOR HAYES, MADRID

Referring to our No. 207 of January 25, 1944, with reference to the War Refugees Board.

In formulating a program of immediate action the Board has resolved that one of the projects which should be pushed with greatest speed is an effort to facilitate the evacuation of as many refugees as possible from occupied areas to Spain.

The Board feels that the most feasible way of accomplishing this extremely urgent task is: (a) To remove from Spain as rapidly as possible refugees now there, thus making room for more and (b) To obtain from the Spanish Government the greatest possible relaxation of border and other controls and other action designed to encourage the entry of refugees into Spain, as well as an unambiguous public statement of Spain's willingness to receive refugees.

With the object of establishing a moving belt which will carry refugees from occupied areas through Spain to refugee elsewhere, the following concrete proposals have been agreed upon by the Board. (1) In view of the establishment of a camp in North Africa which is ready to receive refugees, a substantial number of refugees now in Spain can be moved to such camp and the transfer should be facilitated. (2) In order to take care of new refugees, particularly stateless refugees and those lacking the protection of their governments, who will arrive in the future and to effect their removal from Spain on an involuntary basis if necessary, the Spanish Government should be asked to maintain reception camps in which future arrivals will live. As a basis for obtaining the necessary action by the Spanish Government they should be advised (a) that the War Refugees Board will make the necessary arrangements for financing the maintenance of the camps in Spain and the support of the refugees, and (b) that the War Refugee Board will assume responsibility for removing as rapidly as possible from Spain the stateless and unprotected refugees in the camps, emphasizing that arrangements are presently being made for the prompt removal from Spain of a substantial number of such refugees to the camp already established in North Africa. In this connection, the recent evacuation of refugees to Palestine may also be recalled. (3) The Spanish Government should be requested in the strongest manner possible to take effective steps to encourage the entry of more refugees into Spain. In addition to the relaxation of border and similar controls, there should be made public in as nearly an official manner as possible an announcement indicating what is to be done and, above all, that entry of refugees into the country is permitted.
The Department is in full accord with the above program of the Board and you are instructed at the earliest possible moment to approach the Spanish Government with a view to obtaining their agreement to the plan. You should also undertake immediately a study to determine the practical measures that will be necessary to put the plan into operation in Spain, including questions of financial necessities.

It is important to bear in mind that it is the policy of this Government to move promptly to Camp Lyautoy as many refugees as there are facilities for. Accordingly, our Government's representatives should make every effort to encourage the voluntary migration to the Camp of the greatest possible number of eligible persons now in Spain. This evacuation operation should, of course, be executed as rapidly as possible.

You should report to the Department as soon as possible the progress that is being made in this matter.
(To be added to first paragraph on page 2 of cable to Ambassador Hayes)

You will note particularly that these negotiations with the Spanish Government are on an entirely different level than the political and economic negotiations being carried on with that Government. This Government is simply addressing a humanitarian appeal to the Spanish Government rather than a request to take certain action favorable to us at some sacrifice to them. Accordingly, the proposed negotiations with respect to refugees should be carried to a conclusion rapidly and effectively without becoming entangled in other pending problems under discussion with the Spanish.

This was dictated over telephone to George Warren's Secretary 2/15/44 at 11:30 P.M. It was also read to Mr. Warren who was not included in the cable presently being cleared by him. The reasons for its inclusion were also explained. Warren said that he would try to get clearance for the cable with this addition. He apologized that we wanted to know by 10 o'clock the previous night if the cable had been cleared or, if not, exactly what objections State had to it. Warren said he would call me after that time. A copy is also being sent by messenger to Warren...

JBF:mgt 2/15/44
You will note particularly that these negotiations with the Spanish Government are on an entirely different level than the political and economic negotiations being carried on with that Government. This Government is simply addressing a humanitarian appeal to the Spanish Government rather than a request to take certain action favorable to us at some sacrifice to them. Accordingly, the proposed negotiations with respect to refugees should be carried to a conclusion rapidly and effectively without becoming entangled in other pending problems under discussion with the Spanish.
encourage the entry of more refugees into Spain. In addition to the relaxation of border controls and the taking of other actions, it will be extremely helpful if the Spanish Government will take steps to facilitate the spread of information to the occupied areas that Spain is prepared to grant asylum to refugees pending their removal to another country.

The foregoing commitments are not intended to replace in any way the activities or responsibilities of the French National Committee of Liberation with respect to the flow of French refugees through Spain.

The Department anxiously desires to support the foregoing program of the Board and you are requested at the earliest possible moment to approach the Spanish Government with a view to obtaining their agreement to the plan. Kindly report as soon as possible on the practical measures that will be necessary to put the proposed plan into operation in Spain, including the requirements of funds.

It is important to bear in mind that it is the policy of this Government to move promptly to Camp Leventy as many refugees as facilities permit. Accordingly every effort should be made to encourage the voluntary migration to the Camp of the greatest possible number of eligible persons now in Spain. This evacuation operation should, of course, be executed as rapidly as possible.

Kindly report to the Department as soon as possible the progress that is being made in this matter.
QUEEN ELIZABETH VIA RMS 1937 2166 1/20
BEI BEVRIE
JOINT DISTRIBUITION COMMITTEE
50 MADISON AVENUE NEW YORK CITY

WE HAVE BEEN OFFICIALLY INFORMED BY SPANISH AUTHORITIESTHAT GROUP Z74
OF SPANISH JETS ARRIVING SPAIN FROM GERMANY HAVE DIED. THIS GROUP CONSISTS FOLLOWING

165 MEN
175 WOMEN
40 CHILDREN

STOP OUR REPRESENTATIVE MARCH ALONG INSTRUCTING TO COME AS QUICKLY ARRIVE
STOP WE ASSUME THIS TO GROUP WHICH LEFT SALONICA SOME MONTHS AGO BUT WERE HELD
UP IN GERMANY WHILE SPANISH AUTHORITIES WERE EXAMINING RECORDS ON US MIGRANTS.
ORIGINAL SPANISH GROUP FROM SPAIN DROP SPANISH AUTHORITIES INFORMING SOME DOCTORS
AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO NURSES AND US ENGAGE SUPPLY NURSERY CLOTHING SHIPS
ONOUR ORDER TO BE VERY BAD SHARP STOP THIS ESPERIENCY SUBJECT YOU NEED IN-
IMEDIATELY FULL AMOUNT FURNISH ON 1,000,000 PAINT STAINS STOP WILL KEEP YOU
FULLY ADVISED

JOSEPH SCHWARTZ
GENERAL BODY

American Mission

March 25, 1944

To our Portuguese mission in Washington, United States

To consider this an opportunity to assist the government in its efforts to promotesorting of political and racial issues, our government, associated with the Portuguese government, has instated your person to assist in the follow with its knowledge and experience to ensure the smooth and effective implementation of the agreement. We understand that your work will be confined to specific tasks and that you will need to be familiar with our language and our culture.

We have been informed that the agreement has been signed and that it will be presented to the President for ratification. We trust that your efforts will contribute to the success of this important undertaking.

The United States government has been informed of the agreement and has agreed to provide assistance to ensure its success.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Position]

[Name]
According to a report received two to three months ago, there are about 8,000 to 9,000 refugees in Spain. Of this number an estimated 2,500 to 3,000 are Jews, of whom about 1,800 are stateless.

Several concentration camps for refugees are operated by the Spanish Government. The largest is Camp Meranda, where about 3,000 people are reported to be living under inhuman and extremely crowded conditions. The camps are said to be virtual prisons where refugees are kept under strict detention. They are located in old prisons, in barracks, and in vacant hotels.

Some, however, are permitted to live in restricted residences, where they have somewhat more personal liberty than do those in the prison camps. Many of the people in these restricted residences are aided by such organizations as the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, particularly with respect to supplemental food.

A small number of the refugees are permitted to live in little pensions located mainly in the cities. These refugees have a little more freedom than the group in the restricted residence areas, since they are permitted to move around freely in the cities in which they are located. JDC supports many of these refugees, all of whom report regularly to the Spanish police authorities.

It was reported that the Spanish Government does not maintain a strict border control with respect to refugees desiring entry into that country, nor does it send any refugees back into France. Many of the refugees are said to violate the Spanish Government's customs declaration requirements and, for this reason, technically become subject to arrest and imprisonment in concentration camps. The Spanish Government had indicated an attitude of somewhat greater strictness with respect to Sephardic Jews; before the latter are permitted to enter Spain, the Spanish Government requires assurances that they will be re-evacuated to another country.

The two private organizations working among the refugees in Spain are the Quakers and the JDC. The Quaker group is headed by Mr. and Mrs. David Blickenstaff, with offices in Madrid. The JDC office is in Barcelona. While the Quakers pay for their own administrative costs, the JDC subvent practically all of the relief given to the refugees. The Quakers and the JDC have concentrated on the 1,800 stateless Jews in Spain. Those Jews who are not stateless are receiving care and help from the consulates of their own governments. It was indicated that the Czech, Dutch, and Polish Consulates, in particular, have been doing considerable work among their nationals.

(This copy may e from the bible)
AIRGRAM

From American Embassy
Madrid, Spain
Dated January 27, 1944.
Rec'd. Feb 7 - 5 pm

Secretary of State,
Washington.

A-39, January 27, 12 noon.

667 Jewish refugees left Spain for Palestine on January 25 on Portuguese vessel NYASSA from port of Cadiz. Arrangements for evacuation of this group have been handled in Spain by office of Representation in Spain of American Relief Organiza-
tions, representing American Joint Distribution Committee, with assistance of American and British Embassies.

HAYES

NWB/Jf
Copies to Lisbon, London, Barcelona