

Respect to Relief and  
Aid: Evacuation to and  
(and Portugal)

Evacuation of Children from France to Spain and  
Portugal (JDC)

000798

1. GENERAL

2. LICENSES ISSUED RE THIS FILE

a. LICENSE ISSUED TO JDC #2155

b. LICENSE ISSUED TO JDC #2154

WAR REFUGEE BOARD RECORDS

000799

*Statistics*

<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>No. of CHILDREN</u> ✓	<u>CONDITIONS</u>	<u>REFERENCE</u>
Australia	150		Airgram #6 - 2/24/44 ✓
Canada	1,000		Memorandum of conversation, dated 2/15/44, between R.A.G. Robertson, Department of External Affairs, and American Minister. ✓
Costa Rica	1,000	Provided all cost borne by War Refugee Board	Airgram #390 - 6/16/44
Dominican Republic	1,000 - 2,000		Cable #240 - 5/19/44
* Eire	500		Airgram #16 - 4/13/44
El Salvador	100	Provided all cost borne by War Refugee Board.	Despatch #1531 - 5/4/44
Guatemala	100	Prefer French and Belgian nationality.	Despatch #1104 - 5/15/44
Honduras	50	Polish and French nationality.	Airgram 165 - 4/27/44
Nicaragua	100		Cable #271 - 5/5/44
Paraguay	100,000 families		Despatch #2093 - 5/13/44 ✓
Peru	50	French or Belgian nationality	Cable #666 - 6/28/44
Portugal	300		Despatch #494 - 5/10/44 ✓
Spain	500		Cable #2479 - 7/15/44 ✓
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,850 children plus 100,000 families.</b>		
* Ecuador	--		Despatch #1893 - 7/29/44

*Add to Standard memo,*

*copy of abandoned case of abandoned children from Italy to Italy*

11080

## 'Smugglers' Saved 5,000 Children

(Special to the Daily Mirror)

ATLANTIC CITY, Nov. 28.—How nearly 5,000 Jewish children, mostly orphans, were saved by "professional smugglers" from death or worse at the hands of Nazis was revealed today by Isaac Weissman, delegate from Lisbon, to the War Emergency Conference of the World Jewish Congress.

He told the Congress it deserved full credit for smuggling out both children and adults in this highly "illegal and dangerous project," but added that the Catholic Church, the DeGaulle Free French Committee, the Zionist resistance movement in France, the American and British Ambassadors in Spain and the International Red Cross "performed helpful tasks without which the final happy end could not have been reached."

In France, "children were hiding in private houses, farms and cloisters, a large number under false names and pretending to be Catholics, when we learned the Gestapo planned to search for them," he said.

"We came to terms with professional smugglers and hired Spanish and French women to take boys and girls through forbidden military zones to the frontier for a rendezvous with the so-called brigands."

A call for "revenge for the murder of my people" was made by Dr. Joseph Tenenbaum of New York, president of the American Federation of Polish Jews.

"A nation outraged in helpless fury as were our people by the German barbarians cannot redeem itself without adequate retribution," he said. No nation can live with an outrage of this extent and savagery left unpunished and unredeemed."

Jacob Robinson of New York, director of the Institute of Jewish Affairs, said "the result of a very careful study of reports reaching us from various sources" shows "2,600,000 of the 3,300,000 Jews in pre-war Poland

are believed slain. Another 300,000 are in hiding or internment in Poland, while 400,000 have escaped to other lands."

Dr. Israel Goldstein of New York, president of the Zionist Organization of America, called on Jews of the U. S. to come out of "their intellectual and spiritual sloth and isolationism" to fulfill a role of world leadership in Jewish affairs.

He represented the American Jewish Congress at the international meeting, which brought together more than 300 delegates from 40 countries to discuss post-war Jewish problems.

Capt. Pierre Dreyfus, son of

the principal in the famous "Dreyfus case," assured the delegates France will restore "equality for all citizens." The session continues tomorrow and Thursday.

## TELLS OF RESCUING ORPHANS IN FRANCE

Representative of the World Jewish Congress Praises Aid in Saving Children

By ALBERT J. GORDON

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

ATLANTIC CITY, Nov. 28—How the Nazis in occupied France were outwitted and prevented from deporting 5,000 refugee orphaned children to concentration camps in Poland and elsewhere was described today at the war emergency conference of the World Jewish Congress.

The story was told with dramatic details by Isaac Weissman of Lisbon, Portugal, a representative of the World Jewish Congress in Europe.

"The children lived in hiding in private houses, farms and cloisters in France, a large number of them under assumed names and under the protection of sympathetic Catholics," said Mr. Weissman, who arrived in this country only recently from abroad where he had been active in relief and rescue work. He said that as soon as it became known that the Germans were getting ready to round up the children, plans were made to hide as many of the orphans as possible.

"We appealed to the de Gaulle Free French Committee," he said, "and as a result, the French populations in Algiers and London, as well as in France itself began to take active part in the work of rescue. Instructions were given to the resistance movement in France that every effort be exerted to help the unfortunate children."

### Children Remained in Danger

"Meanwhile, the children remained in extreme danger, so we began to apply our own methods of rescue, which were particularly hazardous at that time. We contacted professional smugglers and through them arranged to have some of the children taken over the Pyrenees into Spain. At the same time, Spanish and French women bought a number of children through the forbidden military zone to the French frontier to a rendezvous where the guides worked in hiding and from where the trip to Spain is made."

He said that through the intercession of the American Embassy in Portugal, 800 orphans were placed in homes in a beach resort 100 miles from Lisbon. The Congress provided funds for the construction of additional homes for children there.

Through the help of Catholic Church officials, the right of asylum was given to a large number of the children in Portugal, not only for a time. Mr. Weissman praised the War Refugee Board and officials of the British Embassy in Portugal for their help.

Mr. Weissman also described how underground channels had been established to get Turkish Jews who were in France, out of the country. He said that Lawrence Steinhardt, American Ambassador to Turkey, interceded with the Vichy Government, and thus brought about the postponement of decisions by the Germans to send Turkish Jews to concentration camps.

Dr. Israel Goldstein, president of the Zionist Organization of America and an official representative of the American Jewish Conference at the congress, warned that the Jewish people must be on their guard constantly against the growth of anti-Semitism in the post-war world in general and in the United States in particular.

### Alertness Is Urged

Dr. Goldstein asserted that American Jews should be "educated out of their intellectual and spiritual sloth and isolationism."

"Even if nothing should happen to menace their physical security, which is doubtful, they cannot long remain blind to their normal, intellectual, cultural and spiritual need of contact with other Jewish communities," he said.

He explained the agreement of the American Jewish Conference with the World Jewish Congress which provides for exchange of information and for mutual offers of facilities, and so for a joint planning committee to consider post-war problems.

"If these two organizations can agree upon a plan of procedure and a program of demands," he said, "it will no doubt make it easier to bring other groups into line, or, failing that, these two bodies could be so predominant in their influence as to be in virtual command of the field of Jewish representation."

Capt. Pierre Dreyfus, son of the late Capt. Alfred Dreyfus, French Army, fame, voiced confidence in the de Gaulle Government and its treatment of racial and religious groups.

"We hope for total justice in France, for we have very confidence in the government of de Gaulle," he said. "The Jews are being liquidated and France is reestablishing the principle of equality for all."

Capt. Dreyfus is vice president of the committee of the representatives of French Jews, with headquarters in New York City.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

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September 20, 1944

5 p.m.

*7 - War Ref Bd (Mr. Behr)*

1944 SEP 22 PM 12 09

EMBASSY

LISBON

2550

The following for Dexter is WRB 95.

Reference your No. 2702 of September 1 (Lisbon's WRB 172).

Please advise Weissman that World Jewish Congress has authorized him to reimburse you in amount of 22,804.90 escudos advanced by you to purchase furniture for reception center at Parque d'Arcos.

HULL (LEIV)

CONTROL COPY

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

WRB:MMV:KG  
9/20/44

WE

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

110803

CABLE TO NORWEB, LISBON, FOR DEXTER FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Reference your No. 2702 of September 1 (Lisbon's WRB 172).

Please advise Weissman that World Jewish Congress here authorizes him to reimburse you in amount of 22,604.90 escudos advanced by you to purchase furniture for reception center at Pasco d'Arcos.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO LISBON NO. 95

10:45 a.m.  
September 20, 1944

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

*FA*  
FHodel

00080

MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT  
RECORDS DIVISION  
OFFICE IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

LAW OFFICES  
**LOUIS E. SPIEGLER**  
SOUTHERN BUILDING  
WASHINGTON 5, D. C.

SOL. M. ALPHER

NATIONAL 9068

September 18, 1944

Mr. John W. Pehle  
War Refugee Board  
Treasury Building  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

You are hereby authorized to transmit a message through the facilities of the War Refugee Board to Dr. Wiseman at Lisbon that he is authorized by the World Jewish Congress to reimburse to Mr. Dexter 22,604.90 escudos advanced by the latter.

Respectfully,

*Louis E. Spiegler*  
LOUIS E. SPIEGLER  
Washington Counsel and Representative  
WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

LES:sp

00080

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

*H was by Ed Pella*  
DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

GEM-23  
Distribution of  
true reading only by  
special arrangement.  
[REDACTED]

Lisbon

Dated September 1, 1944

Rec'd 6:35 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

**CONTROL COPY**

2702, September 1, 4:40 p.m.

WRB 172. REURTEL 2391.

Weissman World Jewish Congress Representative

willing pay for furniture if so instructed by his  
New York office. Please consult World Jewish Congress,  
New York and telegraph authorization.

NORWEB

BB

*9/9/44  
Specimens with  
WJC  
jt*

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

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DEPARTMENT  
OF STATE

OUTGOING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

AUGUST 31, 1944  
8 p.m.

distribution of  
true reading only by  
special arrangement.  
(T W)

**CONTROL COPY**

EMBASSY,  
LISBON.  
2391

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS  
SEP 2 1944

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

*War Ref*  
*Bd [unclear]*  
*[unclear]*

The following for Dexter from [unclear]

The Board has given consideration to the amount of  
22,604.90 escudos advanced by you to purchase furniture  
for the reception center at Fasco d'Arcos. Since it  
appears probable that there will be little or no rescue  
activity to be carried out from Portugal in the future,  
the Board is anxious to get its accounts in shape. Ac-  
cordingly, you should request repayment of the advance  
from the Lisbon representative of the World Jewish  
Congress, and upon his repayment, confirm that title to  
such furniture is vested in him.

Please discuss this matter with the local repre-  
sentative of the World Jewish Congress and advise as  
soon as possible whether he is willing to repay the  
above-mentioned advance.

HULL  
(GLW)

WRB:MAV:KG  
8/31/44

WE

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

000000

BOARD

CABLE TO AMBASSADOR NORWEG FOR DEXTER FROM PENLE

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The Board has given consideration to the amount of 22,604.90 escudos advanced by you to purchase furniture for the reception center at Fasco d'Arcos. Since it appears probable that there will be little or no rescue activity to be carried out from Portugal in the future, the Board is anxious to get its accounts in shape. Accordingly, you should request repayment of the advance from the Lisbon representative of the World Jewish Congress, and upon his repayment, confirm that title to such furniture is vested in him.

Please discuss this matter with the local representative of the World Jewish Congress and advise as soon as possible whether he is willing to repay the above-mentioned advance.

THIS IS WEB CABLE TO LISBON NO. 85

9:16 a.m.  
August 31, 1944

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

JHMann:JWP:dg 8/30/44

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE RECEIVED  
REFUGEE BOARD  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

*J. W. R. Bd  
C. M. B.*

1944 AUG 20 AM 10 41  
AUG 20 3 30 PM '44  
AUG 20 6 p.m.

**CONTROL COPY**

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

AMEMBASSY,  
LISBON.

2352x  
Please deliver paraphrase of the following message

as WRB 63 to Robert Pilpel, c/o American Legation,  
from M. A. Leavitt of the American Jewish Joint Distribu-  
tion Committee:

QUOTE ON BASIS INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US WE  
BELIEVE UNNECESSARY CONTINUE EVACUATION OF CHILDREN  
FROM FRANCE TO SPAIN STOP IF YOU AND STAFF SPAIN OF  
CONTRARY OPINION PLEASE ADVISE. UNQUOTE

HULL  
(GLE)

WRB:MMV:KG  
8/26/44

WE

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

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0  
CABLE TO NORWICH FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Please deliver the following message to Robert Filpel, c/o  
American Legation, from M. A. Leavitt of the American Jewish  
Joint Distribution Committee:

QUOTE ON BASIS INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US WE BELIEVE  
UNNECESSARY CONTINUE EVACUATION OF CHILDREN FROM FRANCE  
TO SPAIN STOP IF YOU AND STAFF SPAIN OF CONTRARY  
OPINION PLEASE ADVISE UNQUOTE

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO LISBON NO. 83

3:05 p.m.  
August 24, 1944

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

RP  
8/24/44

copy sent  
8/24/44  
RD

000010

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, London  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: August 22, 1944  
NUMBER: 6795  
X

**CONTROL COPY**

There follows the substance of a message for the War  
Refugee Board from Em/erson, IGC.

Reference is made herewith to your cable of August 10, no.  
6323.

We have received the cable regarding the Dobkin-Weisman  
proposal. Doubtless you will now agree that in view of the  
rapid developments in France, plans to remove children from  
there should be suspended. We might possibly use Portugal's  
offer later for children from Hungary or elsewhere, but action  
on this can be postponed pending developments. I find most  
encouraging the transfer of American visas from children in  
France to children in Hungary.

WINANT

DCR:VAG 8/23/44

REGRADED  
UNCLASSIFIED

*I was by the  
Pelle*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Embassy, London  
DATED: August 10, 1944  
NUMBER: 6323  
X

**CONTROL COPY**

FROM: WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Reference is made to your 6054, July 29th. Please transmit the following message to Emerson, Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees:

QUOTE The Bobkin-Weissman proposal for the removal of 3,000 Jewish children from France is, as you doubtless know, a variant on a scheme which has been repeatedly presented to the French and Germans with negative results. We are perfectly willing to join you in any request you may see fit to make to the International Red Cross to approach the French on this proposal. In view, however, of the small numbers of children who have been arriving in Switzerland and elsewhere from France, and the apparent opportunity to save Hungarian children, arrangements are being made to make the 5,000 American visas which have been available only for children from France, available as well for children from Hungary and elsewhere in occupied Europe. UNQUOTE

STETINIUS  
(Acting)

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

000812

RECEIVED  
MAY 1944  
DIVISION  
TO:  
FROM:  
SUBJECT:

CABLE TO AMBASSADOR WIHANT, LONDON, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Reference is made to your 6054, July 29th. Please transmit the following message to Emerson, Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees:

QUOTE The Bobkin-Weissman proposal for the removal of 3,000 Jewish children from France is, as you doubtless know, a variant on a scheme which has been repeatedly presented to the French and Germans with negative results. We are perfectly willing to join you in any request you may see fit to make to the International Red Cross to approach the French on this proposal. In view, however, of the small numbers of children who have been arriving in Switzerland and elsewhere from France, and the apparent opportunity to save Hungarian children, arrangements are being made to make the 2,000 American visas which have been available only for children from France, available as well for children from Hungary and elsewhere in occupied Europe. UNQUOTE

4:20 p.m.  
August 3, 1944

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

Abrahamson:LS Lesser:tmh 8-2-44 K.S. 4

000813

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August 4th, 1944.

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

Dear Miss ~~Hodell~~ <sup>Florence</sup>:

You will be interested in the attached cable (1870) from  
Robert Pilpel of our Lisbon office.

Sincerely yours,

  
M. A. Leavitt

MAL:mh  
encl.

000814

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 MAX M. WARBURG, *New York*  
 DAVID M. WATCHMAKER, *Boston*  
 ADOLPH WEIL, *Montgomery*  
 FRANK L. WEIL, *New York*  
 HENRY WINEMAN, *Detroit*  
 MOSES WINKELSTEIN, *Syracuse*  
 JONAH B. WISE, *New York*  
 DAVID P. WOHL, *St. Louis*  
 MORRIS WOLF, *Philadelphia*  
 HARRY ZEITZ, *Brooklyn*

IN THE ARMED FORCES

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



# WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL • CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

1834 BROADWAY

NEW YORK, 23, N. Y.

LONDON  
55 New Cavendish St., W 1

GENEVA  
37 Quai Wilson

BUENOS AIRES  
Corrientes 1979

JERUSALEM  
Vaad Leumi P. O. B. 471

MONTREAL In reply refer  
1121 St. Catherine St. W to: No. 191

MEXICO CITY  
Sonora 1744

CABLES: CONGRESS, NEW YORK  
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 6-1900

July 31, 1944

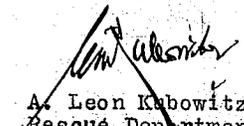
Hon. John W. Pehle, Executive Director  
War Refugee Board  
Treasury Building  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

May I call your attention to the following message we just received from Messrs. Dobkin and Weissman:

"Weissman representing Jewish Congress presented formal request to Portugese Government for reception Portugal three thousand registered Jewish children in France stop just received from Presidency Council Ministers favorable answer but following guarantees required Colon childrens maintenance and probably duration of stay in Portugal also ultimate duration stop suggest you immediately approach WarRefugee Board for guarantee maintenance and reevacuation of children final destination taking into account possible proceeding to Palestine stop secondly approach International RedCross to intervene with respective authorities in France re exit permits"

Sincerely yours

  
A. Leon Kubowitzki, Head  
Rescue Department

ALK:ef

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

DMH-144

PLAIN

London

Dated July 29, 1944

Rec'd 11 p.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

6054, Twenty-ninth

Director Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees

requests following message be transmitted to War

Refugee Board:

"We have been given copy of cable sent to World Jewish Congress by Dobkin and Weissman from Portugal regarding Jewish children in France. We understand Jewish Congress in America has approached or will approach War Refugee Board. Our views at present are as follows:

First real difficulty is to get children out of France. Approaches made by Swiss Government on our behalf a few months ago failed. We would favour further approach by International Red Cross. Second if children can be got out of France we had assurances first from United States Government that its offer to take 5,000 children still held good and similarly from Canada for its offer of 1,000. Prima facie therefore

homes



**CONTROL COPY**

*S W (ind)  
Ref Bd  
1 3m  
Bell*

000818

-2- #6064, Twenty-ninth, from London

homes would be available for 3,000 children if they reached Spain or Portugal but this might be subject to adjustment if many children got out of Hungary and it seemed desirable to seek priority for them with American and Canadian Governments. Third as regards maintenance when we discussed the matter several months ago with World Jewish Congress and then independently with Schwartz we understood that even if the former could not supply funds about which it held out prospects the Joint Distribution Committee would certainly be willing to assume responsibility for maintenance. As this would be for only short period there should be no difficulty. Fourth we have no information whether Weissman's present proposals have been made in collaboration with the Joint; if not we think it most desirable that they should come into the scheme. Only immediate action required appears to be approach by International Red Cross to French authorities. We are quite ready to take this up with Geneva either independently or jointly with War Refugee Board."

WINANT

HTM

7 0 0 8 1 3

DEPARTMENT

OF Distribution of  
STATE reading only by special  
arrangement.

OUTGOING

TELEGRAM

July 8 p.m.

*Wm. H. H. P. P. P.*  
DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

DEPARTMENT  
DIVISION

JUL 8 1944

COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

**CONTROL COPY**

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

EMBASSY,

LISBON

1933

The War Refugee Board requests as its no. 48 that de-  
of paraphrase  
Every be made by Dexter of the following message to

Eliahu Dobkin, Lisbon:

QUOTE In answer your inquiry of June 16 suggest you  
consult Dexter and ask him to inquire of McClellan the  
state of Swiss negotiations re release children. Please  
keep us informed.

World Jewish Congress

Leon Kubowitzki UNQUOTE

HULL

(GIV)

WRB:MMV:OMH  
7/5/44

WE S/CR

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

000820

CABLE TO AMBASSADOR NORWEB AND DEXTER, LISBON, PORTUGAL

The War Refugee Board requests that you deliver the following message to Elisha Dobkin, 242 Aurea Street, Lisbon, Portugal;

QUOTE In answer your inquiry of June 15 suggest you consult Dexter and ask him to inquire of McClellan the state of Swiss negotiations re release children. Please keep us informed.

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS  
LEON KUBOWITZKI UNQUOTE

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO LISBON NO. 48

10:10 a.m.  
July 4, 1944

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

BAKzin:ar 7/3/44

*dittoed*

000821

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS  
CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL • CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

1834 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK, 23, N. Y.

LONDON  
55 New Cavendish St., W 1

GENEVA  
37 Quai Wilson

BUENOS AIRES  
Corrientes 1979

JERUSALEM  
Vaad Leumi P. O. B. 471

MONTREAL  
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY  
Sonora 174-4

CABLES: CONGRESS, NEW YORK  
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 6-1900

June 29, 1944

In reply refer  
to: No. 124

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter of June 21st addressed to Dr. Goldmann, which contained a message from Mr. Dobkin, Lisbon.

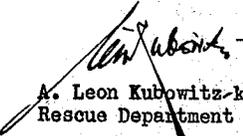
May I ask you to wire to Mr. Dobkin the following message through the facilities of the State Department:

"To: Mr. Elisha Dobkin, 242 Aurea Street, Lisbon. From: Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki, World Jewish Congress.

In answer your inquiry of June 15th suggest you consult Dexter and ask him to inquire of McClellan the state of Swiss negotiations re release children. Please keep us informed."

Thanking you in advance, I remain

Sincerely yours

  
A. Leon Kubowitzki, Head  
Rescue Department

ALK:ef

June 27, 1944

TO: Mr. Lesser  
FROM: Myles Standish  
SUBJECT: Negotiations Regarding the Entry of Refugee Children into Switzerland

The Intergovernmental Committee apparently initiated efforts for refugee children to enter Switzerland with the request that 100,000 children from western Europe be taken temporarily by the Swiss for physical and mental rehabilitation. A second request was made by the IGC to the Political Department of the Swiss Government specifically asking that the Swiss Minister in Vichy endeavor to obtain from Laval exit permits for 5,000 children for their travel to Switzerland.

Our 1090 of March 31 asked Bern to inquire of the Swiss whether they felt their negotiations regarding the exit of children from France would be aided by similar approaches to Vichy by the Eire and Portuguese Governments.

2236 of April 11 from Bern reported that Minister Stucki had received a negative reply from Laval.

No. 2315 of April 14 reported that Minister Harrison called on Pilet Golas at the latter's request and was informed that Minister Stucki had specifically requested exit permits of Laval. Pilet Golas said he was willing to instruct the Swiss Legation at Vichy to endeavor to obtain the permission for the children to come to Switzerland but that he expected a negative reply. This telegram also stated that Pilet Golas saw no objection to our endeavoring to obtain the support of the Portuguese and Eire Governments, but he did not expect that Laval's position would be modified.

Warren sent 1459 of April 27 to Bern requesting a clarification of Bern's 2315 of April 12. This was despatched instead of one which we drafted and the telegrams we had prepared for Dublin and Lisbon were suspended and are now being returned to us.

2810 of May 3 from Bern stated that Mr. Harrison discussed with

7 10 18 2 3

Minister Bonna the negotiations with Vichy on the children. Bonna stated that it was his understanding that Stucki had attempted to get general permission for the children to depart from France and had not restricted the request to exit permits for Spain only. This telegram also reported that Vichy had for some time denied permission for children to go to Switzerland for rehabilitation. The message closes with a statement that developments would be reported, but to date no information has been received.

Our 2023 of June 13 refers to Bern's 2810 and requests any available information on the subject.

In answering the request from Dobkin contained in Lisbon's 1849 of June 15, I suggest that Kubowitzki inform Dobkin that nothing further can be done at this end in the matter of obtaining official permission from Vichy for children to leave France. It would appear that the legal departure of children from France can be obtained only through efforts made by Bern, Madrid, and possibly Lisbon.

In this connection, I offer as a suggestion that McDonald take up with Hayes the question of the Spanish Government's endeavoring to obtain official action through its representative at Vichy.

*S.*  
MStandish:lon 6-27-44

*President*

**WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS**  
CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL • CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

1834 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK, 23, N. Y.

*files*

CABLES: CONGRESS, NEW YORK  
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 6-1900

June 23, 1944

LONDON  
55 New Cavendish St., W 1

GENEVA  
37 Quai Wilson

BUENOS AIRES  
Corrientes 1979

JERUSALEM  
Vaad Leumi P. O. B. 471

MONTREAL  
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY  
Sonora 1744

In reply refer  
to: No. 113

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

The message from Mr. Dobkin under date of June 15th, 1944 which you were kind enough to forward to us on June 21st contains the following passage:

"...Negotiations being conducted admission 3000 children registered in France. First reactions not unfavorable. This important in view official approach to evacuation of Jews. Cable what steps are being taken this direction in America."

I would be extremely obliged to you if you would be in a position to provide me with the information which in your opinion we could convey to Mr. Dobkin.

Sincerely yours

*Leon Kubowitzki*  
Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki, Head  
Rescue Department

ALK:ef

JUN 22 1944

TO: Mr. Warren  
FROM: J. W. Pehle

Your attention is called to the fact that the special authorizations sent to American consular officers in Switzerland, Spain, and Portugal to issue immigration visas to refugee children who have entered those countries from France since January 1, 1944, will expire on June 30. In this connection, reference is made to the Department's telegrams No. 891 of March 18 to Bern, No. 1003 of April 12 to Madrid, and 1017 of April 12 to Lisbon.

The Board recommends that the above-mentioned authorizations be extended to June 30, 1945, and that appropriate consular officers be so informed promptly.

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

*L.S.P.*  
MS:LSL:als 6/21/44

000826

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

HMK-826

PLAIN

Lisbon

Dated June 15, 1944

**CONTROL COPY**

Rec'd 6:37 p.m. 16th  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
JUN 16 1944  
DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS & RECORDS

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

1849, June 15, 6 p.m.

x  
THIS FOR RABBI NAHUM GOLDMAN, NEW YORK FROM DOBKIN  
THROUGH LICHTENSTEIN

WRB 72. In addition simultaneous admission 300  
children from France approved by Portugal and 500 in Spain  
negotiations being conducted admission 3000 children  
registered in France. First reactions not unfavorable.  
This important in view official approach to evacuation of  
Jews. Cable what steps are being taken this direction  
in America. Referring Kubowitski's cable June 8 we  
able to send Palestine certificate to Hungary through  
Swiss. Urgently waiting reply my cable June 10.

NOR:EB

NPL

6/21/44  
Message sent  
to Goldman  
— H

000827

162 DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

War Ref. Div. DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

Mr. Peltz

1 copy only

FMH-913  
This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government agency. ( [redacted] )

Madrid  
Dated June 12, 1944

Received June 13, 1944

CONTROL COPY

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

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

2076, June 12, 10 p.m.

Embassy's telegram 1532, May 3, midnight.

In accordance with Department's instruction 1008, April 12, 1944, following unused non-preference quota numbers for refugee children returned covering month of May 1944: Belgium, 253 to 262; Czechoslovakia, 561 to 580; France, 486 to 512; Germany, 3705 to 3904; Netherlands, 512 to 538; Poland, 1848 to 1897; all numbers inclusive.

HAYES

WSB NFL

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

100820

1559  
200/1001

MAY 29 1944

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Dr. Joseph Schwartz was received from Lisbon under date of May 23, 1944:

"25 additional adults arrived in Spain and are now being cared for by JDC in sort, close to border. Seven new children have been brought into Spain through our organization and are being supported in Barcelona. This makes total number children from France in our care 13 and in all including adults over 200 newcomers. Have recently improved organization especially through addition Jeffreykin who is completely familiar with problem. Expect number incoming children to increase but reiterate large numbers impossible because physical and other difficulties. Will advise you progress. During last three months 500 children came to Switzerland from France.

"Regarding Spanish program it takes much effort to legalize newcomers and so prevent their going camps and prisons. JDC offices Madrid and Barcelona busy on this and have been able to stop all but a few going Miranda. From newcomers 53 have arrived in Barcelona legalized and another 44 Merida awaiting permission to go Barcelona."

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.

FH:lab 5/27/44 *JH*

000002

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

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

G.I.R-402  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. [redacted] W.

Lisbon

Dated May 23, 1944

Rec'd 1:55 p.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

1559, May 23, 1 p.m.

WAR BOARD

WRB 29, JDC 8 FROM SCHWARTZ FOR LEAVITT

25 additional adults arrived in Spain and are  
now being cared for by JDC in sort, close to border.  
Seven new children have been brought into Spain through  
our organization and are being supported in Barcelona.  
This makes total number children from France in our  
care 13 and in all including adults over 200 newcomers.  
Have recently improved organization especially through  
addition Jeffreykin who is completely familiar with  
problem. Expect number incoming children to increase  
but reiterate large numbers impossible because physical  
and other difficulties. Will advise you progress. During  
last three months 500 children came to Switzerland from  
France.

Regarding Spanish program it takes much effort to  
legalize

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

*3 - War Board  
Bill  
5/29/44  
Message sent  
to board  
JH*

000830

-2- #1559, May 23, 1 p.m. from Lisbon

legalize newcomers and so prevent their going camps and prisons. JDC offices Madrid and Barcelona busy on this and have been able to stop all but a few going Miranda. From newcomers 53 have arrived in Barcelona legalized and another 44 at Merida awaiting permission to go Barcelona.

NORWEB

REP BB

000831

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

**CONTROL COPY**

*H. War Ref Bd  
(Mr. Peble)*

RECT-330  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. [REDACTED] W)

Lisbon

Dated May 23, 1944

Rec'd 9:40 a.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

1553, May 23, noon.

WRB, 44.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF  
MAY 25 1944  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

Weissman reports that the 12 children he was expecting this week have met with disaster. His frontier organizer and several of his guides have been arrested in Spain. He maintains that this is due to influence of JDC. Seven of 12 children have been taken in charge by Joint in Barcelona; fate of other five so far unknown.

NORWEB

JT  
EJH

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

000832

*War Refugee Board  
from Spain & Portugal  
(copy in file)*

AIR MAIL  
No. 513

*3 War Refugee Board  
(Trans)  
3 copies  
Control to Hotel*

Lisbon, May 17, 1944

Subject: Transmitting Memorandum regarding Refugee Children from France.

[Redacted]

**CONTROL COPY**

*3 W.R.B.  
3 War Refugee Board*

The Honorable  
The Secretary of State,  
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit herewith a memorandum of Robert C. Dexter, Special Attache, representing the War Refugee Board, to John W. Pehle, Director of the War Refugee Board, regarding details of methods of bringing children out of France into Spain and Portugal; also a translation of a Portuguese report to Dr. Isaac Weissman, the representative of the World Jewish Congress in Lisbon, by one of his agents Manuel Alves, which gives further details of the situation.

If the Department sees no objection, it would be appreciated if copies of both documents were transmitted to the War Refugee Board with the request that, if the latter have no objection, a copy of Mr. Alves' report be sent to Rabbi Stephen Wise, Chairman of the World Jewish Congress Committee in New York.

Respectfully yours,

For the Ambassador:

*Edward S. Crocker*  
Edward S. Crocker  
Counselor of Embassy

- Enclosures: *4*
- 1. Memorandum of Dr. Robert C. Dexter;
  - 2. Translation of Report of Manuel Alves.

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

300  
RCD/ajl

*Miss Hadell*

00003

Enclosure no. 1, despatch no. 513 dated May 17, 1944, from the American Embassy in Lisbon.

In transmitting herewith the translation of a report made to Mr. Weissman by Manuel Alves, I take the liberty of making several comments:

1) In regard to Alves himself, I have attempted to carefully check this man's bona fides. He is a Portuguese citizen, a wounded veteran of the last war. He makes a very fair impression and seems especially good in dealing with children. The refugee children now here adore him and he seems particularly interested in them. ~~He has been employed at one time or another by both the British and the "Fighting French" Missions here for intelligence work and both give him an excellent report for honesty and usefulness. He apparently has good contacts in Spain and France. He also claims, although this I have not been able to check, to be in contact with the American Military Mission in Madrid and to be used by them.~~ At the present moment he is being employed by the Poles and being paid a salary of 4,000 escudos per month and whatever he does for the evacuation of children or adults from France through Mr. Weissman's organization he does voluntarily with no pay, purely because of his interest in the work. It may well be that he also secures certain information this way and of course some of those saved are Polish citizens. You will note that he has now three or four channels of communication with France and says that he can open up many others provided the funds are available. He claims that all his work for the Poles is purely of an intelligence nature.

2) Regarding Jean Chatain, I have already communicated with you. However, I should re-state that he is well and favorably known to the Military Attache here, who made some of the arrangements for his recent visit to Lisbon. Colonel Solberg speaks very highly of M. Chatain and I had a most favorable impression of him.

3) While it is not the function of your representative to take sides in what is apparently a very bitter internecine quarrel between two Jewish organizations, I should add that I am personally much impressed with the character and apparent frankness of those members of the Congress staff that I have met. They deny absolutely the allegation made by the Joint Distribution Committee that they have taken children away from the Joint and I should add that the children who are now here and whom I have seen, at least the older ones, are enthusiastic Zionists. They are singing songs and playing games about returning to Jerusalem, which seems to indicate that their Zionism antedates their coming across the frontier; I should also add that we have supplied Mr. Weissman and Sr. Alves with a number of names and addresses of non-Jewish children

and

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

and adults who should be gotten out and that they are now making arrangements to get these individuals out of France. They are mostly children of people who are well known anti-Nazis. Sr. Alves is also contacting leading French personalities, Protestant and Catholic, who know about the location of children in hiding, and I hope will secure a number of children through these channels.

4) As I cabled recently, it seems to me that, regardless of what the Joint Distribution Committee may or may not do, here is a channel for getting children, and adults as well, out of France which should not be allowed to dry up for lack of the necessary funds.

5) Regarding Mr. Weissman himself, it is quite clear that he is somewhat of a visionary and that he frequently talks bigger than he performs, but nevertheless he seems to have done something on what might be termed, in common parlance, a shoe-string.

6) One other point that should be mentioned but concerning which I have no data, is that both Alves and Chatain claim that practically all the Jewish adults who have recently crossed the Pyrenees, came through their organization at the instigation and with the definite planning of M. Croustillon, referred to in the memorandum. However, as soon as these people reach Spain they are obliged to go to the Joint for maintenance and the Joint then claims them as people whom they have evacuated. What the truth of this is I have no means of knowing.

7) I should also add that my own previous experience with the representatives of the Joint in Spain, Mr. Blickenstaff and Mr. Sequerra, bears out the statement in Alves report that up to very recently they would have nothing to do with bringing people into Spain without proper papers. Weissman's organization has done this sort of thing for some time and it seems reasonable to suppose that they have facilities for doing it now when it has become the policy of the Board.

8) This whole question, indeed the entire usefulness of the War Refugee Board's program here in the Peninsula, is bound up with the possibilities of the Board's having adequate representation in Spain. Some comparatively small services can be rendered here in Portugal but Spain is the key to the situation. Many of the difficulties that exist here could probably be overcome if we had a representative in Spain with the full backing of the Embassy there and certainly the matters of fact which are at issue could be much more easily clarified from Madrid or Barcelona than from Lisbon. So far as the program of the War Refugee Board is concerned, it is my personal opinion that its activities in the Iberian Peninsula are really a unit, even though there are two separate countries involved, and that comparatively little progress can be made until the situation in Spain is clarified. This is of course a matter which must be decided by the Board after consultation with Ambassador Hayes and lies without the province of this Mission.

Robert C. Dexter  
Special Attache.

Lisbon, May 17, 1944.

MAY 12 1944

Dear Dr. Wise:

The following message for you from Mr. Weissman was received from Lisbon under date of May 9, 1944:

"Second group 6 children youngest 5 eldest 12 arrived. Skowronski Max 10 years son Isak and Fenny Bajnbaum, uncle Bajnbaum New York address unknown. 3 Rosenfelds, Marcel, Anni, Susanne children Abraham and Fajga Fajmessenger, grandmother Fajmessenger New York address unknown. Please trace.

"Cable Herman Mandel, Apartado 1194, Lima, Peru that niece Edith Thieberg daughter Joseph and Civic Margoschis among rescued children.

"Other groups arriving regularly in tattered clothing no shoes. Completely outfitting them here. Work organized so that hope rescue continually groups of 30 to 50 children. Have leased house seaside accommodations 80 children.

"Jewish Congress offering services to WRB French Red Cross Unitarian and various Legations for rescuing Catholic and Protestant children. Our sincerest wish be helpful to non-Jewish children.

"American British Embassies intervention at our request succeeded and now rescued children can regularly enter Portugal not exceeding simultaneously 300.

"Thanks our initiative Spanish and French Red Cross Spain together Jean Chatain high French official intervened Spanish Foreign Minister Jordana with following results; First. Free entrance Spain up to 500 children simultaneously for transit Portugal; Second. Permission create

000836

reception centers Barcelona, Madrid for these children;  
Third. Entrance and residence Spain till end war 600 non-  
Jewish children.

"WRB here still without enough money to meet extensive  
rescue work planned. Also no remittance from you and even  
transfer promised by Kubowitzki unarrived."

I am sure you will appreciate the extremely confidential  
nature of the foregoing message.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Dr. Stephen S. Wise,  
World Jewish Congress,  
1834 Broadway,  
New York 23, New York.

*JW* Discussed  
with JWP.  
FH:lab 5/11/44

000837

AIR MAIL

No. 494  
x

EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Lisbon, May 11, 1944  
**CONTROL COPY**

Subject: War Refugee Children from France in Portugal.

3 Mr RB  
3 War Refugee Board  
(Files)  
1 Mr (Mr Sunday)  
g

The Honorable  
The Secretary of State,  
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose herewith a copy of note verbale no. 309 of May 8, 1944, delivered to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on May 9. This note briefly summarizes conversations held with Dr. Malheiro Reimão, the official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs who has been designated by the Minister to consider all questions concerning refugees. This Embassy found a very sympathetic hearing for its request regarding children and the enclosed note gives all details as they have been arranged up to the moment. Other problems will almost certainly present themselves but so far the coast seems clear so far as the Government of Portugal is concerned. It is requested, if the Department sees no objection thereto, that a copy of this note, together with a copy of this despatch, be transmitted to the War Refugee Board.

Respectfully yours,

For the Ambassador:

*Edward S. Crocker*  
Edward S. Crocker  
Counselor of Embassy

16074

Enclosure:  
Note Verbale no. 309.

300  
RCD/ajl

PS/CH

000830

Enclosure to despatch no. 494 dated May 10, 1944, from the American Embassy in Lisbon.

COPY

No. 309

The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and has the honor to refer to its Note no. 268 dated April 18, 1944, and subsequent conversations with the Ministry.

It is the understanding of this Embassy that the Ministry agrees to accept in principle the request of this Embassy to admit a considerable number of children under 16 years of age coming from France via Spain into Portugal, even though these children do not have proper travel documents and are without visas for Portugal.

It is the further understanding of the Embassy that for the present the number of such children given Portuguese hospitality shall be limited to three hundred at any one time.

This Embassy for its part agrees to furnish the Ministry with as complete data as possible regarding each such child prior to its proposed entry into Portugal, such data to include name, age, birthplace, and nationality of parents. It is understood that in some cases all such data cannot be secured.

The Embassy also wishes to inform the Ministry that from May 15 the children will be domiciled at the Victoria Club, Avenida Marques Pombal, Paco d'Arcos. Temporarily the children now here are at Pensao Morreiras, Paco d'Arcos, until the other premises are made ready for them. At least one additional address will be used which will be sent you within a few days.

In all cases every effort will be made by the Embassy to secure visas and transportation for countries of ultimate destination in the shortest possible time.

It is requested that the Ministry arrange with the competent authorities for the issuance of a "Titulo de Viagem" for each child in order that necessary visas for departure may be placed thereon.

This Embassy desires to express its appreciation of the splendid cooperation of the Portuguese Government and the Ministry in this humanitarian undertaking.

Lisbon, May 8, 1944.

00083

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

DSH-296

PLAIN

Lisbon

Dated May 9, 1944

Rec'd 10:39 p.m.

*2 - War Ref Bd (Mr. Pehle)  
for information*

**CONTROL COPY**

*Split out  
Message sent  
to Dr. Wise  
JCH*

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

1395, Ninth, 5 p.m.

WRB 27 FOR RABBI STEPHEN WISE NEW YORK FROM WEISSMAN.

Second group 6 children youngest 5 eldest 12 arrived.

Skowrronski Max 10 years son Isak and Fanny Bajnbaum,  
uncle Bajnbaum New York address unknown. 3 Rosenfelds,  
Marcel, Anni, Suzanne children Abraham and Fajga Faj-  
messer, grandmother Fajmesser New York address unknown.  
Please trace.

Cable Herman Mandel, Apartado 1194, Lima, Peru that  
niece Edith Thieberg daughter Joseph and Civic Margoschis  
among rescued children.

Other groups arriving regularly in tattered clothing  
no shoes. Completely outfitting them here. Work organized  
so that hope rescue continually groups of 30 to 50 children.  
Have leased ~~(aided by WRB)~~ house seaside accommodations 80  
children.

*See memo  
with file*

Jewish Congress offering services to WRB French Red

Cross

000840

-2-, 1395, Ninth, 5 p.m., from Lisbon.

Cross Unitarian and various Legations for rescuing Catholic and Protestant children. Our sincerest wish be helpful to non-Jewish children.

American British Embassies intervention at our request succeeded and now rescued children can regularly enter Portugal not exceeding simultaneously 300.

Thanks our initiative Spanish and French Red Cross Spain together Jean Chatain high French official intervened Spanish Foreign Minister Jordana with following results: First. Free entrance Spain up to 500 children simultaneously for transit Portugal; Second. Permission create reception centers Barcelona, Madrid for these children; Third. Entrance and residence Spain till end war 600 non-Jewish children.

WRB here still without enough money to meet extensive rescue work planned. Also no remittance from you and even transfer promised by Kubowitzki unarrived.

NORWEB

EH  
WMB

000841

*War Refugee Board  
J.W. Peltz  
1 Copy only*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Legation, Lisbon  
DATED: May 8, 1944  
NUMBER: 1289  
\*

**CONTROL COPY**

Reference your Nos. 11, 12 and 15 of May 1 (Embassy's 1307, 1308 and 1317).

It appears that all of the foregoing cables may have been sent by you before you received our No. 8 (Department's 1229 of May 1). As stated in that cable (WRB No. 8), Board is deeply disturbed over possibility that friction among private agencies operating in Portugal will interfere with the actual rescue of children from France. Board is relying on you to use your powers as WRB representative to prevent competitive duplication in this important rescue program. Our main goal is the saving of lives and nothing must prevent the attainment of this end.

Board appreciates having Weissman's views on this program. However, Board requests you send at once the views of Dr. Schwartz of the JDC, together with your own conclusions and recommendations.

As we stated in our No. 8 of May 1, the question of where to send the children who are actually rescued should be determined after they have been saved. The decision should be made on an individual case basis. In this connection it should be borne in mind that 1000 U. S. visas are presently available for these children in Spain and Portugal. Canadian visas are also available in addition to the Palestine certificates.

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

000842

With respect to financing these rescue programs, the Board has publicly taken the position that it will rely on established private organizations for the necessary funds unless such private sources are inadequate. As you know the JDC is presently licensed to carry on a rescue program from Portugal and has substantial funds available for these operations. In addition, the World Jewish Congress has applied for a similar license, the issuance of which the Board has recommended. As long as adequate funds are available from private sources, Board is not (repeat not) prepared to authorize use of Board's funds either for rescue of these children or their maintenance after rescue.

Please advise all interested persons of foregoing.

THIS IS WAR REFUGEE BOARD CABLE TO LISBON NO. 16.

HULL

RECEIVED  
JUL 11 1943  
JDC  
NEW YORK

000843

CABLE TO LISBON

Following message is for Dexter from Pehle:

Reference your Nos. 11, 12 and 15 of May 1 (Embassy's 1307, 1308 and 1317).

It appears that all of the foregoing cables may have been sent by you before you received our No. 8 (Department's 1229 of May 1). As stated in that cable (WRB No. 8), Board is deeply disturbed over possibility that friction among ~~various~~ <sup>private</sup> agencies operating in Portugal will interfere with the actual rescue of children from France. Board is relying on you to use your powers as WRB representative to prevent competitive duplication in this important rescue program. Our main goal is the saving of lives and nothing must prevent the attainment of this end.

Board appreciates having Weissman's views on this program. However, Board requests you send at once <sup>the views</sup> ~~those~~ of Dr. Schwartz of the JDC, together with your own conclusions and recommendations.

As we stated in our No. 8 of May 1, the question of where to send the children who are actually rescued should be determined after they have been saved. The decision should be made on an individual case basis. In this connection it should be borne in mind that 1000 U. S. visas are presently available for these children in Spain and Portugal. Canadian visas are also available in addition to the Palestine certificates.

With respect to financing these rescue programs, the Board has publicly taken the position that it will rely on established private

*JH/BB7* *aa* *Cleared with Mr. Pehle*

000844

- 2 -

organizations for the necessary funds unless such private sources are inadequate. As you know the JEC is presently licensed to carry on a rescue program from Portugal and has substantial funds available for these operations. In addition, the World Jewish Congress has applied for a similar license, the issuance of which the Board has recommended. As long as adequate funds are available from private sources, Board is not (repeat not) prepared to authorize use of Board's funds either for rescue of these children or their maintenance after rescue.

Please advise all interested persons of foregoing.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO LISBON NO. 16.

\*\*\*\*\*  
May 6, 1944  
4:10 P.M.

FH:lab 5/6/44

000843

*W. J. R. B.*  
*M. J. Pella*  
*1 copy only*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: The American Minister, Lisbon  
TO: The Secretary of State, Washington  
DATE: May 6, 1944  
NUMBER: 1367  
4

CONTROL COPY

Due to the fact that their maintenance here and their ultimate transportation to Palestine, the United States or some other destination are guaranteed by the Embassy, today the Portuguese Foreign Office agreed to accept three hundred children at a time without passports. By mail the details are being sent. For the present the number seems adequate. From the War Refugee Board funds here I have agreed to pay a part of the costs of the Jewish Congress reception center. Except that nothing should be said concerning the clandestine nature of the childrens' coming or from whence they come, there is no reason why this generous act of Portugal should not be given publicity. Others will be coming soon but at present there are only twelve here all of whom are Jewish Congress children.

Upon Spain the ultimate efforts of success now depend.

NORWEB

DCR:MPL  
5/8/44

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

000846

1634

INCOMING CABLE  
LISBON

REC'D MAY 6, 1944  
STENCILLED MAY 8, 1944

GUYHZ PG1118 LISBOA 110 29:1940

NLT LEAVITT  
JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE  
270 MADISON AVE. NEW YORK

896 WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS REPRESENTATIVE HERE TAKING STEPS SET UP SEPARATE  
RELIEF CHILD CARE FACILITIES FOR CHILDREN WHO MAY ARRIVE FROM FRANCE stop  
REFUSING AVAIL HIMSELF OF EXISTING FACILITIES LOCAL JEWISH COMMUNITY WHICH WE  
SUPPORTING ALLEGED BASIS WE OPPOSED PALESTINE IMMIGRATION THESE CHILDREN stop  
INSISTS HE HAS AUTHORIZATION HIS CENTRAL OFFICE NEW YORK SUCH PROCEDURE  
ALTHOUGH ARIEH TARTAKOWER ASSURED ME OTHERWISE IN LONDON stop ALTHOUGH NO  
CHILDREN YET ARRIVED SUCH ACTIVITIES CAUSING MUCH CONFUSION IN COMMUNITY AND  
EMBASSIES stop THEREFORE SUGGEST YOU CLARIFY WITH WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS WHETHER  
THEY ARE PLANNING EMBARK ON RELIEF PROGRAM HERE SO THAT WE MAY BE PROPERLY  
GUIDED OUR OWN PLANNING

JOSEPH SCHWARTZ

ir

000847

*War Refugee Board  
and HULL*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: AMLEGATION, Lisbon ✓  
DATED: May 5, 1944  
NUMBER: 1270

*1 copy only*

**CONTROL COPY**

RECEIVED  
MAY 11 1944  
STATE DEPT.  
RECEIVED

From War Refugee Board to Norweb for Dexter  
Reference your WRB 8 of April 26.  
Please deliver following message to Philip Conard  
from the American Friends Service Committee:  
"Clarifying our position various projects affecting  
French relief Stop Stress urgency prompt shipment food  
supplies from Portugal recently licensed for children in  
France Stop Inadequately informed details project bring  
French children temporarily Portugal Stop Considering  
grave plight refugee children France believe other groups  
projects to rescue these children take precedence over  
temporary care French children Portugal"

THIS IS WRB LISBON CABLE NO. 11

HULL

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

000848

1944 MAY  
WAR R  
WASH

CABLE TO LISBON

From War Refugee Board to Norweb for Dexter

Reference your WRB 8 of April 26.

Please deliver following message to Philip Conard from  
the American Friends Service Committee:

"Clarifying our position various projects affecting  
French relief Stop Stress urgency prompt shipment food  
supplies from Portugal recently licensed for children in  
France Stop Inadequately informed details project bring  
French children temporarily Portugal Stop Considering  
grave plight refugee children France believe other groups  
projects to rescue these children take precedence over  
temporary care French children Portugal"

THIS IS WRB LISBON CABLE NO. 11

\*\*\*\*\*  
May 3/44  
3:12 p.m.

*Message drafted  
by Miss Freaney & Mrs. Koble of Am. Friends*

*JH*

FH:lab 5/2/44

000840

Reference of WRB 8 of April 26

CLARIFYING OUR POSITION VARIOUS PROJECTS AFFECTING FRENCH RELIEF  
STOP STRESS URGENCY PROMPT SHIPMENT FOOD SUPPLIES FROM  
PORTUGAL RECENTLY LICENSED FOR CHILDREN IN FRANCE STOP  
INADEQUATELY INFORMED DETAILS PROJECT BRING FRENCH  
CHILDREN TEMPORARILY PORTUGAL STOP CONSIDERING GRAVE PLIGHT  
REFUGEE CHILDREN FRANCE BELIEVE OTHER GROUPS ~~XXXX~~ PROJECTS  
TO RESCUE THESE CHILDREN TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER TEMPORARY  
CARE FRENCH CHILDREN PORTUGAL.

To United for Europe  
France Union of rescue  
Philippe Bouchard / in the name

000850



*War Ref Bd*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: The American Minister, Lisbon  
TO: The Secretary of State, Washington  
DATE: May 4, 1944  
NUMBER: 1344

*(Mr. Gehl)*  
*1 copy only*

**CONTROL COPY**

The following message is from Isaac Weissman for Rabbi Wise, New York, and WRB, as WRB number 19.

Joint has informed the War Refugee Board in Washington that Joint is rescuing persons from enemy territory at the present time, according to my information.

This is not true. Up to the present time Joint has not brought out a single person. However, to refugees brought over the border by Congress workers Joint lays claim. For support these refugees must then go to Joint.

The World Congress has an opportunity within a short time to save hundreds of children not to mention adults if funds for expenses are sent here. Our frontier organization so far built up and maintained by the Congress and the only one now in existence for this specific purpose will disintegrate if a large amount is not sent immediately for this purpose. Please answer by cable at once.

RECEIVED  
WASHINGTON, D. C.  
MAY 3 2 20 PM '44

NORWEG

DGR:MPL  
5/5/44  
5/5/44

*5/8/44*  
*Refugees sent to*  
*S. Wise*  
*Out*

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972

110185

1944 MAY 9 PM  
TO: Mr. Tolson  
FROM: Mr. [unclear]  
SUBJECT: [unclear]  
RE: [unclear]

MAY 8 1944

Dear Dr. Wise:

The following message for you from Mr. Isaac Weissman was received from the American Legation, Lisbon, under date of May 4, 1944:

"Joint has informed the War Refugee Board in Washington that Joint is rescuing persons from enemy territory at the present time, according to my information.

"This is not true. Up to the present time Joint has not brought out a single person. However, two refugees brought over the border by Congress workers Joint lays claim. For support these refugees must then go to Joint.

"The World Congress has an opportunity within a short time to save hundreds of children not to mention adults if funds for expenses are sent here. Our frontier organization so far built up and maintained by the Congress and the only one now in existence for this specific purpose will disintegrate if a large amount is not sent immediately for this purpose. Please answer by cable at once."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Dr. Stephen Wise,  
World Jewish Congress,  
1834 Broadway,  
New York, New York.

FH:lab 5/8/44 *JW*

100850

**CONTROL COPY**

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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

*War Ref Bd (m) (Bible)*

This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government Agency. (SC-00)

Dated May 3, 1944

Rec'd 5:54 p.m., 4th.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF  
MAY 5 1944  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

*File*

1532, May 3, midnight

In accordance with instruction Department's 1008, April 12, Embassy herewith returns as unused one third of block quota numbers allotted for refugee children. Following inclusive numbers returned: German 3505 to 3704, Polish 1798 to 1847, Belgian 243 to 252, Netherlands 485 to 511, Czech 541 to 560, French 459 to 485.

HAYES

EEC  
EDA

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

000854

MAY 2 1944

Dear Mr. Dexter:

Please refer to your cable No. 1168 of April 19 and other communications relating to the efforts now being made by certain private refugee organizations to evacuate children from France through Spain to Portugal. In this connection, I should like to call to your attention a consideration which I regard as extremely important and one which should be kept in mind at all times.

As you know, Ambassador Hayes has indicated certain possible objections to the proposed activities of the War Refugee Board in Spain. One of the points which Mr. Hayes has raised since you left Washington is the possibility that clandestine operations designed to evacuate children and other refugees from France, may in some way compromise the existing underground facilities through which American and Allied airmen now reach the Spanish frontier without detection.

The War Refugee Board, of course, does not wish any steps to be taken which might jeopardize the chances of escape of Allied military personnel. From our conversations in Washington, I am sure that you are entirely conscious of the importance of this matter and are taking all precautions to assure that refugee operations do not so interfere. I am, however, taking this opportunity to call to your attention the observation made by Ambassador Hayes. I suggest that at the earliest possible moment you make clear to Mr. Schwartz of the Joint Distribution Committee and any other groups engaged in this activity the absolute necessity of not causing interference with the military aspects of the underground movement. We assume that the channels to be used for evacuating refugees will be different from and not conflict with those used in aiding the escape of aviators.

I am glad that you are on the job for us and am sure that you will continue to do good work. The safety of military personnel is obviously the consideration of primary importance in this situation. However, we are sure that you will be able to find many non-conflicting opportunities for the rescue of refugees.

With kindest regards, I am

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle,  
Executive Director

Mr. Robert G. Dexter,  
Special Representative,  
War Refugee Board,  
c/o American Legation,  
Lisbon, Portugal.  
JWP:bbk - 5/1/44 937

*was' Refugee Bd  
Int. Office  
copy only*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Portugal  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: May 1, 1944  
NUMBER: 1308  
x

**CONTROL COPY**

This is WRB's no. 12.

We refer herein to the Embassy's no. 1307 of May 1  
and WRB's No. 11.

RECEIVED  
MAY 2 1944  
AMERICAN LEGATION  
WASHINGTON D.C.  
REFUGEE BOARD

Definite authorization to pay for maintenance of  
children from WRB funds here should be given the Embassy.  
I am also of the opinion that for any immediate anticipated  
needs the sum of \$50,000 asked for is entirely too large.

NORWEE

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

11085

*War Refugee Bd  
Mr. Peelle*

*copy only*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: American Legation, Lisbon  
To: Secretary of State, Washington  
Date: May 1, 1944  
Number: 1307  
x

**CONTROL COPY**

Following is WRB No. 11.

According to latest news approximately one hundred children and adults, rescued by Jewish Congress, are in Spain at present. On May 1, first group of our children arrived in Lisbon. In order to keep work going satisfactorily it is necessary to borrow money on personal credit. I am trusting that it will be repayed by WRB. Please ask WRB director to instruct Dexter to refund \$5,000 to me which has been borrowed to present time. Although he has funds here he should be given authority to make payment. In addition I urge that you ask War Refugee Board to put \$50,000 at disposition of Lisbon Embassy for purpose of providing funds for rescue and support of more children and for rescue of adults. It is plan of both adults and children to go to Palestine, and we are to be responsible for their care. Their departure from occupied territory is expected shortly. Our rescue work terminates and frontier

organization

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

10085

RECEIVED BY ST  
OFFICE

organization disintegrates in same way (?) (?) (?)  
unless these funds are received from WRB or some  
other source.

NORWEB.

NOTE: Last part of message garbled (serviced).

SI 2 MP 3 YAM 1101

WASHINGTON D.C.  
AIR REFUGEE BOARD  
RECEIVED

000850

*War Refugee Bd.  
M. J. Pehle  
1 copy only*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington,  
TO: AMLEGATION, Lisbon,  
DATED: May 1, 1944.  
NUMBER: 1229

**CONTROL COPY**

CABLE TO NORWEB, LISBON, FOR DEXTER

Reference your no. 1168, April 19, and no. 1183, April 20. Following message is for Dexter from Pehle:

"In connection with proposals of Weissman concerning rescue of hidden children from France through Spain to Portugal, you are requested immediately to contact Dr. Joseph Schwartz of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee who, as you know, is extremely competent and experienced in this field. You should take advantage of his knowledge and background in this particular program. Schwartz is already operating such a rescue program under appropriate Treasury license, text of which was cabled to Ambassador Norweb, permitting the necessary communication with persons in enemy territory as well as the necessary financial transactions. It should be noted that aside from its wide experience in this type of operation and adequate personnel the American

WASHINGTON, D.C.  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD  
RECEIVED

12PM WVA  
4  
PM 4 05

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

70085

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee has substantial funds available and has shown its willingness to cooperate wholeheartedly on all our rescue programs.

"It is appreciated that the problem of working with the various private organizations in Portugal cannot be resolved from this end. While it is, of course, our policy to work in harmony with all organizations, the Board feels that the program to rescue children from France would be greatly endangered if two organizations without coordination through you should be trying to rescue the same children with the possibility that fewer lives are saved. Since our main goal is to rescue the maximum number of children in the shortest possible time, we feel you should use your best judgment in utilizing all agencies in those ways that will best achieve our aim.

"The problem of where to send the children who are actually rescued should, of course, be determined after they have been saved and depends upon existing facilities at that time."

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO LISBON NO. 8.

X  
HULL

FOR MR. & MRS. A. S. SO  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
RECEIVED  
MAY 16 1945

000860

CABLE TO WORNED, LISBON, FOR DEITER

Reference your no. 1168, April 19, and no. 1189, April 20.

Following message is for Dexter from Fehle:

"In connection with proposals of Weissman concerning rescue of hidden children from France through Spain to Portugal, you are requested immediately to contact Dr. Joseph Schwartz of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee who, as you know, is extremely competent and experienced in this field. You should take advantage of his knowledge and background in this particular program. Schwartz is already operating such a rescue program under appropriate Treasury license, text of which was cabled to Ambassador Herweb, permitting the necessary communication with persons in enemy territory as well as the necessary financial transactions. It should be noted that aside from its wide experience in this type of operation and adequate personnel the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee has substantial funds available and has shown its willingness to cooperate wholeheartedly on all our rescue programs.

"It is appreciated that the problem of working with the various private organizations in Portugal cannot be resolved from this end. While it is, of course, our policy to work in harmony with all organizations, the Board feels that the program to rescue children from France would be greatly endangered if two organizations without coordination through you should be trying to rescue the same children with the possibility that fewer lives are saved. Since our main goal is to rescue the maximum number

of children in the shortest possible time, we feel you should use your best judgment in utilizing all agencies in those ways that will best achieve our aim.

"The problem of where to send the children who are actually rescued should, of course, be determined after they have been saved and depends upon existing facilities at that time."

THIS IS WEB CABLE TO LISBON NO. 8.

\*\*\*\*\*  
April 27, 1944

3:00 P.M.

FH:lab 4/27/44

*GH* cleared with JWP.  
OK  
KSL  
87

000862

APR 29 1944

Dear Mr. Pickett:

The following message for you from Philip Conard was received from Lisbon under date of April 27, 1944:

"On advice Embassy suggest you discuss timing Portuguese feeding project French children with War Refugee Board. Embassy has pending plans for refugee childrens admission here with which French project may interfere."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Mr. Clarence Pickett,  
American Friends Service  
Committee,  
20 South 12th Street,  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

FH:lab 4/29/44 *JW* ✓

7 0 0 8 6 3

Control Copy

HCD-641

This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Governmental agency. (3C-60)

Lisbon

Dated April 27, 1944.

Rec'd 9:52 a.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

1266, April 27, noon.

AD-7.

Following message is from Philip Conrad for War Refugee Board and American Friends Service Committee Philadelphia:

"On advice Embassy suggest you discuss timing Portuguese feeding project French children with War Refugee Board. Embassy has pending plans for refugee childrens admission here with which French project may interfere."

NORJEB

WPS

*7/29/44  
Message sent to  
Records.  
RH.*

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972

000867

Control Copy

RCC-550  
This telegram must be  
paraphrased before being  
communicated to anyone  
other than a Governmental  
agency. (SC00)

Lisbon

Dated April 26, 1944

Rec'd 9:58 p.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

1261, April 26, 5 p.m.

WRB 8.

FOR W.R. REFUGEE BOARD.

Reference WRB 7. Suggest delay Quaker project  
bringing French children temporarily to Portugal  
until decision made regarding negotiations concerning  
entrance and care possibly large numbers refugee children  
Latter still pending and French project may possibly  
prevent it materializing.

NORWEB

WSB

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

**BEST AVAILABLE COPY**

000865

**CONTROL COPY**

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

*7- War Refugee Bd  
(Mr. Beble)  
files*

NMC-425  
This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government agency. (B000)

Lisbon  
Dated April 22, 1944  
Rec'd 7:52 p.m.

*Miss off  
Gwen  
Went*

Secretary of State,

Washington.

1214, April 22, 6 p.m.

WRB number five.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS  
APR 24 1944

Requested by Joseph Schwartz following for War Refugee Board and Leavitt joint distribution New York:

"Six children arrived in Spain as first group and more are expected to follow.

Guides arranged by us brought them thru Pyrennes and they are now in our care in Barcelona. In addition 26 adults came into Spain which makes a total of 94 new arrivals there. Will attempt to provide children with visas under United States Commission plan or, in case of those having close relatives there or preferring Palestine, certificates for Palestine".

NORWEB

WSB

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

100860

CONTROL COPY

7-War Refugee Bd  
- (Mr. Beld)

CONFIDENTIAL  
For security reasons the  
level of information should  
be maintained at  
Lisbon

CM-278

This telegram must be  
paraphrased before being  
communicated to anyone  
other than a Government  
agency. (SCOO)

Dated April 19, 1944

Rec'd 6:18 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

SECTION OF  
APR 20 1944

1168, April 19, 11 p.m., (SECTION ONE)

WRB number one.

Special instructions regarding granting of visas  
to refugee 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.

RECEIVED  
MAY 10 1944  
RECEIVED  
MAY 10 1944  
RECEIVED  
MAY 10 1944  
RECEIVED  
MAY 10 1944

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 Weissman 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.

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

000000

-2- #1168, April 18, 11 p.m., (SECTION ONE) from Lisbon

developments. Think reception will not present great difficulties.

Isaac Weissman, 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 later, 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.

NORWEB

WSB

110860

MFG-434

Lisbon

This telegram must be  
paraphrased before being  
communicated to anyone  
other than a Governmental  
agency (SCOO)

Dated April 19, 1944

Rec'd 1:20 a.m. 20th

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

1168, April 19, 5 p.m. (SECTION TWO)

Weissman has an organization but lacks sufficient funds to finance project. He estimates cost per child to be \$335 each, delivered in Portugal. On basis of 300 children per month this would involve a monthly appropriation of \$100,000. Is War Refugee Board prepared to guarantee this? If all were gotten out this would involve \$3,000,000; however we doubt any such number. Considerable funds must be available immediately as first small group are expected through within few days. Request immediate authorization to expend up to 100,000 on this project. Cable reply soonest.

It is intention of World Jewish Congress to send majority to Palestine. For that country visas are immediately available here with preference to children. This presents a problem as there will be a conflict

-2- #1168, April 19, 5 p.m. (SECTION TWO) from Lisbon

a conflict between Zionist and non-Zionist Jewish organizations regarding ultimate destination of children. From here it seems easier and less expensive to send children to Palestine than to United States. Would suggest original plans be carried through unless strong objection your part. We need clear directive from Department and WFB on this point. Cable advice.

Any publicity regarding clandestine evacuation from France would endanger success. Publicity any project must be carefully scrutinized and Legation should be consulted in advance. Although reasons for publicity a minimum thereof will ensure most effective work.

END MESSAGE.

NORWEB

BB

000870

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

*See Proj # 8*

*copy*

FROM: The American Minister, Lisbon  
TO: The Secretary of State, Washington  
DATE: April 19 1944  
NUMBER: 1185



There follows in substance a paraphrased message for Leavitt, Joint Distribution Committee, New York and the War Refugee Board from Mr. Joseph Schwartz:

The International Red Cross sent of the funds supplied by us has sent to France 100 000 Swiss francs worth of food and medicine. During the last four or five weeks over three hundred children from France have arrived in Switzerland and are being cared for by local groups. During the past two to three weeks sixty-four refugees including two children have come to Spain from France. Most of these recent arrivals who are in Lerida are being maintained by our Barcelona office. Any day we are expecting the arrival of a group of children. I shall keep you informed.

FORWARDED

DCR:MPL  
4/19/44

Sec'y, Abrahamson, Aksin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Lurford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Paul, Pollak, Rains, Sargoy, Smith, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H. D. White, Fehle, Files.

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972

000000

TELEGRAM SENT

2 - *War*  
April 15, 1944 - *Refugee*

8 p.m.

FMH  
This telegram must be  
paraphrased before being  
communicated to anyone  
other than a government  
agency. (SR)

**CONTROL COPY** *Bd (Mrs. Behe)*

AMLEGATION,

LISBON.

\* 1048

FOR THE MINISTER AND DEXTER FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD. *file*

MRB no. 2.

Please discuss with Weisman of World Jewish Congress  
his proposal to request Portuguese Government for creation  
of a reception center for children coming from France.  
Report full details to Board, giving reasons for proposal  
and your reactions.

HULL  
(GLW)

HULL

MRB:GLM:KG S/OR  
4/15/44

WE  
Cleared over phone  
with Mr. Morgan

000872

FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD TO NORWEB AND DEXTER

Please discuss with Weisman of World Jewish Congress his proposal to request Portuguese Government for creation of a reception center for children coming from France. Report full details to Board, giving reasons for proposal and your reactions.

THIS IS WRB LISBON CABLE NO. 2

April 14, 1944  
3:15 p.m.

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Aksiny-Bernstein-Sehn, DuBois, Friedman, Gasten, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Laxford, Mann, Mannen, Marks, McGerack, Paul, Pehle, Fellak, Reins, Sargeoy, Smith, Standich, Stewart, Weinstein, H.-D., White

RLSmithsdh 4/14/44 *RL Smith L.S. L.*

TELEGRAM SENT

ON

April 12, 1944

This telegram must be paraphrased before being disseminated to anyone other than a Government agency. (3000)

9 p.m.

EMBASSY

MADRID

1008

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 59.55(a)(16) 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 on 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 means of transportation to the United States and without regard to religious, 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, 1917, 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 59.47 of the Regulations of November 19, 1941, as amended, regarding aliens entering the United States, the existence of the relationships described in Section 59.49 thereof shall not be considered. Replace visas may be issued during the same quota year to those children who are still qualified therefor under this instruction and who are still under sixteen years of age at the date of the issuance of such replace visas. Subject to the quota laws 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 pertinent adverse change in present quota laws. Cases of 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 control 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:



Gentlemen:

The following confidential message for you from Isaac Weissman was received from Lisbon under date of April 6, 1944:

"Our different children rescue organizations already working. Received 11 children others awaited daily and continually please intervene urgently for cable transfer from War Refugee Board budget to American Legation Lisbon with necessary instructions or do utmost for other urgent cable transfer if rescue work should not. Expecting cable answer."

I am sure you will appreciate the extremely confidential nature of this message.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Dr. Stephen S. Wise,  
Dr. Nahum Goldman,  
World Jewish Congress,  
330 West 42nd Street,  
New York 18, New York.

 FH:lab 4/7/44

7 0 0 8 7 0

**CONTROL COPY**

2 - War Refugee Bd.  
(Mr. Behl)  
Dept will transmit  
to Rabbi Wise

RECT-594

PLAIN

Lisbon

Dated April 6, 1944

Rec'd 5:12 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

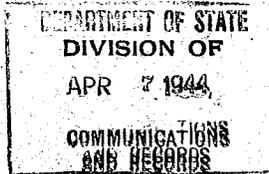
1033, sixth.

Following for War Refugee Board and Rabbi Stephen  
Wise Nahum Goldman, World Jewish Congress, New York,  
from Isaac Weissman.

"Our different children rescue organizations  
already working. Received 11 children others awaited  
daily and continually please intervene urgently for  
cable transfer from War Refugee Board budget to  
American Legation Lisbon with necessary instructions or  
do utmost for other urgent cable transfer if rescue  
work should not. Expecting cable answer".

NORWEB

EJH



*4/10/44  
Message sent to  
Division of Dr. Goldman  
Rt*

7 0 0 9 7 7

*War Refugee Bd  
Mr. Pelt*

PARAPHASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: The American Minister, Lisbon  
TO: The Secretary of State, Washington  
DATE: April 3, 1944  
NUMBER: 997  
x

*1 copy only  
File #hold of  
French to board  
to board  
JH*

**CONTROL COPY**

There follows the substance of a telegram for the War  
Refugee Board and <sup>board</sup> Moses Ferguson with the United States Joint  
Distribution Committee, New York, from Joseph Schwartz.

<sup>realy</sup> Pillsmayer is already aiding in the relief and the rescue  
of Jews in northern Italy and several days ago through Vatican  
circles he made one million lira available. This refers to  
telegram dated 3 p.m., March 30. Since he has constant con-  
tact with Valobra and other representatives everything neces-  
sary is being done by him. With reference to the rescue of  
children from Spain it must be noted that they will arrive  
without documentation and you should advise the Consulates  
in Spain and in Portugal that visas without requiring birth  
certificates and other formal documents should be issued.  
Also is it possible for you to consider relaxing the original  
requirements and making the age limit sixteen instead of fourteen  
for children of enemy origin? Tomorrow I am leaving for Algiers  
because I cannot delay longer but I think that all arrangements  
have now been completed for preparations in Spain. I believe  
Donald Hurwitz will leave for London next week. If you will send  
me passport authorization to the American Consulate in Algiers  
I will appreciate it.

*See  
1008  
to  
Madrid*

*APR 7 1944*

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date **SEP 15 1972** NORWES

DOR:MPL 4/9/44

*copy + transmitted  
Hites  
JH  
6*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

*was Pluzer Bd  
(ms Pella)*

*1 copy only  
File*

FROM: American Legation, Lisbon

TO: Secretary of State

DATED: March 23, 1944

NO: 879  
X

**CONTROL COPY**

██████████  
Following from Joseph Schwartz for War Refugee Board for Moses Leavitt, Joint Distribution Committee, New York.

The following message is in reply to your cable from War Refugee Board to the American Embassy in London.

One. Upon advice from Resnik that there is no definite assurance yet available that children will be able to depart and also because of information that Ira Hirschmann hopes to obtain a Turkish vessel for evacuation from the Balkans, I suspended all negotiations for Portuguese steamer for Balkan evacuation for the time being. Unless we know that children will be available for embarkation and the date when the steamer is required at Constanza, we cannot close the deal with the Portuguese company. Obviously cancellation at our option is not possible once the steamer is actually en route to Balkan port. I have sent a cable to Hirschmann directly through the Embassy in London asking him for precise information regarding the present status of the subject and also whether negotiations should be resumed by us here but no reply has been received thus far.

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73  
By R. H. Parks, Date SEP 15 1972

NO: 810

BY: MARY SE' 13

NO: SECRETARY OF

NO: AMERICAN RES

SECRETARY

-2-

Two. Although it is understood by us that German authorities are raising difficulties concerning safe conduct, Portugal has not refused permit to Portuguese vessel for Balkan evacuation. We have every reason to hope that if children are available and Hirschmann tells us to proceed with negotiations, the vessel will be available to sail.

Three. Saly Mayer is working very closely with OSE, Hechalutz, Jarblum and other groups concerning rescue from France and other countries of children and others. Yesterday I talked by telephone with Jarblum and no mention was made by him that he required any funds for rescue purposes and therefore I cannot understand his message to emigre group United States. With respect to children from France, the main rescue work is being carried on through OSE and today I have been informed that in recent weeks 107 children have been brought into Switzerland, 50 having arrived within the last ten days. Saly Mayer is being asked to report through the Legation in Bern regarding the use of the first \$20,000 sent for children in France.

Four. The arrival of the first group of 20 children from France to Spain through our own efforts is expected daily and the ground work for additional groups has already been laid. Because of bad weather conditions in the Pyrenees the process has been slowed up temporarily but we hope to have further reports in the near future.

100-20-1000  
COPY TO: 100-1000  
DATE: 10-10-1940  
APPROVED: 10-10-1940  
100-20-1000

-3-

It is absolutely essential that you obtain a special passport for me in order to facilitate my movements which are otherwise difficult and are becoming more so. Notification of Treasury license No. W-2155 for Spain and No. W-2154 for Portugal has been received through the American Legation.

*Stewart*

*man +  
Palle  
handling  
with state.  
W. S. 2/29*

**NORWEG**

*100-20-1000*

100-20-1000

*Copy*

C  
O  
P  
Y

TO: Mr. J. W. Pehle  
FROM: Mr. G. L. Warren

DATE: March 23, 1944

Telegram No. 1851, September 18, 1942 to Marseille, France, a copy of which is attached, was repeated to Lisbon as no. A-221, December 26, 1942 with the following additional paragraph:

"Although the developments in France have altered the situation there with respect to the children, the foregoing information regarding the arrangements made for the children and the procedure to be followed, will serve as a guidance in the issuance of visas to the children at Lisbon. Telegraph request for quota numbers and subsequently telegraph brief report of visas issued."

*original in  
"Evacuation of children  
to Switzerland A"*

WRB:GLWarren:MCC:KG

*from Liscars files*

11188

C  
O  
P  
Y

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

AMERICAN CONSUL

MARSEILLE, (FRANCE)

D.C.

September 18, 1942

1851, Eighteenth.

The Attorney General has approved arrangements made by the United States Committee for the Care of European Children, Incorporated, to bring to the United States from France one thousand European children.

The children will have assurances of support satisfactory to the Attorney General and as the corporation mentioned is not one operated for profit the Attorney General has held that the children will not be subject to exclusion on account of any payment of their passage by such corporation.

Although none of the children will be sixteen years of age or over, they will not be subject to exclusion as unaccompanied children not coming to join their parents, as the Attorney General has prescribed and approved the conditions of their entry in accordance with the statutory authority vested in him.

The children will be of German, Austrian, Czechoslovakian, Polish, Russian, Belgian and Netherlands nationality, and some of them may be stateless. Those who are not in possession of valid passports and can not reasonably procure valid passports, may travel on affidavits of indentity and nationality executed by their parents or by their guardians or custodians, who may also execute their visa applications. As the law requires the presentation of birth certificates only if they are available

- 2 - #1851, September 18, to Marseille.

it is not believed that those children who are not in possession of birth certificates should be refused visas on that ground. However, some available evidence regarding the date and place of the birth of each child should be required in order that you may have a basis for determining the proper quota nationality.

The Department is prepared to assign block allotments of quota numbers to you so far as the quotas permit, for use in issuing quota immigration visas to the children, upon receipt of requests from you giving the number of the children under each quota nationality whose visa applications shall have been approved.

The advisory opinion procedure is hereby waived in the cases of the one thousand children concerned. As all of those who are of enemy nationality will be under fourteen years of age they will not be classifiable as alien enemies. Paragraph 58.47(1) of the war-time visa regulations therefore will not be applicable to them.

Those children who are under fourteen years of age need not repeat not be registered or fingerprinted when visas are issued. Those who are fourteen years of age or over must be registered and fingerprinted in the usual manner before visas are issued to them.

Representatives of the Committee will furnish you the names of the children to be included in the one thousand concerned.

- 3 - #1851, September 18, to Marseille.

concerned and must present suitable medical certificates in support of the visa applications. Physical defects will not necessarily preclude the issuance of visas, but no visa should be issued to any child who is mentally defective or has a loathsome or dangerous contagious disease, or is afflicted with idiocy or imbecility.

The children will probably sail on special ships in groups of approximately five hundred each. Notify Department regarding your needs for possible additional temporary clerical personnel.

The requests for quota numbers and reports of visas issued should be submitted by Lyon and Nice through Marseille as central office to insure keeping the requests for numbers within the prescribed total.

Repeat by mail to Lyon and Nice.

HULL

811.111 Refugee Children/91

VD:RCA:HR      Le      A-L

1 4 0 8 8

*Chidman*

C O P Y

PARAPHRASE OF CABLE NO. 659 RECEIVED FROM LISBON  
ON MARCH 2, 1944.

The following are suggested programs for the rescue and transportation of refugees.

We have been asked to secure sea transportation for 450 refugees from Buchara who have Palestinian visas but are at the moment stranded in Tehran. Because of the Government of Iraq's refusal to grant transit facilities, they were unable to continue to Palestine. It may be possible to secure sea transportation but it will involve a cost of about three hundred dollars for each refugee. Perhaps it would be possible to approach the Iraq government on this subject. Until now that government has adamantly refused to grant transit facilities through the country and all movements of refugees via Tehran depend upon the obtaining of such transit facilities.

There is a possibility of evacuating both children and adults from Bulgaria by way of Turkey and Palestine. Inasmuch as the principal obstacle to such an evacuation is the obtaining of exit permits, it might be helpful if pressure were to be exerted on the Bulgarian government in this connection. It would be equally important to obtain transit facilities through Turkey from the Turkish government for this and any other group which may escape from the Balkans.

The Swiss government has indicated that it is willing to receive many hundreds of additional children from France. However, the Swiss require some assurance that these children will be taken off their hands at the earliest possible opportunity. If such an assurance were given the Swiss would be willing to request the French authorities to send these children to Switzerland. It would be most helpful in this connection if the guarantee were made to the Swiss to repatriate or aid in the emigration of any refugees coming into Switzerland.

The Rumanian authorities appear willing to grant exit visas for the evacuation of 5,000 children from that country to Palestine. The principal difficulty is one of transportation. We have been requested to supply such transportation. Negotiations have been entered into with a Portuguese steamship company which has the matter under advisement. The cost would be approximately one to one and one-half million dollars.

A guarantee similar to the one that I suggest be made to the Swiss Government might also be given to the Portuguese government. If such a guarantee were given together with a request that the Portuguese ask the French authorities to permit a number of children to go to Portugal something might be accomplished. Until now the Portuguese government has refused to admit into Portugal anyone who does not have a visa from some country overseas. The Portuguese authorities would agree to accept these children if this government were to guarantee that any children coming into Portugal would be brought into the United States or some other overseas country.

There has been considerable relaxation on the granting of exit visas especially in Hungary. All possible pressure should be applied against the Balkan satellites to grant exit facilities to Jews permitting them to proceed to Palestine via Turkey.

There is a group of 600 refugees in Tangier who are unemployed. If transportation and Palestinian visas were obtained it would be possible to bring in at least a part of this group to Palestine. It is believed that transportation can be obtained provided that the necessary Palestinian visas are granted. It would also prove helpful if the Canadian government could be persuaded to include this Tangier group of refugees in the group which it is now selecting on a family unit basis for immigration into Canada on special visas valid for the duration of the war.

A very limited number of children could be brought illegally into Spain through the mountains. This would cost approximately two hundred fifty dollars to three hundred dollars per child which must be paid for the services of professional guides. Another difficulty is that the Spanish government looks with disfavor upon such activities. At least several hundred children could be brought into Spain in this manner if the various representative agencies in Spain were supplied with funds for this purpose. Furthermore the Spanish authorities might be persuaded to alter their view if the Spanish government were to receive assurances that these children would be taken out of the country and that such activities have the support of responsible government bodies.

It is urged that American relief organizations in neutral countries be authorized to communicate with bona fide refugee organizations and leaders in occupied territory. In this way the collecting of reliable information and the formulation of plans and programs for rescue and relief could be facilitated.

The rescue and maintenance of refugees would also be facilitated if regulations relating to the transfer of funds from the United States to Switzerland and Turkey were liberalized and if private agencies in those countries were permitted to purchase currency of the occupied territories from bona fide individuals which currencies would be made available for legitimate purposes. If this is to be done our committees should be authorized to give receipts to individuals promising repayment for such advances after the war or if this is impossible promising to make payment either in Switzerland or Turkey. Of course all possible care would be taken to prevent any possible advantage to the enemy from such transactions.

This reply has been prepared hurriedly inasmuch as your message arrived only a few hours before my intended departure from London. If you desire more detailed information I shall be glad to furnish it upon my return.

NORWEB

*Refugees*

MJK-680

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

Lisbon

Dated March 2, 1944

Rec'd 8:45 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

659, March 2, 1 p.m., (SECTION ONE)

Department's 618, February 29. FOLLOWING FOR F. W. PHELLE ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD FROM JOSEPH SCHWARTZ.

"Your message reached me a few hours before departure for London hence can reply only hurriedly. Following possible programs rescue and transportation refugees.

One. Evacuation 5,000 children now Rumania to Palestine. Rumanian authorities seem inclined grant exit permits and major difficulty seems to be transportation which we have been asked to supply. Have been negotiating Portuguese steamship which considering the matter but costs would be one million to one million five hundred thousand dollars.

Two. Possibility evacuations children, adults from Bulgaria via Turkey to Palestine. Chief difficulty lies arranging exit permits this group and any pressure that could be exerted on Bulgarian Government this connection might be helpful. Also important obtain from Turkey transit facilities this and other groups who might be able escape from Balkans.

Three. At this time all possible pressure should be applied Balkan satellite countries to grant exit facilities to Jews their border to proceed Turkey en route Palestine. There has been considerable loosening up on granting exit visas particularly in Hungary and with additional pressure perhaps more could be obtained.

Four. A group of 450 refugees from Buchara now stranded Tehran with Palestine visas but unable proceed Palestine because of refusal Iraqi Government grant transit facilities. We have been asked procure sea transportation which may be possible but will cost approximately \$300 per head. All movement of refugees via Tehran dependent upon ability secure transit facilities Iraq which up to now has steadfastly refused. Perhaps Iraqi Government could be approached on this subject.

✓

-2-, 659, March 2, 1 p.m. (SECTION ONE) from Lisbon.

Five. Swiss Government has indicated readiness accept many hundreds additional children from France provided some assurance could be given that these children will be emigrated at earliest opportunity. With an assurance of ultimate emigration Switzerland would be willing approach French authorities for release these children. In this connection any guarantees to Swiss Government for repatriation or emigration refugees coming into country would be most helpful.

Six. Similar guarantee might be given to Portuguese Government with a request that they approach French authorities permit a number of children to come to Portugal. Portuguese Government will not admit any one to come into country without an overseas end visa but a guarantee on the part of our Government that any children coming into Portugal will be brought away to the United States or other overseas countries would be sufficient to have Portuguese authorities admit these children.

Seven. A limited number of children can be brought into Spain through the services of professional guides who bring them illegally across the mountains for a fee.

NORWEB

EDA

cc: Miss Chauncey (for the Secty) Messrs. Abrahamson, Bernstein, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Laughlin (Miss) Lesser, Luxford, Mann, McCormack, Paul, Pehle, Pollak, Standish, Stewart, E. D. White, Miss Hodel, Mrs. Cohn

IC - 734

This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Governmental agency. (BR)

Lisbon

Dated March 2, 1944

Rec'd 10:50 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

659, March 2, 1 p.m. (SECTION TWO)

Difficulty lies cost of guides which approximately \$250 to \$300 per child also because Spanish Government looks upon such activity as undesirable. If representatives agencies Spain could be supplied with funds this purpose at least several hundred children could be brought into Spain. Spanish authorities might look upon this more favorably if they receive assurances that these children will be taken out of the country and that this has support of responsible government bodies.

Eight. Group six hundred refugees now Tangier wholly unemployed status precarious. Possibility exists bring at least portion this group Palestine provided transportation and Palestine visas available. We believe we can arrange transportation if Palestine Government grants necessary visas. Would also be helpful if Canadian Government which now selecting refugee family units for Canada on duration visas could not be persuaded to include Tangier group.

Nine. Generally speaking rescue and maintenance refugees could be facilitated if regulations concerning transfer funds from the United States to Switzerland and Turkey could be liberalized and if representatives private agencies these countries could be permitted negotiate with bona fide individuals for purchase currencies occupied territories to be made available there for legitimate purposes. Order do this our committees should be authorized to give receipts to individuals indicating repayment for such advances will be made after the war or where this impossible could be permitted to make payments either in Switzerland or in Turkey. Naturally all of us would take every possible precaution to see that enemy is not helped by such transactions.

Ten. American relief organizations functioning in neutral countries should be permitted to communicate with bona fide refugee organizations and leaders in occupied territories. This would facilitate gathering reliable information and formulating plans and programs for rescue and relief. Should you wish more detailed information will be glad supply it upon my return". (END OF MESSAGE).

NORWEB

EDA

cc: Miss Chauncey, Mr. Paul, Mr. H. D. White, Mr. Pehle, Mr. Luxford, Mr. DuBois, Mr. E. N. Bernstein, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Lesser, Mr. Friedman, Miss Hodel, Mr. Pollak, Mr. Abrahamson, Miss Laughlin, Mrs. Cohn.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

February 26, 1944

Re: Plan to evacuate 1000 children from France into Spain for ~~emigration~~ migration to Argentina.  
(Information taken from the censorship files of the Visa Division in the State Department)

---

As of September 20, 1943, there was a plan afoot for the evacuation of 1000 children from France into Spain for eventual migration to Argentina. The Argentine Minister in France is negotiating this transfer with the Vichy Government. The Minister has made two approaches to the Vichy Government, one before the recent revolution in Argentina and one since. (Letter of September 20, 1943 from Dr. James Bernstein of Lisbon to HIAS-ICA Immigration Association of New York City--Censorship No. BER; 2886/43.) The Minister has apparently been instructed by his Government to grant Argentine visas to these children and to arrange for the securing of French and German exit permits into Spain. (GI No. 235-NO-FIN 1961-43.)

MJM:im 2/26/44

*MJM*

000891

February 22, 1944.

MEMORANDUM

Persecution of Jewish Children in France --  
Censorship Intercept. (Material obtained  
from file in Visa Division, State Department)

On December 15, 1943, Isaac Weishman in Lisbon telegraphed Arieh Tartakower, World Jewish Congress, 330 West 42nd Street, New York, as follows: Reports just received from Vichy, France, indicate hunt of Jewish children by Gestapo going on in most horrifying way. Suggest common approach BBC. French should continuously appeal to French population to help save children from deportation. Please do utmost obtaining similar appeals American French radio. Have written to Massigli, Foreign Minister, and to my Jewish friend, Mendes, Finance Minister, Algiers, asking for similar help through radio and through adherents.

*R. Hartung*

000892

February 22, 1944.

MEMORANDUM

Union Internationale de Secours aux  
Enfants -- Representative Visited  
Occupied Territory -- Censorship  
Intercept (SJ 43130). (Material  
obtained from file in Visa Division,  
State Department)

On August 30, 1943, Georges Thelin (Tholin ?), 15 Rue Lovrier, Geneva, wrote to Anita N. de Sandelmann, Delegation de L'Union de Secours aux Enfants, Buenos Aires, Argentina, stating that he had visited Hungary and Italy in May and June and in Italy had a conference at the Vatican. The writer stated that he was planning to visit Sweden, Finland, and Germany, and that he intended to spend eight days in Berlin, where he would arrange contact with local national institutions. The writer stated that he wanted to be in contact with such institutions, including the "Childrens Bureau" in the United States.

In an undated letter (probably sent in September 1943) Mme. Sandelmann wrote to Thelin that the writer had collected 33,000 pesos for children in Switzerland. The Asociaciones Israelites, Argentina, requests the addressee to get in touch with the Argentine Consul in Vichy and other competent authorities to hasten the emigration of 1,000 children from European concentration camps to Argentina. The writer stated that permission for their emigration was assured under Decree No. 136320, November 1942.

*K. Hasting*

20089

February 22, 1944.

MEMORANDUM

Union Internationale de Secours aux  
Enfants -- Representative Visited  
Occupied Territory -- Censorship  
Intercept (WJ 43120). (Material  
obtained from file in Visa Division,  
State Department)

On August 20, 1943, Georges Thelin (Thelin ?), 15 Rue Lovrier, Geneva, wrote to Anita H. de Sandelmann, Delegation de L'Union de Secours aux Enfants, Buenos Aires, Argentina, stating that he had visited Hungary and Italy in May and June and in Italy had a conference at the Vatican. The writer stated that he was planning to visit Sweden, Finland, and Germany, and that he intended to spend eight days in Berlin, where he would arrange contact with local national institutions. The writer stated that he wanted to be in contact with such institutions, including the "Childrens Bureau" in the United States.

In an undated letter (probably sent in September 1943) Mrs. Sandelmann wrote to Thelin that the writer had collected \$2,000 pesos for children in Switzerland. The Asociacion Israelita, Argentina, requests the addressee to get in touch with the Argentine Consul in Vichy and other competent authorities to hasten the emigration of 1,000 children from European concentration camps to Argentina. The writer stated that permission for their emigration was assured under Decree No. 12420, November 1942.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

February 16, 1944

Summary of Cables and Letters in the State Department file, entitled "Refugee Groups--Children from Occupied Areas into Sweden".

Early in 1943 Adler-Rudel of the World Jewish Congress persuaded the Swedish Government to agree to offer Germany an asylum for the duration of the war for 20,000 Jewish children (Telegram of April 21, 1943 from the British Embassy in Sweden to the Foreign Office). Another proposed plan was for Sweden to receive children from occupied areas for only a limited time for purposes of health rehabilitation, after which time they were to return to their homes. (State cable 4880, dated August 12, 1943).

Some time in June, 1943, the United States and British Governments considered the advisability of notifying the Swedish Government that they were favorably disposed toward any plan for the reception in Sweden of refugees from Norway and other enemy occupied countries, particularly child refugees. No doubt because at this time Sweden was already granting haven to approximately 35,000 refugees, including Finnish and Norwegian nationals (letter dated June 9, 1943 from W. O. Hayter of the British Embassy to R. D. Reams of the State Department), the two governments considered offering, as an inducement to Sweden, to relax the blockade to the extent necessary to allow additional food supplies into Sweden (London cable 4095, dated June 21, 1943, copy of which is attached to the original of this memorandum). Washington assented to both these steps (State cable 3905, undated, copy of which is attached to the original of this memorandum).

Nothing further seems to have happened until September 1943, when the State Department advised London that procedurally it would be preferable to have administered by the Intergovernmental Committee *any plan* for the reception in Sweden of refugees from occupied territories. State further advised London that any plan for the reception of child refugees in Sweden would have more likelihood of acceptance by the Nazi Government if it were not restricted to Jewish children. (State cable 5430, dated September 6, 1943).

Again nothing appears to have happened until October 7, 1943 when London advised Washington that inquiries were being made of the Intergovernmental Committee in London by private organizations, and that the Foreign Office "is also interested." London's cable concludes thus:

"The question is raised whether the Department may now wish to consider the desirability of a definite approach to the Swedish Government regardless of any anticipated possibility of ultimate Swedish or German veto. The Department's views are requested." (London cable 6784, dated October 7, 1943, copy of which is attached to the original of this memorandum).

Four days later, State replied suggesting that "confidential inquiry be made of the Swedish Government as to its willingness to take up the matter now with the German Government \* \* \*. The reply cable concludes:

"We feel that a definite statement should be obtained from the Swedish Government before we and the British authorities proceed to make arrangements, including the allocation of funds by the President for our share of the expenditures to be incurred, to put the proposal into execution." (State cable 6216, dated October 11, 1943, copy of which is attached to the original of this memorandum).

Pursuant to the State Department's suggestion, an informal inquiry was made of the Swedish Minister at London through the medium of the Intergovernmental Committee. (London cable 7284, dated October 22, 1943). The Swedish Minister was sympathetic but doubted whether his Government would be willing to approach the Nazi Government at this time, as Sweden had earlier made an offer of asylum for Norwegian children, which offer had been rejected by the Norwegian-Quisling Government. The Swedish Government apparently intended to renew this offer, and the Swedish Minister felt that to broaden the offer to include Jewish children from Germany would merely prejudice the chances of the Norwegian children. The Minister indicated that because of their racial affinity with the Norwegians, the Swedish were particularly interested in aiding Norwegian refugees. The Minister nevertheless consented to put the matter to his Government. (London cable 7517, dated October 30, 1943, copy of which is attached to the original of this memorandum).

When nothing further happened for two months, the British proposed pressing the Swedish Government to make a general offer of asylum to the Nazi Government for 20,000 children, Jewish and other refugee children whose parents had been deported from the country of their domicile, as well as Norwegian children. It was proposed to offer the Swedish Government as an inducement more food through the blockade and also assistance in caring for the children. Moreover, the British had no objection to permitting Norwegian children to return to their homes once their health was restored, as the feeding

of groups of Norwegian children in rotation was considered acceptable. (London cable 239, dated January 11, 1944). The State Department approved the British proposal, and urged a joint British-American approach to the Swedish Government. (State cable 301, dated January 15, 1944, copy of which is attached to the original of this memorandum).

On January 19, 1944, the British and American representatives in London transmitted a written request to the Swedish Minister in London, who promised to forward the request to his Government, together with his personal endorsement. He suggested, in view of the previous rejection of a similar plan by the Quisling Government, the possibility of a joint proposal to the Nazi Government by the Swedish and Swiss. (London cable 561, dated January 20, 1944, copy of which is attached to the original of this memorandum). The Swedish Minister thereupon inquired concerning the Swiss reaction to a similar proposal made by the Allies to the Swiss Government, and was advised that the Swiss had approved a similar scheme in principle, although the details had not yet been worked out.

The British have no objection to a joint Swiss-Swedish proposal, although they feel such a procedure may entail delay. Although the Swedish Government is willing to grant haven to refugee children, it does not desire to court an Axis rebuff merely for the benefit of Allied propaganda. It was pointed out to the Swedish diplomatic representatives in London that if that had been the Allied purpose, the British and Americans could have spread such propaganda long before now. The Swedish representative in London was advised orally that if the Nazis rejected the present Swedish offer of haven, the British and American Governments would actively consider the advisability of publicizing this refusal. (London Airgram A-101, dated January 26, 1944, copy of which is attached to the original of this memorandum).

HJMark:im 2/16/44

Children From Occupied Areas Into Sweden  
(Source of information: Files of State  
Department, Visa Division, Refugee Unit)

(1) On May 19, 1943, Hayter of the British Embassy wrote to the State Department enclosing copies of two telegrams concerning a proposal by the Swedish government to offer asylum in Sweden for 20,000 Jewish refugee children. The British Foreign Office inquired whether the United States would agree in principle to the passage of food stuffs, medical supplies, etc., for these children. The question of finances would have to be considered later since the Swedish government apparently did not wish to bear the expense. Would the United States share the expense with Great Britain? The first telegram enclosed was from the British Minister in Stockholm to the British Foreign Office (April 21, 1943). It stated the Swedish government had agreed to make an offer to the German government to provide asylum in Sweden for approximately 20,000 Jewish children from Germany and occupied areas. The Swedes felt, however, that Germany would not agree. They stated it would be helpful if Great Britain and the United States could give assurances that in the event that these children came into Sweden arrangements would be made after the war to take them to Palestine or some other place outside of Europe as soon as possible. Great Britain and the United States would also be requested to permit the entry into Sweden of additional food supplies. The Foreign Office replied on May 13, 1943, stating that the British government appreciated this humane gesture and would consider authorizing further food shipments through the blockade. On the question of general removal from Sweden, reference was made to discussion at the Bermuda conference of the problem of maintenance and eventual disposal of refugees in neutral countries. It was decided at the conference to recommend in principle that the United States and Great Britain should give a joint undertaking to neutral governments that maintenance and eventual removal were guaranteed. On the other hand, it would hardly be possible for Allied Governments to bind themselves as to eventual removal of Jewish children from Europe as that would be tantamount to acquiescence in the "Judenrein" policy for Europe of the German government. The British Minister to Sweden was accordingly advised to tell the Swedish government that while we could not bind ourselves as to the ultimate destination either inside or outside of Europe of children received in Sweden, it might be assumed that arrangements for maintenance and repatriation would no doubt be considered as part of the international problem at the end of the war. The telegram also raised a question as to why the Swedish government did not want to bear a share of the financial burden in view of its humanitarian work in the past.

(2) On May 31, 1943, Reams of State sent a memorandum to Long stating: (a) agreement with Britain on assurances as to repatriation; (b) food and medical supplies would have to be granted; (c) finances should be handled by the Intergovernmental Committee but the United States should agree to share expenses. It was suggested that Jewish charitable organizations might bear a part of the cost.

(3) On June 5, 1943, memorandum of Brandt stated that Long agreed with Reams and himself that no action could be taken in the matter of assuring funds for support of these children until an Anglo-American agreement for supplying funds generally for refugees was reached and the President indicated the funds from which such payments would be authorized.

(4) On June 8, 1943, Hayter of the British Embassy wrote to State saying that Sweden already had 35,000 Jews and consequently couldn't bear the cost of 30,000 more. However, food would be the principal item of maintenance and that this could be sent through the blockade. The Foreign Office pressed for a reply to its letter of May 19, 1943.

(5) On August 12, 1943, State advised London that this government was interested in the Swedish plan for evacuation of 30,000 Jewish children from Poland and other parts of Europe but that no final decision had been reached as to the method of proceeding. (No. 4860 to London, August 12, 1943.)

(6) On August 13, 1943, Hoel Hall of the British Embassy sent a letter to State saying the British had received a telegram from Stockholm stating that the United States Minister to Stockholm had received no instructions on the matter. Our Minister believed, however, that it was useless to expect the Swedish government to press the matter of refugee children until the present crisis regarding stoppage of transits had been surmounted. The British Minister to Stockholm said he concurred. The Swedish Minister to Berlin had unofficially broached the matter to Wilhelmstrasse and was convinced there was not the slightest hope that the German government would permit these Jewish children to leave. It was stated to be useless for the Swedish government at present to make official approaches to the German government more especially as there seemed no prospect of refugee children being accepted in America.

(7) On September 4, 1943, P. H. Gere-Hoethe of the British Embassy wrote to State directing attention to the fact

that on August 4, 1943, the executive committee of the Intergovernmental Committee adopted a resolution that in view of agreement of the governments of Great Britain and the United States jointly to underwrite expenditures of the committee other than administrative expenses it be agreed that the financing of all projects be considered individually and that Great Britain and the United States be consulted before any project is sanctioned or expenditures incurred thereon. In view of this resolution the Foreign Office felt that the refugee children project was one for the Intergovernmental Committee. The Foreign Office inquired whether the United States would be prepared to sanction the expenditures involved in the scheme and thereafter to instruct our representatives on the Intergovernmental Committee to join with the British representatives in addressing a written proposal to the Executive Committee recommending the plan for their favorable consideration and asking them to approach the Swedish government in the first instance.

(8) On September 6, 1943, Stone and Lehman advised Hiefler and Funkhouser that in view of the Intergovernmental Committee plan to bring Jewish refugee children to Sweden from occupied areas there was no reason why efforts should not be made to institute a general child feeding plan in Sweden similar to that suggested in Switzerland. It stated that the plan had been tentatively presented to the Swedish authorities by the British. The plan would apply to children from occupied areas admitted solely on the basis of need regardless of nationality or religious affiliation and if possible should not be confined to Norwegian children. It was stated that the Department concurred with the British in its willingness to cooperate in any plan whether it involved a permanent removal or return and replacement after restoration to health or the two. The Embassy in London was instructed to familiarize itself with the terms of past discussions with the Swedish government and upon a reply of the latter to recommend further action.

(9) On September 31, 1943, the British government sent another letter asking whether any decision had been reached on the matters presented in the letter of September 4, 1943. On October 7, 1943, London also made inquiry to the same effect stating that the Intergovernmental Committee and Foreign Office were pressing for an answer. The question was raised whether the

Swedish government should be approached even though it was thought that the German government would refuse a request to release children.

(10) On October 11, 1943, State advised London that in view of its study of the proposal they were concerned about the possibility that limiting the program to Jewish children might result in objection by Germany and that they were hopeful this proposal might be included in the proposal for release of children generally. Nevertheless, State was prepared to give consideration to the proposal as it stood. Inquiry should be made of the Swedish government in the light of Jewish developments with respect to Denmark as to whether at that time the Swedish government would be willing to take up the matter of refugee children with Germany. Inquiry should be made either by the directorate of the Intergovernmental Committee or jointly by the American and British Ministers to Stockholm. A definite statement should be obtained from the Swedish government before we would make any arrangements as to allocation of funds. (No. 6316 to London, October 11, 1943.)

(11) On October 22, 1943, London advised that pursuant to the instructions of October 11, 1943, the matter had been presented to the Intergovernmental Committee with the suggestion that it make an inquiry of the Swedish government. The director of the Intergovernmental Committee agreed to make an informal exploratory approach to the Swedish government. (No. 7286 from London, October 22, 1943.)

(12) On October 30, 1943, London advised that the Director of the Intergovernmental Committee had made an exploratory approach through the Swedish Minister. The latter stated he did not believe his government would entertain the idea of approaching the Germans at this time and that he further believed that if such an approach were made, the Germans would not agree to release any children. The Swedish Minister stated that his government had recently asked the Quisling government to permit Norwegian children to come to Sweden and had been refused. The Minister did not believe the Swedish government would wish to make efforts to obtain Jewish refugee children when it had been unsuccessful in obtaining Norwegian children. The Minister said, however, that he was going to Stockholm in a few days and would present the matter. (No. 7517 to London, October 30, 1943.)

(13) On January 11, 1944, London submitted a communication which HEW stated it wished to submit to the Swedish Legation with our concurrence. This communication stated that we appreciated

the willingness of the Swedish government to help evacuate refugee children from occupied countries as expressed in a recent communication to the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Committee. Great Britain and the United States hoped the Swedish government would now make a fresh approach to the German government and the Quisling government (a) to take children from Norway and other occupied countries; (b) to take Jewish children from Germany. Great Britain and the United States would be prepared to increase blockade food quotas. We would also give prompt consideration to other assistance required. New supplies could come in on the same basis as shipments to Greece. We would have no objection to Norwegian children leaving Norway in rotation and returning. If the German and Quisling governments should refuse Great Britain and the United States would desire to give this the fullest publicity. (No. 239 from London, January 11, 1944.) On January 15, 1944, State advised London that we concurred in the approach suggested by MEW. (No. 381 to London, January 15, 1944.)

(14) On January 20, 1944, London advised that the British and American governments had delivered a note to the Swedish Minister in the form suggested by MEW above. It was orally made clear that the method of choosing the children would have to be satisfactory to us and if the Germans were obstructive on this matter we would give full publicity thereto. The Swedish Minister said he would forward the communication to Stockholm with his recommended agreement. He suggested since Sweden had already been rebuffed on prior occasions by Germany it might be well if Sweden and Switzerland made a joint approach.

(15) On January 31, 1944, London transmitted the text of a memorandum of a conference between a representative of MEW and the Consulate of Sweden relative to the joint Anglo-American request to the Swedish government. The Swedish Consular official stated that the Swedish government was quite willing to receive children in Sweden but that they were reluctant to court a rebuff merely to provide the Allies with propaganda. It was pointed out that the Axis' refusal to allow Greek children to leave and their endeavors to obstruct the escape of refugees generally gave the Allies ample opportunity now to make public statements. We had refrained thus far from such utterances in a wish not to jeopardize any chance which there might be to obtain Axis consent to evacuation plans. If, however, it became quite clear that in no circumstances would the Germans agree to such proposal there was good reason why we should not be so restrained in the future. The statement is made that in view of this conference it was felt no further conference with the Swedish Minister was necessary even though no reference



LICENSES ISSUED RE THIS FILE

00090

CAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

LICENSES

Basic Lic.  
Remit. Lic.

W-2155  
NY 613830  
NY 630207

**ALL MATERIAL IN THIS FOLDER  
MUST NOT BE REMOVED**

**PLEASE RETURN TO  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD  
ROOM 194**

000905

22  
JUL 7 1944

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

There is enclosed herewith a copy of a report filed  
by Dr. Sequerra in connection with License No. W-2155.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Enclosure:

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

PH:db 7/6/44  
JW —

COPY

STATEMENT OF AMOUNTS EXPENDED BY DR. SAMUEL SEQUERRA,  
BARCELONA, UNDER LICENSE NO. W-2155

1944

March, April and May	Honorariums		Pesetas 3,000
April	One child	4,000	
	One child	4,000	
	Four children	<u>14,000</u>	
	List A attached		22,000
	ROCHMAN, David, Necha and daughter Helene		5,000
	YELLEN family ( 3 persons)		8,315
May	Seven children as per List "B" attached		<u>28,000</u>
		Pesetas	66,315

*copied from  
enclosure to  
despatch NE 539  
from Barcelona  
dated May 26, 1944*

100900



DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

OUTGOING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

Distribution of this  
reading only by special  
arrangement ( )

June 10, 1944  
Midnight

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

CONTROL COPY

AMEMBASSY,

MADRID.

1699

The following from the War Refugee Board refers to  
your 1861 of May 26.

Extent and nature of operations in question can  
best be ascertained in field from Sequerra and Schwartz.  
Views of Board will be discussed with you by McDonald  
whose departure only awaits completion of technical  
arrangements. James H. Mann, Assistant Executive Director  
of War Refugee Board, has recently arrived in Lisbon to  
confer with Minister Norweb regarding certain problems  
confronting the Board in Portugal. You may wish to  
contact him if you desire immediate information concern-  
ing matters raised in your cable. He is completely  
conversant with Board programs in Portugal and Spain  
together with activities of private relief agencies  
licensed by Treasury to operate therein. Immediately  
upon completion of his mission in Lisbon Mann could pro-  
ceed to Madrid to confer with you, if you so desire.

STETTINIUS  
(ACTING)  
(CLW)

WRB:MMV:KG  
6/10/44

WE

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

10090

03700  
LETTER  
CABLE TO AMBASSADOR HAYES, MADRID, SPAIN FROM THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Please refer to your No. 1861 of May 26.

The nature and extent of the operations in question can of course best be ascertained in the field from Schwartz and Segnera. The Board's views will be discussed with you by Mr. McDonald who is now awaiting completion of technical arrangements for his departure. However, if you desire immediate information concerning matters raised in your cable, you may wish to contact James H. Mann, Assistant Executive Director of the War Refugee Board, who has just arrived in Lisbon to confer with Minister Norweb concerning certain problems confronting the Board in Portugal. Mann is thoroughly familiar with the War Refugee Board programs in Spain and Portugal as well as with the activities of private relief agencies licensed by the Treasury Department to operate in these countries. If you so desire, Mann could proceed to Madrid to confer with you immediately upon the completion of his mission in Lisbon.

June 9, 1944  
2:50 p.m.

JBF:bbk - 6/9/44

JBF

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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, Madrid  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: May 26, 1944  
NUMBER 1861

Following repeated by courier to Lisbon.

There have been brought to my notice by the American Embassy, Lisbon, texts of a number of cables relating to Spain which Joseph Schwartz has sent to the War Refugee Board for the Joint Distribution Committee in connection with which I feel that certain considerations should be brought to the attention of the Department.

It is stated by Schwartz in a cable sent as Lisbon No. 1555, May 23 to the Department, that he had a long conference with me regarding the operations of the Board in Spain and certain statements are made by him concerning my views thereon. I should like to make it clear, in this connection, that I had only a brief conversation with Schwartz on the occasion of his recent visit to Spain and that the program of the Board was discussed in general terms only. I was not informed by him that, as is apparent from cable 1555 and from a subsequent cable sent as Lisbon's 1556 of the same date to the Department, operations are being carried on in Spain through Sequerra under license W-2155, and I made no statements which could have been construed as approval of such operations. On the contrary, my views with respect to clandestine operations envisaged under terms of license W-2155 remain as stated in my message of March 22, No. 997; and it has been my impression, which Schwartz did nothing to disturb that this matter has been held in abeyance.

I should appreciate being promptly advised as to the nature and extent of such operations, inasmuch as it now seems that in spite of the considerations raised in my 997, with which it may be mentioned the British Embassy is in complete agreement, operations under this license are in fact being carried on in Spain by Schwartz and Sequerra.

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

000911

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LC:  
BY:

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I want to have it clearly understood that I am in full sympathy with the humanitarian purpose for which the War Refugee Board was established but that it is strongly felt by me that in spite of the importance of its work it should not be allowed to carry on its operations in such a way as to endanger objectives of more immediate importance to our war effort. Cables from the Board have in the past, as I have repeatedly tried to point out, revealed a failure to understand implications involved in the implementation of its program in Spain and I have felt, for this reason, that it is incumbent upon me to try to prevent it from engaging in activities that might redound to our own disadvantage in the prosecution of the war as well as in the conduct of our immediate relations with Spain.

With regard to the possible appointment of Blickenstaff as the Board's representative in Spain, my views remain as stated in my message of March 20, no. 974, but pending arrival in Madrid of James G. McDonald, I recommend that no action be taken on this matter. (See my message of May 22, No. 1777.)

000912

MEMORANDUM

For attachment to:

FFC Letter No:

Date: **MAY 31 1944**

Project No.:

TO: Liaison Officer, Foreign Funds Control

FROM: War Refugee Board

Subject: **License No. W-2155 issued to JDC**

~~This is transmitted herewith a copy of a letter dated~~  
~~XXXXXX~~  
The JDC has informed the Board that it desires <sup>dealing with</sup> ~~XXXXXX~~ to remit \$50,000 to Mr. Samuel Sequerra, Barcelona, Spain, for disbursement in accordance with provisions of W-2155, which governs the financing of evacuation operations in enemy or enemy-occupied territory.

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

Remarks:

~~W. H. H. H.~~  
\_\_\_\_\_  
For the War Refugee Board

Action:

Basic license No. W- issued  
Remittance License No. ~~XXXXXX~~ **630207** dated **May 31, 1944**  
Other:

*[Signature]*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Liaison Officer  
Foreign Funds Control

Date: **MAY 31 1944**

MAY 31 1944

NY 630207

Pursuant to application filed directly with this Department, you are hereby authorized to issue license to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee 270 Madison Avenue, New York City, permitting it, notwithstanding General Ruling No. 11, to remit in the aggregate, up to, but not exceeding, the sum of \$50,000 to Mr. Samuel Sequerra, Barcelona, Spain, for disbursement in accordance with the provisions of license No. W-2166. Stipulation No. 2. License period three months

(Initialed) C.A.S.

Orvis A. Schmidt  
Acting Director

XXXXXXXXXX  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

402

RBParke:jfh 5-31-44

000914

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

May 31, 1944

Subject: \$50,000 remittance to Mr. Samuel Sequerra, Barcelona, Spain, by JDC.

Miss Rodal telephoned this office this morning and requested that a license be issued without delay to the JDC, New York City, permitting it to remit \$50,000 to its representative in Barcelona, Spain, Mr. Samuel Sequerra, for disbursement in accordance with the provisions of license No. W-2155 which governs the financing of evacuation operations in enemy or enemy-occupied territory through the representative of the JDC in Barcelona.

R. B. Parke

RBP: jfh 5-31-44

000913

MAY 30 1944

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Dr. Joseph Schwartz was received from Lisbon under date of May 23, 1944:

"While in Spain discussed with Ambassador Hayes special license W-2155 and wish inform you all remittances sent thereunder utilized paying services Spanish guides bringing children and adults over mountains. They always paid in pesetas hence purchase foreign funds in Spain not required nor contemplated for present. Ambassador apparently has no objection our using money sent for this purpose to Sequerre in Barcelona.

"Had long conference with Ambassador Hayes regarding WRB and program of rescue with which he is in hearty accord. He indicated his desire and we concur therein that for the present it would be best for the Board to designate David Blickenstaff as the representative in Spain. Blickenstaff we believe could do this and at the same time carry on present work which seems to us most important for rescue and relief. Should work develop so that WRB needed his full time the Ambassador is ready to make or consider other suggestions but I think combination of offices will not hurt either. Blickenstaff's offices now being used by all private agencies permitted operate in Spain so that from my point of view see no conflict. I understand Blickenstaff would be willing accept appointment under conditions outlined above."

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.

FH:lab 5/30/44

JA ✓

000910

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM  
**CONTROL COPY**

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

BE-427  
Distribution of true  
reading only be special  
arrangement (██████████ W)

Lisbon  
Dated May 23, 1944

Rec'd 2:41 p.m.

*War Ref Bd*  
*(Mr. Balle)*

*... to the  
... this message must  
be closely guarded.*

Secretary of State

Washington

1555, May 23, Noon

WAR BOARD

While in Spain discussed with Ambassador Hayes

special license W-2155 and wish inform you all remittances  
sent thereunder utilized paying services Spanish guides  
bringing children and adults over mountains. They  
always paid in pesetas hence purchase foreign funds  
in Spain not required nor contemplated for present.

Ambassador apparently has no objection our using money  
sent for this purpose to Sequerre in Barcelona.

This WRB 45 JDC 3 from Schwartz for Leavitt.

Had long conference with Ambassador Hayes regarding  
WRB and program of rescue with which he is in hearty  
accord. He indicated his desire and we concur  
therein that for the present it would be best for  
the Board to designate David Blickenstaff as the  
representative in Spain. Blickenstaff we believe could  
do this and at the same time carry on present work which

SEEMS to us

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972

*mentioned  
in report  
8/27  
5/30/44  
Message  
sent to  
board.  
JH.*

000911

-2- #1555, May 23, Noon from Lisbon

seems to us most important for rescue and relief.  
Should work develop so that WRB needed his full time  
the Ambassador is ready to make or consider other  
suggestions but I think combination of offices will  
not hurt either. Blickenstaff's offices now being  
used by all private agencies permitted operate in  
Spain so that from my point of view see no conflict.  
I understand Blickenstaff would be willing accept  
appointment under conditions outlined above.

Repeated to Madrid by courier.

NORWEB

HTH

7 0 0 9 1 0

AIR MAIL

No. 539

*3 War Refugee Bd  
(Info)*

**CONTROL COPY**

Lisbon, May 26, 1944.

*3 MRB  
3 War Refugee Bd  
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1000 (m) Bundy  
G*

Subject: Financial Statement From Joint Distribution Committee Regarding License No. W2155.

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

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit herewith statement submitted by the American Joint Distribution Committee of Lisbon of amounts expended by Dr. Samuel Sequerra, Barcelona, under License No. W2155. This data will be of interest both to the War Refugee Board and the Treasury, and if the Department sees no objection, it is respectfully suggested that a copy of this despatch and the enclosures be transmitted to the Board and the Treasury.

In view of an application for an additional amount under this license, which is to be submitted by the Joint Distribution Committee, their representatives here state that while only \$6,600 was actually spent by Sequerra, in accordance with statement herewith, that he has commitments which will take up the entire balance of \$50,000 originally sent. This is the reason why the Joint Distribution Committee is at present making an application for the balance of \$50,000 which was allocated for Spain under the original license.

It should be pointed out in fairness to the Joint Distribution Committee that this is a seasonal matter, and that the next few months offer greater facilities for passage through the mountains than has been the case up to recently.

The cost for the passage for most of those brought over, that is, presumably the payment made to the guide is approximately 4,000 pesetas (\$400) per person. This is more or less in line with the estimate presented by the World Jewish Congress.

Respectfully yours,

For the Ambassador:

*Edward S. Crocker*  
Edward S. Crocker  
Counselor of Embassy

Enclosure: 3

Copy of financial statement from American Joint Distribution Committee regarding License No. W2155.

*Miss Hadell*

*1627  
FC/TL*

Enclosure with Despatch No. 539 of May 28, 1944.

STATEMENT OF AMOUNTS EXPENDED BY DR. SAMUEL SEQUERRA,  
BARCELONA, UNDER LICENSE NO. W-2155

1944

March, April and May	Honorariums		Pesetas 3,000
April	One child	4,000	
	One child	4,000	
	Four children	<u>14,000</u>	
	List A attached		22,000
	ROCHMAN, David, Necha and daughter Helene		5,000
	YELLEN family (3 persons)		8,315
May	Seven children as per List "E" attached		<u>28,000</u>
			Pesetas 66,315

BARCELONA  
MAY 28 1944

MAY 23 1944

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Dr. Joseph Schwartz was received from Lisbon under date of May 23, 1944:

"JDC representative France now Maurice Brenner formerly Jefroykin's associate. Money sent Sequerra under license 2155 all used or allocated. Important prevent delay rescue program you transfer at once another 500,000 pesetas to him."

Very truly yours,

(signed) J. W. Pehls

J. W. Pehls  
Executive Director

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

FH:lab 5/27/44

JA ✓

70092

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

*5/29/44  
Message sent  
to Barnett.*

MRE-399  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. ( [redacted] W)

Lisbon

Dated May 23, 1944

Rec'd: 1:43 p.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

1556, May 23, Noon

WRB 50, JDC 5 FROM SCHWARTZ FOR LEAVITT,

"WAR BOARD"

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
MAY 26 1944  
DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS & RECORDS

JDC representative France now Maurice Brenner  
formerly Jefroykin's associate. Money sent Sequerra  
under license 2155 all used or allocated. Important  
prevent delay rescue program you transfer at once  
another 500,000 pesetas to him.

NORWEB

REP  
RR

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

100921

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, Madrid  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: May 26, 1944  
NUMBER: 1861  
X

*W. H. H. H.*  
*(Mr. Doherty)*  
*1 copy only*  
*D.W.*  
**CONTROL COPY**

Following repeated by courier to Lisbon.

There have been brought to my notice by the American Embassy, Lisbon, texts of a number of cables relating to Spain which Joseph Schwartz has sent to the War Refugee Board for the Joint Distribution Committee in connection with which I feel that certain considerations should be brought to the attention of the Department.

It is stated by Schwartz in a cable sent as Lisbon No. 1555, May 23 to the Department, that he had a long conference with me regarding the operations of the Board in Spain and certain statements are made by him concerning my views thereon. I should like to make it clear, in this connection, that I had only a brief conversation with Schwartz on the occasion of his recent visit to Spain and that the program of the Board was discussed in general terms only. I was not informed by him that, as is apparent from cable 1555 and from a subsequent cable sent as Lisbon's 1555 of the same date to the Department, operations are being carried on in Spain through Sequerra under license W-2155, and I made no statements which could have been construed as approval of such operations. On the contrary, my views with respect to clandestine operations envisaged under terms of license W-2155 remain as stated in my message of March 22, No. 997, and it has been my impression, which Schwartz did nothing to disturb that

this matter

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

this matter has been held in abeyance.

RECEIVED  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
JUN 20 1942

I should appreciate being promptly advised as to the nature and extent of such operations, inasmuch as it now seems that in spite of the considerations raised in my 997, with which it may be mentioned the British Embassy is in complete agreement, operations under this license are in fact being carried on in Spain by Schwartz and Sequerra.

I want to have it clearly understood that I am in full sympathy with the humanitarian purpose for which the War Refugee Board was established but that it is strongly felt by me that in spite of the importance of its work it should not be allowed to carry on its operations in such a way as to endanger objectives of more immediate importance to our war effort. Cables from the Board have in the past, as I have repeatedly tried to point out, revealed a failure to understand implications involved in the implementation of its program in Spain and I have felt, for this reason, that it is incumbent upon me to try to prevent it from engaging in activities that might redound to our own disadvantage in the prosecution of the war as well as in the conduct of our immediate relations with Spain.

With regard to the possible appointment of Blickenstaff as the Board's representative in Spain, my views remain as stated in my message of March 20, No. 974, but pending arrival in Madrid of James G. McDonald, I recommend that no action be taken on this matter. (See my message of May 22, No. 1777.)

10042

*W. H. H. H. H. H.*  
*M. P. P. P. P.*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Embassy, Madrid  
DATED: March 18, 1944  
NUMBER: 752

**CONTROL COPY**

Given below is the substance of license No. W-2155 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 Sequerra, JDC representative, whose address is Hotel Bristol, Barcelona.

(A) 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 representative, of persons in such territory in imminent danger of their lives and to arrange for the safeguarding and sustenance 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 funds 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

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

100925

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 is 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 Spain. (2) The local currency or exchange of country or countries in which the operations are to take place may be purchased in enemy or enemy occupied territory provided that reimbursement is not made until after the war. Reimbursement to the seller of such local currency or exchange subsequent to the war may be insured <sup>by</sup> subject ~~to~~ <sup>the</sup> establishment of blocked accounts on your books in the United States or such blocked accounts may be in a bank in the United States or Spain, provided that there shall be no

0 1 0 9 2 0

be no assignment of any interest in such blocked accounts or payment from such blocked accounts unless specific approval is given by the Treasury Department in each case.

(3) Necessary local funds, exchange, goods, or services may be purchased in enemy or enemy-occupied territory, the reimbursement therefor to be made in free currency notes or foreign exchange, provided that such reasonable steps as may be possible are taken by your representative to prevent such foreign exchange or free currency notes being acquired by persons who may give them to the enemy.

(B) The total amounts represented by claims established against any blocked account established in accordance with this license, plus the sums paid out or otherwise obligated pursuant to this license, shall not exceed \$100,000 or the peseta equivalent.

(C) A full report should be made to the United States Embassy in Madrid concerning the financial transactions completed pursuant to this license and your representative should insure to whatever extent possible that the sellers of local currency or exchange are persons acceptable to the United States Embassy at Madrid. Insofar as may be possible, your representative should be satisfied that any payments made to such persons will not be of benefit to the enemy.

(D) Periodic reports with respect to the operations consummated under this license should be filed with the United States Embassy in Madrid by your representative.

It is

7 1 0 9 2 7

It is requested that you inform Mr. Sequerra that Dr. Joseph Schwartz, the JDC representative in Lisbon, will give him instructions with regard to beginning the operations envisaged by license W-2155 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 (C) of the license.

Delays are to be avoided as time is frequently of the essence in matters of this kind. To this end you are requested to make liberal interpretations concerning the authority granted under the license, reporting any such interpretations to the Department as and when made. It should be noted in this connection that license W-2155 is substantially the same as licenses 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 to the provisions of paragraphs (A-1) and (A-3) of the license. Paragraph (A-1) has already been construed as allowing the purchase from persons in Spain of local currency or exchange  
irrespective

irrespective of where the currency or exchange may in fact be located. You should note that even though under paragraph (A-3) foreign exchange may be made available in enemy or enemy-occupied territory, this method should be used if, under the circumstances, the relief and evacuation operations which the license permits can be carried into immediate execution most effectively thereby, although either one of the first two methods should be used in preference to the third method if operations will not be prejudiced in any way.

<sup>AAOF 68</sup> 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 programs being undertaken at the present time, of which the operations envisaged by the license discussed above are a part.

The Treasury Department has issued to the JDC a license authorizing operations from Portugal which is identical in all respects with W-2155. The JDC representative in Lisbon, Dr. Joseph Schwartz, is expected to return to Lisbon in the near future and the operations ~~back~~ by Mr. Sequerra in Spain and the operations in Portugal are to be carried out under the general supervision of Dr. Schwartz.

HULL

000927



Date: MAR 14 1944

L I C E N S E S  
(GRANTED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 6389  
OF APRIL 10, 1940, AS AMENDED, AND THE REGULATIONS  
ISSUED THEREUNDER)

To American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee,  
(Name of Licensee)

270 Madison Avenue, New York, New York  
(Address of Licensee)

Sirs:

1. In order to arrange for the evacuation to places of safety or relative safety as shall be selected by your representative of persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory whose lives are in imminent danger and, pending possible evacuation, to sustain and safeguard the lives of such persons, your representative in Spain (including such agents as he may appoint) is hereby licensed notwithstanding the provisions of General Ruling No. 11, to communicate with persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory in any manner he deems necessary or expedient and to take all other appropriate action, including the acquisition of necessary funds, goods or services from persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory against payment in accordance with the terms of this license. The necessary funds to finance such operations may be obtained by any of the following methods.

- (a) The first method is the purchase of currency or exchange of the country in which the operations are to be effected from persons in Spain who your representative, after consulting with the United States Embassy in Madrid when feasible, is reasonably certain have held such currency or exchange since prior to the freezing of such country by the United States, or have since acquired such currency or exchange in such manner as has not benefited the enemy. The sellers of such currency or exchange may be reimbursed therefor in pesetas at the prevailing unofficial rates of exchange in Spain.
- (b) The second method is the acquisition of local currencies or exchange from persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territories for which reimbursement will not be made until after the war. In order to insure reimbursement after the war to the persons supplying such currencies or exchange, blocked accounts may be established on your books in the United States, or in a bank in the United States or a bank in Spain. No payments may be made from any such blocked account without the specific approval of the Treasury Department and no assignments may be made of any interest in such blocked account without such approval.
- (c) The third method should not be used if it is feasible to obtain the local funds by either of the first two methods. The third method is the acquisition of the necessary local funds, goods, or services from persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory against payment in free exchange or free currency notes. Your representative should take reasonable steps to avoid such foreign exchange or free currency notes being paid to persons who will make it available to the enemy.

10093

2. The total amount of dollars or pesetas paid out or set up in blocked accounts or otherwise obligated under the terms of this license shall not exceed \$100,000 or the peseta equivalent thereof.

3. Your representative should keep the American Embassy in Madrid, Spain, fully informed with respect to the financial transactions effected under this license. In so far as feasible your representative should make certain that the persons from whom the local currencies or exchange are purchased are acceptable to the Embassy. Your representative should satisfy himself that payments to such persons will not benefit the enemy.

4. Periodic reports with regard to any operations engaged in under this license should be filed with the Treasury Department by your representative through the United States Embassy in Madrid.

5. This license is granted upon the statements and representations filed with the Treasury Department, and is subject to the condition, among others, that you will comply in all respects with Executive Order No. 8389 of April 10, 1940, as amended, and the regulations issued thereunder and the terms of this license.

6. This license is not transferable, is subject to the provisions of Executive Order No. 8389 of April 10, 1940, as amended, and the regulations issued thereunder and may be revoked, modified, or declared void at any time at the discretion of the Secretary of the Treasury acting directly or through the agency through which the license was issued, or any other agency designated by the Secretary of the Treasury.

(Signed) Orvin A. Schaldt

---

Orvin A. Schaldt  
Acting Director

MAR 14 1944

NY 613830

Pursuant to application filed directly with this Department, you are hereby authorized to issue license to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, 270 Madison Avenue, New York City, permitting it, notwithstanding General Ruling No. 11, to remit in the aggregate, up to, but not exceeding, the sum of \$100,000 to Mr. Samuel Sequerra, Barcelona, Spain, for disbursement in accordance with the provisions of License No. W-2155. Stipulation No. 2. License period three months

(Initialed) O.A.I.S.]

247

RE Parkerjfh 3-9-44

000933

In reply please  
refer to: 59292

25

TO: Chief, W. T. I. Division,  
Department of State.

FROM: Orvis A. Schmidt

Attention: Mr. William Riegelman

It will be appreciated if the attached cable,  
relative to the issuance of License No. W-2155 to the  
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, 270  
Madison Avenue, New York City, may be despatched  
immediately to the American Embassy, Madrid, Spain, through  
the facilities available to the Department of State.

Please advise Mr. R. B. Farke, the Foreign Funds  
Control Liaison Officer with the War Refugee Board when  
cable is despatched.

(Signed) Orvis A. Schmidt

Attachment.

RBFarke:jfh 3-9-44

000934

DRAFT OF CABLE TO MADRID

Please transmit promptly to Mr. Samuel Secuerra, representative of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Hotel Bristol, Barcelona, the following which is text of license No. W-2135 issued by the Treasury Department to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, New York City. (Text of license begins)

1. In order to arrange for the evacuation to places of safety or relative safety as shall be selected by your representative of persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory whose lives are in imminent danger and, pending possible evacuation, to sustain and safeguard the lives of such persons, your representative in Spain (including such agents as he may appoint) is hereby licensed notwithstanding the provisions of General Ruling No. 11, to communicate with persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory in any manner he deems necessary or expedient and to take all other appropriate action, including the acquisition of necessary funds, goods or services from persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory against payment in accordance with the terms of this license. The necessary funds to finance such operations may be obtained by any of the following methods:

- (a) The first method is the purchase of currency or exchange of the country in which the operations are to be effected from persons in Spain who your representative, after consulting with the United States Embassy in Madrid when feasible, is reasonably certain have held such currency or exchange since prior to the freezing of such country by the United States, or have since acquired such currency or exchange in such manner as has not benefited the enemy. The sellers of such currency or exchange may be reimbursed therefor in pesetas at the prevailing unofficial rates of exchange in Spain.
- (b) The second method is the acquisition of local currencies or exchange from persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territories for which reimbursement will not be made until after the war. In order to insure reimbursement after the war to the persons supplying such currencies or exchange, blocked accounts may be established on your books in the United States, or in a bank in the United States or a bank in Spain. No payments may be made from any such blocked account without the specific approval of the Treasury Department and no assignments may be made of any interest in such blocked account without such approval.
- (c) The third method should not be used if it is feasible to obtain the local funds by either of the first two methods. The third method is the acquisition of the necessary local funds, goods, or services from persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory against payment in free exchange or free currency notes. Your representative should take reasonable steps to avoid such foreign exchange or free currency notes being paid to persons who will make it available to the enemy.

11093

2. The total amount of dollars or pesetas paid out or set up in blocked accounts or otherwise obligated under the terms of this license shall not exceed \$100,000 or the peseta equivalent thereof.

3. Your representative should keep the American Embassy in Madrid, Spain, fully informed with respect to the financial transactions effected under this license. Insofar as feasible your representative should make certain that the persons from whom the local currencies or exchange are purchased are acceptable to the Embassy. Your representative should satisfy himself that payments to such persons will not benefit the enemy.

4. Periodic reports with regard to any operations engaged in under this license should be filed with the Treasury Department by your representative through the United States Embassy in Madrid. (End of text of license)

Please advise Mr. Sequerra that he may begin operations contemplated in license No. W-2155 upon the receipt of instructions from Dr. Joseph Schwartz, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee's representative in Lisbon. The operations permitted by this license have the approval of the Department, the War Refugee Board, and the Treasury. The Embassy is requested to take all reasonable steps to facilitate these operations and promptly report to the Department the progress being made and any difficulties encountered, particularly in connection with the financial operations involved. In order to avoid delays in these matters, the Embassy is requested to make liberal interpretations of the terms of this license, bearing in mind that time is of the essence. The Department and the Treasury should be kept advised of any such interpretations.

REParke:jfh 3-11-44

000936

In reply please  
refer to: 59294

Dear Mr. Davis:

For your information and the completion of  
your files, there is enclosed herewith a copy of license  
No. N-2155, issued to the American Jewish Joint Distri-  
bution Committee, 270 Madison Avenue, New York City.

Sincerely yours,

Orvis A. Schmidt

Orvis A. Schmidt  
Acting Director

Mr. Norman P. Davis,  
Manager,  
Foreign Funds Control Department,  
Federal Reserve Bank of New York,  
New York, New York.

Enclosure.

HParker:jfh 3-9-44

000933

DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

LICENSES

Basic Lic.  
Remit. Lic.

W-2154  
NY 613831

**THIS FOLDER  
REMOVED**

**PLEASE RETURN TO  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD  
ROOM** 194

000938

DEPARTMENT OF STATE ✓

Division of World Trade Intelligence

May 18, 1944

WRB - Mr. Parke:

Your reference 59324.

In compliance with your request of May 13, regarding clarification of section (b) of the license (W-2154) issued to the Joint Distribution Committee in Lisbon, a telegram has been prepared for dispatch to the American Legation in Lisbon.

(Initialed) W.I.R.

William I. Riegelman ✓

WT:WIR:AMN

000933

FOREIGN FUNDS CONTROL

To: *Miss Hodel* 190 *Treas*  
(1) ..... (Room) (Bldg.)  
(2) ..... (Room) (Bldg.)  
(3) ..... (Room) (Bldg.)

*For attachment to  
JDC's Portugal license  
W-2154*

From: *R. B. Parker*  
.....  
391 *Treas*  
(Room) (Bldg.)

000940

In reply please  
refer to: 59324

25

To : Chief, W. T. I. Division,  
Department of State.

From : Orvis A. Schmidt.

Attention: Mr. William L. Riggelman

Reference is made to Despatch No. 355 dated April 4, 1944, from the American Legation, Lisbon, Portugal, to the Secretary of State relative to Treasury license No. W-2154 issued to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, New York City, a copy of which was transmitted to the War Refugee Board.

It will be appreciated if the attached cable, relative to the interpretation of section b of the Department's telegram No. 800 of March 18, 1944 relative to the issuance of license No. W-2154, may be despatched promptly to the American Legation, Lisbon, Portugal, through the facilities available to the Department of State.

Please advise Mr. R. E. Parke, the Foreign Funds Control Liaison Officer with the War Refugee Board when such cable is despatched.

Attachment.

Orvis A. Schmidt

RHParke:jfh 5-9-44

000941

Letter No. 2327  
NY 2/27/44

LIMIT OF CASH TO LISBON

Reference made to section 3 of Legation's despatch No. 355 of April 4, 1944, relative to Treasury License No. W-2154 issued to American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, New York City. Limitation of \$25,000 specified in (b) of Department's telegram No. 800 of March 18, 1944, represents overall limit for operations in Portugal under present terms of license. Same applies to \$100,000 figure specified with reference to Spain. For your guidance these sums represent amounts presently allocated by J.D.C. for purposes contemplated. Treasury Department advises it is prepared to consider amending license in the event J.D.C. desires to allocate additional sums.

RBParker:jfh 5-8-44

000942

LEGATION OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 335  
Lisbon, April 4, 1944.

Subject: Treasury Department License No. W-2154.  
Granted to the American Jewish Joint  
Distribution Committee of New York City.

[REDACTED]

The Honorable  
The Secretary of State,  
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's telegram No. 800 of March 18, 1944, to the American Legation, Lisbon, and to submit a report which relates to Treasury Department License Number W-2154, granted to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee of New York City, the substance of which is transmitted in that message together with directives.

The terms of the license have been conveyed to Dr. Joseph Schwartz, Lisbon representative of the Joint Distribution Committee, and we have discussed them in detail and have arrived at a mutual understanding on all points except that which concerns sums that may be used (see Section 3 below). Dr. Schwartz has informed me of the general character of the Joint Committee's operations and we have talked about transactions that might be made in or from Lisbon.

The results of the discussion are taken up in the following numbered sections:

(1) It is not anticipated, at least at present, that Lisbon will be an important base for the purchase of currencies to be used in rescue or relief work. It is principally in Switzerland that the Joint Committee has purchased currencies for remittance to enemy territory for relief purposes. Any currency that would be bought in Lisbon with escudos for remittance to enemy territory would be obtained and sent to supplement relief funds being expended in that territory.

Spain has been used as the principal base for rescue work. There, professional guides are employed who bring refugees out of France, and since the guides will accept pesetas the Joint Committee pays them in

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

000943

in that currency. Pesetas are, of course, bought at the legal rate. In the conduct of its work the Joint Committee has dealt mainly in pesetas.

2. The Joint Distribution Committee will confer with the proper office of the Legation on any proposed purchase of foreign currency in or from Portugal, regardless of which of the three methods of currency procurement outlined in the telegram may be involved. Wherever purchases of currency are considered and are made through other countries, this office assumes that the Joint Committee will confer with and report to the American Mission in each of those countries.

3. Dr. Schwartz is not clear whether the limitation of \$25,000 specified in (b) of the telegram represents an overall limit for operations in Portugal under the license or whether it is the maximum dollar or escudo amount which would be permitted to accrue, as a result of foreign currency purchases, to the credit of any single, blocked account. The latter version seems to be the proper interpretation of the section, but since the question has arisen it would be appreciated if the Treasury would clarify this point. Such clarification would cover also the \$100,000 figure specified with reference to Spain.

4. Dr. Schwartz plans to leave Portugal for North Africa. When he will return is not certain, but in his absence one of his deputies will, if necessary, get in touch with the American Legation.

5. We have informed Dr. Schwartz that the Legation is ready to extend its facilities in every way possible to further the program of refugee rescue and relief.

Respectfully yours,

For the Minister:

James E. Wood,  
Financial Attache.

File No. 300/834.4  
JEW:lr

000944

AIR MAIL

No. 355.

*3 Man Refugee Draft*



**CONTROL COPY**

LEGATION OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Lisbon, April 4, 1944.

Subject: Treasury Department License No. W-2154,  
Granted to the American Jewish Joint  
Distribution Committee of New York  
City.

*files*

The Honorable  
The Secretary of State,  
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's telegram No. 800 of March 18, 1944 to the American Legation, Lisbon, and to submit a report which relates to Treasury Department License Number W-2154, granted to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee of New York City, the substance of which is transmitted in that message together with directives.

The terms of the license have been conveyed to Dr. Joseph Schwartz, Lisbon representative of the Joint Distribution Committee, and we have discussed them in detail and have arrived at a mutual understanding on all points except that which concerns sums that may be used (see section 3, below). Dr. Schwartz has informed me of the general character of the Joint Committee's operations and we have talked about transactions that might be made in or from Lisbon.

The results of the discussion are taken up in the following numbered sections:

*Here*

1. It is not anticipated, at least at present, that Lisbon will be an important base for the purchase of currencies to be used in rescue or relief work. It is principally in Switzerland that the Joint Committee has purchased currencies for remittance to enemy territory for relief purposes. Any currency that would be bought in Lisbon with escudos for remittance to enemy territory

would

WASHINGTON, D.C.  
MVB BELONGEE BOVUD  
RECEIVED

000945

would be obtained and sent to supplement relief funds being expended in that territory.

Spain has been used as the principal base for rescue work. There, professional guides are employed who bring refugees out of France, and since the guides will accept pesetas the Joint Committee pays them in that currency. Pesetas are, of course, bought at the legal rate. In the conduct of its work the Joint Committee has dealt mainly in pesetas.

2. The Joint Distribution Committee will confer with the proper office of the Legation on any proposed purchase of foreign currency in or from Portugal, regardless of which of the three methods of currency procurement outlined in the telegram may be involved. Wherever purchases of currency are considered and are made through other countries, this office assumes that the Joint Committee will confer with and report to the American Mission in each of those countries.

3. Dr. Schwartz is not clear whether the limitation of \$25,000 specified in (b) of the telegram represents an overall limit for operations in Portugal under the license or whether it is the maximum dollar or escudo amount which would be permitted to accrue, as a result of foreign currency purchases, to the credit of any single, blocked account. The latter version seems to be the proper interpretation of the section, but since the question has arisen it would be appreciated if the Treasury would clarify this point. Such clarification would cover also the \$100,000 figure specified with reference to Spain.

4. Dr. Schwartz plans to leave Portugal for North Africa. When he will return is not certain, but in his absence one of his deputies will, if necessary, get in touch with the American Legation.

5. We have informed Dr. Schwartz that the Legation is ready to extend its facilities in every way possible to further the program of refugee rescue and relief.

Respectfully yours,

For the Minister:

*James E. Wood*  
James E. Wood,  
Financial Attache.

File No. 300/814.4  
JEW:lr

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

000946

*Controlled not in file*

*W. Refugee Board  
Mr. Pella  
copy only*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

TO: The American Legation, Lisbon  
FROM: The Secretary of State, Washington  
DATE: March 18, 1944  
NUMBER: 800  
X

A paraphrase is given below of the license to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee of New York City which has been issued by the Treasury Department, number W-2184. Please transmit immediately to Dr. Joseph Schwartz, the JDC representative in Lisbon, the substance of this license.

(A) Notwithstanding General Ruling number 11 your representative in Lisbon together with such agents as he may appoint is hereby authorized to communicate with persons in enemy-occupied or enemy territory by any means he believes to be expedient or necessary for the purpose of arranging the evacuation of persons in such area who are in imminent danger of their lives to such regions of safety or relative safety as such representative may select and to arrange for the sustenance and safe-guarding 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 funds to persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory who in connection with the foregoing may have provided either goods or services. In order to acquire the necessary local currency for the purpose of financing the above mentioned operations, the following three methods are authorized provided that if it is feasible to obtain the local currency or exchange

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972

by either

000947

2- #800 <sup>to</sup> ~~from~~ Lisbon

by either number 1 or number 2, number 3 should not be used:

(1) The purchase of currency or exchange in Portugal of the country or countries in which the operations are to take place, provided your representative is reasonably certain that the sellers thereof have held such exchange or currency since before the date as of which the United States Government froze such countries or, if acquired subsequently thereto, that such exchange or currency was acquired by the seller under circumstances which were of no benefit to the enemy, your representative in such case to consult when possible with the Legation of the United States in Portugal. To the sellers of such local exchange or currency reimbursement in escudos at the prevailing unofficial rates of exchange in Portugal may be made.

(2) Provided that reimbursement therefor is not made until the war has ended, the purchase of local currency or exchange of the country or countries in which the operations are to take place in enemy or enemy-occupied territory. To the seller of such local currency or exchange reimbursement subsequent to the war may be insured by the establishment of blocked accounts on your books in the United States, or provided there shall be no assignment of any interest in such blocked accounts or payment from such blocked account unless the Treasury Department has specifically approved each case, such blocked accounts may be in a bank in the United States or in Portugal.

(3) Provided that your representative shall take such reasonable steps as may be possible to prevent the acquisition of such  
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3- # 800 to Lisbon

foreign exchange or free currency notes by persons from whom they may be received by the enemy, the purchase of the necessary local funds, exchange, goods or services in enemy or enemy-occupied territory, reimbursement therefor to be made in foreign exchange or free currency notes.

(B) Not in excess of \$25,000 or the escudo equivalent thereof shall be the total sums represented by claims established against any blocked account established pursuant to this license plus the sums paid out or otherwise obligated pursuant to this license.

(C) To the Legation of the United States in Lisbon the financial transactions completed pursuant to this license should be reported fully and that the sellers of local currency or exchange are persons who are acceptable to the U. S. Legation at Lisbon should be insured by your representative to whatever extent it is possible. That insofar as may be possible your representative should be satisfied that any payments made to such persons will not benefit the enemy.

(D) Periodic reports regarding the operations consummated under this license should be filed by your representative with the United States Legation in Lisbon.

Please inform Dr. Schwartz that license number W-2155 has been issued by the Treasury Department to the JDC. This license is identical with the license given above in all respects except that the total sum specified in paragraph (B) is \$100,000 or the peseta equivalent thereof, and that it authorizes operations from Spain. Cable number 752 dated March 18 transmitted this license to the Embassy in Madrid for delivery to Mr. Sequerra,

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4- #800 to Lisbon

the JDO representative in Spain. These two licenses are designed as a partial reply to the contents of Dr. Schwartz's message to Mr. Pehle, Acting Executive Director of the War Refugee Board, contained in your number 689 dated March 2, 1944, and Dr. Schwartz should be so advised. The Embassy in Madrid in transmitting the license to Mr. Sequerra has been asked to advise Mr. Sequerra that the operations envisaged in the license covering Spain are to be carried out under the general supervision of Dr. Schwartz and that with regard to the beginning of such operations, Mr. Sequerra will receive instructions from Dr. Schwartz. That

That license number W-2154 is identical substantially with licenses formerly issued to this and to other private agencies for the purpose of carrying out similar operations from Switzerland, should be further noted. These operations have been approved by the War Refugee Board, the Treasury and the Department and to facilitate putting them into effect you are requested to take such reasonable steps as may be necessary. Also, concerning any difficulties which may be encountered especially regarding the financial operations, you are requested to report to the Department immediately. The progress that has been made should be indicated in your report. You should forward promptly to the Department the reports filed with you pursuant to paragraph (C) of the license.

Delays are to be avoided since in matters of this kind time is often of the essence. You are requested, to this end, to make interpretations liberally concerning the authority granted under the license

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6- #800 to Lisbon

the license and any such interpretations as and when made should be reported to the Department. To the provisions contained in paragraphs A-1 and A-3 of the license your attention is specifically invited. The purchase of exchange or local currency from persons in Portugal irrespective of where the currency may in fact be located is permitted according to the interpretation already given to paragraph A-1. Even though foreign exchange may be made available in enemy or enemy-occupied territory under paragraph A-3, it should be noted that this method should be used if, under the circumstances, the evacuation and relief operations which the license allows can thereby be carried most effectively into immediate execution, although either one of the first two methods should be used in preference to the third if they will not in any way prejudice the operations. From experience arising out of similar operations in Switzerland the foregoing interpretations have resulted and they have been transmitted in our telegram referred to above, to Madrid.

The saving of lives is considered to be of paramount importance by this Government as will have been recognized from previous communications concerning the programs of the War Refugee Board. Therefore although preventing the acquisition of foreign exchange by the enemy remains a vital part of our economic warfare, this consideration is to be subordinated to the maximum fulfillment of the rescue programs now being undertaken, a part of which are the licenses herein discussed.

HULL

DCR:MPL  
5/1/44

000951

MEMORANDUM

For attachment to:

FFC Letter No:

Date: March 9, 1944

Project No.:

TO: Liaison Officer, Foreign Funds Control  
FROM: War Refugee Board  
Subject: **J.D.C. relief and evacuation operations from Portugal.**

There is transmitted herewith a copy of a ~~letter~~ <sup>cable</sup> dated March 2, 1944 from the J.D.C. representative, Dr. Joseph Schwartz dealing with relief and evacuation operations in enemy and enemy-occupied territory from Portugal.

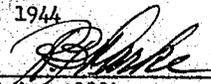
The War Refugee Board recommends that appropriate Treasury licenses and other necessary documents be issued permitting the execution of the project contemplated in the ~~letter~~ <sup>cable</sup> described above.

Remarks:

For the War Refugee Board

Action:

Basic license No. W-2154, issued March 14, 1944  
Remittance License No. ~~XXXXXX~~ NY 613831, issued March 14, 1944  
Other: Letter No. 59295, March 14, 1944  
Letter No. 59291, March 14, 1944 (cable)  
Letter No. 59293, March 14, 1944

  
Liaison Officer  
Foreign Funds Control

Date: MAR 14 1944

000952

In repl. Luce  
refer to: 9295

Sirs:

Pursuant to the communication made to this Department by the War Relocation Board, there are enclosed herewith licenses nos. --2154 and --2155 permitting you to communicate with your representatives in Portugal and Spain, respectively, in connection with the activities contemplated therein. These licenses govern the financing of such activities and also permit your representatives in Portugal and Spain to communicate with persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory with respect thereto.

The American Legation in Lisbon, Portugal, and the American Embassy in Madrid, Spain, are being notified of the issuance of license no. --2154 and license no. --2155, respectively. The Federal Reserve Bank of New York has been authorized to issue to you the necessary licenses to remit the sum of \$25,000 to your representative in Portugal, and the sum of \$100,000 to your representative in Spain.

Very truly yours,

Ervin A. Schmidt  
Acting Director

American Joint Jewish Distribution Committee,  
370 Madison Avenue,  
New York, New York.

Enclosures.

RBP: jFH. 3-10-44

000953

L I C E N S E  
(GRANTED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 8389  
OF APRIL 10, 1940, AS AMENDED, AND THE REGULATIONS  
ISSUED THEREUNDER)

To American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee  
(Name of Licensee)

270 Madison Avenue, New York, New York  
(Address of Licensee)

Sirs:

1. In order to arrange for the evacuation to places of safety or relative safety as shall be selected by your representative of persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory whose lives are in imminent danger and, pending possible evacuation, to sustain and safeguard the lives of such persons, your representative in Portugal (including such agents as he may appoint) is hereby licensed notwithstanding the provisions of General Ruling No. 11 to communicate with persons in enemy-occupied territory in any manner he deems necessary or expedient and to take all other appropriate action, including the acquisition of necessary funds, goods or services from persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory against payment in accordance with the terms of this license. The necessary funds to finance such operations may be obtained by any of the following methods:

- (a) The first method is the purchase of currency or exchange of the country in which the operations are to be effected from persons in Portugal who your representative, after consulting with the United States Legation in Lisbon when feasible, is reasonably certain have held such currency or exchange since prior to the freezing of such country by the United States or have since acquired such currency or exchange in such manner as has not benefited the enemy. The sellers of such currency or exchange may be reimbursed therefor in Escudos at the prevailing unofficial rates of exchange in Portugal.
- (b) The second method is the acquisition of local currencies or exchange from persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territories for which reimbursement will not be made until after the war. In order to insure reimbursement after the war to the persons supplying such currencies or exchange, blocked accounts may be established on your books in the United States, or in a bank in the United States or a bank in Portugal. No payments may be made from any such blocked account without the specific approval of the Treasury Department and no assignments may be made of any interest in such blocked account without such approval.
- (c) The third method should not be used if it is feasible to obtain the local funds by either of the first two methods. The third method is the acquisition of the necessary local funds, goods or services from persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory against payment in free exchange or free currency notes. Your representative should take reasonable steps to avoid such foreign exchange or free currency notes being paid to persons who will make it available to the enemy.

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2. The total amount of dollars or escudos paid out or set up in blocked accounts or otherwise obligated under the terms of this license shall not exceed \$25,000 or the escudo equivalent thereof.

3. Your representative should keep the American Legation in Lisbon fully informed with respect to the financial transactions effected under this license. In so far as feasible your representative should make certain that the persons from whom the local currencies or exchange are purchased are acceptable to the Legation. Your representative should satisfy himself that payments to such persons will not benefit the enemy.

4. Periodic reports with regard to any operations engaged in under this license should be filed with the Treasury Department by your representative through the United States Legation in Lisbon.

5. This license is granted upon the statements and representations filed with the Treasury Department, and is subject to the condition, among others, that you will comply in all respects with Executive Order No. 8389 of April 10, 1940, as amended, and the regulations issued thereunder and the terms of this license.

6. This license is not transferable, is subject to the provisions of Executive Order No. 8389 of April 10, 1940, as amended, and the regulations issued thereunder and may be revoked, modified, or declared void at any time at the discretion of the Secretary of the Treasury acting directly or through the agency through which the license was issued, or any other agency designated by the Secretary of the Treasury.

(Signed) Orvis A. Schmidt

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Orvis A. Schmidt  
Acting Director

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MAR 14 1944

NY 21302

Pursuant to application filed directly with this Department, you are hereby authorized to issue license to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, 27 Madison Avenue, New York City, permitting it notwithstanding General Selling No. 11 to result in the aggregate, up to, but not exceeding, the sum of \$25,000 to Dr. Joseph Schwartz, Lisbon, Portugal, for disbursement in accordance with the provisions of license No. 2134. stipulation No. 2. License period three months

(Initialed) C.A.S.

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In reply please refer to: 59291

TO: Chief, E. T. I. Division, Department of State.

FROM: Orvis A. Schmidt

Attention: Mr. William Riegelman

It will be appreciated if the attached cable, relative to the issuance of license No. W-2154 to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, 270 Madison Avenue, New York City, may be despatched immediately to the American Legation, Lisbon, Portugal, through the facilities available to the Department of State.

Please advise Mr. R. B. Parke, the Foreign Funds Control Liaison Officer with the War Refugee Board when cable is despatched.

(Signed) Orvis A. Schmidt

Attachment.

RRParke:ifh 2-9-44

000957

DRAFT OF CABLE TO LISBON

Please transmit promptly to Dr. Joseph Schwartz, representative in Lisbon of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, the following which is text of license No. W-2154 issued by the Treasury department to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, New York City (Text of license begins):

1. In order to arrange for the evacuation to places of safety or relative safety as shall be selected by your representative of persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory whose lives are in imminent danger and, pending possible evacuation, to sustain and safeguard the lives of such persons, your representative in Portugal (including such agents as he may appoint) is hereby licensed notwithstanding the provisions of General Ruling No. 11 to communicate with persons in enemy-occupied territory in any manner he deems necessary or expedient and to take all other appropriate action, including the acquisition of necessary funds, goods or services from persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory against payment in accordance with the terms of this license. The necessary funds to finance such operations may be obtained by any of the following methods:

- (a) The first method is the purchase of currency or exchange of the country in which the operations are to be effected from persons in Portugal who your representative, after consulting with the United States Legation in Lisbon when feasible, is reasonably certain have held such currency or exchange since prior to the freezing of such country by the United States or have acquired such currency or exchange in such manner as has not benefited the enemy. The sellers of such currency or exchange may be reimbursed therefor in escudos at the prevailing unofficial rates of exchange in Portugal.

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- (b) The second method is the acquisition of local currencies or exchange from persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territories for which reimbursement will not be made until after the war. In order to insure reimbursement after the war to the persons supplying such currencies or exchange, blocked accounts may be established on your books in the United States, or in a bank in the United States or a bank in Portugal. No payments may be made from any such blocked account without the specific approval of the Treasury Department and no assignments may be made of any interest in such blocked account without such approval.
- (c) The third method should not be used if it is feasible to obtain the local funds by either of the first two methods. The third method is the acquisition of the necessary local funds, goods or services from persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory against payment in free exchange or free currency notes. Your representative should take reasonable steps to avoid such foreign exchange or free currency notes being paid to persons who will make it available to the enemy.
2. The total amount of dollars or escudos paid out or set up in blocked accounts or otherwise obligated under the terms of this license shall not exceed \$25,000, or the escudo equivalent thereof.
3. Your representative should keep the American Legation in Lisbon fully informed with respect to the financial transactions effected under this license. In so far as feasible your representative should make certain that the persons from whom the local currencies or exchange are purchased are acceptable to the Legation. Your representative should satisfy himself that payments to such persons will not benefit the enemy.
4. Periodic reports with regard to any operations engaged in under this license should be filed with the Treasury Department by your representative through the United States Legation in Lisbon. (End of text of license.)

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CABLE TO LISBON

The operations permitted by this license have the approval of the Department, the War Refugee Board, and the Treasury. The Legation is requested to take all reasonable steps to facilitate these operations and promptly report to the Department the progress being made and any difficulties encountered, particularly in connection with the financial operations involved. In order to avoid delays in these matters, the Legation is requested to make liberal interpretations of the terms of this license, bearing in mind that time is of the essence. The Department and the Treasury should be kept advised of any such interpretations.

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In reply please  
refer to: 59293

Dear Mr. Davis:

For your information and the completion  
of your files, there is enclosed herewith a copy  
of license No. 4-2154, issued to the American Jewish  
Joint Distribution Committee, 270 Madison Avenue,  
New York City.

Sincerely yours,

Orvia A. Schmidt  
Acting Director

Mr. Herman F. Davis,  
Manager,  
Foreign Funds Control Department,  
Federal Reserve Bank of New York,  
New York, New York.

Enclosure.