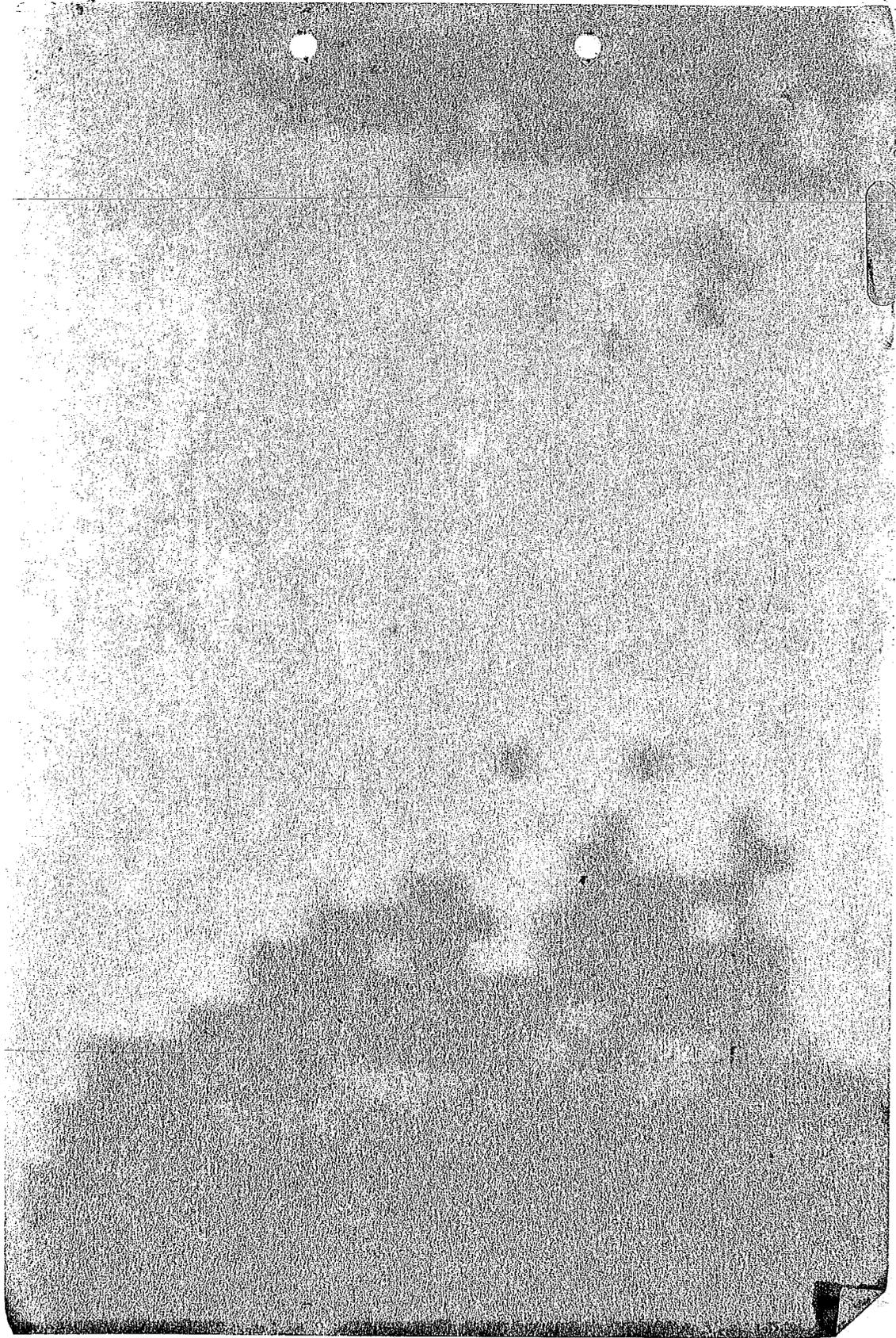


Programs with Respect to Relief and  
Rescue of Refugees: Evacuation To and  
Through Spain and Portugal

Evacuation from Spain to Lyant  
Folder 3

000455



2.

000450



**FOREIGN ECONOMIC ADMINISTRATION**  
**U. S. COMMERCIAL COMPANY**  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

*File  
J37*

In Reply Refer To:

September 19, 1944

Mr. J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director  
War Refugee Board  
Executive Office of the President  
Washington, 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

This is to acknowledge and thank you for your letter of September 15, with check for \$203.88, which we utilized in settlement of Ptas. 4,077.60 disbursed by our Mission in Madrid as per our letter of September 11.

Very truly yours,

*R. P. Furey*  
R. P. Furey  
Assistant Vice President

000457

SEP 15 1944

Dear Mr. Furey:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter dated September 11, requesting reimbursement at the rate of 5 cents per peseta for the 4,077.60 pesetas paid out by the U. S. Commercial Company Mission in Madrid for port charges in connection with the evacuation of refugees from Spain to French North Africa.

Enclosed is a check for \$203.88, the amount requested by you. I thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Very truly yours,

(Signed J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Mr. R. P. Furey  
Assistant Vice President  
U. S. Commercial Company  
Foreign Economic Administration  
Washington 25, D. C.

Enclosure

*Original signed by  
Mr. Pehle*

*Copy to Mr. Marks*

857  
MJHarkisro  
9/16/44.  
MJH

7 0 0 4 5 0



**FOREIGN ECONOMIC ADMINISTRATION  
U. S. COMMERCIAL COMPANY**

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

September 11, 1944

In Reply Refer To:

*JBF*

Mr. J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director  
War Refugee Board  
Executive Office of the President  
Washington, 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

This is to confirm our today's telephone conversation with your Mr. Friedman during which we informed him that our Mission in Madrid disbursed on August 24 for account of the War Refugee Board for port charges in connection with embarkation of refugees which took place at Cadiz on June 21 ex the "SS GOUV-ERNEUR GENERAL LE PINE" Ptas. 4,077.60. We would appreciate your kindly reimbursing us for same, ~~at the rate of 5 cents per peseta~~, by sending us your check for \$203.88.

Thanking you for your kind attention, we are,

Very truly yours,

R. P. Furey  
Assistant Vice President

SEP 15 1944

U. S. COMMERCIAL COMPANY  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

4077.60  
5  
\$ 203.88 DA

10045

MDC-246

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

Madrid

Dated September 4, 1944

Rec'd 11:13 p.m. 5th

Secretary of State

Washington

3028, September 4, 9 p.m.

Reference your letter August 11 No. 106. USCC paid from its expense account on August 24 pesetas 4077.60 for account of War Refugee Board to defray port charges in connection with embarkation of refugees which took place at Cadiz on June 21 ex the SS GOUVERNEUR GENERAL LE PINE.

HAYES

EDA

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Akzin, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Fehle, Sargoy, Standish, Weinstein, Cable Control Files.

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

000460

TO: *Files*  
~~MR. FRIEDMAN~~ ..... 9/8/44

In view of USCO's letter to us of August 25, stating that the Board owes USCO nothing and in view of the confusion that has already resulted from this peseta deal, I suggest that we do nothing until USCO requests us to reimburse them for the 4077.60 pesetas expended on our account. Furthermore, when USCO submits the bill, I recommend that we reimburse them from our own funds rather than bother with FEA. We have well over a half a million dollars of unexpended funds and it will save loads of red tape.

*mm*  
*J. Marks*  
*JST*

Matthew J. Marks TR-6

000461

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

*War Ref*  
DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

MDC-246

Madrid

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

Dated September 4, 1944

REC'd 11:13 p m, 5th

Secretary of State  
Washington

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SEP 7  
**CONTROL COPY**  
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

3028, September 4, 9 p m

Reference your letter August 11 No. 106. USOC

paid from its expense account on August 24 pesetas  
4077.60 for account of War Refugee Board to defray  
port charges in connection with embarkation of  
refugees which took place at Cadiz on June 21 ex the  
SS GOUVERNEUR GENERAL LE PINE.

HAYES

EDA

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972

000462

AUG 28 1944

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of August 24, 1944, (your reference FI-501-ES1) requesting an accounting of the expenditure in Madrid, Spain of 50,000 pesetas advanced by the U. S. Commercial Company for Spanish port dues in connection with refugees evacuated to Camp Lyautey in French North Africa from Spain.

We have just been advised by the U. S. Commercial Company in a letter dated August 25, 1944, a copy of which is enclosed herewith, that the 50,000 pesetas were returned to the Madrid office of that company by the War Refugee Board and that the company considers the matter closed. This information supersedes prior information received from the U. S. Commercial Company that the 50,000 pesetas had actually been expended for the above purpose and, of course, renders unnecessary the accounting requested in your letter of August 24.

We wish to take this opportunity of thanking you for your cooperation in this matter.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Mr. L. W. A'Hearn,  
Assistant Administrator,  
Office of Finance,  
Foreign Economic Administration,  
Washington 25, D. C.

Original signed by  
Mr. Pehle

Copy to: Mr. Sargoy  
etc

Enclosure.

ms JB7  
MSargoy/ah 8/28/44

000463

*JBF*

FOREIGN ECONOMIC ADMINISTRATION  
Office of Finance  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

In reply refer to:  
FI-501-RGI

AUG 24 '44

Mr. J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director  
War Refugee Board  
Executive Office of the  
President  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

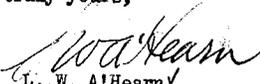
Reference is made to your letter of August 21, 1944, regarding the Foreign Economic Administration making reimbursement to the U. S. Commercial Company for 50,000 pesetas advanced to your representative in Spain to pay Spanish port dues on refugees being evacuated to the North African Refugee Center in Morocco.

It is our desire to close this transaction as quickly as possible as you will note from the enclosed copy of my letter to Mr. J. B. Friedman of your staff dated August 15, 1944. However, it is necessary that we receive an accounting from your representative in Spain of the exact amount of pesetas used of the total of 50,000 advanced. This accounting report should be itemized and be supported by receipts stating the number of refugees involved and purpose of the expenditure. This accounting is quite necessary since we must make the reimbursement to the U. S. Commercial Company from Congressional appropriated moneys that require strict accounting and are subject to post audit by the General Accounting Office. Therefore, upon receipt of the accounting report requested, we will initiate action to make settlement with the U. S. Commercial Company for that portion of the 50,000 pesetas accounted for in the report. Should your representative have on hand an unused balance of the initial advance of 50,000 pesetas, we will have to receive additional accounting reports as mentioned above before further settlements can be made to the U. S. Commercial Company for the total value of the 50,000 pesetas.

Your assistance in bringing this matter to a prompt conclusion will be appreciated.

Attachment

Very truly yours,

  
L. W. A'Hearn  
Assistant Administrator

000464

REPUBLICAN PARTY  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK  
ECONOMIC ADMINISTRATION

Office of Finance

C  
D  
P  
Y

In reply refer to:  
FI-501-nGI

August 15, 1944

Mr. J. B. Friedman  
Acting Executive Director  
War Refugee Board  
Executive Office of the President  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Friedman:

Subject: Pesetas disbursed for port dues

Thank you for your letter of August 4, 1944 regarding the above subject.

We are initiating action to reimburse the U. S. Commercial Company for the 50,000 pesetas they advanced to your representative in Spain.

It would be appreciated if an accounting report stating in detail the expenditure of 50,000 pesetas be furnished this office at the earliest possible date, in order that our records may be complete on this transaction.

Kindly keep us advised regarding the remaining 50,000 pesetas now being held by the Madrid mission of the U. S. Commercial Company for the demand of the War Refugee Board.

Very truly yours,

L. W. A'Hearn  
Assistant Administrator

000465



**FOREIGN ECONOMIC ADMINISTRATION**  
**U. S. COMMERCIAL COMPANY**  
**WASHINGTON 25, D. C.**

August 25, 1944

In Reply Refer To:

Mr. John W. Pehle  
Assistant to Secretary of Treasury  
Foreign Funds Control  
Treasury Department  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

This will refer to your letter of August 21 concerning payment of Ptas. 50,000 which the U. S. Commercial Company made to a Representative of the War Refugee Board in Madrid on June 17.

We have just received advice that on July 20, 1944, this amount was returned by the War Refugee Board to our Madrid Office. Consequently, we shall consider this matter closed and you may disregard our request for payment of the dollar equivalent.

As confirmed to your Mr. Friedman in a telephone conversation on August 23, we are cabling to our Madrid Mission authorizing the cancellation of the other 50,000 peseta lot now being held at the War Refugee Board's disposal.

Very truly yours,

R. P. Furey  
Assistant Vice President

000466

AUG 21 1944

Dear Mr. Furey:

Please refer to your letter of July 10 concerning the \$2500 owing to the United States Commercial Company in reimbursement for 50,000 pesetas paid out by the Madrid Mission of the United States Commercial Company at the request of the War Refugee Board.

I greatly regret the Foreign Economic Administration's delay in making the payment agreed upon, and have just written a letter to Mr. Ahearn, Assistant Administrator, Office of Finance, Foreign Economic Administration, requesting him to expedite the payment. If you do not hear from the Foreign Economic Administration within the next week, please advise me and I will arrange to have you paid immediately from War Refugee Board funds.

I should appreciate it if the 50,000 peseta balance now being held at the Board's disposal by the Madrid Mission of United States Commercial Company could be handled as follows: Arrangements have just been made for Mr. James H. Mann to go to Madrid as Special Representative of the War Refugee Board. It is expected that Mr. Mann will leave for Madrid within the next few days to establish an office there. It would be extremely helpful if you could advise your Madrid Mission to make available to Mr. Mann, upon his request, the 50,000 pesetas. Upon your advising me of the cost of such pesetas, you will promptly be reimbursed therefor from War Refugee Board funds.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle  
J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Mr. R. P. Furey  
Assistant Vice-President  
Foreign Economic Administration  
United States Commercial Company  
Washington, D. C.

*JBF*  
JBFriedman:ro 8/19/44.

000467

AUG 21 1944

Dear Mr. Ahearn:

In connection with the evacuation of a number of refugees from Spain to Camp Lyautey in French North Africa, the United States Commercial Company at the request of the War Refugee Board made an outlay of 80,000 pesetas for Spanish port dues and agreed to hold another 80,000 pesetas at the disposal of the Board for similar payments in the event of future evacuations to Camp Lyautey. Previous to this, it had been agreed between Mr. Norman Anderson of your office and Mr. Joseph B. Friedman, Assistant Executive Director of the War Refugee Board, that the Foreign Economic Administration would reimburse the United States Commercial Company in Washington from funds now held by the Foreign Economic Administration for the financing of Camp Lyautey. This understanding was later confirmed in a letter dated June 5th from Mr. Friedman to Mr. Anderson.

On July 10th we were advised by Mr. Furey, Assistant Vice-President of the United States Commercial Company, that he would contact you in order to collect the dollar equivalent of the pesetas paid out by the United States Commercial Company. Mr. Friedman has now been advised by Mr. Furey that the United States Commercial Company has not yet received payment from the Foreign Economic Administration.

Needless to say the Board is much embarrassed by the Foreign Economic Administration's delay in making the agreed payment to the United States Commercial Company. It would be much appreciated if

000468

- 2 -

you would advise Mr. Furey within the next few days that the Foreign Economic Administration will reimburse the United States Commercial Company as quickly as possible for the 50,000 pesetas paid out.

With respect to the additional 50,000 pesetas now being held at the Board's disposal by the Madrid Mission of the United States Commercial Company, I have today requested that this balance be made available to Mr. James H. Mann, who is proceeding to Madrid within the next few days as Special Representative of the War Refugee Board. I have advised the United States Commercial Company that it will be reimbursed for this additional 50,000 pesetas directly by the War Refugee Board.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Mr. Leonard Ahearn  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Finance  
Foreign Economic Administration  
Washington, D. C.

JBF  
JBFriedman:ro  
8/19/44.

000467

1944 AUG 30 AM 9 59 AIRGRAM

*2 War Ref Bd (m) J.H.G.*

**[REDACTED]**

FROM: American Embassy, Madrid, Spain.

DATE: August 16, 1944.

RECD: August 29, 11 pm

Secretary of State,  
Washington, D. C.

**CONTROL COPY**

A-388, August 16, 1944, 4 p.m.  
Reference Department telegram 2185, August 5,  
5 p.m. from War Refugee Board.

Total port charges incurred in connection with  
embarkation of stateless refugees at Cadiz on June 21  
amounted to only 4,075.70 pesetas, which amount USCC  
has been requested to pay to consignee. No other  
funds have been advanced from original 100,000 pesetas  
authorized in the Department's telegram 1652 (USCCO  
1941), June 7, 1 p.m.

BUTTERWORTH

Copy for Algiers for Saxon  
Copy for USCC, Madrid.  
MWB/jk

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

11047

*File*

FOREIGN ECONOMIC ADMINISTRATION  
OFFICE OF FINANCE  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

In reply refer to:  
FI-501-RGI

AUG 15 1944

Mr. J. B. Friedman  
Acting Executive Director  
War Refugee Board  
Executive Office of the President  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Friedman:

Subject: Pesetas disbursed for port dues.

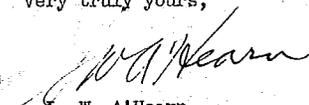
Thank you for your letter of August 4, 1944 regarding the above subject.

We are initiating action to reimburse the U. S. Commercial Company for the 50,000 pesetas they advanced to your representative in Spain.

It would be appreciated if an accounting report stating in detail the expenditure of 50,000 pesetas be furnished this office at the earliest possible date, in order that our records may be complete on this transaction.

Kindly keep us advised regarding the remaining 50,000 pesetas now being held by the Madrid Mission of the U. S. Commercial Company for the demand of the War Refugee Board.

Very truly yours,

  
L. W. A'Hearn  
Assistant Administrator

000471

3000  
1000  
1000

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

OUTGOING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

August 5, 1944

5 P.M.

CONTROL COPY

KD  
Distribution of trans  
pending only by special  
arrangement. (██████-W)

For security reasons the  
text of this message is  
being withheld from  
██████████

AMBASSY,

MADRID.

2185

The cable below to Bitterworth and Bickenstaff

from War Refugee Board.

Please refer to our 1934 July 15 concerning the  
50,000 peseta balance being held by the USCG at the  
disposal of the War Refugee Board.

Saxon recommends the retaining of this balance at  
the disposal of the War Refugee Board in view of the  
expenses which may arise as a result of the evacuations  
discussed in your 2418 of July 11. The Board concurs  
with Saxon's recommendation and has requested the USCG  
to hold this balance at its disposal.

Please confirm by pouch that the original 50,000  
pesetas were disbursed for port dues in connection with  
the Camp Lyautey evacuation.

STETTINIUS  
(Acting)  
(125) (RW)

WRB:MMV:KG  
8/5/44

WE

BNP

AF

S/GR

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972

000472

RECEIVED BOARD  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

CABLE FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD TO BUTTERWORTH AND BLICKENSTAFF,  
MADRID, SPAIN

Please refer to our 1984 July 15 concerning the  
50,000 peseta balance being held by the USCC at the disposal  
of the War Refugee Board.

Saxon recommends the retaining of this balance at the  
disposal of the War Refugee Board in view of the expenses which  
may arise as a result of the evacuations discussed in your  
2415 of July 11. The Board concurs with Saxon's recommendation  
and has requested the USCC to hold this balance at its dis-  
posal.

Please confirm by pouch that the original 50,000 pesetas  
were disbursed for port dues in connection with the Camp Lyautey  
evacuation.

3:00 p.m.  
August 4, 1944

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

HUMarks/sg 8/4/44  
*msm*

000473

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

OUTGOING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

HIS  
Classification of true  
message only by special  
management. ( [redacted] W)

*Warkel/BH/m*  
TO BE SENT IN [redacted] [redacted]

August 5, 1944 *Rah*

6 p.m.

AMREP. **CONTROL COPY**

ALGIERS.

2353

The following for Saren is WRB 42.

The Board is requesting the USGC to hold the 80,000 peseta balance at the Board's disposal as recommended in your 2507 of July 26. Blikenstaff has been advised.

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

STETTINIUS  
ACTING  
(GL)

COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS  
(LIAISON)

1944 AUG 8 AM 10 15

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF

S/CR

WRB:MMV:KG  
6/4/44

AF

WE

SWP

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

000474

ED BOARD  
ON D.C.  
3 45

CABLE FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD TO AMBASSADOR WILSON FOR SAXON  
ALGIERS

The Board is requesting the USGC to hold the 50,000 peseta  
balance at the Board's disposal as recommended in your 2507  
of July 26. Blickenstaff has been advised.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO ALGIERS NO. 42

10:20 a.m.  
August 4, 1944

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

MJMarks/sg 8/3/44

*MJM JB7*

000475

AUG 4 1944

Dear Mr. Irwin:

Reference is made to my telephone conversations with you on August 2 and 4, concerning the 100,000 pesetas placed at the disposal of the War Refugee Board by the Madrid Mission of the United States Commercial Company.

Attached for your information is a copy of Mr. Glasser's reply to Mr. Furey's letter of July 10.

This letter will confirm my statement to you on the telephone that the original 50,000 pesetas were disbursed for port dues in Spain in connection with the evacuation of refugees from Spain to Camp Lyautey in French Morocco.

Very truly yours,

*J. B. Friedman*

J. B. Friedman  
Acting Executive Director

Mr. R. G. Irwin,  
Office of Finance,  
Foreign Economic Administration,  
Washington Gas Light Building,  
Washington, D.C.

Enclosure.

*Original copy by  
Mr. Friedman*

*Copies to: Friedman  
~~Furey~~*

*MJM*  
MJMarks/eg 8/4/44

000476

AUG 4 1944

Dear Mr. Furey:

Reference is made to your letter of July 10, and my letter of July 17 in reply, concerning the 50,000 peseta balance now being held by the Madrid Mission of the United States Commercial Company at the disposal of the War Refugee Board.

The Board has now heard from its representative in Algiers and would appreciate your permitting this balance to remain at the disposal of the Board in Madrid.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Very truly yours,

*H/ Harold Glasser*

Harold Glasser  
Assistant Director of  
Monetary Research

Mr. R. F. Furey,  
Assistant Vice President,  
Foreign Economic Administration,  
United States Commercial Company,  
Washington 25, D. C.

Copies to: *Mr. Friedman*  
*Mr. Glasser (217)*

MJMarke/eg 8/3/44

*MJM JB7*

000477



**FOREIGN ECONOMIC ADMINISTRATION  
U. S. COMMERCIAL COMPANY  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.**

July 10, 1944

In Reply Refer To:

10/10/44

Mr. Harold Glasser  
Assistant Director of Monetary Research  
Treasury Department  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Glasser:

As suggested in your undated letter, we are contacting Mr. Leonard A'Hearn, Assistant Administrator, Office of Finance, Foreign Economic Administration, Washington, D. C., in order to collect the \$2,500 due the U. S. Commercial Company in payment of Ptas. 50,000 which we, at the request of your Mr. Bernstein, advised our Madrid Mission to hold at the disposal of the War Refugee Board Representative, Madrid.

Upon receipt of the \$2,500 check, we shall consider this part of the transaction closed and we would appreciate your advising us whether the balance of Ptas. 50,000 now being held by our Madrid Mission at the disposal of the War Refugee Board Representative is to be cancelled or permitted to stand.

Very truly yours,

R. P. Furey  
Assistant Vice President

Copy for Mr. Matthew J. Marks  
Room 176  
U.S. Treasury Department  
Washington, D. C.

10/10/44

100478

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

**CONTROL COPY**

KD-920  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. (██████-V)

Algiers

Dated July 26

Rec'd 6:36 p.m.

*d. W. R. B. C.*  
For security reasons the  
text of this message must  
be closely guarded.  
*(initials)*

Secretary of State

Washington

2507, July 26, 9 a.m.

FOR WRB FROM SAXON.

It is suggested that you retain balance 50,000  
pesetas (REURTEL No. 33, July 15) in Spain in view  
expenses which may arise evacuations discussed your  
telegram No. 3/4, July 18.

CHAPIN

BB

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

000473

Treasury Department  
Division of Monetary Research

Date.....7/12/19 44

To: Mr. Peble

From: Mr. Glasser

000480

JUL 17 1944

Dear Mr. Furey:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of July 10 concerning the 50,000 peseta balance now being held by the Madrid Mission of the U. S. Commercial Company at the disposal of the War Refugee Board.

Inquiry is being made of the War Refugee Board representative in Algiers whether he desires that this balance should be permitted to stand. I shall advise you as soon as a reply is received.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Very truly yours,

*/s/ Harold Glasner*

Harold Glasner  
Assistant Director of Monetary Research

Mr. R. F. Furey  
Assistant Vice President  
Foreign Economic Administration  
U. S. Commercial Company  
Washington 25, D. C.

MJMarkstro 7/18/44

*mailed by J.P. - Rm 217 - 7/17/44*

00048

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

OUTGOING  
TELEGRAM

*Wm. C. ...*  
DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

*12 copy*  
DISTRIBUTION OF WRE  
reading only by special  
arrangement. (SECRET W)

4 pm.

**CONTROL COPY**  
*Files*

AMREX,

ALMIRAS.

2203

The following WRE cable no. 33 is for Saxoa.

Please refer to your 1790 of May 30 repeated to  
Madrid as 102 and our 1795 of June 6.

USCC advises us that it has disbursed 50,000  
pesetas for port dues in Spain and inquires whether  
it should continue to hold open 50,000 peseta balance.  
Please advise whether you desire 50,000 peseta balance  
to remain at our disposal.

Repeated to Madrid for Blickenstaff as 1984

HULL  
HULL  
(GLV)

*#1984*  
CODE ROOM: Please repeat to Madrid, and insert above  
number of Madrid cable.

WRE:MMV:KG  
7/14/44

WE

SNP

S/CR

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

000488

9 AM 11 35  
HEAD  
EE BOARD  
ION, D.C.

CABLE FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD TO AMBASSADOR WILSON FOR SAXON, ALGIERS,  
ALGERIA.

Please refer to your 1790 of May 30 repeated to Madrid  
as 102 and our 1795 of June 8.

USOC advises us that it has disbursed 50,000 pesetas for  
port dues in Spain and inquires whether it should continue to hold  
open 50,000 peseta balance. Please advise whether you desire 50,000  
peseta balance to remain at our disposal.

Repeated to Madrid for Blickenstaff as \_\_\_\_\_.

THIS IS WEB CABLE TO ALGIERS NO. 33.

1:10 p.m.  
July 13, 1944

MJMarkstro 7/13/44

*MJM*

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

*d*

00048

Dear Mr. Furey:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of June 29, 1944, addressed to Mr. Bernstein, requesting reimbursement for 50,000 pesetas furnished by your representative in Spain to Mr. David Blickenstaff. I am informed by the War Refugee Board that these funds were used for port dues in Spain in connection with the evacuation of refugees from Spain to Camp Lyautey in French Morocco.

The War Refugee Board has made arrangements with the Foreign Economic Administration pursuant to which the latter agency will reimburse the U. S. Commercial Company for the pesetas in question out of funds now held by Foreign Economic Administration for financing Camp Lyautey. Attached is a copy of a letter dated June 5, 1944, from the War Refugee Board to Foreign Economic Administration regarding this matter.

Your letter has been discussed with a representative of the Foreign Economic Administration who suggests that you make a request for reimbursement directly to them in the usual form. Your request to the Foreign Economic Administration should be accompanied by the above-mentioned copy of letter dated June 5, 1944 from the War Refugee Board, and may be addressed to Mr. Leonard Ahearn, Assistant Administrator, Office of Finance, Foreign Economic Administration, Washington, D. C.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Very truly yours,

Harold Glasser  
Assistant Director of Monetary Research

Mr. R. P. Furey  
Assistant Vice President  
Foreign Economic Administration  
U. S. Commercial Company  
Washington 25, D. C.

Enclosure

JBF:ro 7/7/44

000484

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

OUTGOING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

June 6, 1944

11 p.m.

IES  
Distribution of true  
text only by special  
arrangement: ( )

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF

COMMUNICATIONS

CONTROL COPY

AMEMBASSY,

MADRID.

1643

Following from War Refugee Board refers to no. 1790

May 30 from Algiers to Department repeated to Madrid for  
USCC as no. 102.

There has been taken up with USCC here the request  
of Ackermann, Board representative in Algiers, that  
USCC supply pesetas for port dues in Spain in connection  
with forthcoming refugee evacuation voyage. Its Madrid  
representative advised by USCC to make available for  
this purpose up to 100,000 pesetas. You will be informed  
by Ackermann of persons to whom such pesetas should be  
delivered and amount of pesetas necessary. Reimbursement  
in Washington for pesetas furnished will be made USCC.

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

STETTINIUS  
AOTING  
(GEW)

S/CR

WRB:MMV:KG  
6/6/44

WE

SVP

WT

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

70048

CABLE TO AMBASSADOR HAYES, MADRID, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD AND DEPARTMENT

Please refer to No. 1790 May 30 from Algiers to Department,  
repeated to Madrid as No. 102 for USCG.

Request of Ackermann, War Refugee Board representative in Algiers,  
that USCG supply pesetas for port dues in Spain in connection with  
forthcoming refugee evacuation voyage, has been taken up with USCG  
here. USCG advising its Madrid representative to make available up to  
100,000 pesetas for this purpose. Ackermann is being requested to advise  
you of amount of pesetas necessary and persons to whom such pesetas  
should be delivered. USCG will be reimbursed in Washington for the  
pesetas furnished.

\*\*\*\*\*  
June 5, 1944  
4:10 p.m.

JBF:bbk - 6/5/44  
E/m B

000486

DEPARTMENT

OF

Distribution of true  
STATE reading only by special  
arrangement. (S W)

VI. OUTGOING TELEGRAM

TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF

COMMUNICATIONS

Midnight AND RECORDS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
JUN 8 1944  
COMMUNICATIONS RECORDS

For security reasons, this document should be closed to all personnel not authorized to receive it.

AMREP.

ALGIERS.  
1795

The cable below is for Murphy, Chapin and Ackermann,  
is WRB no. 20 and refers to your 1709 May 24, 1759 May 26,  
and 1790 May 30.

Funds have been transmitted to Yugoslav Refugee Com-  
mittee in Bari as recommended your 1709.

Refer your 1790 USCC requesting its representative  
Madrid to furnish up to 100,000 pesetas to persons designated  
by you, for payment port dues in Spain. Please communicate  
with Embassy Madrid indicating to whom such pesetas should  
be furnished and amount thereof required. Reimbursement  
in Washington for pesetas furnished will be made USCC.

We have not taken up question here re suggested your  
1759 of assurance of availability of ship for evacuation of  
refugees from Spain, in view statement in your 1790 that the  
local War Shipping Administration representative is giving  
full assistance. Please advise if Kalloch and you consider  
it necessary we do so.

S/CR

WRB:MMV:KG  
6/6/44

WE

STETTINIUS  
ACTING  
(GHR.)  
SE

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

000487

CABLE TO MURPHY, CHAPIN AND ASKERMANN, ALGIERS, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Please refer your 1709 May 24, 1759 May 28, and 1790 May 30.

(1) As recommended in your No. 1709, the funds have now been transmitted to Yugoslav Refugee Committee in Bari.

(2) USCG is requesting its representative in Madrid to furnish up to 105,000 pesetas to persons designated by you, for payment of port dues in Spain as indicated in your No. 1790. You should communicate with Embassy in Madrid indicating the amount of pesetas required and to whom such pesetas should be furnished. USCG will be reimbursed in Washington for the pesetas furnished.

(3) In view of the statement in your No. 1790 that the local War Shipping Administration representative is giving full assistance in assuring the availability of a ship for evacuation of refugees from Spain, we have not taken this question up here as suggested in your 1759. If you and Kallach consider it necessary for us to do so, please advise.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO ALGIERS NO. 20.

\*\*\*\*\*

June 5, 1944

4:10 p.m.

JBY:pbk - 5/5/44

JBY  
E.M.P.

000488

June 5, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES:

I discussed with E. M. Bernstein, Ackermann's request for Spanish pesetas for port dues in connection with the refugee evacuation voyage to take place in the near future. (See No. 1790 of May 30 from Algiers). Bernstein stated that the best way to handle the matter was to have USCC instruct its representative in Madrid to make the necessary pesetas available and to reimburse USCC here through the Treasury. Accordingly, I prepared the attached cables to Algiers and Madrid, both of which were cleared with Bernstein. Bernstein requested USCC to advise its Madrid representative accordingly. (See attached memorandum).

In order to obtain some idea of the amount of money involved, I called Leavitt of JDC concerning port dues in Spain. He stated that according to the JDC's records the port dues were approximately 50 pesetas a person. Assuming that this is correct, the total charges for 800 refugees would be 40,000 pesetas. In order to take care of possible additional charges, I have suggested the outside figure of 100,000 pesetas.

I called Norman Anderson of the Finance Division of FEA (9th Floor, Gas Light Building) and explained to him the request made in Ackermann's No. 1790 that USCC make available pesetas for port dues in Spain in connection with the forthcoming refugee evacuation voyage. I explained that the Treasury was arranging with USCC to furnish the pesetas required for this purpose but that it was necessary for the USCC to be reimbursed in Washington. I asked whether FEA would be prepared to make this reimbursement to USCC out of the \$500,000 allocated from the President's Fund for Camp Lyautey. Mr. Anderson stated that FEA would make this reimbursement. Anderson did mention that since the British are obligated to furnish sea transport he was inclined to think that the British should pay the port dues. I indicated that I was inclined to agree but stated that in view of Ackermann's reports it appears that the British do not intend to do so. I also mentioned that I thought it was important to authorize as promptly as possible the payment of pesetas, working out the details of reimbursement later. Anderson agreed with this and agreed that FEA would, if necessary, make the reimbursement.

I sent the attached letter to Anderson confirming my understanding with him.

JB7

00048

C O P Y

ALGIERS

DATED MAY 30, 1944

Rec'd 2:01 a.m. 31st

Secretary of State,

Washington

1790, May 30, 11 p.m.

FOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD FROM ACKERMANN.

Number 24:

Local office of War Shipping Administration giving full assistance to ensure that there will be no further delay in making ship available for evacuation refugees from Spain. Expect to know definitely in few days when ship will sail. As French ship will be used, French authorities have asked whether pesetas will be made by us for port dues in Spain. Suggest you immediately take up with USCO question whether it can supply pesetas in Spain. Reply urgently whether this method available or whether Treasury desires that pesetas be furnished another manner. Repeated to Madrid as 102 for USCO; sent to the Department as 1790.

CHAPIN

WED

LMS

000490

1643 6/6/44

CABLE TO AMBASSADOR HAYES, MADRID, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD AND DEPARTMENT

Please refer to No. 1790 May 30 from Algiers to Department,  
repeated to Madrid as No. 102 for USGC.

Request of Ackermann, War Refugee Board representative in Algiers,  
that USGC supply pesetas for port dues in Spain in connection with  
forthcoming refugee evacuation voyage, has been taken up with USGC  
here. USGC advising its Madrid representative to make available up to  
100,000 pesetas for this purpose. Ackermann is being requested to advise  
you of amount of pesetas necessary and persons to whom such pesetas  
should be delivered. USGC will be reimbursed in Washington for the  
pesetas furnished.

JBF:bbk - 6/5/44

000491

SECRET  
OFFICE OF THE  
DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20520

1795  
46

CABLE TO MURPHY, CHAPIN AND ACKERMANN, ALGIERS, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Please refer your 1709 May 24, 1759 May 28, and 1790 May 30.

(1) As recommended in your No. 1709, the funds have now been transmitted to Yugoslav Refugee Committee in Bari.

(2) USGC is requesting its representative in Madrid to furnish up to 100,000 pesetas to persons designated by you, for payment of port dues in Spain as indicated in your No. 1790. You should communicate with Embassy in Madrid indicating the amount of pesetas required and to whom such pesetas should be furnished. USGC will be reimbursed in Washington for the pesetas furnished.

(3) In view of the statement in your No. 1790 that the local War Shipping Administration representative is giving full assistance in assuring the availability of a ship for evacuation of refugees from Spain, we have not taken this question up here as suggested in your 1759. If you and Kalloch consider it necessary for us to do so, please advise.

JBF:bbk -- 6/5/44

000492

June 6, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

I spoke to Mr. Pury of the U. S. Commercial Company and he agreed to telegraph to his representative in Madrid instructing him to pay out up to 25,000 pesetas on the instruction of Ackermann.

In previous conversations, we agreed that the U.S.S.C. would be reimbursed in Washington at approximately 5 cents a peseta.

I read the attached telegram to Mr. Pury and his secretary made a record of it.

Mr. Friedman asked me to change the figure to 100,000 pesetas. I informed Mr. Pury's office of the corrected figure.

E. M. Bernstein

BMB:ff 6/5/44

000493

June 5, 1944

Mr. Norman Anderson,  
Finance Division,  
Foreign Economic Administration,  
9th Floor, Gas Light Building,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Anderson:

This will confirm our conversation of this morning concerning the request which has been made for Spanish pesetas to pay port dues in connection with a forthcoming refugee evacuation voyage from Spain to Camp Lyantey in North Africa.

Attached is a copy of Cable No. 1790 of May 30 from Algiers to the State Department in which this request was made.

As I stated to you the exact amount of pesetas required is not known to me. According to information received from the Jewish Joint Distribution Committee which has financed evacuation voyages from Spain, the cost apparently is 50 pesetas a person. Assuming the correctness of this figure, the cost for 800 refugees (the approximate number to be evacuated) would be 40,000 pesetas. In order to give some lee-way, however, it would seem wise to request USCG to furnish up to 100,000 pesetas.

As I explained to you the USCG representative in Madrid is being requested to make available the pesetas required (up to 100,000) with the understanding that the USCG will be reimbursed here in Washington. It is now my understanding that USCG expects to be reimbursed in Washington at approximately five cents a peseta.

Attached are copies of proposed cables to Madrid and Algiers which are being sent by the War Refugee Board in this connection.

I understand that FEA will reimburse USCG through the Treasury in Washington for the pesetas made available for this purpose. I also understand that the reimbursement will be made from the funds now held by FEA for financing Camp Lyantey.

Very truly yours,

J. B. Friedman,  
Assistant Executive Director.

JBF:bbk - 6/5/44

000494

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

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

CONTROL COPY

EOC-745

Algers

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

Dated May 30, 1944

Rec'd 2:01 a.m. 31st

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

1790, May 30, 11 p.m.

FOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD FROM ACKERMAN.

Number 24.

Local office of War Shipping Administration giving full assistance to ensure that there will be no further delay in making ship available for evacuation refugees from Spain. Expect to know definitely in few days when ship will sail. As French ship will be used, French authorities have asked whether pasetas will be made by us for port dues in Spain. Suggest you immediately take up with USCC question whether it can supply pasetas in Spain. Reply urgently whether this method available or whether Treasury desires that pasetas be furnished another manner. Repeated to Madrid as 102 for USCC; sent to the Department as 1790.

CHAPIN

WTD

LMS

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

000493

*W. R. Kelly*  
*Mr. Pehle*  
*Copy only*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington,  
TO: American Legation, Lisbon  
DATED: May 10, 1944  
NUMBER: 1319  
X

**CONTROL COPY**

FOR WOOD AND DEXTER FROM MORGENTHAU AND PEHLE

Please refer your No. 1341 of May 3.

Pending final determination of scope of War Refugee Board operations in Spain Board does not plan to make disbursements of its own in Spain. If, however, situations arise in which you feel that Board should make disbursements please advise us.

This is WRB Cable to Lisbon No. 18

HULL

2111 MA E1 YAM ANCI  
WASHINGTON D C  
WRB RECEIVED  
RECEIVED

REGRADED  
UNCLASSIFIED

000496



CONTROL COPY

For security reasons the text of this message must be closely guarded.  
BJR-528

2 War Refugee Board  
Pehle  
(Mr. Pehle)

This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Governmental agency. (S000)

Lisbon

Dated May 3, 1944

Rec'd 7:10 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
MAY 4 1944  
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS & RECORDS

1341, May 3, 7 p.m.

FOR SECRETARY OF TREASURY FROM WOOD

War Refugee Board has no facilities of its own to make disbursements of pesetas in Spain. Office of Financial Attache has taken steps to effect payment 25,000 pesetas in Spain but does not desire conduct other such transactions without approval of Washington. Please inform Pehle of foregoing and advise me of how Board is arranging for financing and paying in Spain.

NORWEB

EDA  
WMB

DECLASSIFIED  
By Authority of T.O. 160

By RHP Date SEP 15 1972

10049

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE May 9, 1944

TO Mr. Friedman  
FROM J. W. Pehle

Emerson Bigelow of OSS called me about this matter. He had received a corresponding cable through OSS channels. The cable did not make it clear whether Wood was effecting the payment of 25,000 pesetas or wanted authority to do so. Bigelow is cabling back that no future payment should be made without clearing with Washington. This would also apply to the instant payment if it has not been effected. Bigelow will keep us advised. Please consider what reply we should make to the attached cable No. 1341 of May 3.

JWP

7 0 0 4 9 3

BJR - 528  
This telegram must be  
paraphrased before being  
communicated to anyone  
other than a Governmental  
Agency. (83-00)

Lisbon  
Dated May 3, 1944  
Rec'd 7:10 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

1341, May 3, 7 p.m.

FOR SECRETARY OF TREASURY FROM WOOD

War Refugee Board has no facilities of its own to make  
disbursements of pesetas in Spain. Office of Financial Attache has  
taken steps to effect payment 25,000 pesetas in Spain but does not  
desire conduct other such transactions without approval of Washington.  
Please inform Pehle of foregoing and advise me of how Board is arranging  
for financing and paying in Spain.

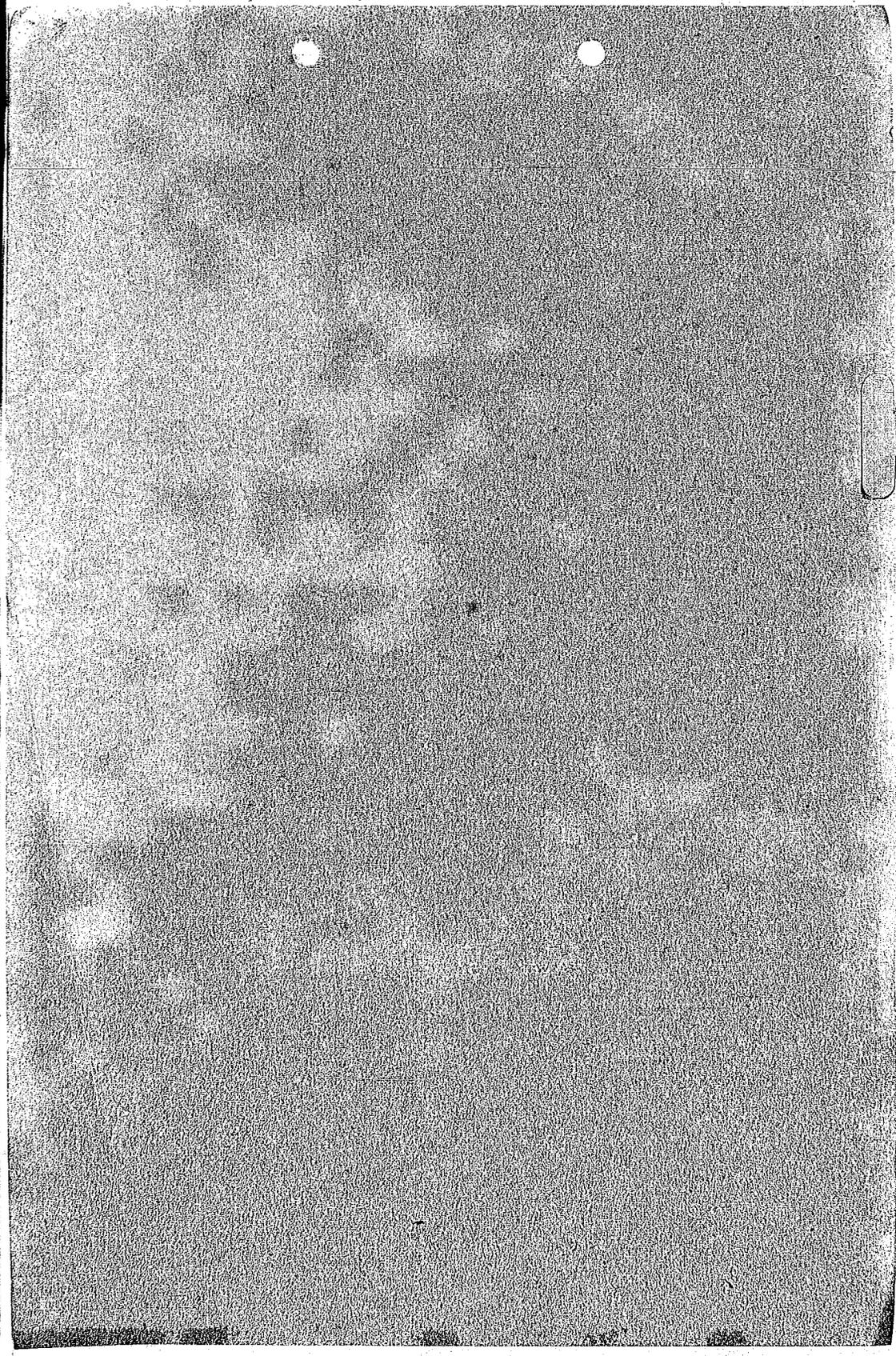
NORWNB

EDA  
WMB

ef:copy  
5-5-44

Distributed to: Secretary (Mr. Pehle); Mr. D.W. Bell (Mr. Dietrich);  
Mr. White (Mrs. Gold-Orig.); Mr. Luxford; Mr. Pehle; Mr. Fisher;  
Mr. Bernstein; Mrs. Gold; Mr. Ness.

From Mrs. Fontaine - Room 225



3

000501

Text of telegram from Sir S. Hoare,  
Madrid to Foreign Office No. 923.

*Fest low*

Algers telegram No. 37 to Madrid and your telegram  
No. 716.

J.D.C. representative's arrangements which are proceeding satisfactorily are threatened at the last minute by the efforts of Mr. Liechtentein (spell 13 indicated) representative of Jewish agency to hold back 64 Sep.... Jews whom the Spanish Government insist should leave for Fedhala, for a later opportunity for shipment to Palestine.

2. I have ascertained:

- 1) that these people have been only nominated for entry into Palestine and not yet approved.
- 2) that sailing for Palestine is not yet definitely fixed, preliminary arrangements only having been made.
- 3) that the Spanish Government make the inclusion of this party a condition for the departure of the whole group.
- 4) that J.D.C. representative is anxious that they should go.

3. I feel therefore that rather than thus risk the whole project at the last minute for the sake of a relatively small group, these people should proceed to F. as arranged and go on to Palestine from there afterwards.

4. Foreign Office please repeat to Rabat and Casablanca.

*Copy to Mr. Aikerman*

7 0 5 0

XXXXXX

URGENT

Mr. Ackerman

XXXX

XXXXX

From British Representative,  
MGI RD.

*Fedala*  
to H.M. Ambassador,  
MADRID.

1938 10.6.44.

MISSION 57

10.6.44.

Replied to Foreign Office No. 884  
and Casablanca No. 19.

Your telegram No. 27.

Ship is now definitely due to arrive 20th  
June. E.C.A. will be telegraphed as soon as  
possible.

2. War Refugee Board have arranged that U.S.C.O.  
should furnish coater for port dues in Spain. U.S.  
Mission are telegraphing BLICKENSTAFF to arrange  
payment. Grateful if you would advise him if  
necessary regarding amount required and authority to  
whom it should be paid.

3. Foreign Office please pass to Rebat as  
my telegram No. 48.

00050

Copy for Mr. Ackerman.  
*Jedlicki*

Cypher OTF

XXX

XXX

*Jan* Mr. Holman (Mission, To Madrid.  
Algiers.

1925 8.6.44

36 Mission 8.6.44

MOST IMMEDIATE

Repeated to Foreign Office No. 748 Mission, Rabat  
No. 18 Saving, and Casablanca No. 5 Saving.

My telegram No. 35.

Ship could now arrive Cadiz June 20 repeat 20.  
Please reply most immediately whether this date is con-  
venient.

2. U.S. Mission are telegraphing similarly.

00050

*Jedala*

PARAPHRASE FOR MR. ACKERMANN

FROM ALGIERS

AUG 4, midnight, 1944

No 6.

For Ackermann form Saxon. Refer July 19 WRB No.34.

In order to obtain the agreement of the French, we are negotiating with them to take small groups of refugees from Spain on French convoys carrying French refugees. You will be advused of results later.

CHAFIN

7 0 5 0 3



24 July, 1944

gpm

MEMORANDUM TO GOVERNOR VALENTIN-SMITH:

The War Refugee Board, Washington, has communicated its desire that the French Authorities be requested to evacuate from Spain to North Africa 25 to 50 stateless refugees holding North African entry visas to Camp Fedhala on each French convoy which calls at Spanish ports for the purpose of evacuating French refugees to North Africa.



James J. Saxon,  
Senior U. S. Treasury  
Representative.

70050

██████████  
Algiers, July 22, 1944

Mr. M. W. Beckelman,  
United Nations Relief and  
Rehabilitation Administration,  
North African Refugee Center,  
APO 759,  
U. S. Army.

Dear Mr. Beckelman:

I wish to thank you for your letter of July 15 enclosing a communication dated July 6 received from Mr. Massigli, in reply to your letter of May 1, together with a copy of your reply of July 14.

I have reviewed the conditions under which the Refugee Camp at Fedhala was made available to the American and British Governments and it would appear that the obligations assumed thereunder are essentially the same as those defined in Mr. Massigli's letter of July 6. In order that you may have a more complete understanding of the negotiations on the transfer conditions and the obligation assumed by the American and British Governments I am sending you herewith copies of communications exchanged with the Commissioner for Foreign Affairs in 1943.

I am also enclosing a copy of a note dated July 6 from the Commissariat for Foreign Affairs to which is attached a copy of Mr. Massigli's letter of July 6 addressed to you. I should appreciate receiving from you an indication of your approval on behalf of UNRRA to the conditions of transfer stipulated in the note.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Selden Chapin  
Counselor of Embassy, In Charge

Enclosures:  
Copies of correspondence.

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

000500

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION  
NORTH AFRICAN REFUGEE CENTER  
CIVIL AFFAIRS  
APO 759

JUL 29 1944



22 July 1944

*cl*

Dear Monsieur Levasseur,

As you know, the security control period for the residents of the North African Refugee Center ended the day before yesterday, 20 July. M. de Breteuil has just handed me a list of the names of 23 people who are not to receive visitors and are not to be permitted to go out of the camp. There is no indication of the length of time during which this prohibition is to be in effect; the implication is that it continues for the duration of their stay in Morocco and one of the cases, in fact, has been pending ever since 12 May.

You will recall that at the meeting we held in Rabat at which Monsieur Francois de Rose presided it was specifically agreed that at the close of the security period any persons regarded as suspect by the security services would be taken out of the camp and dealt with as the situation might indicate. All persons remaining in the camp were thereafter to have the status agreed upon in the exchange of notes among the French, British and American governments. It is my recollection that the representatives of the Securite Militaire who attended the meeting to which I refer specifically gave their agreement to this understanding of the procedure. I therefore assume that the present position which they are adopting is based on a misunderstanding.

500-NR2

Inasmuch as I understand from Monsieur de Breteuil that he has sent you a list of the 23 people involved, I would like to direct your attention to two cases in particular which have thus far been brought to my attention and in which I think the present restriction is especially illogical.

Bella Russ is a woman of 65 whose family is in England where some of them are in the armed forces. We have just been advised by Mr. Blickenstaff's office in Madrid that the British Embassy there has been authorized to grant her a visa for the United Kingdom and that the British Consulate in Casablanca has been asked to issue this visa as soon as transportation to England is once more available.

The second case concerns Alois Berger. Mr. Berger yesterday attempted to enlist in the Yugoslav Army but, I am informed, he was rejected because Securite Militaire informed the

the names of the persons  
USA, SO 1944. M. de  
Va Non known, the  
Dest. Monarism Levasseur

UNITED NATIONS REFUGEE

Beckelman to Levasseur, 22 July 1944, page 2

Yugoslav representative that Mr. Berger would not be permitted to leave the camp. Inasmuch as it is our common interest and responsibility to see to it that the refugees now in camp leave Morocco at the earliest opportunity, I find this position exceedingly difficult to understand.

It therefore seems to me that there must be some misunderstanding on the part of the Securite Militaire with respect to the conditions governing the administration of the North African Refugee Center as formulated by agreement among the French, British and American governments. If this is so, I would prefer to avoid the necessity of taking this matter up with the British and American representatives and with the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Algiers and would therefore welcome your advice and suggestion as to how we could most expeditiously dispose of the difficulty which seems to have arisen.

Sincerely yours,

M. W. Beckelman  
Assistant Chief of Mission

Copies to: The Hon. Robert Murphy ✓  
Viscount Duncannon  
Major Paul Warburg  
M. de Breteuil

Monsieur Levasseur  
Cabinet Civil  
Residence General de France  
Rabat, Morocco

MWB/krcg

10050

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

*Fedala*

Secstate

July 18, 1944 - 6 p.m.

Washington

2230

July 19, 1944 - 3:30 p.m.

The following WRB cable 34 is for Ackermann and Saxon.

Please refer to 2415 of July 11 from Madrid to Department repeated to Algiers as Madrid's 392 for Ackermann and Saxon urging that a commitment be obtained from the French for the evacuation from Spain of from 25 to 50 stateless refugees holding North African entry visas to Camp Fedhala on each French Convoy calling at Spanish ports to evacuate French refugees to North Africa.

Board suggests that you use your utmost efforts to obtain this commitment from the French. Please advise us of any difficulties you may encounter.

HULL

dec:hl

el

000510

*Evac. to + thru Spain + Port - Spain to Sepulchre*

WR *WMB*

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION  
NORTH AFRICAN REFUGEE CENTER  
CIVIL AFFAIRS  
APO 759

16 July 1944

Dear Mr. Saxon,

Before he left for Italy Len Ackermann asked me to keep you posted on any developments regarding the NARC in which the War Refugee Board might be interested. He may have told you before he left that I had written a letter to M. Massigli on 29 April asking for confirmation of a view which he had expressed to me orally to the effect that up to the agreed upon limit of 2,000, further convoys, if any, of Sephardic Jews coming from Spain would be admitted to the North African Refugee Center. I have just received the enclosed letter of 6 July from M. Massigli giving me the requested assurance on this point, and it occurs to me that you may want to have a copy for your files.

Sincerely yours,

*M. W. Beckelman*

M. W. Beckelman  
Assistant Chief of Mission

Enclosure: Massigli to Beckelman, 6 July 1944, No. 150/824

Mr. J. J. Saxon  
Treasury Representative  
Civil Affairs  
APO 534

MWB/krcg

*Index for Mr. Ackermann  
file -  
date 7/16/44  
read in file*

000511

Copy

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION  
CIVIL AFFAIRS  
APO 759  
U.S. ARMY

14 July 1944

My dear Mr. Minister,

This will acknowledge with thanks receipt of your letter of 6 July 1944, No. 149/122, Direction Politique, Afrique, Asie, Oceanie, which replies to my letter of 1 May. I note with appreciation that you are in agreement with the proposal which I have made on behalf of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) that the latter should assume responsibility for the administration of the North African Refugee Center (NARC) at Camp Marshal Lyautey.

So far as I am in a position to judge, the statements made in your letter of 6 July for the purpose of defining specifically the division of responsibility involved in the operation of the NARC substantially reflect the existing situation based upon the agreements previously reached among the French, British and American governments. However, in view of the fact that your letter makes reference to exchanges of notes between your office and those of the British and American representatives which took place before my participation in this question, and interprets the application of the terms of such notes to the future operations of the NARC, I am taking the liberty of sending copies of your letter of 6 July to the offices of the British and American representatives in Algiers for their comment. I am also sending a copy of your 6 July letter, as well as of this reply, to the office of the Director General of the UNRRA in Washington to obtain from him an indication of the date at which UNRRA proposes to take over administrative responsibility for the NARC.

As soon as I have heard from these offices I shall be in a position to communicate with you again and I trust that I shall at that time be able to give you the acceptance which you request of the statement regarding the NARC which is formulated in your letter of 6 July.

In the meantime, I take this opportunity to express to you my appreciation for the interest you have demonstrated in this

000511

Beckelman to Minister for Foreign Affairs, 14 July 1944, page 2

project and for the assistance you are giving me in the matter currently under discussion.

Sincerely yours,

M.W. Beckelman  
Assistant Chief of Mission

His Excellency  
The Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Gouvernement Provisoire de la  
Republique Francaise  
Algiers, Algeria.

MWB/krog

000513

Copy

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION  
NORTH AFRICAN REFUGEE CENTER  
CIVIL AFFAIRS  
APO 759

15 July 1944  
[REDACTED]

Via Air Courier

Dear Mr. Chapin,

You will recall that, with my letter of 6 May, I sent you a copy of the memorandum which I had left with M. Massigli prior to my departure from Algiers, covering the question of the proposed transfer of responsibility for the North African Refugee Center from the British and American governments, operating through the Foreign Economic Administration of the U.S.A., to the UNRRA. This memorandum I had previously discussed with you and with the Office of the British Resident Minister before leaving it with M. Massigli.

I have now received a reply from M. Massigli, dated 6 July 1944, No. 149/122, and I send you a copy herewith, together with a copy of my reply thereto dated 14 July 1944.

You will note that M. Massigli requests me to indicate to him my agreement with the statement of the transfer conditions and the obligations assumed thereunder by the British and American governments as well as by the UNRRA, as stated by him in his letter of 6 July. I do not feel that I should make such a statement to him since, in the first place, I am not familiar with the details of the original negotiations between the British and American governments on the one hand and the CFLN on the other, nor am I sure about the propriety of my saying to M. Massigli, as he requests, that I agree with a statement which he has made regarding responsibilities assumed by agencies other than the one which I represent directly.

I would appreciate it, therefore, if you would have an opportunity to go over the two letters enclosed and give me the benefit of your suggestions with respect to any further communication which I ought to address to M. Massigli.

Selden Chapin, Esquire  
Office of the American  
Representative  
Civil Affairs  
APO 534  
Enclosures - two, as stated.  
MWB/krcg

Sincerely yours,  
/s/ M.W. Beckelman  
M.W. Beckelman  
Assistant Chief of Mission

REGRADED  
UNCLASSIFIED

Copy

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION  
NORTH AFRICAN REFUGEE CENTER  
CIVIL AFFAIRS  
APO 759

15 July 1944

Via Air Courier

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Selden Chapin, Esquire  
Office of the American  
Representative  
Civil Affairs  
APO 534  
Enclosures - two, as stated.  
MWB/krog

Sincerely yours,  
/s/ M.W. Beckelman  
M.W. Beckelman  
Assistant Chief of Mission

REGRADED  
UNCLASSIFIED

Copy

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION  
CIVIL AFFAIRS  
APO 759  
U.S. ARMY

14 July 1944

My dear Mr. Minister,

This will acknowledge with thanks receipt of your letter of 6 July 1944, No. 149/122, Direction Politique, Afrique, Asie, Oceanie, which replies to my letter of 1 May. I note with appreciation that you are in agreement with the proposal which I have made on behalf of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) that the latter should assume responsibility for the administration of the North African Refugee Center (NARC) at Camp Marshal Lyautey.

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As soon as I have heard from these offices I shall be in a position to communicate with you again and I trust that I shall at that time be able to give you the acceptance which you request of the statement regarding the NARC which is formulated in your letter of 6 July.

In the meantime, I take this opportunity to express to you my appreciation for the interest you have demonstrated in this



*Handwritten initials/signature*

LISWON

July 7, 1944

205

CLEAR

July 8, 9 a.m.

205, Seventh, 4 p.m.

TO HOWARD BROOKS FROM ELISABETH DEXTER.

3 estimates from three Christian committees indicate that a maximum of twenty stateless or Allied refugees would apply for Camp Fedala. Jewish committees will report shortly. My personal guess not over twelve in all will really go but some of these are eager and desirable. Situation here unchanged. All well.

NORWEB

els

000510

GOUVERNEMENT PROVISOIRE  
DE LA  
REPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE

WRB  
REPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE MG/IS

Commissariat aux  
Affaires Etrangères

Alger, le 6 Juillet 1944

Direction Politique  
Afrique-Asie-Océanie

No. 150/824

Monsieur W. BECKELMAN  
Chef de Mission  
Civil Affairs  
5, rue du Professeur Curtillet  
ALGER

Monsieur,

Par une lettre du 29 Avril, vous avez bien voulu me demander s'il serait possible d'accueillir au camp de Fedala des réfugiés israéliques sépharadites qui seraient prochainement acheminés sur le Maroc.

J'ai l'honneur de vous confirmer que je ne vois aucune objection à l'installation provisoire des réfugiés en question, étant entendu toutefois que cette latitude ne s'étendra pas aux sépharadites ressortissants de nations qui ne sont pas touchées par la guerre - telles que l'Espagne ou le Portugal - .

Je crois d'autre part devoir ajouter que:

1<sup>o</sup>) En aucun cas, le nombre total des réfugiés qui seront admis au Maroc ne devra dépasser 2.000 personnes, ainsi que cela avait été fixé dans l'accord conclu entre les trois gouvernements alliés.

2<sup>o</sup>) Les mesures de sécurité qui ont été prises à l'égard des premiers groupes de réfugiés venant d'Espagne devront être également appliquées aux réfugiés sépharadites. Notamment aucune personne ne sera admise au Maroc sans l'accord préalable des services de Sécurité français, américain et britannique.

3<sup>o</sup>) Les sépharadites seront soumis, en tous points, à la réglementation arrêtée, d'accord entre les gouvernements français, américain, et britannique, pour tout ce qui concerne le séjour des réfugiés dans le Protectorat./.

Je vous prie d'agréer, Monsieur, l'expression de ma considération distinguée.

Signature: illisible

11051

OFFICE OF  
THE REPRESENTATIVE  
OF  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ALGIERS

27 June, 1944

Dear Len:

I thought I would write you this note to go along with your personal mail and some cables and other material in the pouch which is leaving tomorrow.

Jim and I have been following the war refugee problems here, although there actually haven't been many new developments since your departure. Our main function has been to transmit cables through our channels for some of the representatives of the private relief organizations.

The boat bringing the refugees from Spain has arrived in Fedala, and we are checking with Beckelman for details as to the number of persons arriving, etc. When we have all the facts, we will send off a cable to Washington on the matter.

One small problem has arisen concerning the refugees from the Gripsholm, upon which I would like to have some word from you. Right after your departure the Mess Office called and inquired about who was going to pay for the mess bills of these people. They referred to a letter which they had requesting that the refugees be granted mess privileges, which states that all expenses incurred by the refugees should be forwarded to Mr. Aokermann of the War Refugee Board. I tried to track down the origin of this statement, and so nearly as I can find out, it was a verbal agreement between you and Col. Crean. Four persons have been eating in the army messes under this arrangement since 4 June. They are apparently still there. What plans had you in mind for covering these expenditures? Will you please advise me as to what we ought to do in this matter?

There have been no world-shaking developments on this front. We are all well and send you best regards. Juanita is enclosing a letter for Ruth Kelley, which she would appreciate your delivering or forwarding as required.

Sincerely yours,

  
D. J. McGrew  
U.S. Treasury  
Representative

*John J. Aokermann  
plus*

COPY

*Ackerman*

SecState

June 21, 1944

Cleer

2090

FEA

*AS*  
*Wm*

BOC 2462

For Hannigan FEA from Boyd

We wish to withdraw three Plymouth cars FEA ownership now in Casablanca allocated to refugee camp at Lyautey, in view of imminent turnover of this operation to UNRRA.

These cars are urgently needed in Algiers to replace assigned Army cars no longer fit for service. Please advise that this withdrawal is acceptable to UNRRA.

CHAPIN

AWB

sent: p

jc

Distribution:  
1. NAJEM file  
2. Am.Ecn.Msn. - Boyd  
3. " " " - LaRoche  
4. " " " - Files  
5. " " " - Files  
6. " " " - Ackerman  
7. " " " - Beckelman

6

700521

17 June, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR J.J. SAXON:

Miscellaneous WRB matters.

1. Fedhala. This seems to be under control. However, Board should be advised by cable as soon as refugees have arrived. You can get this information from Beckelman (Beacon 210 J) or possibly from Sasseville of WSA (Farmer 121) or perhaps Lord Duncannon (Franchise 57). The boat should have left Spain on the 20th and be at Casa on the 21st or 22nd. If you do not hear otherwise, would you please try to find out on the 22nd about the arrival and the number of people who came.

2. Medical personnel for refugee camps. As you know, unless we get personnel, the Army may again slow up refugee movement from Yugoslavia. Several cables have already been sent to Washington which is working on the problem. In the meanwhile I've been working on my own over here to fill this gap. The following projects are under way.

a) 3 trained nurses (Spanish refugees) will soon be released from an Army clinic. Major Walker of G-5 wants to use them and knows about them.

b) Dr. Imianitof, now in Lisbon. Walker is also interested in this man and will send a memo to me in the next few days. My memo to Col. Spofford is attached. Howard Brooks of the Unitarian Service Committee (Franchise 131) will do most of the work in connection with getting this man over. He might need your help in order that the State Dept. assist in getting the necessary papers. G-5 will assist on getting the necessary travel orders.

c) Spanish refugee doctors secured by American Friends Service Committee. They have tentatively turned up 5 and may turn up more. Kimberland of AFSC is in charge.

The principal problem on this medical help is their payment. The Army will give them quarters and rations but cannot pay them. As soon as UNRRA takes over, they will be paid by UNRRA. In the meanwhile, it will be up to private agencies or possibly the WRB to pay them small salaries. If the private agencies cannot pay them, will you cable the board for funds and authority to make these payments. I am writing to John about this in the meanwhile.



*cc to Acker*

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS  
G-5 Section  
APO 512

OMS/DW/as



G-5: 230.4-7

16 June 1944

SUBJECT: Employment of Civilian Medical Personnel in the care of Refugees.

TO : The Special Representative, Mediterranean Area, U.S. War Refugee Board, c/o The Office of the American Political Adviser.

Reference is made to your memorandum of 14 June, and to conversations between Mr. Ackerman and Major Walker of this Section.

1. In principle it is agreed that use should be made of civilian medical personnel, not being members of UNRRA or other Allied relief or welfare agencies, in the care of refugees in French North Africa and Italy, provided that all such persons are first screened and approved by the Security authorities. Assistance will be afforded to the Representative of the American Unitarian Service Committee in providing facilities for Dr. Frederic Imianitof to enter French North Africa.

2. As, however, it is not possible to arrange for the payment of such persons by the Army it is requested that until UNRRA can be held responsible payments may temporarily be made by the War Refugee Board, or by another agency as you may think best. Accommodation and food would be provided from military sources.

3. It is understood that, in addition to Dr. Imianitof, three nursing personnel are now available in Algeria. Information as to the assignment of these persons will be given on receipt of confirmation that their payment can be effected by some agency other than military.

*LS*  
CHARLES M. SPOFFORD  
Colonel, C.S.C.  
Asst. Chief of Staff, G-5

500-160

77052

AM EMBASSY, MADRID

JUNE 16, 1948. *Fedhala*

CODE. WRB [REDACTED]

no.

charge: WRB

FOR BLICKENSTAFF FROM ACKERMANN

URGENT

Have seen cable from British Embassy concerning Liechtensteins efforts to hold back 64 sephardics. Since this may endanger whole shipment and since possibility movement Palestine is just as great from Fedhala as from Spain suggest strongly that you impress on Liechtenstein importance change his position. You can also inform all refugees that Fedhala is not repeat not a duration camp but that all efforts for omigration will be made soon as possible.

GHAFIN

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

70052

O 00 *Jedlich*

Office of the British  
Representative to the  
French Committee for  
National Liberation.

5, Rue Professeur Curtillet,  
ALGIERS.

TO : *Mr Ackerman.*

With the compliments of

*Mr Reilly.*

15 JUN 1944

700520

COPY.

Office of the British representative with the  
French Committee of National Liberation,  
ALGERIA.

35/157/1644  
1003

14th June, 1944.

1. Mr. H. Isaac presents his compliments to His Excellency the Commissioner for Foreign Affairs and has the honour to inform him that the British and American Governments have agreed in principle to transfer to the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration the responsibility for the maintenance and operation of the North African Refugee Centre at Fedala, near Constantine.

2. U.N.R.R.A. proposes that the British and American Governments should retain responsibility for transport of the refugees to North Africa, U.N.R.R.A.'s primary responsibility being the care and maintenance of the refugees after their arrival at destination. The responsibility for finding new places for their eventual settlement will remain unchanged by the transfer, although U.N.R.R.A. is prepared to assist in repatriation for such persons as can and are willing to return to their countries of origin or of former residence. It is proposed that the transfer should take place some time this month. The refugees are due to be embarked at Fedala on June 20th.

3. Mr. H. Isaac will be glad to know whether, in pursuance of Article 1 paragraph B(c) of the U.N.R.R.A. agreement, the French authorities will grant their consent to the transfer.

His Excellency,  
Monsieur René Mandil,  
Commissioner for Foreign Affairs.

000527

C o p y

*Fedhala*

No. 237

The Office of the Representative of the United States of America in Algiers presents its compliments to the Commissioner for Foreign Affairs and has the honor to inform him that the American and British Governments have agreed in principle to transfer to the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration the responsibility for the maintenance and operation of the North African Refugee Center at Fedhala, near Casablanca.

UNRRA proposes that the American and British Governments should retain responsibility for transport of the refugees to North Africa, UNRRA's primary responsibility being the care and maintenance of the refugees after their arrival at Casablanca. The responsibility for finding new places for their eventual settlement will remain unchanged by the transfer, although UNRRA is prepared to assist in repatriation for such persons as can and are willing to return to their countries of origin or of former residence. It is proposed that the transfer should take place some time this month. The refugees are due to be embarked at Cadiz on June 20.

This Office would appreciate being informed whether, in pursuance of Article 1, paragraph 2(a) of the UNRRA agreement, the French authorities will grant their consent to the transfer.

June 14, 1944  
GWR/jec

cc/ Mr. Ferguson ✓  
Mr. Aokerman

7 1 0 5 2 1

Madrid

June 9, 1944, 8pm

No. 326

WRB

June 10, 1944

*Federal*

US Urgent

For Ackermann

Blickenstaff states that necessary arrangements can ~~be made~~ repeat can be made in time to embark refugees at Cadiz on June 20 and is proceeding with preliminary steps. Your 105 June 8. I should like to emphasize again extreme importance of avoiding any further delays in departure of this group and should appreciate immediate confirmation that we can safely plan on arrival of vessel on date stated. Repeated to department.

HAYES

000520

*Feb 10/44*

CASABLANCA

June 9, 1944

33

clear

June 9, 2200

For Lieutenant Colonel Green G-2 AFHQ from Beckelman No. 1.

Still hopefully expecting French approved lists North African refugee center applicants whose requests transmitted with third, fourth, fifth and sixth lists. Understand that third and fourth lists processing completed. Appreciate anything you can obtain copies for me soonest. Also copies fifth, sixth approved lists when completed. Urgently require this information in order prepare adequate housing arrangements.

RUSSEL

JM

7 0 0 5 3 0

COPY FOR MR. A. I. N.

00 *Jedeln*  
June 9, 1944.

**U R G E N T**

Dear Admiral Hewitt:

I believe that you are already cognizant of the reasons for, and the difficulties attendant upon, the evacuation of the group of approximately 800 stateless refugees from Spain to Camp Marshal Lyautey at Casablanca. However, I have recently received a cable from Ambassador Hayes in Madrid, a paraphrase of which is enclosed, which emphasizes the seriousness of the problems which have arisen because of a series of delays in the evacuation of such refugees. He points out that not only will further delays seriously embarrass the present relief organizations in Spain and possibly result in the internment of large numbers of refugees, but also that it will impede the entry into Spain of further refugees.

I understand that shipping difficulties of one sort or another have delayed the evacuation of this group for several months but that it is now planned to move them on or about the 20th of June in the "Gouverneur Général Lepine", a French vessel. Since it is the declared policy of both the British and American Governments to do all within their powers to aid these unfortunate people, I am sure that the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, will wish to take all necessary steps to avoid any further delay. In view of the urgency of this matter, and especially the fact that further delay may result in the failure to rescue refugees now in occupied territory, I should be grateful if you would give this matter your effective support and urge that it be given sufficient priority

to . . .

Vice Admiral H. K. Hewitt, U.S.N.,  
Commander U. S. Naval Forces,  
Northwest African Waters,  
Allied Force Headquarters.

10053

to implement a policy laid down by the President of the United States.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed): ROBERT D. MURPHY.

Robert D. Murphy,  
American Ambassador.

Enclosure:

Paraphrase of telegram as stated.

Copy to:

British Resident Minister.  
Ministry of War Transport.  
War Shipping Administration.  
G-5, AFHQ.

IEA/RDM/jgh

Paraphrase of telegram No. 308, dated May  
31, 1944, from Ambassador Hayes in Madrid  
to the Secretary of State.

---

Information has been received from Algiers by the British Embassy in Madrid that shipping cannot, repeat cannot, be made available for scheduled evacuation on June 7 from Cadiz of stateless refugees proceeding to Fedhala center from Spain.

Though fully aware of the difficulties of procuring shipping at this stage of the war for such a purpose, I feel it necessary to point out that a further postponement of this group's departure will have on the position in Spain of stateless refugees and on the position of Blikenstaff's organization vis-à-vis the Spanish Government an extremely unsalutary effect. The Spanish Government has become increasingly disturbed over the repeated delays in the evacuation of these refugees, who have been for the most part ready to leave for more than three months, and the postponing of the June 7th departure, for which assurances have already been given and arrangements made, may well cause it to question the good faith of the interested Allied authorities and Blikenstaff. The result of this reaction may in turn be the reinternment and reimprisonment of many stateless refugees who have been permitted to remain at liberty on the basis of assurances of their early departure, and therefore tend to discourage entry of further numbers of such refugees into Spain.

The extent to which the Spanish Government is willing to cooperate with Blikenstaff's organization in the care of stateless refugees has been shown by experience to bear a direct relationship to the rate at which that organization is able to evacuate these persons from Spain, and yet another delay in evacuating the approximately 700 persons comprising the Fedhala group will, it is feared, sorely strain that willingness.

---

*Fedhala*

CODE: WRB

To Madrid

No. 105

June 8, 5 p.m.

**MOST IMMEDIATE**

Ship for evacuation stateless refugees now scheduled to arrive Cadix June 20th. Please reply immediately whether this date gives sufficient time to make necessary arrangements. From Ackermann for Mickenstaff.

CHAPIN

LRA

HJ

JM

7 0 0 5 3

**RESTRICTED**

**NATOUSA**

MESSAGE CENTER

**OUTGOING MESSAGE**

*14/1/44*  
*Jell*

ROUTINE

TO FOR ACTION: MBS

REF NO: F 56366

SIGNED: NATOUSA

CITE: NAAGE

Distribution:

- 10. NAJEM file
- 11. AG. Rqn. Msn. *La Roche*
- 12. " *La Roche*
- 13. " *La Roche*
- 14. "
- 15.

BRUNO FRIEDLANDER. American civilian.  
 Foreign Economic Administration. Issue orders authorizing  
 him to proceed without delay from ORAN ALGERIA to CASABLANCA  
 MOROCCO for consultation and conferences regarding the  
 administration of the refugee center commissary and return  
 upon completion. Authorize air and/or rail transportation.  
 He may be contacted at 1 Rue DU CEROLE MILITAIRE, ORAN,  
 ALGERIA.

ORIGINATOR: AG PERS

AUTH: A J WINFIELD, 1ST LT

INFO: NAJEM  
 NAJEM  
 APB

MG OUT 1696 7 JUNE 44 202B REF NO: F 56366 o/a/s

**RESTRICTED**

COPY No.

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN

00053

*Sellish*

~~SECRET~~-S Paraphrase for \_\_\_\_\_  
From Madrid No. 321 June 6, 10 p.m.

As number 2014 the following telegram has been sent to the Department:

Embassy has in mind possible desirability of retaining refugee food supplies now at Cadiz for use in Spain rather than forwarding them to Fedhala as previously agreed in view of probability of increased flow of refugees into Spain as consequence of military operations in France.

Reference Department's 117 of January 15 and my 44 of January 7 and 236 of January 26. Beckelman has assented to relinquish claim to these supplies if greater need exists here and inasmuch as they would be originally intended for use in Spain it is assumed that there would be no objection on part of Department or AmCross.

The foregoing assumes clarification in Embassy's favor of question of ownership of the supplies raised in my 1872 of May 27, to which a prompt reply would be appreciated.

Instruct please.

This wire has been sent to Algiers as a repeat.

HAYES

JM

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

770530

RESTRICTED

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS  
Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2

*Fedlin*

B-389,510/29

4 June 1944

SUBJECT: Female Refugees

TO : The Visitors Bureau, villa VELLA

1. The following refugees were landed by the State Department from M/V GRIPSHOLM at Algiers on 21 May 1944:

Mrs. ZWILLENBERG  
Miss ZWILLENBERG  
Mrs. GRUNSTEIN  
Mrs. STRAUSS

2. Accomodation and boarding arrangements are requested for the above for a period of approximately 4 or 5 days.

3. It is understood that any expenses incurred in this commitment will be met through the War Refugee Board by U.N.R.R.A.

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2:

*S. S. Hill-Dillon*  
S. S. HILL-DILLON  
Colonel, General Staff  
G-2 (C.I.) Section

COPY to:  
Mr. ACKERMANN, ✓  
War Refugee Board.

RESTRICTED

00053

To Secstate

June 3, 6 p.m.

1833 (Madrid 103)

EWB

For War Refugee Board from Ackermann No. 25.

Advised today by War Shipping representatives that ship should sail from Spain about 25 June. Definite date will be fixed about 15 June. Sent to Department repeated to Madrid for Blickenstaff.

GHADIN

LEA

MSG

JM

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972

7 0 0 5 3 0

*Jedlik*

From SecState

June 1, 1944, 6 pm

# 1725

~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ - wrb

June 2, 4:30 pm

The following forming WRB cable No. 16 is for Ackermann.

The following message from Schwartz in Lisbon received by JDC:  
" British at Algiers now announce June 7 as date departure refugees f  
from Spain to Camp Fedhala. Announcement definite date will remove  
demoralization among ~~them~~ those chosen who have become skeptical of  
project, it is hoped. Expect 770 to depart from Cadiz. Pushing with  
French for additional groups is important since none thus far promised.  
and otherwise admission new people to Spain particularly Sephardics will  
be procured if at all with great difficulty."  
Your comments on the foregoing will be appreciated.

HULL

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

00053

From Madrid

May 31 Midnight

308

June 3, 0900

~~██████████~~ -S

British Embassy Madrid has been informed from Algiers that shipping cannot repeat cannot be made available for scheduled evacuation from Cadiz on June 7 of stateless refugees proceeding from Spain to Medhala center.

While fully cognizant of difficulties of procuring shipping for such purpose at present stage of war I feel that it should be pointed out that further postponement of the departure of this group will have extremely unsalutary effect on position of stateless refugees in Spain and on position of Blickenstaffs organization vis a vis the Spanish Government. Latter has become increasingly disturbed over repeated delay in evacuation these refugees most of whom have been ready to leave for over three months and postponement of June 7 departure for which arrangements have already been made and assurances given may well cause it to question good faith of Blickenstaff and interested allied authorities. This reaction may in turn result in the reimprisonment and reinternment of many stateless refugees who have been allowed to remain at liberty on the basis of assurances of their early departure and tend therefore to discourage entry into Spain of further numbers of such refugees. Experience has shown that extent to which Spanish govt is willing to cooperate with Blickenstaffs organization in care of stateless refugees bears direct relationship to rate at which that organization is able to evacuate them from Spain and it is feared that their willingness will be sorely strained by yet another delay . Repeated to Algiers.

HAYES

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date

SEP 15 1972

7 0 0 5 4 0

Office of the British  
Representative to the  
French Committee for  
National Liberation.

5, Rue Professeur Curtillet,  
ALGIERS.

TO: *Mr Ackerman*

With the compliments of

*British Representative*

*1-6-44.*

000541

Felhalt

Copy of telegram from H.M. Charge d'Affaires  
Madrid, to British Representative, Algiers  
No. 25 dated 29th May.

Your telegram 34.

Spanish authorities and J.D.C. representative have  
been informed. The latter was naturally angry after  
all detailed arrangements he has made.

2. Since it was impossible to mention operational  
requirements, he was told that ship needed repair and  
could not be available until about June 20th.

3. Grateful for an early reply about this final  
date.

7 0 5 4 2

Copy for Mr. A. Kerman

Fedholm

Cypher

XXXX

XXXX

From

British Representative,  
Algiers.

To:

Madrid.

1400 26.5.44

34 Mission 27.5.44

Repeated to Foreign Office No. 630 Mission.

IMMEDIATE

Your telegram No. 24.

Much regret operational requirements have  
again intervened and ship will not be available  
until latter half of June.

2. Definite date will be telegraphed  
as soon as possible.

700543

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NOTE

*John*

Une reunion s'est tenue le 17 Mai 1964, a la Residence Generale, pour mettre au point diverses questions concernant les refugies arrives au North African Refugee Centre pres Fedala, et ceux pouvant arriver par d'autres convois venant d'Algiers.

Monsieur Francois de Hesse, Directeur du Cabinet Civil de la Residence preside la reunion, a laquelle assiste:

a - du cote Americain:

M. Beckmann, Directeur du N.A.R.C. delegue UNHCR.  
M. Cope, Administrative Officer N.A.R.C.

b - du cote Francais:

M. Lemaire, du Cabinet Civil de la Residence.  
Capitaine Chevalier, de la S.M.  
Capitaine Moudet, "  
Capitaine Hantz, "  
M. Langue, de la S.P.  
M. de Breteuil, charge de mission.

Le Capitaine Hantz fait un bref rapport sur l'arrivee du premier convoi de refugies arrives d'Algiers le 11 Mai 1964, et signale que seul deux personnes restent l'attention de la S.P.

2- La question des visites en camp est abordee et apres discussion de part et d'autre la decision suivante est adoptee:

"Le camp reste consigne pendant une periode de trois semaines apres la fin des interrogatoires. Pendant cette periode aucune visite ne sera toleree, sauf les demandes de visites formulees par des personnes en detour du camp, ou par des refugies dans le camp de renvoyer des visites seront contraincises au bureau de M. de Breteuil a Casablanca, qui les soumettra au S.M. pour approbation.

En ce qui concerne les services, les demandes seront contraincises par l'Administration du Camp, transmises au bureau de M. de Breteuil a Casablanca, au ven des autorisations de visite ou de sortie, M. de Breteuil sera charge de les transmettre aux interesses.

2- Apres la periode de "Securite" (3 semaines) tout mouvement ou déplacement de refugies sera communique a la S.P.

3- Les refugies seront autorises a se faire immatriculer a la S.P. comme tous les étrangers resident sur le territoire du Protectorat et a se conformer aux lois en vigueur.

4- Pour le recensement des refugies dans le cadre de l'economie du Protectorat, aucune autorisation ne sera donnee sans l'autorisation de la Residence. La S.M. et la S.P. étant avisés de la residence assignee a l'interesse.

5- En ce qui concerne les refugies en age et en condition de servir, un demande d'inscriptions est adresse a Alger par la S.M. a sa direction, et par la Residence au Generalat aux Affaires Algeriennes.





*Feldman*  
Office of the British Representative with the  
French Committee of National Liberation,  
Algiers.

To: Mr. Glavin (U.S. Mission) —  
Mr. Beckelman (N.A.R.C.)  
Mr. Abovman (W.R.D.)  
Sir A. Rumbold (Br. Res. Min.)  
Lt. Col. Green (G-2, O.L., A.F.H.Q.)  
Major Walker (M.C.S., A.P.H.Q.)

*Magn. Warburg*  
*MR. Ferguson*

North African Refugee Centre

It is proposed to hold a meeting at 10.30 a.m.  
on Saturday, 27th May, in the Civil Affairs Building  
to discuss the North African Refugee Centre.

The following Agenda is suggested:-

- (1) Transfer of camp from U.S. Army to U.N.R.R.A. -  
Question of informing French Committee of National  
Liberation.
- (2) Present position in regard to admission of  
refugees from Spain.
- (3) Proposed admission of Jewish refugees at present  
in Italy - Reactions of London and Washington  
Approach French Committee of National Liberation.

*16/3 hoped you will attend.*

Copies to: Mr. Rooker.  
Mr. Adair (I.S.P.S.)

*Duncan*  
24th May, 1944.

700540

INCOMING PARAPHRASE

*Fedlin*

From Agwar

To: Freedom Devers

Ref. No: W 40102

23 May 1944

Following questions presented in message 132  
of FEA Representative at Casablanca on transfer refugees  
to North Africa.

1. These refugees are to be located at what place?
  2. Are provisions made for safeguarding refugees  
and their personal property?
  3. What is availability of Army material and  
instructors to train refugees?
  4. Method of continuing supplies?
- Will closing of ABS affect the transfer?

RC IN 13889

00054

Cypher OTP

COPY.

for Mr. Ackerman *Feldman*

TRUCKING TELEGRAM

Sub. to 40

From: Foreign Office, London.

To: British Representative, Algiers.

Mission 497 (20.5.44)

Addressed to Algiers telegram No. 497 May both repeated to Madrid.

Your telegram No. 31 to Madrid repeated to me as telegram No. 594.

I agree to date proposed.

2. Cost of chartering appears to be about double what it ought to be. Please ask Beckleman or whoever is chartering the vessel to get into touch with Gibson Graham Mediterranean representative of M.W.T. who has been instructed to help with advice.

000540



INCOMING PARAPHRASE

*Estimate*

From CG SOS NATOUSA

To CG NATOUSA

19 May, 1944

Beckelmann not willing accept responsibility and take over U.S. property due to lack adequate personnel guarding our caretaking. Arrival refugees has been progressively delay. 38 there now but Beckleman expects 800 near future. Date not definite.

Essential State Department take over without delay since ABS will close out shortly. They should accept full responsibility for acceptance and personnel.

Plans contemplate maintenance by shipment supplies by rail from MBS on requisition basis.

MC IN 11612

7 0 0 5 5 0

*Achen*

COPY  
TELEGRAM RECEIVED

*Fed...*

*1925*

FROM: SECSTATE

DATE: May 17, 1944

NO.: 1519

CODE: SN CLAIR

RECEIVED: May 18, 4pm

FOR BECKELMAN FROM MENSHIKOV, No. 32.

Reference your 1454 May 9th. Draft terms of transfer in preparation: Will draw upon your suggestions paragraphs two through eight as to paragraph eight UNRRA does not propose to accept responsibility for operation of camp unless continuing supply arrangements assured. Your paragraph ten any formal action by UNRRA in Tunisia must of course be proceeded by a request from the Comite and discussions with French officials in this country. If such a request is made UNRRA will of course ask your views. No commitments should be made either formally or informally without authorization from headquarters. We suggest under these circumstances it would perhaps be unwise for you to go to Tunisia at this time.

HULL

/dc

000551

Paraphrase for *Arthur*

*Jedholm*

From Casa blanca

No. 27

May 17, 9 AM

As No. 139 dated May 16, 5 PM the following telegram has been sent to the Department.

I have just been reliably informed that orders are already enroute for the closing of the army ground force headquarters in this area. Existing authority and arrangements for supplies and services established ~~making~~ are cancelled by this and it is imperative that immediate action be made on the five proposals contained in my 132 May 10, 10 a.m. Pending word from you, I will attempt to postpone dispatching ship to Spain for the main refugee group.

This wire has been repeated to Algiers for Ferguson PEA and was sent to the Department on May 16, 5 PM as No. 139. From Russell. References 1332 second COB 2106 PEA 301 from Beckelman for Lehman and Crowley No. 3, from Emerson and Hannigan for Ferguson. Refer to my May 16, 4 PM No. 138 also.

RUSSELL

JM

7 0 0 5 5 1

PARAPHRASE

*Fedhelm*

TELEGRAM

TO: AMEMBASSY  
MADRID

May 17, 9 pm, 1944  
No. 100

SECRET

On Applications Nos. 960 through 1025 French have transmitted decision to Bayonne, French Mission, Madrid, by their letter of May 6th, 1944. The letter instructed Bayonne to prepare a definitive list of accepted persons and forward copies to Algiers.

Sent to Madrid, repeated to Casablanca as No. 14 for Beckelman.

FROM: War Refugee board representative, Algiers.

CHAPIN

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enc; wil  
para/do

7 0 5 5

17 May, 1944

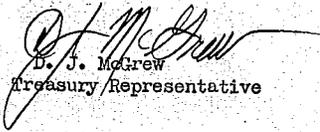
*Fedala*

MEMORANDUM TO MR. ACKERMANN:

At Mr. Saxon's request I called Mr. Beckelman in Casablanca concerning the question raised in Madrid's No. 270 of 15 May, 1944, as to when a decision on the Fedala applicants, whose applications were sent to North Africa in April, numbers 960 through 1025, could be expected. Mr. Beckelman advised me that Colonel Crean here in Algiers was in touch with the French Securite Militaire on this question and could give me the up-to-date information.

I then called Colonel Crean and learned the following details. Colonel Crean's office gave its decision to the French concerning this group of applicants on 25 April. By letter No. DSN/J/L/8696 of 6 May, 1944 the French Securite Militaire transmitted to Bayonne, in the office of the French Mission in Madrid, the "Liste des Personnes Eliminees." That letter also instructed Bayonne to draw up the definitive list of persons included in this group of applicants who are to be admitted to North Africa for the Fedala camp. Colonel Crean advised me that 17 out of the 65 applications in this group were denied. He said that, although this represented a higher percentage of refusals than in previous groups, it did not mean that the security people had changed their standards of screening. Bayonne is to transmit five copies of the definitive list to Algiers.

I discussed what I had learned with Mr. Saxon, and we decided to prepare an answer to Madrid's cable on this basis.

  
D. J. Madrew  
U. S. Treasury Representative

00055

Paraphrase for *Arkelman*

*Fedhub*

From Casablanca

No. 26\*

May 17, 9 AM

Arriving a few days ago thirty-eight refugees are well settled now at camp and the security check was practically completed without incident. With reference to my 132 of May 10, 10 am, it is urgent I know the action taken as in a few days the boat is prepared to proceed to Spain to embark the main refugee group of approximately 800. If it is impossible to provide an army guard it might possibly be arranged to have an external guard of reliable French civilians at a cost of \$3,000 approximately provided the American army issues the firearms but this is very doubtful.

Accountant Mosca arrived unannounced and expects to proceed to Algiers. This is for your information.

This telegram has been repeated for FEA, Ferguson, to Algiers. From Russell. For Crowley and Lehman No. 2 from Beckelma. The above telegram has been sent to the Department dated May 16, 4 PM as No. 138.

RUSSELL

JM

000550

Paraphrase for A. H.

*Fedhala*

From Madrid

No. 270

May 15, 6 PM

When can a decision on Fedhala applicants, whose applications were sent to you in April, numbers 960 through 1025, be expected? For Beckelman. This wire was sent to Casablanca as a repeat.

HAYES

JM

000556

Paraphrase for Achen

*Fedhala*

To Secstate

No. 1493

May 8, 12 PM

It has been requested that an approach be made to the French by the Political Section of AFHQ for their agreement to move 750 stateless refugees from Italy to the refugee center at Fedhala. It is our information that Palestine visas are not wanted by these refugees so that homes must be found for them elsewhere eventually. To accommodate these refugees plus approximately 350 Sephardic Jews in occupied territory whose release Schwartz in Lisbon is working for and 800 from Spain, there will be sufficient room at Fedhala. Except that Beckelman worried about supply and initial equipment situation on which he will cable separately, no objection is seen here. If you perceive objection please reply urgently. (To Salter, Menshikov and Crowley from Ackermann)

CHAPIN

JM

000557

*Jedhols*

6 May, 1944

MEMORANDUM TO LT. MORGAN:

You are requested to secure air passage for Mr. James F. Falck, United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, and a member of the staff of the North African Refugee Center at Casablanca. Mr. Falck desires to travel from Casablanca to Oran in order to meet a boat arriving there on 8 May, 1944, carrying refugees. Mr. Falck will make the necessary arrangements to transfer these refugees from Oran to Casablanca. It is absolutely essential that Mr. Falck travel on 7 May so that he may be in Oran when the ship arrives on 8 May. A high priority is therefore requested.

Leonard E. Ackermann,  
Special Representative  
Mediterranean Area  
U.S. War Refugee Board.

000550

PARAPHRASE of Outgoing Message

*Jedhls*

To for action: CG SOS NATOUSA

Information: CG MBS ABS Chief Gibraltar

Ref No. F 42284

Signed: CINC

[REDACTED]  
Cite: FHGBI

54 stateless refugees are boarding Ville D'Oran on May 7, 1944. Party which includes following families, Poce, Benjamin Elias, Frances, Gattagno, Soperta, Sasson JazKarzec Hassid, Mordehay and Bembors at will land at Oran. Transport to camp at Fedala, should be arranged. Also arrange for guards and reception there/ Estimated they will reach Oran May 7. Conducting officer or non commissioned officer should go with party from Oran to Fedala. Representative of UNRRA will be sent to Oran by Beckelman to meet group.

Auth. H. V. Roberts, Col.

MC Out 1435

6 May 1944

REGRADED  
UNCLASSIFIED

00055

*Fedhala*

Paraphrase for \_\_\_\_\_

From Lisbon

No. 445

May 5, 6 PM

Approximately 50 Sephardics portugalian (?) and another 300 from Greece are now in Germany is reported by Schwartz. Arrangements are trying to be made to transport <sup>them</sup> via Swedish ship by water to Palestine via Greece and Istanbul but they may go to Spain if the former arrangements are impossible. We are trying to rescue another 100 who are now interned in Greece. Madrid and Washington are helping. Even if 750 from Italy and 770 from Spain come, most additional Sephardic should be accommodated in Fedhala. For the balance Palestine is possible. Reference Algiers 97 May 4 WRB 16. For Ackerman, Lisbon's, WRB 21.

NORWEB

JM

000560

17  
Fedhala  
3 May, 1944

Dear John:

Contrary to our earlier expectations, no refugees have arrived at Fedhala as yet. This is due to shipping difficulties. As I previously told you, no British ship was available and it was therefore necessary to secure a French ship. The first ship suggested was at Oran undergoing repairs. I visited Oran last week and discovered that the chances of having this ship ready before the end of May was very doubtful. On my return it was decided that another French ship might be better. This ship is at Casablanca also undergoing repairs but should be ready by the 15th of May or within a few days thereafter. We are all hoping that this ship becomes available at the expected date and that the movement will take place within a few days thereafter.

In the meanwhile Beckelman received a cable from Madrid yesterday stating that unless he had any objection, it was proposed to include about 50 Fedhala refugees on the next French convoy scheduled to leave from Algieras within a few days. The cable further stated that this was the only condition under which the Spanish authorities would permit a French convoy to leave Spain before the departure of stateless refugees and that the continued presence in Spain of the stateless refugees was causing the Spanish some concern. After advising the security authorities of this movement, we replied to Madrid telling them there was no objection to the movement of this first group of refugees, requesting them, however, to include, if possible, cooks, mechanics and carpenters who would assist in making the camp more comfortable.

The attitude of the Spanish with respect to the stateless refugees ties in closely with your cable No. 5 of April 25 concerning the 50 Sephardic Jews now in Perpignan, France. Before the arrival of this cable I had already started discussions with certain persons

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in the Comite concerning the interpretation put on the refugee agreement by the Rabat authorities. I did not approach Massigli directly because I did not know whether or not the problem would become a real one. I did, however, talk to Mendes-France and explained the situation to him. Mendes-France was of the opinion that the restriction for admission to Fedhala of those Sephardic Jews already in Spain on March 1, 1944, was unfortunate and should be changed. He asked me to prepare a memorandum and stated that he would discuss the matter with his colleagues. After forwarding my memorandum to him, I received an extremely cordial letter in which he stated that he hoped to be able to report within a short time that my fears were groundless. However, before I received any further reply, your cable arrived and I communicated with him again by telephone and advised him of this information. The cable arrived about the same time that Beckelman reached Algiers for the purpose of initiating discussions for the transfer of the jurisdiction of the camp to UNRRA. As an appointment had already been arranged to see Massigli, it was decided, after consultation with Beckelman and Chapin, that Beckelman should raise this matter during the course of his conference. He did so and Massigli replied that it was his understanding that 2,000 refugees should be admitted and that this agreement had not been changed. On the advice, however, of Frenay's assistants, we confirmed this statement in writing to Massigli and asked for a reply.

One other factor may arise which may interfere with the continued movement of the Sephardic Jews from occupied territory. This relates to the limitation of the camp capacity to 2,000. It is now planned to bring between 800 and 850 from Spain to Casablanca. The political section of AFHQ is now discussing the possibility of moving 750 or more Jewish refugees from Italy to the refugee center. If both of these movements take place, the capacity of the camp to absorb further refugees will be extremely small. I do not know how many more Sephardic Jews are in occupied territory and in a position to be evacuated to Spain. If this group is more than a few hundred, some new arrangement will have to be entered into in order to bring them to Fedhala. I expect to discuss this matter further with Robert Murphy when he returns to town, and in the meanwhile will discuss it with his assistants. I will ask them, in considering the movement of refugees from Italy to Fedhala, to bear in mind the fact that they may be filling space which might otherwise be used for Sephardic Jews. I also

000562

intend to cable to Dr. Schwartz in order to get from him some estimate of the number of Sephardic Jews who may be rescued.

With respect to Yugoslavia, not much has taken place since the arrival of your cable No. 6 of 28 April. I have had talks with Robert Murphy's assistants and also with Kalloch of War Shipping Administration and will have another discussion at AFHQ tomorrow. So far the consensus of opinion seems to be that I should take a short trip to Naples and Bari to investigate further the availability of small ships. Kalloch has promised as much aid as possible, but before asking for anything it is necessary to develop a factual basis as he does not have complete records in Algiers. Once it has been decided exactly what is needed, it will be necessary to present the whole question to MEDBO, Italy, which controls all shipping on the Italian coasts. We may be more successful in our requests if the ACC will support us, and I intend to talk to Ed Foley about this while I am in Italy. Of course a directive from the Combined Chiefs of Staff will be even more helpful, and I assume that you are working in this direction not only on the shipping problem but on the other problems mentioned in our earlier reports. I was also shown a cable from Cairo today stating that Tito had agreed to assist in the rescue of Hungarian Jews. Of course this may depend to a great degree on the assistance which we may be able to furnish. I will look further into this matter in Italy since there are no Yugoslav representatives in Algiers at the moment.

I find it necessary from time to time to write letters to the French authorities or to others and in this regard I believe it would be helpful if you will forward to me a small supply of War Refugee Board stationery.

With kindest regards, I am

Very sincerely,

Leonard E. Ackermann  
Special Representative  
Mediterranean Area  
War Refugee Board.

Mr. John W. Pehle  
Acting Director  
War Refugee Board  
288½ Main Treasury Bldg.,  
Washington 25, D. C.

000563

Paraphrase for \_\_\_\_\_

*Fubelo*

To Secstate No. 1454 May 3, midnight

For Menshikov and Salter. From Beckelman No. 1. I saw Massigli reference your 6120 No. 12 third paragraph. I gave him an informal memorandum for his study and suggestions as preliminary to my requesting official French approval for transfer, at his request, a copy of which I am sending you. As soon as the British representative receives notice from London, the American and British representatives are sending Massigli confirmation of their governments acceptance of transfer.

After transfer to UNRRA is effected, it is recommended that the American and British representatives in Algeria and French Morocco be instructed to give refugee center administration all proper assistance as is necessary in maintaining refugee rights and privileges. ~~affairxxxxxxxxxxxx~~

American and British consulates in Algeria, Morocco, Portugal and Spain be authorized to give refugee center administration all proper facilities in communications, fiscal transactions, purchases and transportation.

Treasury license transmission of funds for purchases to Lisbon and Tangier.

Refugee center staff retain present special passport status or equivalent with continuing access to privileges now or subsequently available to American and British government employees here.

Priority be obtained for shipment and procurement

**BEST AVAILABLE COPY**

000564

1454--II

from United States of necessary items unobtainable from Army.

Transportation be foreseen for eventual further  
refugee groups from whatever assembly points to North Africa.

Mentioned in your second paragraph that continuing  
supply arrangements reckon with possible early further  
sharp reduction in army installations here.

Because ship is unavailable, refugee arrival is again  
delayed for your information. I hope that ship will proceed  
about May 17 to Spain. Meanwhile at Spanish insistence, I  
expect the arrival of about fifty refugees next week who  
will travel with current French refugee transport.

Concerning the need for UNRRA assistance to Tunisian  
war victims, I was approached informally by French official.  
As time permits, I intend inspecting this situation and  
transmitting findings without commitment unless you object.

CHAPIN

JM

770565

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

Civil Affairs, APO 759, U.S. Army

1 May, 1944

My dear Mr. Ambassador:

In accordance with our conversation of Saturday last I am herewith writing you, informally, regarding the Refugee Center which is to be established at Camp Marshal Lyautey near Fedala in Morocco. The basis for the establishment of this Center is set forth in notes exchanged by yourself as Commissioner for Foreign Affairs of the French Committee of National Liberation and Mr. Robert Murphy, formerly the Personal Representative of the President of the United States of America. (Reference is made to your letters of 2 October, 1943, 8186/A.E. and 9 November, 1943, 10832/A.E./24 and to Mr. Murphy's letters of 10 August 1943 No. 45, 18 October 1943 No. 36 and 3 December 1943, No. 11) as well as to notes of similar content from the British Representative with the French Committee of National Liberation.)

As representative in North Africa of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) I have been advised by the office of the Director-General of the UNRRA in Washington that the British and American governments, which, under the exchange of notes above referred to, are responsible for the maintenance and operation of the refugee center in question (North African Refugee Center - NARC), have agreed in principle to transfer that responsibility to the UNRRA. It is my understanding that the intent and effect of such transfer would be to convert the NARC from an activity of the three governmental authorities now concerned (French, British and American) to an international activity of all the United Nations acting through the UNRRA and its executive, the office of the Director-General.

It is my further understanding that the Agreement for United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration signed at Washington on 9 November 1943 (the French representative being M. Monnet) provides that "the form of activities of the Administration (UNRRA) within the territory of a member government wherein that government exercises administrative authority, and the responsibility to be assumed by the member government

000566

for carrying out measures planned by the Administration (UNRRA) therein shall be determined after consultation with and with the consent of the member government." (P. 8, lines 8-12 inc., First Session of the Council of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1944.) In accordance with this provision I should like to present to you for informal discussion preliminary to official consideration by the French Committee of National Liberation and, if the latter is indicated, the appropriate authorities of the French Protectorate of Morocco, the following bases for the transfer of the NARG from its present status to that of an activity conducted by the UNRRA on the territory of French Morocco:

1. Responsibility for the transportation to North Africa of the refugee group already approved for admission from Spain remains as at present with the British and American governments; transportation to North Africa of later refugee groups up to the maximum permissible figure of two thousand refugees in the NARG at any one time will be arranged by the UNRRA in negotiation with the British and American or other interested authorities;

2. Transportation of the refugees from the port of arrival in North Africa to the NARG and their care and maintenance therein are the responsibility of the UNRRA, with the cooperation of the appropriate French authorities.

3. Responsibility for the ultimate removal of these refugees to countries where their residence may be more prolonged remains, as at present, with the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees; the UNRRA is, however, prepared to assist in the repatriation of such persons as can and are willing to return to their countries of origin or of former residence, and the administration of the NARG will, further, cooperate closely with the local representatives of the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees in facilitating the earliest possible emigration from North Africa of as many refugees as practicable;

4. The status of the refugees, once they have arrived at the NARG, is to be that indicated in the exchange of notes above referred to, together with the following provisions which have been developed since that exchange in accordance with the experience of the administration of the NARG and the various authorities concerned:

a) approval of refugee groups for admission to the NARG shall be preceded by a security screening in which the French

000567

British, and American military services will participate;

b) immediately following the arrival at the NARG of those refugees now in Spain whose applications have already been approved, there shall be a security investigation in which the French, British and American military services will participate - during this period an exterior guard will be maintained over the NARG;

5. The relationship between the NARG and the French Committee of National Liberation and the French authorities of Morocco, and the responsibilities assumed by each will be those indicated in the exchange of notes above referred to; a French representative acceptable to the French authorities and to the administration of NARG will serve as a member of the Administration of the NARG;

6. The normal currency, customs, health, travel, residence, employment and other relevant regulations of the French Protectorate of Morocco shall apply to the refugees upon their admission to the NARG and during their stay in North Africa;

7. The transfer of the NARG from the supervision of the French, American and British authorities to the UNRRA shall take place after the appropriation to the UNRRA of funds by the Congress of the United States (presumably during June, 1944) at a date to be agreed upon; in the meantime the arrangements for the reception and installation of the refugee groups already approved for admission to the NARG are to go forward on their present basis.

The above proposals seem to me to provide a basis for effecting the transfer of the NARG to the UNRRA as simply as possible and without in any way upsetting the existing arrangements or impeding their progress. Their intent is to accomplish a simple transfer of jurisdiction of the NARG from the three governmental authorities to the UNRRA on exactly the same terms and conditions as those now prevailing. I am most grateful for the interest you have indicated to me in this question and shall greatly appreciate your advice and assistance both with respect to the content of these proposals and to the procedure to be followed in presenting them officially. I am particularly interested to have them cleared with the appropriate authorities of the French Protectorate of Morocco since the latter will be closely related to the actual administration of the NARG.

000568

I may have to go back to Fedala in a few days but I shall be glad to have your comments on this letter or to return to Algiers if you will let me know, at the above address, when you believe that a further discussion will be useful.

Respectfully yours,

M. W. Beckelman  
Assistant Chief of Mission

His Excellency, Rene Massigli,  
Commissioner for Foreign Affairs,  
French Committee of National Liberation,  
Lycee Fromentin, Algiers.

70056

*Fedhala*

PARAPHRASE FOR Ackermann

TO MADRID

DATE: May 1, 6 pm, 1944

No. 86

Charged to: FEA

FROM BECKELMAN - No. 3

Reference your No. 223, April 29, proposal to include Fedhala refugees in next French convoy approved. Pending arrival of main refugee group, it is suggested that so far as possible group should include mechanics, carpenters and cooks to help make camp more comfortable. Inability to obtain ship reason for delay in movement of main group, but it is believed ship will leave approximately May 17th for Spain. Exact date will be confirmed. According to Blickenstaff lists, please cable departure date and list of persons coming by numbers.

CHAPIN

000570

*Fedhala*

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION  
Dept. of CIVIL AFFAIRS  
5 Rue Professeur Gurtillot  
Algiers

29 April, 1944

My dear Mr. Ambassador:

In accordance with our conversation of Saturday morning last I shall be sending you later today an informal memorandum with respect to the transfer of the North African Refugee Center (near Fedala) to the jurisdiction of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA). I find, however, that one of the questions which we discussed during my visit has become the subject of an inquiry from the War Refugee Board in Washington and I therefore take the liberty of writing you about it separately.

You will recall that in our conversation I touched upon the possibility of admitting to the North African Refugee Center additional refugee groups beyond the approximately 800 persons currently scheduled to arrive there as soon as transportation can be arranged. I greatly appreciated your assurance that the original understanding of the French, British and American Governments that up to 2,000 refugees might be admitted to the North African Refugee Center at any one time was still in effect and that we might consequently expect to organize further transports of refugees up to that figure.

I am informed that the North African representative of the U.S. War Refugee Board has received a cable from his Washington headquarters inquiring about the possibility of admitting further groups of Sephardic Jewish refugees to the North African Refugee Center. In order that an appropriate reply may be sent to this cable, I should appreciate word from you that my understanding is correct as mentioned above. I take the liberty of asking for your reply as quickly as possible since it appears that the rescue of further refugees may be held up pending clarification of the misunderstanding which appears to have arisen in the mind of the authorities in Spain. The earliest possible removal of this difficulty will facilitate the rescue of further refugees from the imminent danger that threatens them under German control, a purpose with which all of us are concerned.

- 2 -

May I once more express my appreciation for the interview you accorded me this morning and for the friendly interest you expressed in the North African Refugee Center. I shall take the liberty of calling your office for a further appointment after I have submitted the memorandum you have requested. In the meantime I shall hope to hear from you with respect to the question I have raised in this letter.

Respectfully yours,

M. W. Beckelman  
Assistant Chief of Mission.

His Excellency, Rene Massigli,  
Commissioner for Foreign Affairs,  
French Committee of National Liberation,  
Lycee Fromentin, Algiers.

100577

F/MN  
COMITE FRANÇAIS  
DE LA  
LIBERATION NATIONALE

Commissariat aux Finances

REPUBLICQUE F. NCAISE *Jehhah* *16*

ALGER, le 25 AVR 1945 194

No 185/F. 4

A RAPPELER

Cher Monsieur,

Je vous remercie de votre memorandum du 22 avril.

Je vais m'occuper très activement des questions qui y sont traitées, comme je l'ai fait jusqu'ici. Je serais content de pouvoir vous dire bientôt - comme je le crois - que certaines de vos inquiétudes ne sont pas justifiées.

En attendant le plaisir de vous voir, je vous prie de croire, cher Monsieur, à l'expression de mes sentiments les meilleurs.

  
Pierre Mendès-France  
Commissaire aux Finances.

Leonard E. ACKERMANN Esq.  
Special Representative Mediterranean  
Area, War Refugee Board.

Ambassade des ETATS-UNIS  
Civil Affairs  
5 rue du Professeur Curtillet  
ALGER

000573

Fedhala

24 April, 1944

Dear John:

I am enclosing herewith another batch of material on the dissemination of the President's message. With the exception of the first two items, they all come from Italy and include an excerpt from a leaflet thrown over the German troops by air, information and excerpts from Naples and Bari, broadcasts, news bulletins distributed by the PWB in English and Italian, and newspaper clippings.

The latest development on Fedhala is the trouble in connection with securing a ship for the transport of the refugees. After one ship had been promised, it was found to be unavailable and we were therefore given a French ship. This ship, however, is now being repaired and, according to present estimates, will not be finished for another three to four weeks. Upon inquiry I learned that the long delay in repair is due to the shortage of manpower and I intend to go to Oran as soon as I receive travel orders to discuss with the United States Naval authorities the possibility of hastening the repair. If no extra help is secured, the ship should sail from Spain in the latter part of May. If I am successful in securing the Navy's cooperation, the sailing date may be advanced by several weeks.

A few minutes ago I received a call from a Colonel connected with the OSS. I will see him tomorrow and discuss with him the possibility of securing OSS assistance in France and in Spain. As you are no doubt aware, we are already receiving cooperation from the Italian and Yugoslav representatives of this organization.

M. Mendes-France called me the other day and told me that he had received a message from Monnet regarding difficulties in connection with the Fedhala refugee center. I called upon him and explained that some of our earlier problems had been solved, but that I anticipated some trouble in connection with the admission of further Sephardic Jewish groups and that I feared the camp might turn out to be a concentration camp. He was quite sympathetic and asked

000574

me to prepare a memorandum which I have done. He stated that he would take the matter up with Massigli and Frenay in an effort to clear up these problems.

Sincerely,

Leonard H. Ackermann  
Special Representative  
Mediterranean Area  
War Refugee Board

Mr. John W. Fehle  
Acting Director  
War Refugee Board  
288 1/2 Main Treasury Building  
Washington 25, D. C.

000576

*Fedhala*

22 April, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR M. MENDES-FRANCE:

This will briefly summarize the statements which I made to you informally yesterday in connection with the refugee center which is shortly to be opened near Fedhala, Morocco. As I then told you, the fears that I have in connection with this matter may be groundless and I may be anticipating events which may never happen. However, since there appears to be some basis for my apprehensions, and since I believe it best to arrange matters in advance, I appreciate your having asked me to call upon you and having given me the opportunity to explain some of the problems that may arise.

The possible problems fall into two categories. The first is the restrictions which may be placed upon the refugees once they arrive at the center. In the note of M. Massigli to Mr. Murphy of 9 November, 1943, it was stated that the Comite desired to furnish, subject to necessary precautions, an asylum as generous as possible; that persons would be allowed to work if in so doing they did not inconvenience the economy of the Protectorate; and that those persons who did not work and remained at the center would be given permission from time to time to absent themselves therefrom temporarily.

On 25 March, 1944, Mr. Beekelman and other persons representing the administration of the center met with certain French representatives at Rabat to discuss the operations of the center. While the representatives of the Residency did not deny that certain persons might be granted work permits, the general impression appeared to be that such permits or permission for residents to leave the center would be granted reluctantly and only in exceptional cases. It also appeared that the center would continue to be guarded even after all security screening had been completed.

As I told you yesterday, I realize that at the outset it is absolutely necessary that all precautions be taken in order to assure the utmost security. However, a continuation of rigid guarding and a strict attitude with respect

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to the granting of permits after the refugees have been thoroughly examined and screened will make the center into something resembling a concentration camp. I am sure that this was not the intention of all parties concerned at the time when plans for the center were originally agreed upon.

The second question which I discussed with you relates to the admission of further persons to the center once the present group of approximately 800 has arrived. This present group includes about 350 Sephardic Jews. Many of these Sephardic Jews have Spanish papers although they had never been in Spain prior to February, 1944. Most of them were born near Salonika and until after the last war were considered as Spanish proteges but not as Spanish citizens. Because of population exchanges and other political events which took place at that time, some of these people were finally given a type of Spanish passport. More recently these persons were placed into a concentration camp in Germany and they were finally released to Spain in the early part of this year. They, however, have not been treated by the Spanish as Spanish citizens and, I am informed, the admission into Spain from Germany of similar groups may depend upon the removal from Spain of such groups as arrived earlier.

At the Rabat meeting of 24 March, above referred to, it was stated that no further Sephardic Jews with Spanish papers would be admitted without a further agreement. While this is not a pressing problem at the moment because all such persons now in Spain are being admitted to the refugee center, it may handicap the rescue of refugees at an early date in the future. If a second group arrives in Spain and we are unable to remove them, it may prevent the admission into Spain of a third group; or, if the Spanish authorities should learn of this decision, they may prevent the admission into Spain of even a second group. Since, as you know, the rescue of refugees from occupied territory is an extremely difficult problem, you can realize my fears when any matter is raised which might impede a rescue movement which appears to have some chance of success.

Leonard E. Ackermann  
Special Representative Mediterranean  
Area, War Refugee Board.

*Fedhala*

REPORT ON NORTH AFRICAN REFUGEE CENTER AT FEDHALA

20 April, 1944.

This is in the nature of a preliminary report which is being dictated and typed within a very short time since I just returned from Casablanca and Mike is leaving very early tomorrow morning. I will try to expand it a little more fully in my next letter to you.

Physical setup of center

Camp Marechal Lyautey is located near Fedhala, about ten miles from Casablanca. It covers an extensive piece of flat ground and is only a few hundred yards from the Atlantic Ocean. The camp site is a good one. It now has on it 40 or 50 buildings with stone walls and concrete floors, which are well constructed. There are wash houses, shower rooms, and latrines in the Army style, located in separate buildings. There is also one extra large building which is approximately 50 yards from the other buildings which will be used as a recreation hall.

The buildings for the most part have no partitions in them and at the present time it will be impossible to secure enough material to make them into a series of rooms. For this reason, it is planned in the first instance to use the stone buildings as dormitories for single men and single women and to set up a number of tents for family use.

The camp is now partially occupied by Italian service troops. These men are former prisoners of war who now are made up into work battalions and who furnish services of varying nature to the Allied Forces. However, since in the first instance only approximately 800 refugees will be brought to the Center, the remaining buildings will be more than sufficient to accommodate them.

A short time ago the Army cleared all physical equipment, including beds, screens, stoves, etc., out of the premises to be occupied by the refugees and it is now necessary to re-equip these quarters. When I arrived in Casablanca the other day, it appeared that the supply situation might be tight. The Army did not appear too cooperative in granting its services, facilities and supplies to the camp administration. However, I was able to be of assistance in this situation (as Mike will explain to you in greater detail), and the camp staff now feels hopeful that it will get supplies and equipment in sufficient quantity and in sufficient time.

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The date of the opening of the camp

As I have previously advised you there has been a good deal of trouble in connection with securing a ship. We were originally promised a British ship which would leave some time between the 15th and 30th of April. Just before I left Casablanca I was advised that a British ship would not be available, but that a French ship would be substituted. There was a question as to whether or not a French ship could land in Spain since no such ship has been there since the Allied landing. I was just advised a few minutes ago that the Spanish have agreed to permit the ship to operate from a Spanish port for the purpose of carrying the refugees. The exact date is not known but should be close to the end of the month. I will know the exact date in a day or two.

Operational problems

There are several problems in connection with the operation which may cause some difficulty. The French, at least at the moment, appear strenuously opposed to the granting of work permits or even permits to circulate to persons at the camp. This means that the camp will be somewhat akin to a concentration camp, for, although the people will have many acres of land in which to move, they will still be hemmed in by a wire fence which will be guarded. Of course it is necessary for security purposes that until the refugees have been thoroughly screened that a guard be maintained. At the present moment it may well be that the French will post Senegalese guards around the camp. We have asked the American security authorities whether or not other guards can be placed but as yet have received no reply one way or the other. I intend to discuss the concentration camp aspects of the center with those members of the Comite with whom I am acquainted in an effort to ascertain whether or not restrictions can be relaxed.

Admission of further refugees

The original agreement between the American and British authorities on the one hand and the French on the other provided for the admission of a maximum of 2,000 refugees to the center. However, when Beckelman, the camp director, was at Rabat the other day, the Moroccan Residency authorities stated that the present group would be the maximum. Beckelman, of course, raised some protest with regard to this decision but the Moroccan authorities said that they would insist upon this. They also raised some question with regard to the Sephardic Jews who hold Spanish

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passports, and as to this group they said that they would not permit the immigration of any Sephardic Jews holding Spanish passports who had arrived in Spain subsequent to March 1, 1944. At the present time this is no problem since the present group arrived prior to that date. If, however, additional groups succeed in reaching Spain, this decision will have to be overcome. I might add that the decision expressed by the Moroccan authorities is apparently contrary to the Algiers authorities. When I had a discussion with Melamede, Frenay's assistant, Melamede stated that I should not press the question of the pre-1933 refugees too strongly since the admission of these persons might use up the quota of 2,000 set for the camp and thereby preclude the admission of persons more recently arrived. It can therefore be inferred that Melamede, at least, did not consider the present group as the total group and he probably will not oppose the admission of further Sephardic Jews. I intend, of course, to proceed further with this question.

Pre-1933 refugees

Originally approximately 160 persons were rejected because they arrived in Spain prior to 1933. This number was reduced to 107 by permitting the admission of those in concentration camps or prisons. There are now under consideration approximately 40 additional cases as to which there may be similar relaxation, leaving about 67 persons rejected because of their early arrival in Spain. I went over each of these applications carefully and find that some of them are not what might be called genuine refugees. In addition, there are a number of cases where the persons are so old that a move of this sort might endanger their lives. I discussed the cases with Beckelman who had interviewed the majority of these persons when he was in Spain. He could remember no case which might be considered a hardship case and did not think it too advisable to bring those persons to the camp for several reasons. These reasons were that most of the persons were already established in Spain; that under present circumstances the camp may be a concentration camp; and he did not want to press the French too much on this point since there are more important matters on which they must be convinced. We finally came to this decision - to cable to Blikenstaff in Spain and request him to advise us immediately of any persons who presented cases of genuine hardship who would be much better off at Fedhala. We intend to press on those cases only.

000580

1. Name of the person  
2. Date of birth  
3. Place of birth  
4. Present address  
5. Former addresses  
6. Education  
7. Occupation  
8. Military service  
9. Travel record  
10. Other pertinent information

Additional applications

Since I last wrote you an additional 49 applications have arrived which have been forwarded to the French and Allied Security Authorities for preliminary screening.

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Leonard E. Ackermann

000581

*Fedholm*

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

18 April 1944

The following is a list of supplies which we were unable to obtain from United States Army sources with an explanation if one were given.

ENGINEER CORPS

It was reported that the following supplies were not available in the Casablanca area:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
Torch, blow	each	2
Iron, soldering	each	2
Solder	lbs.	15
Braces	each	4
Nails, 10 penny	keg	3
Bars, pinch	each	3

ORDNANCE CORPS

It was reported that the following supplies were not available in the Casablanca area:

Tool set, c/w tools, unit equipment 2d echelon set #1 (hand tools)	each	1
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QUARTERMASTER CORPS

The following supplies were said not to be available in the Casablanca area:

Machine, mimeograph, complete, hand-operated	each	1
Shakers, salt (table use)	each	100

There is reported to be a short supply of the following which can therefore not be made available to us:

QUARTERMASTER CORPS

Range, field M/37 Pack "A" complete (Three of these ranges have been approved; however five are needed in order to supply each kitchen with one - a unit)	each	5
Ink, mimeograph machine	can	6
Paper, mimeograph 8 x 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	ream	150
Paper, mimeograph 8 x 13	ream	100
Paper, mimeograph stencil waxless dry	ream	1
Thread, cone, white, size 50	each	20

000588

18 April 1944

SPECIAL SERVICES

It was reported that issue of the following supplies was refused by NATOUSA:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
Soccer Balls	each	3
Volley Balls	each	4
Volley Ball nets	each	4
Checker Board w/checkers	each	20
Chinese Checkers w/checkers	each	24
Dominoes	set	20
Cards, standard playing	decks	6
Bingo games, complete	each	20
Dart board w/dart	each	20
Boxing gloves	prs.	4
Soft balls	each	3
Soft ball bats, ass't	each	6
Cribbage board, complete	each	20
Punching bag	each	2
Phonograph, portable	each	3
Radio, portable	each	2

*1 - 35 mm. Portab. sound projector for safety films if available.  
or 1-16 mm. sound projector*

Use of electric lights in tents was also refused by Chief of Staff ABS on the basis that no equipment was available and that electric lights in tents were not approved for this theatre. The use of lights would necessitate wire, switches, insulators, sockets, globes, etc., and one generator 5 KW minimum capacity.

Campbell/wt

000583

*Fedhala*

14 April, 1944

Dear John:

I am enclosing herewith an additional batch of material on the dissemination of the President's message on refugees collected since I last wrote you on April 6th. As I have already cabled you, there has been only a small amount of publicity on this statement since April 1st. The local OWI representatives have used it twice in radio broadcasts. Except for special features which are usually broadcasts by local foreign persons to their homelands, the OWI principally broadcasts news. As you will note from the enclosed directive for the week beginning April 10th, item 4 calls for a repetition of the President's statement in connection with other news items. I believe that it is questionable whether this will result in any great use of the statement. I therefore suggested in my cable that you approach the OWI in an effort either to get them to use the statement on broadcasts which are relayed by the Algiers radio, or to have them cable their local representatives as to the importance of continuing to keep the message alive.

Everything on Fedhala appears to be moving according to schedule. All of the preliminary screening of refugees has been completed. Beckelman and his staff at Casablanca are getting the camp into shape for the reception of refugees and the only remaining problem is the question of transportation. It was originally planned to send a British ship to Cadiz, but due to shortage of both British and American ships the present plan is to use a French ship. This may raise certain difficulties since no French ships have put in at a Spanish port since the landing of the Allies in North Africa. The British Ministry, which is handling the question of shipping, is cabling its Madrid office today to ascertain whether or not this will cause any difficulties. I am advised that no problem is anticipated.

Your cable No. 4 of April 13th just arrived. I will examine the lists of excluded pre-1933 refugees with Beckelman and then decide whether or not to press the question further.

00058

Your cable No. 3 of April 12th, extending my jurisdiction and designating Jim to work with me, was received today. Jim and I are discussing the matter in an effort to plan for the future. We are also awaiting your reaction to the report given orally to Ira Hirschmann.

In the meanwhile I have been continuing to discuss various minor problems with local Army people here. I had received several reports that G-2 was discouraging the entrance of refugees into Italy, both those coming from Yugoslavia and those through the enemy lines, because of the difficulties of security screening. It appears that the Germans have been forcing refugees through the lines as a cover for their own agents. The G-2 authorities, with whom I am now fairly well acquainted, advised me that the necessary arrangements for screening all refugees have now been completed and that while they will not publicly encourage the admission of refugees, they will neither discourage their entrance nor send them back.

Discussions have also been held with a number of French officials, particularly that branch of the Secret Service which is in contact with the underground movement in France and assists in the evacuation of persons from France. While they expressed their sympathy with the idea of removing as many refugees from France as possible, they stated that their facilities were now overtaxed. They assist not only in bringing out Frenchmen, but also Americans and British and they state that they have a priority list which precludes them from assisting in the escape of any but the most important people. I discussed their statements with our G-2 officials and received confirmation thereof. This same statement also follows in the case of evacuations by boat from the mainland to Corsica. This movement has been very slow because the coast of Southern France is extremely well guarded. I doubt whether we will be able to effect any movement at all through this route as long as present conditions continue.

As soon as I have definite word on the date for the number of refugees to Fedhala, I will advise you by cable.

*Edward*

Sincerely,

Leonard E. Ackermann  
Special Representative  
War Refugee Board.

Mr. John W. Pehle  
Acting Director  
War Refugee Board  
288 1/2 Main Treasury Building  
Washington 25, D. C.

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*Fedholz*  
*JM*

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION  
CIVIL AFFAIRS  
APO 759

13 April 1944

Dear Leonard,

I have just received a third batch of applications from Madrid, numbered 960 to 1005 inclusive, and covering 49 persons, inasmuch as #995 of these applications specifies four people.

The covering letter which I have received says that a copy of the list, but not the applications themselves, has been sent to me in Algiers.

I hesitate to impose upon you but I feel sure that I shall get quickest action by sending this package to you. I therefore take the liberty of sending the six copies of these applications to you with the request that you be good enough to turn them over to the appropriate authorities, presumably through Col. Crean. Were there any prospect of my coming up to Algiers I would take these along myself, but as I explained over the phone the other day, I don't want to come up until the various negotiations now pending have ripened sufficiently to make my presence really useful.

M. Bayonne left for Madrid via Tangier on Tuesday evening and should, according to schedule, be arriving there tomorrow. I assume that he will be there until the convoy sails and that Mr. Blickenstaff will show him a copy of this third list upon his arrival. I would therefore suggest that as soon as the security authorities have checked this latest batch, we prepare a cable to go to Madrid indicating which numbers, if any, are to be rejected.

Your "Turkish" colleague, Ira Hirschman, passed through here today and we took the opportunity to show him the camp and exchange notes on refugee problems.

With many thanks for all your cooperation, and looking forward to seeing you soon, I am

Sincerely yours,

*Moe*  
M. W. Beckelman  
Assistant Chief of Mission

Mr. Leonard Ackermann  
War Refugee Board  
Civil Affairs  
APO 534

B/krcg

000586

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION  
CIVIL AFFAIRS  
APO 759

12 April 1944

Dear Leonard,

Following up my letter of 30 March 1944, with which I transmitted to you the memorandum which I had dictated following a meeting in Rabat, on 25 March 1944, to discuss the preliminary preparations for the NARC, I send you herewith a copy of the official minutes of this meeting as transmitted to me by M. Levasseur of the Cabinet Civil, Rabat. I also enclose a copy of a letter which I have sent to M. Levasseur, acknowledging receipt of these minutes and commenting upon them.

Sincerely,

  
M. W. Beckelman  
Assistant Chief of Mission

Mr. Leonard Ackermann  
War Refugee Board  
Civil Affairs  
APO 534

Enclosures, as stated

MWB/krcg

000587

10 April 1944

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Dear M. Levasseur,

I herewith return one copy of the minutes which you were good enough to give me during my visit to Rabat last Friday. I have gone over them carefully and it is my impression that they accurately reflect the gist of the March 25th meeting. I have, however, one suggestion to make which I trust you will find satisfactory. These minutes are obviously not a complete verbatim transcript of everything that was said at the March 25th meeting. Nevertheless the form in which they are prepared might suggest to an outsider who was not present at the meeting that they purport to be a complete stenographic report of everything that was said by all those present at the meeting. I would propose, therefore, that a sentence be added either at the beginning of the first page or at the end of the last, stating that these minutes are a summary of the statements made, the discussion which went on and the agreements reached at the March 25th meeting.

So far as the text itself is concerned I have only two minor suggestions. In the list of persons present given on page 1, I think it would be more accurate if Mr. Cope and I were referred to as representatives of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration. On page 7, toward the bottom of the page, I am quoted as having said: "On ne peut pas les considerer comme refugies." I think my intention would be more accurately reflected by the statement: "On peut ne pas les considerer comme refugies."

I am also a little puzzled as to the basis on which certain sentences and statements throughout the minutes were selected for underlining.

If some such sentence as I have suggested were to be added to the enclosed minutes to indicate that they are not a verbatim transcript, I should be very glad to sign a copy for you.

I was very glad to have the opportunity of meeting M. Simoni, whom you introduced to me last Friday. The brief contact we had was of course insufficient to determine his suitability for the post which you are proposing. However, I assume that before camp opens we shall have an opportunity to discuss this matter at greater length and that when M. Simoni comes to town it will be possible for me to spend some time with him and to obtain a better idea of his utility for our coming undertaking.

I shall be looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

Monsieur Levasseur  
Cabinet Civil  
The Residence  
RABAT

M. W. Beckelman  
Assistant Chief of Mission

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NOTE

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Une reunion s'est tenue a la Residence Generale le 25 mars 1944, pour mettre au point diverses questions concernant l'hebergement provisoire au Maroc de refugies apatrides actuellement en Espagne.

M. MARCHAT, Ministre Plenipotentiaire, Conseiller Diplomatique de Protectorat, a preside cette reunion a laquelle assistaient:

a)- du cote americain:

M. COLE, Consul des Etats-Unis a Rabat  
M. BECKELMAN, Delege du gouvernement americain  
Lieutenant HOOKER  
M. COPE, Delege des organisations de secours americaines

b)- du cote britannique:

Colonel CREAM

c)- du cote francais:

Capitaine CHEVALIER  
Capitaine BLONDET  
M. GABRIELLI, de la Direction des Affaires Politiques  
M. LAUJAC, des Services de la Securite  
M. BAYONNE  
M. LEVASSEUR, du Cabinet du Resident General.

COMPTE-RENDU DE SEANCE

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M. MARCHAT ouvre la seance et donne la parole a M. BECKELMAN.

A- M. BECKELMAN - Nous sommes reunis pour fixer les details de l'arrivee et de l'installation au camp de Fedala d'apatrides qui sont actuellement en Espagne. Sous quelle forme on doit presenter la question? Je l'ignore. Il faut tout d'abord s'occuper du transport; un depart aura lieu probablement vers le 10 ou le 15 avril.

M. LEVASSEUR - C'est l'Ambassade britannique a Madrid qui devait s'occuper de cette question.

M. MARCHAT - Le genese de cette affaire?

M. LEVASSEUR - Il s'agit de refugies apatrides qui se trouvent en Espagne. Les Gouvernements americain et anglais ont manifeste le desir que certaines personnes soient hebergees provisoirement au Maroc en attendant de

000584

rejoindre leur pays d'origine ou un pays de leur choix. La Comite Francais de la Liberation Nationale a donne son accord. Nous avons pose a Madrid les bases de cette affaire (lecture d'une note). Voila les bases; il faut regler les details.

M. MARCHAT - Combien y a-t-il de refugies?

M. DOREL - Si un depart a lieu vers le 10 avril, il faut compter sur 400 personnes environ. Un autre convoi d'egale importance suivra plus tard.

M. MARCHAT - Donc il faut compter 800 personnes a peu pres qui arriveront au Maroc dans un delai plus ou moins proche. Arrivees a Casablanca elles seront dirigees sur le camp de Fedala; dans quelles conditions?

M. DOREL - Ce sont les autorites americaines qui les prendront en charge.

M. BAYONNE - Il y a une premiere tranche de 484 candidats. Sur ce nombre 46 ou 47 ont ete elimines pour des raisons de securite militaire.

Une question tres importante est celle de savoir si nous pouvons considerer comme refugies des personnes qui se trouvent en Espagne depuis 1910, par exemple.

M. MARCHAT - Je ne crois pas.

M. LEVASSEUR - On ne peut les considerer comme refugies; il ne peut etre question, semble-t-il, de les autoriser a venir au Maroc.

M. BAYONNE - D'autre part, il y a tout de meme a la base de ce mouvement de refugies a travers la peninsule des accords passes entre les autorites allemandes et l'Espagne. Ces personnes viennent de pays occupes par l'Axe et la Securite Militaire aura d'immenses difficultes pour exercer un controle; des agents ennemis se glisseront parmi les refugies. C'est un precedent et les autorites espagnoles ne manqueront pas de l'invoquer par la suite pour nous envoyer les personnes qu'elles considereront comme indésirables; nous ne pouvons accepter sans prendre toutes les precautions necessaires.

M. MARCHAT (s'adressant a M. LEVASSEUR) - Nous avons comme point de depart l'accord que vous avez negocie a Madrid.

M. LEVASSEUR - Oui, il a porte, en particulier, sur les conditions dans lesquelles les refugies, volontaires pour venir au camp de Fedala, y seront admis.

M. MARCHAT - Nous sommes evidemment obliges de recevoir ces gens sous certaines conditions. C'est une question de securite. Je me retourne vers les autorites militaires francaises et allies. Je considere qu'un certain nombre de refugies peuvent etre, a priori, consideres comme suspects; nous sommes donc obliges de les garder dans ce camp de Fedala en attendant leur recasement dans un camp indetermine. Il faut donc d'abord un controle au depart; en second lieu un autre controle a l'arrivee au camp et en troisieme lieu nous devons surveiller ce qu'on peut appeler le recasement: trois chefs de chapitre a etudier.

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M. LAUJAC - Il n'est pas question pour ces personnes de rester au Maroc; ces gens sont amenés en transit tout simplement et il n'est pas question de recasement. J'ai l'impression qu'on a modifié un peu ce qui avait été dit avant.

M. LEVASSEUR (après avoir lu un texte concernant le recasement éventuel des réfugiés). Il s'agit des possibilités de travail qui pourront être accordées à certaines personnes.

M. MARCHAT - Il faut voir chaque cas particulier; si un individu est suspect, nous refusons le permis de travail.

M. LEVASSEUR - Il y a d'autres considérations dont il faudra tenir compte et ceci est conforme à ce qui avait été entendu avec BECKRIEMAN à Madrid: compatibilité avec l'économie du protectorat, conditions de transport et de logement.

M. MARCHAT - Le recasement et la sortie d'un individu du camp de Fedala seront soumis à certaines restrictions. Qui fera les enquêtes nécessaires?

M. LEVASSEUR - M. BECKRIEMAN, qui sera directeur du camp, est d'accord pour avoir auprès de lui un adjoint français.

M. MARCHAT - Vous avez toutes garanties de sécurité; on ne laissera pas sortir du camp les suspects et seuls seront autorisés à travailler ceux dont la profession sera profitable à l'économie du protectorat.

M. BECKRIEMAN - Je me permets de vous rappeler l'échange de notes entre les représentants britanniques et américains à Alger et le Comité Français de la Libération Nationale dans lesquelles les trois parties soulignaient qu'il ne pouvait s'agir de mettre les réfugiés dans un camp de concentration.

M. MARCHAT - Il n'est pas question d'un camp de concentration; mais nous avons tout de même un certain nombre de précautions à prendre, et ceci dans l'intérêt commun.

Colonel CHEAN - Le camp devra rester consigné pendant trois semaines au moins afin qu'on puisse établir l'identité aussi exacte que possible des réfugiés. Il vaut mieux être en mesure de dépister les suspects et de les séparer des autres auxquels plus de liberté pourra ainsi être laissée par la suite.

Capitaine BLONDIE - Il y a donc trois catégories de gens: les suspects, les inoffensifs et ceux qui sont parfaitement inconnus. Si on les laisse sortir dès le début il sera impossible de faire le tri.

B- M. MARCHAT - Prenons le problème de la date à partir de laquelle les apatrides installés en Espagne pourront être considérés comme réfugiés.

M. BAYONNE - Que décidez-vous en ce qui concerne les 116 apatrides qui sont arrivés en Espagne avant 1933. Pouvons-nous les accepter?

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G. CAMELLI - Ce ne sont pas des refugies.

H. LAUCHAT - L'Espagne les expulse-t-elle?

I. BAIONNE - Non.

H. LAUCHAT - Je pars de ce principe que nous poursuivons un but humanitaire mais l'epoque actuelle n'est pas favorable aux voyages de famille. Il s'agit d'autre part d'un transit et nous ne devrions prendre en consideration que les candidatures des refugies ayant des chances d'obtenir assez rapidement les visas necessaires. Combien de temps faudra-t-il pour cela?

H. COLE - Je n'en sais absolument rien.

H. LAUCHAT - La personne qui vit a Madrid ou a Barcelone sera au camp de Fedala dans des conditions moins confortables. Je ne sais pas si elle sera disposee a partir et si elle ne preferera pas rester en Espagne.

L. BECKELMAN - Ces gens-la ont fait leur demande pour etre recus ici tout a fait volontairement.

M. LAUCHAT - Volontairement, mais sans savoir les conditions.

M. LAUCHAT - Ils ont tous lu la circulaire redigee a Madrid par A. BECKELMAN, M. BAIONNE et moi, qui leur indique les conditions dans lesquelles ils seront admis a resider au Maroc.

M. LAUCHAT - Ils savent qu'ils peuvent quitter l'Espagne pour aller dans d'autres pays mais dans des conditions qui manquent de confort et d'agrement.

M. LEVASSEUR (lecture de l'engagement) que doivent signer les refugies desirux de venir au camp de Fedala et par lequel ils s'engagent a se soumettre aux conditions indiquees dans la circulaire).

Je crois que ces gens s'imaginent qu'ils pourront partir tres vite et c'est surtout pour cela qu'ils viennent.

M. BECKELMAN - Je voudrais signaler que parmi les gens qui sont arrives en Espagne avant 1939 et qui ont fait des demandes pour etre recus ici, il y en a quelques dizaines qui se trouvent actuellement en prison ou dans des camps de concentration en Espagne pour ne pas avoir quitte ce pays apres un ordre d'expulsion. Ce sont des apatrides du point de vue du gouvernement espagnol qui est actuellement au pouvoir. Il s'agit de ceux qui ont recu des ordres d'expulsion en 1938-39-40 et qui n'ayant eu aucune possibilite de sortir d'Espagne ont ete mis en prison; ils peuvent, maintenant, sortir de prison ou du camp de concentration a la seule condition de quitter l'Espagne. Il me semble que c'est pour eux que les trois gouvernements francais, americain et britannique ont eu le desir de faire quelque chose; on peut regarder comme refugies ces gens-la pour qui meme le manque de confort a Fedala sera quelque chose de mieux que leur situation actuelle en Espagne.

M. LAUCHAT - Je fais une difference entre les deux cas: le prisonnier et celui qui vit dans un hotel. Je serais plutot dispose a accueillir le premier cas plutot que le second.

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M. BAYONNE - A condition qu'il ne s'agisse pas de condamnés du droit commun.

M. MARCHAT - Il y a un triage au départ, n'est-ce pas?

M. BECKELMAN - S'il s'agit de prisonniers politiques, l'Espagne les regarde comme indésirables et si la Sécurité n'a pas d'objection, je propose qu'on considère comme réfugiés les apatrides qui sont arrivés en Espagne avant 1933 et qui se trouvent actuellement en prison.

Colonel SMAN - L'Ambassade britannique m'a demandé de dire qu'à son point de vue il y a des gens qui souffrent en prison parmi les 116 candidats arrivés en Espagne avant 1933.

M. BAYONNE - D'accord, sous réserve de l'examen des cas particuliers.

M. MARCHAT - Combien y en a-t-il en prison? Une cinquantaine?

M. BECKELMAN - Pas une cinquantaine, 40 ou 30.

M. MARCHAT - Evidemment, il y a tout intérêt à faire sortir ces gens de prison.

M. BAYONNE - Nous établirons la liste de ces gens.

M. MARCHAT - Quel est votre avis pour ceux qui étaient en Espagne avant 1933 et qui y vivent librement?

M. BECKELMAN - On ne peut pas les considérer comme réfugiés.

C- M. BAYONNE - Les gens que nous avons examinés en Espagne sont ceux qui étaient là depuis quelque temps et au moment où nous avons quitté l'Espagne, est arrivé un lot de 360 Séphardites renvoyés par les Allemands.

M. BECKELMAN - Ils sont presque tous nés à Salonique; ils ont passé six mois dans des camps allemands et comme suite à un accord passé entre les gouvernements allemand et espagnol, on les a fait entrer en Espagne.

M. BAYONNE - La question de principe se pose de savoir si on peut accepter ces gens. Il y a un lot de 360 qui vient d'arriver; les Allemands sont en train de constituer d'autres convois pour faire des évacuations massives sur l'Espagne. Cela pose une question de principe. Les Espagnols interviendront pour qu'ils soient hébergés au camp de Fedala.

M. MARCHAT - Je remarque qu'ils tombent sous le coup de l'accord.

M. LEVASSEUR - Dans quelles conditions vivent-ils en Espagne?

M. BECKELMAN - On les a reçus à Port-Bouc le 16 ou le 17 février. Ils sont partis à Barcelone en attendant la possibilité de sortir d'Espagne. Le gouvernement espagnol a demandé aux ambassadeurs américain et britannique si leurs gouvernements étaient disposés à comprendre ces gens parmi ceux qui pourront être hébergés au camp de Fedala. L'ambassadeur américain à Madrid a répondu oui à cette question et nous en avons discuté l'autre jour avec M. Guiramand à Alger et nous étions tous d'accord pour comprendre ces gens parmi les réfugiés pouvant être admis au Maroc.

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M. LEVASSEUR - Il s'agit de proteges espagnols.  
(lecture d'un document)

M. MARCHAT - Espagnols, mais à quel titre?

M. LEVASSEUR - C'est tres vieux.

M. MARCHAT - Ils sont ou bien nationaux espagnols ou bien ils ne le sont pas...  
Je ne comprends pas le mot de protege espagnol.

M. LEVASSEUR - C'est une survivance qui date du 16eme siecle.

M. MARCHAT - Je crois que cela se rapporte aux capitulations.

M. MARCHAT - Les capitulations ont été abrogées en Bulgarie il y a assez peu de temps; c'est peut-être, en effet, une survivance. Il s'agirait d'une protection effieusée; mais quelle est leur nationalité?

M. BAYONNE - Je ne les ai pas vus. Les dossiers sont à Madrid, nous ne les avons pas recus ici. L'organisation qui travaille la-bas a commence à établir les dossiers. Si vous prenez la décision de les accepter ici, ces gens doivent faire l'objet d'un examen beaucoup plus approfondi que les autres.

M. LEVASSEUR - Est-ce qu'il y a d'autres Sephardites qui doivent arriver en Espagne?

M. BAYONNE - Il en arrivera au fur et à mesure que nous désagerons l'Espagne.

M. MARCHAT - Nous pourrions alors la liste des departs et nous opposer au depart d'un second convoi. Nous acceptons ceux qui sont en Espagne actuellement et de nouvelles negociations seraient necessaires entre les trois gouvernements pour l'admission d'autres refugies.

M. BROUILLON - En Espagne nous avons toujours parle d'un seul convoi.

M. MARCHAT - Si ces gens-la viennent de Salonique, ou iront-ils?

M. BAYONNE - Dans les pays qui voudront bien les accepter.

M. MARCHAT - Je propose d'accepter ce convoi de 360 Sephardites, de les faire examiner avec beaucoup plus de soin que les autres par une commission de triage extremement severe; l'admission de ceux qui arriveront en Espagne par la suite fera l'objet d'une nouvelle etude. Je voudrais vous poser une question: supposez que ce triage severe revele des gens que vous ne voudriez pas accepter, des indésirables, qu'en ferez-vous?

M. BAYONNE - En ce qui concerne les 480 que nous avons examines à Madrid, le tri est déjà presque fait. Pour les 360 Sephardites, d'après les instructions d'Alger, il faut que nous, Sécurité Militaire, nous fassions en commun avec les services allies un examen préliminaire en Espagne, comme nous l'avons fait pour les autres.

M. MARCHAT - Les gens declares suspects ne partiront pas?

M. LAURENT - Et ceux qui seront decouverts ici?

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M. BAYONNE - Il n'y a pas de raison que nous traitions différemment ces gens que les Français qui viennent ici pour se battre.

M. BECKELMAN - On les fera sortir du camp pour les mettre à la disposition de la Sécurité Militaire. Ces gens ne compteront plus au centre.

M. BAYONNE - Pour les gens installés au camp depuis 8 ou 10 jours par exemple, si nous demandons la sortie de telle ou telle personne, il faut se mettre d'accord pour qu'il n'y ait aucune objection possible et que ces personnes ne se camouflent pas derrière vos services.

M. MARCHAT - Pour en revenir aux 360 Séphardites, il faut les admettre, étant bien entendu que s'il en arrive d'autres, c'est fini. Nous admettons ceux qui sont en Espagne à la date d'aujourd'hui.

M. BECKELMAN - Il me semble que la question ne se présente pas sous cette forme. Les trois gouvernements ont signé un accord pour recevoir des réfugiés apatrides actuellement en Espagne; il me semble que la question ne se pose pas de prendre une décision pour l'avenir: un nouvel accord entre les trois gouvernements sera nécessaire.

M. MARCHAT - Nous sommes d'accord. Les nouveaux réfugiés sont exclus de l'accord actuel.

M. LEVASSEUR - On avait bien dit: les réfugiés apatrides "vivant actuellement en Espagne;" on ne peut pas aller plus loin. Il y aura peut-être d'autres négociations à Alger par la suite; pour le moment il ne peut s'agir que de la mise en pratique de l'accord récemment intervenu. Reste à fixer la date limite d'application.

M. BECKELMAN - Nous pouvons fixer une date.

M. BAYONNE - 1er mars puisque le dernier convoi de Séphardites est de fin février.

M. MARCHAT - Nous déclarons que l'accord actuel cesse d'être appliqué à la date du 1er mars.

D- M. LEVASSEUR - Restent à régler les détails.

M. MARCHAT - Ces gens arrivent à Casablanca. Qu'en faisons-nous?

M. LEVASSEUR - C'est la Sécurité militaire qui s'en occupera.

M. MARCHAT - Vous avez pris vos dispositions? Ou se trouve ce camp?

M. BECKELMAN - A Fedala.

M. LAUJAC - C'est assez loin de Fedala: c'est le camp Lyautey.

M. BAYONNE - Il est entendu qu'à l'arrivée, sous aucun prétexte, les réfugiés n'auront de contact avec la population civile.

M. BECKELMAN - C'est entendu.

E- M. BAYONNE - Il reste la question des cartes d'identité. Il va falloir

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doter ces gens de cartes d'identité.

Capitaine SALVIERE - On fera comme pour les Français.

L. LAUREAC - Je demanderai à ce que ce ne soit pas une carte d'identité puisqu'ils n'ont aucune pièce établissant leur identité.

L. LAUREAC - Il faudrait une carte spéciale.

L. MARONAT - Je prends le cas d'une personne qui part d'Espagne comme grecque et qui se déclare espagnole à l'arrivée; il n'y a aucun moyen de le prouver. C'est une question qui semble devoir être réglée par la sécurité. Ce qui importe du point de vue du gouvernement, c'est qu'ils soient munis d'une carte d'identité ou d'un document établi par une autorité quelconque.

L. LAUREAC - On devrait nantir de carte d'étranger ceux qui seraient à l'extérieur du camp. A l'intérieur du camp on ne donnerait rien.

L. MARONAT - Quels inconvénients voyez-vous à ce qu'on donne une carte. On pourrait spécifier: "se déclarant un tel," ce qui permettrait à l'autorité du camp de l'identifier, de ne pas le prendre pour son voisin. Ce n'est qu'une suggestion.

L. LAUREAC - Ce sont les autorités américaines qui devraient donner ça.

L. LAUREAC - C'est à nous de donner ces cartes.

L. MARONAT - En Espagne on donne un certificat d'identification.

L. MARONAT - C'est un peu subtile: carte d'identification et non d'identité. Les renseignements portés sur cette carte n'ont aucune valeur juridique?

L. LAUREAC - Aucune valeur d'état-civil en tout cas. Cette question pourrait être réglée par la suite.

L. MARONAT - Cette carte pourrait être ainsi rédigée: "Je me déclare juif, je n'ai pas le moyen de le prouver." C'est au Consul de décider si on peut, sur la foi des déclarations faites, faire confiance au déclarant et lui accorder le visa qu'il sollicite.

L. LAUREAC - D'accord.

P- M. DAYONNE - Le camp est-il prêt à recevoir les gens?

M. BECKELMAN - Nous avons fait tout notre possible.

M. DAYONNE - Voyez-vous un inconvénient à ce que quelqu'un des services français, soit civil, soit militaire, se mette en relation avec vous, de façon à ce qu'on ne laisse partir le bateau pour aller chercher les réfugiés que lorsque tout sera prêt?

M. BECKELMAN - Aucun.

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G- M. BAYONNE - Et la garde camp?

M. LA CROIX - Autorites americaines ou francaises?

M. BECKELMAN - Le camp est la propriete de l'armee americaine. Il faut poser la question au gouvernement americain.

M. LAURENT - Il y a des soldats americains punis de prison, il y a des italiens, etc. Mettre une garde francaise de ble assez difficile.

Lieutenant BOURNE - Pour le moment nous avons des prisonniers de guerre italiens qui subissent un entrainement qui va se terminer la semaine prochaine. Le camp sera vide. On va continuer a garder le centre pour le cas ou il y aurait d'autres prisonniers a y mettre; par consequent, il y aura une garde de toutes facons.

M. MARCHEL - A qui va incomber la responsabilite des refugies qui seront dans le centre? Direction civile du camp, direction militaire du camp? C'est la question que je pose.

M. LEVASSEUR - Le directeur du centre doit avoir la responsabilite de la discipline interieure.

Capitaine CHEVALIER - C'est sous la responsabilite des autorites americaines. C'est prevu dans l'accord.

M. LEVASSEUR - (lecture concernant la responsabilite du directeur du camp).

M. BAYONNE - Pas au point de vue militaire. S'il y a extraterritorialite nous sommes dans l'impossibilite d'aller chercher dans le centre un suspect.

M. MARCHEL - Et si un refugie s'evade du centre?

M. BECKELMAN - Je crois que vous avez demande: si quelqu'un s'evade du centre?

M. MARCHEL - ...alors la gendarmerie francaise intervient?

M. BECKELMAN - En sortant du centre ils se mettent en dehors du reglement; ils ont viole les lois du territoire et c'est les autorites du territoire qui doivent s'en occuper.

M. MARCHEL - En cas d'evasion donc vous prevenez la gendarmerie.

Capitaine CHEVALIER - Il y a une question de permeabilite: les visites dans le camp. Ces questions doivent etre reglees d'accord avec les autorites americaines.

M. BAYONNE - Et la correspondance?

M. BECKELMAN - Tout le monde peut ecrire par la poste francaise et tous les controles de la poste francaise seront appliques aux lettres des gens du centre comme a tout le monde sur ce territoire.

M. LEVASSEUR - L'administration du centre ne pourrait pas mettre un visa?

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M. BECKELMAN - Si on en voit l'utilité, d'accord; si on considère qu'il s'agit de 100 personnes qui habitent par hasard un camp au lieu d'autre part, ils écrivent des lettres par la poste française et ils en reçoivent; la chose la plus simple serait de regarder ces lettres comme les lettres de n'importe quels gens.

N. LAFITE - Pour en revenir à la question des visités au camp, est-ce qu'il va y avoir en permanence quelqu'un de la sécurité militaire pour faire la liaison?

P. LUYAULT - Tant mieux qu'il y aura quelqu'un de l'Administration du Protectorat auprès de vous.

Q. LAFITE - Je crois que cela suffit pour faire la liaison.

Q. LAFITE - Qui serait chargé de cela? Un sous-chef de bureau du Ser, ou un retraité du contrôle civil?

M. LEVASSER - Il y a aussi la question de l'hébergement des gens malades ou âgés. Comment envisagez-vous cet hébergement dans des conditions normales? Il y a des vieillards, allez-vous les mettre dans des baraques? Au bout de 8 jours ils pourront dire qu'ils ne peuvent vivre dans le centre et demander à aller dans un hôpital ou à louer un appartement.

M. LUYAULT - Je pense que vous leur donnerez la possibilité d'aller dans un hôpital.

M. LEVASSER - Il y a aussi des infirmes. Des gens-là pourront-ils vivre dans ce centre?

M. LUYAULT - Je ne sais pas. Je ne puis répondre à cette question avant de les voir.

M. MARCHAT - Avez-vous une infirmerie?

M. LEVASSER - Oui.

M. LEVASSER - Vous croyez que les conditions de vie dans ce centre seront possibles pour des personnes de santé délicate?

M. MARCHAT - Vous allez mettre des gens dans un camp avec un climat qui n'est pas très bon. Je sais qu'il y a un vieillard, un paralysé, un tuberculeux; vous allez avoir des ennuis; le climat est dur.

M. LEVASSER - Nous ne voudrions pas qu'au bout d'un certain temps vous nous disiez; il faut absolument que ces gens sortent du camp.

M. BECKELMAN - Il ne s'agit pas alors que du problème de la sécurité. Ces gens-là, s'ils sortent du camp, ne seront pas à la charge des Français.

M. MARCHAT - Il ne faudrait pas qu'ils soient une charge pour le Protectorat; s'ils vont à l'hôpital prendre un lit, ce sera un lit de moins pour l'hôpital.

M. LAUJAC - En effet, il n'y a pas de place; nous avons un sanatorium à Azrou et il est complet. Il y a des Français qui attendent depuis plusieurs mois, sans compter les étrangers.

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M. BAYONNE - Il y a des familles completes parmi ces refugies; il y a des vieillards, des enfants.

M. MARCHAT - Ce probleme est assez grave.

M. BAYONNE - Nous avons pose le principe d'une visite medicale avant le depart d'Espagne; puis ce principe a ete abandonne parce qu'il compliquerait les operations. On ne l'exigera que si les pays ou ils veulent aller le demandent.

M. LAJAC - Il y a un dahir sur l'immigration. Pourquoi pour ces cas connus ne ferait-on pas passer une visite prealable. Je crois que nous n'avons pas interet, aussi bien nous que les autorites americaines, a faire venir les vieillards ou les infirmes, qui sont, actuellement, convenablement installes en Espagne.

M. MARCHAT - Y a t-il un dahir empechant l'entree du Protectorat a un infirme?

M. LAJAC - Non.

M. MARCHAT - avec le pouvoir discretionnaire dont nous pouvons user nous pouvons decider qu'en temps de guerre, l'entree d'un tubercule est contraire a l'effort de guerre.

M. LAJAC - Le regime des visas permet de refuser l'entree, mais cela ne peut pas intervenir puisque les visas sont delivres globalement; il n'y a qu'un dahir sur l'immigration.

M. MARCHAT - Il faudrait decider que les conditions materielles de vie a Fedala excluent une certaine categorie d'individus: malades, infirmes, etc.

M. BLOKHEIM - C'est un peu difficile. On va toucher beaucoup de cas particuliers: une famille entiere comprenant la grand'mere, tres vieille et infirme: les autres ne voudront pas partir sans elle.

M. LAJAC - Mais s'il n'y a que deux ou trois cas, ils doivent etre connus.

M. BAYONNE - J'ai vu un infirme, un tuberculeux; cela peut se resumer a 4 ou 5 personnes; mais cela peut presenter des difficultes pour le convoi, a cause de la promiscuite.

M. LAJAC - Il y a un controle au depart.

M. MARCHAT - Il y a la grande loi de police sanitaire a bord et a l'entree d'un pays determine; il y a des regles generales qu'on peut appliquer; nous avons une base juridique tres serieuse et d'ordre international pour eliminer les gens...

M. BAYONNE - Voulez-vous que nous laissions ce soin a M. BLICKENSTAFF a Madrid? Il a le personnel medical necessaire. Nous n'avons pas regle les visites au camp pour les gens qui viennent de l'exterieur.

M. MARCHAT - Ces gens ne connaissent peut-etre personne au Maroc.

M. LEVASSEUR - Ils ont beaucoup de references, ils ont de la famille et ils connaissent des gens qui sont passes par l'Espagne.

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M. LAFONT - Il faut s'appuyer sur des principes; nous avons déjà eu des camps de réfugiés, des camps de prisonniers, un certain nombre de camps où il y a un règlement de droit des visites; reste à savoir dans quelle mesure nous pouvons l'adapter au camp tout à fait particulier de Fedala. D'autre part, il y a des précautions à prendre; il ne faut pas exclure le droit de visite, mais faire une réglementation spéciale entre l'autorité du camp et les autorités militaires et civiles françaises.

M. BAYONNE - Il y a l'interrogatoire fait par la sécurité militaire; ce sont ces services qui sont qualifiés pour dire si oui ou non telle ou telle personne peut avoir des contacts avec des personnes de l'extérieur. Les demandes de visites dans le camp devraient être transmises pour avis à la sécurité militaire.

M. LAFONT - Une fois terminés l'interrogatoire et le triage du camp, quelle sera la situation de ces gens: quels sont les motifs pour limiter leurs contacts avec le monde extérieur, étant donné que tous les gens qui vivent dehors sont des gens dont on est sûr?

M. LAFONT - Pas de tout.

M. BAYONNE - Ce définirai leur situation en disant qu'ils sont dans une sorte de quarantaine. Ce sont des gens en transit qui attendent leur départ plus ou moins lointain pour d'autres pays. C'est un état transitoire entre la liberté et le manque de liberté; ce n'est pas la liberté complète, mais ce n'est pas le camp de concentration; c'est quelque chose de mixte; dans la réglementation américaine nous avons cette sorte de quarantaine.

M. LAFONT - Oui, malgré tout, l'issue d'une quarantaine ne peut se prolonger 3 ou 4 mois; la période de quarantaine c'est très provisoire; interrogatoire, triage....

M. LAFONT - Cela dure un mois si vous voulez; une fois que l'interrogatoire est fait il y a alors les suspects et ceux qui ne le sont pas. Nous pouvons serier la question comme ça; que faire des suspects et de ceux qui ne le sont pas?

M. LAFONT - Toutes ces questions ont été discutées à Madrid. Leur règlement est indiqué dans la note-circulaire adressée aux réfugiés.

M. BAYONNE - C'est-à-dire par une possibilité de recasement. Tant qu'ils sont au camp, régime du camp.

M. LEVASSEUR (lecture de la note).

M. BECKELMAN - Nous avons un grand intérêt à éviter une situation où les trois gouvernements démocratiques ayant décidé de faire quelque chose d'humanitaire pour des gens qui ont souffert pendant 4 ou 6 ans, ne trouvent à leur offrir qu'un camp de concentration.

M. MARCHAT - Nous sommes en guerre; il faut surveiller ces gens qui viennent ici dans des conditions plus ou moins suspectes.

M. BECKELMAN - Il ne semble qu'une fois terminée ce triage nous nous trouverons dans une autre situation.

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M. BAYONNE - Il n'y a aucune garantie. Sur quoi baser les interrogatoires? Sans aucune garantie, du point de vue sécurité, des mesures sont à prendre. Il faut se rendre compte de la situation de guerre du territoire dans lequel on va les héberger. Nous allons être obligés de prendre vis-à-vis d'eux des mesures qui seront plus dures que celles qu'ils supportent en Espagne.

M. BAYONNE (à M. MARCHAT) - Je vous l'ai souvent dit à Madrid.

M. MARCHAT - Le Maroc est sous le régime de l'état de siège.

M. BAYONNE - Quand il y a des suspects il faut être très dur au début quitte à relâcher les mesures prises par la suite.

M. LEVASSEUR - Il faut s'en tenir strictement à ce qui a été prévu. Les personnes sont prévues; elles se sont engagées à respecter les conditions mises à leur venue au Maroc.

Capitaine BENOIT - Il faudrait régler les formalités consulaires et les embarquer.

H- M. BAYONNE - Il y a des convois qui vont au Canada, d'autres en Palestine. Il y a aussi des gens des cas spéciaux: certains ont demandé à venir au Maroc et à retourner en Espagne; il y a des gens qui veulent résider définitivement en Afrique du Nord.

M. BAYONNE - Il y en a qui disent qu'ils viennent au Maroc pour faire du commerce; ils ne voudront pas rester au camp.

M. BAYONNE - Il y a des cas bizarres, je le répète, certaines personnes veulent retourner en Espagne par la suite.

M. MARCHAT - Qu'ils fassent une demande régulière. Ces cas-là sont en dehors de l'accord.

M. BAYONNE - Que décidez-vous pour ceux qui veulent venir en Afrique du Nord et retourner en Espagne?

M. MARCHAT - C'est en dehors de l'accord; ces demandes seront examinées par la voie normale.

M. BENOISTE - Du point de vue de l'accord il me semble que tous ces gens ont signé une demande après avoir lu les explications ou il est dit qu'il s'agit du transit par le Maroc et chaque personne qui entre dans ce camp de l'Adla entre sous la protection des deux gouvernements américain et britannique qui ont donné l'assurance au Comité Français de la Libération Nationale que tout sera fait pour hâter la sortie de tout ce monde le plus tôt possible.

M. MARCHAT - L'accord exclut absolument le retour en Espagne après.

M. LEVASSEUR - L'accord prévoit que ces gens pourront retourner dans leur pays d'origine ou dans un pays de leur choix.

M. MARCHAT - S'ils demandent à sortir de l'Espagne ce n'est pas pour y retourner.

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M. BENOIST - Il y a beaucoup de gens qui veulent sortir d'une vingtaine de pays aujourd'hui pour avoir la possibilité d'y rentrer après la guerre.

M. BENOIST - On n'est d'accord pour les pays occupés mais pour les pays neutres c'est différent. Le pays de leur choix ne peut être l'Espagne puisqu'ils s'y trouvent mal et veulent en partir. C'est sans ça que l'interprète des accords. Je ne suis pas l'intérêt qu'ils ont à quitter l'Espagne pour s'y répartir quelques jours après. Pour ceux qui n'ont resté continuellement en Afrique au cours de n'est pas une question d'escalade, c'est une question de demande régulière.

M. BENOIST - La question des visas n'a pas été traitée.

I- M. BENOIST - qu'en pensez-vous ceux qui ont l'expérience de ces choses?

M. BENOIST - C'est une question qui ne peut être réglée qu'après un temps d'expérience. En principe, l'adjoint devrait voir les personnes qui viennent au camp.

M. BENOIST - Les visas au camp - la circulation au Maroc pour tout le monde est réglementée par les services français; chaque personne qui veut aller au centre pour voir n'importe qui présente une demande de circulation. Je crois qu'on peut dire logiquement qu'il faut avoir une permission pour faire le voyage entre Casa et le camp.

M. BENOIST - on pourrait admettre que les gens qui traient au camp devront être admis à en laisser passer.

M. BENOIST - Il y a deux points d'attraction: Casablanca et Rabat. Donc les autorisations devront être demandées soit à Casablanca, soit à Rabat.

M. BENOIST - Je me rappelle toujours les mots de notes échangées entre les représentants des trois gouvernements ou on soulignait que ce n'est pas l'intention de priver ces gens de liberté; cherchons la possibilité de garder la nécessité de la sécurité militaire et ne pas donner l'impression de priver ces gens-là de leur liberté; j'essaie de trouver une formule.

M. BENOIST - J'ai la réponse de M. BENOIST à M. MURPHY (lecture)

M. BENOIST - Ça c'était la première lettre, il y en avait une autre.

M. BENOIST - Oui, du mois de novembre. (lecture)

M. LAUJAC - Il faudra contrôler aussi ceux qui auront des permissions de sortie; c'est une question importante.

Capitaine NOURÉ - La sécurité militaire ayant des dossiers se trouve dans une meilleure situation que les Américains pour contrôler.

M. LAUJAC - Cela règle la question.

Capitaine BLONDET - Une personne qui habite Marakach et qui veut aller au camp doit demander une permission.

M. LAUJAC - C'est nécessaire, car les gens s'amassent sur place par des transports variés; des personnes pourraient arriver en nombre et pousser

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les hauts cris parce qu'on ne les laisse pas entrer.

M. LECHAT - Le camp de Fedala étant un camp special, il faut plus de souplesse. Il faut, par exemple, lorsqu'une personne se presente, au moment qu'elle a des pieces d'identite de montrer plus large.

M. BUDAC - Les gens diront qu'ils ne savaient pas qu'il fallait une permission.

Capitaine BLOELET - Pendant un mois au moins aucune visite.

M. BUDAC - Parmi ces gens beaucoup ont certainement des relations. Les gens viendront au camp.

M. LECHAT - Il y en a beaucoup qui ont noue des relations avec ceux qui sont deja parti de l'island.

M. LEVASSEUR - Il y a un autre souci avant la question humanitaire, c'est celui de la securite qui passe avant tout; nous sommes obliges d'appliquer les mesures de securite necessaires.

M. BLOELET - L'accord n'a pu etre prevu que dans les limites maximales d'humanite.

M. LEVASSEUR - Il y en a qui veulent s'engager soit dans les armees britannique, americaine ou francaise. Il faut de la bonne volonte de part et d'autre pour que toutes ces questions s'arrangent. On ne peut decider a l'avance, il faudra voir par la suite.

M. BAYONNE - Quant a etre volontaires, il n'y en a pas beaucoup.

M. UGLE - Chez nous on prend les etrangers dans l'armee. Nous pourrions faire un triage entre les mobilisables et les non mobilisables. (a

M. BECKELMAN) quel est le point de vue americain?

M. BECKELMAN - Ils ne peuvent pas s'engager dans l'armee americaine parce qu'ils ne trouvent dans un territoire etranger.

M. BAYONNE - Il y a un precedent: pour ceux-la on leur laisse le choix: ou ils servent, ou on les interne. Ceux qui serviront auront la meme liberte que les autres soldats. Mais pour ceux qui ne veulent pas servir quel est le regime qu'on peut leur appliquer au camp? Il y a de jeunes Allemands qu'on ne peut pas laisser en liberte.

M. LEVASSEUR - Les autres sujets ennemis sont internes.

M. MARCHAT - On ne pourra voir qu'au fur et a mesure.

M. BAYONNE - Qu'est-ce que nous decidons pour les visites?

M. MARCHAT - Permission accordes par les autorites militaires francaises (Securite Militaire).

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Capitaine MONTET - Vous pouvez les prévenir qu'ils peuvent écrire à leurs amis pour leur dire de solliciter d'autorisations à demander au bureau S. N. de Rabat.

J- M. MONTET - Vous avez d'autres questions?

M. MONTET - Il y a beaucoup de questions de détail qui viendront au fur et à mesure. De quoi on peut tirer maintenant c'est indiqué l'essentiel.

M. MONTET - Je pose la question en vous remerciant d'y réfléchir. Nous sommes réunis en une sorte de conseil de guerre de ces maigres; nous pourrions peut-être si le besoin s'en présente nous réunir à nouveau. Nous sommes une sorte de conseil d'administration de ce centre pour régler les questions ne pouvant pas être réglées directement entre le directeur du camp et les autorités locales.

M. MONTET - Tu entre... et le français qui le secondera.

M. MONTET - Voyez-vous votre conseil?

Reponses: non

M. MONTET - nous n'avons plus qu'à remercier les initiateurs de cette oeuvre humanitaire, exprimer le souhait que les convois arriveront à bon port, qu'il y aura le moins de suspects possible; c'est le point important bien entendu tout le fait et tout seul s'il n'y avait aucun suspect.

La séance est levée.

*Feather*

SecState                      April 12, 9 pm, 1944  
   #1092  
Brown                              April 13, Noon.

For War Refugee Board. - WRB #4.

Reference your cables numbers 1124 of War 15, 1082 of April 1. 876 of War 170 and your letter of March 21.

We concur with the view expressed in FEA cable of March 30 for Beckelman re desirability of removing all stateless nationals from Spain as quickly as possible. However, we feel that you are in better position than we to determine advisability of pressing further on pre-1933 groups rejected. We note that French have made some concessions as a result of representation made and you may not deem it advisable to press the matter further.

HULL

dec: dc  
jc

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*Jedhala*

7 April, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE REFUGEE BOARD FILES:

I had a meeting today with M. Melamede in the Commissariat for Prisoners, Refugees and Deportees at the Gouvernement Generale. We generally discussed the work of the Commissariat and of the War Refugee Board and then finally reached the question of Jedhala, which is one of the problems in which we are mutually interested. He told me that he had given instructions to Bayonne to be as liberal as possible in rejecting applicants for Jedhala for security reasons, and that Bayonne should leave the final decision on any doubtful case up to the A.H. authorities. I then mentioned to him the fact that while I had no quarrel with the security rejections, I felt that an improper discrimination had been made in the case of those applicants who had reached Spain prior to 1933.

He said that this question had been carefully considered by the French and that this was not an effort on their part to be arbitrary or avoid any problems. His argument was as follows: That Jedhala was only a temporary haven for refugees who were in dire need of some place to go; that persons arriving in Spain prior to 1933 (with the exception of those in concentration camps or prisons who are being admitted) were for the most part established persons and really should not be classed as refugees. I pointed out to him the fact that at least half of these people were Sephardic Jews who had arrived in Spain after being displaced by the population exchange between Turkey and Greece in 1921, and while they had apparently been well treated by Alfonso and the Republican Government, they were now universally denied the right of the communal practice of their religion, and in some cases had been refused work permits. I also mentioned the fact that there must be some reason for admitting them since they would not have applied to enter a camp if they were comfortably settled. He answered that he understood these facts very well, but that it was his opinion that the present oppression of this group by the Spaniards was only temporary; that France's position was unsteady, and that a new regime could be expected to take

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hold in Spain in a short time which would recognize the religious and civil rights of these persons.

He then pointed out that if we admitted these persons, we might thereby be denying haven for other persons in great need at some time in the near future. He felt that the Spanish-French border situation would ease considerably in the near future, and that we might need the space which would be occupied by these persons in order to accommodate refugees newly arrived from France. He said that he had discussed this question with Mr. Main of the Intergovernmental Committee and that Main was in agreement. I told him that I was not prepared to give a final opinion on this matter since I had not as yet had the opportunity to review all of the applications of persons rejected, but that I intended to do so within the next week and might thereafter present to him a selected group of cases to which further consideration should be given. He promised to furnish all possible cooperation to me either on this problem or any other problems which the War Refugee Board might have.

Leonard E. Ackermann  
Special Representative  
War Refugee Board.

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*Fadhala*

6 April, 1944

Dear John:

I am enclosing herewith some material which is in addition to the clippings sent you in my last letter of March 29th. There are also enclosed some press releases, statements and copies of broadcasts. Finally, there is a statement monitored from the German-controlled Hungarian radio which indicates that official German groups, at least, have heard of the President's statement. I have also been informed by the Psychological Warfare Branch that the Germans mentioned the President's statement over Radio Berlin. A transcript of this announcement was not available. You will note that the President of the Austrian Committee in Algiers and the Greek Representative have made statements on the President's appeal. I am also informed that Bonnet, Commissioner of Information, will make a statement, but have not seen a copy thereof. There have also been several other broadcasts but the transcripts have not as yet been furnished to me. I will send this additional material to you as soon as it is ready.

I cabled the latest information on Fadhala to you yesterday. I do not have complete lists of all of the persons involved but can give you approximate figures thereon. Out of approximately 900 persons, 76 have been rejected for security reasons, and about 120 were rejected because of the claim on the part of the French that they were not refugees, having arrived in Spain prior to 1933. As I previously advised you, this pre-1933 group was larger but the French finally agreed to relax with respect to these persons in the pre-1933 group who were in prisons or concentration camps. I have made an analysis of the group of rejectees numbering 41, who applied in the second batch of applications, and it is my opinion that at least half of them should be classified as refugees despite their early arrival in Spain, since they are stateless. The other half is made up of a variety of persons of all nationalities who, for one reason or another, apparently have decided to apply for admission to Fadhala as a means of getting out of Spain and going elsewhere. However, it would be difficult to call them refugees. I cannot give you a similar breakdown on the 79 persons rejected out of the first batch of applications, but as soon as I get a complete list, will furnish this to you.

10060

As I cabled you yesterday, I have seen the cable FEA sent to Beckelman, No. 44 to Casablanca, dated 30 March, in which FEA states its position that all refugees desiring to go to North Africa from Spain should be accepted and that the length of residence in Spain was not taken into consideration in the original agreement. The cable also stated that the War Refugee Board and the State Department were conferring thereon and would cable Algiers with reference thereto. As yet no such cable has arrived and as it is the State Department representative's opinion that we should not press this question on a high diplomatic level until further instructions are received, I have not proceeded any further.

As I also advised you, the French raised no question with reference to the Sephardic Jews, as such.

Patrick Malin of the Intergovernmental Committee has been in town for a few days. He intends to leave for the States today. I have had several discussions with him concerning refugee problems from which I gathered that he is now principally engaged in planning for the movement of refugees to permanent homes where refugees cannot be repatriated to their former homes, which is, for the most part, a post-war job. In the course of his travels through Italy, Turkey and the Middle East, he also looked into the problem of immediate rescue. It is his opinion that this is extremely difficult and that while certain clandestine efforts may succeed in saving small numbers of persons, no mass movement is possible without the consent of the Germans. While he was in Italy he examined the question of the refugees on Rab. It is his opinion that there never were as many as 4,000 refugees on Rab, and that the number was closer to 2,000. He also states that according to the best information available to him, most of these refugees left Rab and reached other parts of Yugoslavia or Italy. If he is correct, it may be considered somewhat heartening news, since, as I previously advised you, the Army now believes that Rab has been or is about to be reoccupied by the Germans. Nevertheless, the message from the Combined Chiefs of Staff is being forwarded to Marshal Tito for his opinion. The Army people who are in touch with Tito gave a preliminary opinion that financial considerations are an inconsequential part of the problem of the movement of refugees from Yugoslavia and that the principal questions appear to be the availability of the refugees, transportation and politics. I am not exactly sure what is meant by "politics" but intend to look into it further. It probably has something to do

with the enmity existing between the Partisans and the Chetniks which has been a source of trouble in the Italian refugee camps. I probably will also have further information on this matter as soon as Jim Saxon returns from his trip to Bari.

I received a telephone call yesterday from one of the officials in the French Commissariat for Prisoners, Refugees and Deportees asking me to call on him. I do not know the purpose of this request but will be able to inform you better after I have had the conference tomorrow morning.

I will write you again early next week and if anything important develops in the meanwhile will keep you advised by cable.

Sincerely yours,

Leonard E. Ackermann,  
Special Representative,  
War Refugee Board.

Mr. John W. Pehle  
Acting Director,  
War Refugee Board  
288½ Main Treasury Building  
Washington 25, D. C.

TO: REGSTAFF  
WASHINGTON  
Code: ~~Restricted~~

*J. M. ...*  
5 April 1944

No. 1174

Charge: War Refugee Board

FOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD FROM ACKERMANN  
WAR REFUGEE REPRESENTATIVE No. 10. REPEAT TO MADRID  
FOR BLICKENSTAFF

Preliminary screen <sup>was</sup> completed on second batch Fedhala applications. 28 rejected on security grounds. 41 objected to by French as arrivals Spain prior 1933. In this latter group are approximately 15 Greek and Turkish Jews. Balance is made up of one family group of 18 Greek Orthodox who want to return to Greece and 8 other persons of varying nationalities who apparently want to go to Fedhala as a means for emigrating to other parts of the world. Except on security grounds just mentioned no objection to Sephardic Jews. Have seen FEA cable for Beckelman of March 30 No. 44 to Casablanca. Shall we press French on the pre-1933 group rejected in both sets of applications.

CHAPIN

AUTHORIZATION:

000611

*Fed kala*

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION  
c/o Headquarters ABS  
Civil Affairs  
APO 759

1 April 1944

Dear Leonard:

I enclose a copy of a telegram I have just received from the office of Foreign Economic Administration which, as you know, is the Agency which is assuming supervisory responsibility on behalf of the United States Government for the administration of the North Africa Refugee Center until such time as that operation is officially taken over by United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration.

I am not quite sure what telegram it is that the enclosed cable refers to, but I suppose it is probably the one which you sent soon after I got back from Spain. In any case, the intent of the second paragraph seems quite clear, and I have sent copies of the enclosed cable to Captain Warburg and Major Duncannon.

A number of items are beginning to accumulate, which will require action in Algiers, and I expect that some time next week I shall be coming up your way. I shall look forward to seeing you.

Sincerely yours,

  
M. W. Beckelman  
Assistant Chief of Mission

Mr. Leonard Ackerman  
War Refugee Board - Civil Affairs  
APO 534 U.S. Army

Attachment:  
1 - copy of telegram

000612

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Secstate  
Code: Non-confidential

Date: March 30, 1 p.m. 1944  
No.: 44 (150 groups)  
Received: March 31, 1944

AMERICAN CONSUL CASABLANCA 44 March 30, 1 p.m.

FROM CROWLEY AND HANNIGAN, FEA, FOR BECKELMAN:

Confidential. Algiers 671 March 1.

War Refugee Board and State Department conferring on cable 671 March 1 and will cable American Representative, Algiers. However, so that you will have the thinking of this office, we are advising you that in answer to question one the disposition of those refugees who can be repatriated or returned to their former homes will be the responsibility of UNRRA. The disposition of those refugees who cannot be repatriated or returned to their former homes will be the responsibility of the Intergovernmental Committee for Resettlement.

In answer to question two, it is the thought of this office that all refugees desiring to go to the camp in North Africa from Spain should be accepted. The length of residence in Spain was not taken into consideration in original agreement as it was thought desirable to get all the stateless from Spain as soon as possible. It was our understanding that this was accepted by the French. We also think that the Sephardic Spaniards, as well as any refugees in Portugal and desiring to go to the camp, should be accepted.

Murphy is familiar with this whole subject.

HULL

copied (6) 1/4/44 krcg

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*Jan*

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION  
Civil Affairs  
APO 759

31 March 1944

Dear Len:

I am enclosing a self-explanatory letter from Madrid, with the enclosures therein mentioned, which I would appreciate your turning over to the appropriate persons so that the applications enclosed may be substituted for the copies contained in the parcels which you received.

Sincerely,

*MWB*

M. W. Beckelman  
Assistant Chief of Mission

Mr. Leonard Ackerman  
Civil Affairs  
APO 534  
U. S. Army

Attachments:

- 1 - Letter, Blickenstaff to Beckelman, 22/3/44
- 2 - Applications, 6 cops. each, Cveic & Nenesic

*Agmt to  
W. H. C. P.  
2 April 44  
7 redrafted  
applications*

000614

*Fed*

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION  
c/o Headquarters AES  
Civil Affairs  
APO 759

30 March 1944

Dear Len:

Following our telephone conversation of yesterday afternoon, I made a quick check of the 45 security rejections. Here is the tabulation:

Stated country of birth -

Germany, 23	Austria, 3
Hungary, 3	Italy, 1
Poland, 5	U.S.A., 1
Turkey, 1	Cuba, 1
Argentine, 1	Holland, 1
Russia, 1	Latvia, 2
Czechoslovakia, 1	Belgium, 1

Stated religion -

Jewish, 9	Protestant, 10
Catholic, 17	No religion stated, 9

Sincerely,

*MWB*

M. W. Beckelman  
Assistant Chief of Mission

Mr. Leonard Ackerman  
Civil Affairs  
APO 534  
U. S. Army

000615

TELEGRAM SENT

to: Dept

date: March 30,  
11 PM

code: [REDACTED]

no : 1050

charged: War Refugee  
Board

Have just been advised by British who are providing sea transport that it is impossible to secure separate ship now for 208 refugees already cleared for entrance to Fedhala. (For War Refugee Board from Ackermann. For Blickenstaff. War Refugee representative No. 8) Second batch of 375 applications were received from Spain yesterday <sup>and</sup> ~~services~~ immediately delivered to French and AFHQ security services for processing. Because of urgent need shipping elsewhere it now appears that ship cannot leave until last week in April but ship available at that time will be of sufficient size to carry both groups.

Sent to Dept. as No. 1050 and repeated to Madrid as No. 72.

CHAPIN

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter 101-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1977

100616

I I L I Feb  
UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION  
c/o Headquarters ABS  
Civil Affairs  
APO 759

30 March 1944

Dear Len:

As I indicated to you over the 'phone when I returned from the meeting we had at Rabat, I prepared a summary report based on my recollection of what was said. I am sending you a copy for your information. I will be glad to have you read it as an outsider who was not present at the meeting himself and who has had no contact with the personalities involved.

After that, I would be interested in your reaction, so that I can check it against my own.

Sincerely,

  
M. W. Beckelman  
Assistant Chief of Mission

Mr. Leonard Ackerman  
Civil Affairs  
APO 534  
U. S. Army

Attachments:  
1 - Report, as stated.

000617

Fed

SUMMARY REPORT OF MEETING  
REGARDING PROCEDURES TO GOVERN ADMISSIONS TO AND OPERATION OF  
NORTH AFRICAN REFUGEE CENTER

Following the meeting held last week in Algiers, of British, French and American representatives, regarding the admission of refugees to the North African Refugee Center, a meeting was held at the Residence in Rabat on March 25, 1944, to discuss more specifically the procedures of eligibility, admission to, and administration of the North African Refugee Center (NARC) as these might concern the authorities of the Protectorate. Those present at the meeting included representatives of the Residence, of French military and civilian security, ABS G-2, AFHQ G-2, the American Consulate in Rabat, and the Administration of the NARC. The representative of AFHQ G-2 was likewise informally representing the office of the British representative in Algiers. Official minutes of the meeting were kept by secretaries of the Residence. We have been promised a copy of these minutes as soon as they have been prepared and corrected, which should be within a few days. Meanwhile, however, I think it may be useful to record and transmit to you my recollection of the main points which were discussed at the meeting.

The Chairman of the meeting was, I believe, the "Chef de Cabinet Diplomatique" of the Residence. He asked for a reading of the terms of reference of the NARC, and there was read to the meeting the text of the announcement which had been issued in Madrid to all refugees desiring to be admitted to the Center. After the reading, the Chairman called the attention of those present to the fact that the clauses regarding right of employment and right of the refugees to receive permission to leave the Center for varying periods were discretionary and would permit the authorities of the Protectorate to refuse to grant any employment certificates or to withhold permission to leave the camp for any reason whatever.

The first question discussed by the meeting was the eligibility of refugees to enter Morocco. It was reported that 45 applicants had been rejected by the French and Allied military services for security reasons. It was further reported that at the Algiers meeting the eligibility of those persons who had entered Spain before January 1, 1933, had been questioned and that the matter had been left in suspense. The subject was then discussed in some detail. It was estimated that the number of persons involved in this question was about 115. I urged that those persons in this group who are at present in Spanish camps or prisons, who are stateless, and whose release is therefore contingent upon their ability to leave Spain should be considered as eligible for admission to the NARC regardless of the date of their entry into Spain. I agreed that persons who had entered Spain before 1933 and who were now at liberty should not be considered refugees within the intent of the French, British and American agreement regarding the Center. These two proposals were acceptable to those present. It was estimated that about 50 of the persons applying for admission to Morocco who had arrived in Spain prior to January 1, 1933, were now in camps and prisons in Spain and would be considered as eligible for admission to the Center.

A further question was raised with respect to the eligibility of those people who in filling out their applications for admission had indicated that the country in which they desired permanent settlement was Spain. This was referred to as "tourisme." Investigation revealed, however, that only 5 such

000618

persons were involved and that the majority of those were excluded because of their having come to Spain before 1933. This question was, therefore, passed over.

A further challenge was raised with respect to some 40-odd persons who had indicated North Africa as the country in which they desired permanent settlement. The admission of these persons was objected to on the grounds that inasmuch as it is specifically recognized by all concerned that the NARC is to provide only temporary shelter in Morocco, all persons who desire to come to Morocco for permanent settlement ought to apply to the appropriate authorities for visas, under the normal procedures. I gave it as my opinion that most of the people who had indicated Morocco as their desired country of permanent settlement had done so under a misunderstanding of the intent of that question on the application-blank and had probably meant only to indicate that they were applying for admission to the NARC in Morocco. The French representative who had accompanied me during our interviewing of refugees in Spain, and who will be returning there to complete the work of preparing the departure of the refugee convoy, suggested that he would reexamine each of these cases in Spain and obtain from all such persons a signed acceptance of their understanding of the fact that their coming to the NARC is in transit only, as far as Morocco is concerned.

It was pointed out that in addition to the 484 applications examined by the security services, which were the subject of discussion at this meeting, there were enroute from Madrid the applications of an estimated additional 415 people of whom an estimated 365 were Sephardic "Spanish protegees" who had entered Spain during February, 1944, having come from Greece through Germany, under an agreement between the German and Spanish governments. It was agreed that these people were refugees within the scope of the agreement regarding the NARC, but it was pointed out that their passage through Germany provided an excellent opportunity for the introduction of German agents into their number and that their acceptance into the NARC might prompt the Spanish government to seek thus to dispose of additional groups of Sephardic "Spanish protegees," which were now reportedly in process of organization in various parts of German-occupied Europe, for transportation to Spain. Excerpts from a telegram were read to the meeting. The telegram, as I gathered it, was addressed to the French committee in Algiers and purported to announce the impending arrival in Spain of an additional 200 Sephardic "Spanish protegees" for whom the Spanish government would presumably seek admission into North Africa. It was agreed that all refugees who had arrived in Spain not later than March 1, 1944, should be eligible for admission to the NARC. The Chairman stated that the Sephardic "Spanish protegees" who had recently arrived in Spain through Germany would require an "extremely severe security check and interrogation" and that the authorities of the Protectorate would oppose the admission of any further refugees to the territory. In this connection, I suggested that the last point was not entirely relevant to our discussion since in any case the admission of refugees beyond those contemplated by the present intergovernmental agreement would have to be subject of new negotiation on the part of the British, French, and American authorities.

The meeting next discussed procedures to govern the reception of the refugee convoy at Casablanca and its initial installation at the NARC. It was agreed that the American authorities would be asked to provide transportation from shipside to the camp. The French representatives proposed that the ship bringing the refugees should not leave Spain until the French authorities had

satisfied themselves that the camp was physically prepared to receive the refugees, in order to avoid any question of having to house the refugees in hotels or elsewhere in Morocco until the camp was ready. I indicated my willingness to have a French representative visit the camp with me before its opening. I agreed that the camp administration would not ask for permission for any refugees to establish contact with persons in North Africa until after the conclusion of an initial period of security check and interrogation, the duration of which could not at present be estimated but which might extend perhaps one month. During this time, refugees could have no communication with the outside. It was assumed that for this period a guard would be maintained on the camp by the American Army.

There was some discussion of the guard to be maintained at the camp after the conclusion of the security check period. The ANS G-2 representative said that he did not know to what extent the American Army planned to continue to use the camp in the future and that, consequently, he did not know whether an American guard would be available. In view of this uncertainty, and because it was not clear whether it would be possible to use French guards for a camp which is American government property, the question of a guard for the camp after the preliminary security check period was not decided. The camp Administration agreed that it would advise the French authorities of any persons absconding themselves from the camp without leave, and it was assumed that persons who did so: who violated any of the laws of the Protectorate while outside the camp would be regarded as having made themselves subject to the police jurisdiction of the authorities of the Protectorate. It was agreed that during the period of security check "documents of identification," (which would be distinguished from, and would not have the legal force of, a "carte d'identite"), would be issued to the residents of the Refugee Center. If during the course of the security check any persons were regarded as suspect, and in consequence had to be subjected to more intensive questioning, such persons were to be removed from the Refugee Center by the French authorities.

After the completion of the security check and intelligence interrogation, it was agreed, ~~that~~ permits to leave the camp for temporary periods or for employment were to be under the jurisdiction of the French security authorities of the Protectorate. The Residence will assign a French official to act as liaison with the camp Administration for this purpose. Persons will be permitted to visit refugees at the camp provided they have obtained a permit for this purpose from the French security authorities at Rabat. It was suggested that such permits be likewise issued by the French authorities at Casablanca in order to avoid the loss of time involved in writing for such permits since most of the persons involved would probably be residents of Casablanca. This question was not decided. I was asked whether I intended to institute a censorship of mail written by the refugees, and I explained that, inasmuch as all mail written by them would pass through the French post and would be subject to whatever controls were exercised over the postal service by the French authorities in Morocco, I did not believe that there would be any need for a special censorship service at the camp.

There was considerable discussion with respect to the basis on which the MANC should be operated after the completion of the security check and intelligence interrogation procedures. The Chairman pointed out that, inasmuch as the

Intergovernmental understanding was that the refugees would be housed at the Refugee Center for a temporary period only, they should be regarded as being "in transit" and, consequently, in a situation comparable to "quarantine or the American Ellis Island procedure." It followed therefore, he went on, that the residents of the Refugee Center could not expect employment permits or permits to leave the camp as a matter of right, that there could be no question of their "lodgement" (encasement) outside the camp, and that the basis of administration for the camp was to be one which lay between the regime of a group of persons at liberty and of a concentration camp.

I was then asked whether I had taken into account the possibility that there might be included in the refugee group coming from Spain a number of people too old or too sick to endure the rigors of camp life for an extended period. I explained that if any such cases presented themselves I hoped that our common humane interest would make it possible for some other arrangement to be found for such persons, with the express proviso that they would not become charges upon Moroccan economy. The Chairman pointed out that, regardless of who paid the charges involved, a person who occupied a hospital bed or a bed in a tuberculosis sanatorium became to that extent a charge upon Moroccan economy, and that such a procedure was therefore counter to the spirit of the intergovernmental agreement. I explained that we would have a physician and nurses as part of the permanent staff of the camp but that, anticipating that there might be illnesses of a nature which could not be adequately treated at the camp, we were in the process of negotiating with a Casablanca hospital for the acceptance of such cases upon payment by the camp Administration of the normal hospital charges involved. It seemed to be the consensus that this procedure was satisfactory, provided that it referred to persons with intercurrent illnesses and not to those requiring long-time care or permanent housing.

The Chairman asked whether consideration had been given to the possibility of excluding from eligibility to the Center persons whose age, infirmity, or illness suggested the likelihood that they would not be able to endure camp living conditions. It was pointed out that at the first meeting of British, French and American representatives in Algiers it had been proposed to include a medical examination in Spain as a preliminary procedure in the selection of refugees, but that this proposal had subsequently been abandoned. The Chairman inquired whether there were any applicable laws restricting admission to Morocco on health grounds, but it appeared to be the sense of the meeting that there were none. However, it was suggested that the wartime powers of the Protectorate authorities would permit the exclusion of persons for health reasons. It was proposed that, on his return to Spain to complete convoy preparations, the French representative would take up this question with the representative of the American relief organizations in Spain and that all doubtful cases would be reconsidered on the basis of medical advice to be taken by the office of the American relief organizations in Spain, and I agreed to accept the recommendations of the medical adviser of that office. It was further agreed, however, that this procedure would not be employed to break up a family group or to prevent the admission of an entire family where one member might present a health problem.

Addressing myself to the Chairman's remarks, I proposed that we recognize the fact that, although it was agreed by all concerned that persons coming to the

NARC were to be housed there only temporarily and were to leave Morocco as soon as their transfer to another refuge, their repatriation, or their emigration was possible, no one could at present foretell the length of time during which they might have to remain in Morocco. I agreed that the "Ellis Island or quarantine" concept was a logical one for persons in transit, but that for its implications to be completely applicable the transit had to be either of known duration or for an indeterminate but probably brief period. This, I said, was recognized by all concerned to be not the case with the NARC. Having regard to the fact that the representatives of the three democracies concerned had been motivated in the establishment of the NARC by a common desire to assist a group of unfortunate people who had suffered enormously from the effects of the war and from the racial, religious and political persecution which had preceded it, I urged that the decisions of the meeting with respect to the operation of the camp be taken in the spirit of the French, British and American agreement to establish the NARC. I recalled to the meeting that the exchange of notes between the three governments had stressed the fact that it was not the desire of any of them to deprive the refugees coming to Morocco of their liberty, or to adopt measures which would have the appearance of setting up a concentration camp. The Chairman indicated his agreement with my position and referred to the inherent difficulties and the apparent illogicality which were presented by the bringing of refugees from a neutral country, where the overwhelming majority of them were living in relative liberty in cities like Madrid and Barcelona, to a country like Morocco. The latter was in a state of war and the requirements of military security dictated restrictive measures not only upon the refugees coming from Spain but upon the resident population itself whether French, foreign, or native.

He asked for a reading of the text of the exchange of notes between the French Foreign Minister and the British and American representatives, and there was read out the relevant portion of M. Massigli's first letter to Mr. Murphy. This did say in effect that the French accepted the proposal to receive stateless refugees in North Africa, provided they would be interned. I pointed out, however, that this was a preliminary note rather than the final French proposal, and M. Massigli's second note to Mr. Murphy was then read. It supported the interpretation I had urged upon the meeting.

With specific reference to the question of employment permits for refugees, it was pointed out that there would be considerable difficulty in giving employment permits to refugees of military age. In all the convoys of French refugees which have arrived in North Africa in preceding months, it was reported, there have been small numbers of stateless refugees included. Persons of military age among them have been offered the alternative of military service or internment. It will be difficult to offer other alternatives to men of military age who will be coming in the present convoy of stateless refugees. For those of them who accept military service, it may be possible to arrange permission for their families to live outside the camp. This is, however, a question which can only be determined after the arrival of the refugee group. Similar questions of detail, the Chairman suggested, regarding possible privileges for certain individuals or categories of refugees could best be taken up after the arrival of the refugee convoy and after the termination of the preliminary period of security control. He proposed that the meeting constitute itself as an informal committee on the problems of the NARC, to meet from time to time at the call of the Chairman, who will arrange

such meetings whenever members of the committee feel that they would like to take up problems presented by the operation of the camp. The Chairman did not ask for a vote on this proposal but indicated that he was adjourning the meeting and would leave subsequent events to determine the desirability of further such meetings.

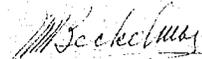
\* \* \*

In connection with the foregoing report, I should like to explain that no record votes were taken. In general, a subject was discussed until all who wished to do so had spoken to the question, after which the Chairman either stated a conclusion or passed on to another subject. At the conclusion of the meeting, the secretary of the Cabinet Civil told me that he would have minutes prepared summarizing "only the most important points" of the meeting and would transmit a copy to me as soon as possible. I do not know, therefore, which of the above items will be omitted from the official summary as representing perhaps material presented for information only and not the competent concern of the authorities of the Protectorate.

After the meeting, there was some general conversation between the French and the British and Americans, the general tenor of which was that now that the "juridical" basis for the operation of the camp had been established, one would proceed to examine the detailed questions which would present themselves, once the refugees had arrived, in a spirit of mutual concession, and the French expressed their confidence that a workable basis would be found.

As soon as I receive the official minutes of the meeting, I shall see that a copy reaches you, together with such comments from this end as may seem pertinent.

Respectfully submitted,



M. W. Beckelman  
Assistant Chief of Mission

Beckelman/chb

28 March 1944

000623

March 29, 1944

Dear John:

After dispatching my letter of 25 March to you, I received a copy of your cable of the 24th containing the President's Declaration on refugees. I immediately discussed the matter with Lelden Chapin who suggested that I see the Psychological Warfare Branch which is the local office of the OWI in this area. They advised me that they had already received word of the President's statement, strangely enough, through a Reuters Dispatch. On the basis of their preliminary information they prepared a press release, a copy of which is enclosed, which was distributed to all the local papers and was then radioed to the OWI offices in Naples, Bari, Tunis, Palermo, Sardinia and forward points. As a result of the issuance of the press release, the four local Algiers newspapers wrote short stories on the subject, all of which appeared on the first page of such papers on March 26, 1944. On March 27, 1944, the "Alger Republicain" published an editorial on its front page. Clippings are enclosed. In addition, the story appeared in the "Stars and Stripes". A clipping on this was enclosed in my previous letter.

The OWI also broadcast the announcement in four languages over radios which they operate in Algiers and Tunis. It was broadcast from Algiers in French on March 24 and March 25. A copy of the French broadcasts are enclosed. It was broadcast in Italian on March 24 and twice on March 25. During the second Italian broadcast the British endorsement of the program was used. Algiers radio broadcast the story in English twice on March 24 and again on March 25. The last two broadcasts contained the British endorsement. Broadcasts in German to Austria were made on March 24 and 25. Copies of these broadcasts will be forwarded to you as soon as possible.

I do not as yet have a complete story of the broadcasts from Tunis, but I am informed that broadcasts were made on March 24 and 25 in the four languages mentioned above and that since that time news items have been issued containing the reaction of the press and Congress to the President's statement. I have also been promised copies of these broadcasts which will be forwarded as soon as available.

000624

As for future dissemination. The OWI directive for this week contains a program for the continued use of the statement and news items in connection therewith via radio, the issuance of further press releases for distribution to the local newspapers and for forwarding to other OWI units, and the possible preparation and distribution of a propaganda leaflet. Harold Glasser, who just returned from Naples, also advises me that the story appeared in Naples newspapers. The OWI will contact various French and foreign personages to get their reactions on a news basis. Selden Chapin will also approach these persons indirectly while I will also talk to several individuals with whom I am personally acquainted.

On March 25, after I had sent off my letter, I received a call from the head of the local office of the War Shipping Administration who showed me certain cables concerning the charter of a boat to the Turks in exchange for the one that they would make available for refugee evacuation. He said that there were many difficulties involved in such a transfer and had previously advised Washington that he thought it would be a bad precedent to promise to replace a ship for one that was lost. He said that it was possible that the French or Italians might ask for the same treatment. I spent some time with him explaining the work of the Board and told him that in my opinion the Turks, being a neutral nation, could be placed on a different basis from France or Italy, who were co-belligerents. Before I left he dictated three cables - one to Cairo, the second to Washington and the third to Ankara in an effort to move the program along. I believe that my talk had some effect since he stressed the need for speed in these cables. In view of the recent developments in Hungary and Rumania, it would appear to me that the program envisaged in these cables may not now be possible of achievement. However, it is my opinion that it was a good idea for him to proceed with his steps along these lines so that, if proper arrangements for evacuation can be accomplished in the future, some of the red tape will have been eliminated.

Jim and I have been continuing our calls on various people who might be of assistance. Thus far while we have been cordially received we have not achieved much in the way of active cooperation, since all of these persons are busily engaged in their own problems. One suggestion was made, however, which might be entitled to some consideration. I might add that Gabby made the same suggestion to me some time ago but I proceeded on the assumption that you already had thought of it. Since I have heard nothing

000623

from you along these lines, I pass it on. The suggestion is that a direct approach be made to the German Government through either the Swiss, Swedish or Spanish Governments requesting the mass evacuation of refugees. In exchange, no doubt the Germans may require some extremely valuable consideration - it may be one that is impossible to accept. On the other hand it may be a consideration which the United States could accept and if the proposal is made, even though never ultimately worked out, its discussion might possibly stay the Germans' hands for a time.

While Harold was in Italy he met with General MacFarlane who is connected with the Allied Control Commission on the question of evacuating refugees now in Hungary and Rumania through Yugoslavia. General MacFarlane was of the opinion that the trip was so difficult that only very small numbers could be evacuated in this fashion without a great deal of help. We are now going to discuss with General Devers or General Sir Henry Daulton Wilson whether an approach could be made to Tito or other assistance be given which would expedite such a movement. Harold and I have an appointment with General Devers for tomorrow morning and we will advise you of the results thereof as soon as possible.

A letter stating that the second batch of Fedhala applications were being forwarded has been received but the applications have not as yet put in an appearance. I should know today or tomorrow the exact number to be accepted in the first group and as soon as this is known will again renew my efforts to get this group moved by separate ship. Your letter of March 21st has been received. We will make every effort to expedite the program mentioned therein. Just how it will be accomplished is something that we have not ascertained as yet.

Sincerely yours,

L. E. Ackermann  
Special Representative  
War Refugee Board

Mr. John W.rehle,  
Acting Director,  
War Refugee Board,  
288 1/2 Main Treasury Building,  
Washington, D. C.

L.A:gw

000626

March 21, 1944

Dear John:

I have not written you since March 7 since I was awaiting the further development of several matters, and then was unfortunate enough to contract a bad cough accompanied by fever which put me into the hospital for a few days. Since then, however, there have been a number of interesting happenings which I will try to expand upon below.

First, as to Fedhala. Action was delayed on our clearance of the admission of refugees from Spain until the French security representative returned from Spain. He arrived in Algiers on March 13 and a meeting to discuss the admission of the refugee groups was held on March 17. I have already briefly advised you by cable of the results of that meeting. At that time we discussed a group of 484 applicants for admission to the refugee center. Approximately 30 were objected to on security grounds. This was the joint action of both French and AFHQ security officers and, of course, we could and did make no objection thereto. The second question involved 116 refugees who had arrived in Spain prior to 1933. A small portion of this group came from South American countries and had not had much luck in getting their own diplomatic representatives to aid in their repatriation. However, by far the largest portion of this group of 116 were stateless refugees. Most of them were Jews who had been displaced as a result of the population exchange between Turkey and Greece in 1921. As they were of Spanish origin (dating back to 1492 when Jews were expelled from Spain) and still spoke an old-fashioned Spanish, they gravitated to Spain where they were apparently well treated first by Alfonso, and later by the Republic. Since Franco's accession to power they have not been too fortunate. In some cases work permits have been refused. In all cases they have been forbidden religious communal activity, and in many cases they have had to be supported by organizations, principally the JDC. We urged at the meeting that this group be admitted upon the ground that they were stateless, and further that their removal from Spain would ease the Spanish refugee problem and thus make Spain more receptive to the admission of more refugee groups. The French representatives promised to take these matters into consideration and advise us of

000627

their decision shortly. We have not as yet received their reply. Later, Beckelman, the UNRRA representative who is to be in charge at Fedhala, spoke to Governor Lehman about this pre-1933 group. The Governor expressed some doubt as to whether we should urge the admission of this group too strongly since he felt that we might be setting a precedent which later might involve a much larger group of persons. I have not had an opportunity to discuss this further with the Governor since he had an accident and has been in the hospital for several days.

There is another question concerning the Fedhala center which is still unsettled. After Bayonne, the French security representative, left Spain an additional 415 applications were received, the overwhelming part of which came from Sephardic Jews. Only a small percentage of these Sephardic Jews entered Spain prior to 1933. The major portion moved to various other European countries, and then gravitated to Spain after the beginning of the Hitler regime, or stayed in France or Central Europe until Hitler occupied the countries in which they were located. Some of them, even though not born in Spain, had received Spanish passports because of the insistence in the early 20s on the part of the Turkish Government that these people, formerly known as Spanish proteges, either receive Spanish passports or accept Turkish nationality. Many of the present group accepted Spanish passports. The best information that I can obtain about their eventual removal to Spain is that when they were apprehended by the Germans, they exhibited their Spanish passports and that the Germans then made representations to the Spanish and insisted that the Spanish receive them in Spain. The Spanish version of the story is that they initiated the representations and insisted that the Germans release these people from concentration camps and permit their emigration to Spain. Whatever the correct story may be, they are now given few, if any, of the privileges of Spanish citizens, and accordingly, should also probably be classed as stateless. In our discussions with the French, no question has yet been raised as to the admission of these persons and we hope that no objection will be raised. I cannot give you the final answer upon these people since the applications have not as yet arrived from Spain. They should be here within one or two days, and will immediately be submitted to our own security people as well as to the French for screening.

The question which now arises is whether we should bring the refugees from Spain to Africa in one or two groups. At the time of the meeting most of the Allied representatives

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were of the opinion that it would be more feasible to delay the admission of the cleared group until the second group had been cleared. I was of a different opinion as I felt that the early movement of approximately 350 people from Spain would be of immediate aid to the Spanish situation. After the meeting I discussed the matter with the British who are supplying the ships and learned that it might be possible to get two ships instead of one - at least I have not yet received a definite response in the negative. If two ships can be secured, the cleared group should move from Spain as soon as we get French visas which should not take more than a few days and as soon as the necessary arrangements in Spain can be made. If, on the other hand, the British are only able to supply one ship, the first group will have to wait until the second group is cleared, which will delay the whole project until the middle of April.

On Sunday morning, March 19th, I received a call from Robert Murphy's office. When I reached there I found one of Murphy's assistants discussing a cable from the Combined Chiefs of Staff, with an aide from Gen. Gaffey's office. Gaffey is head of G-3, AFHQ. The cable, which no doubt was inspired by the War Refugee Board, related to the methods of financing movement of refugees from the Island of Rao in Yugoslavia to Italy. I discussed the matter quite fully and urged upon Gen. Gaffey's representative that only military exigencies should interfere with the operation of this program. I told him about the underlying reasons for the establishment of the WRB and explained that unless this action were taken, these people might be killed. I also expressed the opinion that difficulties of handling the groups once they arrived in Italy should only be a minor consideration since every effort would be made to ease this problem as quickly as possible. This morning I received a phone call advising that this cable had been referred to the Military Government Section for action. I called Frank Southard but discovered that he was again in the hospital. I spoke to Col. McFadzean, his British opposite number who advised that he would only handle the financial end providing the project were approved in other quarters. I offered my assistance in this connection but have not heard anything of it since.

As I advised you by cable, I believe it is important, if feasible, to have a representative in Italy in order to follow up this program. Up to the present at least the Army's attitude appears to have been one of avoidance due to the difficulty in caring for the refugees already in Southern Italy

000629

and that therefore a further influx should be restricted, if possible. An Italian representative might be in position to keep you advised of the facts in this area, aid in changing the Army's attitude, and assist in making the financial arrangements necessary in order to bring these people into Italy. I also asked that I be given certain directives with respect to Italy so that I can make representations at AFHQ. I believe this to be essential since the Army sometimes looks with disfavor upon a civilian who attempts to step into a field not clearly within his province. I can cite the following example with reference thereto. After the receipt of the cable from Marshall addressed to Eisenhower, Devers, Stillwell and MacArthur, dated March 2, 1944, containing the message sent at the direction of the Secretary of War with reference to the formation of the WRB, I went to see some of the people working on refugee problems in the Military Government Section. I discussed the matter with them fully and received the information on the Yugoslavian situation contained in my letter of March 7th. The officer to whom I talked pointed out that the cable appointing me the representative of the Board stated that I was to work in North Africa. Thereafter a cable was sent to various places in Italy in which it was stated that there was no information of the appointment of an attache for Italy but that one had been appointed for North Africa, and that the matter would be discussed further with Malin of the Intergovernmental Committee on his return to Algiers. I had further discussions with the secretary of the Chief of Staff yesterday who also indicated that I would get more cooperation from the Army if my directives specifically referred to Italy. I believe, however, that the best solution would be that a representative be appointed for Italy and that while I should be given certain powers with respect thereto, I should remain in North Africa. It would be very difficult because of questions of transportation and communications for me to handle both places adequately should I be the sole representative.

I have not as yet seen Malin of the Intergovernmental Committee, but expect to have discussions with him when he returns from Cairo on or about March 30th.

I have been making an effort to collect as much information as possible about the movement of refugees from France into Spain. I have approached both G-2 and OSS but have not been too successful in getting a great deal of information. They both state that they have little information on refugees or they both are reluctant to furnish information concerning escape routes since they feel that it may prejudice the

and

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movement of their own men across the border and because of their program of using these routes to rescue airmen. I will continue along these lines, however, and get as much information as I can. I am also attempting to interview recently-arrived refugees and enclose a summary of a statement made to me by one of them. As is stated on the bottom thereof, some of the information in this statement may not be too accurate. In any event, it appears that the movement across the Pyrenees is extremely difficult.

The cable about Jim Saxon arrived on Sunday. I have discussed the matter with him and have made available to him all information in my possession. After he has finished reading my files we intend to have further discussions. I also enclose a translation of a speech made by Frenay, French Commissioner for Prisoners, Deportees and Refugees, before the Consultative Assembly on March 6, 1944. I believe you will find this of interest.

I would appreciate any further information that you may be able to send me from time to time about the work of the Board. As I stated in an earlier letter, I received a good deal of information in my talks with Harold Glasser and further elucidation from Orvis' letter to Mike. Further information along these lines and your suggestions will be extremely helpful. Will you also let me know whether you wish me to continue to report in detail as I have done in this and previous letters.

Sincerely,

L. E. Ackermann  
Special Representative  
War Refugee Board

Mr. John Fehle,  
Acting Director,  
War Refugee Board,  
288½ Main Treasury Building,  
Washington, D.C.

L-A:gw

000631

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION  
Civil Affairs  
APO 759

29 March 1944

Dear Leonard,

For your information I enclose a copy of a letter which I am sending to M. Bayonne regarding a few refugee cases which had been left off the approved list and whom I would regard as eligible for admission. \* Since I do not know where to reach M. Bayonne I have sent the original to Major Duncannon with the request that he pass it on to M. Bayonne.

Very truly yours,

*M. W. Beckelman*  
M. W. Beckelman  
Assistant Chief  
of Mission

Mr. Leonard Ackermann  
Civil Affairs  
APO 534  
U. S. Army

Enclosure:  
as stated

*Copy sent to  
Lt. Col. Green  
2 April 44*

000632

c o p y

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION  
CIVIL AFFAIRS  
APO 759

29 March 1944.

Dear M. Bayonne:

This will acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter of 27 March 1944 enclosing the list of 358 names approved for inclusion in the refugee convoy from among the list of 485 applications submitted. I am sorry that we did not have an opportunity to get together before your departure for Algiers, but I shall be looking forward to seeing you on your return here.

I have gone over the list which you left for me and find it correct with respect to the names which it contains. I note, however, that through inadvertence there have been omitted a few names of people who would appear to be eligible and I am writing to call these to your attention. The following are the cases:

Application #52, BERGER, Villeneuve Louis.

Mr. Berger has been approved. His application also contains the names of his sister, Lucie Berger, and his mother, Selma Berger, who will accompany him. The last two names do not appear on your approved list.

Application #62, BORZECKI, Sofia Mach.

On her application the date of entry into Spain is given as 18 January 1931. I know from my conversation with her and from the records of the refugee relief organization in Barcelona that the actual date of entry was 18 January 1937. I suspect that the mistake is my own fault because I assisted her in filling out the application and wrote the date in myself. Probably because I wrote 1937 without crossing the 7 in European style the typist transcribed it as 1931.

Applications #141 and 142, FILEK, Albert Eduard

Wladimir and his wife, Mercedes Domenech Espinosa. According to Mr. Filek's application he entered Spain 19 February 1931 but he is at present in the Camp of Nanciaras de la Oca. On this basis he and his wife would seem to me to be eligible for admission.

Application #47, FREIJE DENNIS, Fernando for

According to his application he entered Spain/the first time in September 1939 and again in January 1943. Inasmuch as he has not been rejected for security reasons he would seem to me to be eligible for admission as a refugee.

Application ....

000633

Application #457, URSELLA BARAZUTTI, Ludovico  
According to his application he entered Spain on  
20 September 1942. Inasmuch as he has not been reject-  
ed for security reasons, it would seem to me that his  
name should be included in this list.

Application #479, ZABALA IMAZ, José Martin.  
According to his application he entered Spain in  
1935 and is now in the Camp of Nanclares de la Oca. In-  
asmuch as he has not been rejected for security reasons,  
I would assume that he is eligible.

The foregoing are cases which seem to me to have  
been omitted from your list inadvertently. I should ap-  
preciate your confirmation of their inclusion on the list  
of 358 so that I may forward their names to Mr. Blicken-  
staff.

There are a few other cases to which I should like  
to call your attention and which we can discuss upon  
your return to town.

Applications #448, 449 and 450 TOTH, Juan, Dolores  
Sanchez, his wife, and Dolores his daughter. Although  
Mr. Toth reports on his application that he entered  
Spain in November 1930 and is at present at liberty, you  
will note that he was a prisoner from 1937 to 1939, that  
he fought in the International Brigade and that he strong-  
ly underscores his desire to leave Spain. I would assume  
that his present situation is extremely precarious and that  
we would be rendering him a real service within the meaning  
of our agreement if he and his family were permitted to  
come here.

Applications #103 - 110, inclusive, CRISTO, Alejandro  
and family.

You will note that the last entry on the application  
of this family states that the family has received an ex-  
pulsion order from the Spanish Government. I regard it  
as quite likely that, if they remain in Spain after the  
departure of the refugee convoy, they would be interned.  
I should therefore like to urge that favorable considera-  
tion be given to this family. You will note further that  
the Greek Consul General in Madrid confirms a provisional  
recognition of their Greek nationality.

Applications #111 - 120, inclusive, CRISTO IVANOFF,  
Teodoro and his family.

It seems probable that this family is related to  
the preceding one. They are likewise provisionally recog-  
nized as Greek citizens by the Greek Consulate in Madrid.

I ...

000634

- 3 -

I would propose that the application of this family be reconsidered in connection with the preceding case.

I shall be looking forward to hearing from you upon your return here.

Sincerely,

M. W. Beckelman  
Assistant Chief  
of Mission

Monsieur E. Bayonne  
c/o Major the Viscount Duncannon  
Civil Affairs  
APO 534, U. S. Army

000635

Federala

Hermann Zwillenberg  
Elise Zwillenberg, wife  
Lutz Zwillenberg, son, 17  
Helga Zwillenberg, daughter 13

Refugees from Czecho-slovakia

Mr. Zwillenberg is of Dutch origin. Formerly Honorary Nicaraguan Consul Rotterdam. Bearer of Nicaraguan passport No. 2/1943 which includes wife and two children, issued by B. Lifschitz Nicaraguan Consul Switzerland on April 13, 1943 for travel "to all countries of the World". Wife and two children have separate passports issued by same consul, passports dated August 6, 1943.

Otto William Strauss  
Regina Strauss

German origin. Mr. Strauss is in possession of a document which states he was naturalized as a Nicaraguan citizen in 1921. Lived in Nicaragua from 1912 to 1921. Has not been there since. Wife was born at Frankfort September 12, 1892.

*Julius Gruenstein*  
*Anna* " *Russian Origin*

Jeanne Faure  
Fernande Faure  
Andree Faure

Claim they are Haitian nationals. Haitian Government states their travel Haiti not approved. They are according to information furnished by Haitian Government French nationals. Mrs. Faure's husband a French national resides in Haiti. ~~Department has requested that War Refugee~~

000636

March 16, 1944

Meeting at Lycee Fromentin of British, French and  
American Representatives to consider admissions  
to North African Refugee Center - Friday, March 17th, 11:30 a.m.

Present: For the British - Major Duncannon  
For the Americans - Messrs. Lorton, Ackermann  
and Capt. Warburg  
For the French - M. Guiramand and Bayonne  
For . . . . - Maj. Green  
For U.S.A. - Mr. Beckelman  
M. Guiramand presided.

M. Guiramand reported that 484 applications had thus far been received for admission to the North African Refugee Center. M. Bayonne and Major Green indicated that a first security check of this list of applications had indicated about 30 rejections and that the complete list would be verified within a few days. It was agreed to accept the objections recorded by the security services and to strike from the list any names to which they objected. It was further agreed that in communicating the rejections to the British and American Embassies in Madrid no indication would be given of the cause of the rejection but that the embassies would simply be asked to advise the persons involved that their applications for admission to the refugee center had not been accepted.

M. Guiramand raised a question concerning the eligibility for admission of approximately 115 people who had arrived in Spain at varying times prior to January 1, 1933. He asked whether those people might be considered as refugees within the intent of the project under discussion. Mr. Beckelman pointed out that this group of 115 might be divided into two categories: the first category would consist of people of established nationality whose desire to leave Spain and come to the refugee center was occasioned primarily by the fact that they were unable to earn a living in Spain; the second group consisted of people who though they had been resident in Spain for substantial periods of time, had no recognized nationality because they had come to Spain after the last war from countries (e.g., Greece and Turkey) where their nationality status had been lost as a result of territorial

- 2 -

and governmental changes during the war and after the Armistice. Mr. Beckelman suggested that the first of these two categories be regarded as not eligible but urged that the second group be considered as refugees and eligible for admission because they were without nationality status. He indicated that such a procedure might help to achieve one of the purposes of the project - namely, that if the Spanish Government were convinced that the United Nations would relieve it of the burden of stateless persons, the Spanish Government might adopt a more liberal policy towards the admission of further stateless refugees coming from German occupied areas. After considerable discussion it was agreed to leave this question for further review at a subsequent meeting.

Mr. Ackermann reported that the American Embassy in Madrid had been asked to forward to Algiers the 415 applications collected there following the departure of M. Mayenne and Mr. Beckelman from Spain. It was agreed that the same procedure as had been followed with the first batch of 484 applications would be followed with respect to the second. Major Cunningham reported that he had advised the British Naval authorities that March 25th was no longer the tentative departure date from Spain and indicated that he would take up with the British Naval authorities the alternative procedures of transporting the refugees from Spain to Casablanca in two groups or of waiting until the second group had been screened and bringing the entire party at one time. In the latter case he estimated tentatively that April 15th might be a feasible departure date.

Mr. Beckelman referred to various pending questions concerning customs duties, financial regulations and eligibility of certain categories for exemption from required residence in the camp. The Chairman stated that these questions were the competence of the Moroccan authorities and suggested that Mr. Beckelman join him when he would be in Rabat next week in order to take these matters up with the appropriate officials. Mr. Beckelman said that insofar as his schedule permitted, he would join M. Guiramand in Rabat.

M. W. Beckelman  
UNRRA Representative

MMB:gw

000630

COPY

TELEGRAM SENT

TO: Madrid

Date: March 13, 1944, 4pm

No. 63

Code: Special

Charged to: War Refugee Board

Reference Madrid cable to Algiers of March 10, No. 108  
Answers to questions in your No. 108 of March follow.  
From Beckelman.

1. Bayone not expected in Algiers until today.  
Hope to clear first group in a few days.
2. Send additional applications to American Representative,  
Algiers, by fastest means possible.
3. After discussions with French we hope to trouble will  
be experience in admitting Sephardic Jews. However, we will  
know better as soon as discussions are under way for final clearance  
of group whose applications are already here. Sent to Madrid as  
No. 63. Repeated to Dept. as No. 820

000634

COPY

PARAPHRASE FOR Ackermann

From: Madrid

No. 108

March 10, 1944

For Beckelman and Fryer. Repeated to the Department.

No. 1. Kindly advise when we may expect final action on 484 Fedhala applications taken by Bayonne to Algiers?

No. 2. Please let us know what disposition should be made of approximately 415 additional applications which have been received since Bayonne's departure, 365 of which are from Sephardic Jews?

No. 3. To the applications of these Sephardic Jews who have left German occupied territory with permission of the German authorities what will be the probable reaction of the French?

HAYES

000640

7 March, 1944

Dear John:

There are two principal matters which I wish to call to your attention. They involve the present status of discussions with the French and some information which I learned about the Italian situation. There are also some other matters which may be of interest which are referred to later.

When I took up the matter of approaching Massigli, Seldon Chapin asked me to prepare a memorandum which he could leave with him. After some discussion Chapin finally agreed that I should be included in the conversations. After this had been agreed to, all of the files and the proposed memorandum were turned over to Lawton, the First Secretary of the Embassy in order to get the latter's opinion on the form of the memorandum. Lawton discussed the matter with me and finally reached the opinion that it would be better merely to talk to Massigli and not present a memorandum. I agreed to this since I had not contemplated a memorandum in the first instance and only wanted to get to see Massigli in order to urge his cooperation in the new program. Chapin agreed to this and arranged an appointment with Massigli for 6 o'clock Monday night.

We met Massigli at the appointed time. Chapin introduced me as the War Refugee Board representative and outlined some of the features of the Board's work which had not been covered in previous meetings. He also asked whether we could be referred to other persons in the Foreign Affairs Ministry who would be more directly connected with the admission into North Africa of applicants for Fedhala. We stated that it was our hope that no red tape would cause delay of this program since progress along these lines would assist the program of bringing additional refugees into Spain. Massigli was extremely cordial. He referred, however, to the fact that the French facilities were limited and that they had tremendous problems of their own. We pointed out that post war considerations should not interfere with a program of saving lives now, and that to some extent a United Nations victory would remove part of the refugee problem since many refugees would want to return to their own lands.

000641

Massigli asked us the number of people intended to be brought to Fedhala. When we told him that the present group numbered only 750, he said that he felt there should be little trouble. Very fortunately, at this time Meyrier, a Directeur des Affaires Politiques, and the man whom Massigli said would be more directly concerned with Fedhala came into the room. We were introduced and talked along the same lines for a few minutes. Meyrier also said that a group of 750 persons should cause no great problem.

Monday morning Mike and I saw Mendes-France. We explained to him that this matter was already under discussion with Massigli but in view of our past relations we felt we could talk to him on an informal basis. The general purpose of the new program was outlined to him and he expressed complete agreement therewith. He stated that he understood that this was an emergency program which required immediate action and agreed that no postwar problems should be permitted to delay action at this time. We talked briefly about the Fedhala situation and our fears that lower-rank functionaries of the French Securite might in their usual fashion interpose a lot of restrictions and red tape which might delay the program until it was too late. He again agreed with our position and volunteered to talk to Massigli about it. Both Mike and I came away from the meeting feeling quite pleased with the attitude which Mendes-France had taken. It appears that he may be very helpful in future problems and that he might even propose the formation of a French committee. A French group might work through two channels: first, in assisting refugees in crossing the border into Spain, and second, in bringing refugees out of Northern Italy into Corsica. The use of the second channel is an idea which only occurred to me as Mike and I discussed the program on the way back from the meeting with Mendes-France. I have no idea as to its possibilities or probabilities, but it is something that I think is worth exploring. What is your opinion thereon?

On Saturday afternoon I had a meeting with a British officer who is working on the refugee program for MGS. He told me of the present movement of refugees from Yugoslavia to Allied occupied Italy. Refugees reach the Italian peninsula by almost any sort of boat and certain selected groups are brought over in Allied war craft. Other refugees have reached Allied territory by coming through the German lines. Insofar as non-Italian refugees are concerned a large number have already been evacuated to the Middle East. I will not go into this portion of the program in any detail as you no doubt are well acquainted with it. The most interesting statement that was made to me in the course of this conference relates to a recent order issued by the Allied Forces restricting the

movement of refugees into Italy. The British Major who gave me this information stated that if the Partisans were in control of the whole Yugoslav coast, it would be possible to restrict refugee movements completely, but since the coast was partly German-controlled and partly uncontrolled, it had been impossible to prevent the movement from that area. One of the expressed reasons for this order was the fact that the Allied authorities in Italy are finding it difficult to cope with the refugee problem. There also may be other good reasons for this order. It may well be that once refugees reach territory controlled by the Partisans they will be in a position of safety. It may also be that the Yugoslavs want to keep most of these people in Yugoslavia in order to aid in Partisan activities. In any event, it is a matter which will require further investigation. I saw Harold just before he left for Italy and he will look into it from that angle. I expect to follow it up as much as possible in this area, and if you are able to learn any information in the States, I should like to learn about it.

As I understand it, the Fedhala project will aid our present problem since it will remove refugees from Spain and thereby possibly make the Spanish more receptive to further groups. The same reasoning might be applied to the North African area, that is, if we are successful in removing refugees from North Africa, the French will in turn be more willing to permit the entrance of other refugee groups. In this connection your attention is called to the Spanish refugee group. The representative of the American Friends Service Committee has advised me that there are approximately 5,000 Spanish refugees who came to North Africa at the close of the Spanish Civil War. At one time most of these people were interned but they have since been liberated. Many of them have found jobs with the American or British armies, while others have found French employment. However, the incorporation of these people into the French economy is a slow and difficult one and they may again become a serious problem when the Allied armies leave. In the spring of 1943 a program was inaugurated under the auspices of the Joint Commission for Political Prisoners and Refugees in North Africa to remove part of this group to Mexico. Approximately 1500 Spanish refugees indicated their interest in such a movement. Since that time, however, no perceptible progress has been made. The two principal problems appear to be the granting of Mexican visas and transportation. The acquisition of visas seems impossible at the moment since, as I understand it, there is no Mexican representative in North Africa. If you consider it advisable, someone might investigate this matter to see what can be done.

000643

Gabby Kerekes has also made one of his typical suggestions which might be looked into. It sounds a little bizarre but so have many of Gabby's earlier suggestions which eventually turned out to be worth-while. He advised that under the treaties of peace entered into in 1920 and 1921 certain agreements were made as to the Danube. An International Danube Commission was created to control various phases of the Danube problem, one of which established certain islands in the Danube as international territory under the jurisdiction of all the countries touched by the Danube and possibly England and France. Gabby believes that England and France may have withdrawn from the commission after the commencement of the war but understands that Russia asked to be included in its membership. Certainly Turkey is a member and possibly Switzerland. We do not know the present status of these islands. If Turkey has a strong position in this commission and the commission is still functioning, some of these islands may be places of refuge or may lend themselves to underground use. Gabby only remembers the name of one of these islands - Ada-Kaleh, which is on the Danube above Orsova and on the border between Yugoslavia and Rumania. He believes it is the northernmost island of the group. Some of the islands further south may prove more useful.

I am enclosing a copy of cable no. 2 which I sent to you and also copies of State Department telegrams with reference to Fedhala which should give you a little more background in the event you haven't seen them before. \*

Sincerely,

L. E. Ackermann  
Special Representative,  
War Refugee Board.

Mr. John W. Pehle,  
Acting Director,  
War Refugee Board,  
Room 288½ Main Treasury Building,  
Washington, D. C.

\* I have returned the copies of the cables since I am informed that State Dept regulations prohibit the furnishing of State Dept files to any other department without clearance from Washington. You may be able to obtain copies there.

LEA:GW

000644

No.2

4 March, 1944

Dear John:

Herewith is a report on War Refugee Board activities since I last wrote you on 29 February. You will note that I have started to number my letters and will consider the prior communication as No.1. Will you please have your copy marked accordingly.

Much has taken place since Monday afternoon when I received a copy of the cable announcing my appointment as Special Representative. I must admit, however, that neither Mike nor I realized the full significance or direction of the program until we had a full discussion about it with Harold Glasser. The information and advice which he gave to us should prove invaluable and will be of great assistance in the future operations of the board in this area.

I think it would be best, in order to bring you up to date on the North African situation, to review briefly the entire situation from the time of the receipt by Mike of State Department cable No. 320, dated 29 January. This cable, which requested Mike to cooperate with Ambassador Wilson in the program, was the first knowledge that anyone of the Treasury group had concerning the new program. Immediately after its receipt Mike asked for a copy of the circular airgram of the State Department dated 26 January which, however, did not arrive for several days. Shortly after its receipt Mike sent a memorandum to Selden Chapin, who is temporarily in charge of the Embassy, in which he called attention to the instructions he had received and offered the assistance of the Treasury representatives in connection with the program. He also suggested that Chapin discuss the matter with him more fully. At the same time he despatched a State Department cable dated 9 February for the Secretary of the Treasury acknowledging the earlier cable and stating what he had done. Chapin asked Paul Warburg to keep in touch with Mike on the matter. For several weeks thereafter nothing much took place insofar as the Treasury representatives were concerned. The State Department people did not advise us of any further developments nor were we consulted in connection with the preparation of an answer to the Circular Airgram of 26 January. Mike discussed the matter with several people but so far as the State Department was concerned we were not actively in the picture until the receipt of State Department cable No. 612 dated February 26.

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A copy of this cable did not reach me until the afternoon of 28 February. Shortly prior thereto I received a message that Capt. Paul Warburg had a cable announcing my appointment as Special Representative of the Board and desired to see me. I saw him late in the afternoon of 28 February. At that time he made available to me a copy of the reply to the Circular Airgram which consisted of Chapin's despatch No. 122, dated 22 February, and a memorandum which Warburg had prepared dated 19 February. Warburg remarked that he had feared this matter would be dropped into his lap and was very happy that the Treasury was now taking over. I spent the remaining part of the afternoon in reading what files were available in the State Department on the subject. The principal file related to the Camp Marechal Lyautey project at Fedhala.

On Tuesday 29 February, I had a long discussion with Beckelman, the UNRRA representative who will be in charge of the Fedhala Camp, and who had just returned from Spain. I also saw Perlman, the representative of the J.S.C. Later in the afternoon I was advised that there would be a meeting in Chapin's office on Wednesday morning to hear Beckelman's report on his trip to Spain. I attended this meeting and from the information learned there and other reports, which Beckelman made available to me, got enough of the picture to realize that we might have a difficult time with the French in getting final clearance for the admission of the refugees from Spain. As I have already advised you by cable dated 2 March (State Department No. 688, WRB No.2), it appears that the French, while originally agreeing to a mere preliminary security screening in Spain, have now taken the attitude that in addition all applicants must be checked at Algiers and that they may use such further screening as a pretext for eliminating part of the group. This, of course, would be an extremely unfortunate result since part of the group that might be eliminated, the Sephardic Jewish group, is probably the most important segment thereof. I will discuss this phase of the matter in a later portion of the letter.

The meeting at Chapin's office, which was attended by Chapin and Lorton of the State Department, Beckelman and Fryer of UNRRA, Capt. Paul Warburg of the U.S. Army, Lord Duncannon representing the British Foreign Office, and me, discussed the various problems that might arise when the French representative returns to Algiers from Spain. He is not expected to arrive here until some time during the week beginning 6 March. Beckelman stated that the questions raised by the French may fall into two categories, (1) the future movement of the refugees out of North Africa, and (2) whether certain of the persons who had applied for admission to the camp could be considered as refugees, since some of

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them, although not born in Spain, had had Spanish passports or had been considered as Spanish proteges. It was decided by the meeting that every effort would be made to avoid such questions if possible and to convince the French to adhere to their original agreement of merely screening the refugees for security reasons.

As the meeting broke up Chapin called me over. This was the first time at which I had an opportunity to discuss the matter with him since the arrival of the cable announcing my appointment. The discussion was quite brief. He said that he had not had a chance to talk to me since my appointment and then said "God pity you." He suggested that I work closely with Capt. Warburg. Later I spoke to Warburg about the matter and I tried to explore with him the work that the committee would do. He related to me the rumor that he had heard to the effect that this was a purely political move on the part of the President for purposes of getting votes.

Later in the day Harold Glasser arrived and for the first time Mike and I received a first-hand picture of what has been taking place in Washington. We did not have a full discussion because of limitations on Harold's time, but arranged to meet the next evening. The next afternoon I also spent some time with the representative of the American Friends Service Committee and learned something about their refugee activities. In the evening Mike and I talked for about three hours with Harold, Beckelman and another UNRRA representative. Harold in his usual fashion has sold us completely on the necessity of prompt action and we intend to take various steps which we believe may be of assistance.

The first of these steps has been my effort to sell Chapin on the program. I spent an hour with him this morning and pointed out to him that the answer of the French to the President's message did not indicate any great degree of cooperation on their part and that we should make an effort to change their position from one of acquiescence (or possible opposition) to one of active cooperation. I told him that the fear of the French that these people would become a postwar burden for them would be groundless since a successful culmination of the war in favor of the United Nations would, except for repatriation and temporary relief, remove for the most part all refugee problems. I also tried to impress on him that this was a program of saving lives which had to proceed quickly. I then discussed with him the Fedhala project and went over with him the various objections which might be raised by the French security officials next week when they propose to give their final agreement to the admission of the 750 persons from Spain. I told him that not only should we attempt to

take steps to forestall these objections which, according to Beckelman, do not involve security questions, but rather the more fundamental question of admission of certain groups. I suggested that Frenay, Commissioner of Prisoners and Deportees, might be the man to contact. He said that he had no authority to meet with any French official except the diplomatic group and suggested that a note be sent to Massigli requesting that he be permitted to see Frenay. My reply was that an answer to such a note might be delayed interminably. He then said that a note should be sent to Massigli requesting a reply from the Comite which I demurred to for the same reasons. I urged upon him an immediate talk with Massigli since he felt that he could not approach any other official. He agreed to do this provided that I would prepare a memorandum for him which he could leave with Massigli. I will prepare this memorandum and submit it to him as soon as possible. I have no great hopes that Chapin will succeed in aiding the program very much. While he orally agrees to adopt some of my suggestions, I do not think that he feels strongly enough on the subject to take any action except the most routine. I have hopes that when Ambassador Wilson returns the greater prestige of the Ambassador's title and his interest will be of more assistance.

I have gone into the various matters that have taken place in some detail because I would like you to get the feel of the local situation as accurately as possible. Before closing, however, I have a few more items of information and one suggestion which should be of interest.

The J.D.C. and the Quaker representatives are doing a good job here caring for refugees once they arrive in this area. They do not take any steps, however, to assist in their admission. When the main part of the job of getting the refugees out of Axis territory is well under way, the War Refugee Board may be of some assistance to these groups in a number of minor matters, but I do not think that they will be of great assistance to us at the present time.

Our program for future work at the moment will include assistance in working out the Fedhala problem, the effort to change the French attitude and an attempt to gain assistance from French underground. In connection with the French attitude, Mike and I intend to visit Mendes-France "informally". We believe that he should be much more sympathetic to our problems than some of the other French officials have been.

You are also no doubt aware of the fact that approximately 300 of the group proposed to be removed to Fedhala are sephardic Jews, some of whom had Spanish passports or at one time were considered Spanish proteges, but who were not born in Spain and

000640

only reached there after Hitler came to power. While the present Spanish government does not appear to desire to harbor these groups permanently, they have at one time at least made representations to the German government and secured the removal of some of these persons to Spain. If we succeed in moving the present group from Spain to Fedhala, the Spaniards may be induced to make further representations to the German authorities and secure the release of other similar groups also holding Spanish passports. Our Spanish representative can no doubt furnish more information on this matter.

Beckelman also advises that there is a well organized traffic in Spain which will practically guarantee the smuggling of refugees over the Spanish border and their safe delivery to the Spanish police. The charge for these services is somewhat in the neighborhood of 10,000 pesetas per person. He said that Dr. Samuel Segueria, representative of the J.D.C. in Barcelona and Forsyth, of the American Consulate in that city (who used these sources in order to get American flyers out of France) are acquainted with the persons carrying on this trade.

I am enclosing a copy of three letters written by Beckelman to various persons in connection with the Fedhala project which should furnish you with more information on the problems involved therein. As soon as typing facilities are available, I will also forward to you copies of cables that I have written so far and copies of cables on Fedhala. I would also suggest that you examine despatch 1967 from Madrid to the State Department dated 31 January, 1944, which refers to the evacuation of refugees from Spain during 1943.

I will appreciate your keeping me advised as to all new developments and ideas and for any assistance that you may be able to give me in strengthening my position vis-a-vis the State Department representatives and the Comité. If Ambassador Wilson has not left for Africa at the time this arrives, I would suggest that the matter be discussed with him.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

Leonard E. Ackermann  
Special Representative  
War Refugee Board

Mr. John W. Pehle  
Acting Director  
War Refugee Board  
Room 288½, Main Treasury Bldg.,  
Treasury Department  
Washington, D.C.

00064

March 1, 1944

War Refugee Board, Meeting at Mr. Chapin's office  
1 March 1944 at 10 a.m.

Subject: Camp Marshal Lyautey, Fedhala.

Present: Messrs. Chapin, Lorton, Beckelman, Fryer,  
Ackermann, Capt. Warburg, and  
Lord Duncannon.

The meeting was called for the purpose of hearing a report from Mr. Beckelman on the status of the Fedhala project. He said that he had just returned from  $4\frac{1}{2}$  week trip to Spain where preliminary screening of the applicants had been accomplished. Under the original agreement only a preliminary screening should have taken place. However, a few days before leaving Spain, the French representative stated that Algiers wanted 6 copies of each application together with thumbprints and photographs. Lord Duncannon advised that these requirements had since been relaxed and the French now only wanted 2 copies and would not require photographs unless they were already available. They still will require thumbprints but have promised to screen all applications within 4 days after their arrival.

Mr. Beckelman stated that there were various problems which still might arise. The project was originally proposed as a refugee center for approximately 2,000 stateless refugees. However, since large numbers of these had previously emigrated to Palestine and elsewhere, only 750 applications had been received. Therefore it was decided to include in the group proposed to be removed all individuals whose national status is in doubt even though they are not clearly stateless, and Spanish wives and children of stateless refugees. The question as to the definition of a refugee may arise under these circumstances. Approximately 30% of the applicants arrived in Spain prior to Hitler's advent to power in Germany. These include White Russians, who are sometimes referred to as "Nansen Refugees", and a group of Sephardic Jews who found themselves in a difficult situation at the time of the Greek-Turkish exchange of populations. These Jews who had left Spain in 1492 had always maintained certain Spanish characteristics. When the exchange took place, it proceeded principally on a basis of religion, the Greeks agreeing to accept members of the Greek Orthodox Church and the Turks, Moslems. This group of Sephardic Jews, ~~numbering about 75 people,~~ fell into neither of the two categories and found themselves unwanted in either country. However, because of their knowledge of the Spanish language, they gravitated back to Spain. *The number of applicants of this group is 77.*

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There is another group of Sephardic Jews who fall into a class known as "Spanish protegees". They had also been expelled from Spain in 1492 and had settled in various parts of Eastern Europe. Despite their expulsion, however, the Spaniards, sometime after 1492, adopted a practice of calling them "protegees" of the Spanish Government, and in Turkey at least, after pressure by the Turkish Government, were either forced to adopt Turkish nationality or be issued Spanish passports. A number of these persons accepted the Spanish passports and as time went on, moved about various parts of Europe on such passports. As Hitler conquered country after country, they finally reached Spain, where in the first instance, they were well treated but at a later date, they were oppressed by the Franco Government.

The curious method of the handling of these persons by the Spanish Government is illustrated by the following incident. A short time ago a French ship sailed from Spain carrying French refugees. Before the Spaniards would issue all of the necessary exit formalities they forced the French to take on board approximately 50 of these former Spanish protegees. When they arrived in North Africa, however, the Spanish Consul insisted that they be treated as Spanish citizens and not placed in internment camps and these persons are now residing in North Africa under the protection of Spanish diplomatic officials. There are approximately 250 of such persons in the group of applicants.

The French may raise a question as to whether or not the people in this group shall be classed as refugees. They may also question some other groups, some of whom arrived in Spain as early as 1919. They will certainly raise a question as to the further movement of these refugees. While they will probably have no objection to skilled artisans or physically fit men of military age, they will especially press this question with respect to older men or women with no obvious place of immigration. *The applicants also include some former members of the International Brigade.*

The applicants themselves have raised various questions:

1 - Will veterans of the French Army or relatives of persons now in the French Army be considered a favored group and therefore be permitted to live elsewhere than in the camp after final screening has been concluded?

2 - Will persons who can establish nationality of a country of the United Nations after their arrival in North Africa be permitted to leave the camp under arrangements with their own diplomatic officials?

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3 - Will there be any favorable treatment for old or sick people to whom living in the camp would be a hardship?

4 - Will the camp be guarded by French guards?

On this latter question it was thought that we would not press the French too hard at the moment but both the British and American State Department representatives agreed that they would insist strongly that there be no guards after final screening had been completed. As noted before, the big problem will of course be the assurances that can be given to the French as to future movement of the refugees. This clearly appears to be the responsibility of the Inter-Governmental Committee. This Committee, however, has developed no plans of any definite nature at the moment.

Mr. Beckelman stated that if no further undue difficulties arose, the voyage for the camp might set sail at some time near the end of March.

*Due to present unsettled conditions in Morocco,  
the French may be less lenient in granting  
work permits.*

LEA:gw

7 0 0 6 5 2

To: Madrid                      No. 46                      February 23, 1944, 7 pm

After having discussed with the Direction de la Security Militaire the contents of your No. 61 of February, they are today cabling their representative in Spain, Mr. Bayonne, as follows:

1. Unless now in your possession, photos are not required.
2. For Algiers two copies of the forms will be required and for Rabat two copies will also be required.
3. Thumbprints must be obtained.
4. If form agreed upon is used, no supplementary information will be necessary.
5. Within four days, the names of the individuals forwarded to Algiers will be cleared.

UNRRA representative and British representative have been consulted, and they concur that in regard to our original understanding with the French, the above requirements are in accord.

CHAPIN

*Handwritten mark*

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000653

Copy - Telegram

From Madrid to Dept.  
To Algiers.

Feb. 22, 1944  
No. 77

The following telegram has been sent to the Dept. 607,  
February 22, 9 pm. From Beckelman for Lehman. No. 6 paragraph  
with further reference my number 4 in view of absence of reply  
from North Africa to Embassy's query regarding security procedures  
for Fedhala applicants believe it preferable that I return there  
along with French representative. Therefore proceeding Casa-  
blanca February 23 and upon a rival of French representative there  
from Lisbon will go on to Algiers. It is opinion of French  
representative that if no undue delay is encountered in deciding  
questions of admissibility to be taken up in Algiers and in  
screening of individual applications there then refugees may  
sail from Spain by last week of March. I estimate the average  
cost of moving refugees from present locations in Spain to port  
of embarkation at \$25.00 per head for ship-side.

Repeated to Algiers for Fryer.

HAYES

000654

(1) (1)  
TRUE READING FOR ALGIERS - BY POUCH - No. 68 - February 17

The following telegram has been sent to the Department.

No. 568, February 17, 10 pm

For Lehman from Beckelman, number four

Applications for admission to Camp Lyautey thus far received from approximately four hundred persons of whom one hundred in camps and prisons so that their departure is contingent on release by Spanish authorities. Following is summary statistical analysis of applications on hand: up to twenty years of age 15%; twentyone to forty 45%; fortyone to sixty 30%; over sixty 10%. Males 65%; females 35%; unattached persons 55%; seventyfour family units 45%. Arrived in Spain after beginning of present war 55%; between advent of Hitler and beginning of war 15%; between end of last war and 1933 15%; before 1919 2%; Spanish wives and children of refugees 13%; religious affiliations - Jewish 50%; Catholic and Greek Orthodox 40%; Protestant 10%. Nationality status claimed by applicants comprises stateless and former enemy nationality 60%; United Nations nationalities 15%; European neutrals including so-called sephardic Spaniards 15%; Central and South America 10%. Individual applications continuing to come in and expect possibly additional one hundred before sailing list is prepared.

This week arrived in Spain about 350 so-called sephardic Spaniards who are jews of Levantine origin holding Spanish passports whose release from German internment and transportation to Spain was arranged by Spanish authorities in expectation that these persons would leave Spain at earliest opportunity. This group contains 110 family units, fifteen unattached men and ten unattached women with an approximately equal distribution among the four age groups above specified. Applications are now being collected from this group. I expect that majority will apply.

French representative now here expects return Morocco early next week via Lisbon and at my suggestion will see American Legation about possibility of including stateless refugees now in Portugal in Camp Lyautey project. Sailing date of refugees from here depends on time involved in advance security check in North Africa about which Embassy has queried Algiers. As soon as reply is received will fix tentative date with British Embassy for ship to arrive at Spanish port and I shall then return North Africa.

Repeated to Algiers (by pouch) for Fryer.

HAYES

19

1200653

*Paraphrase*

From: Madrid

No. 61 February 16, 1944, 8 p.m

The French representative now in Madrid to participate in the screening of refugees states that his superiors have instructed him to submit to Algiers for prior approval by the American, French and British intelligence services six copies of all identifications including photographs and thumbprints and asking for certain information not requested in the application forms and which neither we or the British considered necessary for the type of preliminary check envisaged. These instructions were issued despite the fact that an understanding had been reached between the British and ourselves that security screening of refugees applying for admission to the Fedhala Refugee Center would be kept to an absolute minimum prior to their departure from Spain. (End One) Repeated to Dept. and London.

It appears to us this procedure would be particularly unfeasible and most cumbersome at best with respect to the refugees still held in prisons and camps in Spain and who would benefit most from the project.

This is contrary to our previous understanding and recommendations as well as to information given by G-2 in Algiers to Beckelman before his departure for Spain, the implication being that all cases will be subjected to detailed scrutiny in North Africa before the refugees are allowed to depart from Spain. It would appear to be essential that Allied and French authorities agree to forego all except the preliminary security screening until after the arrival of the refugees in North Africa, unless actual evacuation of these persons to Fedhala is to be delayed indefinitely.

HAYES

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000656

Copy of telegram

From: Madrid, February 15, 1944 /59,

The following telegram has been sent to the Department:

1835 - February 15, 5 p.m.

From BROTHMAN for ILHMAN

No. 3. Repeated to Algiers fro FRYER.

With further reference my No. 2. For your information, wish to report that my conversations with French representative here suggest that upon receipt of list of applicants for admission to Camp Lyautey, French authorities in Algiers are likely to raise other considerations than security in accepting or rejecting applications. French are apparently concerned lest refugees remain in Morocco after war's end and my impression is that in cases where age, sex, or physical condition render individual applicant unlikely prospect for employment or military service, or emigration, they will seek assurances that such individuals will not remain in Morocco before approving entry. They are also likely to question admissibility of Sephardic Group, about which British and American Embassies here keeping themselves informed. Within a few days, I will cable summary of age, sex, family, distribution of applicants, also indicating date of my return to North Africa and probable departure date of convoy.

HAYES

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000657

Copy for Mr. Ackerman

Cypher OTP

Teletype

From British Representative, To . . .

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Copy of telegram

From Madrid - February 3, 10 am, 1944

11042

The following telegram has been sent to the Dept. 359.

From Beckelman for Lehman, Number 2 -

For your information following decisions taken at meeting of British French American representatives held January 31 regarding security screening of applicants for North African refugee reception center:

1. British and Americans will check lists of applicants against their files here.
2. French will transmit lists to Algiers for similar checking there, after which Spanish exit visas will be requested.
3. French representatives will be asked to issue travel documents for journey to Casablanca to refugees accepted for admission there.

Repeated to Algiers for FRYER.

HAYES

13

000653

Berkelman's  
letters to UNWRA  
re. program in  
Spain on  
Fed hole project

sent to  
Pahle with  
letter no. 2  
4 March 44

000660

W. Beckwith  
c/o American Embassy  
Madrid, Spain.

January 23, 1944

Mr. E. Rossman Fryer  
Chief of Mission - URSA  
Civil Affairs Office - Dept. of Public Welfare and Relief  
American Consulate,  
Algiers, Algeria.

Dear Sir,

First report from Spain. The process of actually getting under way here has been delayed because I arrived in the midst of the final stages of preparation of a transport for Palestine which is sailing from Cadix for Haifa early next week. It is a Portuguese boat and she will be carrying about 120 refugees from Portugal bound for Palestine and will pick up about 550 more at Cadix. The 550 come from Madrid, Barcelona and a number of camps and prisons scattered throughout the country from which refugee prisoners were released for the purpose of going to Palestine. (They were in fact accompanied by police from prison to port of embarkation.)

The reduction of this 550 leaves a still indeterminate number of stateless refugees in Spain. Mickinstaff who, as you know, represents the Quakers and the JIC in Madrid, says it cannot possibly exceed a thousand, including a scattered few who may still be living on means of their own. One could in addition include an estimated (very roughly) four to five hundred Poles, Czechoslovaks, Belgians, Dutch, etc. who though not stateless are in a more or less exposed position here depending on the extent to which the Spanish government accords the representatives of these governments limited diplomatic recognition. My present intention is to have our announcements of the North African project sent to these people also and I believe the American Embassy concurs in the position that we ought to accept for the camp any of them who might want to go.

Until the Palestine movement was completely out of the way I made no effort to get any formal announcement of the North African project into the hands of the refugees here inasmuch as going to Palestine involved both the right of permanent stay and the right to work I regarded it as inadvisable to introduce in any official way the complication of the North African scheme which, objectively less desirable, might nevertheless seem more attractive because of its closer proximity to Europe. (I did in fact have a couple of visitors, nevertheless, who wanted my advice on whether they should go to North Africa or Palestine.) Consequently I employed the ten days or so following my arrival for such informal interviewing as was possible, in order to let word about the North African project get around informally and to have an opportunity to see what kinds of people were involved, what the reactions were, and what questions were most on people's minds.

Thus far I have had about sixty-five interviews involving some hundred odd people. This is roughly a 10% sample though it is not necessarily representative, first because there are all from Madrid and Barcelona say well, in refugees as in everything else, be a story for itself. Also my first interviews were with people who had previously solicited information about the North African project and may therefore be viewed as having a more than average interest in it, either positive or negative. Nevertheless "for such interest as it may possess" I give you here my observations of the group I have seen.

/W

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000661

There are a number of French cases involving holders of Cuban, Mexican, Venezuelan, etc. passports. These people are at a loose end in Spain because they cannot get work permits and their consular representatives have no funds with which to repatriate them. They are prepared to come to North Africa because it is a step nearer home and on the assumption (perhaps mistaken) that the French will not treat them as stateless refugees. In my sample of 100 people, these cases total eleven, though I don't expect this percentage to be maintained for the refugee group as a whole. Then there is another group who are not likewise not refugees in the sense that their permanent situation arises either out of Nazi policies or the military operations of the present war. They are persons stranded in Spain whose difficulties are aggravated by the fact that there is a war going on. They are of three categories essentially. 1) Adventurers who happened to be in Spain rather than somewhere else when frontier froze; 2) Foreigners who have been in Spain for many years established in business or professions but because they were located in loyalist territory during the civil war can't get business licenses renewed; 3) Foreigners who actively assisted the loyalist government during the civil war. My sample 100 contains 11 such persons. Again I think this is a higher percentage than will be true for the total number. (Incidentally I think the adventurers among this group, if they come to North Africa, are hardly likely to remain long in the camp. My guess is they will find their own way out somehow and seek to shift for themselves.)

Of the rest (81) some 20 evince an active interest in going to North Africa, either because they have relatives there with whom they hope to be able to live, obtaining their release from the camp on this ground, or because they are fed up with Spain and feel that any change would be a change for the better, or because they hope to establish some contact with the British and Americans. Another 15 are more or less indifferent or uncertain as to whether they should stay here (or try to) or go to North Africa. They wanted very much to be guided by my advice and when I had explained why this was not a subject on which I could properly advise them, their attitude was that they would do whatever the majority of refugees would seem to do. My own guess is that this group will go. Forty-one expressed active opposition to the idea of going to North Africa, this opposition varying from the statement that they would prefer not to go if they had any choice to the assertion that they would rather return to Miranda than go to a camp on French territory. Opposition seems to rest on the following bases: 1) Other immigration opportunities. There are apparently a number of valid Equadorcan visas in existence. I have seen three thus far. The holders have Colombian transit visas also and tell me that they have been assured that the necessary Venezuelan transit will be forthcoming in time for them to sail by Spanish boat in March. Some also have negotiations in process for Mexican visas. A number are expecting replies to applications for American and British visas and hesitate to transfer their applications to another consulate for fear that this may involve them in long delays. 2) Belief that a more or less legalized residence in Spain can be "arranged". 3) Opposition to further contact with the French based either on experience in French camps or on claims to having served in the French army during the war and having nevertheless been refused recognition or assistance by French representatives on arrival here. Category 3 has 16 persons of the 81 above mentioned.

The chief question put to me dealt naturally with the right to work and the amount of freedom which residents of the camp might expect to have. About these two items, unfortunately, my present feeling is much less optimistic than it was when I left North Africa. My first conversations with Moroccan French authorities in Rabat had led me to believe that they were prepared to interpret the terms of the French-American agreement fairly liberally. Yesterday there arrived in Madrid the two representatives of the French Moroccan authorities who are to participate with the British and the Americans in the security screening of applicants here. (One of them was a chap I had previously talked with in Rabat.) I showed them the draft of the announcement and application form which it

/was

was proposed to circulate to the refugees in Spain (Enclosure A). They objected strenuously to the second paragraph on the grounds that it promised more than it would be possible to grant. They implied that employment would only be possible in exceptional cases and that the right of temporary absence from the camp would be severely restricted. I pointed out that this was at variance with the intent of the French-American agreement and their reply was that the French Committee of National Liberation in Algiers was not familiar with conditions in Morocco. I said that that was not a proper concern of the American government and did not seem relevant to the question. I reminded one of the two representatives that it was he himself who had indicated to me in Rabat the fairly liberal position which the French authorities in Morocco were prepared to take in applying the terms of the French-American agreement. He acknowledged this but said that conditions in Morocco had changed since the conclusion of the negotiations between the American and British governments and the French Committee of National Liberation. The French authorities, he said, were very much disturbed over current native unrest in Morocco and were fearful that apparent concessions to refugees might aggravate that unrest. Both representatives assured me that as soon as the current difficulties had subsided they were confident that it would be possible to give the refugees a larger measure of liberty and employment possibility but reiterated that it was unwise to promise in our preliminary announcement to the refugees more than it might be possible to give them upon their arrival in North Africa. I expressed my agreement with this point of view but contended that any announcement to the refugees ought to assure them of that which the French authorities and the British and American governments were in agreement that they should have. I suggested that if conditions in Morocco had changed since the conclusion of that agreement it might be well to advise the State Department of that fact and proposed taking the question up with the American Embassy. The French representatives then suggested that they might prepare a text of an announcement to the refugees and we could then compare the two to see whether we could agree on some joint statement. To this I agreed.

The draft which they prepared (Enclosure B) was a step forward from the position which they had expressed to me orally but I still felt it to be unsatisfactory on the two points of employment possibility and local liberty of movement. I told them that I would like to submit their draft to the American Embassy, which I did, discussing it with Miles Bond, Embassy Secretary who has been acting for the Embassy on refugee matters. He and I agreed that under the circumstances, probably the best course was to suggest the substitution, for the paragraph in dispute, of the relevant portions of the text of M. Managgi's final note to Mr. Murphy on the subject, this note constituting in effect the substance of our agreement with the French. This proposal the French representatives, after some discussion to the effect that their proposed text was less restrictive than the text of the official note, accepted. Consequently Enclosure C is the text of the announcement which will be circulated in a few days to all refugees in Madrid and Barcelona and, if the consent of the Spanish authorities can be obtained, to those in camps and prisons. (estimated to number about 50). It will appear in English, French, Spanish and German.

I have recited in detail this discussion with the French representatives because the tone of it seems to me more important than the text we finally agreed upon. The tone seemed to me to be definitely bad. If the French representatives who have come here from Morocco accurately reflect the feeling of the Moroccan French authorities and if that feeling continues unchanged, I think we are in for a nasty series of quibbles on every request we shall have to make of the French authorities once the camp gets going and for hampering restrictions on every effort to give the residents of the camp any sense of being elsewhere than in an internment camp. If you think it advisable it might be as well to put the State Department in Washington and our representatives in Algiers on notice

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H. H. Bookaluan to E. R. Fryer - contd.

One point in the final announcement (Enclosure C) which the French representatives pressed for but did not insist upon was that it should be stated that the center would be administered by American, British, and French representatives. This apparently goes back to a conversation I had in Madrid in which I was asked whether I did not think it would be useful to have a French member of the staff of the camp for the purpose, as it was put to me then, "of facilitating relations with the French authorities, issuing permits for temporary ten-day or two-week leaves from the camp, etc." At that time I said that I was in favor of the idea and would be ready to discuss it more concretely when I would have returned from Spain and would be getting Camp Marshall (Gautey) ready for refugee occupancy. Here in Madrid I was very loath to include any reference to French participation in the administration of the camp in an announcement to be distributed to the refugees because my preliminary interviews have clearly shown that any such indication will have an adverse effect upon them. Not feeling free to say this to the French representatives I still took upon the statement that I had not yet been authorized to include French representation on the staff of the camp and consequently could make no reference to it in the announcement. It is clear however that the question will come up again on my return to North Africa. I believe it would be useful to have a Frenchman, if possible a refugee from France rather than a colonial resident, attached to the camp staff for a liaison purpose as have been suggested above. Unless I hear from you to the contrary I shall assume that there is no objection to my proceeding along these lines when I return to Morocco.

Returning now to the refugees in Spain and the likelihood of their going to North Africa, my present belief is that about half will indicate an initial willingness to go and that a substantial portion of the remainder will then follow suit. (There has thus far been no indication of any reaction on the part of the Spanish authorities which might influence this estimate.) All told, I imagine we may have up to about 800 people, including those who may want to go from among the non-stateless but not fully protected national groups I have mentioned above.

On my way here I stopped in Lisbon for a few days. In the course of my conversation there at the American Legation, the question came up as to whether stateless refugees in Portugal could be included in this North African project. I have taken the matter up with the Embassy here and it seems to us that there should be no objection in principle though the mechanics of transportation may be more difficult to work out. However, unless I hear from you to the contrary, I shall continue to keep this possibility in mind and if the opportunity for more concrete consideration presents itself I shall go into it. Though no official indication has come from the Spanish Foreign Office there have been some reports that the Spanish authorities will request further refugee convoys to embark from a Portuguese rather than a Spanish port. If this should materialize, the question of taking these refugees now in Portugal who might want to come to North Africa could perhaps be resolved simultaneously with the current undertaking.

In any case it now appears clear that the North African project, when it finally materializes, will be a much smaller-scale venture than has heretofore been anticipated. I think every possible effort should be made to liquidate it at the earliest possible date both because of the inherently unsatisfactory situation which it seems unavoidable that the camp shall represent and because the large capital investment and large per capita outlay necessary for the kind of center we have been contemplating cannot long be justified for such a relatively small number. Such liquidation will require collective rather than individual action because the group now in Spain seems to me to have been fairly well crumbed through by this time from the standpoint of persons with highly specialized skills, with professional contacts or with relatives in other countries. My present impression is that the bulk of the persons who will be going

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M. Kuhlmann to H. Kuhlmann by 7-11-44 contd.

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to North Africa will have been former shopkeepers or small business-men whose employment outlook in North Africa will be slim, even under a liberal interpretation of the agreement. Likewise they will be my kind of large persons who do not have relatives in countries of emigration so that the initiative for saving onward from North Africa cannot logically be undertaken by them.

In this connection I had the opportunity of talking with Kuhlmann of the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees when he passed through Madrid recently. He told me that Retina Salan is now making a survey of the refugee problem in the Mediterranean area and will pass through Algiers on his way back to England. At Kuhlmann's suggestion I have telegraphed Algiers to get the date of Salan's probable arrival there to see whether we can arrange to meet, there or elsewhere as his schedule permits. Specifically what Kuhlmann proposes and that I should very much like to work out with Salan is to have some member of the camp staff designated to represent and maintain contact with the Intergovernmental Committee in London so as to keep as closely in touch with immigration possibilities as possible.

Finally, there is now in the wind a project to offer some refugees "debaration visas" to Canada and the arrival in Madrid of a Canadian representative is expected next week. So far as I could tell from the brief conversation I had with him in Madrid perhaps a hundred people may be able to go to Canada from here, since the Canadian government is interested only in family units.

That is the picture to date. To save time I am taking the liberty of sending a copy of this letter and its enclosures directly to Washington. If you think it advisable will you see that Tom Cope and Ray Barker get a copy in Casablanca. For your sake, I don't know whether to hope that I still find you in Algiers when I return or to look forward to hearing that you've gone on to Cairo. It would, however, be good to see you again. My best regards to the gang. The food is better here than at Tom's but I miss the company.

Sincerely,

M. KUHLMANN.

000666

ENCLOSURE A

Draft of proposed announcement to refugees as prepared by M.A. Beckelham and approved by American Embassy.

ANNOUNCEMENT

In agreement with the governments of the United Kingdom and the United States, the French Committee of National Liberation has arranged to receive in Morocco refugees now living in Spain who are at present without nationality status and whose interests cannot consequently be represented by any of the United Nations Governments. Such persons upon their arrival in Morocco, will be housed in a reception center about ten miles from Casablanca. The Center is an ex-army barracks, built in 1943 and until recently occupied by American troops. The Center will be administered by representatives of the American and British governments who will use every effort within the limits imposed by the physical conditions, to facilitate normal communal life on the part of the residents of the Center. The administration will provide food, necessary medical care and necessary clothing so far as the latter is available. All able bodied residents of the Center will be expected to contribute towards the cost of their maintenance by performing such duties connected with the operation of the Center as may be suited to the facilities.

Residents of the Center will be permitted to seek regular employment and in cases where such employment is regarded as favorable to Moroccan economy, appropriate work-permits will be issued by the local authorities including residence permits in the district of employment. Those persons who do not obtain work permits will make their residence in the Center. Permits will be available for temporary visits to Casablanca or other cities for varying periods of time, subject to such restrictions as security requirements and limitation of transportation facilities make necessary.

The Reception Center in North Africa is intended to provide a safe and friendly center for refugees from which efforts may be continued toward further migration or, when circumstances permit, towards return to the country of permanent residence. In cooperation with the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees, the Administration of the Center will do everything possible to assist with such migration or return. Inasmuch, however, as these depend essentially upon factors which are beyond the control of the Administration of the Center - such as the progress of military operations, the availability of transportation, and the immigration laws of various countries - it is impossible to give any indication of the length of time during which residents will remain at the Center.

Persons interested in being considered for admission to the Reception Center should fill out the application on the reverse side and bring it to the office of The Representation in Spain of American Relief Organizations, Calle Eduardo Dato 20, Madrid

APPLICATION

I, the undersigned, having read the preceding announcement, hereby make application for transportation to and admission into the Refugee Reception Center in Morocco. I accept the conditions stated in that announcement. I further certify that the information given below is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

(There follows identifying data and personal history and information. See Enclosure C)

-----  
M.A. Beckelham

1066

ENCLOSURE A

(Draft presented by French representatives as substitute for enclosure A)

Le Comité Français de la Libération Nationale, d'accord avec les Gouvernements britannique et américain, a donné son accord pour que des réfugiés vivant actuellement en Espagne et qui n'ont pas de représentant dans ce pays soient hébergés au Maroc en attendant de pouvoir être dirigés sur une autre destination.

Ces personnes seront logés dans un centre d'accueil qui se trouve à environ 15 km de Casablanca. Il s'agit de baraques militaires modernes, construites en 1945 et occupées récemment encore par des troupes américaines. Ce centre sera administré par des représentants officiels anglais et américains qui feront leur possible, dans les limites permises par les circonstances, pour faciliter aux réfugiés une vie normale et agréable.

Les autorités américaines et anglaises pourvoient à la nourriture et ils s'occuperont des soins médicaux nécessaires comme à la question de l'habillement, autant qu'il sera possible.

Les réfugiés en bonne santé doivent contribuer aux frais de leur entretien et se charger de certains travaux en rapport avec leurs aptitudes pour aider au bon fonctionnement du centre.

Les réfugiés pourront éventuellement être autorisés à chercher un emploi et, au cas où ils pourraient être considérés comme utiles à l'économie marocaine, les autorités locales leur délivreront des permis de travail. Ils pourront également obtenir des permis de séjour pour les villes où ils auront trouvé une occupation.

Les personnes qui n'auront pas trouvé de travail seront astreintes à résider dans le camp. Ils pourront cependant obtenir, pour des motifs d'urgence établis, les autorisations pour sortir du camp; ces autorisations seront d'une durée variant selon les restrictions dictées par la sécurité et les moyens de transport disponibles.

Le Centre Nord Africain voudrait offrir aux réfugiés un endroit sûr et accueillant, d'où ils pourraient continuer leurs démarches pour une autre émigration ou pour un retour au pays de leur ancienne résidence, pourvu que les circonstances le permettent.

L'Administration du Centre, en collaboration avec le "Comité International pour les Réfugiés" fera son possible pour aider cette émigration ou retour. Autant que ces plans dépendent de conditions hors de l'influence de l'Administration--comme par exemple le développement des opérations militaires, les moyens de transport disponibles ou les différentes lois d'immigration des différents pays--il est impossible d'évaluer pour combien de temps certains réfugiés seront obligés de rester au Centre.

Les personnes qui voudraient être admises au Centre doivent remplir la demande ci-dessous et la présenter au Bureau de la "Representation in Spain of American Relief Organizations", Calle Eduardo Dato 20, à Madrid.

ANNOUNCEMENT

In agreement with the governments of the United Kingdom and the United States, the French Committee of National Liberation has given its consent that refugees at present living in Spain who are without diplomatic representation be received in Morocco until such time as their further migration can be arranged. Such persons will be housed in a reception center about 15 kms. from Casablanca. The center is a modern army barracks built in 1943 and until recently occupied by American troops. The center will be administered by representatives of the American and British governments who will use every effort, within the limits imposed by the physical conditions, to facilitate normal communal life on the part of the residents of the center. The American and British authorities will provide food, necessary medical care and essential clothing, so far as the latter is available. All able-bodied residents of the center will be expected to contribute towards the cost of their maintenance by performing the duties connected with the operation of the center as may be suited to their abilities.

The French authorities are prepared after an examination of each particular case to grant permission to work in Morocco to refugees who can continue their occupation without disadvantage to the economy of the protectorate. Such refugees will enjoy the right to remain in the area where it will have been possible to obtain employment for them, with the sole reservation of conforming to such controls as may be deemed necessary.

With respect to refugees who will not have been authorized to work and who as a result will have to be cared for at the Mechala Camp, the French administration, if the occasion arises, will grant them facilities to remain away temporarily from the housing center, on the condition that they maintain their regular residence at the camp and observe scrupulously the laws and regulations of the country, in particular those regarding immigration. Such facilities will also be subject to restrictions imposed by the necessity of maintaining order and security in the territory of the

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protectorate and by limitation of available transportation.

The Reception Center in North Africa is intended to provide a safe and friendly center for refugees from whom efforts may be continued toward further emigration or, when circumstances permit, toward return to the country of permanent residence. In cooperation with the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees, the administration of the Center will do everything possible to assist with such emigration or return. However, as these depend essentially upon factors which are beyond the control of the administration of the center - such as the progress of military operations, the availability of transportations, and the immigration laws of the various countries involved - it is impossible to give any indication of the length of time during which residents will remain at the center.

Persons interested in being considered for admission to the Reception Center should fill out the enclosed application and bring it to the office of the Representation in Spain of American Relief Organizations, Calle Guardacostas 20, Madrid.

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APPLICATION

I, the undersigned, having read the preceding announcement, hereby make application for transportation to and admission into the refugee reception center in Morocco. I undertake to observe all the conditions set forth in that text. I further certify that the information given below is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

DÉCLARATION

Je soussigné, déclare avoir pris connaissance des explications précédentes; je demande à être placé dans un convoi pour l'Afrique du Nord et à être hébergé au "Centre d'accueil Marocain pour Réfugiés." Je m'engage à respecter toutes les conditions contenues dans ce texte.

Je certifie en outre que les indications données ci-dessous sont vraies, sincères et données de bonne foi.

FICHE INDIVIDUELLE - PERSONAL RECORD

A. Identite - Identification

Photo

(Nom véritable) (correct name) ( ) ( )

(Nom d'emprunt) (assumed name) ( ) ( )

(Prénoms) (given names) ( ) ( )

(Adresse actuelle) (present address)

(Noms de père et mère) (Father's & mother's name)

(Nationalité actuelle) (present nationality)

(Si apatride, nationalité ancienne) (if stateless give former nationality)

(Date et lieu de naissance) (place and date of birth)

Religion

(situation de famille)  
(marital status)

Nom de mari (femme); noms et âges des enfants qui accompagnent  
Name of husband (wife); names and ages of children accompanying

(situation militaire) (military record)

B. Enseignements particuliers - Specific information

Pays & ville où l'intéressé était domicilié avant le 1<sup>er</sup> septembre 1939  
Countries & cities where applicant was domiciled before Sept. 1, 1939

Activité exercée  
Occupation

Pays où l'intéressé a séjourné à compter du 1<sup>er</sup> septembre 1939  
Countries in which applicant has resided since September 1, 1939

(activité exercée) (occupation)

Date d'arrivée en Espagne  
Date of arrival in Spain

(activité exercée)  
(occupation)

Pays où l'intéressé désire se rendre à titre définitif  
Country in which applicant desires permanent residence.

Activite qu'il compte exercer  
Occupation which he plans to follow there

Observations speciales sur l'interesso exist utile de porter  
a la connaissance des autorites chargees de son rapatriement  
ou immigration.

Additional comments which the applicant believes it useful to  
bring to the attention of the authorities concerned with his  
repatriation or immigration.

M. W. Becklesan  
American Consulate  
Barcelona, Spain

February 12, 1944

Mr. Dewey Anderson  
UNRRA  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dewey:

It was good to get your letter of January 21 and to know that you are continuing with the UNRRA. Congratulations (or condolences, depending on how you feel about it) on your heading up the Bureau of Areas -- for myself I'm glad to hear it and to learn that I shall probably be reporting to you. So here goes my first. I take it you have seen the various and sundry communications which I've sent through to Tom Burland thus far, on the assumption that he was still heading up Field Operations, so I shall begin in medias res.

I've been in Barcelona about a week (interrupted by a two day trip to the French frontier to witness the arrival of some 400 "Spanish" refugees -- this is a separate chapter which I shall come back to later) and I expect to return to Madrid tomorrow. I shall be taking with me the applications of about 170 people for admission to the North African Refugee Reception Center which have thus far been turned in here; it seems probably that the final number of applications from Barcelona will be somewhat over 200, or between 1/4 and 1/3 of the estimated number of refugees here. Resistance to the idea of going to North Africa under the conditions indicated in our announcement of the Refugee Reception Center (which you have undoubtedly received by now) has been even greater here than in Madrid. The reasons for this depend in part on the differentiated character of the refugee group here from that in Madrid, and in part on a number of problems which have arisen here in the course of the interviewing which the French representative and I have been conducting here in order to obtain an impression of the nature and composition of the refugee group.

Barcelona apparently has a larger number of refugees than Madrid who have family and property in France with which they still maintain contact. The possibility of doing so is one of the reasons why they remain in Barcelona in preference to going to Madrid, which is one of the reasons why there are more refugees here than in the capital. Exchange of news with their families, negotiations to get them across the frontier into Spain, the ability to despatch occasional food packages from here to relatives in France, hope that within another two or three months the latter will be able to join them, these are all considerations which have acted to reduce the number of applicants for admission to North Africa. Most important of course has been the fear that admission to the Reception Center, under the conditions stated, amounts to internment. On this point my feeling remains that given in my January 23 letter to Fryer of which I sent a copy directly to Burland.

Here as in Madrid the two questions most frequently put to us were: "Can I get a job?" and "How can I arrange to live outside the camp?" Levasseur, the French delegate from Morocco, who had worked with me in Madrid, having returned to Rabat, I was accompanied here by Bayonne, who was sent to Spain from Algiers to represent the French in the security screening process. I referred these questions to him both because I wanted him to see the urgency with which these points were regarded by the

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refugee group and to have the applicants feel that they answered they were getting on these points were authoritative. Bayonne stuck very faithfully to the text of our announcement in answering these questions but it was clear that according to his view, the provisions regarding work possibilities would be interpreted restrictively, and that failing employment, camp residents would not be able to leave the camp grounds without good cause, for any period whatever. It was also indicated that the French will mount guard on the camp and control exit from it. With respect to men of military age, it came out during our interviews, that employment would be out of the question on the logical ground that the local population would resent seeing foreigners of the same age as the mobilized members of their families free to work and earn civilian wages. Consequently, unless such men had a previous military record in the French army which would entitle them to join the French forces in Africa, the alternative to permanent residence in the camp was enlistment in the Foreign Legion. Against this there is apparently strong feeling which I have encountered uniformly in all my talks with refugees both in Spain and in North Africa.

This morning I had an interesting visit from a representative of the French Red Cross in Barcelona (which is, I believe, the official title of the French Mission here). He came, he said, in a private capacity as one who was familiar with the refugee situation here to put to me the proposition that the Refugee Reception Center project no longer served any useful purpose. Six or eight months ago, he said, the proposal would have been jumped at by practically all the refugees in Spain. Now that almost all of them are at liberty in Madrid and Barcelona, the proposal that they should voluntarily apply to enter an internment camp does not make much sense to them. Nor, added the Red Cross delegate, did it seem logical to him, since it was his belief, based on his experience, that the number of people who might expect to receive work permits would be "I will not say zero, but not much more". Hence the proposal to go to North Africa represented a choice between idleness in a metropolitan city like Madrid or Barcelona and idleness within the limits of a military encampment. He wondered, he said, whether it was impossible to avoid going through with the proposal.

I told him that I saw no point in our discussing the matter from that standpoint since the decision of policy did not rest with either of us. I said that while I recognized and had of course known from the outset the force of many of the objections he had raised, his presentation seemed to me to omit two important factors. The first was that the present fairly satisfactory position of the refugees in Spain was not one which the British, French or American authorities were in a position to ensure for the future and that if it should change for the worse, there was not much that these governments could do in the matter. Secondly, I pointed out that the official assumption of responsibility for the maintenance of these people on the part of the British and American governments and for their reception in North Africa on the part of the French implied that they would presumably not be abandoned without further ado, once hostilities had terminated. While no one was in a position to give guarantees at the present time, it was logical to assume that the governments involved would feel a greater measure of responsibility for the repatriation or permanent settlement in some country of immigration of those people whom it would be maintaining in North Africa at the end of the war than for those who might voluntarily elect to remain in Spain.

These two considerations are the ones which I have informally been calling to the attention of refugees in my interviews with them. Nevertheless, the fear of the camp concept on the part of those who have previously experienced camp residences, seems to be overpowering. They point out that no matter what amenities are provided, the inability to walk off the grounds when one chooses creates a sense of confinement which, in the light of their previous experience, they regard as completely deterrent. They concede that the authorities here may at any moment return them to camp or prison. But, they say, if the Spanish authorities do so, neither the authorities nor the refugees regard the measure as a favor bestowed upon the refugee. To apply for admission to North Africa under the restrictions indicated, is in effect to ask for the favor of being interned and to feel obligated to the authority which provides the internment. As compared with their present situation, they prefer not to do so.

So much for the objections voiced by the refugees who have not applied. I have tried to give a composite picture of the reactions I have encountered both because it forms part of the situation here and because I think it useful in planning our approach to future situations. With respect to the 170 applications thus far received in Barcelona, the following summarizes the age, sex, and family distribution:

Males -- 97; Females -- 74;	1 to 10 yrs. of age -- 15
	11 to 20 yrs. of age -- 22
	21 to 30 yrs. of age -- 16
Unattached men + women - 61	31 to 40 yrs. of age -- 40
Men, women and children in	41 to 50 yrs. of age -- 30
family groups: 110	51 to 60 yrs. of age -- 23
	61 to 70 yrs. of age -- 18
	Over 70 yrs. of age -- 7

In terms of the period of their arrival in Spain (which has bearing on the question of who shall be considered a refugee) the group divides itself into the following categories:

1. Arrived after the outbreak of the present war -- 32
2. Between the coming to power of Hitler and Sept. 1, 1939 (including remnants of the International Brigade and other foreigners deprived of status as a result of the Spanish civil war) -- 19
3. Between the end of the first World War and 1933. -- 38
4. Before 1919. -- 4
5. Children and wives of stateless persons, born in Spain. -- 18

The refugee status of categories 1 and 2 seems clear. With respect to 3 and 4, the question is somewhat confused but we have assumed up to now that in view of the fact that the maximum possible number of applicants will be well below the agreed upper limit of 2,000, no distinction would be made between applications on the basis of the date of their arrival in Spain. (See Summary of Minutes of Meeting of January 31, transmitted to you). Inasmuch as it now appears that the French may question this procedure, it seems desirable to indicate the origins of categories 3 and 4.

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Category 3 is essentially a remnant of the refugee problem of the last war. It consists of Jews of Greek and Turkish origin who were involved territorially in the 1921 (?) transfer of populations between Greece and Turkey but who were not regarded by either government at the time as being racially Greek or Turkish and who, therefore, did not benefit fully from the assistance which the two governments gave to their expatriated nationals. Inasmuch as this group, whose ancestors were expelled from Spain in 1492, has always retained a kind of Spanish as a mother tongue many of them gravitated toward Spain, where for the most part they settled in Barcelona rather than Madrid since the former is more important as a center of commerce and industry. Their knowledge of Spanish (their language, Ladino, stands in somewhat the same relationship to Spanish as Canuck or Cajun French does to French, or Yiddish to German) facilitated their adjustment. Though they were technically stateless, the Spanish governments of Alfonso and the Republic apparently felt some sentimental interest in these descendants of the original 1492 expulsion and permitted them to establish themselves on a permanent basis. (If I am not mistaken, the Republic officially repealed the 1492 expulsion decree and invited the descendants of the Sephardic Jews to return to Spain). Category 4 is essentially the same except that the persons involved came to Spain before the last war.

Under the present government, all communal organization other than Catholic, is forbidden. The Barcelona Jewish community which until 1939 numbered some 700 has been liquidated and its leaders have either emigrated or been imprisoned as Freemasons or for participation in the Civil War. The persons formerly assisted by that community because of age or poverty are now being assisted by the Joint Distribution Committee office in Barcelona. It is from that group that categories 3 and 4 are drawn. Their status is indefinite and varies. All of them are stateless, though some still claim Turkish or Greek nationality and have expired passports as documentation. Some of them have work permits, others do not. Their principal motive for seeking to leave Spain at the present time is the uncertainty of their position and the fact that they cannot, under present circumstances, earn a living. For most of them, the logical definitive settlement would be Palestine. Some of the group did in fact depart with the Nyassa for Palestine but not many were able to do so because the number of Palestine certificates available for persons over 35 was exceedingly limited.

Somewhat akin to this group is the group called the "Sephardic Spaniards" to which I referred in my first paragraph. The Embassy in Madrid is fully in touch with the problem so I shall summarize it briefly. By royal decree issued sometime in the twenties, Sephardic Jews, living for the most part in the Balkans and the Levant, who, as descendants of the 1492 expulsion had for some decades or perhaps even longer, had an amorphous standing as "Spanish protegee", were entitled, under certain circumstances to become Spanish citizens and obtain Spanish passports. An indeterminate number of them did so. As the Germans occupied various countries, Sephardic Jews who held Spanish passports were in some cases able to negotiate their entry into Spain as Spanish citizens, where they were received at the outset apparently without much difficulty, though it is not clear whether they obtained work permits or not. More recently the entry of these "Sephardic Spaniards" into Spain has been possible only in groups or convoys arranged between the Spanish and German governments. This entry has been accorded, as I understand it, on the basis of an assurance given the Spanish government by the Joint Distribution Committee that it would maintain these people during their stay in Spain and arrange for their departure from the country at

the earliest possible moment. With respect to the latter question, the American Embassy in Madrid has indicated an interest, and the Ambassador has indicated his belief that it would be desirable to include as many of these Sephardic refugees (at least those of them who entered Spain on the basis of an understanding that they would depart as soon as possible) in the Refugee Reception Center project as possible. I have indicated my general agreement with the proposition and my belief that the persons involved came within the scope of the intent of the project. Up to the arrival of the convoys mentioned at the beginning of this letter, the total number involved seems to have been about 100 people; the train which I went up to Port Bou to see arrive brought 183 and a like number are expected within a day or two. Unlike the first arrivals of Sephardic refugees whose most recent permanent residence had been Paris, the two last convoys mentioned, consist of people resident in Barcelona who have been in German internment for the past six months approximately, pending completion of the negotiations for their entry into Spain.

In general terms I have suggested to Mr. Bayonne, the French representative, our intention of including in the applicants for the North African project such of these Sephardic refugees as wish to apply, along the lines indicated in our January 31 meeting in Madrid. (See summary of minutes referred to above). Mr. Bayonne who did not attend that meeting tells me that the inclusion of "Spanish nationals" in the Refugee Reception Center is not contemplated in the instructions which he has brought with him from Algiers and that he will have to take that question up on his return there. He also questions the validity of including persons whom I have listed in refugee categories 3 and 4 above.

In general, his procedure suggests that the instructions he has brought with him from Algiers involve a screening from other points of view than that of military or political security exclusively. When I pointed out to him that the intent of the meeting at Algiers, which had decided that I should go to Spain to assist in the preliminary screening and that a French representative should do likewise, had been that the screening in Spain should be of a preliminary character and should be limited to security considerations only, he indicated that in his understanding there was also involved the question of the ultimate disposition of each person accepted for the Refugee Reception Center. He tells me that he will take with him to Algiers a complete list of all applicants for admission and that each case will be scrutinized there. I get the impression that in those cases in which the applicant does not have an employable skill or reasonably good prospects of early immigration, the French Committee intends to seek firm assurances from the British and American governments regarding the ultimate disposition of each individual involved. It may be of course that I misunderstand what Mr. Bayonne has in mind or that his ideas are not in consonance with those of the French authorities in Algiers, but in any case I believe it useful to pass these observations along to you so that our representatives in Algiers may be on notice, if these matters should come up.

As the result of the joint interviewing which Mr. Levassour and I did in Madrid and Mr. Bayonne and I have done in Barcelona, a number of questions have arisen which Mr. Bayonne indicates will have to be resolved in Algiers. Of these too I should like you to have advance notice in order that we may be prepared to urge as liberal a solution of them as is possible within the intent of the project. Following are the questions which have thus far arisen in our discussions:

1. Customs clearance for refugees -- tools of trade, personal valuables, household effects (in some cases where people have family in North Africa), etc.

2. Financial clearance -- transfer of funds from Spain to North Africa; bringing into North Africa on one's person of small amounts of various currencies.

3. Special status (i.e. right to live outside of center) for people in such categories as: (a) Men who have served in the French Army, been honorably discharged, and are now too old or incapacitated for further service; (b) Persons who have sons or husbands in the French Army at present (you will recall that in the first French reply to the British American proposal for the Center it was pointed out that people in these categories might expect special consideration); (c) Persons with relatives regularly domiciled in North Africa; (d) Persons of established nationality whose consulates vouch for them and who are able to finance their own maintenance; (e) Persons who are old or chronically ill for whom living in the camp would constitute an undue hardship; (f) After check on political security has been carried out in North Africa, possibility of release for people able to finance their own maintenance.

That is the picture to date. As I have indicated I'm on my way to Madrid tomorrow morning. Mr. Bayonne comes with me and I hope to finish up in Madrid in a few days. Bayonne wants to do some sample interviewing in Madrid similar to that which he has done in Barcelona. From there he goes to Portugal for a few days and then returns to Algiers via Casablanca, there to discuss with the French authorities the list of applicants for admission to North Africa. Applications (such as those of the Sephardic group and those from persons now in camps and prisons) which will come in after our departure from Spain are to be forwarded to Algiers after having been cleared by the British and American passport controls in Madrid. Myself, I hope to be able to leave Madrid by the end of the coming week and return to Casablanca either via Lisbon or Tangier. If all goes well with the business of clearing our application lists in Algiers (which at the moment I'm inclined to doubt) we ought to be able to envisage embarkation the first week in March. I shall, of course, advise you about this as soon as I have more definite information.

My present estimates of the number of applicants for the camp are as follows: From Barcelona -- 225; From Madrid -- 175; From camps and prisons -- 50; Sephardic group (tentatively -- 200, I expect a complete list of names, family groups and ages in two or three days); Miscellaneous recognized nationals, Poles, Czechs, etc. -- 50. Tentative total -- 700.

In the light of this background I find it difficult to comment on the information inclosed with your letter of January 21. I am glad to note the official designation of personnel for the camp and to see that Ned Campbell is included as Administrative officer. Si Fryer recommends him very highly and my own recollection of the brief contact I had with him in Washington is a good one. Si Fryer had told me prior to my departure from North Africa that Campbell was not available, but I assume the situation has changed. My brief concern about personnel at present is first what appears to be an excessive British and American staffing for a project of the size which now appears likely for the Center. We have five British personnel now in Casablanca and six American personnel (including myself) now in North Africa tentatively scheduled for assignment to the Center. The nine listed in Roseman's January 8 letter to Mannigau brings the total up to twenty -- a figure which seems to me excessive. Nevertheless, except

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for a reduction in the number of stenographers and the release of some of the American personnel now in North Africa who are tentatively assigned to the project but who have no specific skills I see no likelihood for an immediate reduction in personnel, at least not till after the project has been in operation for a month or two and we can see our way clear. (In view of the fact that the British have sent two nurses, we might reduce the American personnel in this category to one). In terms of official responsibility the heads of each department, it seems to me, must be American or British. Consequently, my only suggestion at present is to go ahead with our plans, regarding the project as an experience opportunity for some of the personnel and intending to release as many as possible as soon as operations opportunities develop in other theaters.

Please give my best regards to all and sundry in the office. I hope to have a chance to write everyone again as soon as I get back to North Africa -- days have been pretty crowded here these past two weeks. Once again, let me say how much I appreciate your keeping me posted on UNRRA developments and that I hope you will find it possible to repeat the performance from time to time and meanwhile send along any UNRRA announcements or publications which will help me keep up to date.

Sincerely,

M. W. Beckelman

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Mr. Beckelman  
c/o American Embassy  
Madrid, Spain

February 23, 1944

Mr. Dewey Anderson  
Chief, Field Operations  
UNRRA c/o State Department  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dewey:

I am about ready to wind up matters here and return to North Africa as soon as I can get plane reservations (probably Feb. 23) to Tangier. I should like to summarize the status of our camp negotiations briefly as I see them at this point.

The center of activity in preparing for the refugee convoy from Spain to North Africa now shifts from Madrid to Algiers. This was not contemplated in the discussions between the British, Americans and French which took place in Algiers before I left there; at that time it was understood that British, French and American representatives in Madrid would make the selection of refugees on the basis of a preliminary screening here, that the convoy would then be arranged, and that full security check would then be instituted upon arrival of the convoy in North Africa. (Presumably undesirables were to have been weeded out at Casablanca and dealt with separately from the rest of the convoy.) However, at the meeting held in Madrid to establish screening procedures, the French representatives reported that their instructions were to bring back to North Africa a list of applications, and that the applications would be studied there and decision reached as to which persons were to be admitted. Though I made it clear that I was not in Madrid as a member of the screening committee, I attended the meeting I was referring to and at this point I said that this was not my understanding of the arrangement that had been reached in Algiers. However, the British and American representatives here agreed that the major security responsibility in this venture rested, in the nature of the case, upon the French and that consequently the procedure recommended by them would be approved. (After the meeting I sent you a copy of the minutes which I had taken, the original proposals which I had prepared as a suggestion for the American representative, and Telegram No. 2 to the governor summarizing the security procedures agreed upon.)

Subsequently, as I wrote you in my letter of February 18 from Barcelona, the French representative indicated to me that he believed that the French authorities in Algiers, in screening the list of applications, would invoke substantive as well as security considerations in accepting or objecting to individual applicants. Upon our return from Barcelona, the French representative found instructions from his superiors in Algiers, asking for six copies of each application, six photographs and thumbprints of all applicants. This necessitated reopening the whole application process in Barcelona and delayed the process of preparing the applications in Madrid. When I brought this to the attention of the American Embassy here they sent a telegram to Algiers, repeated to Washington, pointing out that their understanding had been that security screening prior to actual embarkation would be kept to a minimum, that the request which the French representative had received implied a long process of screening in Algiers prior to departure of the refugees from Spain and asking for clarification of the situation. Meanwhile we have gone ahead with the collecting of the photographs and thumbprints requested.

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BeBeckelman to D. Andea 2

Most recently, the French representative has indicated to me that he expects that after the questions of principle posed by the applications thus far received have been resolved in Algiers (these questions are indicated in my Telegram No. 3 to the Governor and in my letter of February 12) he, and presumably I, would return to Spain to make the final selection of refugees for North Africa and preparations for the convoy. At that time he would issue a travel document on behalf of the French authorities to those persons whose applications had been accepted. (This travel document, originally envisaged as issued by the BRITISH; French and Americans is now, in accordance with the understanding reached at the Madrid meeting of January 31--see minutes which I have sent you -- to be issued by the French exclusively.) He would also examine and pass upon those applications received here after our departure for North Africa next week. He believes that once the questions of principle have been decided in Algiers, it will be possible for the convoy to leave Spain about the last week of March. (This assumption however seems to me inconsistent with the request received from Algiers for six copies of each application and unless we arrive at some simplification of the procedure in Algiers, the actual departure of the refugees from Spain may be much longer delayed.)

In any case, the question of when the camp opens, and perhaps even whether it opens, now depends, it seems to me, on the position which our representatives in North Africa will take in the discussions which lie ahead. For my guidance it will be most useful to have your comments on my telegram No. 4 to the Governor giving the composition of the four hundred odd persons from whom we have thus far received applications. These are not a typical refugee group as we commonly employ the term but I have thus far been proceeding on the assumptions already communicated to you that in view of the small numbers involved we are interpreting the term refugee rather broadly. (I enclose a more detailed analysis than was possible in my telegram No. 4 of the bulk of the applications thus far received.) To some extent the feasibility of proceeding on this basis depends on our ability to foresee ultimate disposition for these people. On this point I hope to get some ideas from a conference with Patrick Malan who is scheduled to return to North Africa March 8. Meanwhile any suggestions you may have as to ultimate disposition particularly of older people who may come to the camp will be helpful.

Furthermore, if the French objections to certain categories of applicants (e.g. Sephardis, older persons without immigration prospects, people who were not refugees when they came to Spain, etc.) are sustained we may find the number of eligible applicants reduced to the point where it becomes impracticable to operate on a camp basis. Tentatively, I have been using the minimum figure of 500 for this purpose but before any action is taken with respect to the inclusion or elimination of certain categories, I believe some minimum figure should be set by UMRRA.

Assuming that there are no exclusions of applicants by categories but that all rejections are on an individual basis and for security reasons primarily (with a few exceptions in the cases of invalids or aged persons who might be ruled out on those grounds), the estimate given in my letter of February 12 of 700 as the opening camp population will stand. (including the Sephardic group.) It may be somewhat exceeded, depending on the turn of political rumor in Spain. On the other hand, if actual departure is long delayed, military and political developments in Europe generally may not substantially reduce the size of the actual embarkation group when we are finally ready.

Mr Beckelman to D. Anderson--3

Once the camp is operating, if it turns out that we are able to arrange a fair amount of personal freedom for the residents of the camp, we may have additional applicants from the refugee group proper now in Spain who have thus far withheld from applying for the variety of reasons I have indicated in my previous letters, principally from fear of restrictive French control. I have attempted to provide, on principle, for such later application, if they materialize, by suggesting that they be added to subsequent French convoys, but the feasibility of this proposal cannot be determined until the occasion arises.

That is the situation thus far. The French representative will go to Lisbon at the same time as I go to Tangier. He has some business there on behalf of the French Committee and I have suggested to him that he take the opportunity to discuss with Ambassador Norweb, American Minister to Portugal, the possibility of including stateless refugees now in Portugal in the Fedhala project. This he has said he will do. I shall spend a few days in Casablanca meeting the staff people who have arrived, and making such preparatory arrangements and staff assignments as are possible. The French representative should arrive in Casablanca about the end of February and I then expect to go up to Algiers with him to take up there the various questions which, as I have indicated in this and my previous letters and telegrams, will constitute the next order of business.

My next communications should be from Algiers as soon as there is something to report on the further development of arrangements for selection of refugees for the camp.

Sincerely,

N.W. Beckelman

Telegram to Department of State, December 9, 10 p.m. Number 123.  
The following from Royce and Reekie for Latimer and Fryer. Reference  
your 64 of December 4.

Upon the understanding that the movement of such personnel begins after advice from here more clearly defining the camps opening date, AFHQ will authorize transportation of personnel for refugee center in Morocco and its official designation as such. Assistance from the Army will be limited to essential emergency operations. It is recommended by us that a program be set-up immediately in the US for complete food kitchen, mess, billet office and medical facilities in addition to the procurement by you of automotive and truck transportation. Please in the meanwhile advise us of the name as well as the background of the proposed administrative office. We have contemplated filling the post of port transportation officer from here. When the camps opening date is known definitely we will advise Hoehler. We plan to send Beckelman to Spain to help select and process camp refugees and have requested the validation of his passport from the Department of State.

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No. 11

The Representative of the United States of America in Algiers presents his compliments to His Excellency the Commissioner for Foreign Affairs, and referring to the Commissioner's note no. 10832/AE/24, dated November 9, 1943, has the honor to state that his Government accepts with appreciation the offer of the French Committee of National Liberation of the assembly center for refugees at Fedhala, at the same time taking note that it is not the intention of the Committee to subject the refugees to measures which are designed to deprive them of their liberty.

The necessary measures will accordingly be initiated, with the cooperation of the competent French authorities, to select, transport, and receive the refugees at the camp at Fedhala upon their arrival.

December 3, 1943.

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COMITE FRANCAIS DE LA  
LIBERATION NATIONALE

Alger, le 9 NOV 1943

Commissariat aux Affaires Etrangeres  
Direction Politique  
Afrique - Asie- Oceanie  
No.10832/A.E. 124

Le Representant personnel du President ROOSEVELT en Afrique du Nord a bien voulu par note No.36 du 18 Octobre, faire part au Commissaire aux Affaires Etrangeres de l'accord du Gouvernement des Etats Unis aux propositions du Comite Francais concernant le projet d'installation au Maroc des refugies apatrides ou ressortissants de nations ennemies qui sont actuellement retenus en Espagne.

Monsieur Murphy a toutefois appele l'Attention du Departement des Affaires Etrangeres sur l'interest que les Gouvernements americain et anglais attachaient a ce que ces refugies ne puissent etre consideres comme soumis au regime d'internement en camp de concentration.

Le Commissaire aux Affaires Etrangeres a l'honneur de faire savoir a Monsieur Murphy qu'il n'a jamais ete dans les intentions du Comite de frapper les refugies etrangers de mesures privatives de liberte. Le Comite Francais desire comme les Gouvernements americain et britannique assurer aux refugies un asile aussi genereux que possible, mais il lui a paru indispensable de prendre certaines precautions a l'egard de personnes dont les antecedents ne son pas connus et pour lesquelles un simple examen de dossier ne saurait donner des garanties suffisantes.

Il est bien entendu que les autorites francaises sont disposees, apres examen de chaque cas particulier, a accorder aux refugies dont l'activite professionnelle peut s'exercer sans inconvenient pour l'economie du Protectorat, la permission de travailler au Maroc. Ces refugies beneficieront, a ce titre, sous la seul reserve de se soumettre aux controles qui seront juges necessaires, d'une autorisation de sejour dans la localite ou un emploi aura pu leur etre procure.

Pour ce qui concerne les refugies qui n'aurent pas ete autorises a travailler et qui, de ce fait, devront etre maintenus en subsistance au camp de Fedala, il va sans dire que l'Administration francaise leur accordera le cas echeant des facilites pour s'absenter temporairement du centre d'hebergement, a condition qu'ils conservent au camp leur residence habituelle et observent exactement les lois et reglements du pays, notamment ceux relatifs a l'immigration.

Le Commissaire aux Affaires Etrangeres espere que ces dispositions, qui sont prises avec le double souci de traiter humainement des etrangers infortunes et de sauvegarder l'ordre et la securite dans les territoires relevant de la souverainete francaise, rencontreront l'accord des Gouvernements americain et britannique./

(Initial illegible)

Son Excellence Monsieur MURPHY,  
Representant du Gouvernement des Etats  
Unis aupres du Comite Francais de la Liberation Nationale, ALGER.

Copy

No. 36

The President's Special Representative in North Africa presents his compliments to the Commissioner for Foreign Affairs, and has the honor to refer to the latter's note no. 8185/A.E., dated October 2, 1943, concerning the proposal to establish a temporary refuge in North Africa for refugees of enemy nationality and stateless now in Spain. The observations of the French Committee of National Liberation were communicated to the Government of the United States which is grateful that the French authorities are prepared to give asylum to these unfortunate people, but regrets to learn that the French authorities desire to impose conditions of internment upon the refugees who have come from Spain. It was the intention both of the British and United States Governments to avoid any implication that the refugees would be placed in a concentration camp. Thus, in the opinion of the two Governments, it is important that these persons should be given some freedom of movement. Instant and violent public and press criticism might well follow were the refugees to be confined in a camp following their evacuation from Spain. In that connection, it may be recalled that until the liberation of political internees was effected in North Africa, there was considerable public discussion and agitation to accelerate the movement thereof. It is observed that the French Committee points out that there are other internees in Morocco of enemy nationality. It would be greatly appreciated if further information on this subject could be furnished the United States Government.

Participation of the French authorities in the security check as regards refugees prior to their departure from Spain could easily be arranged. This checking procedure would, of course, be conducted for the purpose of preventing the entry into North Africa of any and all refugees whose presence would be undesirable for security reasons. Should the French authorities participate in such security measures, it would seem unnecessary to confine the refugees to a camp or to hold them under any other restrictive measures than those which apply generally to the local population. The reasons for placing them in a camp such as Camp Marshal Lyautey would be to afford the most convenient housing and maintenance, the expenditures for which could thus be controlled and regulated by the British and United States Governments. Whereas the United States Government does not insist that the refugees should be permitted to work outside the camp, it would nevertheless seem desirable from a humanitarian as well as from an economic point of view, that, in accordance with their various qualifications, they should be afforded permission to work.

His Excellency, Rene Massigli,  
Commissioner for Foreign Affairs,  
French Committee of National Liberation,  
Lycee Fromentin, Algiers.

The Government of the United States accepts the condition that not more than 2,000 of these refugees be admitted at the same time in Morocco.

In view of the cost and labor of establishing the center for refugees, among other matters, the Government of the United States would desire to leave open for future agreement between the French, British and United States authorities any question of subsequent transfer of the refugees to other localities, should such question arise.

The Government of the United States accepts the proposal that the French administration should exercise ordinary police control wherever the refugees may be accommodated in association with the personnel under which the reception center will be operated.

The important contribution which the French authorities are making in affording temporary asylum to the persecuted and homeless will be fully understood and appreciated throughout the world. It is hoped that under the circumstances the French authorities may be prepared to waive such restrictive measures as might detract from the broad humanitarian conception of the plan and to give their consent to the reception of the refugees in accordance with the foregoing observations.

October 18, 1943

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COMITE FRANCAIS DE LA  
LIBERATION NATIONALE  
Direction Politique  
Afrique-Asie-Océanie

Alger, le 2 Oct 1943

No. 8185/A.É.

Monsieur le Ministre,

Par une lettre No. 45 du 10 Aout 1943, vous avez bien voulu me faire part de l'interet qu'attacheraient les Gouvernements des Etats-Unis d'Amerique et de Grande-Bretagne a ce que des refugies, apatrides ou ressortissants des nations ennemies, actuellement en Espagne, fussent autorises a s'installer provisoirement au Maroc.

Le logement, l'entretien et le transport des interesses pendant leur sejour au Maroc seraient pris en charge par les Gouvernements americain et britannique. Le commandement americain amanagerait a l'intention des emigrants le "Second replacement center of the Atlantic Base Section" a Fedhala, et le mettrait a leur disposition. Enfin, le Comite executif du Comite intergouvernemental des refugies veillerait au transport ulterieur des interesses dans des pays ou leur etablissement pourrait etre d'une plus longue duree.

Vous avez bien voulu preciser d'autre part que le sejour au Maroc des refugies serait essentiellement temporaire et que le nombre des personnes que seraient admises simultanement dans le Protectorat n'excederait a aucun moment la capacite d'hebergement du camp de Fedhala, soit 2.000 individus.

J'ai l'honneur de vous faire savoir que le Comite Francais de la Liberation Nationale, appreciant la portee humanitaire des intentions des Gouvernements americain et britannique et desireux d'y contribuer dans toute la mesure des moyens a sa disposition, donne son accord au projet en cause conformement aux conditions enoncees ci-dessus.

Il lui parait toutefois necessaire d'ajouter certaines precisions aux indications que vous avez bien voulu fournir au Commissariat sur l'organisation et le fonctionnement du futur centre d'hebergement:

1°) Ainsi que vous le savez, les ressortissants des puissances ennemies domicilies sur le territoire du Protectorat, et en age d'etre mobilises, sont internes, par mesure generale de securite, a moins qu'ils n'aient servi dans la Legion Etrangere, n'aient un parent mobilise dans les armees allies, ou n'aient rendu des services exceptionnels a la France. Dans ces conditions, il parait difficile de traiter plus favorablement les apatrides ou ressortissants des puissances ennemies que nous nous proposons de recevoir. Le Comite estime donc que les refugies ne pourront etre autorises a s'installer hors du centre d'hebergement et a accepter du travail, a moins qu'ils ne satisfassent aux dites conditions. Les dossiers des interesses seront communiquees a la Residence Generale, laquelle accordera les autorisations necessaires.

2°) La ville de Fedhala se trouvant situee sur le littoral et a proximite de Casablanca, il peut ulterieurement s'averer necessaire,

pour des raisons de securite, de transferer les refugies dans une autre localite. Dans ce cas, le Comite de la Liberation en avisera en temps utile les Gouvernements americain et britannique, auxquels il serait demande de bien vouloir assumer la charge d'une nouvelle installation.

3°) Le Gouvernement francais ayant la responsabilite de l'ordre et de la securite dans le territoire du Protectorat, il entre dans les attributions normales de l'administration francaise d'exercer la police du futur centre d'accueil. Cette mission sera devolue aux services de securite du Maroc que se chargeront de la surveillance des refugies, en liaison avec le personnel que vous proposez de placer a la direction du camp.

Si les dispositions qui precedent rencontrent l'agrement des gouvernements americain et britannique, je vous serais reconnaissante de bien vouloir m'en aviser afin de me mettre a meme de faire parvenir au Resident General de France au Maroc les instructions necessaires a leur application./.

Veillez agreer, Monsieur le Ministre, les assurances de ma haute consideration.

(signed) Massigli

A Son Excellence Monsieur MURPHY  
Ministre Plenipotentiaire  
5, rue du Professeur Curtillet  
A L G E R

COPY

August 10, 1943.

No. 45

My dear Mr. Massigli:

You will recall that several days ago I spoke to you concerning the American and British proposal to provide temporary reception and care in North Africa of refugees either stateless or of enemy nationality who are at present in Spain. It is estimated that the total number will be approximately 6,000, but it is most unlikely that this entire group would arrive at any one time. The first group would approximate 1,500. The British and American Governments have accepted the responsibility for the care, maintenance and housing of these refugees during their temporary period of sojourn in North Africa, as well as for their transportation. When the matter was first discussed with General Giraud, it was agreed that it would be essential to transfer them after their arrival at their temporary place of residence to a place of permanent settlement for the duration of the war.

The American military authorities have now agreed to make available the Second Replacement Center of the Atlantic Base Section at Fedhala in Morocco with existing facilities which would provide accommodation for approximately 2,000 refugees plus the staff necessary for the maintenance of a camp. To avoid the implication that the Allied Governments are conducting a concentration camp, it is hoped that the refugees would be given some freedom of movement and that those who were qualified to help meet the labor shortage in North Africa might be granted permits to work temporarily while awaiting transfer elsewhere.

It is further understood that the Executive Committee of the Inter-Governmental Committee on Refugees which recently met in London will attend to the subsequent transportation of the refugees to places of more permanent settlement and their continued care.

I should be most grateful if you would be kind enough to inform me whether this problem meets with the concurrence of the appropriate French authorities. Should it be accepted, I should appreciate it if you would designate the French official with whom further conversations may be held, looking to the settlement of the detailed questions arising in this connection.

Sincerely yours,

His Excellency,  
Mr. Rene Massigli,  
Ambassador of France,  
Lycee Fromentin,  
Algiers.

TRANSLATION OF NOTE DATED OCTOBER 2, 1943 TO AMBASSADOR  
MURPHY FROM THE COMMISSIONER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Mr. Minister:

In your letter No. 45 of August 10, 1943 you indicated that the Governments of the United States and of Great Britain would be interested in seeing that stateless refugees or nationals of enemy countries at present in Spain be authorized to settle temporarily in Morocco.

The housing, maintenance and transportation of these individuals during their stay in Morocco will be assumed by the American and British Governments. The American Command would put in condition for the use of these refugees the "Second Replacement Center, Atlantic Base Section" in Fedhala which would be at their disposal. Finally, the Executive Committee of the Inter-Governmental Committee for Refugees will eventually guarantee the transportation of these refugees in countries where they could settle for a longer time.

You have also specified that these refugees would only remain in Morocco temporarily and that the maximum number admitted at any one time into the Protectorate would never exceed the capacity of the camp at Fedhala, which is 2,000 persons.

I have the honor to inform you that the French Committee of National Liberation fully realizing the humanitarian implications of the intentions of the American and British Governments and wanting to cooperate as fully as possible with these intentions is fully in accord with the project as described above.

It feels however that it should add certain details to the indications which have already been given to the Commissariat regarding the organization and running of this refugee center.

(1) Since the maintenance of security and order within the Protectorate is a responsibility of the French Government, police control of the proposed reception center must be exercised by the French Administration. In this connection and in cooperation with the personnel running the center, the surveillance of refugees will be in the charge of the Security Services in Morocco.

(2) Because of the proximity of Fedhala to Casablanca and its location on the coast, for reasons of security the shifting of the refugees to a different area may be deemed advisable. In such an event, the British and American

Governments...

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C O P Y

No. 36

The President's Special Representative in North Africa presents his compliments to the Commissioner for Foreign Affairs, and has the honor to refer to the latter's note no. 8185/A.E., dated October 2, 1943, concerning the proposal to establish a temporary refuge in North Africa for refugees of enemy nationality and stateless now in Spain. The observations of the French Committee of National Liberation were communicated to the Government of the United States which is grateful that the French authorities are prepared to give asylum to these unfortunate people, but regrets to learn that the French authorities desire to impose conditions of internment upon the refugees who have come from Spain. It was the intention both of the British and United States Governments to avoid any implication that the refugees would be placed in a concentration camp. Thus, in the opinion of the two Governments, it is important that these persons should be given some freedom of movement. Instant and violent public and press criticism might well follow were the refugees to be confined in a camp following their evacuation from Spain. In that connection, it may be recalled that until the liberation of political internees was effected in North Africa, there was considerable public discussion and agitation to accelerate the movement thereof.

Participation of the French authorities in the security check as regards refugees prior to their departure from Spain could easily be arranged. This checking procedure would, of course, be conducted for the purpose of preventing the entry into North Africa of any and all refugees whose presence would be undesirable for security reasons. Should the French authorities participate in such security measures, it would seem unnecessary to confine the refugees to a camp or to hold them under any other restrictive measures than those which apply generally to the local population. The reasons for placing

His Excellency,  
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Algiers.

them in a camp such as Camp Marshal Lyautey, would be to afford the most convenient housing and maintenance, the expenditures for which could thus be controlled and regulated by the British and United States Governments. Whereas the United States Government does not insist that the refugees should be permitted to work outside the camp, it would nevertheless seem desirable from a humanitarian as well as from an economic point of view, that, in accordance with their various qualifications, they should be afforded permission to work.

The Government of the United States accepts the condition that not more than 2,000 of these refugees be admitted at the same time into Morocco.

In view of the cost and labor of establishing the center for refugees, among other matters, the Government of the United States would desire to leave open for future agreement between the French, British and United States authorities any question of subsequent transfer of the refugees to other localities, should such questions arise.

The Government of the United States accepts the proposal that the French administration should exercise ordinary police control wherever the refugees may be accommodated in association with the personnel under which the reception center will be operated.

The important contribution which the French authorities are making in affording temporary asylum to the persecuted and homeless will be fully understood and appreciated throughout the world. It is hoped that under the circumstances the French authorities may be prepared to waive such restrictive measures as might detract from the broad humanitarian conception of the plan and to give their consent to the reception of the refugees in accordance with the foregoing observations.

October 18, 1943.

TRANSLATION OF NOTE DATED NOVEMBER 9, 1943, FROM THE  
COMMISSARIAT FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE FRENCH COMMITTEE  
OF NATIONAL LIBERATION.

The Personal Representative of President Roosevelt in North Africa, by note No. 36 of October 18, kindly advised the Commissioner for Foreign Affairs of the agreement of the Government of the United States to the proposals of the French Committee concerning the project for accommodating in Morocco certain stateless refugees, or nationals of enemy countries, who are now held in Spain.

Mr. Murphy has moreover called the attention of the Commissariat of Foreign Affairs to the interest which the American and British Governments attach to it not appearing that these refugees are being submitted to the internment regime of a concentration camp.

The Commissioner for Foreign Affairs has the honor to advise Mr. Murphy that it has never been the intention of the Committee to subject foreign refugees to measures designed to deprive them of liberty. The French Committee wishes, as do the American and British governments, to assure as generous as possible an asylum to refugees, but it has appeared indispensable to take certain precautions with regard to persons whose antecedents are not known and for whom a simple review of the file would not furnish sufficient guarantees.

It is of course understood that the French authorities are prepared, after an examination of each particular case, to grant permission to work in Morocco to refugees, who can continue their professional work without disadvantage to the economy of the Protectorate. In this connection such refugees will enjoy the right to remain in the area where it will have been possible to obtain employment for them, with the sole reservation of conforming to such controls which may be deemed necessary.

With respect to refugees who will not have been authorized to work and who, as a result, will have to be cared for at the Fedala camp, it goes without saying that the French Administration, if the occasion arises, will grant them facilities to remain away temporarily from the housing center, on condition that they maintain their regular residence at the camp and observe scrupulously the laws and regulations of the country, in particular those regarding immigration.

The Commissioner of Foreign Affairs hopes that these decisions, which have been taken with the two-fold concern



C O P Y

No. 11

The Representative of the United States of America in Algiers presents his compliments to His Excellency the Commissioner for Foreign Affairs, and referring to the Commissioner's note no. 10832/AE/24, dated November 9, 1943, has the honor to state that his Government accepts with appreciation the offer of the French Committee of National Liberation of the assembly center for refugees at Fedhala, at the same time taking note that it is not the intention of the Committee to subject the refugees to measures which are designed to deprive them of their liberty.

The necessary measures will accordingly be initiated, with the cooperation of the competent French authorities, to select, transport, and receive the refugees at the camp at Fedhala upon their arrival.

December 3, 1943.

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I. Transfer of responsibility for the Fedala Camp from the British and American Governments to UNRRA.

(a) The proposal of the Allied authorities was that UNRRA should be responsible solely for the administration of the camp at Fedala and that the responsibility for the transport of refugees to North Africa and for finding new places for the eventual settlement of the refugees would remain with the British and American Governments.

(b) The French reply was in accord with these suggestions subject to the following stipulations:

1. This transfer must not affect or modify the arrangements previously concluded between the British and American Governments and the French authorities concerning the evacuation of the refugees. The understanding is that foreign nationals temporarily received in French Morocco should be transported to the place of their eventual settlement as soon as possible. This is the responsibility of the British and American Governments, <sup>which</sup> ~~who~~ are to undertake the resettlement of these persons at the earliest possible moment, and is not a program tied to any general plan for the repatriation of war refugees upon the initiative of UNRRA.

2. Generally, the French stipulate that this transfer must make no restriction on or modification of accords previously concluded between the CFLN and the Allied authorities concerning the refugee center at Fedala.

(c) The French made the following stipulations to Beckelman:

1. Repatriation of refugees. The accord between the Allied Governments and the CFLN expressly provides that the refugees will only stay temporarily in Morocco and that the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees will assure their transport to the places of eventual settlement. The activities of the British and American Governments for the resettlement of these people must be realized as soon as possible and must not be tied to any general program for the repatriation of refugees and deportees.

2. Insofar as administration of the Fedala Camp is concerned, the terms of the notes exchanged among the Allied Governments and

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the CPLN must be adhered to.

(a) There will be a French agent participating in the direction of the camp.

(b) The French authorities in Morocco will be concerned with questions of public order and security and will take all measures which it deems useful in cooperation with the camp authorities.

3. Insofar as the status of the refugees is concerned, they will be subject, during their stay in Morocco, to the laws and regulations in force in the Protectorate. After special examination in each individual case, the French authorities will have the right to grant permission to work in Morocco to those refugees whose professional activity may be exercised without inconveniencing the economy of the Protectorate. Subject to their submitting themselves to any controls deemed necessary, such persons will enjoy under this title an authorization to stay in the locality where they are employed. Refugees who have not been authorized to work must stay in the camp. If such be the case, the French authorities may accord them permission to be temporarily absent from the camp on condition that they keep their habitual residence there and observe the laws and regulations of the country. These dispositions were already agreed to by the American authorities in 1943.

II. Status of Sephardic Jews to be attached to the camp.

(a) Beckelman asked that permission be given to receive such persons at the camp under the same condition as other stateless refugees temporarily resident there.

(b) The Commissariat of Foreign Affairs agreed to this request with the following conditions:

1. Receipt of such persons at the camp must be carried out in conformity with the accords <sup>previously</sup> ~~recently~~ concluded between the French and Allied authorities.

2. The Sephardic Jews so received must not be nationals of a country which is not at war, on the territory of which the refugees could find asylum. *see below (\*)*

III. Mobilization of refugees in Fedala Camp.

(a) The French authorities stipulate that all foreign refugees capable of bearing ~~as~~ <sup>the</sup> costs on their arrival in North Africa are to be

mobilized in the French Army or in the ranks of the British Pioneers, or are obligated to participate in some other way in the Allied war effort. The French feel it just to apply such dispositions to stateless refugees.

(b) Therefore the French propose that persons in the Fedala camp who are subject to mobilization should be asked to submit themselves to these conditions. Those who refuse to participate in the common war effort should be maintained only in the camp and would not benefit from the facilities envisaged in the accords passed between the Allied Governments and the French authorities.

(\*) In addition —

(a) total number refugees at camp may not exceed 2000

(b) security regulations same  
no entrance to ~~the~~ Morocco without prior agreement of Br & Amer security services

(c) ~~Refugees~~ are subject to regulations issued under agreement by Br & Amer authorities, for stay in Morocco