

is with Passport to Relief and
Refugees: Evacuations To and
From Turkey

Evacuation To and Through Turkey, Vol. 1, Folder 1

000701

PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES: EVACUATION TO & THRU
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WAR REFUGEE BOARD

000702

EVACUATION TO & THRU TURKEY (CONTINUED)

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000703



000704

CROSS REFERENCE ON PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF
AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES: EVACUATION
TO AND THRU' TURKEY

FOR:

Amendment to this License ☐
Extension of this License ☐
Renewal of this License ☐
Correspondence concerning this application . ☐
Other (Specify)

1. FOR MATERIAL RE JEWS IN RUMANIA
2. FOR FUTHER MATERIAL RE RESCUES TO AND THROUGH TURKEY
3. FOR MATERIAL REFERRING TO THIS FILE

- SEE: 1. PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES:
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000705

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

Evac. to U.S. Turkey ①
INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

JED-1430
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. (██████)

Ankara *War Ref BR*
Dated June 28, 1945 (*Ordey*)
Rec'd 1455 p.m., 29th

Secretary of State,
Washington.

868, June 28, 3 p.m.

Ministry for Foreign Affairs states 54 people
still under detention in two hotels are divided into
two categories: one consisting of 25 persons of
former TURK nationality (only two of whom were ever
before in Turkey) who were deprived of TURK nationality
under TURK law before arrival in Turkey; the other
consisting of 29 people who are "Heimatlosun" (DEPTS
624, June 16 for DEPT and WRB).

Ministry states further that most of these people
now wish to return to their former residences in
various European countries (rather than proceed to
Palestine) and inquires how they can obtain permission
to do so. JDC representative advises current costs now
reduced to approximately 500 Turk pounds (\$275) daily for
70 (repeat 70) people. List of names being obtained.

WILSON

RB

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

000706

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

RECEIVED
DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
Distribution of Telegram
Reading only by special
Arrangement 1945 AM 10 29

June 16, 1945

6 p.m.

War Ref Bd
(Counselor)

AMEMBASSY

DC/L

CONTROL COPY

ANKARA
624

FROM DEPT AND WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Kindly report on present situation of 112 refugees ex
DROTTINGHOLM whose Turkish nationality has been questioned
by Turkish Govt (URTEL 606 May 4 and DEPTTEL 508 May 11).

Joint Distribution Committee reports maintenance costing
\$600 daily is proving burdensome. If you consider it feasible
kindly request of Turkish FONOFF release for residence for
group with a view to reducing maintenance costs. Whatever
result of foregoing kindly request JDC representative to supply
identifying data of individuals in group particularly countries
of prewar residence and length of such residences with a view
to exploration of possibilities of return to those countries.
Entry of group to Palestine ^{within quota} is still considered best solution
as majority are understood to desire such entry.

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

GREW
(Acting)
(Clerk)

WHE:GLWarren:kg
6/16/45

NE

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

Proposed Code not used
in files

000707

Evac. to + thru Turkey (1)

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement.

May 11, 1945
1 p.m.

1945 MAY 12 AM 9 20

AMEMBASSY

96/L

CONTROL COPY

ANKARA

508

(WRB:150)

The following from Department and War Refugee Board refers
to your 606 May 4.

In view of the cessation of hostilities in Europe, Department and Board are disposed to await developments resulting from termination of the war before taking a firm stand on the disposition of the non-Turkish refugee group ex 33 Drottningholm.

It has therefore been decided to await developments with respect to (a) the number of individuals who will be eligible for admission to Palestine under quota and (b) what requests the Turkish Government might make with respect to the ultimate disposition of those who are determined not eligible for admission to Palestine.

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

GREW
ACTING
(GREW)

WRB:MMV:kg
5/11/46

NE

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

CABLE TO OFFICER IN CHARGE, AMEMBASSY, ANKARA, FROM DEPARTMENT
AND WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Reference your 606 of May 4, 1945.

In view of the cessation of hostilities in Europe, Department and Board are disposed to await developments resulting from termination of the war before taking a firm stand on the disposition of the non-Turkish refugee group ex SS Drottningholm.

It has therefore been decided to await developments with respect to (a) the number of individuals who will be eligible for admission to Palestine under quota and (b) what requests the Turkish Government might make with respect to the ultimate disposition of those who are determined not eligible for admission to Palestine.

3:05 p.m.
May 10, 1945

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Cohn, DuBois, Gaston, Hodel, Hutchison, McCormack, O'Dwyer, Files.

PJM:FH:hd 5/10/45

*Intelligence copy not needed
in files 5/22/45*

000704

Draft 5/9/45

in final form

CABLE TO OFFICER IN CHARGE, AMEMBASSY, ANKARA, TURKEY, FROM DEPARTMENT AND WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Reference your 606, May 4, 1945.

In view of the cessation of hostilities in Europe, Department and Board are disposed to await developments resulting from termination of the war before taking a firm stand on the disposition of the non-Turkish refugee group ex SS Drottningholm.

[The assurances given in Department's 146 of February 25, 1944, certainly affected the disposition of those refugees received into Turkey during the period of hostilities, and while this stand of the Department and Board was restated in Department's 405 of April 9, 1945, it is our understanding that this repetition of assurances was not renewed.]

It has therefore been decided to await developments with respect to (a) the number of individuals who will be eligible for admission [Turkey] to Palestine under quota and (b) what requests the Turkish Government might make with respect to the ultimate disposition of those who are determined not eligible for admission to Palestine.

B.M.

000710

Evac. to Turkey (1)

*2 Wap. Ref. Bd.
(O'Deinger)*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, Ankara via Army
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: May 4, 1945
NUMBER: 606
X

CONTROL COPY

URGENT.

Reference Department's 146, February 25, 1944; 405, April 9; and Embassy's 519, April 15.

No special arrangements will be made for entrance of the non-Turkish refugees ex SS DROTENINGHOLM into Palestine, but individuals eligible under the quota scheme will be permitted to enter in proper order, according to the British Embassy.

I have received information from a responsible official of the Foreign Office that the matter of requesting the Government of the United States to make arrangements for removal of these refugees to another place is being considered. This official made reference to assurances which he declared had been given earlier with regard to Jewish refugees who might be permitted to enter Turkey and I assume he was referring to the assurances authorized in Department's 146, although since he was not on duty in Ankara he did not handle the question personally at that time. This official stated that he was contemplating despatching instructions to the Turkish Embassy in Washington to take the matter up with the Government of the United States with the idea

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

000711

mind of determining whether such assurances were applicable to these refugees in respect. My suggestion was that we should have an additional discussion on the matter before he did so in order that he might supply me precise data regarding nations of origin, numbers involved, and the like. He promises to do this.

I suggest that assurances might be limited to refugees who may not be eligible to enter Palestine under the quota scheme, with reference to the problem of renewing the assurances which were authorized in Department's 148 and particularly those cited in the Department's 405 paragraph three, to the effect that the WRB will put forth all efforts to move all refugees of this group from Turkey to other places, provided such action becomes desirable. Provided WRB and the Department agree, unless it be preferred that the matter be taken care of with the Turkish Embassy in Washington, I might so indicate here. I should be grateful to receive instructions defining the term desirable, in this connection. With regard to whether removal of refugees from Turkey is desirable, is this to be determined by the Turkish Government or the WRB? The viewpoint of Turkey that their stay in Turkey is not desirable is already known.

PACKER

DC/L:MED:AN
5-5-45

000712

Evac to & thru Turkey (1)

Ankara, April 25, 1945

3 Star
Refugee Board
(Kreas)

~~RESTRICTED~~

No. 1226

X

Subject: Exchange Ship DROTTNINGHOLM'S
Call at Istanbul.

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

CONTROL COPY

Sir:

With reference to the Embassy's telegram no. 552 of April 23, 1945, reporting the departure of the Swedish liner DROTTNINGHOLM from Istanbul on April 21 bearing a party of German nationals en route to Germany, I have the honor to chronicle briefly the events connected with the DROTTNINGHOLM's call at the port of Istanbul.

The ship arrived at Istanbul on the morning of April 10, bringing (Embassy's telegram no. 496, April 11) a total of 330 passengers, of whom 229 were Turkish nationals, twenty-one of other nationality, and eighty of doubtful nationality status, now being studied by the Turkish authorities. According to the Ankara newspaper ULUS of April 11, 1945, the ship also brought 2500 tons of cargo which included machinery, machine parts, iron and steel articles, cellulose, newsprint, and 300 kilos of medical supplies.

The ship remained at dock for a few days to unload her cargo, prepare for the accommodation of the passengers proceeding to Sweden (fifty of whom had boarded the ship at Port Said, Egypt, and were already aboard), and take on Turkish export goods as cargo for the return voyage. She was then moved offshore to a mooring.

The German exchange group from Ankara, numbering 124, left by special train for Istanbul on April 17, 1945, accompanied by the Assistant Director General of Protocol, Mr. Bencet Sefik Ozdoganci. An officer of the Embassy who witnessed the departure of the train from the suburban railway station at Gazi Ciftlik was impressed by the smart clothes and apparent good spirits of the members of the group. Upon arrival at Haydarpasa Station, Istanbul, the next morning, April 18, the group was

immediately.

APR 25 1945

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

000713

Immediately taken aboard a Bosphorus ferryboat, the Goztepe. After having papers and luggage checked at the Galata Customs House, the passengers were delivered direct to the DROTNINGHOLM at its mooring. That evening the Germans interned at Istanbul were brought to the Customs House for the final check and then taken to the ship. Final loading and completion of formalities delayed the ship's departure until April 21. As reported in the Embassy's telegram 552, April 23, under reference, the passenger list of 439 persons included 311 of the Germans under internment in Turkey (leaving in this country 152 Germans who had been expected to go back but who decided against making the trip), fifty Germans who had boarded the ship at Port Said, one Spaniard, two Portuguese (Dr. Luis Norton de Matos, former Portuguese Charge d'Affaires, and his wife), fifty-one Swiss, and twenty-four Swedes. Those Germans who refused to return on the exchange ship are to be interned temporarily, according to the Istanbul newspaper CUMHURİYET of April 19, 1945, in the German School at Istanbul. Their subsequent disposition is under consideration by the Turkish Government. The responsible official at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs told an officer of the Embassy some days ago that it was planned to place them in enforced residence in an Anatolian provincial town under conditions similar to those in which there are now held certain German nationals at Corum, Yozgat and Kirsehir.

Mr. Etienne Lardy, Swiss Minister at Ankara, is reported by the Istanbul newspaper TASVIR of April 20, to have said regarding assertions that German citizenship would be withdrawn from those Germans who refused to return to Germany on the DROTNINGHOLM:

"No application has been made to my Government by the German Government with the purpose of depriving of German citizenship the Germans wishing to remain in Turkey. These Germans will remain as they are for the present. However, there is no telling what the future may bring."

As representative of the Protecting Power, Mr. Lard and his staff have been overwhelmed with work in making arrangements for the DROTNINGHOLM exchange. The Minister himself has been criticized at Ankara by the United Nations representatives for his legalistic interpretations of German rights and privileges and his insistence on doing everything possible for his German charges.

Respectfully yours,

E. L. Packer,
Charge d'Affaires ad interim.

CC:

Division of Near Eastern Affairs.

File No. 741.5

REG/gm

To the Department in Original and hectograph.

000714

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

Mar R. E. Egan

JP-686

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

Ankara via Army

Dated April 23, 1945

Rec'd 9:10 a.m., 24th

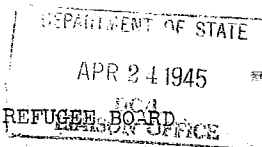
CONTROL COPY

Secretary of State,

Washington.

552, April 23, 7 p.m.

FOR DEPARTMENT AND WAR REFUGEE BOARD
REEMBS 529



The SS DROTTNINGHOLM departed Istanbul April 21.

According to Swedish Legation here she carried following
persons in addition to crew, 311 Germans from Turkey
50 Germans taken aboard at Port Said 1 Spaniard, 2 Portugues.
51 Swiss and 24 Swedes.

Istanbul newspaper VATAN April 21 reports ship
carried following cargo loaded in Istanbul (in tons):
1200 chrome 900 raisins 200 emery, 500 hazelnuts, 60
peachstones, 50 liquorice, 2 cigarettes, 60 casings.

PACKER

EDA

000715

Evac. to + thru Turkey (1)
DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

DSH-677

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

Ankara

Quar Ref 2d
Dated April 17, 1945

J S
Rec'd 11:25 p.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

529, April 17, 6 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
APR 20 1945
DC/L
LIAISON OFFICE

CONTROL COPY

Interned official Germans numbering about 120 left
Ankara for Istanbul by train today (REEMBS 519, April 15)
for departure on DROTTNINGHOLM. Only one sick woman
remained here. Of Germans in Turkey numbering 463
(REEMBS despatches 1153, March 24 and 1179, April 4)
scheduled to depart on DROTTNINGHOLM, a responsible
Foreign Office official says 178 have asked permission
to remain in Turkey.

Ranking German official leaving Ankara today is
Minister Counselor Jenke who was accompanied by his
wife, a sister of Ribbentrop.

PACKER

WNB

000716

789
APR 18 1945

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Harold Trobe was received through the United States Embassy in Lisbon under date of April 16, 1945:

"Trobe Fishzohn boarded DROTTHOLM April 10. Advise only 30 passengers permitted disembark. Remaining 112 put aboard Turkish tender awaiting official decision concerning validity their Turkish authorities may seriously question nationality of great many this group. They working towards solution of problem but may require intervention WRB and IGC. Promise fuller report advised Linder."

Very truly yours.

(Signed) Florence Hodel

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

Mr. Moses A. Leavitt,
Secretary,
American Jewish Joint Distribution
Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,
New York 16, New York.

RBH
RBH:inp 4/17/45

000711

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

DHE-127

1945 APR 17 AM 9 06

PLAIN

Lisbon

Dated April 16, 1945

Rec'd 2:47 p.m.

U.S. LIAISON

Secretary of State

Washington

789, Sixteenth

WRB 381 JDC 216 FOR LEAVITT FROM TROBE

Trobe Fishzohn boarded DROTTHINGHOLM April 10.

Advise only 30 passengers permitted disembark. Remaining 112 put aboard Turkish tender awaiting official decision concerning validity their Turkish authorities may seriously question nationality of great many this group. They working towards solution of problem but may require intervention WRB and IGC. Promise fuller report advised Linder.

BARUCH

WFS

CONTROL COPY

000718

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

MF-1971

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

RECEIVED
DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES

Dated April 15, 1945

15 APR 15 Rep'd 4:45 p.m.

Secretary of State

DC/L
LIAISON

Washington

CONTROL COPY

US URGENT

519, April 15, 10 a.m.

I informed the appropriate Foreign Office official yesterday that rooms had been reserved for the 80 refugees ex-SS DROTTNINGHOLM now on board another vessel at Istanbul (REEMBS 503 April 12) (*) more hotels in that city and inquired whether it would not be possible to allow them to come ashore particularly in view of the fact that no sleeping accommodations were available on board the small vessel in question and of the fact that eating facilities on board were unsatisfactory. He informed me later that instructions had been issued to allow the refugees to come ashore.

PACKER

WTD

(*) Apparent omission.

000719

Enc. to Mr. Leavitt - (1)

April 18, 1945

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Arthur Fishohn was received through the United States Consulate in Istanbul under date of April 14, 1945:

"No. 6 cabled Jerusalem Lisbon: 'Fifth day passengers on Turkish tender. Every effort being made for immediate debarkation at Istanbul as nationals of Turkey or right of domicile here. Excellent cooperation extended by our top friends. War Refugee Board and Intergovernmental Committee should nevertheless stand by. Sending you a list of Jewish passengers and names of nearest relatives to be notified by pouch. Should this list be cabled by us?'"

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Florence Hodel
Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

Mr. Moses A. Leavitt,
Secretary,
American Jewish Joint Distribution
Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,
New York 16, New York.

RBH:ve 4/18/45

000720

DEPT. OF STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

RECEIVED
DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES

Man Rite

MJW-1960

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

Istanbul

1945 APR 16 AM 9
Dated April 14, 1945

DC/L Rec'd 2:53 p.m., 15th
LIAISON

Secretary of State

Washington

CONTROL COPY

126, April 14, 5 p.m.

Please transmit following message to Moses Leavitt

Joint Distribution Committee New York from Arthur Fishzohn

Joint Distribution Committee Istanbul.

"No. 6 cabled Jerusalem Lisbon:

"Passengers on Turkish tender fifth day. Making every effort for immediate debarkation at Istanbul as Turkish nationals or right of domicile here. Our top friends extending excellent cooperation. Nevertheless War Refugee Board and intergovernmental committee should stand by. Sending you by pouch a list of Jewish passengers and names of nearest relatives to be notified. Should we cable this list?"

TROUTMAN

WMB

000721

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM
RECEIVED
DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

GEM-785 1945 APR 13 AM 9 06
This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Governmental
agency. (Packer Liaison)
Ankara via Army
Dated April 12, 1945
Rec'd 10:06 a.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

CONTROL COPY

503, April 12, 3 p.m.

I have discussed with the Minister of Foreign Affairs again this morning the question of the individuals who arrived on the DROTTNINGHOLM and who have been placed temporarily on board another boat in the harbor of Istanbul (REEMBS 496, April 11). I was told the discussions with the British Embassy regarding their admission to Palestine are progressing favorably; that technically they have been admitted to Turkey and are being kept on the boat which serves as a hotel merely temporarily until decision as to their eventual destination is made and that arrangements are being made with the necessary safeguards for them to be allowed in individual cases to go ashore from time to time for short periods.

Jacob Troge and Arthur Fishzohn of the United States JDC were allowed to visit the refugees yesterday and are assisting them with clothing and other supplies.

PACKER

WFS

000722

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

Encl to Turkey
(1) INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

MES-588

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

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES

Ankara via Army

W. K. 2d.
Q. Sawyer
Date April 11, 1945

Rec'd. 7:10 p.m.

DC/L
LIAISON

Secretary of State,
Washington.

CONTROL COPY

496, April 11, 5 p.m.

In view of the information contained in my 487,
April 9, 6 p.m. which crossed Department's 405, April
9, 7 p.m. and of the information furnished below it
seems undesirable for the moment to give any assurances
to the Turkish Government along the line authorized
and I shall accordingly take no action along that line
unless and until further developments require it.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has just informed
me that a total of 330 passengers arrived at Istanbul
on the DROTTHINGHOLM yesterday. These are divided into
the following categories:

- A. 35 Turkish diplomatic and consular officers and
members of their families.
- B. 88 Turkish students.
- C. 36 private Turkish citizens.
- D. 70 Turkish Jews.
- E. 8 foreign diplomats.

F. 13

000723

-2- #496, April 11, 5 p.m., From Ankara via Army

F. 13 foreign nationals. These 250 individuals were all permitted to enter Turkey officially immediately.

The remaining 80 persons are divided into the following categories:

G. 7 Jews without (*) formerly Turkish nationals but who have been deprived of Turkish citizenship.

H. 70 Jews without documents of identification.

I. 3 individuals apparently Turk nationals who have no passports.

These 80 individuals have been put temporarily on board a vessel at Istanbul where they will be held for the time being pending decision as to their ultimate destination. The Turks are questioning them with a view to establishing their identity nationality, et cetera.

PACKER

WTD

(*) apparent omission

000724

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, Ankara via Army
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: April 12, 1945
NUMBER: 504
x

*2 War Ref. Bd.
(O'Dwyer)*

CONTROL COPY

PRIORITY

Reference is made herewith to Embassy's cable of April 12, no. 503.

This afternoon the official at the Turkish Foreign Office who is handling the question of Germans scheduled to depart on the DROTTNINGHOLM informed a member of the Embassy staff as follows:

The Government of Turkey has told the Swiss Legation (handling German interests) that it will not compel any Germans to leave Turkey aboard the DROTTNINGHOLM. Those who remain here, however, will be classified by Security Directorate of Interior Ministry according to each individual's case history and each must agree to subject himself to whatever administrative regulations the Government of Turkey decides to impose. Moreover, Germans staying must clearly understand that Turkey as one of the United Nations is bound to deliver for trial to any other United Nation upon demand the person of anyone who is held by that nation to be a war criminal. Question of whether an extradition treaty is in force between Turkey and the United Nations making the demand will not be raised.

Vice Admiral Ralf von Der Mervitz, former German Naval Attache, is among the 101 persons whose applications to stay in Turkey has been made already. It is expected that 50 to 60 additional names will be added to the list of those wishing to stay. The Government of Turkey on humanitarian grounds will assume support of those with-

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

000725

-2-

out funds who stay, as the Swiss Legation will presumably cut off financial support from official German sources. Those who stay and are not considered to be dangerous from the security angle will be placed in enforced residence in some Anatolia town similar to Corum, Hozgata or Kirsehir where there are in restricted residence the German nationals who last August refused to return to Germany.

PACKER

DC/L:VAG 4/13/45

000721

UNITED NATIONS
RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION
1344 CONNECTICUT AVENUE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

General William O'Dwyer
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Room 2426, Treasury Department
Washington 25, D. C.

11 APR 1945

Attention: Miss Florence Hodel

Dear General O'Dwyer:

We are enclosing a copy of the cable, which, on the basis of our telephone conversation 10 April 1945, we are sending to our Cairo Office. We appreciate your making this information available to us so promptly.

Very truly yours,

Thomas M. Cooley II

Thomas M. Cooley, II
Deputy Director
Division on Displaced Persons

Enclosure

000727

AMLEGATION

CAIRO

UNRRA FROM LEHMAN

- A. For your information WRB informs us that in exchange of nationals between Germany and Turkey now being carried out Istanbul, Turkey may accept 134 Jews from German concentration camps claiming Turkish nationality, not recognized by Turkish authorities, on condition U.S., U.K. underwrite their maintenance while in Turkey and immediate transfer to other country.
 - B. Several possibilities.
 1. Group may be refused admittance to Turkey and returned Gothenberg.
 2. Group may be underwritten by WRB in Turkey and shipped by rail to Palestine without UNRRA aid.
 3. UNRRA may be asked to undertake care of group as an UNRRA responsibility and provide for care in transit and transportation to UNRRA camp.
 - C. Instructions:
 1. Keep in touch with developments in Turkey. Will cable all additional information received in Washington.
 2. Press for B2 above.
 3. If UNRRA asked to care for group make all arrangements for shelter Mid-East or transfer to Italian Mission with care en route Turkey.
- Repeated as Airgram to Geneva and Rome.

000728

4/12/45

Copies to:

Mr. Warren
Mr. McCormack
Mrs. Cohn
Mrs. Towler

000729

2 in Ref Bd.
(O. Sawyer)

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Embassy, London
DATED: April 9, 1945
NUMBER: 2757

CONTROL COPY

U. S. URGENT.

See your March 28 cable No. 3186. War Refugee Board and Department assume that you have discussed with the Foreign Office Ankara's April 17 cable No. 29. Along these lines, you should stress the desirability from a security standpoint of removing German nationals and officials from Turkey as soon as possible, a view which the Foreign Office presumably shares. Also, it is believed by the Department to be very undesirable that any Jews released from Germany for purpose of exchange be returned ultimately to Germany as such a development, apart from almost certain hardship to persons concerned, would probably imperil seriously pending negotiations, looking toward the departure of Jews from Germany in exchanges between this Government and the German Government.

SEPTINIUS

SWP:REH:bard:MA

Paraphrased
DC/L:FR 4/11/45

ER

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

Original only not used - 5/14/5

000730

2 War Ref. Bd.

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Embassy, Ankara
DATED: April 9, 1945
NUMBER: 405

CONTROL COPY

Please refer to your cable of April 7, No. 473, which as No. 29 was repeated to London.

The American Embassy in London has been asked by the Department and the War Refugee Board to emphasize with the Foreign Office of Great Britain the desirability of removing German nationals from Turkey, from the standpoint of security. Further, the message states that it would be highly desirable that Jews who have been released from Germany for exchange not be returned to Germany, since such an eventuality would seriously endanger the success of exchanges later on, aside from almost certain hardship to the people concerned.

You are authorized further, in this connection, to renew, in your discretion, the assurances which were contained in cable dated February 25, 1944, from the Department, No. 146, and the following in particular:

(b) In maintaining refugees in Turkey, the Board is prepared to render full assistance.

(c) The Board will make every effort to move refugees from Turkey to other locations, should such action become desirable, if the Government of Turkey takes the steps necessary

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

000731

necessary to facilitate the entry of a substantial number of refugees.

If, as and when it becomes evident that the 134 refugees on board the DROTTHOLM may not be admitted to Palestine, the repetition of such assurances to the Government of Turkey should be made in your discretion and for the purpose of inducing the Government of Turkey to receive them in Turkey pending arrangements for their removal to some other place. The assurances which are contained in (b) above should in your discretion be repeated to the Government of Turkey in the event the Government of Great Britain advises that the 134 refugees in question may be admitted to Palestine when the quota permits. You are requested to do everything possible to secure the admission to Turkey of the 134 refugees aboard the DROTTHOLM, within the framework of the foregoing.

In case the refugees cannot be admitted to Palestine, the War Refugee Board is consulting UNRRA to make provision for them at an UNRRA control camp.

The assurances given above should not be used in any way to encourage refusal of admission of the group to Palestine by the British, which is the most desirable solution by far.

STETTINIUS

WRB:GLM: J

Paraphrased:

DC/L:LCW:AN
4-18-45

*Proposed copy not
received in files*

000732

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM
DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

*War Rep 122
(O'Reilly)*

EAS-1910

1945 APR 10 AM 8:50

This telegram must be
paraphrased before being DC/L Dated April 9, 1945
communicated to anyone
other than a Government LIAISON Rec'd 8:30 p.m.
Agency. (RESTRICTED)

Secretary of State,
Washington.

CONTROL COPY

487, April 9, 6 p.m.

The official in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
who is handling the matter (REEMBS 473, April 7) has just
informed me the Turkish Government has decided to allow
the 134 Jewish persons on the DROTTHINGHOLM to land at
Istanbul pending the "eventual determination of their
fate".

Sent to Department, repeated London as 31.

PACKER

JT

APR 10 1945
RECEIVED
TELEGRAPH SECTION
DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

000733

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

LFR-1452

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

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
Ankara

APR 8 AM 10 49

Dated April 7, 1948
Rec'd 11:42 p.m.

DC/L
LIAISON

Secretary of State,
Washington.

CONTROL COPY

PRIORITY

473, April 7, 6 p.m.

Prior to the receipt today of Department's reference
cable I had discussed with Foreign Office, the British
Embassy and the Swedish Legation the question of the
134 Jewish persons on board the DROTTNINGHOLM which is
expected in Istanbul on Monday. (REDEPTTEL 393, April
5 and London's 19, March 28).

Just prior to his departure on April 5 for the
San Francisco Conference as a member of the Turk
delegation, Acting Secretary General Erkin informed
me these individuals were embarked on the DROTTNINGHOLM
without prior notification to or the consent of the
Turk Government; that few if any of them have any claim
to Turkish nationality; that the Turk Government would
probably not (repeat not) permit them to disembark from
the DROTTNINGHOLM even for a temporary stay in Istanbul;
and it might send them all back to Sweden from Turkey

on the

000734

-2- #473, April 7, 6 p.m., from Ankara

on the return voyage of the DROTTNINGHOLM. I informed Erkin that I thought any such action on the part of the Turk Government might have an unfortunate effect particularly at this time, upon Turk-American relations in view of the publicity in the United States press that would be sure to attend any such action its part.

In conversation yesterday with the Foreign Office official who has this matter immediately in charge (REEMBS 450, April 3) I reiterated to him the point of view expressed to Erkin which he said he shared. He stated the Turk Government had not yet decided what position it would take with respect to permitting these persons to land at Istanbul.

I expressed the above mentioned point of view last evening to the British Ambassador before he saw the Acting Foreign Minister with whom he discussed this matter. The Foreign Office official last referred to above informs me this afternoon the British Ambassador was informed by Sumer that the Turk Government is prepared to permit the persons in question to enter Turkey in transit if the British Government will undertake to permit them to enter Palestine. The British Ambassador informs me this afternoon that he informed Sumer during their conversation last night that he would telegraph to London (he has since done so) requesting instructions as

000735

-3- #473, April 7, 6 p.m., from Ankara

instructions as to whether the British Government is willing to let these individuals enter Palestine under the quota scheme. Peterson states some of the persons are German Jews, some of other nationalities. He states further he cabled to London some days ago on this subject and the reply he received did not encourage him to believe these persons will be admitted to Palestine. I gather he feels a reply from London may not be forthcoming immediately.

In view of foregoing Department may desire to discuss this phase of the matter with the British Government. I had discussed this subject with a Secretary of the British Embassy at the time London's 19 was received and learned the cable referred to above by the British Ambassador had been sent to London. The Secretary promised I would be informed when a reply was received. Yesterday the Swedish Minister informed me that if the Turkish authorities declined to permit these persons to disembark in Turkey all (repeat all) Turkish nationals on board the DROTTNINGHOLM might be prevented from disembarking and taken back to Sweden along with the 134 Jewish persons concerned.

Repeated to London as 29.

PACKER

JM.

000736

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE EK-333

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

RECEIVED
DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES

PLAIN

London

Dated April 5, 1945

1945 APR 6 AM 9 01c'd 10:48 a.m.

Secretary of State, DC/L
Washington. LIAISON

3459, Fifth.

CONTROL COPY

Please deliver the following message to the War
Refugee Board from Intergovernmental Committee on refugees

Message begins: We understand World Jewish Congress
has sought your assistance through American Embassy London
behalf 137 Jews en route Istanbul via SS DROTTNINGHOLM
as part of Turkish German exchange whose Turkish nation-
ality uncertain. According our information essential
question is whether disembarkation will be permitted and
we would advise intervention only in case such dis-
embarkation is in doubt. For your information we are
informed that Jewish Agency London has requested Jewish
Agency Jerusalem to authorize its representative Istanbul
to issue Palestinian certificates to above mentioned
group if this measure necessary to achieve disembarkation.
We believe this arrangement is satisfactory and would
suggest it be invoked if there is difficulty concerning
disembarkation. Message ends.

WFS

WINANT

000737

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM
RECEIVED
DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

HH-227
Distribution of this message
reading only by special
arrangement. (W)

Ankara
Dated April 3, 1945

Rec'd 10:16 p.m., 4th

Secretary of State,

Washington.

CONTROL COPY

450, April 3, 7 p.m.

Inasmuch as there is no War Refugee Board representative in Turkey the subject raised in our telegram No. 19 of March 29, 12 noon was discussed today by a member of the Embassy staff with the official of the Turk Ministry of Foreign Affairs charged with such matters. This official confirmed that the 134 Jewish refugees on the DROTTHINGHOLM were without identification papers and said that they had been put on the vessel by the German Government without the knowledge or acquiescence of the Turk Government. The official added that under Turk law it would be impossible to allow these refugees to stay here and that the British Government through the British Embassy in Ankara had been asked whether it could disembark these people at Port Said in order that they might be transported to Palestine. The official added that if the American and British Governments were to guarantee that these refugees would be accepted elsewhere the Turk

Government

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972

For security reasons the
text of this message must
be classified "Secret".

000738

-2-, #450, April 3, 7 p.m., from Ankara.

Government might be disposed to permit them to land and remain for a short time in Turkey.

To this last suggestion the member of my staff pointed out that the Embassy had no authority to make such a guarantee and that it was entirely for the British Government to decide whether these people should be admitted to Palestine. In conclusion the Turk official was reminded of the unfortunate effect which Turkey's refusal to permit these refugees to land might have on public opinion in the United States particularly since Turkey is now a member of the United Nations.

Sent to London repeated to the Department as No. 450.

PACKER

JMB

000739

Gene to Wm Dwyer (1)

MAR 31 1945

Dear Dr. Goldmann:

Through the American Embassy in London, Dr. L. Zelmanovits has requested that the following message be delivered to you:

"On the exchange vessel, Drottningholm, there are 134 Jewish repatriates from Germany released as part of a group of 700 Turkish citizens. They have no papers. It is feared (1) that Turkish Government may not let them enter Turkey, and (2) that the Turkish Government may not consider them as Turkish exchangees and consequently refuse to release in exchange for them an equivalent number of Germans which might entail the return of the Jewish refugees to Germany. It is requested that the War Refugee Board intervene with the Turkish Government on behalf of these 134 Jewish refugees with a view to letting them enter Turkey on humanitarian grounds and especially with a view to having an equivalent number of Germans released in order that the exchange of these refugees may be completed. Should Turkey refuse entry to them, it is requested that War Refugee Board arrange for them to go to UNRRA camp at Philippeville. Vessel now en route to Lisbon whence it will continue to Near East.

The War Refugee Board, in cooperation with the Department of State, is investigating the foregoing matter and you will be kept advised of developments.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) William O'Dwyer
William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

Dr. Nahum Goldmann,
World Jewish Congress,
1834 Broadway,
New York 23, N. Y.
FH:hd 3/30/45 *OK -*

000740

March 31, 1945

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Harold Trobe was received through the United States Embassy in Lisbon under date of March 30, 1945:

"Drottningholm arrived left Lisbon yesterday with 133 Turkish Sephardics ex Bergen Belsen en route Istanbul for exchange. Group left Bergen Belsen March 4 embarked Drottningholm at Goteborg where they received clothing, food, some money from community. Ship then proceeded Liverpool where Easter bread, et cetera put aboard. Group includes 32 women lately interned Ravensbruck two Auschwitz five Theresienstadt. Understand between 45 and 50 thousand persons still interned Bergen Belsen many whom lately transferred from camps Poland including Birkenau. Report group 155 Spanish Sephardics from Athens still Bergen Belsen but expected leave camp soon for Switzerland. Ravensbruck has approximately 50 thousand internees among whom 5 thousand Jews mostly Hungarians. Conditions camps terrible but no basic change since last reliable reports but all persons urge food be sent camps. Drottningholm group previously resided Italy, France, Holland, Belgium, Germany, Poland and most of them anxious immigrate Palestine. We distributed Board money put fresh fruits aboard attended personal needs passengers. Ship will stop Port Said en route Istanbul."

Very truly yours,

Florence Model
Assistant Executive Director

Mr. M. A. Leavitt, Secretary,
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,
New York 16, New York
VEastin: 3/30/45 RBH

000741

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM
RECEIVED
DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

MS-746

1945 MAR 31 AM 9 43 PLAIN

CONTROL COPY

DC/L
LIAISON

Lisbon

Dated March 30, 1945

Rec'd 9:45 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

692, Thirtieth

X
WRB 372 JDC 208

FOR LEAVITT FROM HAROLD TROBE.

DROTTNINGHOLM arrived left Lisbon yesterday with 133 Turkish Sephardics ex Bergen Belsen en route Istanbul for exchange. Group left Bergen Belsen March 4 embarked DROTTNINGHOLM at Goteborg where they received clothing, food, some money from community. Ship then proceeded Liverpool where Easter bread, et cetera put aboard. Group includes 32 women lately interned Ravensbruck two Auschwitz five Theresienstadt. Understand between 45 and 50 thousand persons still interned Bergen Belsen many whom lately transferred from camps Poland including Birkenau. Report group 155 Spanish Sephardics from Athens still Bergen Belsen but expected leave camp soon for Switzerland. Ravensbruck has approximately 50 thousand internees among whom 5 thousand Jews mostly Hungarians. Conditions camps terrible But no basic change since

000742

-2-#692, Thirtieth, from Lisbon.

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

CROCKER

WTD

000743

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

ALH-1796
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. (W)

London

Dated March 28, 1945

Rec'd 1:10 p.m.

War Ref Bd
(O'K)

Files

Secretary of State,
Washington.

3186, March 28, noon.
FOR WRB.

CONTROL COPY

Dr. L. Zelmanovits of World Jewish Congress,

London reports that there are on the exchange vessel DROTNINGHOIM 134 Jewish repatriates from Germany who were released as part of a group of 700 Turkish citizens. These Jewish repatriates have no papers. Zelmanovits fears (one) that Turkish Government may not let these Jewish refugees enter Turkey and (two) that the Turkish Government may not consider them as Turkish exchangees and consequently refuse to release in exchange for them an equivalent number of Germans which might entail the return of the Jewish refugees to Germany. He requests the WRB to intervene with the Turkish Government on behalf of these 134 Jewish refugees with a view to letting them enter Turkey on humanitarian grounds and especially with a view to having an equivalent number of Germans released in order that the exchange of these refugees may be completed. Should Turkey refuse entry

to them

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972

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

000744

-2-#3186, March 28, noon, from London.

to them he requests that WRB arrange for them to go to UNRRA camp at Philippeville. Vessel now en route to Lisbon whence it will continue to Near East. He requests that substance of foregoing also be transmitted to Dr. Nahum Goldman, World Jewish Congress, New York City.

This message repeated to Ankara as 19 for information of WRB representative and of Jewish Agency for Palestine.

WINANT

JT

000745



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AMERICAN EMBASSY

Istanbul
March 26, 1945

Dear General O'Dwyer:

I have today delivered to the proper official of the American Consulate General at Istanbul, to be forwarded to you by diplomatic pouch leaving Istanbul on March 27, nine sealed packages of records of the Istanbul Office of the War Refugee Board, the contents of which are divided into the following groups:

- Local activities in Turkey
- Correspondence with Ambassador Steinhardt
- Antalya Shipping Organization
- Greece
- M. Balabanoff
- Bulgaria
- Depositions
- Vaad Hahatzalah Emergency Committee
- Hicem
- Hungary
- Interoffice memoranda
- Emergency Committee for the Rescue of Jews in Europe
 - with International Rescue and Relief Committee
- Jewish Agency for Palestine
- Joint Distribution Committee
- Correspondence with Embassy (other than with Ambassador)
- Miscellaneous letters
- Dr. Magnes, President, Hebrew University, Palestine
- S. S. Mefkura
- Memoranda of conversations
- Minutes of meetings
- Miscellaneous
 - S. S. Morina, Bulbul and Mefkura
- Correspondence with Executive Directors Pehle and O'Dwyer
- Reports received by Istanbul Office of Board
- Rumania
- Statistics
- S. S. Tari
- Reports to Board in Washington made by I. A. Hirschmann

These nine packages will be transmitted as "confidential" and will be registered, under the numbers 404 to 412, inclusive.

000746

-2-

There were forwarded to you as of March 25, 1945, one package containing two books of copies of telegrams sent and telegrams received by the Board's office in Istanbul, two packages each containing a volume of "Projects" of the War Refugee Board, and a fourth package containing highly confidential material. These four packages were sent by confidential pouch, "top secret", and bore the registered numbers 399 to 402.

The records described in this letter comprise the complete files of the Board's Istanbul office.

Sincerely yours,

Virginia D. Henderson
Virginia D. Henderson
War Refugee Board

Brig. Gen. William O'Dwyer
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

000747

Virginia D. Henderson
War Refugee Board
THE FOREIGN SERVICE

OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
c/o United States Embassy
Ankara, Turkey



RESTRICTED

Brig. Gen. William O'Dwyer
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
United States Treasury Building
15th and Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

000748



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AMERICAN EMBASSY

Istanbul, March 24, 1945

Dear General O'Dwyer:

There is forwarded herewith a letter received by me today from Mr. Arthur Fishzohn, Istanbul representative of the American Joint Distribution Committee, with its enclosures which set out the presently available information concerning the whereabouts and condition of 55 Jewish refugees who escaped from Rhodes.

It is believed that you will find this material of interest.

Sincerely yours,

Virginia D. Henderson
Virginia D. Henderson
War Refugee Board

Brig. Gen. William O'Dwyer
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Encls: Letter and enclosures
re. refugees from
Island of Rhodes

000749

AMERICAN JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

c/o American Consulate General
I s t a n b u l

March 24th, 1945

Mr. Virginia Henderson
War Refugee Board
American Consulate
Istanbul

Dear Mrs. Henderson

We are enclosing a report on Rhodes that we have
today forwarded to our Lisbon Office.

Sincerely yours,

Arthur Fishzohn
Arthur Fishzohn

000750

AMERICAN JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

c/o American Consulate General
I s t a n b u l

copy

March 23rd, 1945

Ref. No. 8

American Joint Distribution Committee

Mr. Harold Trobe

L i s b o n

Dear Mr. Trobe:

In your letter of February 19th, you asked for a general report concerning Rhodes. It has been confirmed to us that there were a 1000 Jews in Rhodes of which all were deported during the period of occupation with the bare exception of 55, who managed to escape and perhaps two or three elderly persons who managed somehow to remain in Rhodes. We are attaching two copies of the list giving the names and such other information as is available concerning the 55 who escaped from Rhodes.

Sincerely Yours,

Arthur Fishzohn

End: two lists.

000751

ON COMMITTEE

Report on the Situation of the Jewish refugees from Rhodes who arrived in Marmaris.

Out of 55 refugees from Rhodes who arrived in Marmaris, 12 are in Izmir, 4 in Istanbul, 2 in Cyprus, 5 on the island of Simi, 1 in Fethiye, 14 on the island of Cazos and 17 are still in Marmaris.

12 refugees in Izmir:

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------------|-------------|---|
| 1) | TURIEL Mathilde | 36 yrs. old | (These 3 persons are Turkish |
| 2) | " Boas | 11 " " | subjects. The husband, Daniel |
| 3) | " Elio | 7 " " | Turiel, being an Italian subject is in Marmaris). |
| 4) | AMATO Elise | 28 " " | (These 4 persons are Turkish |
| 5) | " Maurice | 9 " " | subjects. The husband; Isaac |
| 6) | "daught. Lucie | 7 " " | Amato being an Italian subject is |
| 7) | " Lina | 4 " " | in Marmaris) |
| 8) | CALVO David | 60 " " | (all 3 are Turkish subjects) |
| 9) | wife Rachel | 60 " " | |
| 10) | daught. Mathilde | 35 " " | |
| 11) | TARIKA Nissim (wi- | | |
| | dow) | 38 " " | (both Turkish subjects) |
| 12) | son Sami | 16 " " | |

4 refugees in Istanbul:

- | | | | |
|----|------------------|--------|--|
| 1) | SORIANO Victoria | 34 " " | (These 3 persons are Turkish subjects. |
| 2) | son Elio | 12 " " | The husband, Maurice Soriano, |
| 3) | daught. Rita | 4 " " | being an Italian subject, is in Marmaris). |
| 4) | GALIMIDI Abram | | (Turkish subject. His wife and daughter have arrived in Istanbul a long time ago). |

2 refugees in Cyprus:

- | | | | |
|----|-------------|--------|---------------------------------|
| 1) | TARIKA Haim | 39 " " | (Both Italian subjects. Sent to |
| 2) | wife Amelie | 30 " " | Cyprus on the 2.1.1945). |

5 refugees in the island of Simi:

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------|
| 1) | ALHADEFF Jacques | 38 " " | (All 3 are Italian subjects. Sent |
| 2) | wife Batami | 37 " " | to Simi on the 6.1.1945) |
| 3) | son Isaac | 9 " " | |
| 4) | MAYO Jacob (see page 2). | | |

./..

000752

- 4) MAYO Jacob 60 yrs. old (Both Italian subjects, sent to
5) wife Mari Simi on the 25.1.1945)

1) refugee in Fethiye:

- 1) MAIRI (Miriam) (Turkish subject, staying with her sister established in Fethiye (Makki). Miriam is the mother-in-law of Abner Sadis, who was sent to the island of Cazos with his wife).

14 refugees on the island of Cazos:

- 1) LEON Rosa 24 yrs. old (Italian subjects. Sent to Cazos on the 11.2.1945)
2) SADIS Abner " " " " " "
3) wife Esther " " " " " "
4) BALZANO -- " " " " " "
5) wife Vida " " " " " "
6) child -- " " " " " "
7) ZELANIKLI Zimbul 40 " " " " " "
8) HUNYO -- (All four Italian subjects. The
9) wife Rebecca husband is Christian, the wife
10) child -- and the children are Jewish.
11) " -- Sent to Cazos on the 11.2.1945).
12) FRANCO -- (All three Italian subjects. Sent
13) wife Esther to Cazos on the 11.2.1945)
14) child --

The above 14 persons were very needy and had no relatives or friends in Izmir. Having no material help and no protection, they were sent to Cazos.

17 refugees in Marmaris:

- 1) SORIANO Eli 75 yrs. old (Italian subject)
2) wife Rosa 65 " " " "
3) SORIANO Maurice 40 " " " "
4) AMATO Albert 40 " " " "
5) wife Renata 35 " " " "
6) daught. Lina 9 " " " "
7) mother Rachel " (Turkish subject)
8) MENASCHE Benzion 60 " " (Italian subject)
9) wife Caden 50 " " " "
10) TURIEL Daniel 46 " " " "

./..

AMERICAN JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

000753

- | | | | |
|-----|---------------|-------------|---------------------------------|
| 11) | AMATO Isaac | 39 yrs. old | (Italian subject) |
| 12) | ALHADAF Josef | 40 " " | " " |
| 13) | wife Sara | 38 " " | " " |
| 14) | Hunyo -- | | (All four are Italian subjects. |
| 15) | wife Bouli | 30 " " | The husband is Christian, the |
| 16) | son -- | | wife and children are Jewish. |
| 17) | daughter -- | | The wife will have another |
| | | | baby shortly). |

The above 17 persons were living in good material conditions in Rhodes and could remain in Marmaris owing to the intervention of their friends in Turkey, whom they asked to obtain for them the authorization to remain here temporarily. While the resp. formalities are being carried on, - these 17 persons have been authorized to stay in Marmaris. When the formalities will be concluded favourably, they will be able to travel to Istanbul or Izmir where they have relatives. The 17 persons expressed their desire to obtain certificates of immigration for Palestine. It seems however that they applied for those in their anxiety (in case the result of negotiations should turn out to be negative) of being sent on to an island. The certificate would therefore be for them only a means of escaping internment on a desert island. They settling in Palestine would only be temporary, as they all wish to return to Rhodes, as soon as this will be possible.

Istanbul, 22.2;1945

AMERICAN JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

000754



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AMERICAN EMBASSY

Istanbul, March 23, 1945

Dear General O'Dwyer:

There are enclosed herewith statistical data reflecting the movement of refugees through Turkey en route to Palestine for the months of January and February 1945. You will note that the 626 persons who arrived in Istanbul in two groups on January 5 and departed on January 7, 1945, are the Stara Zagora detainees referred to in our telegrams to you of January 6, 8 and 9. Only local immigrants left Istanbul for Palestine during the month of February. There was no movement of immigrants from Turkey during the first half of March.

The various relief organizations in Istanbul, which have in the past furnished reports and data to the Istanbul Office for transmission to the Washington Office of the War Refugee Board, have been advised that the Board will wish to continue to receive this material, and that with the closing of the Board's office in Istanbul the Ambassador has kindly accorded to them the privilege of forwarding it through the Embassy by diplomatic pouch.

According to our records, the Istanbul Committee of the Vaad Hahatzalah Emergency Committee of New York and the International Rescue and Relief Committee have not as yet accounted for the expenditure of all funds received by them under Treasury license, which license provides that no expenditures shall be made therefrom without the consent of the Ambassador and/or a representative of the War Refugee Board. They have been asked to furnish current accounts at an early date.

Very truly yours,

Virginia D. Henderson
Virginia D. Henderson

Brig. Gen. William O'Dwyer
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Encl: Statistical data

000755

-1-

Istanbul, 16. 3. 45

Immigrants who left for Palestine between Jan. 1st and Jan. 31st '45

Local Immigrants:

Adults	6		
Youths (B iii)	68	.....74 -	Total No Local imm.

Bulgarian Immigrants:

Adults	16		
Youths (B iii)	--		
Children with parents ..5		..... 21	a)

Hungarian Immigrants:

Adults	16		
Youths (B iii)	12		
Children with parents ---		.....28	b)

Romanian Immigrants:

Adults	211		
Youths (B iii)	90		
Children with parents 29		..... 330	c)

Polish Immigrants:

Adults	185		
Youths (B iii)	39		
Children with parents 26		..... 250	d)
		629 -	Total No. Foreign imm.

Total No. of all immigrants: 703

N.B.: Figures marked (a) to (d) compose group of 629 which arrived from Romania & Bulgaria viz:

a)	Bulgarians who joined group of 601 fr. Romania	.....	21 pers.
b)	Hungarian refugees among " " " " "	.....	28 "
c)	Romanians " " " " " "	.....	330 "
d)	Polish refugees " " " " " "	.....	250 "

Total No. of group*..... 629 "

*) see specification page 2.

000756

-2-
Specification

Group of 629 from Bulgaria and Romania

(Held up in Bulgaria from
Nov. 18th '44 to Jan. 4th, '45)

arrival in Istanbul:

367 persons on 5.1.45.)
259 " " 5.1.45.)

2 " (roles)"14.1.45)
1 child born here)

629 persons

dep. from Istanbul:

626 persons on 7/1/45

3 " " 1.2.45

629

The group consisted of:

Adults
Children with parents
Youths (3 ill):
Transnistrian Orphans: 90
Others: 51

428 persons
60 "

141 "

629 persons

000757

Istanbul, 16.3.45.

Immigrants who left for Palestine between Feb. 1st and 28th '45

Local Immigrants:

Adults	7		Total No. Local
Youths (B Iii)	<u>28</u>	..... 35 -	<u>Immigrants</u>

There has been no TRANSIT movement during this month.

000752

March 26, 1945

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Harold Trobe was received through the United States Embassy in Lisbon under date of March 23, 1945:

"Julius Enettner, Jewish Refugee Committee Goteborg, advises 150 Turkish Jews ex-Bergen-Belsen Theresienstadt sailed aboard DEOPTININGHOLM for Liverpool for repatriation Turkey. Have asked London obtain all possible information concerning this group and their destination since possible it identical with group 155 Sephardies deported from Athens and Salonique to Bergen-Belsen in April 1944. Will keep you advised."

Very truly yours,

((Signed) Florence Hodel)

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

Mr. M. A. Leavitt, Secretary,
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,
New York 16, New York.

RBH
RBH:Hutchison: 3/26/45

000753

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

KJR-469

PLAIN

Lisbon

Dated March 23, 1945

Rec'd 11:15 p.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

CONF

COPY

634, Twenty-third

WRB 365 JLC 201 FOR LEAVITT FROM HAROLD TROBE.

Julius Huettner, Jewish Refugee Committee

Goteborg, advises 150 Turkish Jews ex-Bergen-Belsen
Theresienstadt sailed aboard DROTTNINGHOLM for Liverpool
for repatriation Turkey. Have asked London obtain
all possible information concerning this group and
their destination since possible it identical with
group 155 Sephardics deported from Athens and Salonique
to Bergen-Belsen in April 1944. Will keep you advised.

CROCKER

LMS

000760

532 145
3/14

March 14, 1945

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Harold Trobe was received through the United States Embassy in Lisbon under date of March 12, 1945:

"Wish advise Saly Mayer paid account George Ueberall 350.000 Swiss francs account SS TOROS passages making total paid from special fund 1.518.500 Swiss francs."

Very truly yours,

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

Mr. M. A. Leavitt, Secretary,
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,
New York 16, New York.

RBH ✓
RBH: 3/14/45

000761

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

*7-War Dep Bd
Gen Oberg*

RS-816

25 MAR 15 PM 2 08
PLAIN
Lisbon

Dated March 12, 1945

Rec'd 7:28 a.m., 13th

Secretary of State

Washington

CONTROL COPY

535, Twelfth

WRB 353 JDC 196 FOR LEAVITT FROM HAROLD TROBE

Wish advise Saly Mayer paid account George Ueberall

350,000 Swiss francs account SS TOROS passages making
total paid from special fund 1,518,500 Swiss francs.

CROCKER

WFS

000762

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

LC-162

1945 JAN 26 PM 4 52

Ankara

Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. ()

Dated January 25, 1945

Rec'd 1:29 a.m., 26th

COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS
(LIAISON)

Secretary of State,

Washington.

CONTROL COPY

130, January 25, 4 p.m.

FROM KATZKI TO PEHLE WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Ankara's No. 7.

The following statistics, one year after the creation of the War Refugee Board, relating to rescue and emigration activities from the Balkans via Turkey to Palestine for the calendar year 1944, will be of interest to the board. The total number of persons who passed in transit through Turkey proceeding to Palestine excluding 282 people from Holland exchanged for German nationals in July is 6527 (repeat 6527). Of this number 1392 came from Bulgaria, 163 from Hungary, 4433 from Rumania and 539 from Greece.

It should be noted, however, that persons included under Rumania comprise not only Rumanian nationals but a large proportion of Polish, Slovakian, Ruthenian and Hungarian.

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

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

000763

-2- #130, January 25, 4 p.m., from Ankara

and Hungarian refugees who succeeded in escaping to Rumania.

The total of 6527 includes 1737 children and youths up to the age of 18 years. Approximately 1,000 were orphans repatriated from Transnistria. An additional 327 accompanied their parents and the balance comprises children emigrating without parents.

All the refugees from Greece escaped by sea. 10 groups arrived by sea from Constanza using vessels of Bulgarian registry 5 times and Turk vessels 5 times. An 11th group from Constanza was lost with the sinking of the MEFKURA. Other refugees from Bulgaria and Rumania arrived by railroad.

Thus far in January 628 additional persons from Rumania (the Stara-Zagora detainees) have passed through Turkey proceeding to Palestine.

The success of this rescue work, as you previously have been informed, is attributable to the breaking of the bottle neck into Turkey as a result of the efforts of Ambassador Steinhart and the WRB.

STEINHARDT

EEC

000764

*Enc. to the Turkey
(general)*

Istanbul, January 20, 1945

Personal and [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

Thank you for returning the two newspaper articles concerning Bergson's Emergency Committee.

I share your views regarding the misstatements and distortions which appear in these articles, especially the Smertenko statement. We, in Turkey, the Department through the Embassy's dispatches, and the War Refugee Board through our own, know the true state of facts. I do hope that at the time Smertenko made his statements someone took the trouble publicly to set the record straight. I think that if we were to attempt it now from Turkey, it would be a raking over of dead coals, since the statement was made on August 8 of last year, and a denial may only result in newspaper polemics, before which we would be helpless as it might take another six months before we learn of them. The timeliness of a correction perhaps has long passed, and we can only hope that it was done while the matter was still fresh in the minds of the readers of the New York Post. I know that certain of the people of the War Refugee Board are close to the New York Post editorial staff, and it may well be that the correct information, formally or informally, has already been made available.

If you disagree with my point of view, then I think the procedure would be for me to send something to Fehle for release through War Refugee Board channels, so that it might be in keeping with the lines of the Board in its relations with Bergson's Committee, and so that the Board will be in a position to take up whatever back-lash there might be. I would appreciate your advising me.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

Herbert Katzki

Honorable Laurence A. Steinhardt
Ambassador to Turkey
American Embassy
Ankara

EK:VH

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

000765



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AMERICAN EMBASSY

Personal and [REDACTED]

Ankara, January 17, 1945.

Dear Herbert:

Thank you for your letter of January 16. In accordance with your request I am returning herewith the two articles enclosed with your letter.

Of course, the statement of Smertenko that Turkey shelters 50,000 Jewish refugees and has requested the United States and Great Britain to evacuate these people now in Turkish camps so that it can admit more victims of Nazi aggression is completely and wholly false. So far as I am aware, all of the Jewish refugees who entered Turkey have promptly been moved on to Palestine with the exception of those who, by their own preference, have wished to remain in Turkey and have succeeded in doing so -- and enjoying complete liberty. Nor, so far as I am aware, have there ever been any Turkish camps for Jewish refugees. Quite the contrary. The Turkish government has at all times declined to establish such camps and has met the issue by providing transportation to Palestine.

I do not think that an inaccurate statement of this kind should be allowed to stand unchallenged. You may wish, therefore, to prepare a telegram to the War Refugee Board suggesting that it give adequate publicity to a denial of Smertenko's statements and to caution the general public not to lend credence to statements by individuals who either do not know what they are talking about, do not take the trouble to ascertain the facts or to distort the facts.

I also

Mr. Herbert Katzki,
War Refugee Board,
Istanbul.

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

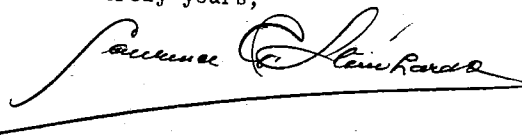
000766

- 2 -

I also suggest that you may wish to write a letter to the New York Post, either for publication, or a strictly confidential letter, with the request that the Post publish a denial in whatever form it thinks most desirable. Such a letter might also briefly review the cooperative attitude of the Turkish Government in connection with the movement of the Jewish refugees in transit to Palestine. In point of fact, Smertenko's statement would seem to afford you an opportunity, if you care to seize it, of a review in the New York Post of the accomplishments here -- together with some of the problems we have had to face. The New York Post has shown more interest in the refugee problem than any of the other New York daily newspapers and it seems the appropriate vehicle for such a letter. As to the article in the Washington Post, I am sorry to see this newspaper/backing away in this article from its exposure of Bergson.

With kind personal regards,

Sincerely yours,



000767

*2 War Ref Bd
(Pehle)*

Mr. Clegg

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, Ankara
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: January 18, 1945 (Rec'd Jan. 19)
NUMBER: 97

CONTROL COPY

The Ambassador transmits the following personal message for Mr. John Pehle of the War Refugee Board.

Your thoughtful telegrams and particularly the generous sentiments to which you have given expression are very much appreciated by me. It is my desire also to record the unfailing cooperation which I have received at all times from you personally, as well as from the War Refugee Board representatives.

STEINHARDT

DC/L:MAS:MLM

1-20-45

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

000768

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

JMP

Distribution of arms
reading only by special
arrangement.

January 15, 1946

2 p.m.

AMEMBASSY

ANKARA

60

The following personally for Ambassador from Pehle is
WRB 136.

I am happy to note your successful personal interven-
tion with the Turkish Government with respect to the trans-
portation of the 626 emigrants from Rumania who are now in
Palestine.

I want to take this opportunity to extend to you my
personal thanks for all that you have done for the War
Refugee Board in Turkey and I wish you luck and success on
your new assignment.

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

GREW
(Acting)
(CMT)

WRB:MMV:KG
1/15/46

NE

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

000769

PERSONAL TO AMBASSADOR STEINHARDT, ANKARA, FROM J. W. PEHLE, WAR
REFUGEE BOARD.

I am happy to note your successful personal intervention
with the Turkish Government with respect to the transportation
of the 626 emigrants from Rumania who are now in Palestine.

I want to take this opportunity to extend to you my personal
thanks for all that you have done for the War Refugee Board in
Turkey and I wish you luck and success on your new assignment.

THIS IS WRB ANKARA CABLE NO. 136.

4:45 p.m.
January 13, 1945

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Ackermann, Akzin, Cohn, Drury, DuBois,
Gaston, Hodel, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Files

2/- Cleared with Pehle
FH:hd 1/13/45

000770

2 War Ref Bd
(Pshla)

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL, Jerusalem
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: January 11, 1945
NUMBER: 10

CONTROL COPY

The Chief Secretary informed me, during a discussion of immigration policy, that conditions now appear easier than they were some weeks ago when flood of illegal immigrants was anticipated. The Chief Secretary stated that the Government of Turkey had been informed of withdrawal of blanket permission for Jews escaping from Balkans into Turkey to enter Palestine and now admission will be granted only to those coming within the allotted quotas. Therefore, Turkey will need entry certificates prior to issuing transit visas he stated thus controlling at the source the immigration.

Recently some six hundred in excess of the quota were stopped at frontier of Bulgaria, however arrangements were made whereby they would be charged to October when only a very small number came for entrance. Further, the quota trouble they are said to have had difficulty with the Soviet ^{Authorities as they} ~~authorities~~ (*) Rumania and some were children born in Transnistria to whose emigration was objected to by Soviet authorities. Finally all difficulties were solved and today they are due in Palestine.

DC/L:MLG
1-13-45

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

Note: (*) Apparent omission correction to follow.

000771

UNCLASSIFIED
EXEMPTED FROM AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING AND
DECLASSIFICATION

2 War Dept Bd.
(Cable)

FROM: AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL, Jerusalem
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: January 11, 1946
NUMBER: 10

CONTROL COPY

In the second paragraph, line five, of the above message delete autho(*) umania" and insert " authorities as they originated in Rumania". The line should then read "with the Soviet authorities as they originated in Rumania and some were children" etc.

PINKERTON

DC/L:EMS
1-24-46

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

000772

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

JEP-1220
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. ()-W)

Ankara

Dated January 9, 1945

Rec'd 9:02 p.m.

Secretary of State

Washington.

CONTROL COPY

46, January 9, 3 p.m.

FROM KATZKI TO PEELE WRB ANKARA'S NO. 4.

The two contingents of emigrants from Rumania
(REEMBS 31 January 6 and 38 January 8 Ankara's Nos.

2 and 3) comprising 626 persons, corrected count,
who had been detained at Starazagora, departed from

Istanbul for Palestine as one group on January 7.

The Turkish authorities provided a special train

for this purpose in accordance with Ambassador

Steinhardt's general agreement with the Turkish

Foreign Office regarding railroad facilities, which

has now been terminated by the Turks as a result of

the withdrawal of British approval.

It should be noted that the special train was
made available by the Turk Government at Ambassador

Steinhardt's personal request despite the railroads

difficult seasonal transportation problems.

STEINHARDT

JMS

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

000773

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

MW-904
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. (W)

Ankara
Dated January 8, 1945

Reg'd 9:38 p.m.

For security reasons the
text of this message must
be classified

Secretary of State

Washington

38, January 8, 1 p.m.

FROM KATZKI TO PEHLE WRB, ANKARA'S NO. 3

The second and final contingent of Starazagora
detainees (REEMBS 2438, December 30 Ankara's 207
and 31 January 6 No. 2) numbering 259 persons
proceeding to Palestine from Rumania arrived in
Istanbul by railroad on January 6. For your inform-
ation, the group comprised mainly Polish nationals
who succeeded in escaping to Rumania and who had been
in that country for some time. The emigrants
were admitted to Turkey in transit as a result of
Ambassador Steinhardt's prompt intervention with
the British Ambassador in Ankara, under the
circumstances and conditions previously reported.

After the complicated technical formalities,
and the necessary Palestine entry and other transit
visas have been secured, the emigrants will proceed
to Palestine by railroad. It is planned that they
depart during the week of January 7.

JM

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date

SEP 15 1972

STEINHARDT

RECEIVED

CONTROL COPY

000774

Evac. to + thru Turkey
(1)



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AMERICAN EMBASSY

Personal
and ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Ankara, January 6, 1945.

Dear Herbert:

In reply to your personal letter of January 5, I have sent both telegrams as drafted in as much as I see no good reason for eliminating the last paragraph in the longer telegram concerning refugees. The paragraph in question states the facts for which neither the War Refugee Board, nor you, nor the Embassy is responsible and over which we have no control. Accordingly, I could see no reason for your not putting on the record that of which the War Refugee Board already has presumptive knowledge even though the individuals in Washington dealing with this movement may not have drawn realistic conclusions from the announcement of the new British policy with respect to immigration into Palestine from the Balkans. Another way of putting it is that the War Refugee Board has been informed of the British quota restrictions and presumably has understood that this will limit the movement of Jewish refugees to Palestine via Turkey to the amount of the quotas fixed by the British government.

In so far as concerns the policy of the War Refugee Board, it will have to decide whether it chooses to approach the British government on the subject or to accept the quotas fixed by it. Under these circumstances, it seemed to me preferable that the last paragraph should remain in the telegram so that the War Refugee Board has it squarely put up to it whether it wishes to take any action in approaching the British government or feels that its functions

are

Mr. Herbert Katzki,
War Refugee Board,
Istanbul.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-78
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 18 1972

*came to file from 2410,
4/5/45*

000775

- 2 -

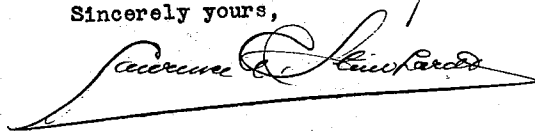
are limited to rescue operations and not to intervening into the Palestine immigration question on behalf of Jewish refugees, whose lives are no longer in danger.

It is my impression -- which I believe you share -- based on one or two telegrams from the War Refugee Board some time back that it has already taken the position that its activities are confined to rescuing Jewish refugees whose lives are in danger and not to intervening into the controversial field of Jewish immigration into Palestine, if for no other reason than that to do so would be to place an American government agency in the position of differing with the British white paper policy on Palestine.

It is my own opinion, which I give you for what it may be worth, that if and when the British white paper policy is to be challenged, such action should be taken on the highest level and frankly and openly discussed between the American and British governments rather than that it should be raised by an agency of the American government constituted for rescue purposes indirectly as a result of a minor issue.

With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jacob Lawrence", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

000776

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

MH-629
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. (W)

Ankara

Dated January 6, 1945

Rec'd 9:20 p.m., 7th

Secretary of State
Washington

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JAN 10 1945

CONTROL COPY

#31, January 6, 3 p.m.

FROM KATZKI TO PEHLE WRB ANKARA 12

Authorization for admission into Turkey in transit having been granted by the Turk Foreign Office 360 persons including children repatriated from Transnistria, refugees from Hungary, Slovakia and Poland who had succeeded in escaping to Rumania and Rumanian nationals all proceeding to Palestine arrived in Istanbul by railroad on January 5. This group is the first contingent of the emigrants who had been detained at Starazagora and Svilingrad Bulgaria (see Embassy's 2402, December 22 Ankara's 205 and 2438 December 30 Ankara's 207) and has now been admitted to Turkey in the same manner as earlier immigrants under the general agreement prior to its termination by the British Embassy. This was accomplished as a result of Ambassador Steinhardt's insistence with the British Ambassador that in view of all of the circumstances all of the Starazagora detainees receive the benefit of the agreement even though

terminated

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 18 1972

000777

-2- 31, January 6, 3 p.m. from Ankara

terminated before their arrival at the Turk frontier. The remaining detainees are expected to arrive in Istanbul from Stalingrad within the next few days. After the necessary Palestine entry visas and transit visa reissued in Istanbul all of the emigrants will depart by railroad for Palestine.

For your information, according to reports received in Istanbul emigrants from Bulgaria must now secure permission to leave Bulgaria from the Allied Control Commission in Sofia.

In my opinion, under existing conditions the control which the British are now exercising over immigration to Palestine (see Embassy's 2376, 2402, 2438 Ankara's 205, 205A, 207) will result in the suspension of large group emigration from Rumania and Bulgaria through Istanbul such as has been taking place under the simplified procedure of the general agreement. Future emigration, I believe, will take place in regularized, normal manner on the basis of Palestine entry certificates issued in advance in Bucharest or Sofia and groups will be organized in the future only for convenience in preparing technical details and in traveling. However, this does not preclude rescue operations from other areas which might be initiated from Rumania or Bulgaria.

STEINHARDT

JM

000778

32 1/5

January 3, 1945

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Robert Pilpel was received through the American Legation in Lisbon under date of January 5, 1945:

"JDC 147. Joseph Goldin Beyoglu advises following immigrants transited Turkey to Palestine October: from Rumania 714, from Hungary 3, from Bulgaria 72; November: from Rumania 81, from Bulgaria 431; December: from Rumania 306, from Bulgaria 198; altogether 2405 including 566 Hungarian refugees, 140 Polish refugees, 380 Transnistrian orphans."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. M. A. Leavitt, Secretary,
American Jewish Joint Distribution
Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,
New York 16, New York.

RDrury 1/8/45

000778

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

BAS-257

PLAIN
Lisbon

Dated January 5, 1945

Rec'd 8:50 a.m. 6th.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

32, Fifth.

WRB 286 JDC 147 FOR LEAVETT FROM PILPEL.

Joseph Goldin Beyoglu advises following immigrants
transited Turkey to Palestine October from Romania 714 from
Hungary 3 from Bulgaria 72 November from Romania 81 from
Bulgaria 431 December from Romania 906 from Bulgaria
199 altogether 2405 including 566 Hungarian refugees 140
Polish refugees 380 Transistrian orphans.

NORWEB

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
CONTROL COPY
Sent 11/8/45

000780

2. War Ref. Bd.
(Deber)

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: AMEMBASSY, Ankara
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: January 3, 1945
NUMBER: 9

CONTROL COPY

This message was repeated as 2 to Caserta.

//See your December 29, 1944

The position delineated in your above reference is thoroughly understood here. Palestine entry certificates and Turkish transit visas are being authorized for this group of refugees as a consequence of the intervention of this Embassy with Turkish and British officials so that satisfactory disposal of this matter has now been achieved.

STEINHARDT

DC/L:EMS

1-4-45

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SFP 10 1972

000781

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

JMM-793
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. (W)

Ankara

Dated December 31, 1944

Rec'd 11:35 p.m.

Secretary of State
Washington

2438, December 31, noon.

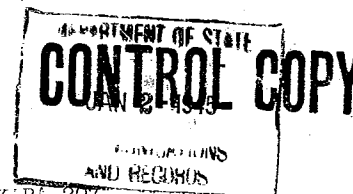
FROM KATZKI TO PEHLE WRB ANKARA 207.

As a result of Ambassador Steinhardt's prompt and repeated energetic interventions with the British Ambassador in Ankara, the latter requested and secured authorization from the British Foreign Office in London to issue Palestine entry certificates in Istanbul to the 630 emigrants proceeding from Rumania to Palestine and detained at Stalingrad Bulgaria (see Embassy's 2402). We are informed that as a result the British Embassy has now requested Turkish Foreign Office to admit these emigrants into Turkey in transit.

The British Embassy originally had taken the position that its decision to terminate the facilities heretofore made available by the Turks under the general agreement was final and must stand. It was as a result of Ambassador Steinhardt's insistentence that exception be made in

behalf

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 18 1972



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

-2- #2438, December 31, noon, from Ankara

behalf of these 630 refugees who were subjected to hardship through no fault of their own that the British Ambassador so recommended to the Foreign Office in London.

In explanation to Ambassador Steinhardt of his action in terminating the general agreement without notice to him and without knowledge that these emigrants were en route the British Ambassador stated that his notice of termination to the Turkish Foreign Office was given pursuant to specific instructions received from London and in the belief that British passport control officers who would be authorized to issue Palestine entry certificates had already arrived in Sofia and Bucharest. The complication, he stated, arose out of the non-arrival of these officers, a fact which was not known to him when notice of termination was given (*) the te British Embassy attributed its failure to notify Ambassador Steinhardt or other interested persons to a regrettable oversight.

Apparently the British Embassy is now making every effort to correct the situation. The arrival of the refugees in Istanbul is expected shortly as soon as the complicated technical details have been arranged.

A full report will be dispatched to you by pouch.

STEINHARDT

WMB

(*) Apparent omission.

000783

1270 - 1270
January 2, 1945

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Robert Pilpel was received through the American Legation in Lisbon under date of December 30, 1944:

"JHC 143. Further our 127 six hundred detainees from State Zegora Bulgaria now Birne Turkey awaiting January quota immigration certificates proceed Palestine."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. M. A. Leavitt, Secretary,
✓ American Jewish Joint Distribution
Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,
New York 16, New York.

RW
RDrury 1/2/45

000724

MENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

GEK-563

PLAIN

Lisbon

Dated December 30, 1944

Rec'd 6:55 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

4323, Thirtieth

JDC 143 WRB 281 FOR LEAVITT FROM PILPEL

Further our 127 sixhundred detainees from Stara
Zagora Bulgaria now Edirne Turkey awaiting January quota
immigration certificates proceed Palestine.

NORWEB

IRM

CONTROL COPY

Sent 1/2/45
RS

000785



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AMERICAN EMBASSY

Ankara, December 30, 1944.

Dear Herbert:

Supplementing previous correspondence on the subject, I hasten to inform you that I have just been informed by the British Embassy that it has received instructions, the purport of which has already been communicated to the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, authorizing the entry into Palestine of some six hundred Jews who are detained at the Turkish-Bulgarian frontier. The British Government states that while it has requested the Turkish Government to act promptly in the matter, it is somewhat doubtful that the necessary instructions will reach the Turkish frontier authorities until after the New Year. It may be that you can follow the matter up from Istanbul.

The British Embassy has also informed me that one of the new Passport Officers sent to the Balkans left England two days ago for his post at Sofia. It is thought that the presence of this officer, authorized to issue the necessary visas, in Sofia, will prevent any further blocking of the movement of Jews from the Balkans to Palestine, but on the contrary, will enable a rather steady flow within the limitations of the quotas.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Herbert Katzki,
War Refugee Board,
Istanbul.

000786

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

MH-439

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

Sofia

Dated December 29, 1944

Received 2:10 p.m., 30th

Secretary of State,
Washington.

51 December 29, 6 p.m.

Unfortunately, Jewish refugees not able to
proceed beyond Svilengrade (reference my December 23,
noon) because Turkish authorities unwilling to ac-
cept them without assurance from British of onward
passage and British unable under existing agreement
with Turks to give such assurance. No helpful
action possible here. Repeated to Caserta as
No. 38.

BARNES

WSB

RECEIVED
DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS
DEC 30 1944

CONTROL COPY

000787



LAE:lgp

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

rec 14/28

AMERICAN EMBASSY

Ankara, December 20, 1944.

Dear Herbert:

I have just had a talk with the British Ambassador concerning the group of refugees marooned at the Turkish frontier. He informed me that pending the receipt of instructions from London, he has requested the Turkish authorities to permit them to remain at the frontier.

In so far as concerns the issuance of Turkish transit visas to this group, Peterson said that he has been exchanging telegrams with London on the subject and that although he was not as yet in receipt of authority to request the Turkish authorities to grant them transit visas, the last telegram received by him this morning from London indicated that such authority might be granted on condition that no further attempts are made to transit groups of refugees through Turkey over and above the quotas fixed by the British government for entry into Palestine from the different Balkan countries.

Peterson added that in his talk with the Turkish authorities yesterday, they had evidenced considerable reluctance to issue transit visas to this group on the grounds that the number of refugees in recent months had been far in excess of the number provided for under the "General Agreement" and that it had been their intention to restrict the movement at the very time that the

British

Mr. Herbert Katzki,
War Refugee Board,
Istanbul.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 10 1972

000788

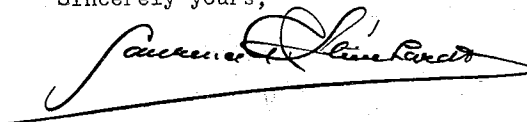
- 2 -

British had notified them that the General Agreement might be regarded as having come to an end. When I suggested that the note from the British Embassy to the Foreign Office might well have encouraged the view expressed by the Turkish authorities, Peterson said that he was reasonably certain that the Turks would grant transit visas for this group if he could get the necessary authority from London. The Ambassador promised to let me know by telephone as soon as word comes from London, and gave me to understand that he was reasonably confident that the Turks would not send this group back until he has received his final instructions from London.

In order to avoid a recurrence of the present situation, I think you should make it as clear as possible to all concerned in Istanbul with the refugee movement that the apparent intention of the British government is to force compliance with its new quotas not only by the means available to the British government, but also by whatever measures may be necessary to obtain the full cooperation of the Turkish government.

With kind personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Lawrence D. Stone", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

LAS:lgp

000789



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Istanbul, December 26, 1944

Dear Mr. Pehle:

We refer to your telegram No. 135 -- Department's No. 1173.

We have made inquiry through several channels in Istanbul and have been unable to find a Chaim Oera. Likewise it is not known that the Independent Jewish Press Service of London has any correspondent in Istanbul.

We shall keep your telegram before us in the event that it should be possible at some time in the future to determine who sent the report in question. In the meanwhile we shall have to let the matter drop in Istanbul.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

Herbert Katzki
Herbert Katzki

J. W. Pehle, Esquire
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

000790

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE
*Evac. to
+ thru Turkey
①*

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

MF-1547
This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Government
Agency. (RESTRICTED)

Sofia

Dated December 23, 1944

Rec'd 5:58 p.m., 27th

Secretary of State

Washington

~~22~~, December 23, noon.

Have now been informed by Palestine Office here
that all refugees detained at Starazagora and Kazedanlik
have been cleared by Russian authorities for onward
passage to Turkey. (Reference your telegram No. 4,
November 20, 9 p.m. to Caserta). Please inform Department for War Refugee Board.

Sent to Ankara, repeated to Caserta as No. 32.

BARNES

JM



000791

CORRECTION

File 32
CONTROL COPY

MB

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

January 5, 1945

In cable from Sofia 32 December 23, noon
clearance refugees serial number should be
deleted. It is an unnumbered cable.

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES

CSB

000792



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

recd 117

PERSONAL AND
[REDACTED]

AMERICAN EMBASSY

Ankara, December 22, 1944.

Dear Herbert:

The British Embassy has accepted full responsibility for the unfortunate incident whereby approximately 250 refugees from Bulgaria were turned back at the Turkish frontier a day or two ago. Mr. Busk of the British Embassy has explained that due to pressure of work when the telegram was received from London outlining the new procedure, which suspends the old procedure pending the inauguration of new procedure, a note was sent to the Foreign Office by him under instructions from London, without taking into consideration our interest in the matter or that we might be seriously embarrassed by this action. He gave as a further explanation the intention of the British government to send British passport control officers to Sofia and Bucharest immediately for the purpose of issuing the necessary visas, and that in so doing he had overlooked the fact that there might be some refugees en route between the suspension of the issuance of visas in Istanbul and the arrival of the British officials in Sofia and Bucharest.

Mr. Busk has agreed to endeavor to obtain authorization today for the admission of the approximately 600 refugees now en route to the Turkish frontier, and will let us know later in the day, or at the latest, tomorrow, what he has been able to accomplish in this respect.

In so far as concerns those who were sent back to Bulgaria, they should be instructed to apply to the competent British passport control officers in Sofia, whose arrival there Mr. Busk anticipates in the immediate

future

Mr. Herbert Katzki,
War Refugee Board,
Istanbul.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date **SEP 18 1972**

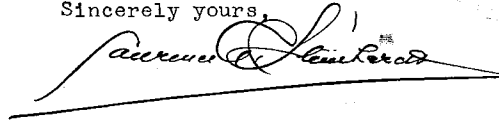
000793

- 2 -

future, as London has informed the British Embassy in Ankara that these officials were being sent to Sofia and Bucharest immediately.

In view of the explanation and apology made by the British Embassy and because they are apparently doing everything within their power to correct the situation (we all slip up occasionally), I see no reason for taking any action other than to lend our assistance to the British Embassy in correcting this situation to the extent that lies within our power.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lawrence Sanders", written over a horizontal line.

LAS:lgp

000794

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

AMT-971

Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. ()

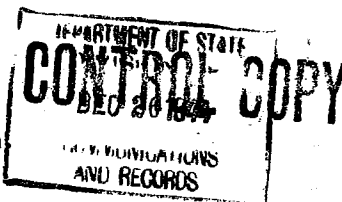
Ankara

Dated December 22, 1944

Rec'd 7:08 a.m., 24th.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

2402, December 22, 10 a.m.
FROM KATZKI TO PEHLE WRD



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

Russian authorization was finally secured by the
Ambassador to enable the 608 refugees and emigrants'
Hungarians, Poles and Rumanians all proceeding from
Rumania to Palestine who were detained at Stara-Zagora
and Kazanlik Bulgaria (see Embassy's 226, Ankara's
189 and Embassy's 2256, Ankara's 191) to continue their
voyage. (Ankara's No. 205) the first group comprising
280 persons departed from Stara-Zagora immediately
upon receipt of authorization and arrived at Karaagac
on the Turk frontier on December 21. Istanbul
representatives of the Jewish agency called upon the
Istanbul British passport control office during the
morning of December 21 to obtain the necessary documents
in accordance with the general agreement between
the American and British Embassies and the Turk Foreign

Office

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 18 1972

000796

-2- #2402, December 22, 10 a.m., from Ankara.

Office for the issuance of Turk visas to all refugees concerning which you have been informed in order that the group might be permitted by the Turk authorities to enter Turkey in transit. The representatives were advised by the British passport control office that the latter had been informed earlier in the morning by the British Embassy in Ankara that on the afternoon of December 20 the British Embassy had notified the Turk Foreign Office in writing that the general agreement referred to should be regarded as terminated. This cancellation was made without notice to Ayrasoad or Steinhardt who on behalf of the American Embassy and the WRB had initiated and carried on the negotiations resulting in the general agreement nor to the Jewish agency nor to the British passport control office in Istanbul nor to me as representative of the Board. The British Embassy when advised of the arrival of the group at Turk frontier stated its decision must stand and matter must be referred to Jerusalem. During the afternoon of December 21 before it was possible to attempt to find even a temporary solution the 280 persons were returned to

Bulgaria.

000796

-3- #2402, December 22, 10 a.m., from Ankara.

Bulgaria and are now at Stalingrad to which the remaining 328 detainees in the meanwhile had proceeded en route to Turkey and Palestine.

It should be noted that the 608 people departed from Rumania in good faith on or about November 16 en route for Palestine in accordance with an agreement then in force which gave them the right to expect that they would be permitted to enter Palestine and that Turkish transit facilities would be accorded them. Through no fault of their own their emigration had been interrupted in Bulgaria and they are now subject to disadvantage as the result of the cancellation by the British of an agreement, without warning, which cancellation is being enforced retroactively.

The foregoing summarizes the situation as of noon December 22. Ambassador Steinhardt expects to discuss the situation with the British Ambassador immediately. You will be kept informed of developments.

STEINHARDT

RB

RECEIVED
DEC 23 1940
STALINGRAD

000797

MEMORANDUM

December 16, 1944.

RE: CABLE NO. 2348, DECEMBER 12, FROM ANKARA.

At my suggestion Mrs. Mannon prepared a draft of a press release in which certain changes were subsequently made.

After careful consideration of the matter and discussions with Mrs. Mannon, Mr. Ackermann, Miss Hodel and Mr. Marks, I concluded that it would be better for the War Refugee Board not to issue a press release at this time. Under the circumstances, I felt that it would be better for State Department to make any statement that is to be made.

I discussed the matter with Pehle who agreed with my conclusions. Accordingly, I called George Warren at the State Department and suggested that State might want to issue some sort of press statement on the cooperative efforts of the Turkish Government in refugee matters. Warren was not familiar with the cable but said he would read it and consider my suggestion.

JB Friedman

000794

Marks
Dec. 16, 1944

PRESS RELEASE

The cooperation of the Turkish Government in the movement of refugees from the Balkans to Palestine was hailed today by John W. Pehle, Executive Director of the War Refugee Board, upon receipt of a report from Ambassador Laurence A. Steinhardt in Ankara, announcing that nearly 1200 refugees from Hungary and the Balkans had been given passage through Turkey to Palestine during the last two weeks in November and the first week of December.

"The Government of Turkey has on numerous occasions demonstrated concretely its readiness to cooperate in saving the lives of helpless victims of Fascism who must cross the Turkish border to reach Palestine and safety," Mr. Pehle declared.

Lauding Turkish assistance in rescue activities, Mr. Pehle pointed out that during the past year thousands of refugees have been granted admission at Turkey's European border from where they were transported to Palestine by rail. He added that despite the extremely limited carrying capacity of the Turkish railways, the Turkish authorities did everything possible to facilitate the movement of refugees across Turkey to Palestine by making additional passenger cars available when necessary. Mr. Pehle attributed the War Refugee Board's success in rescuing refugees in the Balkan area to the humanitarian attitude of the Turkish Government, which had an informal understanding with Ambassador Steinhardt and the British authorities that all refugees granted permission to enter Turkey would be given refuge in Palestine.

MM:nlf 12-16-44

000793

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

MF-1786

Ankara

Distribution of ~~type~~ DEC 13 PM 3:50
reading only by special
arrangement. (W) Dec'd December 12, 1944
Rec'd 2:45 a.m., 13th

Secretary of State

Washington

2348, December 12, midnight.

FOR THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD FROM THE AMBASSADOR

ANKARA NUMBER 204.

Between November 15 and December 7 approximately 1200 refugees principally from Bulgaria and Rumania have been granted visas and transported by rail by the Turk authorities from Istanbul to Palestine. As this large unexpected movement has severely taxed the capacity of the single track railroad on which only two passenger trains are operated weekly in each direction I recommend that wide and favorable publicity now be given in the United States to the efforts of the Turk Government to cooperate in the movement of refugees from the Balkans to Palestine. I am all the more anxious that the Turk Government should receive credit in the American press at this time for its cooperative attitude in connection with the rescue of refugees as its desire to be helpful is now definitely established.

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

JMS

STEINHARDT

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 18 1972

The acceleration of the Turkish Government in ~~a recent~~ ^{the} expected movement of refugees from the Balkans to Palestine was hailed today by John F. Pehle, Executive Director of the War Refugee Board, upon receipt of a report from Ambassador Laurence A. Steinhardt in ~~London~~ ^{INSERT A}

Nearly 1,000 refugees from ~~the~~ ^{Algeria and Rumania} were given visas and railroad transportation by Turkish authorities from Istanbul to Palestine during the last two weeks of November and the first week of December, Ambassador Steinhardt stated. He said the capacity of the single track railroad on which only two passenger trains are operated in each direction weekly has been severely taxed by this ~~unprecedented~~ evacuation.

B ^{During past months} "The Government of Turkey has shown once more that ~~it is~~ ^{it} willing ~~near~~ to do its utmost to help save the lives of those victims of Fascism who must cross its borders to reach Palestine and safety," Mr. Pehle declared.

Lauding Turkish assistance in rescue activities, Mr. Pehle pointed out that thousands of refugees have crossed the Black Sea from Rumania to Istanbul during the past year, thanks to the Turk Government's willingness to permit rescue ships in Black Sea waters. He said Turkey also has allowed all refugees to land in Istanbul and supplied them with railroad transportation to Palestine, regardless of the fact that most of the refugees were without

00080

Palestine entry certificates and were also without Turkish entrance or transit visas.

For several weeks prior to receiving Ambassador Steinhardt's report Mr. Folie said the Board had received cables from Herbert Katzki, its representative in Turkey, indicating that small numbers of refugees coming out of Rumania and Bulgaria, including Polish refugees, had been given transportation to the Syrian border in trains made available by the Turkish authorities.

000000

The cooperation of the Turkish Government in a recent unexpected movement of refugees from the Balkans to Palestine was hailed today by John W. Pehle, Executive Director of the War Refugee Board, upon receipt of a report from Ambassador Laurence A. Steinhardt in Ankara.

Nearly 1,200 refugees from Bulgaria and Rumania were given visas and railroad transportation by Turkish authorities from Istanbul to Palestine during the last two weeks of November and the first week of December, Ambassador Steinhardt stated. He said the capacity of the single track railroad on which only two passenger trains are operated in each direction weekly has been severely taxed by this unanticipated evacuation.

"The Government of Turkey has shown once more that it is willing to do its utmost to help save the lives of those victims of Fascism who must cross its borders to reach Palestine and safety," Mr. Pehle declared.

Lauding Turkish assistance in rescue activities, Mr. Pehle pointed out that thousands of refugees have crossed the Black Sea from Rumania to Istanbul during the past year, thanks to the Turk Government's willingness to permit rescue ships in Black Sea waters. He said Turkey also has allowed all refugees to land in Istanbul and supplied them with railroad transportation to Palestine, regardless of the fact that most of the refugees were without

Palestine entry certificates and were also without Turkish entrance or transit visas.

For several weeks prior to receiving Ambassador Steinhardt's report Mr. Pehle said the Board had received cables from Herbert Katski, its representative in Turkey, indicating that small numbers of refugees coming out of Rumania and Bulgaria, including Polish refugees, had been given transportation to the Syrian border in trains made available by the Turkish authorities.

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DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FBI
Distribution of true
grading only by special
arrangement. [REDACTED]
7 PM.
DEC 16 AM 11 21

AMEMBASSY

ANKARA

1173

The following for Katski is WRB 138.

Reference your 2287 of December 1.

Information in question was received from London
correspondent of Independent Jewish Press Service, Jacob
Harendorf, 86 Woodlands, London, N.W. 11, who presumably
obtained it from Istanbul correspondent, Chaim Oved.

STETTINIUS
(GLW)

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

WRB:MMV:KG
12/14/44

NE

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SFP 18 1972

000805

CABLE TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA, TURKEY, FOR KATZKI

Reference your 2287 of December 1.

Information in question was received from London correspondent of Independent Jewish Press Service, Jacob Harendorf, 66 Woodlands, London, N.W. 11, who presumably obtained it from Istanbul correspondent, Chaim Oved.

THIS IS WRB ANKARA CABLE NO. 135.

~~You will, of course, investigate whether, official denial notwithstanding, information was transmitted in good faith and has basis in fact.~~

10:30 a.m.
December 14, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Ackermann, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Mannon, McCormack, Files

BAkzin:tmh 12-12-44

BAkzin *tmh*

000806



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Istanbul, December 12, 1944

Dear Mr. Pehle:

We are enclosing herein statistics of emigration to Palestine which took place through Istanbul during the month of November, 1944, together with figures on emigration in transit through Istanbul for the first eleven months of 1944.

The following are the high lights:

1. Of the 512 persons who passed through Istanbul during November, 431 came from Bulgaria, and 81 from Rumania. All of these people arrived in Istanbul by railroad;
2. The 431 from Bulgaria included three groups of adults and children, of whom 179 were children travelling under the so-called "childrens' scheme." All other persons from Bulgaria arrived in Istanbul individually. The 81 persons from Rumania were made up of two organized groups of adults and children:
3. The emigrants, during the month of November, comprised 403 Bulgarians, 28 Hungarians (of whom 25 came from the Bor mines in Yugoslavia), 1 Rumanian and 80 Poles.

You will note that the total number of persons who passed through Istanbul from January 1 to November 30, 1944, including 282 Dutch exchangees, is 5705 persons.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

Herbert Katzki
Herbert Katzki

J. W. Pehle, Esquire
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Encls: Statistics of emigration

C
C
P
Y

Istanbul, 1.12.44.

Immigrants in Transit
(from Jan 1st '44)

1.

	<u>BULGARIA</u>	<u>HUNGARY</u>	<u>ROMANIA</u>	<u>GREECE</u>	<u>HOLLAND</u> (exchangees)	<u>Total No. per</u> <u>month</u>
Jan. '44	32	73	--	8	--	113
Feb.	55	78	12	25	--	170
March	a) 131	9	b) 252	62	--	454
April	17	--	c) 667	173	--	857
May	46	--	d) 340	74	--	460
June	127	--	2	104	--	233
July	e) 149	--	f) 752	3	282	1186
Aug.	99	--	g) 707	90	--	896
Sept.	35	--	--	--	--	35
Oct.	72	3	h) 714	--	--	789
Nov.	i) 431	--	j) 81	--	--	512
	1194	163	3527	539	282	5705

For figures marked (a) to (j) see specification page 2.

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2.

Specification

Figures marked (a) to (j) include the following groups:

a)	Group of Youths (B iii)	46 pers.	
b)	Passengers m/b MILCA (1st trip).....	239	"
c)	" " MARITZA (1st trip).....	234	"
	" " BELLA CITA	153	"
	" " MILCA (2nd trip)	272	"
d)	" " MARITZA (2nd trip)	318	"
e)	Group of Youths (B iii)	40	"
f)	Passengers m/b KAZBEK	752	"
g)	" " MORINA	308	"
	" " BULBUL	391	"
	" " MEFKURE	5	"
h)	Group of 119 children (117 Youths B(iii) & 2 chld.) and <u>44 adult immigrants</u>	163	"
	Passengers m/b SELAHEDDINE	548	"
i)	Group of 53 children (51 Youths B (iii) & 2 chld.) and <u>33 adult immigrants</u>	86	"
	Group of 89 children (87 Youths B (iii) & 2 chld.) and <u>28 adult immigrants</u>	117	"
	Group of 29 children (all Youths (B iii) and <u>17 adult immigrants</u>	46	"
j)	Group of 2 children (with parents) and <u>41 adult immigrants</u>	43	"
	Group of 3 children (with parents) and <u>35 adult immigrants</u>	38	"

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- 1 -

Istanbul, 1.12.44.

Immigrants who left for Palestine between Nov. 1st and Nov. 30th '44

Local Immigrants:

Adults 1 = Total No. local immigrants.

Bulgarian Immigrants:

Adults 181
Children with parents... 43
Youths (B iii)..... 179 403 a)

Hungarian Immigrants:

Adults..... 28 b)

Romanian Immigrants:

Adults..... 1 c)

Polish Immigrants:

Adults..... 75
Children with parents... 5 80 d) 512 = Total No. foreign immigrants

Total No. of all immigrants: 513

N.B.: Figures marked (a) to (d) include the following groups:

a) Group of immigrants from Bulgaria (totalling 86 pers.)* 61 pers.
" " " " " (" 117 ")* 117 "
" " " " " (" 46 ")* 46 "
b) Hungarian refugees incl. in group of 86 fr. Bulgaria * 25 "
" " arrived singly " 3 "
c) Group of immigrants from Romania (totalling 43 pers.) * 1 "
d) Polish refugees incl. in group of 43 fr. Romania * 42 "
" " " " 38 " " * 38 "

* see specification of groups on page 2.

000810

C
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P
Y

- 2 -

Specification of immigrants' groups which arrived between
November 1st and Nov. 30th '44.

A. Groups from Bulgaria

1. Group of 86 (arr. 3.11 left 6.11'44):

Bulgarians:	Adults	8		
	Children	2		
	Youths (B iii)	<u>51</u>	61	
Hungarians	Adults	<u>25</u>	86 pers.	

2. Group of 117 (arr. 8.11 left 10.11'44):

Bulgarians:	Adults	28		
	Children	2		
	Youths (B iii)	<u>87</u>	117	"

3. Group of 46 (arr. 12.11 left 17.11'44):

Bulgarians:	Adults	17		
	Youths (B iii)	29	46	"

B. Groups from Romania

1. Group of 43 (arr. 5.11 left 10.11.'44):

Romanians:	Adults	1		
Poles:	Adults	40		
	Children	<u>2</u>	<u>42</u>	43 "

2. Group of 38 (arr. 10.11 left 16.11 and 17.11'44):

Poles:	Adults	35		
	Children	<u>3</u>	38	"

000811

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

LFC-203

1944 DEC 8 PM 4 54 Ankara

This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to a ~~COMMUNICATIONS~~
other than a Government ~~AND RECORDS~~
Agency. (~~RESTRICTED~~ LIAISON)

Dated December 7, 1944

Rec'd 8:07 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

x
2320, DECEMBER 7, 3 p.m.

FROM NARLI AC BELLE WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

x
Ankara's No. 200

For your information the Turkish vessel TOROS
which departed from Constanza December 3, arrived in
Istanbul on December 5 carrying 905 emigrants from
Rumania proceeding to Palestine. The TOROS proceeded
from Istanbul to Constanza during the month of November
and returned to Istanbul under Rumanian Red Cross safe
conduct. The emigrants arrived in Istanbul without
transit visas or Palestine entry certificates, possessing
only their travel documents. The Palestine entry
certificates and the Turkish and Syrian transit visas
were issued in Istanbul pursuant to the Embassy's general
agreement with the British and Turkish authorities which
previously has been reported to you relating to such
cases.

Passengers

CONTROL COPY

0008 12

-2-#2320, December 7, 3 p.m., from Ankara

Passengers include 350 children repatriated from Transnistria to Rumania, Rumanian nationals, forced laborers from the Bor mines in Yugoslavia and a large proportion of refugees from Hungary, some of whom it is reported escaped from Hungary as recently as November 15.

In accordance with Ambassador Steinhardt's general agreement with the Turkish Foreign Office concerning railroad facilities, the Turkish authorities provided a special train and the entire group departed from Istanbul for Palestine on December 8.

As soon as it has been possible to examine the lists and documentation of the TOROS emigrants more closely revised details will be sent to you.

STEINHARDT

EEC

000813

December 9, 1944

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Robert Pilpel was received through the American Legation in Lisbon under date of December 7, 1944:

"132. Turkish boat TOROS arrived Istanbul ex Constanza December 5 carrying 925, including 370 Transnistrian orphan children, balance Hungarians."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. M. A. Leavitt, Secretary,
✓ American Jewish Joint Distribution
Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,
New York 16, New York.

✓
RW
RDrury 12/9/44

000812

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

JP-318

1944 DEC 8 PM 1 21

PLAIN

Lisbon

COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS
(LIAISON)

Dated December 7, 1944

Rec'd 11:35 p.m.

*Wm. B. Bel.
Pelle*

Secretary of State

Washington

4157, Seventh

WRB 270 JDC 132 FOR LEAVITT FROM PILPEL

Turkish boat TOROS arrived Istanbul Exconstanza
December 5 carrying 925 including 370 Transnistrian
orphan children balance Hungarians.

CROCKER

MJF

Message sent 12/7/44
CONTROL COPY *RS*

000013

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

JP-952

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

Ankara

Dated December 2, 1944

Rec'd 6:46 p.m., 3rd

Secretary of State

Washington

2294, December 2, 7 p.m.

FROM KATZKI TO PEHLE, WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Ankara's No. 199.

For your information I have received the following
telegram despatched November 30 from HIASICA emigration
association representation now in Bucharest.

"In view exceedingly drastic relief situation a
rising from steady influx refugees from Hungary and
Transylvania aggravating relief problems already created
by other categories your presence here urgently essential".

Although the relief problem in Rumania may not be
within scope of War Refugee Board activities, the influx
of refugees from Hungary and the acceleration thereof
probably is.

The foregoing is for your information to supplement
Embassy's 2,257, Ankara's 192..

STEINHARDT

EMB

CONTROL COPY

*Disagreed
with George
Vanden into
and told
that to
induce
everything
possible
I get back
in
JCS
Dec*

000016

December 8, 1944

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Judah Magnes was received through the American Consulate in Jerusalem under date of December 2, 1944:

"Departures ANESTIRYA, now Constanza, TOROS and MYRNA now being arranged Jewish Agency; 186,000 pounds estimated cost to Istanbul, 3,100 passengers. Also arranging ALSMILKA from Bulgaria, cost around 8,800 pounds, 250 passengers. Therefore you are requested participate 80 per cent of around 200,000 pounds. Agency and others considering other boat projects, in addition. It is our belief prices can be decreased. However we cannot participate negotiations to pay under existing methods so it is not possible to proceed in accordance with your proposal that Agency submit projects for your approval prior to making arrangements as it takes weeks to exchange cables. It is our suggestion you authorize us to negotiate with Agency JDC participation Rumanian boat projects at a cost of \$150 per passenger to Istanbul, regardless of cost to Agency and restricted to 5,000 passengers at this time; subject to conditions as follows (controlled by Filderman on our behalf): (1) seaworthiness boats and number passengers transportable each, (2) priority refugees now in Rumania from other countries, and Rumanian orphans and children in addition. Full conditions telegraphed Joseph Schwartz, Lisbon."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

✓ Mr. M. A. Leavitt, Secretary,
American Jewish Joint Distribution
Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,
New York 16, New York.

RD
RDrury 12/8/44

2 WRB-Peder

RECEIVED OF TELETYPE SERVICE

FROM: American Consulate General, Jerusalem
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: December 2, 1944
NUMBER: 179 X

CONTROL COPY

Memorandum
12/9/44 RS

It is requested that Leavitt, Joint Distribution Committee, New York be given paraphrase of following message from Judah Magnes, Hebrew University, Jerusalem.

Departures ANESTIRYA now Constanza, TOROS AND MYRNA now being arranged Jewish Agency; 165,000 pounds estimated cost to Istanbul, 3,100 passengers. Also arranging ALSHILMA from Bulgaria, cost around 8,800 pounds, 250 passengers. Therefore, you are requested participate 80 percent of around 200,000 pounds. Agency and others considering other boat projects, in addition. It is our belief prices can be decreased. However we cannot participate negotiations to pay under existing methods so it is not possible to proceed in accordance with your proposal that agency submit projects for your approval prior to making arrangements as it takes weeks to exchange cables. It is our suggestion you authorize us to negotiate with agency JDC participation Rumanian boat projects at a cost of \$150 per passenger to Istanbul regardless of cost to agency and restricted to 5,000 passengers at this time; subject to conditions as follows (controlled by Fielderamen on our behalf): (1) seaworthiness boats and number passengers transportable each, (2) priority refugees now in Rumania from other countries, and Rumanian orphans and children in addition. Full conditions telegraphed Joseph Schwartz, Lisbon.

PINKERTON

DGR:GFW
12-4-44

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 18 1972

000818

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

9 30

MOB-423
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. (S) (W)

Ankara

Dated December 1, 1944

Rec'd 8:47 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

CONTROL COPY

2287, December 1, 4 p.m.

FROM KATZKI TO PEHLE WRB, ANKARA'S NO. 198.

Ambassador Steinhardt has made inquiry of the Turkish Foreign Office which informed him that it is without knowledge of the alleged issuance of 1450 Turkish passports by the Turkish Consul in Budapest (Department's 1082, WRB 130 and Embassy's 2247, Ankara's 190) to persons in Hungary threatened with deportation. Consequently it could not have disavowed the passports. I have inquired of the accredited representative in Istanbul of the JEWISH MORNING JOURNAL who informed me that this news item was not (repeat not) transmitted by him, and that he had no information regarding the subject matter. Inquiry in other directions likewise has been without result.

We would appreciate your obtaining the source of this information from the JEWISH MORNING JOURNAL in
DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 4 1980

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

000819

-2-, #2287, December 1, 4 p.m., from Ankara

order to assist us in verifying the facts. If it should develop that this is irresponsible journalism emanating from Istanbul we shall make an effort to have it stopped. If in New York it should be stopped there.

STEINHARDT

EEC

000820

Spec. to * thru Turkey ①

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

Dissemination of Spec.
Spec. only by special
auth. ()

NOVEMBER 30, 1944

10 p.m.

For security
test of this
be closely

AMEMBASSY

ANKARA
1115

The following for Katski is WRB 132.

Please refer to your 2257 of November 27.

The War Refugee Board is in full agreement as to the desirability of your proceeding to Rumania and Bulgaria as soon as possible in order to explore rescue possibilities there. At the Board's request the State Department is now arranging for the necessary travel permits for you and Passman. You will be advised as soon as these permits are granted.

It is not clear to us that the matter referred to in your No. 2256 of November 28 is within the jurisdiction of the War Refugee Board. The matter has, however, been brought to the attention of the State Department for such action as it may deem appropriate.

MINIUS
()
()

WRB:MMV:KG
11/30/44

NE

SE

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 18 1972

000821