

Evacuation To and Through Turkey, Vol. 1, Folder 2

Programs with Respect to Relief and  
Rescue - Refugees: Evacuations To and  
Through Turkey

W.R. 43

00000000

NOV 28 1944

Dear Rabbi Kalmanowitz:

Ambassador Steinhardt and the War Refugee Board Representative in Ankara have requested that you be advised that they have been unable to verify the report that the Turkish Government had disavowed passports alleged to have been issued by the Turkish Consul in Budapest to 1,450 Jews. They also state that they have been unable to confirm that any passports were issued by the Turkish Consul in Budapest.

Messrs. Griffel and Kastner and representatives of other private Jewish agencies in Turkey state that they have no knowledge of the issuance at the Turkish Consul in Budapest of these passports or of the alleged action by the Turkish Government.

Very truly yours,

(59-308) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Rabbi A. Kalmanowitz,  
Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee,  
132 Nassau Street,  
New York 7, N. Y.

Information contained in  
Cable # 2247, Nov. 24, 1944,  
from Ankara.

FH:hd 11/28/44

201

10082

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

JP-1122

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

Ankara

Dated November 28, 1944

Rec'd 11:40 p.m., 27th

Secretary of State

Washington

2256, November 28, 3 p.m.

FROM KATZKI TO PEHLE WAR REFUGEE BOARD ANKARA'S No. 191

Jewish agency sources inform us (see Embassy's 2226,  
Ankara's 189) that at the present there are 278 refugees  
from Rumania en route to Palestine detained at Stara Zagora  
Bulgaria and 320 additional at Kazanlik near Stara Zagora.  
All the emigrants we are advised are Rumanians and Poles.  
A fourth group comprising 300 persons was turned back to  
Rumania at Ruse, Bulgaria within the past few days. Part  
of the group at Stara Zagora, Bulgaria has been permitted  
to leave the railroad cars and has found accommodations  
in that city where, however, facilities are exceedingly  
limited as they are at Kazanlik. 70 persons at Stara  
Zagoria according to reports have become ill, some with  
infectious diseases.

The Bulgarian Legation at Ankara in response to our  
request for information was advised by Legation that the

refugees have been  
received by the  
BULGARIAN LEGATION  
RECEIVED

CONTROL COPY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
NOV 28 1944  
11 30

-2- #2256, November 28, 3 p.m., from Ankara.

refugees have been detained pursuant to Russian instructions the day their passports are to be reviewed after which they will be permitted to depart. In this connection it should be noted that the first group already has been held for more than a week.

We have not yet received a report from Barnes in Sofia to whom a telegram was sent by the Embassy in Ankara. We have been informed, however, that he advised a Jewish agency representative in Sofia that this matter is not within his power. Presumably therefore, it is a matter for the Military Control Commission.

We recommend that the question of the release and onward voyage of the refugees be pursued with the military especially with the Russians if at all possible. Should it appear that the review of passports is being made to determine whether their holders might be originally from areas now claimed as part of Russian territory and therefore subject to repatriation as Russian nationals, those Rumanians and Poles to whom it may be clear that the Russians have no claim should be released without delay in order to reduce the number of detainees and the arrival of more refugees at the same time than the Turkish railroad system can carry. The questionable cases can be dealt with thereafter. The interruption of the emigration of the detainees seriously threatens the entire emigration.

-3- #2256, November 28, 3 p.m., from Ankara.

omigration scheme from the Balkans and is causing grave hardships for the persons involved. Prompt action on the part of the board or other competent agencies is urgent.

STEINHARDT

MJF

EMB

December 1, 1944

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Robert Pilpel was received through the American Legation in Lisbon under date of November 27, 1944:

"127. Following information is from Kessler. Received report to effect that 600 Polish refugees from Rumania who planned to proceed by way of Bulgaria and Turkey to Palestine have been detained in Bulgaria. This was ordered by the Russians, claiming they came from Soviet territory and they may be returned there. American and British Embassies are attempting to make arrangements for these refugees to proceed on their journey."

Very truly yours,

Enclosed, C.S.S. 100110

J.W. Pehle  
Executive Director

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

✓  
KD  
RDrury 12/1/44

00082

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

War Ref Bd  
(M. S. L.)

FMH-1129  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. (W)

Lisbon

Dated November 27, 1944

Rec'd 12:04 a.m., 28th

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

4080, November 27, 7 p.m.

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

THIS INFORMATION COMES FROM KESSLER. THIS IS WEB  
265 JDC 127 FROM PILPEL FOR LEAVITT

Report received that 600 Polish refugees from  
Rumania intending to go to Palestine by way Bulgaria  
and Turkey have been held up in Bulgaria. This by  
order of Russians who claim they come from Russian  
territory and may return them there. Arrangements  
for these refugees to continue journey are being  
attempted by British and American Embassies.

NORWEB

EH

CONTROL COPY

Message sent  
12/1/44

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

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

MS- 1120

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

Ankara

Dated November 27, 1944

Rec'd 11:40 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

**CONTROL COPY**

2257, November 27, 4 p.m.

FROM KATZKI TO PEHLE WAR REFUGEE BOARD ANKARA'S 192.

In our telegrams (Embassy's 2226, Ankara's 189 and  
Embassy's 2256, Ankara's 191) we informed you regarding  
the detention at Starazagora, Bulgaria of refugees and  
emigrants traveling from Rumania to Palestine via  
Bulgaria. In earlier telegrams we have reported to you  
upon rescue possibilities which seem to exist and which  
might be undertaken from Rumania.

We do not know to what extent it is possible for  
us to be of assistance in any of these matters as we  
are dependent in Istanbul upon reports and information  
which are received here from various sources. Now that  
American political Missions have arrived in Bucharest  
and Sofia, I again strongly urge the importance of my  
being permitted to travel to Rumania and Bulgaria in  
order that I may be able to explore in person such rescue

RECEIVED possibilities



-2-#2257, November 27, 4 p.m., from Ankara.

possibilities as still exist and to be of such aid in  
refugee matters as the terms of reference from the  
Board permit.

Will you please advise me.

STEINHARDT

MJF

000830

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

FEM-381  
Distribution of ture  
reading only by special  
arrangement. (W)

Ankara

Dated November 24, 1944

Rec'd 10:56 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

2247, November 24, 5 p.m.

FOR PEHLE WAR REFUGEE BOARD FROM KATZKI ANKARA 190.

The Vaad Hahatzala emergency committee of New York has sent a cable direct to Ambassador Steinhardt which of course was seen by Turkish authorities charging that Turkish Government had disavowed "passports" alleged to have been issued by Turkish Consul in Budapest to 1450 Jews about to be deported to Germany and requesting Ambassadors assistance in interceding with Turkish Government to reconsider and recognize these passports.

Ambassador and I have been unable to verify the accusation made by Vaad Hahatzala against Turkish Government nor have we been able to confirm that any such "passports" were issued by the Turkish Consul in Budapest. Furthermore neither the representatives of Vaad Hahatzala in Istanbul Messrs Griffel and Kastner nor the representatives of other private Jewish agencies in Turkey gave any knowledge

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.

CONTROL COPY

-2-#2247, November 24, 5 p.m., from Ankara.

any knowledge of the issuance at the Turkish Consul in Budapest of these passports or of alleged action by Turkish Government in disfavoring same. As Ambassador is not (repeat not) replying direct to telegram received by him it would be appreciated if the board would inform Vaad Hahatzala of foregoing.

In connection with above, the board may wish to consider desirability of requesting Vaad Hahatzala in the future to refrain from sending telegrams direct to Turkey which are liable to give offense to Turkish Government particularly in respect of changes which have not yet been conformed. At same time, board may wish to request Vaad Hahatzala to submit to it the basis for charges against Turkish Government which appear in its telegram to the Ambassador.

STEINHARDT

WMB

DEPARTMENT

OF  
STATE  
true reading only by  
special arrangement.

OUTGOING  
TELEGRAM

November 25,  
2 p.m.

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

1944 NOV 27 PM 1 20

AMEMBASSY

ANKARA  
1082 X

The following for Katski is WRB 130.

**CONTROL COPY**

News item date marked Istanbul November 15 appearing in  
New York Jewish Morning Journal is in substance as follows:

QUOTE The Turkish Consul in Budapest attempted to save 1450  
Jews from the Budapest ghetto in danger of deportation to Germany,  
by making them Turkish citizens, but his government did not permit  
it.

The Consul endeavored to follow the example of the Swedish  
representative in Budapest who had already done so. The Turkish  
Government, however, advised the Hungarian Minister of the Interior  
that the passports which the Consul issued were not legal and that  
the Consul was not empowered to issue the passports. UNQUOTE

The Board would appreciate any information you may be able  
to gather with respect to the truth of the foregoing particularly  
as to whether the Turkish Government disavowed any passports which  
a Turkish Consul may have issued in an effort to save lives. Please  
consult with Ambassador Steinhardt regarding methods whereby this  
information may be obtained.

STETTINI'S  
ACTING  
(GLW)

WRB:MMV:KG  
11/25/44

NE

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

CABLE TO AMBASSADOR STEINHARDT, ANKARA, FOR KATZKI

News item date marked Istanbul November <sup>15</sup>25 is in substance as follows:

QUOTE The Turkish Consul in Budapest attempted to save 1450 Jews from the Budapest ghetto in danger of deportation to Germany, by making them Turkish citizens, but his government did not permit it.

QUOTE The Consul endeavored to follow the example of the Swedish representative in Budapest who had already done so. The Turkish Government, however, advised the Hungarian Minister of the Interior that the passports which the Consul issued were not legal and that the Consul was not empowered to issue the passports. UNQUOTE

The Board would appreciate any information you may be able to gather with respect to the truth of the foregoing particularly as to whether the Turkish Government disavowed any passports which a Turkish Consul may have issued in an effort to save lives.

THIS IS WRB ANKARA CABLE NO. 130.

1:30 p.m.  
November 23, 1944

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

LSLesser:hh 11-22-44 2.5.2.

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

DCG-1128

This telegram must be  
paraphrased before being  
communicated to anyone  
other than a Government  
Agency. [REDACTED]

Ankara

Dated November 20, 1944

Rec'd 9:28 a.m. 21st

Secretary of State,

Washington.

PRIORITY

2226, November 20, 9 p.m.

[REDACTED] FOR BARNES SOFIA FROM THE AMBASSADOR  
AND KATZKI WRB 545.

According to reports received in Istanbul two  
groups of refugees proceeding to Palestine from  
Rumania via Bulgaria and Turkey have been detained  
at Stara Zagora. The first of these groups includes  
153 persons of whom 94 are women and children  
comprising 129 Poles and 24 Rumanians. They departed  
from Rumania November 12. The second group numbering  
150 persons departed from Rumania November 17. A  
third group are from 200 to 250 persons scheduled to  
leave Rumania and may already have arrived at Stara Zagora.

We have been informed that the two groups have been  
detained at Stara Zagora by the stationmaster who claims  
to have requested instructions of the Soviet authorities  
in Sofia regarding their onward movement. We are advised  
that all [REDACTED]

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

CONTROL COPY

I  
-2-#2226, November 20, 9 p.m. from Ankara.

that all of the refugees are in possession of Rumanian exit visas and Bulgarian transit visas. Certificate transit visas in accordance with our agreement with the Turkish Government will be issued at the Turkish frontier to those refugees who do not already possess them and all other visas and entry certificates necessary to complete travel to Palestine will be issued in Istanbul pursuant to existing agreements with the Turkish and British Governments.

The arbitrary detention of these <sup>groups by the stationmasters</sup> /at Stara Zagora threatens the entire movement of refugees from the Balkans to Palestine and may have an adverse effect on all rescue operations particularly as the arrival in Istanbul of more than one of these groups at a time threatens to congest the Turkish railways to a point at which the Turkish authorities may rescind the existing arrangements.

In view of the foregoing, we would appreciate your making inquiry regarding the reason for the interruption of the movement and your taking such action as you may deem appropriate in the premises.

Repeated to Department as 2226, for War Refugee Board as Ankara No. 189.

STEINHARDT

RB

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DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

*War Ref Bd  
(Mr. Pehle)*

FMH-731

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

Ankara

Dated November 13, 1944

Rec'd 8:35 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

2166, November 13, 11 a.m.

FROM KATZKI TO PEHLE

The English-French War Refugee Board Ankara's  
No. 183172 emigrants from Bulgaria and Rumania  
including group of 43 Polish refugees from Rumania (See  
Ankara's 179 of November 7). Group of 115 Bulgarians  
(See Ankara's 182 of November 9). departed November 10  
proceeding to Palestine.

STEINHARDT

WMB

CONTROL COPY



ועד ההצלה

# VAAD HAHATZALA

(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)

132 NASSAU STREET

(ROOM 819)

NEW YORK 7, N. Y.

PHONE RECTOR 2-4235

November 17, 1944

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

Honorable Sir:

May we call to your attention the enclosed press notice from Istanbul and translated by us from the Yiddish.

We were painfully grieved by the report, and it further emphasizes the need for a most vigorous and definite policy, if the pitiful few remaining in the European vale of tears are to hope for rescue.

1) May we respectfully urge an immediate and strong intercession with the Government of Turkey, in the name of humanity, to recognize the humane Act of its Consul in Budapest and give credence to the documents issued, which will be used only for saving these lives and not to seek permanent residence in Turkey. The American Government should give every assurance to Turkey that the passports will so be used, and that further provision for the care of the 1450 in the event of their release, will be assumed.

2) May we ask you to advise us whether there have been any further developments in the matter of the 8,000 Hungarian Jews for whose release to Switzerland negotiations are under way. A strong assurance by our Government that these 8,000 would be given refuge, would definitely hasten the release of these unfortunates. We could never forgive ourselves if this golden opportunity were neglected since the initial step in this matter was taken by the Hungarian Government.

We shall deeply appreciate your continued concern in these vital matters and we anxiously await your further advices.

With deepest appreciation,

Very respectfully yours,

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

*A. Kalmanowitz*  
Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

AK:f

*To rescue, save and preserve from war destruction the Torah values  
(Yesbiveth, Rabbis, Scholars and Communal Leaders)*

*To utilize the possibilities for rescue of European Jewry where the  
Vaad Hahatzala program is especially needed.*

7-12-44  
11/24/44  
Independent Jewish Press Service  
4  
ISTANBUL November 25th (I.J.P.S.) -

The Turkish Consul in Budapest attempted to save 1450 Jews from the Budapest ghetto in danger of deportation to Germany, by making them Turkish citizens, but his government did not permit it.

The Consul endeavored to follow the example of the Swedish representative in Budapest who had already done so. The Turkish Government, however, advised the Hungarian Minister of the Interior that the passports which the Consul issued were not legal and that the Consul was not empowered to issue the passports.

November 13, 1944

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Mr. Pilpel was received through the American Legation in Lisbon under date of November 11, 1944:

"118. Griffel Agudas Israel Istanbul asking Joint finance Turkish boat accommodating 300 religious persons from Constanza costing 30,000 Turkish pounds payable Turkey. Kessler also advises departure 2 boats each carrying 300 passengers from Constanza rumored and also possibility Greek boat SMYRNA accommodating 1200. Please advise. We requesting Kessler provide cost figures other boats and will advise further."

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 11/13/44

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

AVH-395

PLAIN

Lisbon

Dated November 11, 1944

Rec'd 4:34 a.m. 12th

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

X  
3926, Eleventh.

FOR LEAVITT FROM PILPEL JDC 118 WRB 252.

Griffel Agudas Israel Istanbul asking joint finance  
Turkish boat accommodating 300 religious persons from  
Costanza costing 30,000 Turkish pounds payable Turkey.  
Kessler also advises departure 2 boats each carrying  
300 passengers from Costanza rumored and also possi-  
bility Greek boat SMYRNA accommodating 1200. Please  
advise. We requesting Kessler provide cost figures  
other boats and will advise further.

NORWEB

JMS

CONTROL COPY

*Enc to 4 then Turkey*

(1)



EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Ankara, November 11, 1944.

Personal  
and [REDACTED]

*no 8 1115*

Herbert Katzki, Esquire,  
War Refugee Board,  
Istanbul.

Dear Herbert:

Supplementing your recent exchange of correspondence with Mr. Packer, I have reason to believe from the casual remarks made to me during the past week or ten days by officials of the Turkish Government that they have been putting up trial balloons to see if they cannot terminate the "Children's Scheme" and general agreement that the Foreign Office gave me some months ago for the transit of Jewish refugees through Turkey to Palestine even though visas may not have been issued in advance. On both occasions that the subject was touched on with me I immediately expressed pained astonishment and indicated clearly that any attempt to disturb the existing arrangements would prompt me to go straight to the Prime Minister for an explanation as to why the Turkish Government desired to no longer participate in the humanitarian act of helping us to rescue unfortunates. Mr. Packer has taken the same line in his talks with Payman. I have gained the impression that my violent reaction has punctured these trial balloons and that no further attempt will be made for the time being by the Turkish authorities to disturb the existing arrangements.

For your information, I believe the trial balloons were prompted by the inconvenience sustained by the Ministry of Communications resulting from some 700 or 800 arrivals within the space of a relatively few days and growing anxiety that the Turkish Government may be drawn into the Arab-Jewish controversy in Palestine by continuing to transit large numbers of Jewish refugees. As against these two motives the desire to maintain friendly relations with the United States, not to arouse the American press or to offend the American Ambassador will doubtless prevail. I am accordingly not seriously disturbed.

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

You

*come to file from 2410, #5145*

0000000000

-2-

You may wish to report the foregoing to  
the War Refugee Board--preferably by letter  
or despatch instead of by telegram.

With kind personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

*Laurence B. Henderson*

000041

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF

1944 NOV 12 AM 10 50

EBF-333

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

Ankara

Dated November 11, 1944

Rec'd 7:35 p.m.

COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS  
(LIAISON)

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

2155, November 11, noon

FROM KATZKI TO PEHLE WAR REFUGEE BOARD

An additional group of 115 persons (Ankara's  
182) including 87 children arrived in Istanbul  
November 8 from Bulgaria proceeding to Palestine under  
the Ambassador's agreement with the Foreign Office.  
They will leave Istanbul for Palestine by railroad  
within the next few days.

STEINHARDT

RB

CONTROL COPY

NOV 12 1944

RECEIVED  
NOV 12 1944

000844

November 8, 1944

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Robert Filpel was received through the American Legation in Lisbon under date of November 6, 1944:

"112. 86 persons arrived Istanbul November 3 by rail from Bulgaria, 51 children, 4 escorts, 25 men released from labor camp Bor, and family of 4 and 2 children. Group leaving for Palestine November 6, also 43 Poles arrived Istanbul November 5 from Rumania en route Palestine. Reference our 111, Wolf Saind requests per capita payment 500 Swiss francs for 547 SS SELADHIN passengers; Joseph Schwartz cabled Passman August 28 'view situation would prefer pass on each project as it materializes instead of giving blanket authority.'

"Advise whether foregoing Swiss franc payment authorized."

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 11/8/44



DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

DMF-763

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

PLAIN

Lisbon

Dated November 6, 1944

Rec'd 6:29 a.m., 7th

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

*War Ref Bd  
(Mr. Kehle)*

Secretary of State,

Washington.

5872, Sixth, 7 pm

FOR LEAVITT FROM FILPEL JDC 112 WRB 248

COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS  
(LINSON)

1944 NOV 8 AM 9 46

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF

86 persons arrived Istanbul November 3 by rail from Bulgaria 51 children 4 escorts 25 men released from labor camp Bor and family of 4 and 2 children. Group leaving for Palestine November 6 also 43 Poles arrived Istanbul November 5 from Rumania enroute Palestine. Reference our 111 Wolf Szind requests per capita payment 500 Swiss Francs for 547 steamship SELATTHIN passengers Joseph Schwartz cabled Passman August 28 "view situation would prefer pass on each project as it materializes instead of giving blanket authority".

Advise whether foregoing Swiss franc payment authorized

NORWEB

WMB

NOV 8 AM 2 10

CONTROL COPY

*Message sent  
11/18/44 RD*

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

BJR - 46

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

Ankara

Dated November 7, 1944

Rec'd 1:45 a.m. 8th.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

2128, November 7, 2 p.m.

FROM KATZKI TO PEHLE WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Ankara's No. 179.

The group of 80 adults and children who arrived  
in Istanbul from Bulgaria on November 3 (see Ankara's  
No. 177 of November 4) departed under the Ambassador's  
agreement with the Foreign Office by rail from  
Istanbul on November 6 proceeding to Palestine.  
An additional group comprising 43 adult Polish  
refugees who had been in Rumania for some time  
arrived in Istanbul November 5 en route to Palestine.

STEINHARDT

MEV

CONTROL COPY

was to  
+ then  
①  
DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

AJW-385

12/11/43  
This telegram must be  
paraphrased before being  
communicated to anyone  
other than a Government  
Agency. (RESTRICTED)

Ankara

Dated November 4, 1944

Rec'd 4:15 p.m., 5th

Secretary of State

Washington

CONTROL COPY

2114, November 4, 3 p.m.

FROM KATZKI TO PEHLE WAR REFUGEE BOARD

ANKARA'S No. 177

For your information on November 3 a group of  
30 persons proceeding to Palestine arrived in  
Istanbul by rail from Bulgaria. They insisted 24  
men who escaped to Sofia from the Bor mines  
Yugoslavia, 50 children under the "children's  
scheme" and 6 adults escorts for the children. It  
is planned that they depart for Palestine during the  
next few days.

STEINHARDT

WLB

*Spec. to  
These Turkey*  
①  
DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF  
Ankara

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

FBM-971

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

Dated October 28, 1944

Rec'd 10:45 p.m.

COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS  
(LIAISON)

Secretary of State,

Washington.

**CONTROL COPY**

2070, October 28, noon.

FROM KATZKI TO PEHLE WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

ANKARA'S NO. 171.

The Jewish Agency has revised the information  
previously supplied us (SEE my 2,043, October 25)  
as follows:

1. The children's group from Rumania comprises  
110 children instead of 156 previously reported to  
us.

2. The few Transnistrian children originally  
included in the group were removed at the Rumanian -  
Bulgarian border. We are informed that the emigration  
of Transnistrian children from Rumania is not permitted  
as the Russian authorities, claiming that such children  
are Russian nationals, desire to repatriate them to  
Russian territory.

The children

*noted  
937*

-2-#2070, October 28, noon, from Ankara.

The children together with some 40 adults from Russia departed from Istanbul October 27, proceeding to Palestine.

The foregoing is for your information.

STEINHARDT

EEC

00085

*See it  
other Turkey*  
DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

MRQ-329 1944 OCT 23 AM 10 12  
This telegram must be  
paraphrased before being  
communicated to anyone  
other than a ~~RECORDS~~  
Agency. (RECORDS)

Ankara

Dated October 26, 1944

Rec'd 4:41 a.m., 27th

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

**CONTROL COPY**

2043, October 26, 8 a.m.

FROM KATZKI TO PEHLE WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Ankara's No. 169

Group of 156 children arrived in Istanbul by  
railroad direct from Rumania on October 25. These  
children, immigrating to Palestine, include  
repatriates from Transnistria, Polish refugees who  
had been in Rumania and Rumanian nationals. They  
received visas, including Turkish, pursuant to the  
so-called "children's scheme" for evacuating Jewish  
children from the Balkans to Palestine and constitute  
the first group to be evacuated from Rumania  
thereunder since its inception in 1943. It is planned  
that the children leave Istanbul for Palestine by  
railroad on October 27.

The foregoing is for your information. Further  
news will be sent when available.

STEINHARDT

WTD

October 16, 1944

Mr. Hirschmann

J. W. Pehle

In the interest of our good relations with the State Department, I would like to have you talk to the people in State working on Turkish and Balkan matters and bring them up to date with regard to our activities in these areas. Please make the necessary arrangements through George Warren.

(Initialed) J. W. P

*JWP*

*20-11-44*  
*Ref. 101*  
*Public*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Consul, Jerusalem  
DATED: October 11, 1944  
NUMBER: 163  
X

**CONTROL COPY**

From War Refugee Board.

Please deliver the following message to Charles Passman,  
18 Alfassi Street, Jerusalem, from M. A. Leavitt of the American  
Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

QUOTE We have given serious consideration to your  
cable on further voyages of small Bulgarian and  
Turkish boats without safe conduct. We agree fully  
with your and Hirschmann's viewpoint that there is  
no necessity to evacuate Rumanian or Bulgarian Jews  
under same conditions as heretofore and therefore we  
would ask you to inform Jewish Agency that our under-  
standing regarding our financial participation in these  
voyages is terminated by us and Jewish Agency is not  
authorized to proceed with such voyages counting on our  
financial participation. We are however prepared to  
consider financial participation in every future boat  
project for transportation of refugees to Palestine on  
its merits and only if we approve each project before  
being carried out can Jewish Agency expect reimbursement  
from us. Remitted \$100,000 to Taheran September 28 do not  
understand delay reaching Taheran. Please confirm receipt. UNQUOTE

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

SEP 18 1972

HULL



CABLE TO AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL, JERUSALEM, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Please deliver the following message to Charles Pasaman, 18 Alfassi Street, Jerusalem, from M. K. K. of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

WE HAVE GIVEN SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO YOUR CABLE ON FURTHER VOYAGES OF SMALL BULGARIAN AND TURKISH BOATS WITHOUT SAFE CONDUCT. WE AGREE FULLY WITH YOUR AND HANSCHEIM'S VIEWPOINT THAT THERE IS NO NECESSITY TO EVACUATE ROMANIAN OR BULGARIAN JEWS UNDER SAME CONDITIONS AS HUNGARIANS AND THEREFORE WE WOULD ASK YOU TO INFORM JEWISH AGENCY THAT OUR UNDERSTANDING REGARDING OUR FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION IN THESE VOYAGES IS TERMINATED BY US AND JEWISH AGENCY IS NOT AUTHORIZED TO PROCEED WITH SUCH VOYAGES CONTINUING ON OUR FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION. WE ARE HOWEVER PREPARED TO CONSIDER FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION IN FUTURE BOAT PROJECT FOR TRANSPORTATION OF REFUGEES TO PALESTINE ON ITS MERITS AND ONLY IF WE APPROVE EACH PROJECT BEFORE BEING CARRIED OUT CAN JEWISH AGENCY EXPECT REIMBURSEMENT FROM US. REMITTED \$100,000 TO TEHRAN SEPTEMBER 26 DO NOT UNDERSTAND DELAY REACHING TEHRAN. PLEASE CONFIRM RECEIPT. UNQUOTE

The above message should be immediately relayed to the American Jewish Agency in Jerusalem. It is requested that the American Jewish Agency be kept advised of any developments in this matter. It is also requested that the American Jewish Agency be kept advised of any developments in this matter. It is also requested that the American Jewish Agency be kept advised of any developments in this matter.

The chief group was informed by me regarding the payment of \$100,000 to the American Jewish Agency. You are requested to advise the American Jewish Agency of the payment of this amount. It is also requested that the American Jewish Agency be kept advised of any developments in this matter. It is also requested that the American Jewish Agency be kept advised of any developments in this matter.

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

RDruy 10/7/44

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

September 29, 1944

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Mr. Parsons was received through the American Consul in Stockholm under date of September 28, 1944:

With reference to your telegram regarding our 107 to 14th St.,  
certainly, Mr. Parsons's reference to the importance of and  
control the investigation by you.

Reference will be made to the 107 to 14th St. by Mr. Parsons  
the 107 to 14th St. with reference to the investigation of the  
107 to 14th St. and the reference to the  
control the investigation by you.

Reference will be made to the 107 to 14th St. by Mr. Parsons  
the 107 to 14th St. with reference to the investigation of the  
107 to 14th St. and the reference to the  
control the investigation by you.

The following has been received from Mr. Parsons regarding the  
107 to 14th St. with reference to the investigation of the  
107 to 14th St. and the reference to the  
control the investigation by you.

The following has been received from Mr. Parsons regarding the  
107 to 14th St. with reference to the investigation of the  
107 to 14th St. and the reference to the  
control the investigation by you.

"From Jewish Agency have received expenditures statement for August and July for transportation and maintenance from Istanbul to Syrian border approximately Turkish pounds 100,000. The statement of account received is too general and more details are being obtained and after checking these will be sent to Jerusalem and to Lisbon. In the meantime \$42,930 has now been paid by me to the Jewish Agency on account. This amount was needed by the Jewish Agency in dollars to take care of an emergency."

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 9/29/44

STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

KD-701

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

Istanbul

Dated September 26, 1944

Rec'd 7:01 p.m.

**CONTROL COPY**

*Message sent*

*9/29/44*  
*RD*

Secretary of State,

Washington.

X

564, September 26, 11 a.m.

FOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD WASHINGTON FOR MOSES LEAVITT  
JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE NEW YORK FROM PASSMAN.

Referring to your telegram in connection with our  
147 to Lisbon. It appears you misinterpreted Hirsch-  
mann's reference to importance of safe conduct.

Hirschmann replied August 8 to Schwartz cable August  
6 which dealt with possibilities of getting large American  
or Portuguese boats and the mention of safe conduct re-  
ferred to those boats only.

Shortly afterwards Hirschmann cabled War Refugee  
Board proposing continuation sailings small Turkish Bul-  
garian boats same as before. WRB approved those pro-  
posals setting forth certain conditions and stated they  
informed you of it and that you were in agreement.

Since those various proposals were made the situation  
has changed considerably. At present Hirschmann and I

feel it

-2- #564, September 26, 11 a.m., from Istanbul

fool it appears unlikely that there is any need from rescue point of view to move any Bulgarian or Romanian Jews. It may be necessary to remove from Rumania Jewish refugees from other countries if that would eventually facilitate rescuing more Jews from Hungary. This, however, is impossible to tell without being on the spot enabling objective judgment.

I informed Schind group about payment of additional Swiss francs 114,000. Your statement that such payment settles in full for all passengers is correct only regarding payments in Switzerland, but in addition payments were made here by Schind in Turkish pounds. Total cost per passenger averages about \$200 of which you pay 80%. Accordingly you still owe about 36 per person for 1,786 refugees including the 757 who were on steamship KES. Am getting exact accounts and after examination will send copies to Lisbon and New York.

Received from Jewish Agency statement of expenditures for July and August for maintenance and transportation from Istanbul to Syria border about 100,000 Turkish pounds. The account submitted is too general and am getting more details which after checking will forward to Lisbon and Jerusalem. Meanwhile, I have now paid to Jewish Agency \$42,930 on

-3- #564, September 26, 11 a.m., from Istanbul

\$42,930 on account. Jewish Agency needed this amount  
in dollars to meet an emergency.

BERRY

MRM

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

mb  
Distribution on of this  
reading only by special  
arrangement. **OUTGOING  
TELEGRAM**

September 26, 1944  
7 p.m.  
DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

AMEMBASSY

ANKARA

829

The following for Hirschmann is WRB 113.

Please refer to your 1767 of September 19.

In view of your analysis of the situation with respect to the rescue of refugees from Hungary by way of the Balkans and Turkey you are requested to return to the United States immediately for consultation.

With respect to your 1764 of September 19, I concur in your suggestion that no approach be made to the Turkish Government at this time concerning the US TARI.

HULL  
(MMV)

**CONTROL COPY**

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

WRB:MMV:KG  
9/26/44

NE

SE

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 18 1972

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

DSH-688

Ankara

This telegram must be  
paraphrased before being 9 32 Date September 19, 1944  
communicated to anyone  
other than a Government  
Agency. (~~RESTRICTED~~) Rec'd 1:10 p.m., 20th

Secretary of State,

Washington.

**CONTROL COPY**

X  
1767, September 19, 2 p.m.

PERSONAL FOR PEHLE WRB FROM HIRSCHMANN. ANKARA

X  
No. 157.

My most recent survey of the conditions and  
developments since my telegram of September 5 (Ankara  
No. 159) particularly with respect to the situation in  
Transylvania has led to the conclusion that the possi-  
bilities for rescue activities from Hungary through  
Turkey are now remote. All railroad communications  
and movement by civilians between Hungary and the  
Balkans not to speak of (\*) have come to an end. Since  
the Rumanian and Bulgarian declaration of war on  
Germany, the Russian front is now in Transylvania where  
sporadic fighting is taking place and where it would  
appear a major front is being created. Under these  
circumstances it appears most unlikely that further  
rescue activities from Hungary can be effected by

way of

000861



-2-, #1767, September 19, 2 p.m., from Ankara.

way of the Balkans and Turkey. Over and above these considerations there is the added element that it is most unlikely that the Russians would permit us to conduct rescue activities through their field of military operations.

As the policy of the Board as set forth in its No. 106, September 7 makes it clear that my activities are limited to the rescue of refugees as distinguished from their relief, I am of the opinion that the future opportunities for the rescue of refugees from Hungary through Turkey are so limited as to no longer require or justify my continued presence in Ankara particularly as Katzki is prepared to remain here indefinitely. In the light of the most recent developments, I see little advantage to be gained in my proceeding to Bucharest even were the necessary authorization granted. On the other hand, should it be deemed desirable for a representative of the Board to proceed to Bucharest Katzki is qualified to undertake the mission at the appropriate time under Ambassador Steinhardt's general supervision.

In view of the foregoing and unless for reasons unknown to me you desire my continued presence in

Ankara

-3-, #1767, September 19, 2 p.m., from Ankara.

Ankara I request your consent to my immediate return to the United States for consultation particularly as there are aspects of the Board's rescue program not necessarily connected with Turkey which I should like to discuss with you. The Ambassador concurs in the foregoing.

STEINHARDT

DU

(\*) Apparent Omission.

00086

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

GEK-254

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

Ankara

Dated September 14, 1944

Rec'd 2:31 p.m., 15th.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

1736, September 14, 4 p.m.

FOR ARB. Ankara's No. 155.

CONTROL COPY

DIVISION OF  
SEP 17 1944

With a view to investigating the possibility of  
setting up a separate American base for directing the  
rescue of refugees from Greece to Turkey under the auspices  
of the War Refugee Board Katzki has completed an exploration  
of the situation in Izmir. After consultation with  
informed persons there and in view of the developing  
situation in Greece, the inauguration of such an  
independent operation does not (repeat not) appear  
warranted at this time.

Meanwhile as are informed that an additional  
approximate 100 refugees have arrived from Greece in  
Izmir en route to Palestine bringing the total to 900.

See my No. 12, August 30. A written report is being  
sent by pouch.

STEINHARDT

WSB

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE August 30, 1944

TO Mr. Friedman

FROM Mr. Mann

Matthew Marks gave me the attached cable and asked if I knew anything about it. I told him that when I was in Lisbon the JDC was trying to get a ship to take Jews from the Iberian Peninsula to Palestine. I presume that Dexter took it upon himself to cable Olsen asking for a Swedish ship without consulting the Board. That is the only explanation I can give.

*JH*

P.S. Sorry it hasn't passed this on to you before now.

*JH*

10086

1) Mr Mann — 174  
TO: 2) Mr Lesser — 152  
.....  
3) Mr Friedman — 190

Do you know anything  
about this ?

Matthew J. Marks

TR-6

000860

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF  
MJB-480  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement 1944 AUG 15 PM 2 40

Stockholm

Dated August 14, 1944

Rec'd 5:34 p.m.

Secretary of State  
WASHINGTON  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS  
(LAI SON)

**CONTROL COPY**

3091, August 14, 6 p.m.

THIS IS OUR NO. 72 FOR WRB FOR DEXTER FROM OLSEN.

Replying to your No. 4 of August 8, noon, and is  
being repeated to Washington. (My 3091 August 14, 6 p.m.,  
repeats this to Washington) after checking with various  
shipping groups Swedish Foreign Office regrets there  
are no vessels available suitable for proposed trans-  
portation of Jews to Haifa. When current prisoners  
exchange program is completed vessels might be available  
in about two months.

JOHNSON

RNK

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

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE August 17, 1944

TO Mr. Pehle  
FROM Mr. Lesser

*Natuel*  
*JMP*

Attached is a copy of a cable left with me by Rabbi Kalmanowitz yesterday. He said that he has taken the matter up with Mr. Hyman of the J.D.C., and that he stated that J.D.C. would make the funds available if the War Refugee Board approves the plan to buy the ship. The Rabbi also stated that he had talked to Ambassador Steinhart and quoted him as saying that he would investigate the practicability of the plan when he returned to Ankara. I suggested that the Rabbi advise Mr. Hyman of his conversation with the Ambassador. I told him that if the Ambassador found the plan practical and the J.D.C. were willing to put up the money, I could not conceive of the Board having any objection.

*WV*

August 17, 1944

Mr. Fehle

Mr. Lesser

Attached is a copy of a cable left with me by Rabbi Kalmanowitz yesterday. He said that he has taken the matter up with Mr. Hyman of the J.D.C., and that he stated that J.D.C. would make the funds available if the War Refugee Board approves the plan to buy the ship. The Rabbi also stated that he had talked to Ambassador Steinhart and quoted him as saying that he would investigate the practicability of the plan when he returned to Ankara. I suggested that the Rabbi advise Mr. Hyman of his conversation with the Ambassador. I told him that if the Ambassador found the plan practical and the J.D.C. were willing to put up the money, I could not conceive of the Board having any objection.

LSLesser:tmh 8-17-44 L.S.L.



Received at 39 Bark Row, New York at  $\frac{W}{S}$  44 Aug. 12, 1944 AM 10 00

WS118 KOX Ty414 BEYOGLU 91/89 11th 0955

VANDHATZLA 131 NASSAUST NEW YORK (DELR 132 NASSAU ST)

VIEW SHIPS MEFKURE CATASTROPHE WHERE ONLY FIVE PERSONS SAVED URGORGANIZE

MORE ACCEPTABLE EMIGRANTS SHIPTRANSPORTS INSTEAD SMALL SAILBOATS

STOP ALSO ACTUAL COST PRESENT TYPE DEARER AS PURCHASE OWN SHIP FULL\*

AMORTIZING ONE ATMOST TWO VOYAGES STOP BESIDES ATTAINABLE GREATER

SECURITY MENGRTHY VOYAGE CAN BUY SWEDSHIP FIVEHUNDREDTHOUSAND

DOLLARS SIXTHOUSANDFIVEHUNDRED TON DEADWEIGHT CAPACITY FIVETHOUSAND

PASSENGERS EACH OWN BEDPLACE STOP SHOUD SAIL SWEDFLAG

BESIDES EXPECT PROCURE INTERREDCROSSES PATRONATE STOP WIRE IF

NECESSARY MEANS OUR DISPOSAL THISCASE WILL THEN LET EXAMINE SHIP BY

EXPERTS AND ENTER NEGOTIATIONS SWEDEMBASSY

GRIFFEL KATTNER KLAMMAN

AUG 10 1944

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Doctor Schwartz (JDC No. 45) has been received through the American Embassy in Lisbon:

"Saly Mayer advises group 500 Hungarian Jews expected Basle immediately. This group together with 1,200 now at Bergen Belsen possibly make up group of 1700 we cabled about from Ankara.

"Inter-Cross attempting arrange transport through Rumania for certificate holders for Palestine. Also trying find ships, which is most difficult. If all other possibilities fail, Inter-Cross has asked if United States and British Governments would provide one or two ships for this purpose. We understand WRB representative Bern telegraphing recommending such action. Should urge you take this matter up with Washington immediately as time is short.

"Just heard SS BULBUL left Constanza August 1 with 350 passengers. JDC will pay 175,000 Swiss francs on arrival Istanbul from two million francs which Mayer has. For your information 380,500 francs already paid from this account for 761 people who came on SS KASBERG. Forty refugees coming from Greece arrived in Istanbul August 3.

"\$50,000 you sent to British Passport Control Office Constantinople arrived safely."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

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

FModel:jth 8/10/44

201 -

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

**CONTROL COPY**

MAE-287

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

Lisbon

Dated August 7, 1944

Rec'd 1:11 p.m.

Secretary of State, by [redacted] the  
text of his message must  
Washington, [redacted] [redacted]

COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS  
(LEWISON)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF

2428, August 7, 1 p.m.

WRB 143, JDC 45 FOR LEAVITT FROM SCHWARTZ

Saly Mayer advises group 500 Hungarian Jews ex-  
pected Basle immediately. This group together with  
1,200 now at Bergen Belsen possibly make up group of  
1700 we cabled about from Ankara.

Inter-Cross attempting arrange transport through  
Rumania for certificate holders for Palestine. Also  
trying find ships, which is most difficult. If all other  
possibilities fail, Inter-Cross has asked if United  
States and British Governments would provide one or  
two ships for this purpose. We understand WRB repre-  
sentative Bern telegraphing recommending such action.  
Should urge you take this matter up with Washington  
immediately as time is short.

Just heard SS BULBUL left Constanza August 1 with  
350 passengers. JDC will pay 175,000 Swiss francs on  
arrival Istanbul from two million francs which Mayer

has. For

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

SEP 18 1972

*Message sent to  
Leavitt 8/10/44  
EJR*

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

-2- #2428, August 7, 1 p.m., from Lisbon

has. For your information 380,500 francs already paid  
from this account for 761 people who came on SS KLSBEC  
Forty refugees coming from Greece arrived in Istanbul  
August 3.

\$50,000 you sent to British Passport Control  
Office Constantinople arrived safely. //

NORWEB

JT

LMS

TO: War. Refugee Board Files

No reply necessary

8/11/44 mym

Matthew J. Marks

TR-6

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

CONTROL COPY

~~RESTRICTED~~

BE-71

PLAIN

Ankara

Dated August 8, 1944

Rec'd 7:30 p.m., 9th

Secretary of State

Washington

1457, Eighth

Today's semi-official ULUS carried press following

article: Because of humanitarian feeling for their plight, Turkish Government has been smoothing path and endeavoring assist in ever wider scope Jews of central Europe and Balkans, exposed to persecution there, who've been passing through country in transit. Numerous parties of Jewish children bearing transit visas came from Hungary Bulgaria and Rumania in 1943 and 44 crossing Turkey on way to Palestine. At present moment group of forty-three children is en route from Bulgaria bearing Turkish visas. Furthermore every week at least forty to fifty people have received visas from our Consulates at Bucharest, Budapest and Sofia for transit across country. Five groups totalling 1826 Jews having no time apply at our Consulates for visas and obliged depart immediately

COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS  
(LIAISON)

1944 AUG 10 AM 11

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF

3 - War  
Bd  
(Mr. Berle)

-2- #1457, Eighth from Ankara

in order be saved left Constanza in motorboats and  
upon arrival Istanbul were given Turkish transit  
visas and departed for Syria by train,

KELLEY

CAW

*16 Kly BR*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

CONTROL COPY

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Embassy, London  
DATED: August 4, 1944  
NUMBER: 6153

Please deliver following message from War Refugee Board to Messrs. Silverman and Barou, 55 New Cavendish Street, London, W.1, England from A. Leon Kubowitzki, World Jewish Congress, New York:

QUOTE Barlas asked Turkish Government to fix quota of family transit visas to be issued in each of the countries Bulgaria, Hungary, Rumania to 50 per week. On June 9 Kemal Aziz of Turkish Foreign Office informed Barlas that his government could not go beyond 20 visas weekly since this was the figure suggested by British Embassy. Kindly check on this information and intervene, as Turkey is lifeline for escape and as we received numerous complaints that Palestine certificates granted for Bulgaria could not be utilized because of Turkish transit policy. Inform Linton. UNQUOTE

STETTINIUS  
(Acting)

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

7 0 0 8 7



CABLE TO AMERICAN EMBASSY, LONDON

Please deliver following message from War Refugee Board to Messrs. Silverman and Baron, 55 New Cavendish Street, London, W.1, England:

QUOTE Barlas asked Turkish Government to fix quota of family transit visas to be issued in each of the countries Bulgaria, Hungary, Rumania to 50 per week. On June 9 Kemal Ataturk of Turkish Foreign Office informed Barlas that his government could not go beyond 20 visas weekly since this was the figure suggested by British Embassy. Kindly check on this information and intervene, as Turkey is lifeline for escape and as we received numerous complaints that Palestine certificates granted for Bulgaria could not be utilized because of Turkish transit policy. Inform Linton. A. Leon Kubowitzki, World Jewish Congress, New York. UNQUOTE

July 29, 1944  
10:30 a.m.

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

LSLesser:tmh 7-27-44

K.S.L.

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS  
CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL • CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

1834 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK, 23, N. Y.

LONDON  
55 New Cavendish St., W 1

GENEVA  
37 Quai Wilson

BUENOS AIRES  
Corrientes 1979

JERUSALEM  
Vaad Leumi P. O. B. 471

MONTREAL  
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY  
Senora 1744

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

July 24, 1944

In reply refer  
to No. 181

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

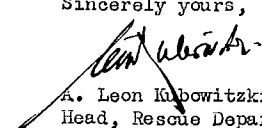
Dear Mr. Pehle:

I would be grateful to you for forwarding, through the facilities of the State Department, the following message to Mr. Silverman, Member of Parliament, and to Dr. Barou, Honorary Secretary of our British Section:

"To: Messrs. Silverman and Barou, 55 New Cavendish Street,  
London, W.1, England  
From: Dr. Kubowitzki, World Jewish Congress, 1834 Broadway,  
New York

Barlas asked Turkish Government to fix quota of family transit visas to be issued in each of the countries Bulgaria, Hungary, Rumania to 50 per week. On June 9 Kemal Aziz of Turkish Foreign Office informed Barlas that his government could not go beyond 20 visas weekly since this was the figure suggested by British Embassy. Kindly check on this information and intervene, as Turkey is lifeline for escape and as we received numerous complaints that Palestine certificates granted for Bulgaria could not be utilized because of Turkish transit policy. Inform Linton."

Sincerely yours,

  
A. Leon Kubowitzki  
Head, Rescue Department

ALK:bg

P.S. Mr. Linton is an officer of the Jewish Agency for Palestine in London.

Examiner  
207 New Turkey  
①

New York Post  
AUG 1 1944

**Refugees Reach Istanbul**

Istanbul, Aug. 1 (Reuter)—A party of 60 Jewish refugee children has arrived in Istanbul from Bulgaria on the way to Palestine.

*2-man Ref. Bd.  
m-Pike*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, Ankara  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: July 21, 1944  
NUMBER: 1355

**CONTROL COPY**

It is believed the War Refugee Board will be interested in the following information.

I was advised this morning by the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that the Government of Turkey has decided to discontinue the movement of Turkish ships in both the Aegean and Black Seas, for the present, with the following exceptions: certain ships will be permitted to ply between Iskenderun and Mersin, and certain wooden ships will be allowed to transport coal between Istanbul and Zonguldak.

KELLEY

DCR:CP/

8-2-44

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

Evac to + thru Turkey - ①

JUL 22 1944

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Dr. Schwartz has been received through the American Consulate General in Istanbul under date of July 17, 1944:

"Reference is made herewith to your No. 626 received here July 11, delivered to us July 15.

I have been assured by both Resnick and Jabotinsky that they discussed no rescue project involving \$200,000 or any other amount.

It is advised by Jabotinsky, furthermore, that he has no definite project to discuss at the present nor does he foresee any in the near future. I agree fully with your decision that War Refugee Board and our representatives must approve all rescue projects before being submitted to you for final decision.

I am assured by Barlas that request to Rabbi Ehren Preiss for 5,000 pounds was the result of a message from him in which help in the rescue program was offered by him."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

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

701 -  
F.Hodel:AA:css 7/22/44

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

OUTGOING  
TELEGRAM

*7 War Ref Bl - Pph*  
DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

MMS  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. ( )

July 11, 1944

6 p.m.

CONTROL COPY

AMEMBASSY

ANKARA

JUL 16 1944

626

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

The following WRB cable no. 77 is from Moses  
A. Leavitt of Joint Distribution Committee. Please  
deliver a paraphrase to Dr. Joseph Schwartz.

QUOTE Understand Barlas called Rabbi Ehrenpreis  
for 5,000 pounds which request was retransmitted  
New York since Mosaiska Foersamlingen unable provide  
this sum stop while we welcome participation Jewish  
groups throughout world in rescue program you should  
work out with Barlas coordinated approach in order  
eliminate confusion.

Emergency Committee to Save Jewish People re-  
quested us give Jabotinsky \$200,000 for rescue pro-  
ject which they claim Jabotinsky has discussed with  
Resnick. We replied all projects must be approved  
by our representative and by WRB and therefore sub-  
mitted to us for decision. We have had thus far  
no report regarding any concrete project. UNQUOTE

HULL  
(GLW)

WRB:MMV:KG

NE

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 18 1972

CABLE TO ANKARA

Please deliver following to Dr. Joseph Schwartz from  
Moses A. Leavitt of Joint Distribution Committee:

"Understand Barlas cabled Rabbi Ehrenpreis for 5,000 pounds  
which request was retransmitted New York since Mossaika  
Poarsamlingen unable provide this sum Stop While we  
welcome participation Jewish groups throughout world in  
rescue program you should work out with Barlas coordinated  
approach in order eliminate confusion.

Emergency Committee to Save Jewish People requested  
us give Jabotinsky \$200,000 for rescue project which they  
claim Jabotinsky has discussed with Resnick Stop We  
replied all projects must be approved by our representative  
and by WRB and thereafter submitted to us for decision Stop  
We have had thus far no report regarding any concrete  
project."

THIS IS WRB ANKARA CABLE NO. 77.

\*\*\*\*\*  
July 9, 1944  
12:30 p.m.

*copy sent to Leavitt  
7/10/44  
EH/dll*

cc: Sec'y. Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Model, Laughlin, Lesser,  
Hann, Stewart, Central Files, Cable Control Files.

*H. Leavitt  
dictated by Leavitt.*

PH:db 7/7/44

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

*Thur. Ry Bd. P.H.W.*  
DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

CONTROL COPY

*DO*  
MJB-269  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. (S. [redacted]).

Ankara

Dated July 10, 1944

Rec'd 11:35 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

*1243*

~~2043~~, July 10, 1 p.m.

FOR THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD FROM HIRSCHMANN. Ankara

number 21.

Any estimate of the number of refugees in Constanza  
can be only a conjecture as the number is reported to  
change from day to day. (Reference is made to Department's  
592, July 1) obviously the number increases as refugees  
assemble for embarkation and decreases after a vessel  
carrying refugees has departed. As indicated in the  
Embassy's 1230, July 7 reporting my conversation with  
Cretzianu on July 5 transportation facilities in  
Rumania are confused and chaotic as a result chiefly of  
bombing.

I am making every effort to expedite the movement  
of the four Turkish and one Greek vessel from Constanza.  
It is reported that at the moment there is a concentration  
in Constanza of additional refugees, the number of whom  
is unknown.

RR CSB

KELLY

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.



WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS  
CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL • CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

1834 BROADWAY

NEW YORK, 23, N. Y.

LONDON  
55 New Cavendish St., W 1

GENEVA  
37 Quai Wilson

BUENOS AIRES  
Corrientes 1979

JERUSALEM  
Vaad Leumi P. O. B. 471

MONTREAL  
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY  
Sonora 1744

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

July 6, 1944

In reply refer  
to: No. 139

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

May I refer to the message from Dr. Riegner which you transmitted to Dr. Wise on May 31st and to the first paragraph of his message of June 21st which you transmitted to Dr. Goldmann.

Both messages stressed the very urgent need of financial support which the Rumanian Jewish Community finds itself and of increased rescue possibilities of which the greatest and speediest use should be made.

These needs and opportunities are confirmed by the following cable sent by Mr. Barlas to Dr. Goldmann on June 19th.

"2735 ACCORDING TO INFORMATION PALOFFICE BUCAREST  
RUMANIAN GOVERNMENT DECIDED CREATE EMIGRATION OFFICE  
UNDER DIRECTION MR ZISSU OUR REPRESENTATIVE STOP  
PROMISED FACILITATE EMIGRATION BY LOCAL BOATS STOP  
WRITING FULLY STOP INFORMED AMBASSADOR STOP PLEASE  
INFORM BOARD ACCORDINGLY"

I would be grateful to you for informing me of the action which the Board has decided to take upon the request conveyed by Dr. Riegner.

Sincerely yours

*A. Leon Rubowitzki*  
A. Leon Rubowitzki, Head  
Rescue Department

ALK:ef

*7/17/44  
Discovered  
with the Board  
TIT*

*2- War refugees  
m. Pehle*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: SECRETARY OF STATE, WASHINGTON

TO: AMCONSULATE GENERAL, ISTANBUL

DATED: July 4, 1944

NUMBER: 313

**CONTROL COPY**

It is requested by the War Refugee Board that you deliver the following message, signed Mereminski, to Zeev Shind, Istanbul, Turkey:

QUOTE Yours June 20 received immediately utilized after informed all concerned. JDC accepted principle Jewagencys plan 2600 refugees as submitted by Shwartz. Cabled Remez inform Barlas. Barlas cable Montor 460 May refugees yours 1712 if difference due your special motorboats action cable which assistance motor and other boats money et cetera from here necessary strengthen your special program also cable your recent information Halutz Lochem and his special needs. UN\* QUOTE.

HULL

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

96  
NUMBER:  
DATED:  
TO:  
FROM:  
25  
WFOOM  
SECRETARY  
OFFICIAL

CABLE TO AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL, ISTANBUL, TURKEY

The War Refugee Board requests that you deliver the following message to Zeev Shind, Istanbul, Turkey:

YOURS June 30 received immediately utilized after informed all concerned. JDC accepted principle Jewish Agency's plan 7600 refugees as submitted by Schwartz. Cabled Remez inform Barlas. Barlas cable Monitor 460 May refugees yours 1712 if difference due your special motorboats action cable which assistance motor and other boats money etcetera from here necessary strengthen your special program also cable your recent information Halutz Lochem and his special needs.

ISRAEL NEREMINSKI UNQUOTE

11:05 a.m.  
July 1, 1944

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

Ba. L.S.L.

BAKzin:ar 6/30/44

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

OUTGOING  
TELEGRAM

*Was Ref. St. - Riddle*  
DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

RE  
Presentation of this  
reading only by special  
arrangement. ( )

July 1, 1944

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
JUL 1 1944  
COMMUNICATIONS  
SECTION

*Copy only*  
**CONTROL COPY**

AMEMBASSY,

ANKARA  
594

Reference is made in WRB cable 69 below to Hirschmann to  
Embassy's 1104 of June 19.

For security reasons the  
text of this message must  
be kept confidential.

Knowledge of instructions to Turkish border guards not to  
turn back Jewish refugees at Bulgarian border notwithstanding  
of Turkish visas very interesting to Board. Board had no  
previous intimation regarding any such instructions. Reports  
received here concerning non-admission cover incidents before  
issuance thereof, we therefore assume. Board notes that  
arrivals by rail only mentioned in your cable. Question thus  
arises whether Jews and other persecuted people trying to  
cross Bulgarian border clandestinely on foot or otherwise are  
covered by these instructions. Do these instructions extend  
to all clandestine refugees? Board hopes the instructions can  
be continued in effect and, if they do not now extend to those  
arriving at border by other means than rail, that such cases  
will be included therein. Please use your best judgment regard-  
ing means to fulfill these hopes.

Information concerning number of refugees crossing from  
Bulgarian frontier during past month without Turkish visas  
would be appreciated.

WRB:MMV:KG  
6/30/44

S/CR

NE HULL  
(GLW)

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

*dittoed*

CABLE TO AMBASSADOR STEINHARDT AND HIRSCHMANN, ANKARA, TURKEY

Reference is made to your 1104 of June 19 and 77 for War Refugee Board.

Board gratified to learn that Turkish border guards have been instructed not to turn back Jewish refugees at Bulgarian border notwithstanding lack of Turkish visas. This is first intimation Board has received regarding any such instructions and we must assume reports received here regarding non-admission are of incidents occurring prior to issuance thereof. It is noted, however, that your cable mentions arrivals by rail only. This raises a question as to the applicability of such instructions to Jews and other persecuted people attempting to cross Bulgarian border clandestinely on foot or otherwise. Please ascertain whether instructions to border guards extend to all such clandestine refugees. Please use your own best judgment as to the means by which instructions to border guards can be continued in effect, and extended to those arriving at border by means other than rail if they do not now extend to such cases.

Would appreciate information as to number of refugees coming over Bulgarian frontier without Turkish visas during past month.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO ANKARA NO. 69

10:45 a.m.  
June 30, 1944

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

*LS*  
BKKzin:LSLesser:ar 6/29/44

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

EAS  
Distribution of true  
reading only by telegram  
arrangement. (SECRET W)

OUTGOING  
TELEGRAM

June 30, 1944  
4 p.m.

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

War Refugee Board

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CONTROL COPY

AMEMBASSY,

ANKARA,

587

The following WRB cable 65 is for Hirschmann.

Information just received by Board is that cable below has been sent through regular channels to World Jewish Congress by Barlas.

QUOTE For your information and through you of Board proposal increase individual transit allowing twenty visas Budapest, Sofia, Bucharest, respectively, approved Turkish Foroffice. Abolition list system instructing consuls issue visas on recommendation local representatives also agreed UNQUOTE.

The Turks agreed, according to report of March 6 from Hirschmann, to grant transit visas to 27 families weekly from Bulgaria, Hungary and Rumania combined, constituting weekly about sixty persons. Report also states that Turks had agreed to grant every ten days transit visas to ten adults and 140 children.

Board would appreciate comments on quoted cable in light of above. Current statistics on entries into Turkey by land routes would also be appreciated.

S/CR

HULL  
(GLW)

WRB:MMV:KG  
6/29/44

GPM

NE

HULL  
SE

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

CABLE TO AMBASSADOR STEINHARDT AND HIRSCHMANN, ANKARA, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Board has just been advised that Barlas cabled World Jewish Congress through regular channels as follows:

QUOTE TURKISH FOREIGN OFFICE APPROVED PROPOSAL INCREASE INDIVIDUAL TRANSIT ALLOWING TWENTY VISAS WEEKLY BUCHAREST BUDAPEST SOFIA RESPECTIVELY STOP ALSO AGREED ABOLISH LIST SYSTEM INSTRUCTING CONSULS ISSUE VISAS ON RECOMMENDATION LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES STOP FOR YOUR INFORMATION STOP INFORM BOARD ACCORDINGLY UNQUOTE

According to Hirschmann's report of March 6 the Turks agreed to grant transit visas to 27 families weekly from Bulgaria, Rumania and Hungary combined, constituting approximately 60 persons a week. In addition report states that Turks had agreed to grant transit visas to 140 children and 10 adults every ten days.

In light of above we would appreciate comment on quoted cable. We would also appreciate current figures on entries into Turkey by land route.

This is WEB Cable to Ankara No. 65

\*\*\*\*\*  
June 29, 1944  
10:45 a.m.

FH:WJM:bbk - 6/27/44

*WJM*

*Letter d*

000892

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL . CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

330 WEST 42nd STREET  
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

LONDON  
One Harley Street, W. 1

GENEVA  
37 Quai Wilson

BUENOS AIRES  
Corrientes 2024-9c

JERUSALEM  
Vaad Leumi, P. O. B. 471

MONTREAL  
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY  
Sonora 174-4

CABLES: CONGRESS, NEW YORK  
TELEPHONE: LONGACRE 5-2600

June 23, 1944

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

My dear Mr. Pehle:

I have received three  
cables from Mr. Barlas which I think will be of in-  
terest to you. I am enclosing herewith the copies.

With kindest regards,

Cordially,

Nahum Goldmann

NG:FR  
Enc.



JUNE 23, 1944

C

O

P

Y

FA 238 TY71 XA Beyoglu 33 19 1946  
NAHUM GOLDMAN  
342 MADISON AVENUE  
NEW YORK

2747 YOURS 2/6 RE VAADHATZALA STOP GRIFFEL AGREED REFRAIN  
FROM SEPARATE ACTION STOP MY OPINION RESCUE WORK SHOULD BE  
COORDINATED TO AVOID CONFUSION STOP WIRE

BARLAS

I

000894

JUNE 23, 1944

E  
O  
P  
Y

FA237 TY72 BEYOGLU 20 19 1947

NAHUM GOLDMAN  
342 MADISON AVE  
NEW YORK

2748 YOURS 5/6 RE AGUDISTS MATTER ARRANGED SATISFACTORILY

STOP GRIFFEL CABLING ACCORDINGLY

BARLAS

000895

C  
O  
P  
Y

JUNE 23, 1944

FA236 TY74 XA BEYOGLU 46 19 1941

NAHUM GOLDMANN  
342 MADISON AVE  
NEW YORK

2738 TURKISH FOROFFICE APPROVED PROPOSAL INCREASE INDIVIDUAL  
TRANSIT ALLOWING TWENTY VISAS WEEKING BUCAREST BUDAPEST SOFIA  
RESPECTIVELY STOP ALSO AGREED ABOLISH LIST SYSTEM INSTRUCTING CONSULS  
ISSUE VISAS ON RECOMMENDATION LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES STOP FOR YOUR  
INFORMATION STOP INFORM BOARD ACCORDINGLY

BARLAS

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

**CONTROL COPY**

For Security [redacted] the  
text of this [redacted]  
be clearly [redacted]

DMH-328  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. (W)

Stockholm

Dated June 30, 1944

Rec'd 12:51 p.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

2382, June 30, 3 p.m.

FOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Barlas of Jewish Agency in Istanbul has sent an urgent cable to Chief Rabbi Ehrenpreis requesting that 5,000 pounds sterling be sent to British passport office at British Embassy, Istanbul. These funds are to be placed at disposal of Barlas for transportation fees covering a group of refugees expected to arrive in Turkey next week. Since the Ehrenpreis Committee does not have funds, the matter is referred to you for any action that is possible. This is our No. 43.

JOHNSON

FS  
EJH

98  
DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 18 1972

DEPARTMENT

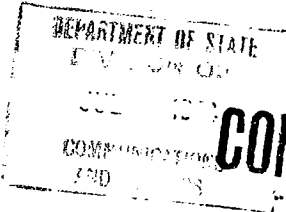
OF Distribution  
reading only by special  
arrangement.

OUTGOING

TELEGRAM

June 30, 1944

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS



*copy only*  
**CONTROL COPY**

AMEMBASSY,

ANKARA.

589X

The War Refugee Board cable 67 below is for

Hirschmann.

Indicated by Sofia report received here that a thousand Turkish pounds are demanded there for each Turkish visa. Inquiry as to correctness of report would be appreciated, also if correct your efforts to reduce required amount materially.

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

HULL

(GLW)

WNB:MMV:KG  
6/30/44

NE

S/C?

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

*dittoed*

CABLE TO AMBASSADOR STEINHARDT AT ANKARA FOR HIRSCHMANN

Report received here from Sofia indicates that a thousand Turkish pounds are demanded there for each Turkish visa. Would appreciate inquiry as to correctness of report and if correct your efforts materially to reduce required amount.

THIS IS WRB CABLE ANKARA NO. 67

4:20 p.m.  
June 29, 1944

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

*J.S.L.*  
LSLesser:als 6/28/44

*dittoed*

000000

**CONTROL COPY**

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: AMLEGATION, BERN  
DATE: June 29, 1944  
NUMBER: 2207/

From War Refugee Board to Harrison.

Please deliver the following message to Dr. Gerhardt Kiegner, 37 Quai Wilson, Geneva, from Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki of the World Jewish Congress:

"Concerning your message of May 20 in reference to the evacuation of Jews from Roumania we are informed from Istanbul that all available ships are already being used so that additional funds will only raise prices. Chartering larger ship would be impractical since German safe conduct would be requested. Please investigate further and report."  
This is WRB Bern cable no. 60.X

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

CABLE TO BERN

From War Refugee Board to Harrison

Please deliver the following message to Dr. Gerhardt Riegner, 37 Quai Wilson, Geneva, from Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki of the World Jewish Congress:

"Concerning your message of May 20 in reference to the evacuation of Jews from Roumania we are informed from Istanbul that all available ships are already being used so that additional funds will only raise prices. Chartering larger ship would be impractical since German safe conduct would be requested. Please investigate further and report"

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 60

2:30 a.m.  
June 27, 1944

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

*JH*  
Lg-l.  
FHI:lab 6/23/44

00090



# WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL .: CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

330 WEST 42nd STREET  
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

NEW ADDRESS:  
1834 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK 23, N. Y.  
CL. 6-1900

LONDON  
55 New Cavendish St., W 1

GENEVA  
37 Quai Wilson

BUEENOS AIRES  
Corrientes 2024-90

JERUSALEM  
Voad Leumi, P.O.B. 471

MONTREAL  
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY  
Sonora 174-4

CABLES: CONGRESS, NEW YORK  
TELEPHONE: LONGACH 5-2600

June 20, 1944

In reply refer  
to No. 100

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

May I refer to your letter of May 31 to Dr. Wise, by which you transmitted to us a confidential message from Dr. Riegner in connection with the possible evacuation by sea of Jews from Roumania.

You asked us to hold up any reply to Dr. Riegner pending the receipt of Ambassador Steinhardt's views on the matter. Last Tuesday I was informed by Mr. Lesser that in Ambassador Steinhardt's opinion, all available ships are already being used, so that additional funds will merely raise the prices which are now requested for these ships.

In re-reading Dr. Riegner's message, we realized that he had in mind two different kinds of means of evacuation: a- "a special large ship" to be chartered -- which suggestion is to be discarded in view of the opinion expressed by the Ambassador; b- "various small vessels" by which Dr. Riegner certainly understands not the now available ships, but very small craft, 50-100 ton boats.

May we express the view that this latter proposition should be taken into serious consideration. While the summer months last, there is a definite possibility of getting out people from the Balkans by means of all kinds of small boats. In the opinion of our Palestinian friends, rescue work should even concentrate to a large extent on this method during the coming period.

While awaiting your decision, may I ask you to forward to Dr. Riegner, through the State Department, the attached message.

Looking forward to hearing from you, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

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

ALK:bg  
Enclosure

Message to: Dr. Gerhardt Riegner, 37 Quai Wilson, Geneva, Switzerland

From: Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki, World Jewish Congress, 1834 Broadway, New York, New York

Concerning your message of May 20 in reference to the evacuation of Jews from Roumania we are informed from Istanbul that all available ships are already being used so that additional funds will only raise prices. Chartering larger ship would be impractical since German safe conduct would be requested. Please investigate further and report.

הסוכנות היהודית לארץ ישראל

# The Jewish Agency for Palestine

New York Office: SUITE 1205, 342 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, N. Y., MUrray Hill 2-8803

Washington Office  
1720 SIXTEENTH ST., N.W.  
Michigan 4480

June 29, 1944

*File  
Jnt*

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

My dear Mr. Pehle:

I am enclosing herewith copy of a cablegram  
just received from Mr. Barlas in Istanbul.

I understand that Ambassador Steinhardt  
is due to arrive one of these days.

It seems to me, from all the information  
received, the most important thing is to get local  
boats.

I expect to be in Washington next week  
and hope it will be possible for me to discuss this  
matter with you and your collaborators.

Cordially yours,

*Nahum Goldmann*  
Nahum Goldmann

NG:FR

00040

C

O

P

Y

JUNE 25, 1944

TAGHE TY73 BEYOGLU 45 19 1935

NAHUM GOLDMANN  
41 East 42nd Street N Y

2735 ACCORDING TO INFORMATION PALOFFICE BUCAREST RUMANIAN  
GOVERNMENT DECIDED CREATE EMIGRATION OFFICE UNDER DIRECTION  
MR ZISSU OUR REPRESENTATIVE STOP PROMISED FACILITATE EMIGRA-  
TION BY LOCAL BOATS STOP WRITING FULLY STOP INFORMED AMBASSADOR  
STOP PLEASE INFORM BOARD ACCORDINGLY

CHAIM BARLAS

00090

1  
4-1-40  
JUN 26 1944

Dear Lent:

I am continuing to follow the Yugoslavian situation with much interest. I am extremely concerned about the ANHQ directive of May 3 discouraging the evacuation of refugees from Yugoslavia to Italy, and hope that by now it has already been rescinded. If this is not the case, please advise me by cable immediately, for as you know from our cable No. 1889 of May 27 for Ambassador Murphy's attention, the President has made it clear that under no circumstances should the flow of refugees from Yugoslavia be discouraged.

Meanwhile we shall do what we can to hasten the development of new refugee havens and the expansion of existing ones. I have in mind particularly the projects with which you are acquainted to develop new camps in Tripolitania and in the Philippeville area of Algeria and to expand refugee facilities in the UNHRA camps to a capacity of 40,000. I have just recently received a copy of the War Department cable from Algiers No. F-59229 of June 14, which points up fully the need for UNHRA cooperation in the latter two projects, which the Army states are absolutely essential if the rate of inflow of refugees from Yugoslavia is not to be curtailed sharply on account of the danger of overtaxing refugee facilities in Italy. I hope to see Governor Lehman on this matter in the next few days and should then be able to give you an idea of what can be expected of UNHRA.

We are considering here the problem of securing small boats capable of crossing the Adriatic. After discussing this problem with Mr. Kallech and Lt. Commander Becker, Assistant General Counsel of the War Shipping Administration, it is my opinion that as a preliminary step you should cooperate with Caserville in examining fully the small boat situation in Italy in order to determine, among other things, the number of boats available in the area which are not presently being used in absolutely essential war work, the number of boats which could be made available after minor repairs, and the facilities in Italy for making such repairs. In this connection you will recall that Samson reported that in April there were more than 200 small Italian schooners, for the most part in working order, tied up on the Adriatic coast and another 65 Partisan boats lying idle because of needed repairs.

In obtaining this background information, it will probably be advisable for you to confer also with Mr. John Holmes, who I understand, is the

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

- 2 -

War Shipping Administration representative in Bari, and with Mr. Robert Nichols, who is the HREBEO representative in Naples. Sasserillo should be of help to you in contacting these men. Incidentally, Lt. Commander Becker would appreciate your conveying his personal regards to Nichols and Holmes.

After obtaining the above information, you will be able to formulate a specific request to HREBEO for a priority with the assurance that your request, based on the above information, is a reasonable one. As soon as you have applied to HREBEO for a priority, please notify me by cable and I shall ask the War Shipping Administration in Washington to grant strong support to your application.

Because of the refusal of the Germans to grant a safe-conduct for either the Turi or the Bardaland, the latter being a Swedish ship formerly engaged in Greek relief operations which the Board had been hoping to charter, Ambassador Steinhardt has apparently come to the conclusion that small boats operating without a German safe-conduct are the key to the Black Sea shipping bottleneck. Accordingly, he has had a talk with the Secretary General of the Turkish Foreign Office with a view to inducing the Turkish authorities to authorize the use of a number of Turkish boats to transfer refugees from Balkan ports to Istanbul. The Secretary General stated his belief that it would be possible to find some means of meeting Ambassador Steinhardt's request and promised to look into the matter at once in order to ascertain what Turkish vessels were available, either in Balkan ports or at Istanbul, which the Turkish Government might be able to make available for the desired purpose.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Jim Saxon in Algiers.

Sincerely,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle,  
Executive Director.

Mr. Leonard H. Ackermann,  
Special Representative of the  
War Refugee Board,  
c/o American Consulate General,  
Naples, Italy.

CC to James Saxon, Algiers, Algeria.

NRH:NRB:dk - 6/24/44

000400

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

FBM-350

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

Istanbul

Dated June 20, 1944

Rec'd 11:25 p.m.

6/23/44  
Message sent  
to War Refugee Board  
JH

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

362, June 20, 9 a.m.

JUN 21 1944

CONTROL COPY

The following message to War Refugee Board is  
for Israel Merim, 510 West 112th Street, New York  
City, from Zeevshind. Barlas Jewish agency permanent  
contact Goldman general problems emigration and rescue.  
Our special mission sea transports. Transported last  
month's motorships 1712 refugees from Rumania and other  
countries. Working full speed utilizing present  
possibilities shortest time. On arrival here Jewish  
agency mainly thanks efforts Ambassador Steinhardt  
achieved Turkish transit. Influence joint to accomplish  
Kaplans demand regarding our further work as continuation  
depends upon immediate supply. As to broadcast from  
Allied countries they have influence only if accompanied  
practical facts. Neutral countries should be invited to  
accept Jewish mass immigration in transit to definite  
destination. Letter follows.

BERRY.

BB RR

JUN 24 1944

Dear Mr. Mereminski:

The following confidential message for you from Zeevshind was received from Istanbul under date of June 20, 1944:


"Barlas Jewish agency permanent contact Goldman general problems emigration and rescue. Our special mission sea transports. Transported last month's motorships 1712 refugees from Rumania and other countries. Working full speed utilizing present possibilities shortest time. On arrival here Jewish agency mainly thanks efforts Ambassador Steinhardt achieved Turkish transit. Influence joint to accomplish Kaplans demand regarding our further work as continuation depends upon immediate supply. As to broadcast from Allied countries they have influence only if accompanied practical facts. Neutral countries should be invited to accept Jewish mass immigration in transit to definite destination. Letter follows."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Mr. Israel Mereminski,  
General Federation of  
Jewish Labor in Palestine,  
510 West 112th Street,  
New York, New York.

 FH:lab 6/23/44



DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

BE-992 **CONTROL COPY** PLAIN

Lisbon

Dated June 19, 1944

Rec'd 6:10 a.m., 20th

Secretary of State

Washington

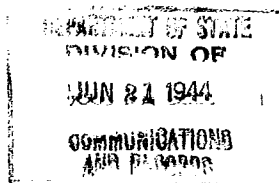
X  
1893, Nineteenth 5 p.m.

FROM FILPEL FOR LEAVITT JDC TWENTY WRB 76 X

Barlas cables following emigration figures  
for May. Rumania 340 one boat Bulgaria 46 Greece  
74 Hungary and local none total 460. This for your  
information.

NORWEB

CSB



6/23/44  
Message  
sent to  
heart

JUN 23 1944

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Mr. Pilpel was received from Lisbon under date of June 19, 1944:

"Barlas cables following emigration figures for May. Rumania 340 one boat Bulgaria 46 Greece 74 Hungary and local none total 460. This for your information."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

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

FH:lab 6/23/44

JH —

000911

CONTROL COPY

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, Ankara  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: June 19, 1944  
NUMBER: 1104  
X

The Ambassador sends the following, Ankara No. 77, for the War Refugee Board.

Department's cable dated June 15, No. 534, is referred to herewith.

Since representatives of the various Jewish organizations have reported to the Embassy only one instance in Istanbul or others during recent months of refusal of entry into Turkey to Jewish refugees without visas by Turkish border guards, the details of the reports which have come to the board's attention that such occurrences have been "not infrequent" would be appreciated by me so that I may bring these specific cases to the attention of the Turk authorities. While it is most unlikely that the Turk authorities would enter into an "arrangement" for the violation of their own laws by agreeing that refugees without Turk visas could enter Turkey, as stated in my cable dated June 5, No. 1010, on several occasions I have been assured by the Turk Foreign Office that entry would not be refused to Jewish refugees provided that British and Jewish agency representatives in Istanbul issue them Palestine entry certificates. Such certificates are being issued now without delay as a matter of course, and consequently a considerable

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

000912

considerable number of Jewish refugees without Turk transit visas who have arrived overland at Turk border points from Bulgaria have passed through Turkey en route to Palestine. For some time past, Turk border guards have been under instructions not to turn back Jewish refugees but to detain them on the Turk side of the frontier pending instructions. It is essential, in view of the foregoing, that I be furnished immediately with the details of all cases in which Turk border guards have failed to carry out their instructions. As matters now stand refugees arriving overland are no less favorably placed than those who arrived by sea. I do not anticipate any unfavorable change in this situation since the arrivals by sea without Turk visas have far exceeded the arrivals by rail. Thus it would seem from the Department's cable under reference that the Turk authorities have been taking substantially the same position as those of the other neutral countries adjacent to enemy controlled areas who have refrained from barring the entry of refugees. The Turk authorities might be frightened by an attempt to convert the present benevolent attitude of the Turk authorities in admitting refugees arriving by sea or land without Turk visas into an arrangement of a more formal character, and they might suspect the organization of a movement beyond their physical capacity to deal with and it would result in our losing some of the ground already gained rather than making a further advance. Since our objective is to evacuate

-3-

RECEIVED  
JAN 11 1948  
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE  
evacuate the maximum possible number of refugees from the Balkans to Turkey or Palestine, <sup>or at least</sup> I feel that at least for the present we should seek to hold the Turks to a strict compliance with the informal assurances that they have given me rather than press for a formal agreement which would involve the risk of withdrawal of the informal assurances.

If notwithstanding what I have pointed out above, it is preferred by the board and the Department that I press the Foreign Office for a formal agreement, of course I shall try to do as you wish.

STEINHARDT

000914

C  
O  
P  
Y

MEMORANDUM

It is understood that the Turkish Government permits sea-borne refugees arriving in Turkish waters to remain in Turkey while transit facilities are procured to take them elsewhere. This is not pursuant to any blanket arrangement but is worked out in each case after representations are made to the Turkish Foreign Office by representatives of interested governments or private organizations. It has been suggested that a similar procedure can be employed in connection with refugees arriving by land from Bulgaria and for that reason it is not necessary to secure a blanket agreement from Turkey to admit such refugees. The fallacy of this position is clear.

Refugees who wish to depart by sea from Greece, Rumania or elsewhere are not in danger of having their departure from such countries effectively stopped by Turkish border guards. They can reach the high seas without any fear of interference from that quarter, and when they arrive in or near Turkish waters, they may safely await, aboard ship, the outcome of the representations made to the Turkish Foreign Office on their behalf.

Refugees by land, however, cannot cross the Turkish-Bulgarian frontier, if they have no entry permits, unless the Turkish border guards have already been instructed not to interfere with their egress from Bulgaria. Obviously refugees seeking egress at the Turkish-Bulgarian border cannot safely await on the Bulgarian side of the frontier the outcome of any representations that may be being made on their behalf at Ankara. For this reason, it is essential that Turkish border guards at the Bulgarian frontier be instructed not to interfere with the entry of refugees. Other neutral countries contiguous to enemy territory have taken this course, although it is not uncommon for them to place such refugees under technical arrest for unlawful entry. The latter affords ample opportunity for security checks and a determination as to the authenticity of the entrant's claim to being a refugee. If Turkish border guards were instructed not to interfere with refugees until they have crossed the border even though they were to be arrested thereafter, it would seem that many additional lives would be saved.

The greater portion of the refugees involved are of Polish citizenry. Therefore, it would be deemed appropriate for the Government of the Republic of Poland to intercede with

*Submitted 1/14  
not received in  
files 1/15*

000915

the Turkish Ambassador in Washington. Similar representation to the Turkish Foreign Ministry in Ankara is advisable. The urgency for such action is self-evident.

Dr. Baruch Korff, 160 Central Park South, N.Y.C.  
Political Adviser of  
The VAAD HAHATZALA Emergency Committee

Affiliated organizations:

Union of Orthodox Rabbis of America and Canada  
Rabinnical Council of America  
Mizrachi Organization of America  
World Agudas Israel  
Union of Orthodox Congregations of America  
National Council of Young Israel  
Agudas Israel Young Council

June 16, 1944.

*Poland*

MEMORANDUM

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*a/* Refugees who wish to depart by sea from Greece, Rumania or elsewhere are not in danger of having their departure from such countries effectively stopped by Turkish border guards. They can reach the high seas without any fear of interference from that quarter, and when they arrive in or near Turkish waters, they may safely await, aboard ship, the outcome of the representations made to the Turkish Foreign Office on their behalf.

*to suggest* Refugees by land, however, cannot cross the Turkish-Bulgarian frontier, if they have no entry permits, unless the Turkish border guards have already been instructed not to interfere with their egress from Bulgaria. Obviously refugees seeking egress at the Turkish-Bulgarian border cannot safely await on the Bulgarian side of the frontier the outcome of any representations that may ~~be being~~ made on their behalf at Ankara. For this reason, it is essential that Turkish border guards at the Bulgarian frontier be instructed not to interfere with the entry of refugees. Other neutral countries contiguous to enemy territory have taken this course, although it is not uncommon for them to place such refugees under technical arrest for unlawful entry. The latter affords ample opportunity for security checks and a determination as to the authenticity of the entrant's claim to being a refugee. If Turkish border guards were instructed not to interfere with refugees until they have crossed the border even though they were to be arrested thereafter, it would seem that many additional lives would be saved.

*specific*

*sa*

*most humanitarian*



-2-

The greater portion of the refugees involved are of Polish citizenry. Therefore, it would be deemed appropriate for the Government of the Republic of Poland to intercede with the Turkish Ambassador in Washington. Similar representation to the Turkish Foreign Ministry in Ankara is advisable. The urgency for such action is self-evident.

Dr. Baruch Korff, 160 Central Park South, N.Y.C.  
Political Adviser of  
The VAAD HAHATZALA Emergency Committee

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Rabinnical Council of America  
Mizrachi Organization of America  
World Agudas Israel  
Union of Orthodox Congregations of America  
National Council of Young Israel  
Agudas Israel Young Council

June 16, 1944.

M E M O R A N D U M

It is understood that the Turkish government permits sea-borne refugees arriving in Turkish waters to remain in Turkey while transit facilities are procured to take them elsewhere. This is not pursuant to any blanket arrangement but is worked out in each case after representations are made to the Turkish Foreign Office by representatives of interested governments or private organizations. It has been suggested that a similar procedure can be employed in connection with refugees arriving by land from Bulgaria and for that reason it is not necessary to secure a blanket agreement from Turkey to admit such refugees. The fallacy in this position is clear.

Refugees who wish to depart by sea from Greece, Rumania or elsewhere are not in danger of having their departure from such countries effectively stopped by Turkish border guards. They can reach the high seas without any fear of interference from that quarter, and when they arrive in or near Turkish waters, they may safely await, aboard ship, the outcome of the representations made to the Turkish Foreign Office on their behalf.

Refugees by land, however, cannot cross the Turkish-Bulgarian frontier, if they have no entry permits, unless the Turkish border guards have already been instructed not to interfere with their egress from Bulgaria. Obviously refugees seeking egress at the Turkish-Bulgarian border cannot safely await on the Bulgarian side of the frontier the outcome of any representations that may be being made on their behalf at Ankara. For this reason, it is essential that Turkish border guards at the Bulgarian frontier be instructed not to interfere with the entry of refugees. Other neutral countries contiguous to enemy territory have taken this course, although it is not uncommon for them to place such refugees under technical arrest for unlawful entry. The latter affords ample opportunity for security checks and a determination as to the bona fides of the entrants ~~as to being~~ to being a refugee. If Turkish border guards were instructed not to interfere with refugees until they have crossed the border even though they were to be arrested thereafter, it would seem that many additional lives would be saved.

Original sent to  
Rabi Korff 6/15/44

LSLesser:als 6/15/44

20091

DEPARTMENT

OF

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

OUTGOING  
TELEGRAM

June 15, 1944  
7 p.m.

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JUN 17 1944

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS & RECORDS

CONTROL COPY

AMEMBASSY

AMEMBASSY

634

The following WAB cable no. 52 is for Steinhardt.

It would seem, according to second paragraph your 1010 of June 5, that problems of refugees arriving overland at Turkish-Bulgarian border and in Turkish waters by boat from Romania or Greece are quite different. Departure of latter from Romania and Greece onto high seas not subject to interference by Turkish border guards since they leave Greek or Romanian territory without directly entering Turkish territory and the disposition of their applications for transit facilities can, while their vessel stands safely off shore, be handled on a group or individual basis. However, those seeking to cross Bulgarian-Turkish border without transit visas or other entry permits are subject to refusal of entry by Turkish border guards. This is not infrequent, if reports received here are correct. Obviously, refugees arriving overland cannot safely await on Bulgarian side of border outcome of procedure adequate for refugees already in safe borders. The possibility of making arrangements in advance of their arrival at the border whereby, notwithstanding their lack of entry permits, refugees from Bulgaria would be admitted into Turkey was suggested for

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

these

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 18 1972

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

000420

-2- #554, June 15, 7 p.m., to Ankara.

these reasons. Refugees coming overland would be no less favorably placed than those coming by sea if such arrangements could be made subject of course, as in the case of sea-borne refugees, to a speedy routing of such refugees to Palestine or elsewhere.

Notwithstanding lack of entry permits, other neutral countries adjacent to enemy-controlled areas refrain from barring entry of refugees though sometimes subjecting them to technical arrest for illegal entry. There is reason to believe that additional lives could be saved especially if knowledge reaches Jews and other persecuted peoples in the Balkans that they will not be turned back at the Turkish border if the Turkish Government would adopt similar procedure and instruct its guards at the Turkish-Bulgarian border accordingly.

Please reconsider the conclusion indicated by your 1010 and keep Department and Board advised of results in view of the above.

HULL  
(CHW)

WRB:MMV:KG  
6/14/44

NE

S/CR

00092

CABLE TO AMBASSADOR STEINHARDT, ANKARA, FROM THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Referring to your 1010 to the Department of June 5, second paragraph, it would seem that the problem of refugees arriving by land at the Turkish-Bulgarian frontier is quite different from that of refugees arriving in Turkish waters by boat from Greece or Rumania. The latter may leave Rumanian or Greek territory without entering Turkish territory and consequently their departure from Rumania and Greece onto the high seas is not subject to interference by Turkish border guards and the disposition of their applications for transit facilities can be handled on a group or individual basis while their vessel stands safely offshore. Those who seek to cross the Turkish-Bulgarian border, however, are subject to being refused egress from Bulgaria by Turkish border guards if they do not have transit visas or other entry permits and if reports received here are correct, this has not been an infrequent occurrence. Refugees arriving by land at the Turkish-Bulgarian border obviously cannot with safety await on Bulgarian side of border-outcome of procedure which is adequate for refugees already in safe waters. For these reasons, we suggested the possibility of making arrangements in advance of their arrival at the border whereby refugees from Bulgaria will be admitted into Turkey notwithstanding their lack of entry permits. If such arrangements could be made, subject of course to speedy routing of such refugees to Palestine or elsewhere, as in the case of sea-borne refugees, then refugees coming over the land route would be placed in a position no less favorable than those who come by sea.

Other neutral countries adjacent to enemy-controlled areas refrain from barring entry of refugees notwithstanding lack of entry permits, sometimes subjecting them to technical arrest for illegal entry. If Turkish government would adopt similar procedure and instruct its border guards at the Turkish-Bulgarian frontier accordingly, there is reason to believe that additional lives could be saved especially if knowledge reaches Jews and other persecuted peoples in the Balkans that they will not be turned back at the Turkish border.

In view of the foregoing, please reconsider the conclusion indicated by your 1010 and keep the Department and Board advised of results.

This is WRB Ankara Cable No. 52

\*\*\*\*\*

June 12, 1944

12:20 P.M.

6.3.2.

LSLesser:als 6/12/44

JCD

*Evac. to & thru Turkey, C*

**MEMORANDUM**

**Land Traffic from Bulgaria to Turkey**

I mentioned to you the possibility of inducing the Turkish Government to allow refugees arriving by land from Bulgaria without Turkish transit visas to pass through Turkey to Palestine, in the same way as refugees arriving without papers on the Milka, etc. I realize the difficulty of obtaining Turkish approval of this proposal but think it should be tried. We have already suggested the idea to Steinhardt in No. 499 of June 2, (WEB Cable to Ankara No. 49). The fact that the Turks apparently are permitting this kind of traffic through Turkey from Greece might be used as an argument.

JMF:blx - 6/8/44

*Initiated City not recorded  
in file*

000923

*dw*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

*Jan Ref*  
*Copy only*

FROM: American Embassy, Ankara  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATE: June 5, 1944  
NUMBER: 1010<sub>x</sub>

**CONTROL COPY**

Ambassador sends the following for WRB.

Referring to message Number 69 from Ankara and Department's telegram of June 2, Number 499, it is my opinion that any approach to the Hungarian Minister and his staff here would be of no use whatever, since their pro-Nazi attitude is notorious, as the Department knows.

In connection with the last paragraph of cable referred to, it is thought that the Turkish agreement to an "arrangement" involving violation of their own laws by allowing refugees or any other individuals to enter Turkey without Turkish visas is an extremely remote possibility. Separate representations concerning each group or individual, upon arrival, have been presented in obtaining permission for Jewish refugees to enter and pass through Turkey without Turkish visas, and this fact should be borne in mind in this connection. I believe, when appropriate representations are made in each case, the Jewish refugees entering Turkey from Bulgaria will be treated with the same kindness as have those coming from Greece.

STEINHARDT

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

100924

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Embassy, Ankara  
DATE: June 2 1944  
NUMBER: 499

Your 695 of May 18 and 915 of May 20.

Reference your 915. Last paragraph Department's 440 of May 17 refers to persons reportedly arrested in Bucharest, Rumania for activities in aiding escape of refugees from Rumania and near-by countries. According to more recent information, only twelve to fifteen of them are still under arrest.

Regarding situation in Hungary, please consider advisability of your direct or indirect approach to Hungarian mission or other personalities in Turkey along the lines of the Cretzianu talks. If, in your opinion, such conversations are feasible and might serve some useful purpose, please act accordingly and keep Department informed.

Department and Board gratified to have your confirmation of report that Jewish refugees arriving in Turkey from Greece are permitted to enter and pass through Turkey without Turkish visas. In view of the critical situation in Balkans, it would appear most important, if you have not already done so, to attempt to obtain a similar arrangement with respect to refugees coming by land from Bulgaria. Please advise us of any results which are obtained in this matter.

THIS IS WRN CABLE TO ANKARA NO. 49

END

cc: Miss Chauncey (for the Secy) Abrahamson, Aksin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Madel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luford, Mann, Menden, Marks, McCormack, Sargoy, Smith, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H.D. White, Pehle, Files.

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

000925



Wants to  
from Turkey  
(1)

RECEIVED

Department of State  
Washington

[REDACTED]

X from the Ambassador  
... of 1932 at  
... proposal which is contained in  
... World Jewish Congress from its Swiss  
representatives be submitted to the Jewish Agency  
for an expression of opinion or in the alternative that Eirachmann  
on his arrival here make an appropriate recommendation to  
the War Refugee Board for transmittal to the World Jewish  
Congress.

Due to the steadily increasing number of organizations  
and individuals who are interesting themselves in the rescue  
of Jews from the Balkans and who are seeking funds for this  
purpose, it is becoming increasingly difficult for me to judge  
the extent to which their respective activities should be  
encouraged. The Board may wish to bear in mind that in this  
connection the cost surely tends to increase by competitive  
bidding for the limited number of vessels available without  
increasing the number of vessels.

SECRET

Sec'y, Abrahamson, Akzin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Gaston, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin,  
Lasser, Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Sargoy, Smith, Standish, Stewart,  
Weinstein, E. D. White, Fehle, Files.

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

700920

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington

TO: American Embassy, Ankara

DATED: June 1, 1944

NUMBER: 493  
X

*War Ref Bd*  
*Rec'd*  
*10/1/44*

**CONTROL COPY**

Stettinius sends the following to Steinhardt.

Ever since the President created the War Refugee Board I have frequently been requested by Secretary Hull to represent him in war refugee matters. Therefore, I have followed with great interest your activities in this field and your success in facilitating the evacuation of refugees from the Balkans. The Board finds your active and effective support of utmost value. When you return to Washington later this month I will have the opportunity of discussing these things with you.

I understand that you are agreeable to the prompt return to Turkey of Mr. Ira Hirschmann, who has been Special Representative of the Board there. In view of your active interest in these matters I am sure that appropriate arrangements will be made with the Embassy staff by you so that during your absence Mr. Hirschmann will continue to receive full cooperation. During your absence it may be necessary to have discussions with Turkish officials regarding refugee matters. Probably you will find it desirable to arrange to have Mr. Hirschmann participate in such discussions along with members of the Embassy staff.

*File*  
*OK*

RECEIVED  
JUN 1 1944  
AMERICAN EMBASSY  
ANKARA

HULL

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

000927

MAY 27 1944

MEMORANDUM

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

As you know, Ambassador Steinhardt has now approved the immediate return to Turkey of Ira Hirschmann, the War Refugee Board's Special Representative.

I understand from Mr. Steinhardt that he plans to return to Washington during the latter half of June. It seems quite possible that Mr. Hirschmann's trip will come at such a time that he will not have the opportunity of talking to Mr. Steinhardt either in Ankara or Washington. Accordingly, there will be a period in which Mr. Hirschmann will not have the benefit of the Ambassador's personal interest and activity in this field. As you know, Mr. Steinhardt has not merely cooperated with Mr. Hirschmann but has himself played an active and important part in the Board's work in Turkey.

In order that Mr. Hirschmann will be assured the same kind of cooperation from the Embassy staff during Mr. Steinhardt's absence, I think that it would be extremely helpful if you could send a cable or letter to Mr. Steinhardt now, indicating your interest in the activities of the Board and suggesting that if it becomes necessary for refugee matters to be discussed with Turkish Government officials while Steinhardt is away, Hirschmann should be permitted to accompany the appropriate Embassy official and participate in these discussions.

Attached is a proposed communication along the lines indicated.

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

*Original signed by  
Mr. Pehle  
Copy to  
Mr. Friedman*

JWF:bbk - 5/24/44

7 0 0 9 2 8

MAY 27 1944

DRAFT OF PROPOSED COMMUNICATION TO AMBASSADOR STEINHARDT FROM MR. STETTINIUS

Ever since the creation of the War Refugee Board by the President, Secretary Hull has frequently requested me to represent him in War Refugee Board matters. I have, therefore, followed with close interest your activities in this field and your success in facilitating the evacuation of refugees from the Balkans. The Board is indeed fortunate in having your active and effective support. Upon your return to Washington in June, I will have the opportunity of discussing these matters with you.

I understand that you have agreed to the prompt return to Turkey of Mr. Ira Hirschmann who has been the Board's Special Representative there. In view of your active interest in these matters, I am sure that you will make appropriate arrangements with the Embassy staff so that in your absence Mr. Hirschmann will continue to receive full cooperation. In particular you will probably find it desirable to arrange to have Mr. Hirschmann participate with members of the Embassy staff in any discussions on refugee matters which it may be necessary to have with Turkish officials during your absence.

JWA JEF:bbk - 5/26/44

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

LFG-843

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

Ankara

Dated June 2, 1944

Rec'd 2:56 a.m. 3rd.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

X  
1000, June 2, 5 p.m.

FOR JOHN PEHLE, WAR REFUGEE BOARD, AND ANDREW  
SOMERS FROM EFI JABOTINSKY. Ankara's No. 68.

President's declaration was ineffective because  
it was not followed by establishment of free ports.  
Jewish emissary from Budapest claiming to speak for  
Eichman brought first barter proposal. The proposal  
is queer and unacceptable but proves the influence of  
psychological warfare so carry on. OWI is criticised  
for almost boycotting the Jewish problem. The evacuation  
proceeding from Rumania is efficiently organized and  
on a growing scale. The Turks are cooperative and  
grant passage by special cars to refugees without visas  
arriving by boats. This is unofficial and dependent  
on the Foreign Minister's friendship for Ambassador  
Steinhardt. Suggest you negotiate with Ertegün and  
Lend to present Turkey with ships, locomotives and  
rail cars in exchange for promise to use same to increase

movement -



-2- #1000, June 2, 5 p.m., from Ankara

movement and the sale of small boats for our use. The Hungarian situation is beyond description. The only possible help is political and psychological pressure. Bulgaria is not hopeless. Open account Max Bundorf and advise me. The British Minister suggests you get Halifax to cable him legitimizing me and Committee.

STEINHARDT

EDA BB

00043

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Embassy, Ankara  
DATED: June 1, 1944  
NUMBER: 492  
X

RECEIVED  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD  
JUN 1 1944

TO A MR E NULAN

**CONTROL COPY**

Ambassador Steinhardt from Pehle, War Refugee Board.

The following message has been received by World Jewish Congress from its representative in Switzerland:

"In regard to the evacuation of Jews from Rumania to Turkey, I received information from Fildermann Fischer, Bucharest, who received promise of financial participation of World Jewish Congress in evacuation operations now proceeding by various small vessels. It is proposed that you place at our disposal 100 up to 10,000 Swiss francs for this purpose as first contribution. The transfer method which should be applied should be specified. By eventually chartering special larger ship by World Jewish Congress, Bucharest especially insistent that additional means of transport be made available. It is requested that you contact Barlas at Istanbul in connection with the last point."

The Board would appreciate your views concerning the above proposal.

THIS IS ANKARA CABLE NO. 47

HULL

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

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

The following message has been received by World Jewish Congress from its representative in Switzerland:

"In regard to the evacuation of Jews from Rumania to Turkey, I received information from Eildermann Fischer, Bucharest, who welcomed promise of financial participation of World Jewish Congress in evacuation operations now proceeding by various small vessels. It is proposed that you place at our disposal 100 up to 150,000 Swiss francs for this purpose as first contribution. The transfer method which should be applied should be specified. By eventually chartering special larger ship by World Jewish Congress, Bucharest especially insistent that additional means of transport be made available. It is requested that you contact Barlas at Istanbul in connection with the last point."

The Board would appreciate your views concerning the above proposal.

THIS IS WRB ANKARA CABLE NO. 4712

May 31, 1944  
12:15 p.m.

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

*Handwritten:* JH - Cleared  
with 5/29/44



*War Ref Board  
New York*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: May 20, 1944  
NUMBER: 3219

*Copy only*

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Riegner transmits the following for attention of World Jewish Congress:

In regard to the evacuation of Jews from Rumania to Turkey, I received information from Fildermann Fischer, Bucharest, who welcomed promise of financial participation of World Jewish Congress in evacuation operations now proceeding by various small vessels. [Considering that view blocking counter-value until end of war rate would be 33% to 40% less favorable, financing could be accomplished by applying method A (A) of license <sup>W</sup> 2115. By applying method A (three), this could be avoided.] It is proposed that you place at our disposal 100 up to 150,000 Swiss francs for this purpose at first contribution. The transfer method which should be applied should be specified. By eventually chartering special larger ship by World Jewish Congress, Bucharest especially insistant that additional means of transport be made available. It is requested that you contact Barlas at Istanbul in connection with the last point. [The amount we can expect from Rumania should be transmitted to us by cable.]

RECEIVED  
MAY 23 1944  
WAR REF BOARD  
D.C.

HARRISON

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

*5/31/44  
Message sent to Wise -  
" Repeated to Steinmetz*

00093

Dear Dr. Wise:

The following confidential message for you from Dr. Riegner was received from the American Legation, Bern, under date of May 20, 1944:

"In regard to the evacuation of Jews from Rumania to Turkey, I received information from Fildermann Fischer, Bucharest, who welcomed promise of financial participation of World Jewish Congress in evacuation operations now proceeding by various small vessels. Considering that view blocking counter-value until end of war rate would be 33% to 40% less favorable, financing could be accomplished by applying method A (A) of license W-2115. By applying method A (three), this could be avoided. It is proposed that you place at our disposal 100 up to 150,000 Swiss francs for this purpose as first contribution. The transfer method which should be applied should be specified. By eventually chartering special larger ship by World Jewish Congress, Bucharest especially insistent that additional means of transport be made available. It is requested that you contact Barlas at Istanbul in connection with the last point. The amount we can expect from Rumania should be transmitted to us by cable."

The War Refugee Board has referred this matter to Ambassador Steinhardt for his comments. It is suggested that any reply you desire to make to Dr. Riegner be held up pending the receipt of Ambassador Steinhardt's views.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

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

PH:lab 5/29/44

00093

*recd  
J. P. Jones  
5/10/44*

# WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL .: CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

330 WEST 42nd STREET  
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

NEW ADDRESS:

1824 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK 12, N. Y.  
C. O. 1000

LONDON  
55 New Cavendish St., W 1

GENEVA  
37 Quai Wilson

BUENOS AIRES  
Corrientes 2024-90

JERUSALEM  
Vaad Leumi, P. O. B. 471

MONTREAL  
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY  
Sonora 174-4

CABLES: CONGRESS, NEW YORK  
TELEPHONE: LONGACRE 5-2600

May 10, 1944

*Files*

In reply refer  
to: No. 59

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

May I take the liberty of again calling your most urgent attention to the unbearable situation which is the result of the policy of the Turkish Government with regard to the issuance of transit visas.

This organization has repeatedly stressed the viewpoint that no real progress would be achieved by inducing the Turkish Government to issue a larger number of transit visas. As long as it will be impossible to cross the frontier between Hungary and Turkey without visas, Turkey's key position as the life line of escape for the Jews coming from Eastern Europe and the Balkans would doom these unfortunate people.

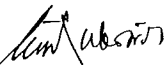
It appears from recent news which reached us that Hungarian Jews who appear before the Turkish Consulate in order to secure transit visas are arrested upon their leaving the Consulate and deported to an unknown destination.

May I consequently submit that the Turkish Government be requested to issue instructions to its frontier guards to the effect that the crossing of the Bulgarian-Turkish border be facilitated for all refugees persecuted because of race or religion.

As we stressed in several conferences and memoranda we consider this matter of such crucial importance in the field of rescue that we think the President himself should be respectfully requested to cut the Gordian knot in taking up the problem personally with the Turkish President.

I would be extremely grateful to you for informing me  
of any action you might consider taking on this letter.

Sincerely yours

  
Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki, Head  
Rescue Department

ALK:ef

00093

May 2, 1944

TO: Mr. Pehle

FROM: Mr. Marks

Re: Conference with Carl Austrian, head  
of FEA mission in Turkey concerning  
possibility of lend-lease railroad  
rolling stock to Turkey.

After your telephone conversation with Mr. Friedman yesterday in which you stated that you preferred not to see Mr. Austrian, I made arrangements for a meeting to be held in Mr. Friedman's office. Today I received a 'phone call from J. E. Harris, Jr., Chief of the Near East Section of FEA. Mr. Harris stated that Mr. Austrian specifically expressed a desire to speak with you concerning the above matter. Mr. Austrian asked Harris to pass on the message that he worked with Mr. Hirschmann in Turkey and is therefore familiar with our problems.

I advised Mr. Harris that I would clear the matter with you and would let him know whether you would be free to see Mr. Austrian tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. when the meeting is scheduled. I presume that if this hour is not convenient with you, another hour would be agreeable to Austrian.

MJM:ecr  
5/2/44

*original in file re  
conf. with FEA*

000930