the Respect to Reliefad Refugers: Evacuations To and Turkey

Evacuation To we Through Turkey, Vol. 2.8, Folde 3

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

## INCOMING **TELEGRAM**

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

# CONTROL COPY

GEK-302 This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government Agency. (RESTRICTED)

Ankara

Dated August 15

REC'd 6:50 a.m. 17t

Secretary of State,

Washington.

AUG 1.8 1944

1493, August 15, 10 p.m.

FOR PEHLE WRB FROM HIRSCHMANN

Ankara's NO. 133

Three hundred ninety-five passengers from the SS BULBUL and five from the illfated MEFKURA arrived in Istanbul by rail from Cherkaskoy. They were quartered in a school in Istanbul. They were brought over the mountains by oxcart from Igneada to Vize, a distance of about 40 miles. The women and children rode, the men walked. The remainder of the trip was made by trucks to Cherkaskoy and thence by train to Istanbul.

The MEFKURA survivors report the following information regarding the staking of MEFKURA: Shortly after midnight on August 5 the MEFKURA was approached by three surface craft of the length of two railway cars with flat shallow draft bottoms and armed with small cannon and machine guns. They were onsidered to be

German

-2- #1493, August 15, 10 p.m., from Ankara

German boats since they had silhouet as similar in appearance to those boats which had been seen in Constanza harbor. The three boats opened fire on the MEFKURA with cannon and machine guns. One of the first shots landed in the machinery room of MEFKURA exploding the machinery. The ship was set on fire by incendiary bullets. A large number of passengers were wounded on the boat itself by machine gun fire; others were caught in the flames or injured by bits of flying machinery. Many passengers donned life preservers and jumped overboard. The machine gun fire continued upon the passengers while they were in the water. The sea was stormy, otherwise it is believed that a larger number of passengers might have been saved.

According to BULBUL passengers, the BULBUL was not in sight of the MEFKURA during the attack. Later it was approached by the armed boats and its engines were stopped. It stood by until daylight and picked up the survivors of the MEFKURA who could be found. The survivors by that time had been in the sea for four hours. For an unaccountable reason, the armed, boats left while it was still dark and did not open fire upon the BULBUL. The BULBUL continued its

voyage

-3- #1493, August 15, 10 p.m., from Ankara

voyage with the MEFKURA survivors aboard toward Istanbul. It came within 300 meters of the Black Sea entrance of the Bosphorus but was unable to enter the Black Sea on account of the stormy seas. It sailed back along the Turkish shore to Igneada before safe anchorage was found.

The number of passengers from the EULBUL are approximately 395 including 214 men, 137 women and 44 children. Among then were two pregnant women and two children who had developed pheumonia who were taken Balat hospital, Istanbol. The two mothers of the two children were sent to the hospital to be with them, Except for these, all the passengers are scheduled to proceed to Palestine by rail August 15.

The rescue operations were conducted under supervision of the Tunkish Red Crescent, and all expenses, will be defrayed by the War Refuger Board. When more detailed information is available, a full report will be sent to you by mail.

KELLEY

JMS IMS

Intanbul, August 15, 1944

Jear Bob:

This morning, in my talk with you, I referred to members of the crew of the S. S. Bulbul having made contact in the Black Sea with the nebulous enemy.

The story now, as told to me, indicates that no such contact actually occurred; that the members of the crow, on perceiving danger of attack from armed boats which were reported to be 30 meters away from the Bulbul, entered a life boat and disappeared. The Captain attempted to do the same thing but was withheld by younger refugees who threatened him. This is not a very pretty story but it indicates why it was not possible for any members of the crew of the Bulbul to determine the nature of the attacking ships.

Cordially yours,

I. A. Hirschmann

Robert Kelley, Esquire Charge d'Affaires, a.1. c/o American Consulate General Istanbul

diserry his

1 - 1

1.6

Les rescapés du "Bulbu!"et les ca-danses du"Nefkurė, quo rejette la mer

Un train spécial a ramené hier Mes 397 Israélites réfugiés qui a l vaient été débarqués à Igné Ada du motor-boat «Bulbul» lequel avait été attaqué à trois reprises en Mer Noire par un sous marin incomu. Le Croilssant Rouge les a installés (Suite en 4ème page 3ème col.)

Aug. 16, 1944

# Le drame juif

dans une école israélite de Koulé-

Une femme ayant accouché à gue Ada, le Croissant Rouge l'a falit hospitaliser là bas sous la sur veillance d'une sage-femme qui se trouvait parmi ces réfugiés. Ces derniers se mettront en route dans quelques jours pour la Palestine. Parmi les nauffragés isréalites du motor-boat « Nefkuré », coulé en Mer Noire, 130 cadovres ont été dé id repêchés près Kemerbourgaz. Des mesures ont été prises pour impêcher que l'argent et les objets pérceux qu'ils portaient sur eux ne soient voles.

Cinq Israélites survivants du mu tor-boat « Mefkure » ainsi que l'équipage et les 390 Juifs du motor boat & Bulbul » qui surpris par la tempête en venent de Roumanie a dû débarquer ses passagers à Igus Ada, sont arrivés biler matin en no tre ville de Tcherkeskeuy, par train de marchandises.

\*\*

de marchandises.

La gare de Sirkédju était bonkleg, de monde, Mais la police avait pris des messures d'ordre, Amerikans tout etreffen avec les voyageurs. Ceux-ei étaient composés es sentiellement d'enfants et de jeures fulles. Peu d'hommes ou de femmes âges, Deux des rescanés du femmes agés. Deux des rescapes du

Mefkure a sont gubevement bles,
pés ; trois autres le sont légène-ment à la tête. Voice comment ils 

airge de la câte lorsque la tempête éclata hrusquement. A ce moment un sous-marin apparui tout près de nous et commença à nous canon ner. Sans prêter attention aux cla meurs qui s'élevaient du bord, les agresseurs continuèrent à live, jus qu'au naufrage du motor-boat.

Après leur déscente du train, les émigrés se reposèrent un moment emigres se reposerent un moment à la gare, puis prirent place dans les autobus qui les emenèrent h l'école juive de Kouletille. Lie Croissant Rouge leur prépara à dé-jeuner. Dans l'apresemble, lis fut ren transfèrés à Haydarpsaha d'où ils parisions pour la Palestine.

August 14, 1944

Mr. Kelley:

kr. Paymen telephoned to me this morning to say that he had information from Istanbul that 395 refugees from port Igneadu had now arrived at Istanbul and that he had telephoned to the British Embassy suggesting that arrangements may now proceed for their further transport by train to Syria. He said that he now understood that Mr. Barlas would pay for their transportation from Igneada to Istanbul.

E.L.P.

cc:

Mr. Hirschmann, Istanbul.u

ELP/gm

megan megan

### MEMORANDUM

### on the Conversations with Bülbül Passengers

Interviews with several of the <u>Hilbil</u> passengers who arrived in Istanbul on Monday morning, August 14, at about 7 o'clock, indicated the following.

The three ships, the Morina, Bulbul and Mefkura left Constanza together on August 3, 1944. They apparently sailed under the auspices of the Rumanian Red Cross. The Morina itself, when it arrived in the Bosphorus, bore indications of having had red crosses painted on its hull in various places, and I am informed that the Bulbul likewise was so painted. The three ships were escorted through Rumanian waters as far as the Bulgarian border by what was described to be two Rumanian mine-sweepers. They travelled in single file, first two refugee boats, followed by a Rumanian boat, then the third refugee boat and a Rumanian boat bringing up the rear. This escort left the refugee boats upon arrival into bulgarian waters. Thereafter, the three boats sailed on their own, the Morina, being fastest, first, then the Bülbül, and bringing up the rear, the Mefkura. Because of differences in speed, the ships rapidly drew away from each other. One of the Bulbul passengers told me that he saw in the drawer of the captain of the ship a permit issued by the Germans authorizing the departure of the three boats from Constanza, indicating the route which the three boats were to follow and indicating a time by which the voyages had to take place. According to this passenger, the time-limit had expired by the time the boats were

The Mefkura, shortly after midnight, August 4th, was approached by three surface craft described to be about the length of two railroad cars, each with flat shallow-draft bottoms armed with some small cannon and machine-guns. They were alleged to be German boats similar in appearance to boats which had been seen in Constanza harbor, and the three boats opened fire on the Mefkura with cannon shot and machine-guns. One of the first shots fired landed in the machinery of the Mefkura and the machinery blew up. The ship itself was set afire by incendiary bullets. A large number of passengers were wounded on the boat itself through machine-gun fire. Others were caught in the flames. There were life-preservers on board, not of very good quality, which the passengers donned and went overboard. The attacking boats continued their machine-gun fire upon the people while they were in the water. The sea was quite stormy, as a result of which, despite the fact that the passengers had life-belts, it was impossible for them to save themselves.

Five passengers and three of the crew were rescued. The five passengers included a Rumanian girl, by the name of Herta Weiss, a Hungarian couple by the name of Phillip, and two Polish men. Mrs. Phillip is a pregnant woman. The members of the crew saved included the captain.

A story which several of the people told, which may or may not be true, and indeed may have originated from the same source, is to the effect that dogs were turned loose in the water by the attacking boats in order further to harass the passengers

struggling in the sea. The <u>Bülbül</u> at that time was some distance away from the <u>Mefkura</u> and it was not until towards day-break that the survivors could be seen in the water and brought aboard. The Phillips, for example, were in the water for over four hours.

Upon their arrival in Istanbul the two Polish survivors were taken to Balat hospital, one suffering from burns on his body, the other with a leg injury. The other three remained with the Bülbül group.

The Bulbul itself came within about 300 meters of the Black Sea entrance of the Bosphorus on Saturday, August 5, toward evening. Because of rough weather it turned up the Turkish coast in order to find a sheltered anchorage. The boat was in the vicinity of the Mefkura when it was attacked, but the passengers say that they heard nothing of the cannonade and saw only a bright glow on the horizon. During the very early morning, it hove to when approached, some say by two, others say by three armed boats. The Turkish crew of the Bulbul, with the exception of the captain, immediately left the ship in a life-boat. The captain himself, I am told, was advised by the passengers not to try to take similar action. The armed boats approached the bulbul, some say to a point 30 meters away, others say 200 meters. The captain told the passengers to keep below decks, and hoisted the flag of a Turkish cargo-carrier. I have no clear explanation as to what transpired, but orders were given for the engines to start up, and the Bilbil sailed away toward the gulf near Igneada. The passengers with whom I spoke knew no reason why the Bulbul was not fired upon in the same manner as was the Mefkura.

(There are inconsistences here in terms of time, which I can ascribe only to the great excitement and tension which prevailed among the refugees in Istanbul who, because of their ordeal, had lost all concept of time and dates. I shall try to straighten this out.)

There are several counts given as to the number of passengers on the Bülbül, one count is 214 men, 137 women, and 44 children for a total of 395. I don't know who made this count, so that I am unable to learn up to what age the passengers are regarded as children. Of the 395, 393 are supposed to have come to Istanbul, while two women remained behind in the hospital in Igneada, one woman in childbirth and the other a woman doctor who remained behind to care for her. Another count is 405 passengers, a third is 408, and a fourth 410. The exact number will be known only after the official lists are made up for the Turkish Police.

The refugees were brought through the mountains by ox-cart from Igneada to Vize, a distance of about 60 kilometers. The women and children rode, and the men for the most part walked, carrying their baggage with them. From Vize to Cherkaskoy they travelled by camions, which were provided there, and left by train from Cherkaskoy at approximately two o'clock in the morning of August 14, and arrived in Istanbul at about 7 or 7:30.

The Bilbil, I was informed, is a ship of about 150 tons. I am advised further that it was reconstructed to contain 240 borths, but it carried 405 passengers.

Upon arrival in Istanbul, two pregnant women who were on the

boat were taken to Balat hospital, as were two children who had developed pneumonia. The two mothers of the two children were sent to Balat hospital to be with them.

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W.R.B. Records, Box 39, Evacuation To and Through Turkey, Vol. 2-B, Sec.2-f

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GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

GSA FORM 7122 (7-72)

mefavia

An Official German Statement.

In the Question of the Sinking of the Turkish Vessel "MERKLA".

Berlin, 11 (Rador)- The BBC has been spreading reports that
a German submarine had sunk in the Black Sea a refugee-boat; "Merkla",
under Turkish flag, with 277 Jews on board.

The International Information Bureau learns from the Command-Post of the German Forces that the above-mentioned information is altogether invented. The International Information Bureau has been authorized to state officially of behalf of the High Command of the Army, that "no German submarine can be made responsable f for the shipwreck of that Turkish boat. There are German submarines in those sea-areas nor were there ever any there. It is certain that we have here before us an infringement of Internation Law, caused by Soviet Russia ".

( Universul, August 13th )

of report. Transe'u from Turking

Thereport

in translation

Following report has been issued concerning the 40 tons regular, motor-boat " Mefkure ".

On the 1-3.8.944 at 20.30 in Constanza's port the 3 gewish fugitiv-boats "Morona", "Bulbul " and " Mefkure " were preparing to leave same port.

First started "Morina"; then followed Bûlbul; then we departed i.e. "Mefkure". After 15 minutes our machine showed a little defect and it took us an hour's time to put it in order. Our boat was accompanied by a rumanian officer and 3 sub-officers. We re-examinad the defect of our machine; when I remarked some distance o off a black line. Addressing the rumenian officer, I was informed by him that this was a german surveyor boat in the port of Constanza called generally "Lems". Finding it my duty I informed my colleages as well as the passengers. In the morning the rumenian officer with his fellowmen left our motor by the accompanying boats and returned to Constanza.

The motor-boat "Morina" was near me. There was a soft wind and we followed the same direction. Then the sun went down, the moon appeared and we were still on the same way. In the night at 2.10 I perceived the cracking of a racket ofer our motor. Finding it my duty I drew the stop alarm and I saw 300 metres off again a black line. I suggested at once to our passengers to put on the safety girdles Exactly at 2.15 fire came out of the back of the ship. Then a piece feel into the water. The fire grew figreer and pieces of wood flew over us splashing into the sea. The mashines too were soon on fire.

I could'nt see the penangers taking the safety-boats,

Mannell

I jumped into one with my two fellowmen Kemal and Hassan. Then fro

fellow-men the safety-boat I sam parenters jumping into the sea and some in boats. The sea was all over on fire . I then sam exactly the subm-marine 100 and sometimes 50 metres turning around us.

I perceived also men standing on the uppermost top of the submarine, inspecting to their right and left. Then the submarine turned to the north. Firing again it disappeared. After some time we perceived other fire signals from the sea.

knowing that the 3 boats had to keep to the same direction I weited and after two hours I saw "Bulbul " arriving. After some time the same submarine papeared again near us, but not for a long time. It disappeared again. I immediately iformed Bulbul. Of course e panic started on the same boat. I took a little boat of the motor Bîbul and saved my 5 fellowmen, for my briginal boat was sinking. A woman and a man, as well as a girl and two men, which swam accroached to a siece of wood, were saved by us and we brought them to the "Bulbul." At 16 h we arrived to the Bosphorus, but owing to a storm in tese waters, we were obmiged to return a Igniada, on the 6.8.44, , informing authorities from thes place about the accident of the " Mefkure". Authorities have immediately issued orders to expediate the jewish emigrants by train, helping them and when I asked for help, they would aswer me that I should be sent to prison, because I was the cause of this unhappy event. It is only due to a certain gentleman that I was left free.

Kâzim Turan

Distriction reading/only by arrangehent.

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

LISBON.

2238 X The following cable is WRE 76.

AM 11 06

Please deliver paraphrase of the following message to Doctor Joseph Schwartz, 242 Rua Aurea, Lisbon, from M. A. Leavith of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

QUOTE Reference sinking Mafkura we have taken position together with WRB concerning future sailings which they have embled to Hirschmann that we will fully support Hirschmann's decision after consultation with Embassy and private organizations involved Stop They will necesearily have to take into account the real risk to refugees of remaining where they are as against risk of sea voyages and presumably private organizations dealing with this problem will, inform the refugees of this risk.

> STETTINIUS ACTING (GLW)

WRB: MMV: KG

s/cr

NE

DECLASSIFIED State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date **SEP 1** 8 1972

CABLE TO LISBON

From War Refugee Board to Norweb.

Please deliver the following message to Doctor Joseph Schwartz, 242 Rus Aures, Lisbon, from M. A. Leavitt of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

"Reference sinking Maskure we have taken position together with WRB concerning future sailings which they have cabled to Hirschman that we will fully support Hirschman's decision after consultation with Embassy and private organisations involved Stop They will necessarily have to take into account the real risk to refugees of remaining where they are as against risk of sea voyages and presumably private organisations dealing with this problem will inform the refugees of this risk."

THIS IS WIRB CABLE TO LISBON NO. 119 76

10:50 a.m. August 10, 1944

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

FHodel: jth 8/10/44 20 -

Dotated by Mess Mansie

Clevel with Ababausa

August 11, 1944

### idemorandum re. the sinking of the S.S. Mefkura.

Commander Robert Dunn, who is acting in the absence of Captain Trammell, informed me of the following today, which he had received from the British Naval Intelligence:

The Mefkura was not torpedoed but ran into a rock at midnight of the day noted in the newspapers. This occurred either at Igneada or somewhat to the north of Igneada, on rocks which are close to the coast. There were no life-boats nor life-belts on the Mefkura. Six passengers and two of the crew were saved, and are now in the hands of the Turks. The Turkish authorities have the full story on the disaster. It will be necessary to see the Vali to secure the proper authorization for interviewing the prople when they arrive with the passengers on the Bulbul (which means "nightingale").

The above information was supplied by Mr. Mares of the British Naval Intelligence. Commander Dunn promised to request of Mr. Mares a copy of the full statement of the British Intelligence when they have completed it.

I. A. Hirschmann

Brown on Bayling Trucker

The Salah Salah

Les rescapés du "Bulbul"
Les rescapés du "Bulbul"
Les rescapés di motar-hoat «Mer kure » sont arrivés à Igneada où se prouve également le motor-hoat « Bulbul » qui s'y était réfugié avec 400 émigrants israélites. Trois carmionschargés da ravitaillament leur ont été envoyés de notre ville. Les émigrants seront amenés ici par voie ha terre au moven de camions et l'autres movens de transport qu'on se procurera sur place.



AUG 1 0 1944

Turk Refugee Ship
Sunk, Ankara Says
London, Ang. 9 (P)—The Ankara
radio said today that a Turkish
motor vessel carrying 292 Jews
from Constanta, Romania, to Pales
tine, had "sun's outside territorial
waters." The broadcast said that
five passengers and two crew mem
bers were saved.

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
ATE TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

H9M-AUG111 Pin 2 21

COMPTREGUENS ANT REGUENS PLAIN

Lisbon

Dated August 10, 1944 Rec'd 7:05 a.m., 11th.

Secretary of State, Washington.

CONTROL COPY

2475, Tenth, 5 p.m.

FOR LEAVITT FROM PILPEL WRB 151, JDC 53.

Reuben Resnik cables "reports on SS BULBUL and SS MAFKURA still unclear because bad communication. Present report SS MAFKURA lost with 310 passengers, 6 rescued including 2 crew. 60 children aboard. Present official report but not final submarine gunfire, but struck rock theory also advanced. At agency request, we arranged transfer and rescue remaining MAFKURA passengers and SS BULBUL passengers who came Igneada where boat held. Following done. Food sent passengers disembarked being transferred over impossible road by horsecart to Sergen, thence lorries to Cherkeskoy where board trains, expect arrival here Saturday morning, lodged on boat for day and will leave Saturday night for Palestine. Hirschmann fully informed and approved all arrangements. Sahar Adom cooperating"

NORWEB

AUG 15 100

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Mr. Pilpel (JDC No. 53) has been received through the American Embassy in Lisbon under date of August 10, 1944:

"Reuben Resnik cables 'reports on SS BULBUL and SS MAFKURA still unclear because bad communication. Present report SS MAFKURA lost with 310 passengers, 6 rescued including 2 crew. 60 children aboard. Present official report but not final submarine gunfire, but struck rock theory also advanced. At agency request, we arranged transfer and rescue remaining MAFKURA passengers and SS BULBUL passengers who came Igneada where boat held. Following done. Food sent passengers disembarked being transferred over impossible road by horsecart to Sergen, thence lorries to Cherkeskoy where board trains, expect arrival here Saturday morning, lodged on boat for day and will leave Saturday night for Palestine. Hirschmann fully informed and approved all arrangements. Sahar Adom cooperating."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Poble

J. W. Pehle Executive Director

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

PUA -

FH: jth 8/14/44

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS

R/4-557

1944 AUG 11 PM 3 36

PLAIN

Lisbon

COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS (LIAISON)

Dated August 10, 1944 Rec'd 6:48 a.m., 11th

Secretary of State Washington

CONTROL COPY

2476, August 10, 5 p.m.

FOR LEAVITT FROM PILPEL WRB 150 JDC 55.

Wish advise 308 SS M/RINA passengers left Istanbul for Palestine August 9. SS BELLACITA reported to have left Constanza, August 8th with 150 passengers of whom 120 children.

NORWEB

RR

8/14/44 Wessage sent

AUG 14 100

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Mr. Pilpel (JDC No. 55) has been received through the American Embassy in Lisbon under date of August 10, 1944:

"Wish advise 308 SS MARINA passengers left Istanbul for Palestine August 9. SS BELLACITA reported to have left Constansa, August 8th with 150 passengers of whom 120 children."

Very truly yours,

(Bigned) J. W. Peble

J. W. Pehle Executive Director

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

74

FH: jth 8/14/44

DEPARTMENT

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS 19ND RECORDS August 10.

Distribution of true DEPARTMENT OF reading only by special 1944 AUG 12 PM arrangement

5 p.m.

AMENDASSY,

ANKARA.

The following War Refugee Board 97 is for Mirecheann

Please refer to your Nos. 1429, August 5, 1437, August 6, and 1445, August 7 (War Refugee Board Nos. 116, 118, and 122).

The Board deeply regrets the sinking of the refugee ship MEFRURA and the attendant loss of life. The Board is thankful that the chips BULBUL and MARINA arrived safely. The efforts of Kelley and Mirschmann in this connection are greatly appreciated.

The Board will appreciate such further information concerning the sinking of the MEFKURA as can be furnished consistently with security requirements.

With respect to possible future voyages of the Bulgarian or any other boats, as mentioned in your No. 1445, the Board will fully support a decision by you after consultation with the Embassy and the private organisations involved. We know that your decision will take into account the relative risk to the refugees if they remain in Bulgaria, Rumania or Hungary as the case may be as contrasted with the risks of sea voyages. We also assume that through the appropriate private organizations the refugees themselves have been fully informed of the risks involved in such voyages.

> DECLASSIFIED State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

The

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 18 1972

-2- #694, August 10, 5 p.m., to himra

The foregoing has been discussed with the JDC here and it is in agreement.

STETTING (Acting! (GHV)

WRB: MMV: KO 8/10/44 NE

se

s/cr

Cable to Kelley, Ankara, for Hirschmann from the War Refugee Board.

Please refer to your Nos. 1429, August 5, 1437, August 6, and 1445. August 7 (War Refugee Board Nos. 116, 118, and 122).

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The foregoing has been discussed with the JDC here and it is in agreement.

THIS IS WE'S CABLE TO ANKARA NO. 97

2:20 p.m. August 9, 1944

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

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

# INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS

MJB-917 This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government agency. (RESTRICTED).

Dated Lugust 10, 1944

Rec'd 5:01 a.m.

4

Secretary of State,

Washington.

1471, August 10, midnight

FOR PEHLE WRB FROM HIRSCHMANN. Ankara's No. 129.

The 308 refugees who arrived Istanbul aboard vessel MORINA proceeded on August 9 by railroad from Istanbul to Syria: Included in this group were 177 children up to the age of 18, of whom 171 were orphans from Transmistria, the remainder were with their parents. Included also among the refugees were 31 young trainees for Palestine (Chalutzim) mostly Rumanian and 36 revisionists, the balance of the 308 comprised refugees who had arrived in Rumania (18 Polish and about 25 Hungarian) and Rumanians.

For your information we have learned that approximately 1300 orphans from Transnistria are still in Rumania and I am attempting to secure priority for them in whatever additional emigration from Rumania it may be possible to effectuate.

KELLEY

BB RR

august , 1944 7 p.m.

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to proceed to the town of the pet through, and the following to be to be a the town of the pet through, and the following to be to be closer to igned a, for fooling the added passengers. The antalya has breen to together to horse-carts by a not widen to be because a will be brought to the town of the residency, and the refuge a proceed, will serve on reider by railroad. And nocessary are neglected that reitroad have already been made.

the refuge s in this city in termles and o her buildings belowing to the Jewis Community was denied, and it is projected that the resplic will be lodge on commodicus boats in a tembul harvor. It is planned that there people will leave latenbul for fallerting on maturian night, August 12.

matter, an estated that they would pay for diring the corse-carts, for food, etc.

нĸ

gara garakan

## הסוכנות היהודית לארץ ישראל הלשכה כעלית ילדים ונוער

THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE
CHILD AND YOUTH IMMIGRATION BUREAU
JERUSALEM

No. ......

Istanbul, 9.8.1944

5/9/41 101/10

Mr. Katzki War Refugee Board Péra Palas <u>İSTANBUL</u>

Dear Mr. Katzki,

Hereby I want to convey to you the final composition of the children's group, which arrived on board s/s Morina.

With best regards,
Yours sincerely.

Showin Ly

Arrent Flore Josepher

LIST OF CHARLEN AMO AGAIV. ON SUAGE S/S " #ORINA " 9/8/944

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	Воув	Girls	Total		Водз	Girls	Totai	5. To ta		
 L926	11	4	15			-		15		
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8/9/44

3/1/11 (MBM) (Meno

### LELORANDUM

are asserted to be 'n Islanbul on Saturday, August 18.

grow Juston

# New York Word-Telegram AUG 9 1944

Ship with 292 Jews-Sunk, Ankara Reports

By the Associated Press.

LONDON, Aug. 9.—The Ankara radio said today that a Turkish motor vessel carrying 292 Jews from Constants, Romania, to Palestine, had "sunk outside territorial" weirs." The tronafeat said that five passengers and two crew members were saved.



AUG 9 1944

287 Refugees
Lost Ship
London, Aug. 9 (A. P.).—The
Ankara radio said today that a
Turkish motor vessel carrying
292 Jews from Constanta, Romania, to Palestine, had sunk outside territorial waters. The broadcast said that five nassengers and
two crew members were saved.

## Kara sularimizda bir hâdise

## Meçhul bir denizaltı Karadenizde bir motorumuzu batırdı içinde bulunan 315 Yahudi mülteci boğuldu.

Karasularımıza sokulan milliyeti meçhul denizaltılar, bir motörümüzü daha batırmışlardır. Hadise 5 ağustos cumartesiyi pazara bağlıyan gece saat. 12 de olmuşlurl 3 ağustos günü Köstenceden ikişer saat ara ile üç motörümüz mültleci yahudi yüklü olarak hareket etmişlerdir. İlk hareket eden Morino motöründe 307, ikinci hareket eden Millihili motöründe 410, son olarak hareket eden Metkûre motöründe de 320 muhacir yahudi yardı.

Yolun yarısında iken hava birdenbire bozduğun-

dan motörler zorlukla yollarına devam edebilmişler, Kilyos önlerine geldikleri vakit Bocalamıya başlamışlardır.

Bu motörlerden Morino, Boğaza girmeğe muvaffak olmuş, diğerleri şiddetle esen poyraz yüzünden, Kilyostan geri dönmek zorunda kalmışlardır. Bu arada Bülbül motörü Limandereye gelirken bazı dehizaltılar tarafından kovalanmışsa da, motör Limandereye sığınmış, bir müddet bekledikten (Doyami Sa: 3 Sü: 7 de)

#### Kara sularımızda bir hâdise

(Başı 1 incide)

sonra İğneadaya iltica etmiştir. Mefkure motörü isə Zerve açıklarında İken milliyeti meçhul üç deniz

altı ile karşılaşmıştır.
Motörün yolunu kesen denizaltilar derhal top ateşi açmışlar ve
bir kaç dakika sonra motörü batırmışlardır.

mışlardır. Mötörün içinde bulunan 320 mül-Mötörün içinde bulunan 320 mülteci yahudiden ancak 5 kişi kurtarılmış, 315 kişi boğulmuştur. Altı ki şilik mürettebatın da dördü boğulmuş, ancak ikisi kurtulmuştur. Mürettebaşın İsimleri şünlardır.

rettebatın isimleri şunlardır: Kaptan Kâzım, Mustafa, Mehmet, Ahmet, Mahmut, Mustafa.

Öğrendiğimize göre, kaptan Kazım boğulanlar arasındadır. Vakadan haberdar olan Kirklareli

vakadan naberdar olan Kirkiaren valisi, derhal hädiseye elkoymuş ve ilk iş olarak iğneadaya siğinen Bülbül motörünün hareketini menetmiştir. Diğev taraftan mülteti yahudileri nakleden acente, hükûmete müracaatta bunların kara yolu ile nakline müşaade istemiştir.

Mefkûre motörlinûn batirilması hakkında tahkikata devam edilmek tedir.

Motör ve mürettebatt, harp sigórtási ile sigortaliðir.

Transfirm Harried

SUM.ARY

#### SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

SOURCE: VATAN, August 8, 1944, No. 1825, Istantul.

AN EVENT WITHIN OUR TERRITORIAL WATERS

An Unknown Subrarine Sank One of Our Motorboats in the Black Sea Causing the death of 315 Jewish kefugees

Submarines the identity of which remains unknown have on August 5th, 12:60 P.M. sunk another of our motorboats. Of the three motorboats MORINO, BULBUL and METKURE, carrying on board 207, 410 and 220 Jewish refugees, respectively, who had left Constanza on August 2rd, the MORINO succeeded in entering the Straits, the BULBUL took refuge at Ineada, whereas the METKURE was sunk by 2 unknown submarines opposite Zerve. Only 5 of the 220 passengers and 4 out of the crew of 6 were saved..... The agency in charge of the transportation of these refugees has requested the Covernment to grant authorization for their transportation by land.

B:er

Boguldu IAN 8 8 8 4

#### Motör Meçhul Üç Denizaltının Hücumuna Uğradı

Memleketimizden geçerek Filistine gidecek olan yahudi mül tecileri Köstenceden geriren Mefkûre, Bülbül ve Morino adlı motörlerimiz, kara sularımızın dışında ve Bulgarların Agatopolo limanı yakınlarında milliyeti meçhul üç tahtelbahı

rin tecavüzüne uğramıştır.
Sahilden beş mil açıkta seyreden bu motörlerden Bülbül, içindeki 400 mülteci ile İğneada ya sığınabilmiş, Morino, evvelki giin limenmiş geleri

ki gun limanımıza gelmiştir. Tam isabet alan Mefküre tein dekilerle birlikte batmıştır 8 kisilik mürettebatın altısı, ve 180 mültecinin ancak beşi kurtulabilmiştir.

(Sonu Sa. 2, Sü. 2)

Jäneadaya çıkarılan mülteciler otobüslerle şehrimize getirelecek'erdir.

Simdiye Kadar Geçen Museviler Ankara, 7 (TAN) — Orta Avrupa ve Balkaulardan ayrılmak zorunda kalan Musevilerin memleketimiz,
den transit olarak geçmelerinde hükümetimiz insanî düşüncelerle hareket etmiş ve mümkün olan bülün koaylıkları göstermiştir.

Geçen sene ve bu sene Almanya, Bulgaristan ve Macaristandan bir cok yahudi cocukları memleketimizden geçerek Filistine gitmişlerlir. Son zamanlarda 1828 yahudi maruz bulunduğu sıkıntıdan kurtulmak maksadiyle vize almadan memleketimize gelmişler ve bunların vizeleri memleketimizde yapılurak Filistine gitmişlerdir.

2

#### SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

SOURCE: TAN, August 8, 1944, No. 2189, Istanbul.

177 PASSENGERS ON BOAID THE MEFKURE WERE DROWNED

The Motorboat Was Attacked By 2 Unknown Submarines

Our motorboats MATKURE, BULBUL and MOKINO, which
were transporting Jewish refugees from Constanza, were
attacked by 3 unknown submarines outside of our
territorial waters in the vicinity of the Bulgarian
with 400 passengers on board
port Agatopolo. Of these motorboats the BULBUL took
refuge at Ineada while MORINO arrived at the port
of Istanbul the day before yesterday. As regards the
MATKURE which was sunk, 6 out of the crew of 8 and
only 5 of 180 passengers could be saved.

The Jews who were Passing in Transit so far Ankara, 7th (TAN):- Moved by humanitarian sentiments our Government extended all possible facilities for the passage in transit through Turkey of Jews forced to leave central Europe and the Balkans. Of late 1828 Jews have arrived in our country without having been able to secure the necessary visas. After accomplishing here all the required visa formalities they left for Palestine.

B:er

8/8/44

#### E B F O R A N D U M

Mr. Mescik was informed by the entalys Agency that, according The their representative, who had telephoned from Mirklareli, there were SOI prople on the Lafkure, of whom only six were savel, four passeagers and two crew members.

fifty horsa-drawn certs are being procured in Kirklareli and the vicinity to carry the people overland from Igneada to a railroad station at Vize (?) or Carkecita (?).

The Antalya people in Kirklareli are trying to secure railroad cars for the referees, which have been promised by the railroad. The Turkish Red Croscent is helping in these matters.

## Le "Mefkure" transportant —320 réfugiés juifs a été coulé par trois sous-marins 315 personnes ont été noyées

Le 3 Août, les motor-boat turcs "Morino,, Bülbül> et «Mefkûre» quittaient Constantz, chargés respectivement de 307, 410 et 320 résuement ont pu âtre saument de 307, 410 et 320 résuement ont pu âtre saument de 307, 410 et 320 résuement ont pu âtre saument de 307, 410 et 320 résuement ont pu âtre saument de 307, 410 et 320 résuement ont pu âtre sauvés, 4 des 6 marins qui compossient l'équipage se sont nous que le capitaine Kâzim est parmi ceux-ci. Le gouverneur de Kirklareli attendique de depart du "Bülbül, bül, poursuivi par des sous marins, a réussi à se réfugier indemne à Limandere et de là a Igneada.

Quant au «Mefkûre» il a motor-boat ceulés de canon de trois sous-marins inconnus. Les 320 réfugiés juifs par des canon de trois sous-marins inconnus. Les 320 réfugiés juifs par des canon de trois sous-marins inconnus. Les 320 réfugiés juifs par des canon de trois sous-marins inconnus. Les 320 réfugiés juifs par des canon de trois sous-marins inconnus. Les 320 réfugiés juifs qui se trouvaient à bord 5 seulement ont pu âtre sauvés, 4 des 6 marins qui compossiont l'équipage se sont not présume que le capitaine Kâzim est parmi ceux-ci. Le gouverneur de Kirklareli affendu le départ du "Bülbül, būl, poursuivi par des sous-marins de connus l'équipage se sont not présume que le capitaine Kâzim est parmi ceux-ci. Le gouverneur de Kirklareli affendu le départ du "Bülbül, būl, poursuivi par des sous-marins de connus l'équipage se sont not pué de canon de trois sous-marins de connus l'équipage se sont not pué de capital de canon de trois sous-marins de capital de canon de trois sous-marins de capital de

Quant au «Mefkûre» il a

Le motor-boat coulé et son coulé en qu'ilques minutec au équipage étaient assurés contre large de Zavré, sous les coups les risques de guerre.

A TURBUIE

methoun

ankara, August 8, 1944

Dear Mr. Berry:

I should appreciate your arranging for an introduction of Mr. Katzki, assistant to Mr. Hirschmann, special Representative of the Mar Hefuges Board, to the Vali and head of the Turkish Hed Crescent in Istanbul for purposes of offering any assistance that may be desired in connection with the rescue, transportation, feeding, clothing, etc., of the refugees saved from the ill-fated Mefkura and the S. S. Bulbul. Mr. Hirschmann asserts that the War Refugee Board stands ready to defray all expenses connected therewith.

Cordially yours,

Robert F. Kelley Charge d'Affaires, a.i.

Burton Y. Berry, Esq. -merican Consul General Istanbul

James Tunber

PACKER Records in Europe 254 Erichan To Mistera Sunde to Empline - not torp to mest making places 3 - Res Ces cent is at it · Tracy 4 - ha Refugse BJ hee SET a file V- Assurance of payment Completely recovered on Jouht \_\_\_\_

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

PM 4 42 FBM-548 1944 AUG 8

COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS (LIAISON)

Lisbon

Dated August 8, 1944

Rec'd 8:55 a.m.

Secretary of State, Washington.

2449, Eighth, noon

FOR LEAVITT FROM SCHWARTZ WRB 146 JDC 51.

Regret advise that of three ships which left Constanza with total approximately 1050 refugees only two ships MARINA with 315 passengers and BULBUL with 500 arrived safely. SS MAFKURA was sunk by submarine action near Igneada with about 250 lives lost and very few survivors. SS BULBUL landed at Igneada with approximately 500 passengers we sending posthaste food supplies these passengers and also those few rescued. Rensnik may proceed Igneada order arrange disembarkation BUIBUL passengers and their overland transportation all of which complicated view fact this military area. 315 MARINA passengers leaving for Palestine today.

NORWEB

CSB

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Doctor Schwarts (JDC No. 51) has been received through the American Embassy in Lisbon:

"Regret advise that of three ships which left Constants with total approximately 1050 refugees only two ships MARINA with 315 passengers and BULBUL with 500 arrived safely. SS MAPKURA was sunk by submarine action near Igneada with about 250 lives lost and very few survivors. SS BULBUL landed at Igneada with approximately 500 passengers we sending posthaste food supplies these passengers and also those few rescued. Remanik may proceed Igneada order arrange disembarkation BULBUL passengers and their overland transportation all of which complicated view fact this military area. 315 MARINA passengers leaving for Palestine today."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Peble

J. W. Pehle Executive Director

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

FHodel:jth 8/9/44 PW v

DEPARTMENT OF STATEMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM CONTROL A DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

AGAS AUG 9 PM 3 37

COMMUNICATIONS

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Ankara

Dated August 8, 1944

Rec'd 11:11 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

1452, August 8, 5 p.m.

EMBASSY'S 1445, August 7, 7 p.m., FOR PEHLE WRB
FROM HIRSCHMANN.

Ankara No. 126.

The Turkish Foreign Office has accepted our recommendation that the passengers from the BULBUL should be transported everland by auto and railway to Istanbul. The Turkish Red Crescent is supervising this movement and other steps are being taken in connection with the emergency. I have agreed that WRB will defray expenses incurred in these operations and I believe that this undertaking on our part has helped expedite relief work.

KELLEY

EEC WSB



AUG 8 1944

Ciniclentified Sub
Sank Turkish Ship
Ankars, Aug. 7. (Reuter)—The
150-ton: Turkish motor schooner
Mefkure, which earlier today was
reported to have sunk in the Black
Sea while carrying Jewish refusees
from Congatana to Turkay was tor
pedded by an unidentified submarine.



246 Die in Sinking
Of Turk Refugee Ship

LONDON, Aug. 7 (U.P.).—The
Berlin radio, quoting a report
from Ankara, said that a Turkish
ship carrying 250 Jewish refugees
from Constanta, Romania, to
Turkey sank early today and that
all but four of the passengers
perished.

## The New York Times. AUG 8 1944

TURKISH SHIP TORPEDOED

Ankara Gives Details of Loss of Jewish Refugee Craft

Jewish Refugee Craft

By Wirelest to The New York Times.

ANKARA, Turkey, Aug. 7—The
100-ton motor schooner Markura
which, with two other schooners,
each carrying three hundred Jewish refugees, left Constanta, Rumania, for Istanbul last Thursday,
was torpedoed yesterday in the
Black Sea by an unidentified submarine. According to one report
received here, only the captain and
five members of the crew were
saved.

One of the three schooners arrived here safely and the second
put in at the small Turkish port
of Igneada, about forty-five miles
from Istanbul, to escape a storm.
The Markura was heading for the
safety of Igneada when she was
torpedoed.

Germany may have opened un-

torpedoed.

Germany may have opened undeclared war on Turkey with the sinking of a Turkish ship yesterday, seven miles off the coast of Turkey, according to the Overseas Newspagency.

That is the significance of a brief cable received by the agency today, through private channing from Turkey, disclosing that a slip that had previously been reported "sunk" had actually been attacked.

246 Jewish Refugees
Lost With Turkish Ship
Ankara, Aug. 6 (P).—The Turkish
ship Merkure, carrying 250 Jewish
refusees to Turkey from Constanta,
Romania, sank in the Black Sea
early today with the loss of all but
kon of the passenseral There were
no details.

Onthe Sound Stay

Selon des renseignements parvenus à l'Ambassade;

- l. La Police Turque a informé l'Agence édive que le navire MAFKURA a été torpillé près du Port Igneada et qu'actuellement on porte secours aux naufragés. La gare de chemin de fer la plus près du Port Igneada est Kirklareli. Toute cette région est sone militaire.
- 2. La navire BULBUL est mouillé aux environs d'Iganada et on ne sait pas s'il est parti our s'il se prépare à partir pour Istanbul.

On a demandé à l'Ambassade d'obtenir:

a. La permission, par l'intermédiaire du Eureau de Communications, de télégraphier au Captaine Mustapha du BULBUL, lui donnant l'ordre que le navire doit rester à l'ancre.

b. La permission spéciale pour plusieurs personnes
 de se rendre à l'endroit du sauvetage afin d'aider les

naufragés.

naufragés. L'Agence Juive désirerait envoyer, dans ce but, Monsieur Welwel Pomeraniec, de mationalité palestinienne.

c. La permission d'envoyer, à l'intention des naufragés, des medicaments et d'autres articles de première nécessité. On pourrait peut-être demander, à cette fin, le concours du Jroissant Rouge, etg dans ce cas, un fonds spécial serait mis à la dispèsition du Croissant Rouge.

d. La permission de transporter à Istanbul par chemin de fer les passagers sur le navire EULPUL pour leur éviter le voyage dans les eaux, qui semblent dangerouses, de cette region.

e. La permission pour l'Agence Antalya d'envoyer des camions à Igneada pour emmener les naufragés d'Igneada à Kirklareli.

Ankara, le 7 août 1944.

ELP/AFH/gm

## Le transit des réfugiés israélites par la Turquie

315 émigrés sont arrivés hier

Le motor-boat-"Mefkûrê" . est en retard

A la suite des facilités accordées aux Israélites fuyant les pays axis tes, de transiter par notre ter ritoire pour aller en Palestine, le nombre de ces rescapés augmente de jour en jour. Le motor-boat « Movina » J<sub>E</sub> 120 tonnes qui atten dait à Constantza depuis 2 mois, a amenr hier en notre port 315 emigrants israélites. Ces joursecj ils continueront leur chemin pour la Palestine.

Le motor-boat « Bulbut » attend

Palestine Le motor-boat « Bulbul » attend à Constantza pour embarquer d'autres réfugiés

Enfin, le motoriboal « Meffiure » transportant de Constantza, les rétugles israbites est emiratard. On craint qu'il de controlle qu'il de capitanerie du Port, pu'a purcune nouvelle la-lessus.

Le Journe d'Orient

august 7, 1944

Simmer

Memoraldum for Mr. Packer:

kry Katzki telephoned me last night at about 9:30 P.K. and informed me of the following:

- 1. The Turkish Police notified the Jewish agency that the J. S. kaskura had been torpedoed near Port Igneada and that a rescuing operation was now going on. The nearest railroad station to Port Igneada is Kirklareli. This entire area is a military zone.
- 2. The 5. 5. Bulbul is anchoreds manawhere in the vicinity of Ignezdo and it is not known whether it has left or is preparing to depart for Istanbul.

What has been asked of us without delay is:

- (a) Permission through the Communications Office to telegraph to Captain Mustapha of the Bulbul instructing him to keep the boat at anchor;
- (b) To grant special permission for several people to go to the scene of rescue to assist. The Jewish agency would like to send Mr. Welwel Pameranies, a Palestinian;
- (c) Permission to send food, medicines and other emergency necessities to the scene for the rescued. Perhaps the Red Crescent could be asked to essist in this, and I will see that a special fund is given to the Red Crescent.
- (d) arrangements to bring the passengers on the Bulbul by train to Istanbul so that they do not risk the apparently dangerous waters in that erea.
- (e) Mr. Kataki and the digency representatives have been in touch with the antalya agency, which is propered to send Laures to Ignesta to remove the people from Ignesta to Kirklareli. Premission is required for this.

I am confident that the Turkish Foreign Office will assist in this life and death situation.

#### I. a. Hirschnenz

P.A. I am now informed by enother call from Katzki at 10:15 A.M. that the last news dribbling in is to the effect that those passengers rescued from the Mackura are being transferred to the Bulbul.

A TRUE COTY
OF THE SIGNED
OBJOINAL

august 7, 1944

8/4 - 1 me. n.

#### Memorandum for Mr. Packer:

- 1. The names of the two individuals who wish to travel from Istanbul to the Syrian border with the refugees who have arrived on the S. S. Marina and those who expect to arrive on the Maskura and the Bulbul are David Zimand, a Palestinian, and San Diego Buchholz, an Argentinian. Mr. Matzki informs me that they will require authorization from Ankara.
- 2. No authorization has yet been arranged in Istanbul, Katzki informs me, for the placing of food on the boats.

I. a. Birschmann

the R.B. July

august 7, 1944

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fre per to

## Minutes of Conversation with Mr.Lütfi Kirdar, Vali of Istanbul. August 7, 1944

In the conversation were present:

Mr. Ch. Barlas - Jewish Agency
Mr. H. Sorismo - Jewish Community, Istanbul
Mr. M. Sipahioglu - Antalya Ambari, Istanbul

We informed the Vali of the disaster of the M/S "MEFKURE" which sunk at Iniada.

The Vali knew only about the M/S "BULBUL" which arrived to Iniada and was astonished to hear the news.

We asked the Vali for assistance in the following three questions:

- permission for two delegates of the Grand Rabbinat to go to Iniada to render moral help to the survivors.
- 2) permission to transport the passengers of the BULBUL, about 500, by train to Islambul, taking into consideration the danger of torpedoing the boat on the way to Islambul,
- 5) permission to send food to the passengers of the BULBUL, while they are in Iniada.

I explained that the Antalya is charged by the Jewish Agency to deal with transportation and supply of food to refugees in transit.

The Vali said that it is very difficult for civilians to go to iniada which is considered military zone, but promised to do his best in the lines of our demand. A memorandum should be submitted immediately, pointing our demands in writing.

In the meantime the Vali called, by telephone, the Himister of Interior in Ankara and expressed his hope for a favourable settlement of the matter,

120 por files sunt

2.341

August 7, 1944 Mefrum

To Mr. dirschmann from Mr. Katzki

The following summerizes the voyage of the Morina.

the readvised that all three boats, the Morina, the Billill and the Lafkire left Con tanza together on the evening of august 3. The Lorina, being the featest of the three boats, armived in Billylkdere, which is just inside the Black Sea entrance of the Bosphorus, about 8 o'clock or so in the morning of august 5. The Morina was held up at Billylkdere to await the arrival there of the other two boats, so that all three could come own to Galata, Istanbul, together. For mow should the Billill and the Lafkire. The Morina proceeded from Billylkdere, to Galata and arrived at the letter place about 6:30 p.m., august 6. Food was secured as put on board at about 7 p.m.

There are 308 people on the <u>korina</u>, of whom about 180 are children. Of these all but about 23, who are with their parents, are children from Transmistrie.

A large proportion of the passengers of the morina were without passports. This erose out of the fact that, in the rush of departure, at Constanza, many of the passports belonging to Lorina passengers were delivered to the Bülbül and vice versa. Consequently, it was necessary to arrange other passport documents, and a single collective travel document listing all the names of the passengers was issued by the Pritish Passport Control Office in Istanbul and visaed by them for Palestine. Turkish transit visas have not yet been received (2:45 p.m.), the police authorities being burdened with the preparation of documents for German repatriates from Istanbul.

The police at first proposed that the Morina passengers plus those of the Edibul, which was expected on Saturday night, be sent off together from Istanbul today, Monday. This now is impractical, and efforts are being made by the organizations here to send the Morina passengers off from Istanbul tomorrow, August 8. One of the difficulties in this connection is the great demand for railroad accomodations by Turkish people themselves, who want to leave Istanbul for other parts of Turkey. Whether or not, in view of the congestion at the police plus the demand for railroad transportation, the Morina was the police plus the demand for railroad transportation, the Morina was the police plus the demand for railroad transportation, the Morina was the police plus the demand for railroad transportation, the Morina was the police plus the demand for railroad transportation, the Morina was the police plus the demand for railroad transportation, the Morina was the police plus the demand for railroad transportation, the Morina was the police plus the demand for railroad transportation, the Morina was the police plus the demand for railroad transportation, the Morina was the police plus the demand for railroad transportation.

passengers indeed will be able to leave tomorrow is unknown at this moment. This is being worked on now.

Baler Mathi

### La tempête en Mer Noire

ques jours en Mer Noire ne s'est station de sauvetage à Kilios et a été pas non plus apaisée hier. Elle a em-obligé d'y ancrer. On n'a heureuse-pêché les motor-boats de sortir hors ment à déplorer aucune perte humaitrouvaient en cours de navigation de maritimes. se réfugier dans les ports.

D'autre part, le motor-boat «Alah Kerim» 25 tonnes appartenant à torboats «Bulbul» et «Mefkure» qui Ibrahim Reis a donné à Kilios con-

La tempête qui sévit depuis quel-Bahri » a fait eau au large de la du détroit et a obligé ceux qui se ne au cours de ces deux accidents

Il nous revient par ailleurs qu'on M n'a pas encore de nouvelles des moavaient appareillé de Constantza atre des récifs et a été mis en pièces, menant des réfugiés juifs en notre De même le motor-boat « Cherefi port. La le publique 8/7/44

## New York Post Aug 7 1944

# 246 Refugee Jews Drown as Ship Sinks London ,Aug. 7 (Reuter)—The Turkish steamer Merkure, which was on its way from Constanta, Romania, to Turkey with 250 Jewish refugees, sank in the Black Sea today, said an Ankara report to DNB. All but four of the passengers were drowned, said the report. This is the third disaster to ships carrying Jewish refugees from Nazi Europe during this war. More than 750 were drowned when the Steuma sank in the Black Sea in 1942. Nearly 200 105t their lives on the Patria off Halfa, in Palestine, in the same year.

#### DEPARTMENT ٥F STATE



#### INCOMING TELEGRAM



DIVISION COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

FOC = 507 This telegram must be parachrastid before being communicated to anyone other than a Government (RESTRICTED) Agency.

Ankara

Dated August 7, 1944

Rec'd 3:59 a.m. 8th

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MOST IMMEDIATE

Secretary of State,

Washington.

1445, August 7, 7 p.m.

FOR PEHLE, WRB. FROM HIRSCHMANN.

Ankara No. 122.

The Turkish Foreign Office has informed Embassy that both the BULBUL and the MEFKURA were attacked by an unknown submarine 5 miles from the Turkish shore; that the latter vessel which was also subjected to gunfire, was sunk by a torpedo and that only 5 of the 295 passengers were saved; of the Turkish crew of 8, 6 were saved. The BUL I was not damaged and none of its 405 passengers injured. The Embassy has requested the Turkish Foreign Office to obtain permission for the landing of the passengers of the BULBUL and their transportation by automobils and train to Istanbul. The Foreign Office has informed the Embassy that all possible aid in the emergency will be furnished through the Turkish Red Crescent, the expenses for which I have promised

-2-#1445, August 7, 7 p.m. from Ankara.

promised will be paid by us.

With reference to an inquiry made by the Turkish Foreign Office regarding the carrying out of our plans with regard to the 2 Bulgarian boats VITA and PIRINE, I have stated that we desire to proceed without delay in carrying out the rescue program for refugees from Bulgaria. Your views on this point would be appreciated As soon as further information is available you will be informed.

WMB

JJM

## New York Wand-Telegram AUG 7 1944

Report 250 Lost
On Refugee Ship

By the Ausociatra Press.

ANKARA, Aug. 7.—The Turkish ship Meskure, carrying 250 Jew-ish refugees to Turkey Trom Constants, Romanie, sank: in the Black Ses, yesterday suith loss of all but four of the passengers, said reports reaching here. There were no details.

The Washington Post
Aug 7 1944

246 Jewish Refugees
Lost With Turkish Ship
Ankara, Aug. 6 (P).—The Turkish
ship Mefkure, carrying 250 Jewish
refugees to Turkey from Constanta,
Romania, sank in the Black Sea
early today with the loss of all but
four of the passengers. There were
no details.

AUG 7 1944

Jewish Refugee Ship Sinks

ANKARA, Aug. 7 (P).—The Turkish ship Mefkure, carrying 250 fewisti refugees to Turkey from Jonstatica, Romania, anak in the Black Set yesterday with the loss of all bull four of the passengers, according to reports reaching here. There were no details.



#### 250 REFUGEES LOST WITH SHIP

LONDON, Aug. 7 (Reuters). The Turkish steamer Merkure, which was on its way from Constanza to Turkey with 250 dewish refugees on board, sank in the Black Sea early today, said an Ankara report to the German D.N.B. news agency. All the passengers with the exception of four were drowned.

[This is the third disaster to ships carrying Jewish refugees

(This is the third disaster to ships carrying Jewish refugees from Nazi Europe during this war. More than 750 were drowned when the Strima sank in the Black Sea in 1942. Nearly 200 lost tight lives on board the Ptris off Haifa Harbor in the same year]

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

BAS-478 1944 AUG 8 PM 2 24

> CONTRUMENTALIONS ALTO RECORDS (LIAISON)

Dated August 7, 1944 Rec'd 11:33 p.m.

Secretary of State, Washington.

CONTROL COPY

2427, Seventh, 1 p.m.

TO LEAVITT FROM SCHWARTZ WRB 142, JDC 48.

Wish advise SS MARINA arrived Istanbul August 5
with 315 passengers mostly children. SS BULBUL and

MAFRUK expected arrive on 7th. Total passengers all
3 boats about 1050, all of whom will leave Istanbul
August 7 by special train for Palestine.

NORWEB

JJM WMB

Market Solder

AUG 1 0 1944

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Doctor Schwartz (JDC No. 48) has been received through the American Embassy in Lisbon:

"Wish advise S8 MARINA arrived Istabbul August 5 with 315 passengers mostly children. SS BULBUL and MARRUK expected arrive on 7th. Total passengers all 3 boats about 1050, all of whom will leave Istanbul August 7 by special train for Palestine."

Very truly yours,

(Bigned) J. W. Pehls

J. W. Pehle Executive Director

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

FHodel:j**5**h 8/10/44

JON -

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

## CONTROL COPY

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

PIAIN

Per security reactive the Ankara

text of this message past
be closely parted. Dated August 7, 1944 0/4///

Rec'd 2:14 p.m.

Secretary of State, Washington.

MOST IMMEDIATE

1437, Seventh.

Reference Embassy 1434, August 6.

FOR PEHLE WRB FROM HIRSCHMANN

Ankara number 118.

The Jewish agency Istanbul was informed last evening by the Turkish police that one of the three boats carrying refugees from Constanza to Istanbul, the MAFKURA, which had on board approximately 300 passengers, had been torpedoed by an unknown submarine near the port of Igneada on the Black Sea about 45 miles from the entrance to the Boshporus. The BULBUL is standing by at Igneada and assisting in the rescue work.

The Turkish Foreign Office has been requested to expedite arrangements for the rescue, safety and comfort of the passengers. Additional information will be

forwarded

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 1 8 1972

-2- #1437, August 7, from Ankara.

forwarded as soon as available.

As reported in telegram under reference the MARINA 5 safe Istanbul with approximately 340 passengers including 190 children from Transmistria and its passengers are scheduled to proceed by rail from Istanbul to Syria on Tuesday August 8.

KETTEY

WSB

## Les Juils arrivés de Constantza

Hier matin le motor-boat

«Morina» jaugeant 49 tonnes
et rattaché au port d'Istanbul
a amené 315 Juifs de Costanza en notre ville. Deux
autres motor-boats le «Bülbül»
et le «Mefkûre» effectuent
aussi le transfert des Juifs de
Constanza.

aussi le transiert des juis de Constanza.

Le «Bülbül» qui entrait dans le Bosphore en ayant à bord 400 Juis a été surpris par latempête et a demandé du secours. Tandis qu'un bateau de sauvetage s'apprêtait à aller à sa rencontre la tempête s'est calmée et le navire n'est pas parti. Le «Mefkûre» arrive lui aussi en notre ville avec des réfugiés Juis. La lament

rco-allemandes

August 6, 1944

#### MEMORANDUM:

In a telephone conversation held at 11:45 between Mr. Hirschmann in ankara and Mr. Katzki in Istanbul, Mr. Katzki stated that there was samehining out in the distance which could be seen with a glass and which might possibly be one of the refugee boats now delayed by the storm raging over the Bosphorus. Up to now it has not been possible to get a boat out to investigate, but efforts were being made to engage a tug for this purpose.

Mr. Katzi further stated that all three of the boats started out together; that the one arrival had the fastest speed, the Bulbul the second, and the Maskura was the slowest.

The storm is still so violent that it is believed that even if the boats are undamaged they will not be able to come in now.

A TRUE CONY OF THE SIGNAL ORIGINAL

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

PLAIN

Ankara

Dated August 6, 1944.

Rec'd 6:18 p.m.

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

NCB-214

1944 AUG 7 AM 9 27

COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS (LIAISON)

Secretary of State,

Washington.

MOST IMMEDIATE.

1434, Sixth.

FOR PEHLE TRB FROM HIRSCHIANN.

Ankara No. 117.

It now appears that information furnished to me by the Jewish Agency from Istanbul with regard to the arrival of the three vessels in Istanbul was inaccurate. Only one vessel, the MARINA, with 340 refugees has actually arrived in the Port of Istanbul. A second vessel is reported to be outside the entrance to the Bosporus.

KELLEY

WTD

215/4) 9767 Seri.

August 5, 1944

emorandum for ar. Hirschmann:

 ${\rm hr}$  . Katzki telephoned at lo:55 A.M. He furnished the following information:

The Barina has joined the Bulbul. Both boats are lying at Buyukdere which is the point at the juncture of the Bosphorus and the Black Sea at which incoming boats are stopped.

At this writing it is not known how many people are aboard the Bulbul or the Parina. The exact hour of the arrival of the Bulbul nor of the Marina is not yet known. The Bulbul arrived during the night.

Some of the representatives are going out shortly to board the ships. They will return as quickly as possible with exact information.

Mr. Katzki does not believe any additional information will be available as early as 11.00 o'clock.

from from Junker

1314 16311 2011

#### August 5, 1944

Mr. Katzki telephoned from Istanbul this morning at approximately kn ten fifteen to state that the boat Bulbul has arrived in Istanbul, and that it is being closly followed by the boats Marina and Maskura. The three thips are carrying 1,000 to 1100 refugees.

Mr. Katzki asked that Mr. Packer be advised of the above facts and requested to arrange for a telegra or is telephone message to be sent immediately relative to a food license and also medicaments for the refugees.

He asked that Mr. Kelley be contacted in order that he might get in touch with the Foreign Office and arrange for transit visas. He further requested that if possible an agreement in principle be obtained from the Foreign Office permitting a member of one of the Jewish Agencies to accompany the train as far as the Syrian border. Mr. Katzki stated that if necessary the name of the person designated to accompany the refugees would be furnished.

He asked that Mr. Hirschmann telephone him.

A TRUE COPY OF TER SIGNED GII GINAL frent tun

This cong to Mr. Hirschmann

### MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

August 5, 1944

Subject

: Refugees from the Balkens.

Participants:

Mr. Kemal Aziz Payman, Director General of the Department of Consular Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Packer, First Secretary of Embassy.

Place

Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Date

August 5, 1944.

I called on Mr. Kemal Aziz Payman at the Foreign Office this morning and left with him the original of the attached memorandum, adding that since it had been written information had been received from Istenbul that the SS BULBUL had now arrived at Istanbul and that the other two vessels named were due very soon. I said that in addition to the food which the refugees needed I also understood they needed medicines.

Mr. Payman said that the difficulty concerning the food was a purely formal one arising out of the fact that the refugees had not been officially admitted to Turkey and could not be until the Turkish transit visas were issued to them. He said that as soon as these were issued they could buy food without difficulty in Turkey. He said the same thing applies in respect of medicines.

I asked about the transit visas for these people. He said that he had already given instructions that the Turkish transit visas be issued immediately to the refugees on board the SS BULBUL, as well as on the other two vessels which were due. He telephoned while I was with him to Mr. Maby of the British Embassy and informed him that the SS BULBUL had arrived and asked that the Palestinian visas be issued without delay.

I then asked Mr. Payman whether he knew anything about a request from the Jewish Agency to permit a representative of the agency to travel on the refugee train from Istanbul to the Syrian frontier. He said that he knew nothing about it and that he did not know why there should be any difficulty in arranging for such a person to travel on the train. I said that I understood some official in Istanbul had taken the view that permission would have to be granted from Ankara before a Jewish Agency representative would be permitted on board the train. Mr. Payman said of course the Ministry did not officially recognize Mr. Barlas or the Jewish Agency which, he supposed, should initiate such a request. He suggested that perhaps the matter could

be handled

مهر سور عان سرم شرک شرک be handled through the British Consulate General at Istanbul. He added that if I could furnish him with the name of the representative who was to go on the train he would be glad to arrange for permission to be granted. I told him that I would phone Mr. Maby concerning this matter? I have since done so, also that if I succeeded in obtaining the name of the proposed Jewish Agency representative through our authorities in Istanbul, I would let him know.

I expressed the Embassy's appreciation of the granting of permission for the SS BULBUL, SS MARINA, and SS MEVRUR to bring refugees from Rumania. In reply to my question as to the situation with respect to the two vessels in Burgas, he said that he was awaiting information from Mr. Kelley before sending the necessary telegraphic authority to the Turkish representative in Bulgaria. I said that I would speak to Mr. Kelley about this. (I have since done so)

Later this morning Mr. Payman telephoned me to say that he had been in touch with the Director General of Customs who had immediately issued instructions to Istanbul to permit food to be made available to the refugees. He said that as concerns future cases of this kind he would be glad to handle them in the same manner if the Embassy would keep him informed as to the arrival of boats.

When I told him that the Embassy had information that the SS MARINA had also arrived at Istanbul today, he said that it was true and that the third boab, the SS MEVKUR, had also arrived.

B

HLP.

ELP/an

On attend l'arrivée à Istanbul dans un très proche avenir des trois bâteaux, SS MEVKURA, SS BÜLBÜL, et SS. MARINA, avec un total d'environ 1,050 réfugiés à bord, qui aurent besoin de nourriture pendant le temps qu'ils se trouvent en Turquie (à peu près 4-6 jours).

On dit que le Directeur Général de la Douane à Istanbul n'est pas à même d'autoriser la livraisen des vivres aux réfugiés, soit en Istanbul, soit en route par chemin de fer d'Istanbul jusqu'à la frontière turco-syrienne, sans autorisation spéciale du Ministère des Douanes et Monopoles & Ankara.

On a suggéré que l'autorisation devrait couvrir pour chaque réfugié par jour et par personne les articles ci-dessous indiqués, ou leur équivalent:

2 coufs 2 concombres 50 grammes de fromage 100 grammes d'olives l citron 100 grammes de salami

300 grammes de pain 200 grammes de raisins 1 boîte de thon en conserve

pastéque

grammes de tomates Du lait pour tous les enfants se trouvant à bord, à raison d'un litre par jour.

Ambassade d'Amérique, Ankara, le 4 août 1944.

ELP/rs

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

# TELEGRAM CONTROL COPY

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

RA-77
Distribution of true reading only by special Dated August 5, 2 arrangement.

Rec'd HARLED ON CORP.

Washington

1429, August 5, 1 p.m. t FOR PEHLE WRB FROM HIRSCHMANN ANKARA NO. 116.

Three Turkish vessels the BULBUL, the MARINA and the MAFKURA arrived today Istanbul from Constanza carrying approximately 1100 Jewish refugees. This is the largest number of refugees which has ever arrived at one time from the Balkans. As soon as Mr. Kelley learned of the arrival of the vessels he informed the Turkish Foreign Office which made arrangements at once for the issue of transit visas and for special trains to transport the refugees to Syria.

Arrangements are also being made for food and medical attention for the refugees on their arrival.

As the Board has been informed these vessels chartered by the Jewish Agency have been subject to numerous difficulties as a result of which their departure from Rumania was considerably delayed.

It was only

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date\_SEP\_18 1972

-2- 1429, August 5, 1 p.m. from Ankara

It was only due to the prior arrangements made by Ambassador Steinhardt with the Turkish Foreign Office, the insistent pressure exercised on the Rumanians by the board's representative and the repeated representations made by Mr. Kelley at the Foreign Office that this deadlock was finally broken and the vessel permitted to sail from Constanza during a time of important political events.

Data regarding the refugees, their sex, ages, organizational affiliations and other pertinent information will follow.

KELLEY

RB:WSB

## M E M O R A N D U M

carrying approximately 500 passengers, and to make preparation for the feeding of these people while in Istanbul and en route by railroad, Mr. Brod spoke with the Chief Director of Customs, Istanbul, about the delivery of food. The Chief Firector of Customs stated that he will not authorize the delivery of food to the refugees bither in Istanbul or on the trains without specific authorization from Ankara. Consequently, we are asked to arrange for such licenses.

The license should be broad enough to cover the period from the arrival of the boat in Istanbul harbor until such time as the refugees arrive at the Turkish-Dyrian frontier. The period of time in which the refugees will be in Istanbul is problematic, depending upon the waiting period until railroad accommodations for the onward trip can be secured. From Istanbul to the Turkish-Syrian frontier via Konya, which is the usual route, is three and one-half days. It is suggested, therefore, that the license be secured on a per capita and per day basis, authorizing the delivery of food for the necessary number of days which, as mentioned above, must be indefinite.

On a per capita and per day basis, the licence should cover for each passenger:

2 eggs 2 cucumbers 50 grams of cheese 100 grams of olives 1 lamon

from westiles

100 grams of salami
300 grams of bread
200 grams of grapes
1 tin of thon fish
1 karpuz (watermelon)
150 grams of tomatoes
milk for whatever children are on board
at the rate of 1 liter per day.

The license must be secured from the Ministry of Customs and Monopolies, and must be addressed to the General Director of Customs, Meti Bey, Istanbul. In order to save time, the permission should be given by telephone or telegraph.

нк

Soo as Republication

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

6"/2"

The following message for you from Dr. Schwartz has been received through the American Consulate at Istanbul, Turkey, under date of July 20th:

QUOTE The following is a statement of our accounts in connection with the rescue program up to the present date.

QUOTE The steamship MARITZA and the steamship MILCA, each having made two voyages, brought 1,074 passengers at a cost of \$453,220. Four Turkish boats and one Greek boat, on which it is estimated approximately 3,700 passengers will be carried, will cost \$752,720. Of these five boats the steamship KEEBC has already arrived with 755 passengers. The total cost of all of the above ships is \$1,205,940. Against this amount we have already underwritten \$800,000 and the Jewish Agency has promised to participate to the extent of 20% with a possible increase \$6,25% from funds collected by Palestine Yishuv Egypt, South Africa for these purposes but not from the regular funds of the Jewish Agency nor from any funds collected in the United States of America. Thus the agency participation in the above boats will be at least \$241,188 or possibly \$301,485 leaving an additional amount to be appropriated us for these purposes of either \$164,752 or \$104,455.

QUOTE The total cost of land transportation from Istanbul to Haifa and maintenance in Istanbul and an route from Dacamber 1943 through June 1944 for 2,719 persons is about \$287,730 against which we have paid here \$30,000 sent by Mirelman plus \$10,000 from our own funds plus the request we made to have you transmit 50,000 to the British Passport control office Istanbul. This leaves balance to be paid on this account of \$197,730. I shall advise you within the next few days as to the manner of remitting this sum. The above figures do not include transportation from Istanbul to Haifa for 755 passengers who arrived on the steamship KESBEC. These figures will be included in the July accounts.

QUOTE In addition to above there is another project for three opportunities and two Turkish vessels with a total capacity about 2,000 passengers costing approximately \$507,300 of which we are asked to provide 80% or possibly 75%. I shall send details of this project later; meanwhile would ask that you authorize me to proceed with plans maintenance and transportation to Haifa of the above 5,700 passengers will cost approximately \$420,000 exclusive of the cost of refugees arriving from Bulgaria by train. Hirschmann is fully advised of all of the above projects. UNQUOTE

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Toble

J. W. Pehle Executive Director

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

FHodel:ms 7/25/44

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INTROL COFY

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED 108 PEDECETAR

FROM:

American Consulate General, Jerusalem

TO:

Secretary of State, Washington

DAT D:

July 20, 1944

101

NUMB: :

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There arrived in Palestine on the night of July 14, 735 refugges mostly from labor camps in Transdniestria. They consisted of 260 children, 201 women, and 274 men and traveled to Istanbul from Rumania on Bulgarian stemmer KOSBEK. 281 exchanged interness arrived on July 10 from Bergen Belsen camp, Hanover Province, and it is stated by official of Jewish agency that more Jews were received/than there were Germans sent but substitutions are made for many of the Jews on the exchange list. Newly arrived internees say that within the next four weeks another group of 300 is to leave Bergen Belsen.

It is understood that there is a program for bringing some 9,000 from Rumania and that they have arranged transportation for this number.

PINKERTON

DECLASSIFIED State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date <u>SEP</u> 18 1972

DEPARTMENT OF STATE



## INCOMING TELEGRAM



DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

MJB-243 This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government agency. (RESTRICTED).

Secretary of State, Washington.

Istanbul

Dated July 20, 1944

Rec'd 8:31 p.m.

JUL 221944

428, July 20, 9 a.m.

TO WAR REFUGEE BOARD FOR HOSES LEAVITY, JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, FROM JOSEPH SCHWARTZ:

The following is a statement of our accounts in connection with the rescue program up to the present date.

The steamship MARITZA and the steamship MILCA each having made two voyages, brought 1,074 passengers at a cost of \$453,220. Four Turkish boats and one Greek boat, on which it is estimated approximately 3,700 passengers will be carried, will cost \$752,720. Of these five boats the steamship KESBC has already arrived with 755 passengers. The total cost of all of the above ships is \$1,205,940. Against this amount we have already underwritten \$800,000 and the Jewish Agency has promised to participate to the extent of 20% with

-2-#428, July 20, 9 a.m., from Istanbul

20% with a possible increase to 25% from funds collected by Palestine Yishuv Egypt, South Africa for these purposes but not from the regular funds of the Jewish Agency nor from any funds collected in the United States of America. Thus the agency participation in the above boats will be at least \$241,188 or possibly \$301,485 leaving an additional amount to be appropriated us for these purposes of either \$164,752 or \$104,455.

The total cost of land transportation from Istanbul to Haifa and maintenance in Istanbul and en route from December 1943 through June 1944 for 2,719 persons is about \$287,730 against which we have paid here \$30,000 sent by Mirelman plus \$10,000 from our own funds plus the request we made to have you transmit 50,000 to the British Passport control office Istanbul. This leaves balance to be paid on this account of \$197,730. I shall advise you within the next few days as to the manner of remitting this sum. The above figures do not include transportation from Istanbul to Haifa for 755 passengers who arrived on the steamship KESBEC. These figures will be included in the July accounts.

for three

-3-#428, July 20, 9 a.m., from Istanbul

for three opportunities and two Turkish vessels with a total capacity about 2,000 passengers costing approximately \$507,300 of which we are asked to provide 80% or possibly 75%. I shall send details of this project later; meanwhile would ask that you authorize me to proceed with plans maintenance and transportation to Haifa of the above 5,700 passengers will cost approximately \$420,000 exclusive of the cost of refugees arriving from Bulgaria by train. Hirschmann is fully advised of all of the above projects.

BERRY

RR BB

JUL 17 1944

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Mr. Pilpel was received through the American Embassy at Lisbon under date of July 10, 1944:

"JDC 28, WRB 99.

Istanbul informs us sixth boat steamer KESDECK arrived Istanbul with 742 passengers, including 263 children, of whom 200 Transmistrian orphans, 206 woman and 273 men. Entire group scheduled depart for Palestine by train today."

Very truly yours,

Alement S. H. Pobla

J. W. Pehle Executive Director

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

FH:db 7/17/44

PON

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DEPARTMENT

# INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

RA-657 This telegram must be paraphresed before being communicated to anyone other than a Government Agency.

Istanbul

Dated July 14, 1944

Rec'd 9:50

Secretary of State

Washington

Juit 1 "

eblic History

414, July 14, 10 a.m.

TO WAR REFUGEE BOARD FOR LEAVITT JOINT DISTRIBU-TION COMMITTEE NEW YORK CITY FROM JOSEPH SCHWARTZ.

/ Steamship KESBEC brought a total of 761 passengers. Sea transportation cost Swiss france 380,500. The cost of land transportation for the entire group from Istanbul to Haifa plus cost of food furnished to them for the trip will cost approximately \$61,000. I am asking Saly Mayer to pay sea transportation from the 500,000 Swiss francs which we have asked you to send, to him and I will send instructions for payment of the transportation and maintenance costs later date.

BERRY

RR:BB

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following confidential message for you from Joseph Schwartz was received through the American Consulate at Istanbul under date of July 14, 1944:

"Steamship KESBEC brought total of 761 passengers. Sea transportation cost 380,500 Swiss francs. Cost of land transportation for entire group from Istanbul to Maifa together with cost of food furnished to them for trip will be approximately \$61,000. I am asking Saly Mayer to pay sea transportation from the 500,000 Swiss francs which we asked you to send to him and I will send instructions for payment of maintenance and transportation costs later date."

Very truly yours,

(Simmur) b. D. Pec

J. W. Pehle Executive Director

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

FH: db 7/17/44

DEPARTMENT

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true TE

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

JUL 1 3 19

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DIVISION OF

OMMUNICATIONS

AND RECORDS

**CONT**ROL COPY

ANEMBASSY &

ANKARA.

The following WRB cable 79 is for Hirschmann.

Please refer to your 1218 of July 5.

success in obtaining five ships for evacuations from Constanza.

be constant and in view of the recommendation of Ambassador Steinhardt and yourconstant and in view of the fact that the operation of refugee

constant and in view of the fact that the operation of refugee

constant and in view of the fact that the operation of refugee

constant and in view of the fact that the operation of refugee

this makes to rescuing appreciable numbers of refugees in the Balkan

constant and undertakes to participate in the moral responsiconstant. It seems to us that this is a preferable alternative

to abandoning refugees to their fate in enemy territory.

Although a Russian safe-conduct may not be absolutely necessary inasmuch as the evacuation vessels are not enemy ships. It is assumed that the Russian Government has been advised at least informally of these evacuation operations through its ambassador at Ankara. If a formal safe conduct is later deemed desirable, it is suggested that you contact Ambassador Harriman directly.

HULL (GLW)

wrb: MV : KG 7/12/44 JE.

S/CR

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

CABLE FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD TO AMBASSADOR STRINHARDT FOR HIRSCHMANN, ANKARA, TURKEY,

Please refer to your 1218 of July 5.

The Board is highly pleased to learn of the Jewish Agency's success in obtaining five ships for evacuations from Constansa. In view of the recommendation of Ambassador Steinhardt and yourself and in view of the fact that the operation of refugee evacuation ships without safe conduct appears to be the only means for rescuing appreciable numbers of refugees in the Balkan Black Sea Area, the War Refugee Board agrees to the program in question and undertakes to participate in the meral responsibility. It seems to us that this is a preferable elternative to abandoning refugees to their fate in enemy territory.

Although a Russian safe-conduct may not be absolutely necessary inasmuch as the evacuation vessels are not enemy ships, it is assumed that the Russian Government has been advised at least informally of these evacuation operations through its Ambassader at Ankara. If a formal safe conduct is later desmed desirable, it is suggested that you contact Ambassador Harriman directly.

This is WRB Cable to Ankara No. 79

2:45 p.m. July 11, 1944

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

1000 100 3 711/44

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<del>"DE</del>PARTMENT OF STATE

TELEGRAM

COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

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G.R-941 This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government Agency.

Secretary of State

Washington

Ankara

Dated July 11, 1944

Rec'd 11:17

CONTROL COPY

DEPART OF STATE JUL 1 4 19

FNO RECURED

1250, July 11, 5 p.m.

FOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD FROM HIRSCHMANN

Ankara Ho. 94.

Confirming Embassy's 1246, July 9, 1 p.m. tho Turkish SS KAZBEK arrived in Istanbul Sunday, July 9, carrying 759 refugees from Rumania. Among the refugees were 265 children, 214 of whom came originally from Transnistria, 187 young agricultural students of whom 20 were of the Agudah--Israel organization, and 65 refugees of other nationalities, mostly Hungarians and Polos. The romainder were Zionists and non-Zionists; the exact figures of each group are not lmown.

Upon being informed by me of the impending arrival of the KAZBEK, Hr. Kelley immediately requested the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to make at once the necessary arrangoments with the Hinistry of Communications for the transportation of the refugees to Palestine. Hr. Kelley was

-2- #1250, July 11, 5 p.m. from Anakara

assured that all possible measures would be taken to facilitate the departure of the refugees at the earliest possible moment.

In consequence, a special train was made available by the Turkish State Railways for to entire contingent of 759 refugees and they departed from Istanbul on the evening of July 10 for Palestine via Syria. The British passport control in Istanbul was most energetic and cooperative in completing the issuance of the necessary visas for Palestine without delay.

The successful completion of the voyage of the SS KAZBEK and the immediate departure of the passengers for Palestine are encouraging indications that the deadlock in respect to both transportation and governmental red tape, which had caused the virtual cessation of the rescue of refugees from the Balkans during May and June has been broken.

KELLEY

MB RR

OF STATE

GEM-304

JJM WFS

INCOMING TELEGRAM AND RECORDS

Dated July 10, 1944 Rec'd 3:40 a.m., 11th

3/2

Secretary of State,

Washington.

2120, Tenth, 4 p.m. BEPANTMENT OF STATE

FOR LEAVITT SCHVARTZ JDC 28 WRB 99 FROM

xthungent steamer KESBECK Istanbul informs arrived Istanbul with 742 passengers, including 263 children, of whom 200 Transnistrian orphans, 206 women mines sent 1/17/44 FIJAL and 273 men. Entire group scheduled depart for Palestine by train today.

NORWEB

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

## INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

CONTROL COPY

LL-128
This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Governmental agency. (RESTRICTED)

Secretary of State, Washington.

JUL 1.1 1944

DIVISION C7

Dated July 10, 1944

Rec'd 4:18 p.m.

404, July 10, 10 p.m.

FOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD FROM LEAVITY JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE NEW YORK FROM JOSEPT SCHWARTZ.

Steamship BC expected to arrive here next (\*)
days from Constanza with 739 passengers.

It is important that you should transfer at least 500 swiss francs to Salymayer immediately and prepare additional 1,500,000 Swiss francs as soon as possible in view of the fact that other ships are also expected to arrive very soon.

BERRY

(\*) Apparent Omission

MRM WTD n

JUL 17 1944

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following confidential message for you from Joseph Schwarts was received through the American Consulate at Istanbul under date of July 10, 1944:

"Steamship BC is expected arrive here next (\*) days with 739 passengers from Constants.

It is important that you should transfer 500 Swiss francs at least to Saly Mayer immediately and prepare additional 1,500,000 Swiss francs as soon as possible in view of fact that other ships are also expected to arrive very soon."

Very truly yours,

(Winner) S. D. Ink o

J. W. Peble Executive Director

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

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FH: db 7/17/44

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