DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

EOC-19

Ankara

Date July 9, 1944

Read 8:40 p.m.

CONTROL COPY

SECRETARY OF STATE, Washington.

MOST IMMEDIATE

1246, July 9, 1 p.m.

FOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD FROM HIRSCHLASS

Ankara number 90.

The Turkish SS KAZBEK which departed on July 6, from Constanza for Istanbul with 739 refugees including 261 children arrived in Istanbul Saturday evening July 8. I informed Mr. Kelley in Ankara of the impending arrival of the vessel and he in turn informed the Turkish Foreign Office.

When the KAZBEK successfully concludes her voyage, you will be immediately informed.

KELLEY

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

SECRETARY OF STATE
Washington,

July 8, 1944, 6 p.m.

The Turkish SS KAZBEK, bringing 739 Jewish refugees from Constanza, arrived at the entrance of the Bosphorus this morning. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has already, at my request, requested the Ministry of Communications and other interested Turkish Governmental and Agency to take all necessary measures to expedite the landing and transit of the refugees through Turkey to Palestine.

KELLEY

VIIIB
E6A
EOC-505
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

1226, July 7, 1 p.m.

FOR THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD
Ankara, No. 88.

Reference is made to the Embassy's 1216, July 5, transmitting message to Leavitt from Schwartz and to Embassy's 1218, July 5 for War Refugee Board. I have discussed with Schwartz the proposed rescue program connected with embarkation of refugees on the five ships now at Constanza and I should like to urge the necessity for the transfer to Switzerland of the funds requested in Swiss francs.

LMS

KELLEY
Secretary of State,
Washington.

July 5, 1944

FOR THE WRB FROM GHIRSCHMANN ANKARA. No 85.

Please deliver following message to Moses Eavitt, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, New York, from Joseph Schwartz.

Your message regarding $800,000 received. Remit immediately 500,000 Swiss francs to Salymayer to be spent upon instructions from Lisbon. Total cost 3000 passengers to be embarked on five ships now Constanza two million Swiss francs plus 260,000 Turk pounds. Therefore prepare remit additional 1500,000 Swiss francs Salymayer instructions as above. Will advise latter concerning remittance Turk pounds. No further appropriations necessary at this time except for past voyages MILKA and MARITZA and rail transportation Istanbul Haifa concerning which already advised you and about which will send more detailed figures later.

KELLEY

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

The following confidential message for you from Mr. Joseph Schwartz was received from the American Embassy at Ankara under date of July 8, 1944:

"Your message regarding $800,000 received. Remit immediately 500,000 Swiss francs to Saly Mayer to be spent upon instructions from Lisbon. Total cost 3000 passengers to be embarked on five ships now Constanza two million Swiss francs plus 260,000 Turk pounds. Therefore prepare remit additional 1,500,000 Swiss francs Saly Mayer instructions as above. Will advise latter concerning remittance Turk pounds. No further appropriations necessary at this time except for past voyages MILKA and MARIEZA and rail transportation Istanbul Haifa concerning which already advised you and about which will send more detailed figures later."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pohle

J. W. Pohle
Executive Director

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

[Signature]
ESTowler:agr 7-11-44
July 8, 1944

CORRECTION

Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement (underline)

In cable from Ankara 2016 to

FOR WHB

Delete serial number "2016" Insert "1816"

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS
Please deliver a paraphrase of the following WBB cable no. 47 to Robert Filpel, 242 Rue Aures, Lisbon. It is from Moses A. Leavitt of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

QUOTE For your information, following is message I sent to Schwartz in Ankara concerning program for rescue of 8,000 persons from Balkans:

INNER QUOTE While our financial situation has become extremely critical due to urgency situation we see no alternative and therefore agree to underwrite project up to three million dollars on assumption that $600,000 appropriation just approved now included in larger sum. Since assistance from other quarters necessary we exploring possibilities and will keep you advised. Since we do not understand your reference regarding commitment $600,000 for 1,600 refugees arrived Palestine since we assumed their transportation already provided. END INNER QUOTE

UNQUOTE
CABLE TO LISBON
From War Refugee Board to Norweb

Please deliver the following message to Robert Pilpel,
242 Rua Aurea, Lisbon, from Moses A. Lewitt of the American
Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

"For your information, following is message I sent to
Bolwarta in Ankara concerning program for rescue of 8,000
persons from Balkans:

QUOTE While our financial situation has become extremely
critical due urgency situation we see no alternative and
therefore agree underwrite project up to three million dollars
on assumption that $800,000 appropriation just approved now
included in the larger sum. Stop Since assistance from other
quarters necessary we exploring possibilities and will keep
you advised. Stop We do not understand your reference regarding
commitment $600,000 for 1,600 refugees arrived Palestine since
we assumed their transportation already provided for UNRWA.

THIS IS WBR CABLE TO LISBON NO.

11:05 a.m.
July 1, 1944

FHHub 7/1/44
FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: AMBASSADOR, ANKARA
DATED: July 1, 1944
NUMBER: 591

FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD TO STEINHARDT.

Please deliver the following message to Dr. Joseph Schwartz, c/o American Embassy, Ankara, from Moses A. Leavitt of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

"Regarding proposal finance evacuation from Balkans we arrived following decision after serious consideration. While we appreciate your Magnes Resnik recommendations in view risks involved we believe responsibility for boats operating without safeconduct should be shared by War Refugee Board, Jewish Agency and Joint Distribution Committee. In light present situation we ready accept responsibility and War Refugee Board is prepared to assume such responsibility subject to concurrence of Steinhardt and Hirschmann. We approve therefore program up to $800,000 for 2000 persons and hope amount can be reduced by refugee participation Jewish Agency. We prepared provide 300,000 Swiss francs. Cable to whom francs should be paid in Switzerland. Also cable banking instructions for remittance to Turkey or Palestine as and when sums required. Essential that refugees be warned in advance of risks involved in such voyages and assume Barlas will be instructed accordingly. It is essential that arrangements be worked out whereby Resnik and Hirschmann will be kept continuously advised of all plans of Barlas for such trips and that Hirschmann Resnik approve each project. If possible we would prefer making our remittances directly to Resnik for him to pay out as and when required by Barlas. We cabled Resnik to give Hirschmann his complete whole-hearted cooperation."

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO ANKARA NO. 66.
CABLE TO ANKARA  
From War Refugees Board to Steinhardt.  
Please deliver the following message to Dr. Joseph Schwartz,  
c/o American Embassy, Ankara, from Moses A. Leavitt of the American Jewish  
Joint Distribution Committee:  

"Regarding proposal finance evacuation from Balkans we arrived following decision after serious consideration. While we appreciate your Magnes Resnik recommendations in view risks involved we believe responsibility for boats operating without safe conduct should be shared by War Refugee Board Jewish Agency and Joint Distribution Committee. In light present situation we ready accept responsibility and War Refugee Board is prepared to assume such responsibility subject to concurrence of Steinhardt and Hirschmann. We approve therefore program up to $800,000 for 2,600 persons and hope amount can be reduced by refugee participation. Jewish Agency. We prepared provide 500,000 Swiss francs. Cable also banking instructions for remittance to Turkey or Palestine and when sums required. Essential that refugees be warned in advance of risks involved in such voyages and assume Barlas will be instructed accordingly. It is essential that arrangements be worked out whereby Resnik and Hirschmann will be kept continuously advised of all plans of Barlas for such trips and that Hirschmann Resnik approve each project. If possible we would prefer making our remittances directly to Resnik for him to pay out as and when required by Barlas. We called Resnik to give Hirschmann his complete wholehearted cooperation."

This is War Refugee Board cable to Ankara No. 66.

June 28, 1944 - 12:45 P.M.
Dear Mr. Leavitt:

I have received your letter of June 23, 1944, concerning a projected program to evacuate some 2,600 refugees from the Balkans in small boats which will travel without German safe conduct.

The War Refugees Board, subject to the concurrence of Ambassador Steinhardt and Mr. Hirschman, is prepared to associate itself with the Jewish Agency and the Joint Distribution Committee in the responsibility of operating such a rescue program by the use of ships travelling without safe conduct.

The Board is not prepared at this time to agree to financial participation in the program. However, I shall be pleased to discuss this question with you at a later date when the recommendations of Ambassador Steinhardt and Mr. Hirschman have been received.

Pursuant to your request the Board has forwarded through its facilities your message to Dr. Schwartz on this program with one change in language which I cleared over the telephone with you. A copy of the message as sent is enclosed for your records.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Moses A. Leavitt,
Secretary,
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,
New York, New York.
June 23, 1944.

Mr. John W. Pehle, Director
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

Dr. Joseph Schwartz, our overseas director, has cabled us that the Jewish Agency has projected a program of evacuation of some 2,600 refugees from the Balkans to be transported on small ships to Turkey and sent from there by railway to Palestine. It is proposed that these ships will travel from Balkan ports without German safe conduct. The Jewish Agency estimates that the cost of such a program would run to about $800,000, which sum could be reduced if $125,000 thereof were to be provided in Switzerland in the form of Swiss francs.

The Joint Distribution Committee has given very serious consideration to this proposal and believes, in the light of the situation in Turkey with which you are thoroughly familiar, that the J.D.C. should participate in this project and assume the risks and responsibilities involved in these boats travelling without safe conduct. We hope that the War Refugee Board, on the basis of its knowledge of the situation, will likewise come to the same conclusion, viz.: that, though there is a risk, it is necessary under present circumstances for such a risk to be taken.

We believe that it is also of importance and significance for the War Refugee Board to participate to some extent financially in this project. We do not, of course, make this a condition sine qua non of our participation, but we would deem it to be of great value from the viewpoint of the War Refugee Board, as well as of the Jewish Agency and the J.D.C., if the Board could see its way clear to make a grant toward this project.

As noted above, Dr. Schwartz has advised us that if 500,000 Swiss francs were made available in Switzerland, the overall cost might be reduced. We are of course prepared to provide the approximately $125,000 required for the purchase of these Swiss francs and hope that a Treasury license will be issued for such a remittance.

In order that we lose no time we wish to send Dr. Schwartz immediate approval of the project. I enclose draft of such a message and would appreciate your good offices in having this cable sent through the facilities.
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Jerome I. Ubel, New York
F. Frank Ullmann, Boston
Mrs. Felix W. Warburg, New York
Max M. Warburg, New York
David M. Watchmaker, Austin
Asher Well, Montgomery
Frank W. Weil, New York
Henry Wessels, Detroit
Hoes Winkelstein, Secaucus
Jonah E. Wise, New York
David J. Wolff, St. Louis
Morris Wolf, Philadelphia
Harry Zeitz, Brooklyn

IN THE ARMED FORCES

Abram Bregman, New York
William W. Goodwin, Memphis
Marcos H. Hilleman, New York
Harold M. Linder, New York
Edward A. Morisson, New York
Lewis L. Strauss, New York
Morris C. Troper, New York
Edward B. W. Warburg, New York
of the Board to the American Legation in Jerusalem, provided you approve
the references made to the Board in the cable.

I would be glad to discuss this matter further with you, should
you so desire and look forward to hearing from you with respect to the two
requests raised, viz.:

1. The association of the War Refugees Board in the responsi-
bility of the boats sailing without safe conduct;

2. In the decision of the War Refugees Board to participate
financially.

It goes without saying that the refugees to be transported on
these ships would be duly advised of the risks that they run and that such
instructions will be given to the Jewish Agency.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]
Moses A. Leavitt
Secretary
June 23, 1944.

Cable to Dr. Joseph Schwartz, c/o American Legation, Jerusalem, to be sent through State Dept.

Regarding proposal finance evacuation from Balkans we arrived following decision after serious consideration stop While we appreciate your Magness Resnik recommendations in view risks involved we believe responsibility for boats operating without safe conduct should be shared by War Refugee Board Jewish Agency and Joint Distribution Committee stop In light of present situation War Refugee Board is prepared to assume such responsibility stop and we likewise ready to do so stop We approve therefore program up to $800,000 for 2,500 persons and hope amount can be reduced by refugee participation stop

Jewish Agency stop We are willing to share responsibility of the War Refugee Board stop War Refugee Board is prepared provide 500,000 Swiss francs stop Cable to whom francs should be paid in Switzerland. Cable also banking instructions for remittance to Turkey or Palestine as and when sums required stop Essential that refugees be warned in advance of risks involved in such voyages and Barlas will be instructed accordingly stop It is essential that arrangements be worked out whereby Resnik and Hirschmann will be kept continuously advised of all plans of Barlas for such trips and that Hirschmann Resnik approve each project stop If possible we would prefer making our remittances directly to Resnik for him to pay out as and when required by Barlas stop We cabled Resnik give Hirschmann his complete wholehearted cooperation stop

Leavitt
Joint Distribution Committee
TO STEINHARDT AND HIRSCHMANN FROM PEHLE.

The following is text of message just received by JDC from Schwartz who we understand is en route Ankara from Jerusalem:

QUOTE Discussions here indicate possibility rescue additional 8,000 from Balkans at approximate cost two to two and half million dollars. Obligations incurred connection approximately sixteen hundred who already came out approximate $600,000. View urgency situation commitment will have to be made very fast therefore important you indicate immediately whether you willing underwrite up to three million dollars for rescue program which otherwise cannot be undertaken. View present emergency situation recommend you send blanket authorization with understanding we naturally shall make every effort keep costs to minimum. Meanwhile you may wish your end enlist aid War Refugee Board other American bodies.

Advise urgently. UNQUOTE.

Board extremely interested in above proposal and would appreciate immediate report and recommendations from you.

If available, please include a breakdown by purpose and amount of contemplated expenditure of large sum being requested for program.

THIS IS WRB ANKARA CABLE NO. 68.
CABLE TO STEINHARDT AND HIRSCHMANN FROM FREIRE

The following is text of message just received by JDC from Schwartz who we understand is en route Ankara from Jerusalem:

QUOTE Discussions here indicate possibility rescue additional 8,000 from Balkans at approximate cost two to two and half million dollars. Obligations incurred connection approximately sixteen hundred who already came out approximate $600,000. View urgency situation commitment will have to be made very fast therefore important you indicate immediately whether you willing underwrite up to three million dollars for rescue program which otherwise cannot be undertaken. View present emergency situation recommend you send blanket authorization with understanding we naturally shall make every effort keep costs to minimum. Meanwhile you may wish your end enlist aid War Refugee Board other American bodies.

Advise urgently. UNQUOTE

Board extremely interested in above proposal and would appreciate immediate report and recommendations from you. If available, please include a breakdown by purpose and amount of contemplated expenditure of the sum being requested for the program.

THIS IS WRE ANKARA CABLE NO. 68

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
Please deliver the following message to Dr. Joseph Schwartz, c/o American Consulate, from Moses A. Leavitt of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

"Regarding proposal finance evacuation from Balkans we arrived following decision after serious consideration. While we appreciate your Magnes Resnik recommendations in view risks involved we believe responsibility for boats operating without safe conduct should be shared by War Refugee Board Jewish Agency and Joint Distribution Committee.

In light present situation War Refugee Board is prepared to assume such responsibility subject to concurrence of Steinhardt and Hirschmann and we likewise ready to do so. We approve therefore program up to $800,000 for 2,600 persons and hope amount can be reduced by refugee participation Jewish Agency. We prepared provide 500,000 Swiss francs.

Cable to whom francs should be paid in Switzerland. Cable also banking instructions for remittance to Turkey or Palestine as and when sums required.

Essential that refugees be warned in advance of risks.
risks involved in such voyages and assume Barlas
will be instructed accordingly. It is essential
that arrangements be worked out whereby Resnik and
Hirschmann will be kept continuously advised of all
plans of Barlas for such trips and that Hirschmann
Resnik approve each project. If possible we would
prefer making our remittances directly to Resnik for
him to pay out as and when required by Barlas. We
cabled Resnik to give Hirschmann his complete whole-
hearted cooperation."
CABLE TO AMERICAN CONSULATE, JERUSALEM

June 27, 1944

Please deliver the following message to Dr. Joseph Schwartz,

O/o American Consulate, from Moses A. Leavitt of the American Jewish

Joint Distribution Committee:

"Regarding proposal finance evacuation from Balkans we arrived

following decision after serious consideration Stop While we

appreciate your Naimas Hasnik recommendations in view risks involved

we believe responsibility for boats operating without safe conduct

should be shared by War Refugee Board, Jewish Agency and Joint Distribu-

tion Committee. Stop In light present situation War Refugees Board

is prepared to assume such responsibility subject to concurrence of

Steinhardt and Hirschmann and we likewise ready to do so Stop We

approve therefore program up to $800,000 for 2,600 persons and hope

amount can be reduced by refugee participation Jewish Agency. Stop

We prepared provide 500,000 Swiss francs Stop Cable to whom francs

should be paid in Switzerland. Cable also banking instructions for

remittance to Turkey or Palestine as and when sums required. Stop

Essential that refugees be warned in advance of risks involved in such

voyages and assume Barlas will be instructed accordingly Stop It is

essential that arrangements be worked out whereby Hasnik and Hirschmann

will be kept continuously advised at all plans of Barlas for such

trips and that Hirschmann Hasnik approve each project. Stop If possible

we would prefer making our remittances directly to Hasnik for him to

pay out as and when required by Barlas. Stop We cabled Hasnik to

give Hirschmann his complete wholehearted cooperation."

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman,

Gabel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Stewart, Central Files, Cable Control Files
CABLE TO STEINHARDT AND HIRSCHMANN, ANKARA, FROM
J. W. PEHEE, WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Schwartz recently cabled JDC as follows from Algiers:

"Magnes Heznik advise Jewish Agency urgently requests immediate decision following proposal transportation to Istanbul. Utilize MILCA MARITZA similar ships without safe conduct which impossible obtain order transport 2600 persons from Balkans. Agency requests we assist finance costs estimated $800,000 exclusive participation passengers but agency believes possible reduce cost if part payment half million Swiss francs be made Switzerland. If we cannot participate this project agency asks we provide Swiss francs as loan deductible from any other funds payable agency. Magnes committee recommends (1) our immediate agreement principle participation above transportation project for each passenger arriving Istanbul and unable pay subject determination our representative Turkey, (2) we finance fully all transportation projects which may secure safe conduct with possibilities reimbursement by passengers with..."
means. Our own view we cannot assume responsibility any
rner placing people on ships sailing without safe conduct
especially since recent sinking SARITZA en route Constanza.
However JDB Refugee Board ready assume with Jewish Agency
responsibility this project we should participate payment
transportation costs those actually arrival Istanbul. View
large amount involved suggest you discuss with War Refugee
Board possibility their participating financial costs. If
you consider this advisable view all above circumstances reply
here and Lisbon."

With approval of Board JDB has sent following answer to
Schwartz in Jerusalem:

"Regarding proposal finance evacuation from Balkans we
arrived following decision after serious consideration.
While we appreciate your Magnes Resnik recommendations in
view risks involved we believe responsibility for boats
operating without safe conduct should be shared by War
Refugee Board Jewish Agency and Joint Distribution Com-
mittee. In light present situation War Refugee Board is
prepared to assume such responsibility subject to concurrence of Steinhardt and Hirschmann and we likewise ready
do so. We approve therefore program up to $800,000 for
2,600 persons and hope amount can be reduced by refugee
participation
participation Jewish Agency. We prepared provide 500,000 Swiss francs. Cable to whom francs should be paid in Switzerland. Cable also banking instructions for remittance to Turkey or Palestine as and when sums required. Essential that refugees be warned in advance of risks involved in such voyages and assume Barlas will be instructed accordingly. It is essential that arrangements be worked out whereby Resnik and Hirschmann will be kept continuously advised of all plans of Barlas for such trips and that Hirschmann Resnik approve each project. If possible we would prefer making our remittances directly to Resnik for him to pay out as and when required by Barlas."

We will await report and recommendations from you on this matter.

THIS IS WBB ANKARA CABLE NO. 64
Schwartz recently cabled JDC as follows from Algiers:

"Magenes Resnik advise Jewish Agency urgently requests immediate decision following proposal transportation to Istanbul. Utilizes MS MARITZA similar ships without safe conduct which impossible obtain order transport 2600 persons from Balkans. Agency requests we assist finance costs estimated 3800,000 exclusive participation passengers but agency believes possible reduce cost if part payment half million Swiss francs be made Switzerland. If we cannot participate this project agency asks we provide Swiss francs as loan deductible from any other funds payable agency. Magens committee recommends (1) our immediate agreement principle participation above transportation project for each passenger arriving Istanbul and unable pay subject determination our representative Turkey, (2) we finance fully all transportation projects which may secure safe conduct with possibilities reimbursement by passengers with means. Our own view we cannot assume responsibility any manner placing people on ships sailing without safe conduct especially since recent sinking MARITZA en route Constanta. However if War Refugee Board ready assume with Jewish Agency responsibility this project we should participate payment transportation costs those actually arrive Istanbul. View large amount involved suggest you discuss with War Refugee Board possibility their participating financial costs. If you consider this advisable view all above circumstances reply here and Lisbon."

With approval of Board JDC has sent following answer to Schwartz in Jerusalem:

"Regarding proposal finance evacuation from Balkans we arrived following decision after serious consideration stop While we appreciate your Magens Resnik recommendations invove risks involved we believe responsibility for boats operating without safe conduct should be shared by War Refugee Board Jewish Agency and Joint Distribution Committee. Stop INSIGHT do ntain situation War Refugee Board is prepared to assume such responsibility subject to concurrence of Steinhardt and Hirschmann and we likewise ready do so stop We approve therefore program up to 300,000,000 for 2,600 persons and hope amount can be reduced by refugee participation Jewish Agency stop We prepared provide 302,000 Swiss Francs Stop End Cable also banking instructions for remittances to Turkey or Palestine and when sums required Stop Essential that refugees be warned in advance of risks involved in such voyages and assume Barlas will be instructed accordingly Stop It is essential that arrangements be worked out whereby Resnik and Hirschmann will be kept continually advised of all plans of Barlas for such trips and that Hirschmann Resnik approve each project stop If possible we would prefer making"
our remittances directly to Remnik for him to pay out as and when required by Barlas. We will await report and recommendations from you on this matter.
From War Refugee Board to Norweb.

Please deliver the following message to Robert Pilpel, 242 Rua Aurea, Lisbon, from Moses A. Leavitt of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

"For your information and that of Dobkin following is text of message I sent Schwartz today:

'Regarding proposal finance evacuation from Balkans we arrived following decision after serious consideration. While we appreciate your Magnes Resnik recommendations in view risks involved we believe responsibility for boats operating without safe conduct should be shared by War Refugee Board Jewish Agency and Joint Distribution Committee. In light present situation War Refugee Board is prepared to assume such responsibility subject to concurrence of Steinhardt and Hirschmann and we likewise ready do so. We approve therefore program up to $800,000 for 2,600 persons and hope amount can be reduced by refugee participation Jewish Agency."

We prepared
We prepared to provide 500,000 Swiss francs. Cable to whom francs should be paid in Switzerland. Cable also banking instructions for remittance to Turkey or Palestine as and when sums required. Essential that refugees be warned in advance of risks involved in such voyages and assume Barlas will be instructed accordingly. It is essential that arrangements be worked out whereby Resnik and Hirschmann will be kept continuously advised of all plans of Barlas for such trips and that Hirschmann Resnik approves each project. If possible we would prefer making our remittances directly to Resnik for him to pay out as and when required by Barlas. We cabled Resnik to give Hirschmann his complete whole-hearted cooperation!"

THIS IS WRB LISBON CABLE NO. 42

HULL
(GLW)
CABLE TO LISBON

From War Refugee Board to Norweb

Please deliver the following message to Robert Pilpel,
242 Rua Aurea, Lisbon, from Moses A. Leavitt of the American Jewish
Joint Distribution Committee:

“For your information and that of Dobril, following is text
of message I sent Schwartz today:

'Regarding proposal finance evacuation from Balkans we
arrived following decision after serious consideration
Stop While we appreciate your Manges Resnik recommendations
in view risks involved we believe responsibility for boats
operating without safe conduct should be shared by War
Refugee Board Jewish Agency and Joint Distribution Committee
Stop In light present situation War Refugee Board is prepared
to assume such responsibility subject to concurrence of Stein-
hardt and Hirshmann and we likewise ready do so Stop We
approve therefore program up to $800,000 for 2,500 persons
and hope amount can be reduced by refugee participation
Jewish Agency Stop We prepared provide $200,000 Swiss francs
Stop Cable to whom francs should be paid in Switzerland.
Cable also banking instructions for remittances to Turkey
or Palestine as and when sums required Stop Essential
that refugees be warned in advance of risks involved in such
voyages and assume Barlas will be instructed accordingly Stop
It is essential that arrangements be worked out whereby Resnik
and Hirshmann will be kept continuously advised of all plans
of Barlas for such trips and that Hirshmann Resnik approve
each project Stop If possible we would prefer making our
remittances directly to Resnik for him to pay out as and when
required by Barlas Stop We cabled Resnik to give Hirshmann
his complete wholehearted cooperation”

THIS IS WRB LISBON CABLE NO. 48

*********
June 27, 1944
8:36 a.m.

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

Secretary of State

Washington

87, June 26, 6 p.m.

FOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD FOR MOSES LEAVITES JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE NEW YORK FROM JOSEPH SCHWARTZ

Discussions here indicate possibility rescue additional 8,000 from Balkans at approximate cost two to two and half million dollars. Obligations incurred connection approximately sixteen hundred who already came out approximate $600,000. View urgency situation COMMITMENT will have to be made very fast therefore important you indicate immediately whether you willing underwrite up to three million dollars for rescue program which otherwise cannot be undertaken. View present emergency situation recommend you send blanket authorization with understanding we naturally shall make every effort keep costs to minimum. Meanwhile you may wish your end enlist aid War Refugee Board other American bodies.

Advise urgently

PINKERTON

RR BB
Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following confidential message for you from Dr. Schwarts was received from Algiers under date of June 15, 1944:

"Section one: Returned here from Italy sooner than expected order try meet Mann accordance your request. Expect proceed Cairo Jerusalem Istanbul soon as discussion completed which hope will not require more than two weeks utmost. Must point out transportation difficulties cause long delays trying to carry out instructions which arrive last moment. Result personal investigation now consider it most important Greenleigh proceed immediately Rome leaving Perlman southern Italy. Allied Control Commission at our request supported by Inter-governmental Committee representative Italy has indicated approval Greenleigh's appointment and transportation. Suggest he apply passport immediately proceed Rome least possible delay as many urgent problems here. Kessler wishes return home in about one month therefore suggest you engage Samuel Fithahm for service probably Middle East area leaving definite assignment open time being.

"Section two: Magnes Resnik advises Jewish Agency urgently requests immediate decision following proposal transportation to Istanbul. Utilize MLCA MARITZA similar ships without safe conduct which impossible obtain order transport 2500 persons from Balkans. Agency requests we assist finance costs estimated $800,000 exclusive participation passengers but agency believes possible reduce cost if part payment half million Swiss francs be made Switzerland. If we cannot participate this project agency asks we provide Swiss francs as loan deductible from any other funds payable agency. Magnes committee recommends (1) our immediate agreement principle participation above transportation project for each passenger arriving Istanbul and unable pay subject determination our representative Turkey, (2) we finance fully all transportation projects which may secure safe conduct with possibilities reimbursement by passengers with means. Our own view we cannot assume responsibility any manner placing people on ships sailing without safe
- 2 -

Conduct especially since recent sinking MARITZA en route Constantza. However if War Refugees Board ready assume with Jewish Agency responsibility this project we should participate payment transportation costs those actually arrive Istanbul. View large account involved suggest you discuss with War Refugee Board possibility their participating financial costs. If you consider this advisable view all above circumstances reply here and Lisbon.

"Section three: Have set up two central committees Naples and Bari to cover southern Italy with subcommittees outlying districts and Camp Fendramonti and Santa Maria Dibagna. Monthly budget for supplementary relief maintenance schools, workshops, dispensaries, etc, etc., $12,500 plus one time grants $4200 establish workshops camps and $2000 equip hostel Naples. Also $2000 grant for twelve month period Naples Jewish community to reopen religious school synagogue community medical service. Above budget only southern Italy which has approximately 3000 refugees chiefly foreign but does not include Rome where now 8000 to 9000 local Jews 2000 refugees of whom 1400 from France, Yugoslavia, etc., etc., 600 from Northern Italy. Have set up emergency grant 2,000,000 lire for immediate relief to Lutheran Rome through Heath Cote Smith who proceeding there next days. If clearance 9,000,000 lire Palestine immigrants not immediately possible please remit immediately through Chase Bank 3,000,000 lire Banco di Napoli Naples account American Joint Distribution Committee for Joseph Schwartz or Max S. Perlman."

Very truly yours,

[Signature] J. W. Pohle
J. K. Pohle
Executive Director

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

Washington.

2024, June 15, 2 p.m.

FOR W.R. REFUGEE BOARD FOR LEVITT JDC FROM
ACKERMANN NO. 30 FROM SCHLESITZ.

Section one: Returned here from Italy sooner than expected order try meet Mann accordance your request. Expect proceed Cairo Jerusalem Istanbul soon as discussion completed which hope will not require more than two weeks utmost. Must point out transportation difficulties cause long delays trying to carry out instructions which arrive last moment. Result personal investigation now consider it most important Greenleigh's proceed immediately Rome leaving Perlman southern Italy. Allied Control Commission at our request supported by Inter-governmental Committee representative Italy has indicated approval Greenleigh's appointment and transportation. Suggest he apply passport immediately proceed Rome least possible delay as many urgent problems here. Kessler

wishes return

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 8 1972
-2-#2024, June 15, 2 p.m. from Algiers

wishes return home in about one month therefore suggest you engage Samuel Pitzohn for service probably Middle East area leaving definite assignment open time being.

Section two: Megnes Rosenik advise Jewish Agency urgently requests immediate decision following proposal transportation to Istanbul.

Utilize MILC: similar ships without safe conduct which impossible obtain order transport 2600 persons from Balkans. Agency requests we assist finance costs estimated $800,000 exclusive participation passengers but agency believes possible reduce cost if part payment half million Swiss francs be made Switzerland. If we cannot participate this project agency asks we provide Swiss francs as loan deductible from any other funds payable agency. Megnes committee recommends (1) our immediate agreement principle participation above transportation project for each passenger arriving Istanbul and unable pay subject determination our representative Turkey, (2) we finance fully all transportation projects which may secure safe conduct with
-3-#2024, June 15, 2 p.m. from Algiers

conduct with possibilities reimbursement by passengers with means. Our own view we cannot assume responsibility any manner placing people on ships sailing without safe conduct especially since recent sinking MANITZA on route Constanza. However if War Refugee Board ready assume with Jewish Agency responsibility this project we should participate payment transportation costs those actually arrival Istanbul. View large amount involved suggest you discuss with War Refugee Board possibility their participating financial costs. If you consider this advisable view all above circumstances reply here and Lisbon.

Section three: Have set up two central committees Naples and Bari to cover southern Italy with subcommittees outlying districts and Camp Ferramonti and Santa Maria Dibogna. Monthly budget for supplementary relief maintenance schools, workshops, dispensaries, et cetera, $12,500 plus one time grants $4800 establish workshops camps and $2000 equip hostel Naples. Also $2000 grant for twelve month period Naples Jewish community to reopen religious school.
school synagogue community medical service. Above budget only southern Italy which has approximately 3000 refugees chiefly foreign but does not include Rome where now 8000 to 9000 local Jews 2000 refugees of whom 1400 from France, Yugoslavia, et cetera, 600 from Northern Italy. Have set up emergency grant 2,000,000 lire for immediate relief to Vatican Rome through Recht Gote Smith who proceeding there next days. If clearance 9,000,000 lire Palestine immigrants not immediately possible please remit immediately through Chase Bank 3,000,000 lire Banco di Napoli Naples account American Joint Distribution Committee for Joseph Schwartz or Max S. Perlman.

CHAPIN

WBB
KPL
MJB-623

Lisbon

Dated May 23, 1944

THIS WRB 46 JDC 4 PROM SCHWARTZ FOR LEVITT.

Borkad advises fifth boat M.RITZ arrived Istanbul carrying 360 refugees from Hungary leaving by train for Palestine immediately.

NORWEB
Dear Mr. Leavitt:

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

"Barlas advises fifth boat HACHItza arrived Istanbul carrying 360 refugees from Rumania leaving by train for Palestine immediately."

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pohle
Executive Director

Mr. Moses A. Leavitt,
Secretary,
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,
New York, New York.
The following, for your information and guidance, is the substance of a letter sent to the Secretary of State on September 9, 1943 by the British Embassy in Washington. The British Embassy has recently transmitted a copy of this letter to me.

Recently it was decided by the Government of Great Britain that all Jews, in the future, whether children or adults, who managed to leave Axis-dominated territories and entered Turkey since the border between Bulgaria and Turkey was closed last Spring, will be permitted (after a check for security purposes in Turkey) to go to Palestine where camps will be provided for them and where for security reasons, they will be checked further. If found satisfactory, they will be gradually released as legal immigrants and will be permitted to enter Palestine against the half-yearly current immigration quotas. The method of transporting these Jewish persons will be either by sea or rail as may be decided upon by cooperation between the diplomatic mission involved and the Government of Great Britain.

Jews who are able to enter other countries which are neutral will also be in this category, but those persons who escape to territories where they find a refuge of safety will, under normal circumstances, not leave there. Under these arrangements, Jews who are, at the present time, in Spain, Mauritius or Cyprus will not leave there (excepting if, in the case of Spain, plans may be made to transport them to Allied Government

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 11-11-79
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 18 1972
territory in North Africa, as is hoped, for such time as hostilities shall continue) and onward passage to Palestine would be considered only in cases deserving special consideration and for more particular reasons.

It is not intended that the number of persons, for the period ending March 31, 1944, admitted to Palestine under the proposals outlined above shall increase the total number of immigrants allowable for that period.

It is most essential that secrecy be maintained concerning these proposals and His Majesty's Government contemplates no public announcement of them. However, in strict confidence, the Palestinian Jewish Agency will be advised of the plans.

To Mr. Byron C. Taylor at Washington, D.C., a letter similar to this one is being written.

It is assumed in view of the policy indicated in the letter, that the Turkish Government now has sufficient assurances that refugees entering Turkey will have an ultimate destination open to them and will be willing therefore to lend full cooperation in measures designed to increase the flow of refugees through Turkey. However, if such is not the case you should immediately advise the Board.

In the interest of the refugees themselves, you should respect the British request that this policy be kept confidential.

This message from Fehle for Hirschmann.

STETTINIUS
(Acting)

cc: Miss Chauncey, Mr. Paul, Mr. Gaston, Mr. H. W. White, Mr. Fehle, Mr. Luxford, Mr. DuSols, Mr. E. N. Bernstein, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Lesser, Mr. Friedman, Miss Hotel, Mr. Pollak, Mr. Bundy, Mr. Abrahamson, Miss Laughlin.
Dearest Mr. Pehle:

I thought you might be interested in seeing the enclosed photographs which were taken of the vessel **Salahattin**, which carried refugees from Constanza to Istanbul. The three pictures will give you some idea of the circumstances under which these boats arrive in Istanbul, and the extent to which advantage is taken of all possible space on the boats to carry people here.

The three photographs of the railroad cars were taken at the time one of the children's transports arrived in Istanbul, proceeding to Palestine.

The photograph of the tram was taken outside the Istanbul railroad station, just as a matter of interest to show how the children in a group were transported from the railroad station to the hotels where they were accommodated while awaiting onward transportation from Istanbul to Palestine.

The photographs, especially those of the **Salahattin**, are strictly for your own use, and strictly for the records of the Board. They are not to be publicized.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

Herbert Katzki

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

Encls: 7 photographs.
Dear Ira:

I wish to thank you for your letter of November 25, 1944, suggesting that the War Refugee Board issue a press release on the arrival in Palestine of the refugees who sailed on the C.O. Salahettin.

On reflection, it appears to me that it is now too late for such a release to be of much value.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Mr. Ira A. Hirschmann,
Vice-President,
Bloomingdale's,
New York 22, N. Y.
November 28, 1944

Mr. John V. Peble
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear John:

I learned only by accident that the S.S. Salahattin had arrived on the 6th of November. Having spent some months on the job of pressing for the debarkation of this ship I was naturally pleased to hear that it finally had arrived safely in port, and that the refugees had proceeded to Palestine.

Since there is so much gruelling effort, as you know, in getting one of these ships through, and knowing first-hand that this would not be possible without the War Refugee Board I feel strongly that news stories should tell the American people of the success of these efforts. A story now is late, but something still may be done with it. I am enclosing a suggested script.

The real news on this was when the Salahattin arrived in Turkey in October. Since that is dated now the story would have to be built around their subsequent arrival in Palestine, and the expectation that other ships are still to follow.

Cordially yours

Iehret

I. A. Hirschmann
Five hundred and forty-seven refugees, the first to be freed by Rumania's break with Germany, have arrived in Palestine, according to an announcement from John W. Fehle, Executive Director of the War Refugee Board in Washington. Among the arrivals were twenty-four young Hungarian Jews who escaped from slave labor in the copper mines at Bor, Jugoslavia, and joined Marshall Tito's forces. After participating in several battles with the Nazis, they left for Rumania when that country broke with the Germans.

The Turkish ship Salaheddin, carrying refugees from Rumania to Turkey, encountered severe storms in the Black Sea, was blown off its course, and nearly capsized. Passengers included refugees from Hungary and Poland who had succeeded in reaching Rumania. Among them was Itzchak Mueller, who left Poland only two months ago, having bribed a German officer his last valuable possession, a diamond ring, to carry him out of the Warsaw ghetto in a military truck.
The cable below is WRB 113.

Please deliver paraphrase of the following message to Robert Filipel from N. A. Leavitt of American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

QUOTE Advice Saly Mayer we authorize payment for Saladin passengers. UNQUOTE

LISBON
2971

November 16, 1944

10 a.m.

Robert Filipel from N. A. Leavitt of American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

QUOTE Advice Saly Mayer we authorize payment for Saladin passengers. UNQUOTE

LISBON
2971

November 16, 1944

10 a.m.
Please deliver the following message to Robert Filpul from
H. A. Leavitt of American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

QUOTE ADVISE SALY MAYER WE AUTHORIZE PAYMENT FOR SALAHIN PASSENGERS UNQUOTE

THIS IS WBB LISBON CABLE NO. II.

February 13, 1944

Miss Claxton (for the Society) Abrahamson, Ackerman, Cohn, Daggs, Friedman, Moshel, Rosen, Lipton, Mackintosh, Silver

February 13/44
Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Robert Pilpel was received through the American Legation in Lisbon under date of November 3, 1944:

"III. Further our 106, 88 Saladin carried approximately 275 Hungarians including 24 recently released from prison camp for, Yugoslavia, approximately 212 Hungarians, and 60 Czechoslovaks. Group had 3 children, 133 women, 409 men, and entrained for Palestine October 31."

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pohle
Executive Director

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

[Signature]

RDrury 11/5/44
SECRETARY OF STATE
INCOMING TELEGRAM
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

WASHINGTON, D.C., November 3, 1946

Plain
Lisbon
Dated November 3, 1946
Rec'd 6:19 a.m., 6th.

Secretary of State
Washington
3852, Third, 6 p.m.
FOR LEAVITT FROM FILPEL JDC 111 WRB 245.
Further our 106 steamship SELAHATTIN carried
approximately 275 Hungarians including 24 recently
released from prison camp Bor Yugoslavia approximately
212 Romanians and 60 Czechoslovakians. Group had 5
children 133 women 409 men and entrained for Palestine
October 31.

MORIEB

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

Secretary of State,
Washington.

2201, November 1, 8 p.m.

PARO HATZIKI TO VESSEL V.M. DIPLOMATS BOARD. AMB. J.'s

No. 175.

Pursuant to the understanding between Ambassador Steinhardt and the Turkish authorities a special railroad train was made available for the transportation to the Syrian border of the passengers of the vessel S.E.L.T.THEA (see Ankara's 175, October 30) and the entire group departed from Istanbul for Palestine on October 31.

STEINHARDT

E.S.C.
November 1, 1944

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

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

"106. Steership SALAMIN arrived Istanbul from Constanza October 28 carrying 447 of whom half from Hungary. Group proceeding Palestine October 30."

Very truly yours,

[Handwritten] Z. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

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

[Handwritten] February 11/2/44
Secretary of State
Washington

2301, Thirtyeth,

FOR LEVITTY FROM PILPUL JUC 106 YRB 240.

Steamship SALAHIN arrived Istanbul from Costanza October 28 carrying 547 of whom half from Hungary. Group proceeding Palestine October 30.

NOK:EB

JHS

CONTROL COPY
Secretary of State,

Washington.

2079, October 30, 2 p.m.

FROM KATZKI FOR PEHLE WAR REFUGEE BOARD

ANKARA NUMBER 176

The Turkish motor vessel SALAHATTIN arrived in
Istanbul on October 29 carrying 547 passengers proce­
ding to Palestine from Rumania. Preliminary in­
formation indicates that the group comprises 409
men, 133 women and 5 children. Refugees from Hungary
who succeeded in entering Rumania make up the
majority of the passengers, including 24 Hungarians
who were liberated from the labor mine at Bor,
Yugoslavia. It is planned that the emigrants proce­
ded by railroad from Istanbul to Palestine within
the next few days under the general agreement be­
tween the Ambassador and the Turkish Foreign Office.

Hirschmann's reports provide information regarding
the assurances...
-2- #2079, October 30, 2 p.m., from Ankara

the assurances given the Ambassador by the Foreign Office which we refer to here as the general agreement. The foregoing is for your information. Additional material will be sent by pouch.

STEINHARDT

WTD
FM

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

(RESTRICTED)

REG from Ankara dated October 30, 2 p.m.

On page one line eleven please delete "fourth" and insert "forced" making line read "who were liberated from the forced labor mine at Bor,"

Correction from Embassy, Ankara.

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

MJP