

... with respect to Relief and
... of Refugees; Evacuation To
... Through Turkey

Evacuation To and Through Turkey, Vol. 3, Folder 1
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PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES: EVACUATION TO AND THRU
TURKEY VOL.3

3. ADANA SHIPS
4. EVACUATION BY RAIL
5. LICENSES
 - Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe
License NY 635883 ----- a.
 - American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee
License NY 649137
License NY 639820
License Wash. 3208 ----- b.
 - International Rescue and Relief Committee, Inc.
Remit. License NY 633571 ----- c.
 - International Rescue & Relief Committee, Inc.
Remit. License (Copy) NY 643830 & Amendment ----- d.
6. JABOTINSKY'S PROPOSAL
 - a. Evacuation of Refugees from the Balkans via Danube
 - b. Charter of S.S. TARI to Carry Emigrants from Rumania to Palestine

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COPY

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 4th, 1944.

W.T. 8.A/238/44

My dear Merchant;

Would you please refer to your letter to me of June 6th, regarding the renewal of the charters of the Adana ships?

I communicated to London and to Ankara the proposals put forward by the War Refugee Board and I have now received their views. While they are naturally anxious to do everything possible to facilitate the provision of Turkish tonnage for the Board's operations, it is felt both by our Embassy in Ankara and by the Foreign Office that to attach so detailed and widespread conditions would be to raise entirely new issues to those originally contemplated in respect of the terms for the renewal of these charters. As you know, the type of condition which had originally been proposed in this connection was merely to the effect that if a ship were needed for refugee purposes, a Turkish vessel suitable for such purpose up to a tonnage of one of the Adana ships should be placed at our disposal.

The Foreign Office consider that in any case the recent developments in the Turkish situation now make it difficult for us to take the same line over these Adana ships as had originally been contemplated. The Turks have met us completely over chrome and have gone a fair way to do so in respect of other strategic commodities. The resignation of the Minister for Foreign Affairs may well result in far reaching consequences in our favour. In these circumstances, the time hardly seems appropriate to make too obvious a use of these ships as a bargaining counter and it is the view of the Foreign Office that our policy should be to renew for short periods the charters of each of these ships as they fall in (two further charters have in fact now been renewed until August 24th), so keeping the Turks suitably in suspense and keeping the position open so that if their behaviour is unsatisfactory we can use these ships as a means of exerting pressure when necessary. In this connection, the Foreign Office are ready to make it perfectly clear to the Turks that if and when a ship is needed for refugee purposes, a suitable Turkish vessel should be placed at our disposal merely as some return for the help we are giving them in shipping matters.

Would you be good enough to convey the above to the War Refugee Board?

Yours sincerely,

GUY THOROLD

G.F.Thorold

Mr. L.T.Merchant.

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In reply refer to
EH

My dear Thorold:

On May 23 I wrote you to inform you that the Department approved of London's proposal that the renewal of the charters for the five Adana ships should be subject to certain conditions. At the same time I informed you that in addition to the Foreign Economic Administration, the War Refugee Board approved in principle the inclusion of the condition relating to the possible later provision by the Turkish Government of a ship for the evacuation of refugees. This later condition would be additional to the stipulation recommended by London to the effect that the Turks should agree to withdraw all Turkish tonnage from traffic with our enemies in strategic materials.

Since I wrote you, the Department has received from the War Refugee Board its considered views on the exact form in which the Board would like to see the secondary condition worded. Specifically the Board has suggested that the second condition to the renewal of the charters on the Adana vessels should be worded as follows:

The Turkish Government ^{should} ~~shall~~ further agree to make available the E. E. Tari or a similar passenger vessel for repeated refugee evacuation voyages across the Black Sea to a Turkish Black Sea port as soon as, in the opinion

of

Mr. G. F. Thorold,
Counselor,
British Embassy,
Washington, D. C.

of the British and American Ambassadors to Turkey, such voyages become feasible. In this connection, it should be further understood that the Turkish Government's request that the American Government provide a passenger vessel as a substitute for the S. S. Tari would be fully met by the renewal of the charters of the five Adana ships. In addition, the Turkish Government ~~shall~~ agree to extending ~~Turkish~~ full cooperation in effecting arrangements whereby evacuation operations by small boats proceeding on voyages across the Black Sea, be continued and if possible intensified. Such cooperation would be considered to include permission for all refugees arriving in this manner to land in Turkish Black Sea ports until they can be taken to havens of refuge elsewhere and active assistance to the American and British Ambassadors in their efforts to find and put into service in Turkey, small boats which can operate in the same manner as the three Bulgarian boats. The War Refugee Board fully intends to arrange for the payment of a fair or reasonable charter hire for the use of any vessels made available, and the assumption of the responsibility for arranging for the maintenance of support of refugees in transit or awaiting transportation in Turkey. (End of substitution)

Melba
and Balthasar

The War Refugee Board also points out that the Turkish Government has been given a guarantee of replacement in kind in the event of the loss of the S. S. Tari on its first voyage. In view of the obvious difficulties involved in making such a replacement, the United States Government does not desire to renew such guaranty with respect to subsequent voyages of the S. S. Tari or a similar vessel, or to make a similar guarantee in the case of other vessels made available. The necessary arrangements will of course be made in all cases to protect against risk of loss by provision through insurance or otherwise to pay the Turks the value of the lost ship. The Board suggests that in view of the possibility that the Turks may insist upon a guarantee of replacement in kind in the case of all vessels, consideration might be given to using the rechartering of the Adana ships as a basis for asking the Turkish Government to waive the condition unless they are willing to give a similar guarantee to replace any of

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unless it is absolutely necessary to do so.

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(along the line)

the Adana ships that may be lost. Insert B

The Department has a firm interest in furthering in every way the work of the War Refugee Board. The Department hopes therefore that London will agree to the inclusion of ~~the~~ condition in the form suggested by the War Refugee Board. I may add that the War Refugee Board is appreciative of the cooperation of your government in connection with its activities in Turkey and that it recognizes the existence of the risk that the Turkish Government may refuse to renew the charters on the terms to be imposed.

Sincerely yours,

Livingston T. Merchant
Chief
Eastern Hemisphere Division

7 0 0 6 6

INSERT A.

Since I wrote you, the Department has received from the War Refugee Board its considered views on the form which the second condition might well take. These views are indicated below. For your assistance in examining the suggestions of the War Refugee Board, there is attached hereto a brief memorandum which indicates the present status of arrangements in Turkey for refugee evacuations as well as certain defects in these ~~arrangements~~.

The War Refugee Board suggests that the second condition to the charters on the Adana vessels be formulated along the following general lines:

INSERT B.

(1) It may be borne in mind that this Government will, despite all difficulties involved, seriously consider the giving of a guarantee of replacement in kind if such a guarantee appears necessary in order to obtain the use of Turkish vessels for refugee evacuation purposes.

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MEMORANDUM

The present status of the evacuation arrangements between the United States and the Turkish Government is as follows:

1. Arrangements for a single voyage of the SS YARI

After long negotiations, arrangements have been made for the Turkish Government to charter to the United States, acting by and through the War Refugee Board, the SS YARI, a small passenger vessel which can accommodate approximately 1500 passengers. This vessel is to be chartered for a single voyage to evacuate refugees from Constantza, Rumania to Haifa, Palestine, contingent upon -

(a) the United States Government agreeing to replace the vessel in kind if the same is lost; and

(b) the obtaining of safe-conducts from all belligerents.

The United States has agreed to replace the YARI if lost on this voyage, but the voyage has not been made to date because a German safe-conduct has not been forthcoming.

With the thought in view that the German Government would be more willing to grant a safe-conduct if the vessel should terminate its voyage in a neutral port rather than a belligerent port, Ambassador Steinhardt has arranged for a modification of the proposed charter terms so as to permit the termination of the voyage in Iskenderan, a Turkish Mediterranean port, rather than in Haifa, if this would meet the German requirements for a safe-conduct. Notification of the proposed change has been communicated to the Germans but they have not yet acted upon the request for a safe-conduct.

2. Negotiations for other evacuations.

It was also contemplated that the SS YARI would be made available for subsequent voyages to Haifa if the United States would undertake to lend the Turkish Government a passenger vessel to fly the Turkish flag for the period of time during which the SS YARI would be used for evacuation purposes.

Existing arrangements for the evacuation of refugees across the Black Sea are unsatisfactory in the following respects:

1. Future voyages of the SS YARI.

Although at present the YARI cannot proceed for want of a German safe-conduct, it is essential that, should such a safe-conduct be obtained or should conditions so change that the YARI might operate without a German safe-conduct, the YARI be able to proceed without delay not merely on one but on the largest possible number of voyages. The following points must be clarified before arrangements in this

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respect can be deemed to be satisfactory

(a) Loan of passenger vessel to be used by Turkish Government during time EARL is engaged in evacuation operations. The shipping situation is such as to render it impossible for any of the Allied Governments to lend a passenger vessel to the Turkish Government as requested by that Government.

(b) Termination of voyage. It is thought important that evacuation voyages terminate in a Turkish Black Sea port rather than at Haifa because -

(i) Safe-conducts might be more readily obtained for voyages terminating at a neutral port than for voyages terminating at a belligerent port;

(ii) The shorter voyage would facilitate the implementation by the military authorities of the belligerents of any safe-conduct granted;

(iii) The resulting charter voyages would mean the evacuation of a greater number of refugees, which is of utmost importance in view of the limited shipping available; and

(iv) Future military developments might possibly render it safe in the opinion of the British and American authorities, to make the relatively short voyage across the Black Sea without a German safe-conduct, whereas this probably would be less likely to be true in the case of the long voyage into the Mediterranean.

2. Voyages by small vessels proceeding without safe-conducts.

At present the only refugee evacuations now taking place across the Black Sea are on three small vessels flying the Bulgarian flag. These vessels, proceeding without German safe-conduct, have been making repeated voyages from Rumania to Turkey, carrying about 250 refugees per voyage. The Turkish Government, although at first reluctant to do so, has been countenancing these trips at the repeated insistence of the British and American authorities, and has been permitting the refugees to land and proceed by rail to Palestine. The proposed arrangements with regard to the EARL do not take into account the need for continuing this traffic without restraint by the Turkish Government and, if possible, intensifying such operations by placing into service other small boats which could operate in the same way.

April 20, 1944.

ADANA SHIPS

On April 18 a representative of the British Embassy called on me with respect to a problem which is arising on the renewal of the charters for the five British ships now in Turkish service. These vessels were chartered to Turkey for the on-shipment of military supplies from Egyptian ports. The decision to lease these ships to the Turks was made, I believe, at the Adana Conference, and they are known as the five Adana ships. The charters expire at different dates this year, the first two ending on April 24 and, I believe, the last one some time in October. Since the stoppage of military supplies to Turkey has removed the purpose for which they were originally chartered to Turkey, both London and Ambassador Hugessen, British Ambassador to Turkey, are anxious to receive in return a substantial quid pro quo from the Turks if it is decided to renew the charters. The British suggest that the charters be renewed as they fall due for short future periods on condition that the Turks agree not to use any Turkish tonnage whatsoever for the movement to the Axis of any of the strategic materials listed in our identic notes to the Turkish Government. They suggest the further stipulation that the Turks should agree, on demand of the British, to make available a Turkish vessel of tonnage comparable to one of the Adana ships for the transport of refugees from enemy-occupied territory. A draft outline of the note which the British suggest giving to the Turks is attached.

Ambassador Hugessen has raised the point, which the British request us to consider, that the Turks may find the foregoing conditions, particularly the first one, unacceptable. The British would thereupon refuse to renew the charters as they fell due, and in retaliation the Turks might break their present undertaking to supply the War Refugee Board with a vessel for the evacuation of Jewish refugees from Bulgaria or, even if they did not do that, they might refuse to renew any such charter in the future.

There is one other element of concern to the British, though not of over-riding importance. They are about to embark on a considerable outward movement from Turkey of their dried fruit purchases. If the proposed conditional renewal offer is put up to the Turks and refused, the British would be somewhat embarrassed if the Turks in consequence refused to provide Turkish tonnage for this

purpose.

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purpose.

On April 19 the British Embassy informed me that London had renewed for two months as from April 24 the charters on the two boats falling due on that date. This was done without any conditions attached and was designed to enable London and Washington to reach a considerable agreement on the conditions, if any, to be attached to the renewal of the charters of the other three boats and of these two first ones when this two-month period elapses. Incidentally London pointed out that this presumably would enable the dried fruit shipments to be made without interruptions. Mr. Thorold also informed me that the next charter on one of the other vessels expires on May 19.

As will be seen from the foregoing, the problem is to resolve economic warfare and refugee considerations. If we can remove all Turkish tonnage from the Turkish traffic in strategic materials with the enemy, we will have accomplished a considerable objective and one which would loom extremely large in the event that the rail connection between Turkey and the enemy is cut off.

L.R. L.T. Thorold

Following is draft proposed by British Ambassador for note to be presented to the Turkish Government in connection with the expiring charters for the first two of the Adana ships.

"The note would recall that two charters expire on April 24 and the remaining charters will expire at various dates thereafter. The ships were placed at Turkey's disposal for the on-carriage of munitions from Egypt. It would therefore be quite natural, in view of the great shipping needs of H.M.G. for war purposes, that charters should be renewed. H.M.G. appreciate, however, the difficulties which the withdrawal of these ships at the present time might entail for Turkey, and they are prepared to consider renewal of charters of Adana and Odenis and of other ships in due course for short periods if the Turkish Government so desire. It will be clear, however, that they cannot leave these ships at Turkey's disposal beyond the dates now specified if Turkish shipping is being used currently to convey goods of strategic importance for the benefit of the Axis. A condition therefore of any renewal must be an undertaking by Turkey that so long as any Adana ships remained chartered to Turkey, no commodities

of

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OFFICE OF THE
DIRECTOR OF BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

of strategic importance (they might be defined) will be carried in any Turkish ships for immediate or ultimate benefit of Axis countries. Upon their undertaking in this sense, H.M.G. will authorize the necessary detailed discussions to be held.

No. 7. A further condition might be attached to the effect that if we need a ship for refugee purposes, a Turkish vessel suitable for these purposes up to a tonnage of one Adana ship will be placed at our disposal."

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STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH BRITISH TO
OBTAIN GREATER COOPERATION FROM TURKS ON
SHIPPING PROBLEMS GENERALLY

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Tari
Handed to us by
State Dept on
May 20, 1944

April 20, 1944

ADANA SHIPS

On April 18 a representative of the British Embassy called on me with respect to a problem which is arising on the renewal of the charters for the five British ships now in Turkish service. These vessels were chartered to Turkey for the on-shipment of military supplies from Egyptian ports. The decision to lease these ships to the Turks was made, I believe, at the Adana Conference, and they are known as the five Adana ships. The charters expire at different dates this year, the first two ending on April 24 and, I believe, the last one some time in October. Since the stoppage of military supplies to Turkey has removed the purpose for which they were originally chartered to Turkey, both London and Ambassador Hugessen, British Ambassador to Turkey, are anxious to receive in return a substantial quid pro quo from the Turks if it is decided to renew the charters. The British suggest that the charters be renewed as they fall due for short future periods on condition that the Turks agree not to use any Turkish tonnage whatsoever for the movement to the Axis of any of the strategic materials listed in our identic notes to the Turkish Government. They suggest the further stipulation that the Turks should agree, on demand of the British, to make available a Turkish vessel of tonnage comparable to one of the Adana ships for the transport of refugees from enemy-occupied territory. A draft outline of the note which the British suggest giving to the Turks is attached.

Ambassador Hugessen has raised the point, which the British request us to consider, that the Turks may find the foregoing conditions, particularly the first one, unacceptable. The British would thereupon refuse to renew the charters as they fell due, and in retaliation the Turks might break their present undertaking to supply the War Refugee Board with a vessel for the evacuation of Jewish refugees from Bulgaria or, even if they did not do that, they might refuse to renew any such charter in the future.

There is one other element of concern to the British, though not of overriding importance. They are about to embark on a considerable outward movement from Turkey of their dried fruit purchases. If the proposed conditional renewal offer is put up to the Turks and refused, the British would be somewhat embarrassed if the Turks in consequence refused to provide Turkish tonnage for this purpose.

On April 19 the British Embassy informed me that London had renewed for two months as from April 24 the charters on the two boats falling due on that date. This was done without any conditions attached and was designed to enable London and Washington to reach a considerable agreement on the conditions, if any, to be attached to the renewal of the charters of the other three boats and of these two first ones when this two-month period elapses. Incidentally London

*From WRB files sent
from*

pointed out that this presumably would enable the dried fruit shipments to be made without interruptions. Mr. Thorold also informed me that the next charter on one of the other vessels expires on May 19.

As will be seen from the foregoing, the problem is to resolve economic warfare and refugee considerations. If we can remove all Turkish tonnage from the Turkish traffic in strategic materials with the enemy, we will have accomplished a considerable objective and one which would loom extremely large in the event that the rail connection between Turkey and the enemy is cut off.

/s/ L. T. Merchant.

C O P Y

Following is draft proposed by British Ambassador for note to be presented to the Turkish Government in connection with the expiring charters for the first two of the Adana ships.

* * * * *

"The note would recall that two charters expire on April 24 and the remaining charters will expire at various dates thereafter. The ships were placed at Turkey's disposal for the or-carriage of munitions from Egypt. It would therefore be quite natural, in view of the great shipping needs of H.M.G. for war purposes, that charters should not be renewed. H.M.G. appreciate, however, the difficulties which the withdrawal of these ships at the present time might entail for Turkey, and they are prepared to consider renewal of charters of Adana and Odenis and of other ships in due course for short periods if the Turkish Government so desire. It will be clear, however, that they cannot leave these ships at Turkey's disposal beyond the dates now specified if Turkish shipping is being used currently to convey goods of strategic importance for the benefit of the Axis. A condition therefore of any renewal must be an undertaking by Turkey that so long as any Adana ships remained chartered to Turkey, no commodities of strategic importance (they might be defined) will be carried in any Turkish ships for immediate or ultimate benefit of Axis countries. Upon their undertaking in this sense, H.M.G. will authorize the necessary detailed discussions to be held.

No. 7. A further condition might be attached to the effect that if we need a ship for refugee purposes, a Turkish vessel suitable for these purposes up to a tonnage of one Adana ship will be placed at our disposal."

Sent to State Dept by Pehle
on May 26, 1944

MEMORANDUM

Re: Re-charter of the five "Adana" ships to the Turkish Government on condition, among others, that the Turkish Government make available a Turkish vessel for refugee evacuations in the Black Sea.

The War Refugee Board is in complete agreement with the British suggestion, mentioned in Mr. Merchant's memorandum of April 20, 1944, that the re-chartering of the five so-called Adana ships to the Turkish Government be conditioned, among other things, upon the agreement of that Government to assist in evacuating refugees in the Black Sea area.

The present status of the evacuation arrangements between the United States and the Turkish Government is as follows:

1. Arrangements for a single voyage of the SS FARI.

After long negotiations, arrangements have been made for the Turkish Government to charter to the United States, acting by and through the War Refugee Board, the SS FARI, a small passenger vessel which can accommodate approximately 1500 passengers. This vessel is to be chartered for a single voyage to evacuate refugees from Constanta, Rumania to Haifa, Palestine, contingent upon -

(a) the United States Government agreeing to replace the vessel in kind if the same is lost; and

(b) the obtaining of safe-conducts from all belligerents.

The United States has agreed to replace the FARI if lost on this voyage, but the voyage has not been made to date because a German safe-conduct has not been forthcoming.

With the thought in view that the German Government would be more willing to grant a safe-conduct if the vessel should terminate its voyage in a neutral port rather than a belligerent port, Ambassador Steinhardt has arranged for a modification of the proposed charter terms so as to permit the termination of the voyage in Iskenderun, a Turkish Mediterranean port, rather than in Haifa, if this would meet the German requirements for a safe-conduct. Notification of the proposed change has been communicated to the Germans but they have not yet acted upon the request for a safe-conduct.

2. Negotiations for other evacuations.

It was also contemplated that the SS FARI would be made available for

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subsequent voyages to Haifa if the United States would undertake to lend the Turkish Government a passenger vessel to fly the Turkish flag for the period of time during which the SS TARI would be used for evacuation purposes.

Existing arrangements for the evacuation of refugees across the Black Sea are unsatisfactory in the following respects:

1. Future voyages of the SS TARI.

Although at present the TARI cannot proceed for want of a German safe-conduct, it is essential that, should such a safe-conduct be obtained or should conditions so change that the TARI might operate without a German safe-conduct, the TARI be able to proceed without delay not merely on one but on the largest possible number of voyages. The following points must be clarified before arrangements in this respect can be deemed to be satisfactory:

(a) Loan of passenger vessel to be used by Turkish Government during time TARI is engaged in evacuation operations. The shipping situation is such as to render it impossible for any of the Allied governments to lend a passenger vessel to the Turkish Government as requested by that Government.

(b) Termination of voyage. It is thought important that evacuation voyages terminate in a Turkish Black Sea port rather than at Haifa because -

(i) Safe-conducts might be more readily obtained for voyages terminating at a neutral port than for voyages terminating at a belligerent port;

(ii) The shorter voyage would facilitate the implementation by the military authorities of the belligerents of any safe-conduct granted;

(iii) The resulting shorter voyages would mean the evacuation of a greater number of refugees, which is of utmost importance in view of the limited shipping available; and

(iv) Future military developments might possibly render it safe in the opinion of the British and American authorities, to make the relatively short voyage across the Black Sea without a German safe-conduct, whereas this probably would be less likely to be true in the case of the long voyage into the Mediterranean.

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2. Voyages by small vessels proceeding without safe-conducts.

At present the only refugee evacuations now taking place across the Black Sea are on three small vessels flying the Bulgarian flag. These vessels, proceeding without German safe-conduct, have been making repeated voyages from Rumania to Turkey, carrying about 250 refugees per voyage. The Turkish Government, although at first reluctant to do so, has been countenancing these trips at the repeated insistence of the British and American authorities, and has been permitting the refugees to land and proceed by rail to Palestine. The proposed arrangements with regard to the TAKI do not take into account the need for continuing this traffic without restraint by the Turkish Government and, if possible, intensifying such operations by pressing into service other small boats which could operate in the same way.

Conclusion

The War Refugee Board agrees with the suggestion of the British Government that the re-chartering of the "Adana" vessels be conditioned generally upon the agreement of the Turkish Government to assist more effectively in refugee evacuations in the Black Sea area, and suggests further that such arrangements be conditioned specifically upon:

(a) The Turkish Government's making available the SS TAKI or a similar passenger vessel for repeated refugee evacuation voyages across the Black Sea to a Turkish Black Sea port as soon, as in the opinion of the British and American Ambassadors to Turkey, such voyages become feasible. It should be understood that the Turkish Government's request for a substitute passenger vessel would be fully met by the chartering to it of the five "Adana" ships;

(b) The Turkish Government's cooperating with the American Ambassador in effecting arrangements whereby evacuation operations by small boats proceeding on voyages across the Black Sea be continued and if possible, intensified. Such cooperation would include - (i) permitting all refugees arriving in this manner to land in Turkish Black Sea ports until they can be taken to havens of refuge elsewhere; and (ii) actively assisting the American and British Ambassadors in their efforts to find and put into service in Turkey small boats which can operate in the same manner as the three Bulgarian boats.

It is, of course, intended that the War Refugee Board will (i) arrange for the payment of a fair and reasonable charter hire for the use of any vessels made available, and (ii) will assume the responsibility of arranging for the maintenance and support of refugees in transport or awaiting transportation in Turkey.

As indicated above, the Turkish Government has been given a guarantee of replacement in kind in the event of the loss of the SS TARI on its first voyage. In view of the obvious difficulties involved in making such a replacement, the United States Government does not desire to renew such guarantee with respect to subsequent voyages of the SS TARI or a similar vessel or to make a similar guarantee in the case of other vessels made available. Necessary arrangements will, of course, be made in all cases to protect against risk of loss by provision through insurance or otherwise, to pay the owner the value of a lost vessel.

In view of the possibility that the Turks may insist upon a guarantee of replacement in kind in the case of all vessels, consideration might be given to using the re-chartering of the "Adana" ships as a basis for asking the Turkish Government to waive the condition unless they are willing to give a similar guarantee to replace any of the "Adana" ships that may be lost.

Because of the urgent humanitarian considerations involved and the strong interest of this Government in the evacuation program, the giving of a guarantee of replacement in kind will, of course, be seriously considered despite all difficulties if such a guarantee appears necessary in order to obtain the use of Turkish vessels for refugee evacuation purposes.

JBP:WJH:AKB:bbk
5/26/44

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C O P Y

In reply refer to
EH

My dear Thorold:

On May 23 I wrote you to inform you that the Department approved of London's proposal that the renewal of the charters for the five Adana ships should be subject to certain conditions. At the same time I informed you that in addition to the Foreign Economic Administration, the War Refugee Board approved in principle the inclusion of the condition relating to the possible later provision by the Turkish Government of a ship for the evacuation of refugees. This latter condition would be additional to the stipulation recommended by London to the effect that the Turks should agree to withdraw all Turkish tonnage from traffic with our enemies in strategic materials.

Since I wrote you, the Department has received from the War Refugee Board its considered views on the form which the second condition might well take. These views are indicated below. For your assistance in examining the suggestions of the War Refugee Board, there is attached hereto a brief memorandum which indicates the present status of arrangements in Turkey for refugee evacuations as well as certain defects in these arrangements.

The War Refugee Board suggests that the second condition to the charters on the Adana vessels be formulated along the following general lines:

The Turkish Government should agree to make available the S. S. Tari or a similar passenger vessel for repeated refugee evacuation voyages across the Black Sea to a Turkish Black Sea port as soon as, in the opinion of the British and American Ambassadors to Turkey, such voyages become feasible, whether with or without a German safe-conduct. In this connection, it should be further understood that the Turkish Government's request that the American Government provide a passenger vessel as a substitute for the S. S. Tari on subsequent voyages would be fully met by the renewal of the charters of the five Adana ships. In addition, the Turkish Government should agree to extend full cooperation in effecting arrangements whereby evacuation operations by small boats proceeding on voyages across the Black Sea would be continued and if possible intensified. Such cooperation would be considered to include permission for all refugees arriving in this manner to land in Turkish Black Sea ports until they can be taken to havens of refuge elsewhere and active assistance to the American and British Ambassadors in their efforts to find and put into service in Turkey, if possible, small boats comparable to the two Bulgarian boats, Milka and Bellacitta. The War Refugee Board fully intends to arrange for the payment of a fair or reasonable charter hire for the use of any vessels made available, and the assumption of the responsibility for arranging for the maintenance and support of refugees in transit or awaiting transportation in Turkey.

The War Refugee Board also points out that the Turkish Government has been given a guarantee of replacement in kind in the event of the loss of the S. S. Tari on its first voyage. In view of the obvious difficulties involved in making such a replacement, the United States does not desire to renew such guaranty with respect to subsequent voyages of the S. S. Tari or a similar vessel, or to make a similar guarantee in case of other vessels made available unless it is absolutely necessary to do so. The necessary arrangements will, of course, be made in all cases to protect against risk of loss by provision through insurance or otherwise to pay the Turks the value of the lost ship. The Board suggests that in view of the possibility that the Turks may insist upon a guarantee of replacement in kind in the case of all vessels, consideration might be given to using the rechartering of the Adana ships as a basis for asking the Turkish Government to waive the condition unless they are willing to give a similar guarantee to replace any of the Adana ships that may be lost. It may be borne in mind that this Government will, despite all difficulties involved, seriously consider the giving of a guarantee of replacement in kind if such a guarantee appears absolutely necessary in order to obtain the use of Turkish vessels for refugee evacuation purposes.

The Department has a firm interest in furthering in every way the work of the War Refugee Board. The Department hopes therefore that London will agree to the inclusion of a condition along the lines suggested by the War Refugee Board. I may add that the War Refugee Board is appreciative of the cooperation of your government in connection with its activities in Turkey and that it recognizes the existence of the risk that the Turkish Government may refuse to renew the charters on the terms to be imposed.

Sincerely yours,

Livingston T. Merchant
Chief
Eastern Hemisphere Division

MEMORANDUM

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1. Arrangements for a single voyage of the SS FARI

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(a) the United States Government agreeing to replace the vessel in kind if the same is lost; and

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With the thought in view that the German Government would be more willing to grant a safe-conduct if the vessel should terminate its voyage in a neutral port rather than a belligerent port, Ambassador Steinhardt has arranged for a modification of the proposed charter terms so as to permit the termination of the voyage in Iskenderun, a Turkish Mediterranean port, rather than in Haifa, if this would meet the German requirements for a safe-conduct. Notification of the proposed change has been communicated to the Germans but they have not yet acted upon the request for a safe-conduct.

2. Negotiations for other evacuations.

It was also contemplated that the SS FARI would be made available for subsequent voyages to Haifa if the United States would undertake to lend the Turkish Government a passenger vessel to fly the Turkish flag for the period of time during which the SS FARI would be used for evacuation purposes.

Existing arrangements for the evacuation of refugees across the Black Sea are unsatisfactory in the following respects:

1. Future voyages of the SS FARI.

Although at present the FARI cannot proceed for want of a German safe-conduct, it is essential that, should such a safe-conduct be obtained or should conditions so change that the FARI might operate without a German safe-conduct, the FARI be able to proceed without delay not merely on one but on the largest possible number of voyages. The following points must be clarified before arrangements in this

respect can be deemed to be satisfactory?

(a) Loan of passenger vessel to be used by Turkish Government during time WARI is engaged in evacuation operations. The shipping situation is such as to render it impossible for any of the Allied Governments to lend a passenger vessel to the Turkish Government as requested by that Government.

(b) Termination of voyage. It is thought important that evacuation voyages terminate in a Turkish Black Sea port rather than at Haifa because -

(i) Safe-conducts might be more readily obtained for voyages terminating at a neutral port than for voyages terminating at a belligerent port;

(ii) The shorter voyage would facilitate the implementation by the military authorities of the belligerents of any safe-conduct granted;

(iii) The resulting shorter voyages would mean the evacuation of a greater number of refugees, which is of utmost importance in view of the limited shipping available; and

(iv) Future military developments might possibly render it safe in the opinion of the British and American authorities, to make the relatively short voyage across the Black Sea without a German safe-conduct, whereas this probably would be less likely to be true in the case of the long voyage into the Mediterranean.

2. Voyages by small vessels proceeding without safe-conducts.

At present the only refugee evacuations now taking place across the Black Sea are on three small vessels flying the Bulgarian flag. These vessels, proceeding without German safe-conducts, have been making repeated voyages from Rumania to Turkey, carrying about 350 refugees per voyage. The Turkish Government, although at first reluctant to do so, has been countenancing these trips at the repeated insistence of the British and American authorities, and has been permitting the refugees to land and proceed by rail to Palestine. The proposed arrangements with regard to the WARI do not take into account the need for continuing this traffic without restraint by the Turkish Government and, if possible, intensifying such operations by pressing into service other small boats which could operate in the same way.

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ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Embassy, Ankara
DATED: June 2, 1944
NUMBER: 503

CONTROL COPY

From War Refugee Board to Ambassador Steinhardt, Ankara, Turkey. *File*

Please refer to your 941 of May 23.

We appreciate your excellent handling of this difficult situation and accept your judgment as to the route of the voyage and the charter arrangements. The Board is anxious to retain the right to use the TARI as long as there is any reasonable hope that it may ultimately be permitted to sail. While we hope that it will not be necessary to do so, you are authorized, if you deem it desirable, to use the \$180,000 already transmitted to you to hold the TARI. In any event please advise us before finally relinquishing the right to use the TARI.

For your confidential information, the Bulgarian Minister to Stockholm is said to be sympathetic with our refugee evacuation program. If at any point you deem it desirable, you may cable Minister Johnson in Stockholm asking him to enlist the support of the Bulgarian Minister there in connection with any project requiring the cooperation of the Bulgarian Government.

With respect to the general question of obtaining shipping for refugee operations across the Black Sea the following is for your information:

We have been advised by the State Department that the British are

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

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requesting the American Government's view concerning appropriate conditions to be proposed to the Turkish Government in consideration for the renewal of the charters of five British cargo ships now in Turkish service and known as the Adana ships. It is our understanding that these vessels were originally chartered to Turkey for the on-shipment of military supplies from Egyptian ports to Turkey and that the stoppage of military shipments to Turkey has nullified the purpose for which the ships were originally chartered to Turkey by the British Government. We understand from the State Department that the British authorities in London and Ambassador Hugesen are anxious to receive in return for the re-charter of the Adana ships a substantial quid pro quo from the Turkish Government. In addition to various political conditions proposed tentatively by the British Government as a condition to the re-charter of the Adana ships the British are apparently suggesting that a further condition might be added to the effect that a suitable Turkish vessel up to the tonnage of one Adana ship should be placed at the disposal of the British and American Governments for refugee evacuation operations. We understand that at the present time the charters of the Adana ships are being temporarily renewed for two month periods pending a final decision on this matter by the British and American Governments.

In order to strengthen your hand in future dealings with the Turkish Government concerning refugee matters and particularly in order to facilitate the obtaining of Turkish shipping for refugee purposes in the future, we have recommended to the State Department that it suggest the following among others as conditions to the re-charter of the Adana ships:

1. So long as any of the Adana ships are under charter to the Turkish Government, the Turkish Government should make available the

000683

available the TARI or a similar vessel for repeated refugee evacuation voyages across the Black Sea to a Turkish Black Sea port with a German safe conduct if it can be obtained or without such a safe conduct, whenever in the opinion of the British and American Ambassadors to Turkey such voyages become feasible. It shall be clearly understood that the re-charter of the five Adana ships will constitute fulfillment of any Turkish demand that a substitute passenger vessel be made available to the Turks while the TARI is engaged in refugee evacuation operations.

2. The Turkish Government should cooperate with the British and American Ambassadors in effecting arrangements whereby evacuation operations across the Black Sea without a German safe conduct by small boats carrying relatively small numbers of passengers such as the MARITZA, MILKA, and BELLACITTA will be continued and if possible intensified. Such cooperation would include not only permitting all refugees arriving in this manner to land in Turkish Black Sea ports and remain in Turkey until Turkish rail facilities permit them to be transported across Turkey to Palestine but also actively assisting the British and American Ambassadors in their efforts to find and put into service in Turkey small boats which can operate in the same manner as the three above-named ships.

The War Refugee Board would of course agree to arrange for the payment of a reasonable charter hire for the use of any Turkish vessel made available and to assume responsibility for the maintenance and support of refugees in

000680

refugees in transport or awaiting transportation in Turkey.

In view of the necessity of using for military purposes all passenger ships now available to us, the War Refugee Board is also recommending that if the Turkish Government insists upon a guarantee of replacement in kind in the case of loss of any Turkish vessel made available in the future for refugee evacuation operations, consideration should be given to using the re-chartering of the Adana ships as a basis for requesting the Turkish Government to waive such guarantee in the future unless the Turks are willing to make a similar guarantee to replace any of the Adana ships that are lost. However, if the giving of a guarantee in kind appears absolutely necessary in order to obtain the use of Turkish vessels the War Refugee Board will, despite all difficulties, seriously consider giving such a guarantee in connection with future voyages of the TARI or any other Turkish vessel because of the urgent humanitarian considerations involved and the strong interest of this Government in the refugee evacuation program. It should be clearly understood that the original guarantee to replace the TARI in the event of loss on its first voyage still stands and that the above refers to subsequent voyages of the TARI and any other Turkish vessels made available for refugee evacuation purposes.

The State Department is transmitting the Board's recommendations to the British.

This is War Refugee Board Cable to Ankara No. 46.

HULL

000687

CABLE TO SOBRIEY

From War Refugee Board to Ambassador Stankovic, Ankara, Turkey.

Please refer to your 941 of May 22.

We appreciate your excellent handling of this difficult situation and accept your judgment as to the route of the voyage and the charter arrangements. The Board is anxious to retain the right to use the YARI as long as there is any reasonable hope that it may ultimately be permitted to sail. While we hope that it will not be necessary to do so, you are authorized, if you deem it desirable, to use the \$150,000 already transmitted to you to hold the YARI. In any event please advise us before finally relinquishing the right to use the YARI.

For your confidential information, the Bulgarian Minister to Stockholm is said to be sympathetic with our refugee evacuation program. If at any point you deem it desirable, you may cable Minister Johnson in Stockholm asking him to call to the support of the Bulgarian Minister in connection with any project requiring the cooperation of the Bulgarian Government.

With respect to the general question of obtaining shipping for refugee operations across the Black Sea the following is for your information:

We have been advised by the State Department that the British are requesting the American Government's view concerning appropriate conditions to be proposed to the Turkish Government in consideration for the removal of the cargoes of five British cargo ships now in Turkish service and known as the *Almas* ships. It is our understanding that these vessels were originally chartered to Turkey for the on-shipment of military supplies from Egyptian ports to Turkey and that the escape of military shipments to Turkey has nullified the purpose for which the ships were originally chartered to Turkey by the British Government. We understand from the State Department that the British authorities in London and Ambassador Hugesen are anxious to receive in return for the re-charter of the *Almas* ships a substantial sum from the Turkish Government. In addition to various political conditions proposed tentatively by the British Government as a condition to the re-charter of the *Almas* ships, the British are apparently suggesting that a further condition might be added to the effect that a suitable Turkish vessel up to the tonnage of one *Almas* ship should be placed at the disposal of the British and American Governments for refugee evacuation operations. We understand that at the present time

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State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 18 1972

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of the Adana ships as a basis for requesting the Turkish Government to waive such guarantee in the future unless the Turks are willing to make a similar guarantee to replace any of the Adana ships that are lost. However, if the giving of a guarantee in kind appears absolutely necessary in order to obtain the use of Turkish vessels the War Refugee Board will, despite all difficulties, seriously consider giving such a guarantee in connection with future voyages of the TARI or any other Turkish vessel because of the urgent humanitarian considerations involved and the strong interest of this Government in the refugee evacuation program. It should be clearly understood that the original guarantee to replace the TARI in the event of loss on its first voyage still stands and that the above refers to subsequent voyages of the TARI and any other Turkish vessels made available for refugee evacuation purposes.

The State Department is transmitting the Board's recommendations to the British.

This is War Refugee Board cable to Ankara No. 46

May 30, 1944
11:40 a.m.

MJM:tmh 5-30-44

MJM

000690

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

May 29, 1944

Re: Re-Charter of the "Adana" Ships
to Turkey

Reference is made to Mr. Marks' memorandum to me of May 27, 1944, concerning his conference with Mr. Merchant of the State Department on the same day.

I called Mr. Merchant this morning and apologized for not being present at the prior meeting. I explained to Mr. Merchant that the purpose of the memorandum handed to him by Marks was to strengthen Ambassador Steinhardt's hand in his future dealings with the Turkish Government concerning refugee matters.

Mr. Merchant stated that he had reread the memorandum and was now preparing a letter to the British Embassy setting forth in substance the conditions proposed by the War Refugee Board to the re-charter of the "Adana" ships to the Turkish Government. He added that he would give this letter to Mr. Warren for clearance with the War Refugee Board as to the form of the conditions as drafted by him.


J. B. Friedman

00069

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

May 29, 1944

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J. B. Friedman

MSM
MJ:ms 5/29/44

000692

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE May 27, 1944

TO Mr. J. Friedman

FROM M. J. Marks *mjm*

Re: Conference held at 11:00 a.m. on May 27, 1944 with Mr. Livingston T. Merchant, Chief of the Eastern Hemisphere Division, State Department, Room 357 concerning the re-charter of the five "Adana" ships. *Noted JBT for files*

I handed Mr. Merchant our memorandum, dated May 26, 1944, concerning the "Adana" ships and explained that the War Refugee Board was in complete agreement with the view expressed by the British Government. I added that the purpose of the memorandum was to furnish a description of the present obstacles to the War Refugee Board's obtaining of Turkish ships for refugee evacuation operations, in order that the manner in which the British Government may best phrase the conditions to the re-charter of the "Adana" ships may be intelligently indicated.

After reading the memorandum hastily, Mr. Merchant remarked that he had no comments for the time being, although he would like to read the memorandum more carefully this afternoon. Mr. Merchant stated that if he had no comment to make after rereading the memorandum later today, he would present it to the British Embassy without further formality. I asked whether in such a case the memorandum would be presented to the British with the support of the State Department. Mr. Merchant replied that in such a case the memorandum would, of course, be presented "as the view of the United States Government".

Mr. Merchant observed in passing that since last April, when the charters of the "Adana" ships first commenced to expire, the Turkish Government had ceased all shipments of chrome to Germany. He considered it possible, although unlikely, that the British and American Governments may now determine to reward the Turkish Government for its cooperation by recommencing the shipment of military supplies to Turkey. In such an event, he stated, the British Government would probably re-charter the "Adana" ships to the Turkish Government without any conditions. I replied that even in such an event it might be possible to propose certain mild humanitarian conditions to the re-charter of the "Adana" ships such as those proposed by the War Refugee Board. Mr. Merchant agreed that this was possible.

Mr. Merchant promised to telephone me this afternoon to advise me of his final reaction to our memorandum.

00069

May 27, 1944

Mr. J. Friedman

Mr. J. Marks

Re: Conference held at 11:00 a.m. on May 27, 1944 with Mr. Livingston T. Merchant, Chief of the Eastern Hemisphere Division, State Department, Room 357 concerning the re-charter of the five "Adana" ships.

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Mr. Merchant promised to telephone me this afternoon to advise me of his final reaction to our memorandum.

MJMarks/sg 5/27/44

MEMORANDUM

Re: Re-charter of the Five "Adana" Ships to the Turkish Government on condition, among others, that the Turkish Government make available a Turkish vessel for refugee evacuations in the Black Sea.

The War Refugee Board is in complete agreement with the British suggestion, mentioned in Mr. Merchant's memorandum of April 20, 1944, that the re-chartering of the five so-called Adana ships to the Turkish Government be conditioned, among other things, upon the agreement of that Government to assist in evacuating refugees in the Black Sea area.

The present status of the evacuation arrangements between the United States and the Turkish Government is as follows:

1. Arrangements for a single voyage of the SS FARI.

After long negotiations, arrangements have been made for the Turkish Government to charter to the United States, acting by and through the War Refugee Board, the SS FARI, a small passenger vessel which can accommodate approximately 1500 passengers. This vessel is to be chartered for a single voyage to evacuate refugees from Constanta, Rumania to Haifa, Palestine, contingent upon -

(a) the United States Government agreeing to replace the vessel in kind if the same is lost; and

(b) the obtaining of safe-conducts from all belligerents.

The United States has agreed to replace the FARI if lost on this voyage, but the voyage has not been made to date because a German safe-conduct has not been forthcoming.

With the thought in view that the German Government would be more willing to grant a safe-conduct if the vessel should terminate its voyage in a neutral port rather than a belligerent port, Ambassador Steinhardt has arranged for a modification of the proposed charter terms so as to permit the termination of the voyage in Izenderun, a Turkish Mediterranean port, rather than in Haifa, if this would meet the German requirements for a safe-conduct. Notification of the proposed change has been communicated to the Germans but they have not yet acted upon the request for a safe-conduct.

2. Negotiations for other evacuations.

It was also contemplated that the SS FARI would be made available for

From Steinhardt's files

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subsequent voyages to Haifa if the United States would undertake to lend the Turkish Government a passenger vessel to fly the Turkish flag for the period of time during which the SS TARI would be used for evacuation purposes.

Existing arrangements for the evacuation of refugees across the Black Sea are unsatisfactory in the following respects:

1. Future voyages of the SS TARI.

Although at present the TARI cannot proceed for want of a German safe-conduct, it is essential that, should such a safe-conduct be obtained or should conditions so change that the TARI might operate without a German safe-conduct, the TARI be able to proceed without delay not merely on one but on the largest possible number of voyages. The following points must be clarified before arrangements in this respect can be deemed to be satisfactory:

(a) Loan of passenger vessel to be used by Turkish Government during time TARI is engaged in evacuation operations. The shipping situation is such as to render it impossible for any of the Allied governments to lend a passenger vessel to the Turkish Government as requested by that Government.

(b) Termination of voyage. It is thought important that evacuation voyages terminate in a Turkish Black Sea port rather than at Haifa because -

(i) Safe-conducts might be more readily obtained for voyages terminating at a neutral port than for voyages terminating at a belligerent port;

(ii) The shorter voyage would facilitate the implementation by the military authorities of the belligerents of any safe-conduct granted;

(iii) The resulting shorter voyages would mean the evacuation of a greater number of refugees, which is of utmost importance in view of the limited shipping available; and

(iv) Future military developments might possibly render it safe in the opinion of the British and American authorities, to make the relatively short voyage across the Black Sea without a German safe-conduct, whereas this probably would be less likely to be true in the case of the long voyage into the Mediterranean.

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2. Voyages by small vessels proceeding without safe-conducts.

At present the only refugee evacuations now taking place across the Black Sea are on three small vessels flying the Bulgarian flag. These vessels, proceeding without German safe-conduct, have been making repeated voyages from Rumania to Turkey, carrying about 250 refugees per voyage. The Turkish Government, although at first reluctant to do so, has been countenancing these trips at the repeated insistence of the British and American authorities, and has been permitting the refugees to land and proceed by rail to Palestine. The proposed arrangements with regard to the TARI do not take into account the need for continuing this traffic without restraint by the Turkish Government and, if possible, intensifying such operations by pressing into service other small boats which could operate in the same way.

Conclusion

The War Refugee Board agrees with the suggestion of the British Government that the re-chartering of the "Adana" vessels be conditioned generally upon the agreement of the Turkish Government to assist more effectively in refugee evacuations in the Black Sea area, and suggests further that such arrangements be conditioned specifically upon:

(a) The Turkish Government's making available the SS TARI or a similar passenger vessel for repeated refugee evacuation voyages across the Black Sea to a Turkish Black Sea port as soon, as in the opinion of the British and American Ambassadors to Turkey, such voyages become feasible. It should be understood that the Turkish Government's request for a substitute passenger vessel would be fully met by the chartering to it of the five "Adana" ships;

(b) The Turkish Government's cooperating with the American Ambassador in effecting arrangements whereby evacuation operations by small boats proceeding on voyages across the Black Sea be continued and if possible intensified. Such cooperation would include - (i) permitting all refugees arriving in this manner to land in Turkish Black Sea ports until they can be taken to havens of refuge elsewhere; and (ii) actively assisting the American and British Ambassadors in their efforts to find and put into service in Turkey small boats which can operate in the same manner as the three Bulgarian boats.

It is, of course, intended that the War Refugee Board will (i) arrange for the payment of a fair and reasonable charter hire for the use of any vessels made available, and (ii) will assume the responsibility of arranging for the maintenance and support of refugees in transport or awaiting transportation in Turkey.

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As indicated above, the Turkish Government has been given a guarantee of replacement in kind in the event of the loss of the SS TARI on its first voyage. In view of the obvious difficulties involved in making such a replacement, the United States Government does not desire to renew such guarantee with respect to subsequent voyages of the SS TARI or a similar vessel or to make a similar guarantee in the case of other vessels made available. Necessary arrangements will, of course, be made in all cases to protect against risk of loss by provision through insurance or otherwise, to pay the owner the value of a lost vessel.

In view of the possibility that the Turks may insist upon a guarantee of replacement in kind in the case of all vessels, consideration might be given to using the re-chartering of the "Adana" ships as a basis for asking the Turkish Government to waive the condition unless they are willing to give a similar guarantee to replace any of the "Adana" ships that may be lost.

Because of the urgent humanitarian considerations involved and the strong interest of this Government in the evacuation program, the giving of a guarantee of replacement in kind will, of course, be seriously considered despite all difficulties if such a guarantee appears necessary in order to obtain the use of Turkish vessels for refugee evacuation purposes.

JBF:MJM:AMB:bbk
5/26/44

1st draft

MEMORANDUM

Re: Recharter of the Five "Adana" Ships to the Turkish Government on condition, among others, that the Turkish Government make available a Turkish vessel for refugee evacuations in the Black Sea.

For reasons that will appear below, the War Refugee Board is in complete agreement with the British suggestion mentioned in Mr. Merchant's memorandum of April 20, 1944, that the re-chartering of the five so-called "Adana" ships to the Turkish Government be conditioned, among other things, upon the agreement of that Government to make a vessel available for refugee evacuations in the Black Sea area.

History of War Refugee Board's Efforts to Obtain a Turkish Ship for Refugee Evacuations in the Black Sea Area.

After long negotiations, the Turkish Government consented to charter the SS Tari, a small passenger vessel fitted to carry 1500 passengers, to the War Refugee Board for a single voyage to evacuate refugees from the port of Constanza in Rumania. During the course of these negotiations the Turkish Government insisted on many conditions which were regarded by the American representatives as unreasonable but which were finally acceded to because human lives were in the balance.

One of the points which the Turkish Government repeatedly emphasized during the negotiations was that neither the United States nor Great Britain with all the shipping available to them was willing to furnish a ship for refugee evacuation operations, and that it was unreasonable to expect Turkey with its very limited shipping to do so. Every effort was made by the Turkish Government to obtain from the United States a gift or a loan of one or more ships as a condition to making available the SS Tari for refugee evacuation. Despite the fact that all American passenger ships are desperately needed for military purposes, the Turkish Government refused to make the SS Tari available even for one voyage unless its replacement in the event of loss with a comparable passenger vessel was guaranteed by the United States Government. The Turkish Government rejected the War Refugee Board's offer to replace the SS Tari in case of loss with a cargo vessel of similar age and tonnage. Finally, in addition to agreeing to an extremely high charter hire and many other onerous charter terms, the Board was forced to make the passenger vessel replacement guarantee. Moreover, the Turkish Government made it clear that the SS Tari would be permitted to make only one voyage unless by the completion of such voyage, the War Refugee Board had arranged to make available to the Turkish Government a passenger vessel on a loan or gift basis to be used while the SS Tari would be engaged in refugee evacuation operations. It is, of course, impossible to meet this condition at the present time.

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The Present Situation

1. Notwithstanding the fact that the War Refugee Board has finally been able to charter the Tari for a single voyage from Constanza, it has not been possible to make this voyage because a German safe-conduct, required by the charter, has not been forthcoming despite appeals to the German Government through all possible channels, including the Turkish Government itself. It appears likely that a German safe-conduct cannot be obtained.

It is important, however, should a German safe-conduct be obtained or should the situation so change that the Tari or a similar vessel could, in the opinion of British and American authorities in Turkey, make one or more voyages across the Black Sea to Turkey from Rumanian or Bulgarian ports with a reasonable degree of safety without a German safe-conduct, that the Turkish Government immediately make available the Tari or a similar vessel without further haggling as to details and insistence on the conditions of replacement mentioned above.

2. At the present time, three small boats flying the Bulgarian flag are making repeated evacuation voyages from Constanza to Istanbul, carrying about 250 refugees a voyage. These boats apparently are operating without German safe-conducts and the refugee passengers do not have any papers. These "illegal" voyages have been permitted by the Turkish Government to terminate in Turkey only as a result of the insistence of the British and American authorities. The Turks now permit these refugees to land in Turkey and proceed by rail to Palestine. Upon their disembarkation at Istanbul, the British authorities give them the necessary permits to enter Palestine.

So long as ships like the Tari cannot operate, it is essential that these "illegal" voyages continue and if possible, be increased. Accordingly, until such time as conditions permit the Tari or similar vessels to be used, it would be extremely helpful if the Turkish Government could make available small coastal or similar boats capable of carrying relatively small numbers of refugees as is being done by the small Bulgarian boats.

Conclusion

It seems clear that the question of the renewal of the charters of the five "Adana" ships offers a good opportunity for achieving the objectives indicated in the preceding section of the memorandum. The War Refugee Board accordingly would consider it extremely helpful if the re-charter of these ships could be made on the following conditions, among others:

1. If, in the judgment of the British and American Ambassadors to Turkey, refugee evacuation operations by sea from Rumania or Bulgaria can be undertaken by the Tari or a similar vessel, with or without a German safe-conduct, the Turkish Government will make available promptly to an agency designated by the British and American Ambassadors, the SS Tari or a similar passenger ship.

2. The Tari or a similar vessel will be made available at a reasonable charter hire. Moreover, the Turkish Government will not require a guarantee of replacement of the above vessel in the event of loss, unless that Government has given a similar guarantee in the case of the five cargo vessels being chartered to it. The risk of loss of such vessel will be borne in the same manner as the risk of loss of the five cargo ships.

3. At the request of the British and American Ambassadors, the Turkish Government will permit all refugee evacuation voyages from Rumania or Bulgaria to terminate at a Turkish Black Sea port designated by the British and American Ambassadors and will permit and facilitate the transit across Turkey of refugees arriving on such ships.

The privilege of terminating evacuation voyages in Turkey is of great importance, not only because of the possibility that a German safe-conduct is more likely to be forthcoming for a voyage terminating in neutral territory rather than in Palestine, but also because more voyages can be made simply across the Black Sea and possibly more persons can be carried on each voyage.

To the extent that it may be necessary for any refugees evacuated from Rumania or Bulgaria to remain in Turkey for temporary periods while awaiting transportation to other areas, the War Refugee Board will make all financial and other arrangements for their maintenance and support.

4. The re-charter of the five "Adana" ships shall constitute a fulfillment of the condition of the Turkish Government that in order for the SS Tari to make more than a single voyage, it will be necessary to furnish to Turkey on a charter basis, or otherwise, a substitute passenger vessel. Accordingly, the Turkish Government will make the SS Tari or a similar passenger vessel available for repeated evacuation voyages at the request of the British and American Ambassadors so long as the charter of any one of the "Adana" ships remains in effect.

5. Until such time as the British and American Ambassadors to Turkey determine that evacuation voyages can be made by the Tari or a similar vessel as indicated in Point 1, the Turkish Government will, upon the request of the British and American Ambassadors, make available promptly to an agency designated by the Ambassadors, small coastal boats capable of making voyages across the Black Sea without German safe-conduct in the same manner as the three Bulgarian boats. The number of such boats to be made available shall be determined by the British and American Ambassadors in the light of the availability of such shipping in Turkey at the time, but the aggregate gross tonnage of the boats requested will in no event exceed that of one "Adana" ship.

The Following Pages Are the Best Available

000702

Human clearly replied in the course of my discussion with him today that even though I had not as yet formally signed the contract, he considers the TARI under charter to the board. Therefore, we must anticipate eventual difficulties with the State Steamship Lines in determining the amount to be paid for the TARI. In this connection and solely for my guidance, advise the board as to the maximum obligation, if it is prepared to incur for the TARI whether or not the vessel is ultimately available, will be appreciated by us.

STEWART

BERNARD 5/27/44

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Akzin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodol, Laughlin, Lasser, Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Smith, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H. D. White, Files

4.

2 vac. to r. thru Turkey

④ DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS
Ankara

MF-1786

Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement. **DEC 13 PM 3 30** Dated December 12, 1944

Rec'd 2:45 a.m., 13th

COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS (LIAISON)

Secretary of State

Washington

CONTROL COPY

2348, December 12, midnight.

FOR THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD FROM THE AMBASSADOR

ANKARA NUMBER 204.

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

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

STEINHARDT

JMS

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

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

AVH-594

Ankara

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

Dated November 18, 1944

Rec'd 11:05 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

CONTROL COPY

X
2212, November 18, noon.

FROM KATZKI TO PEHLE WAR REFUGEE BOARD. ANKARA'S 187

Pursuant to Ambassador Steinhardt's agreement with
the Turkish Foreign Office two groups of emigrants
aggregating 104 persons departed from Istanbul by rail-
road on November 16 and 17 respectively proceeding to
Palestine. These emigrants who arrived in Istanbul
by railroad comprised a group of 38 Polish refugees
from Rumania which arrived November 11, a group of 46
persons from Bulgaria including 36 children which
arrived on November 13, the balance was made up of
individual emigrants from Bulgaria who arrived during
the week of November 12.

STEINHARDT

RR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE August 15, 1944

TO Mr. Pehle
FROM Mr. Friedman

Pehle
8/15/44

The Secretary General of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated to Counsellor Kelley, in reply to his offer to arrange for the support and maintenance of refugees while in transit through Turkey, that it would be extremely helpful if the United States could arrange to make available a few passenger cars to the Turkish railroads from one of the Near Eastern stations in order to accelerate transportation of refugees (Ankara No. 1430 of August 8).

For obvious reasons, I think that we should explore the possibility of granting the Turkish Government's request. I am inclined to believe that the addition of even as few as a dozen passenger cars will probably increase Turkish railway transit capacity substantially.

I recommend that you call Oscar Cox and discuss with him the possibility of shipping a dozen or so passenger cars to Turkey from Palestine or Syria or some other Middle Eastern station. Although this may not be a lend-lease problem, Oscar should be able to give helpful advice.

J. B. Friedman

August 15, 1944

Mr. Pehle

Mr. Friedman

The Secretary General of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated to Counsellor Kelley, in reply to his offer to arrange for the support and maintenance of refugees while in transit through Turkey, that it would be extremely helpful if the United States could arrange to make available a few passenger cars to the Turkish railroads from one of the Near Eastern stations in order to accelerate transportation of refugees (Ankara No. 1430 of August 8).

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MJHark:JBFriedman:dmc

8/15/44

Wym

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: AMERICAN EMBASSY, Ankara
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: August 5, 1944
NUMBER: 1430
X

g. h. v. R. P. B. K. H.
Pelle

CONTROL COPY

With reference to Department's cable 665, dated July 28, 1944, following a consultation with my British colleague and after being advised that no instructions from London had been received by him on the subject, this morning I discussed the matter of issuance of Turkish transit visas to people in Hungary who hold Palestinian certificates or American immigration visas which were issued on or subsequent to the first of July, 1941, with the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During the conversation, I requested having instructions sent at once to Turkish Consular officers in Hungary to issue Turkish transit visas to such people without prior consultation with Ankara. In addition, I requested him to have like instructions dispatched to the Turkish Consular officers in Slovakia, Bulgaria and Rumania. The reply of the Secretary General was that he was sure his Government would be willing to take the measures requested immediately. It was his hope that the transportation of refugees from Hungary could be arranged for in such a manner that they would go to Istanbul by vessel, from Burgas or Varna preferably.

With respect

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

With respect to our assurance that the U.S. would be willing to arrange for the support and maintenance of refugees while in Turkey, he declared that it should be of the most aid to the Turkish Government at this time when a highly increased burden has been placed on the railroads of Turkey as a result of the halting of Turkish coastwise shipping services, if the U.S. could make arrangements to make available a few passenger cars to the Turkish railroads from one of the Near Eastern nations, in order to accelerate the transportation of refugees. It is my strong recommendation that WRB and the Department put forth every endeavor to comply with this very reasonable request of the Government of Turkey.

Referring to paragraph No. five, as reported in Embassy's cable 1365, dated July 25, 1944, Hirschmann has urged Cretzianu to persuade his Government to issue, without limit, Rumanian transit visas to Jewish refugees who are departing for Palestine from Hungary via Rumania.

KELLEY

DCR:JED

8/8/44

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

DE-
Kistat
Reading
Agency

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

July 1, 1944

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

CONTROL COPY

5. War Ref Bd
Tom Bell

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUL 3 1944
DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS & RECORDS

AMEMBASSY,

ANKARA.

The War Refugees Board cable 61 below is for Hirschmann.

The following cable received from Lisbon:

QUOTE British Embassy Ankara has telegraphed British Legation Lisbon stating number Jewish refugees Constanza 1,300 not 8,000 as claimed by Joint here. Suggested transshipment from Istanbul by rail also questioned by British representatives Ankara who claim inadequacy rail facilities for even this smaller number UNQUOTE.

It is assumed a plan can be evolved, in view your talk with Secretary General of the Foreign Office referred to in ^{Ankara's} ~~YOUR~~ log of June 14, for transshipment of refugees arriving in Istanbul on Turkish ships to Palestine by rail.

HULL
(GEM)

WRB:MMV:KG
7/1/44

NE

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

CABLE TO AMBASSADOR STEINHARDT AND IRA HERSCHMANN, ANKARA, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

For your information the following cable has been received from
Lisbon:

QUOTE For your information, British Embassy, Lisbon, in receipt
telegram from British Legation, Ankara, stating number Jewish refugees
Constantans 1,300 not 5,000 as claimed by Joint here. British representatives
Ankara also question suggested transshipment from Istanbul by rail. British
claim railway facilities inadequate even for this smaller number UNQUOTE

In view of your talk with the Secretary General of the Foreign Office
referred to in your 1066 of June 14, it is assumed that a plan can be worked
out for the transshipment by rail to Palestine of refugees arriving in Istanbul
on Turkish ships.

This is WRB Cable to Ankara No. 61

11:00 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

VHS:JW:bbk - 6/27/44

WJM

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

CONTROL COPY

GEM-151 For security reasons the
Distribution of this message is
true reading only by special arrangement
() Dated June 23, 1944
Rec'd 12:47 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

1948, June 23, 1 p.m.
THIS IS WRB 80.

For your information, British Embassy, Lisbon,
in receipt telegram from British Legation, Ankara,
stating number Jewish refugees Constanza 1,300 not
5,000 as claimed by Joint here. British representa-
tives Ankara also question suggested transshipment
from Istanbul by rail. British claim railway/facili-
ties inadequate even for this smaller number.

NORWEB

EJH
LMS

*6/26/44
Discussed with REP-
No suggest to Dept to Standard
-1
JH*

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

ABLE TO ARRANGE TRANSPORT AND THE MINORITIES IN ANKARA FROM
THE REFUGEE BOARD.

For your information the following cable has been received
from Lisbon:

NOTE: For your information, British Embassy, Lisbon,
in receipt telegram from British Legation, Ankara, stating
number Jewish refugees Constantia 1,800 not 8,000 as claimed by
Joint here. British representatives Ankara also question sug-
gested transshipment from Istanbul by rail. British claim
railway facilities inadequate even for this smaller number. UNRWA

THRO 6/26/44

Turkey

May 2, 1944

: Messrs. Friedman and Mann
 : Mr. Marks
 Re : Conference to be held in Mr. Friedman's office at 10 A.M. on
 May 3, 1944, with representatives of Foreign Economic Adminis-
 tration.

The Foreign Economic Administration representatives who will be present at this conference are Messrs. J. E. Harris, Jr., Chief of the Near East Section, and Carl Austrian, Chief of the Foreign Economic Administration Mission in Turkey, who has just returned to the United States in the past week.

The purpose of the conference is to canvass the possibility of obtaining railroad rolling stock to be sold or lend-leased to the Turkish Government. Cable No. 657 dated April 12, 1944, from Ambassador Steinhardt indicates that the Turkish Government is resentful of the pressure imposed upon the Government to permit refugees to cross Turkey by rail from Bulgaria to Syria at a time when Turkish railroad facilities are already desperately overtaxed. In an interview with Ambassador Steinhardt the Foreign Minister of Turkey caustically referred to the fact that although aware of the acute shortage of Turkish rolling stock neither the British nor the American Government had offered to make available to the Turkish Government locomotives or railroad cars for the movement of refugees across Turkey.

The following is the daily capacity of the railroad line from Haydarpassa, a suburb of Istanbul, to Aleppo, Syria, according to a memorandum dated April 12, 1944, from Mr. Harris to Mr. Zarly:

Haydarpassa	-	Eskisehir	11 trains each way
Eskisehir	-	Afyonkarahisar	20 trains each way
Afyonkarahisar	-	Konya	12 trains each way
Konya	-	Adana	12 trains each way
Adana	-	Aleppo	9 trains each way

An examination of these figures makes it clear that even a slight increase in the railroad rolling stock available to the Turkish Government would expand greatly the carrying capacity of the Istanbul - Aleppo line. Thus the carrying capacity of the line could perhaps be increased by 10% if sufficient equipment for one extra train per day were made available for the run between Adana and Aleppo. If this were done it is extremely likely that the Turkish Government would consent to permit many more refugees to cross Turkey by rail than is now possible, and in this way the refugee railroad bottle-neck at Istanbul would be overcome.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

INTER OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE April 18, 1944

TO: Mr. Pehle
FROM: Mr. Hirschmann

Attached is one of the memoranda I sent to Ambassador Steinhardt from Ankara to Istanbul where he was working when I left on April 5th. It covers some of the projects on the War Refugee Board's program; their status and recommendations ^{to} ~~will~~ follow through in my absence.

On Item 2, Page 1, Ambassador Steinhardt has since telegraphed in his No. 643 of April 10th that the rail "convoys" is now in operation according to plan.

JMH

Attachment

Memorandum for the Ambassador

Ankara, April 5, 1944

I am listing below a number of subjects of "unfinished business" which may be helpful to you and your associates after my departure:

1. The S.S. TARI. (a) The British should be notified when we sign the charter and set the date for the departure of the Tari. Mr. Maby asks to be notified in advance of the number of passengers, their gender and ages, so he may inform Palestine sufficiently in advance. (b) Permission should be obtained to give a copy of the charter to Mr. Simond, or permit him to see a copy, when it is concluded so he may have the facts therein at his disposal. (c) Simond requires information regarding the route of the ship. This is for purposes of navigation. I have asked Black to secure this but in the event he is not able to supply it before his departure Simond should have authorization to secure it from the Turkish Shipping Office. (d) As per the attached, Barlas believes that the foodstuffs can be satisfactorily arranged from Constanza. This is predicated upon his experience in connection with the S.S. MILKA. I still think it is taking a chance and shall tell him so. There is only a verbal understanding between him and me that he, representing the Jewish Agency, will be entirely responsible for providing the food and medical care during the proposed trip of the Tari. (e) The question of bread service may arise. We agreed to intervene in Ankara in this matter if it is necessary. (f) I am asking Barlas to make certain to have photographs taken of the ship and the refugees as they land. He has failed to do so in other instances and somebody should check on him in advance. These photographs will really be valuable evidence for the future and also good publicity material even though they should arrive some weeks later in America. (g) It is of primary importance that as soon as the date, or even the approximate date, is fixed for the arrival of the Tari at Constanza Simond be notified in order for him to communicate immediately with Cretzianu. The agreement with Cretzianu is that as soon as the date is set I am to notify him and he will take the responsibility of seeing that the 1500 refugees are at the port of Constanza.

2. Rail Traffic. Following your last talk with the Foreign Minister on this subject the traffic through Bulgaria should be moving without delay. There is no evidence to date that the movement has been expedited. You may wish to have this followed up in the near future. When this traffic begins to move again in a steady

flow

I gather from your statement that the Turkish Government will permit an increase above the nine families per week, etc. This would be an accomplishment that would be welcome news in Washington, both by the War Refugee Board and the public.

In my talk today with Balabanoff he was emphatic in stating that the rail traffic for refugees from Bulgarian to Turkey had been expedited in the last weeks and that there would be further progress in this direction in the near future. He referred to the bombing of Sofia and its consequent interruptions with efforts on the part of his government to assist in the release of refugees.

3. Inside the Balkans. My several memoranda of April 6th on the subject of my conversations with the Rumanian and Bulgarian Foreign Ministers cover this to date. The two representatives of the above governments are eager to carry on their conversations on the subject with someone and I encouraged them to talk with Simond to get reports of progress. Simond will either talk to you or Mr. Packer. I would respectfully suggest that this liaison should not be lost during my absence. Simond wishes to keep me informed in Washington of the progress of these talks and has asked for permission to telegraph through the Embassy. I referred him to Mr. Packer and of course we understand that any message can only go under your authorization. I think it desirable, if you agree, that I be kept informed while in Washington of the progress of the steps in this delicate field, as it may be fruitful in the broader aspects of our constructive work in the Balkans and the publicity that can be released about it in Ankara. There is also good material for magazine articles which would be helpful to the Board's program and the broader program.

4. Other Ships. Black informs me that telegrams are still coming through from Washington indicating that they are thrashing around to find substitute ships. When I return to Washington I hope to clarify this situation and to see that the line is cleared exclusively through the War Refugee Board to you. At the same time I hope while there to secure permission for the release of a ship from the Anglo-American pool for the purposes recommended in our previous telegrams for a regular refugee traffic by boat.

5. Illegal Traffic. I am afraid you are going to be pressed by a large amount of this in the spring and summer, from the reports which come to me. Barlas is really the official head of the organization under which a subordinate division is handling this alleged underground (or undersea) traffic. For some other reason or other

the

April 21, 1944

Mr. Friedman
Mr. Marks
Re: Lend-lease of railroad equipment to Turkey.

At your suggestion I spoke to Mr. J. E. Harris, Jr., Chief of the Near East Section of Foreign Economic Administration. Although Mr. Harris deals primarily with preclusive purchasing in the Near East and does not claim to be an expert in lend-lease matters, he gave me the following information.

He feels that it will be almost impossible to send railroad equipment to Turkey for two reasons (a) the lack of such equipment in the Mediterranean area (b) there are only two ports in Turkey where delivery may be made and the facilities of these ports are already overtaxed.

I asked Mr. Harris whether there was not a possibility of shipping such equipment to ports further down the coast, as for example in Syria or Palestine, and then shipping such equipment overland into Turkey. I pointed out to Mr. Harris that an examination of the figures given in his memorandum to Mr. Zarky, dated April 12, 1944, makes it clear that Turkey is so desperately short of railroad equipment that even two engines together with the rolling stock which they can haul would increase the railroad facilities from Turkey to Palestine by approximately 10%.

Mr. Harris was of the view that it might be far easier to ship in to Turkey motor lorries rather than railroad equipment.

Mr. Harris stated that Carl Austrian, the Foreign Economic Administration's preclusive purchasing expert in Turkey, is expected to arrive in Washington within the next ten days. He promised to arrange for me to confer with Mr. Austrian upon his arrival here.

Harris — Expt 2658 FEA

WJMarks:lsk 4/21/44

*War. Refugee Bd
MVP/Ed*

1 copy only

W. Steinhardt

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: The American Embassy, Ankara
To: The Secretary of State, Washington
Date: April 10, 1944
NUMBER: 643
x

CONTROL COPY

The following message is from the Ambassador for the War Refugee Board and is number 32 from Ankara.

I have been advised by the Foreign Office that the Government of Turkey has now put into effect a plan for the evacuation of the refugees from the Balkans by rail via the key agreed upon before Hirschman left and that three "convoys" have already departed for Turkey from Hungary.

Please advise Hirschman that his plan is already in operation, when he arrives in Washington. The details of the plan will be put before the board by him.

STEINHARDT

DOR:WPL
4/13/44

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

RH-317
This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Government
agency. (SC-00)

Ankara
Dated March 3, 1944
Rec'd 4:55 p.m., 4th

Secretary of State,
Washington.

3:30, March 3, 5 p.m.
Department's 146, February 25.

While expressing their desire to cooperate the Turk authorities are reluctant to commit themselves to any further increase in rail transit facilities through Turkey to Palestine for Jewish refugees from the Balkans until the facilities they have already granted are availed of. To be specific the Turk authorities have authorized the issuance of many more Turk transit visas than have been utilized thus far and have offered to provide more rail transportation facilities than we have been able to avail ourselves of up to the present time. The authorities feel that until the visa and rail transit facilities already placed at our disposal have been availed of any discussion of additional visas, rail facilities or the setting up of camps serves no useful purpose. They have, however, assured me that if and when the visas and rail facilities available to us are no longer sufficient they will be prepared to discuss ways and means of dealing with the situation. In connection with the foregoing I do not know whether the Far Refugee Board is aware of the fact that the Turk authorities have authorized transit visas for five thousand Jewish refugees en route to Palestine but that it has not been possible to use more than a fraction of these visas due to the obstacles which up to the present time have been placed in the way of the departure of Jewish refugees from the Axis occupied countries and to administrative delays. Very recently the restrictions in Bulgaria preventing the departure of Jewish refugees have been somewhat relaxed. Unless, therefore, new obstacles are encountered I am hopeful that we will be able to materially increase the movement in the near future.

The foregoing applies, of course, only to transit by rail through Turkey. Insofar as concerns the evacuation of Jewish refugees by sea from Rumania or Bulgarian ports the Turk authorities have agreed to reopen negotiations for the charter of the SS VARDAR on the basis of the guarantee of replacement which I have conveyed to the Turk government in writing. At the same time we have opened negotiations with the Minister of Communications with whom I spoke yesterday for the proposed purchase by the Far Refugee Board of the SS HELIG at a cost of approximately \$400,000 the vessel to be donated to the Turk Red Crescent and to become its property after completing the transportation to Palestine under the auspices of the International Red Cross of 5,000

-2- #30, March 3, 5 p.m., from Ankara.

Jew refugee children from Rumania. We estimate that the purchase price of this vessel would be approximately the same as the cost of transporting 5,000 children by a vessel under charter and that by the donation of the vessel we might be able to persuade the Turk Red Crescent to continue the vessel in operation to carry additional refugees after the agreement to transport the 5,000 children has been carried out.

In view of the fact that the proposed charter of the SS VATAN and proposed purchase of the SS NEGAT cannot be regarded as other than pending negotiations and insurmountable delays are invariably encountered in carrying on negotiations in this part of the world I renew my urgent recommendation that a Swedish vessel preferable one already in near Eastern waters be chartered immediately by the War Refugee Board and diverted to Istanbul at the earliest possible moment.

It would appear from the telegrams received by Hirschmann and myself that the War Refugee Board is under the impression that the principal difficulty with which we have been confronted has been a reluctance on the part of the Turk Government to cooperate. Thus far this has not been the case. Up to the present time our principal difficulty has been the refusal of the Axis authorities in the Balkans to permit Jewish refugees to depart. While transportation continues to present serious difficulties this should not be inseluble provided the departure of Jew refugees from the Balkans in increasing numbers can be effective.

I have not hesitated to discuss the entire subject fully and freely with the Foreign Office, the Minister of Communications and other high Turk Government officials for the reason advanced by the Department that my discussions on this subject have no relationship to Turkey's role in the war. In so doing I have made the policy of our Government of which the War Refugee Board is the instrument unmistakable clear to the Turk Government. Accordingly, I have felt free to press the Turks to lend us their fullest cooperation.

Hirschman has been extremely active and diligent and has acquired a thorough grasp of the situation in a surprisingly short time in consequence of which I feel that considerable progress has been made during the past two weeks.

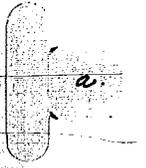
STEINHARDT

EDA

cc: Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Messrs. Abrahamson, Bernstein, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Lesser, Lufford, Mann, McCormack, Paul, Fehle, Pollak, Stewart, H. D. White, Misses Laughlin and Kodel, Mrs. Cohn

5

000720



00072

EMERGENCY COMMITTEE TO SAVE THE JEWISH PEOPLE OF EUROPE

NY 635883

700720

In reply please
refer to: 71753

Sirs:

The War Refugee Board has transmitted to this Department a copy of your letter of June 22, 1944, in which you request its assistance in securing a Treasury license to remit the sum of \$5,000 to Mr. Eri Jabotinsky, Istanbul, Turkey, in order to finance his activities.

Pursuant to the recommendation made to this Department by the War Refugee Board, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York has today been authorized to issue to you a license permitting you to effect the remittance described above, provided, however, that the funds transmitted thereunder will be utilized by Mr. Jabotinsky only as authorized by the American Ambassador and/or Mr. Ira Hirschmann, War Refugee Board Representative, at Ankara, Turkey. Mr. Jabotinsky is required to file periodic reports with this Department through the American Embassy at Ankara, Turkey.

Sincerely yours,

Orvis A. Schmidt

Orvis A. Schmidt,
Acting Director

Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish
People of Europe, Inc.,
25 West 45th Street,
New York, New York.

RBParke:emj 6/28/44

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

5 - Wm. R. P. P. P.

FBM
Distribution of true reading only by special appointment.

July 7, 1944
6 Date

CONTROL COPY

AMEMBASSY, reasons the charge must be properly

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
JUL 9 1944
COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

The following War Refugee Board cable 74 is for Hirschmann:

On recommendation of War Refugee Board, Treasury has issued license to Emergency Committee, New York, permitting remittance of \$5,000 to Eri Jabotinsky provided that such funds be utilized by Jabotinsky only as authorized by Ambassador Steinhardt and/or Hirschmann.

For your guidance, the funds may be used by Jabotinsky in order to arrange for the rescue of persons in enemy territory whose lives are in imminent danger and to sustain and safeguard the lives of such persons pending evacuation to places of safety. The necessary funds, goods or services from persons in enemy territory may be acquired against payment by any of the three methods which are prescribed under Section (A) of License No. W-2166 issued to the Union of Orthodox Rabbis and set forth in Department's cable dated April 8, 1944, No. 311.

Periodic reports should be filed by Jabotinsky through Embassy.

S/CR
WRB:MMV:OMH
7/5/44

NE

HULL

HULL
(GHW)

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

00073

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

On recommendation of War Refugee Board, Treasury has issued license to Emergency Committee, New York, permitting remittance of \$5,000 to Eri Jabotinsky provided that such funds be utilized by Jabotinsky only as authorized by Ambassador Steinhardt and/or Hirschmann:

For your guidance, the funds may be used by Jabotinsky in order to arrange for the rescue of persons in enemy territory whose lives are in imminent danger and to sustain and safeguard the lives of such persons pending evacuation to places of safety. The necessary funds, goods or services from persons in enemy territory may be acquired against payment by any of the three methods which are prescribed under Section (A) of License No. W-2166 issued to the Union of Orthodox Rabbis and set forth in Department's cable dated April 8, 1944, No. 311.

Periodic reports should be filed by Jabotinsky through Embassy.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO ANKARA NO. 74

July 5, 1944
10:45 a.m.

JJA
cc: Sec'y, Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann,
Stewart, Central Files, Cable Control Files.

PH:cb 7/4/44

7 1 0 7 3 1

Secretary Harold L. Ickes, in his message of January 26th to the Emergency Committee, stated: "... Now that the War Refugee Board is in existence the Committee will doubtless direct its efforts to assist the Government in every way possible in the accomplishment of the task and to keep alive the hope of rescue in the hearts of Jewish people of Europe."

EMERGENCY COMMITTEE TO SAVE THE JEWISH PEOPLE OF EUROPE, INC.

25 W. 45th St., New York 19, N. Y. • Bryant 9-4600

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IRVING TAITEL
THOMAS J. WATSON
ALEX WILF

7/10
7/11
June 22, 1944

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

This will gratefully acknowledge your note of June 21. I should like to inform you that we want to send Mr. Eri Jabotinsky the sum of \$1,000.00 immediately and to send him four additional sums of \$1,000 each within the next ten days.

I shall appreciate it if you will arrange the necessary license by the Treasury Department as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

Johan J. Smertenko
Johan J. Smertenko
Executive Vice-Chairman

JJS:sb

Other Committee Offices:

2317 18th Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

716 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, Pa.

139 North Clark Street
Chicago, Ill.

5371 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, Cal.

38 Rashi Street
Tel Aviv, Palestine

333 Washington Street
Boston, Mass.

85 New Cavendish Street
London, W1, England

JUN 21 1944

Dear Mr. Smertenko:

Reference is made to your letter of June 14, 1944, with respect to the remittance of funds to Mr. Jabotinsky for his activities in Turkey.

On the basis of the facts indicated, it appears that a Treasury license is required for such a transaction. I suggest that when you are ready to send funds to Mr. Jabotinsky you again write me, requesting that the Board facilitate the issuance of the necessary license by the Treasury Department.

Very truly yours,

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

Mr. Johan J. Smertenko,
Executive Vice-Chairman,
Emergency Committee to Save
the Jewish People of Europe, Inc.,
25 W. 43rd Street,
New York 19, New York.

*Original signed by
Mr. Pehle*

JM. gms

FH:lab 6/19/44

0 0 0 7 3 4

Secretary Harold L. Ickes, in his message of January 26th to the Emergency Committee, stated: "... Now that the War Refugee Board is in existence the Committee will doubtless direct its efforts to assist the Government in every way possible in the accomplishment of the task and to keep alive the hope of rescue in the hearts of Jewish people of Europe."

EMERGENCY COMMITTEE TO SAVE THE JEWISH PEOPLE OF EUROPE, INC.

25 W. 45th St., New York 19, N. Y. • Bryant 9-4600

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THOMAS J. WATSON
ALEX WILF

June 14, 1944.

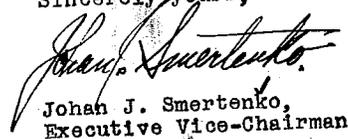
Mr. John W. Pehle, Executive Director,
War Refugee Board,
Treasury Building,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

You are aware of the cables we have received from Mr. Jabotinsky requesting funds for his activities. We shall try to provide these funds but the question arises in my mind as to whether permission from the Treasury Department is necessary to cable this money abroad.

If such permission is required, will you please inform me as to what steps we need to take to obtain it? We shall be very grateful to you if you can arrange to have this permission issued to us.

Sincerely yours,


Johan J. Smertenko,
Executive Vice-Chairman

JJS:EP

Other Committee Offices:

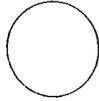
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MÜNAKALÂT VEKÂLETİ
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Devlet telgraf muhaberatından
dolayı mesuliyet kabul etmez.



TELGRAF

(Örnek : B. 1)

Yol

Servis İşaretleri

Adres :

166



HERBERT KATZKI WAR

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966	BUCURESTI	75	5	1900		HUSUSİ				

REFERRING STATE DEPARTMENTS JULY THIRTYFIRST LETTER WHICH YOU HANDED
POSSIBILITY ACCORDING UNITED STATES VISAS TO
SCHLEIFFERS NINE RELATIVES RESIDING RUMANIA PROVIDED THEY REACH COUNTRY
WHERE VISA SERVICES AVAILABLE PLEASE TELEGRAPH WE WHAT POSSIBILITIES
THEIR SECURING TURKISH SYRIAN PALESTINIAN TRANSIT VISAS PERMITTING
THEM APPEAR CONSULATE ISTANBUL AND EVENTUALLY PROCEED HAIFA WHERE LISBON
BOUND SHIP EXPECTED EARLY JANUARY STOP ADDRESS CARE OF INTERNATIONAL
REDCROSS STRADA POLONA BERTRAND JACOBSSON +

GOT 0555/RS CTF CK

Istanbul, August 22, 1944

Dear Dr. Schweitzer:

There is enclosed herewith, for your information, copy of a letter addressed to me under date of August 19, 1944 by E. L. Packer, First Secretary of the American Embassy, having reference to the issuance of a visa to and the amendment of the passport of Mr. Simon Bertrand Jacobson.

Cordially yours,

I. A. Hirschmann
Special Attache

Dr. David J. Schweitzer
Ayas Pasa Gayret 4
Istanbul

Encl.

IAH:VH

00073



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AMERICAN EMBASSY

Ankara, August 19, 1944

~~RESTRICTED~~

Dear Ira:-

Mr. Kelley has turned over to me your memorandum of August 15, concerning Mr. Simon Bertrand Jacobson.

We are taking up with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here the question of the issuance of a visa to enter Turkey, but the question of the amendment of his passport - assuming that he is an American citizen - is one for action by our Legation or Consulate General at Lisbon, - a matter that I suppose Mr. Jacobson has already taken up with one office or another there.

Sincerely,

E. L. Packer

E. L. Packer,
First Secretary of Embassy.

Ira A. Hirschmann, Esquire,
American Consulate General,
Istanbul, Turkey.

(Copy sent to Dr. Schweitzer August 22.)
VE



000733

AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, INC.

NY 649137

000740

MEMORANDUM

For attachment to:

FTC Letter No:

Date: September 8, 1944

TO: Liaison Officer, Foreign Funds Control
FROM: War Refugee Board
Subject: Evacuation of Refugees from Balkans to Palestine

There is transmitted herewith ~~xxxxxxxx~~ a letter dated Sept. 6, 1944 from the American Jewish Joint Distribution Com. dealing with remittance of \$481,453 to the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem for reimbursement to them for expenses incurred in connection with evacuation of refugees from Balkans.

The War Refugee Board recommends that appropriate Treasury licenses and other necessary documents be issued permitting the execution of the project contemplated in the letter described above.

Remarks:

F. Hotal

For the War Refugee Board

Action:

Basic license No. W- issued
Remittance license No. NY 649137 issued Sept. 11, 1944
Other:

S. Church for R.B.P.
Liaison Officer
Foreign Funds Control

Date: Sept. 11, 1944

000741

SEP 11 1944

X
649137

Pursuant to application filed directly with this Department, you are hereby authorized to issue a license, permitting the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, 270 Madison Avenue, New York 16, New York, to remit \$491,458 to the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem

(Initialed) O.A.S.

Orvie A. Schmidt
Acting Director
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

408

SChurch:jfb 9-9-44

000742

THE AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT
DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, INC.

270 Madison Avenue, New York 16, New York

September 6th, 1944

War Refugee Board.
Washington, D.C.

Attention Miss Florence Hodel.

Gentlemen:

We wish to apply for a license from the Treasury Department to remit to the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem, the sum of \$481,453.

As you undoubtedly know, the Jewish Agency for Palestine is a public body recognized by Great Britain as the Mandatory power for the settlement of Jews in that country.

In explanation of our request for a license, we have been requested by Dr. Joseph Schwartz, Chairman of our European Executive Council, to effect the aforementioned payment to reimburse the Jewish Agency for the following expenses incurred by them in connection with the evacuation of refugees from the Balkans to Palestine:

1. Land transportation for refugees from Istanbul, Turkey to Haifa, Palestine, and maintenance while in Istanbul.....\$119,053.
2. Cost of 4 voyages of S.S. Maritza and S.S. Milca, carrying approximately 1,074 passengers from the Balkans to Turkey..
362,400.
\$481,453.

Would you be good enough to give expeditious handling to this application.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Moses A. Leavitt

Moses A. Leavitt
Secretary

#1027

MAL:rl

000743

THE AMERICAN JEWISH
JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, Inc.

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September 6th, 1944.

War Refugee Board,
Washington, D.C.

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 2. Cost of 4 voyages of S.S. Maritza and S.S. Milca, carrying approximately 1,074 passengers from the Balkans to Turkey..... 362,400.
- \$481,453.

Would you be good enough to give expeditious handling to this application.

Sincerely yours,

Moses A. Leavitt
Moses A. Leavitt
Secretary

MAL:rl

#1027

00074

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AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, INC.

NY 639820

000740

MEMORANDUM

For attachment to:
EFC Letter No:
Date: JUL 15 1944
Project No.:

TO: Liaison Officer, Foreign Funds Control
FROM: War Refugee Board
Subject: **Payment of transportation to Palestine of refugees who entered Turkey.**

There is transmitted herewith a copy of a letter dated **July 7, 1944** from the **American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc.** dealing with a remittance of \$50,000 to the **British Passport Control Office in Istanbul, Turkey**, to be drawn against by **Gh. Barlas**, for the payment of transportation from Turkey to Palestine of refugees who entered Turkey.

The War Refugee Board recommends that appropriate Treasury licenses and other necessary documents be issued permitting the execution of the project contemplated in the letter described above.

Remarks:

F. Kadel
For the War Refugee Board

Action:

Basic license No. W- issued
Remittance license No. ~~issued~~ NY 639820 issued July 20, 1944
Other:

Date: JUL 20 1944

Liaison Officer
Foreign Funds Control

000740

JUL 20 1944

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF NEW YORK

FOREIGN FUNDS CONTROL DEPARTMENT

NY 639820

pursuant to application filed directly with this Department, you are hereby
 authorized to issue license to American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee,
 270 Madison Avenue, New York City, permitting it to remit \$50,000 to the
 British Passport Control Office, Istanbul, Turkey

(Initialed) O.A.S?

XXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

408

BBParker:jfh 7-17-44

7 0 0 7 4 4

THE AMERICAN JEWISH
JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, INC.
270 Madison Avenue, New York 16, N.Y.

July 7th, 1944.

The War Refugee Board.
Washington 25, D.C.

Attention Miss Florence Hodel

Gentlemen:

Dr. Schwartz has requested us to remit \$50,000 to the British Passport Control Office in Istanbul, Turkey to be drawn against by Ch. Barlas, the Jewish Agency immigration official in Istanbul, Turkey.

Dr. Schwartz advised us that these funds were required for the payment of transportation from Turkey to Palestine of refugees who enter Turkey.

We would greatly appreciate your issuing to us Treasury License for \$50,000 to be sent to the British Passport Control Office, Istanbul, Turkey.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Moses A. Leavitt
Secretary

MAL:rl

000743

CABLES: "JOINTDISCO" NEW YORK

TELEPHONE: LExington 2-5200

THE AMERICAN JEWISH
JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, Inc.

270 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

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MOSES A. LEAVITT, *Secretary*
LOUIS H. SOBEL, *Assistant Secretary*

July 7th, 1944.

The War Refugee Board,
Washington 25, D.C.

Attention Miss Florence Hodel

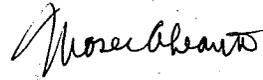
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Dr. Schwartz advised us that these funds were required for the payment of transportation from Turkey to Palestine of refugees who entered Turkey.

We would greatly appreciate your issuing to us Treasury License for \$50,000. to be sent to the British Passport Control Office, Istanbul, Turkey.

Yours sincerely,



Moses A. Leavitt
Secretary

MAL:rl

000750

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00075

JUL 7 1944

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following confidential message for you from Dr. Schwartz was received through the American Embassy at Ankara under date of July 3, 1944:

"Have arrived here with Judah Magnes. Examining extent of obligations incurred here in connection with all phases rescue work and amounts we being called upon to pay. While not ready with final figures, believe it is important to indicate approximate totals so that you may be enabled to make some provision on your books and help in preparing your case for the allotment committee. 1943 balance for transportation refugees from Istanbul to Haifa approximately \$16,500 covering 185 persons. For similar transportation for approximately 2,100 persons from January through May this year approximately \$150,000. This includes 1200 persons who came by sea from Rumanian port, 342 persons who came by sea from Greece and balance persons who came through Bulgaria by overland route for the maintenance of these groups in Turkey approximately \$14,000. Above figures do not include cost of sea transportation which estimated at \$500,000; this is exclusive of project for future emigration concerning which I cabled from Jerusalem. We are asking for no appropriations until careful check-up to determine final figures but would request you transfer immediately \$50,000 to British Passport Control Office, Istanbul for use of Chaim Barlas as advance against transportation costs Istanbul to Haifa. Will cable final figures at the earliest opportunity address in care of American Consulate General, Istanbul."

Very truly yours,

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

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

FH:db 7/6/44 Jct -

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

CONTROL COPY

Ankara

Dated July 3, 1944

Rec'd 4:05 a.m., 4th

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUL 5 1944
DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS & RECORDS

*Money transmitted
to Leavitt
FH/AB
7/6*

MJB-368

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

Washington.

1195, July 3, 7 p.m.

FOR LEAVITT JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE NEW YORK CITY FROM JOSEPH SCHWARZ.

Have arrived here with Judah Magnes. Examining extent of obligations incurred here in connection with all phases rescue work and amounts we being called upon to pay. While not ready with final figures believe it important to indicate approximate totals so that you may be enabled to make some provision on your books and help in preparing your case for the allotment committee. 1943 balance for transportation refugees from Istanbul to Haifa approximately \$16,500 covering 185 persons. For similar transportation for approximately 2,100 persons from January through May this year approximately \$150,000. This includes 1200 persons who came by sea from Rumanian port, 342 persons who came by sea from Greece and balance persons who came through Bulgaria by overland route for the maintenance

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-2-#1195, July 3, 7 p.m., from Ankara

maintenance of these groups in Turkey approximately \$14,000. Above figures do not include cost of sea transportation which estimated at \$500,000; this is exclusive of project for future emigration concerning which I cabled from Jerusalem. We are asking for no appropriations until careful check-up to determine final figures but would request you transfer immediately \$50,000 to British Passport Control Office, Istanbul for use of Chaim Barlas as advance against transportation costs Istanbul to Haifa. Will cable final figures at the earliest opportunity address in care of American Consulate General, Istanbul.

STEINHARDT

CAW WSB

7 0 0 7 5

AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, INC.

W-2208

000753

MEMORANDUM

For attachment to:

FFC Letter No:

Date:

Project No.:

TO: Liaison Officer, Foreign Funds Control

FROM: War Refugee Board

Subject: **Rescue and relief operations from Turkey**

Memorandum

There is transmitted herewith ~~Memorandum~~ dated June 1, 1944

from ~~the~~ Miss Hodal dealing with a recommendation that a license be issued to the JDC, permitting rescue and relief operations from Turkey.

The War Refugee Board recommends that appropriate Treasury licenses and other necessary documents be issued permitting the execution of the project contemplated in the letter described above.

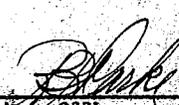
Remarks:

F. Hodal

For the War Refugee Board

Action:

Basic license No. W-2208 issued June 8, 1944
Remittance license No. ^x issued
Other: Letter No. 72207 dated June 8, 1944
Letter No. 72208 dated June 8, 1944 (cable)
Letter No. 72209 dated June 8, 1944


Liaison Officer
Foreign Funds Control

Date: JUN 8 1944

FORM TP-1-1 (Special)
TREASURY DEPARTMENT
Foreign Funds Control

License No: W-2808

Date: 11/10/44

L I C E N S E
(GRANTED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 8389
OF APRIL 10, 1940, AS AMENDED, AND THE REGULATIONS
ISSUED THEREUNDER)

To American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee
(Name of Licensee)

270 Madison Avenue, New York, New York
(Address of Licensee)

Sirs:

1. In order to arrange for the evacuation to places of safety or relative safety as shall be selected by your representatives of persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory whose lives are in imminent danger and, pending possible evacuation to sustain and safeguard the lives of such persons, your representatives in Turkey (including such agents as they may appoint) are hereby licensed, notwithstanding the provisions of General Ruling No. 11, to communicate with persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory in any manner they deem necessary or expedient and to take all other appropriate action, including the acquisition of necessary funds, goods, or services from persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory against payment in accordance with the terms of this license. The necessary funds to finance such operations may be obtained by any of the following methods:

- (a) The first method is the purchase of currency or exchange of the country in which the operations are to be effected from persons in Turkey who, your representatives, after consulting with the American Embassy in Ankara when feasible, are reasonably certain have held such currency or exchange since prior to the freezing of such country by the United States, or have since acquired such currency or exchange in such manner as has not benefited the enemy. The sellers of such currency may be reimbursed therefor in Turkish pounds at the prevailing unofficial rates of exchange in Turkey.
- (b) The second method is the acquisition of local currencies or exchange from persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territories for which reimbursement will not be made until after the war. In order to insure reimbursement after the war to the persons supplying such currencies or exchange, blocked accounts may be established on your books in the United States, or in a bank in the United States or a bank in Turkey. No payments may be made from any such blocked account without the specific approval of the Treasury Department and no assignments may be made of any interest in such blocked account without such approval.

(c) The third method should not be used if it is feasible to obtain the local funds by either of the first two methods. The third method is the acquisition of the necessary local funds, goods or services from persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory against payment in free exchange or free currency notes. Your representatives should take reasonable steps to avoid such foreign exchange or free currency notes being paid to persons who will make it available to the enemy.

2. The total amount of funds paid out or set up in blocked accounts or otherwise obligated under the terms of this license shall not exceed the amounts of dollars (or the foreign currency equivalent thereof) authorized by specific Treasury licenses to be used under this license.

3. Your representatives should keep the American Embassy in Ankara, Turkey, fully informed with respect to the financial transactions effected under this license. Insofar as feasible your representatives should make certain that the persons from whom the local currencies or exchange are purchased are acceptable to the Embassy. Your representatives should satisfy themselves that payments to such persons will not benefit the enemy.

4. Periodic reports with regard to any operations engaged in under this license should be filed with the Treasury Department by your representatives through the American Embassy in Ankara, Turkey.

5. This license is granted upon the statements and representations filed with the Treasury Department, and is subject to the condition, among others, that you will comply in all respects with Executive Order No. 8389 of April 10, 1940, as amended, and the regulations issued thereunder and the terms of this license.

6. This license expires six months after date hereof; it is not transferable, is subject to the provisions of Executive Order No. 8389 of April 10, 1940, as amended, and the regulations issued thereunder and may be revoked, modified, or declared void at any time at the discretion of the Secretary of the Treasury acting directly or through the agency through which the license was issued, or any other agency designated by the Secretary of the Treasury.

(Signature) Orvis A. Schmidt

Orvis A. Schmidt
Acting Director

In reply please
refer to: 72209

Sirs:

Pursuant to the request made to this Department by the War Refugee Board, there is enclosed herewith license No. W-2208 governing the financing of rescue and evacuation operations in enemy or enemy-occupied territory to be conducted by your representatives in Turkey, and permitting you to communicate with them with respect thereto. The license also permits your representatives in Turkey to communicate with persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory for the purposes contemplated therein. You will note that this license expires six months after date thereof. In this connection, however, you are informed that this Department will be pleased to consider extending such expiration date in the event that the operations licensed therein should extend beyond such six months' period.

The American Embassy in Ankara, Turkey, is being notified of the issuance of this license and requested to approach one of your representatives, Mr. Rueben Resnik, in connection therewith.

Sincerely yours,

Orvis A. Schmidt
Acting Director

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,
New York, New York.

Enclosure.

BBParke:jfh 6-2-44

00075

JUN 3 1944

In reply please
refer to: 72208

To : Chief, W. T. I. Division,
Department of State.

From : Orvis A. Schmidt

Attention: Mr. William I. Riegelman

It will be appreciated if the attached cable, relative to the issuance of license No. W-2208 to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, 270 Madison Avenue, New York, New York, may be promptly despatched to the American Embassy in Ankara, Turkey, through the facilities available to the Department of State.

Please inform Mr. Robert B. Parke, the Foreign Funds Control Liaison Officer with the War Refugee Board when such cable is despatched.

Attachment.

BBParke:jfh 6-2-44

Draft of Cable to Ankara

Please inform Rueben Resnik, care of American Consul General, Istanbul, that Treasury Department has issued license No. W-2208, to American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, New York City, authorizing him as its representative in Turkey, to arrange for rescue and evacuation operations in enemy or enemy-occupied territory. Text of such license is identical to license issued to Vaad Habatsala Emergency Committee, which is described fully in the Department's telegram No. 311 of April 8, 1944. For your guidance, the same comments and suggestions made in such telegram are applicable to license No. W-2208 and may be regarded as repeated herein in full, except that Resnik will be advised subsequently of the remittance of funds for purpose of financing operations.

BBParks:bn 6-2-44

000761

In reply please
refer to: 72207

Dear Mr. Davis:

For your information and the completion of your files, there is enclosed herewith a copy of license No. W-2208 issued under even date to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, 270 Madison Avenue, New York, New York.

Sincerely yours,

Orvis A. Schmidt
Acting Director

Mr. Norman P. Davis,
Manager,
Foreign Funds Control Department,
Federal Reserve Bank of New York,
New York, New York.

Enclosure.

BBParks:jfh 6-2-44

June 1, 1944

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Parke
FROM: Miss Hodel

The War Refugee Board recommends immediate issuance of a license to the JDC, permitting rescue and relief operations from Turkey. The usual basic license, without limitation as to amount, should be issued. An appropriate cable to Ambassador Steinhardt should be prepared. No remittance will be made for the purpose of financing the operations permitted by the license until the JDC has further word from Turkey concerning immediate needs.

FH:lab 6/1/44

THE AMERICAN JEWISH
JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, INC.
270 Madison Avenue, New York 16, N.Y.

June 5th, 1944

Executive Office of the President,
War Refugee Board,
Washington 25, D.C.

Attention Miss Florence Hodel

Gentlemen:

We would greatly appreciate the issuance of a basic license to our representatives in Turkey, similar to W-2106 which has been issued to us for our representatives in Switzerland. Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz is on his way to Turkey and Mr. Reuben Resnik is our permanent representative in Istanbul.

Turkey is an important place for rescue programs, and it would be of great help to our representatives if this basic license were issued to them.

In due course, we shall apply for Treasury licenses to remit funds against the basic license on the advice of our representatives in Turkey.

Yours very sincerely,

signed (Moses A. Leavitt)

Moses A. Leavitt
Secretary

MAL:rl

THE AMERICAN JEWISH
JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, Inc.

yt

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June 5th, 1944.

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In due course, we shall apply for Treasury licenses to remit funds against the basic license on the advice of our representatives in Turkey.

Yours very sincerely,
Moses A. Leavitt
Moses A. Leavitt
Secretary

MAL:rl

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IN THE ARMED FORCES

ABNER BREGMAN, *New York*
 WILLIAM W. GOODMAN, *Memphis*
 MARCO F. HELLMAN, *New York*
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 MORRIS C. TROPER, *New York*
 EDWARD M. M. WARBURG, *New York*

*J- war Ref BR
P.H.H.*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM

RECEIVED
JUN 18 1944

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Embassy
DATED: June 17, 1944
NUMBER: 552
X

CONTROL COPY

License W-2208 has been issued to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee by the Treasury Department, following which its Turkish representative is authorized to arrange for evacuation and rescue operations in enemy-occupied and enemy countries. Please advise Rueben Resnik, c/o American Consul General, Istanbul of the foregoing. In every respect the text of license W-2208 is exactly the same as license W-2166 mentioned in Department's message of April 8, Number 311. The identical suggestions and comments contained in reference message apply and should be considered as completely described in this instance.

Concerning the actual payment of funds required for performing the operations involved, Resnik will be further informed.

HULL

DCE/GFW
bow
6-20-44

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

C O P Y

No. 73822

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Division of World Trade Intelligence

June 12, 1944

MRB - Mr. Parke:

Your reference 72208, June 8,

This will confirm the fact that a telegram to Ankara,
transmitting the contents of license W-2208, to the American
Jewish Joint Distribution Committee has been prepared for
dispatch.

William I. Riegelman

WT:WIR:AMN

AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

LICENSES

Remit. Lic. NY 651533

**THE MATERIAL IN THIS FOLDER
MUST NOT BE REMOVED**

**PLEASE RETURN TO
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
ROOM 440 S-2A**

000764

MEMORANDUM

For attachment to:

FFC Letter No:

Date: **September 18, 1944**

TO: Liaison Officer, Foreign Funds Control
FROM: War Refugee Board
Subject: **Evacuation of refugees from Balkans to Palestine.**

There is transmitted herewith a copy of a letter dated **September 15, 1944,**
from the **American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee** dealing with
remittance of \$159,900 to the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem for reimbursement to
them for expenses incurred in connection with the evacuation of refugees from
the Balkans to Palestine.

The War Refugee Board recommends that appropriate Treasury licenses and other necessary documents be issued permitting the execution of the project contemplated in the letter described above.

Remarks:

F. Hodel

For the War Refugee Board

Action:

Basic license No. W- issued
Remittance license No. NY 651533 issued 9-22-44
Other: X

B. V. Clarke

Liaison Officer
Foreign Funds Control

Date: September 22, 1944

Copy

The American Jewish Joint
Distribution Committee, Inc.

September 15, 1944

War Refugee Board,
Washington, D. C.

Attention Miss Florence Hodel

Gentlemen:

Supplementing our letter of September 6th, for which we received
Treasury Department License NY ⁶⁴⁹¹³⁷~~649237~~-A, may we ask you to be
good enough to arrange for the issuance of a further license
enabling us to remit to the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem the sum
of \$159,900.

In explanation of our request for a license, we have been advised
by Dr. Joseph Schwartz to effect the aforementioned payment to
reimburse the Jewish Agency for expenses incurred by them in con-
nection with the chartering of boats for the evacuation of refugees
from the Balkans to Palestine.

Would you be good enough to give expeditious handling to this
application.

Sincerely yours,

Moss A. Leavitt
Secretary

MAL:rl

#1037

THE AMERICAN JEWISH
JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, Inc.

270 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

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MOSES A. LEAVITT, *Secretary*
LOUIS H. SOBEL, *Assistant Secretary*

September 15th, 1944.

War Refugee Board,
Washington, D.C.

Attention Miss Florence Hodel.

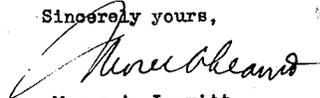
Gentlemen:

Supplementing our letter of September 6th, for which we received Treasury Department License NY 649237-R, may we ask you to be good enough to arrange for the issuance of a further license enabling us to remit to the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem, the sum of \$159,900.

In explanation of our request for a license, we have been advised by Dr. Joseph Schwartz to effect the aforementioned payment to reimburse the Jewish Agency for expenses incurred by them in connection with the chartering of boats for the evacuation of refugees from the Balkans to Palestine.

Would you be good enough to give expeditious handling to this application.

Sincerely yours,



Moses A. Leavitt
Secretary

MAL:rl

#1037

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AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE -- LICENSES

REMIT. LICENSE NY 636791

00077

*J. Wood R. G. Board
and Pella*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, London
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: August 15, 1944
NUMBER: 6563

CONTROL COPY
*8/27/44
Rosen
with Board
JBC
H*

Following is for the War Refugee Board, FEA, and the Department.

Department's cable of July 25, no. 5814 is referred to herewith.

Inasmuch as such decisions are the responsibility of the Treasury rather than UKCC, we have raised with the British Treasury the question of UKCC buying through British special account on behalf of the American Joint Distribution Committee. In view of the fact that under the financial agreement with Turkey, the British are permitted the 40% premium for exports to the sterling area only, Treasury does not feel able to accede to this request. Although as stated in Ankara's cable some purchases have been made for Greece and on a smaller scale for Belgium and Yugoslavia, the British fear that the Turks would object if the number of such purchases was increased. It is anticipated by the British that this would mean that they would ~~cease~~ ~~stop~~ to obtain premium for Greeks and other Allies and are unwilling to prejudice the Allies' position in this manner.

WINANT

DCR:VAC 8/17/44

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

00077

JUL 26 1944

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Dr. Joseph Schwartz has been received through the American Embassy, Ankara, under date of July 24, 1944:

In order to permit us to pay future land transportation for refugees to the Syrian border and maintenance of refugees in Istanbul and en route and for other purposes in conjunction with the rescue program, please ask the Chase Bank, New York City, to establish a revocable credit of \$100,000 at Holantse Bank in Istanbul and ask Chase Bank to cable Istanbul 'We credit your account \$100,000 hold disposal Reuben B. Resnik payable in installments as desired'. This should be revolving fund maintained at \$100,000 until you hear otherwise from us."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

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

FHodel:ms 7/26/44 JWA -

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

NEM-220
This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Government
agency. (~~SECRET~~)

Ankara

Dated July 24, 1944

Rec'd 5:52 p.m.

CONTROL COPY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUL 25 1944
DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS & RECORDS

Secretary of State,
Washington.

1355, July 24, 5 p.m.

FOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Following from Joseph Schwartz for Leavitt Joint
Distribution Committee, New York City:

In order to permit us to pay future land
transportation for refugees to the Syrian border
and maintenance of refugees in Istanbul and en route
and for other purposes in conjunction with the rescue
program, please ask the Chase Bank, New York City, to
establish a revocable credit of \$100,000 at Holantse
Bankuni Istanbul and ask Chase Bank to cable Istanbul
"The credit your account \$100,000 hold disposal Reuben
B. Resnik payable in installments as desired". This
should be revolving fund maintained at \$100,000 until
you hear otherwise from us.

7/26/44
News org sent
to Beirut
JK

KELLEY

WMB WFS

000777

I was by Ed-Pelle

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Embassy, London
DATE: July 25, 1944
NUMBER: 5814

CONTROL COPY

It is stated in a cable from Ankara that the American Joint Distribution Committee representative in Istanbul, Resnik, purchases relief supplies in Turkey for shipment to refugees in areas which are occupied. Foreign currency exchanged at official rate is used to pay for the purchases.

Purchases for shipment to Greece are being made in Turkey by UKCC at more favorable diplomatic rate. It is further stated in the cable that Resnik has suggested that since UKCC makes many of his purchases for him it might be willing to pay for these purchases in the same way that it pays for its own purchases for Greece, to be reimbursed thereafter in dollars in Washington or London. UKCC local representatives are agreeable to the request by Resnik but they require instructions from London to give him the requested consideration.

Favorable action on Resnik's suggestion is recommended by Steinhardt in Ankara and the War Refugee Board strongly concurs in the recommendation.

It is requested that you approach UKCC regarding this matter and that a report of its reaction be made. Please request that its Turkish representative be appropriately instructed if UKCC's reaction is favorable.

DCR: FDB:BSW

8-1-44

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

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

FBM-255
This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Government
Agency. (RESTRICTED)

Ankara

Dated July 24, 1944

Rec'd 8:29 p.m.

CONTROL COPY

DIVISION OF

JUL 25 1944

COMMUNICATIONS

Secretary of State,
Washington.

1354, July 24, 4:00 p.m.

FOR WRB

Following from Joseph Schwartz for Leavitt,
Joint Distribution Committee, New York City:

In connection with food shipments through the
International Red Cross, I suggest that you withdraw
credit in favor of Reuben Resnik at Turkiyeis Bankasi
and open instead credit at Holantse Bankuni Istanbul
for Gilbert Simond, International Red Cross delegate,
Turkey. Please confirm.

KELLEY

EEC JJM

War Ref Bd
(ma)
Sehlo

7/26/44
Message
sent to
Leavitt
etc

JUL 26 1944

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Dr. Joseph Schwartz has been received through the American Embassy, Ankara, under date of July 24, 1944:

"In connection with food shipments through the International Red Cross, I suggest that you withdraw credit in favor of Reuben Resnik at Turkiye's Bankasi and open instead credit at Halkin Bankasi Istanbul for Gilbert Simond, International Red Cross delegate, Turkey. Please confirm."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

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

FHodal:ms 7/26/44 JH ✓

000780

JUL 12 1944

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following confidential message for you from Mr. Joseph Schwartz was received from the American Embassy in Ankara under date of July 3, 1944:

"Please transfer \$100,000 to the Hollantse Bank, Istanbul, Turkey, account of Gilbert Simond International Red Cross, for purchase of additional shoes or food for Rumania, Slovakia, Theresienstadt, etc. Also please advise status application for license purchase 20,000 pairs of shoes. This is proposal concerning which we cabled month ago. Still hopeful obtain favorable rates though not certain. Address American Consulate, Istanbul."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Fehle

J. W. Fehle
Executive Director

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

EBT
EBTowler:agr 7-11-44 Jot -

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

War Ref. Bd. - P.H.B.
DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

CONTROL COPY

HIS-589

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

Ankara

Dated July 3, 1944

Rec'd 3:39 a.m., July 5

SM
Secretary of State,
Washington.

1211

2011, July 3, 11 p.m.

The War Refugee Board, Ankara, No. 584. Please

deliver following message from Joseph Schwartz, JDC for Moses Leavitt:

/ Please transfer \$100,000 to ^{the} Hollantse Bank, Istanbul, ^{Turkey,} account, Gilbert Simond International Red Cross, for purchase ^{of} additional (food or shoes) for Rumania, Theresienstadt, Slovakia, et cetera. Also, ^{also} advise status application for license purchase 20,000 pairs of shoes. This is ~~the~~ proposal concerning which we cabled month ago. Still hopeful obtain favorable rates though not certain. Address American Consulate, Istanbul. /

STEINHARDT

RB RR

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION
JUL 5 1944
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

File

message sent
7/12/44
FW/dL

000782

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

War Ref Bd - Pehle
INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

CONTROL COPY

CORRECTION

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

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
July 8, 1944
JUL 9 1944
DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS & RECORDS

In cable from Ankara 2011, July 3, 11 p.m. for War Refugee Board, delete serial number "2011" and insert "1211".

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS.

CSB

7 0 7 8

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

3 P.M.

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

AMEMBASSY,
ANKARA.
520

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
SEP 18 1944
DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS & RECORDS

CONTROL COPY

The following is from Moses A. Leavitt of American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and is WRB cable 50. A paraphrase should be delivered to Reuben Resnik, care of Embassy.

QUOTE We asked Socony Vacuum to sell us Turkish pounds at charitable rate relative remittance \$100,000 to Gilbert Simond. This acceptable New York office Socony but Socony representative Turkey cabled that, on basis Socony funds only usable for export specific products, Finance Minister refused authorization for sale. Since our funds used only for humanitarian purposes, please discuss with Ambassador possibility Finance Minister reversing decision UNQUOTE.

STETTINIUS
(ACTING)
(CLW)

WRB:MMV:KG
6/9/44

NE

SWP

WT

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

CABLE TO ANKARA

From War Refugee Board to Steinhardt

Please deliver the following message to Reuben Resnik,
o/o American Embassy, Ankara, from Moses A. Leavitt of the
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

"Regarding remittance \$100,000 to Gilbert Simond
we asked Socony Vacuum to sell us Turkish pounds at
charitable rate Stop Socony New York ready do so but
Socony representative Turkey cabled that Finance Minister
refused authorization for sale basis Socony funds only
usable for export specific products Stop Please discuss
with Ambassador possibility Finance Minister reversing
decision basis our funds used only for humanitarian
purposes"

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO ANKARA NO. 50

June 7, 1944
5:00 p.m.

*FD. Leavitt
discussed this
with Mr. Resnik
6/7/44*

MEMORANDUM

For attachment to:

FFC Letter No:

Date:

Project No.:

TO: Liaison Officer, Foreign Funds Control
FROM: War Refugee Board
Subject: **Purchase of Food Supplies in Turkey**

There is transmitted herewith a ~~copy~~ copy of a letter dated **June 26, 1944** from the **American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee** dealing with a remittance of **\$100,000** to **Rueben Resnik, Istanbul, Turkey**, for purchase of food supplies in Turkey to be distributed in occupied countries by **International Red Cross**.

The War Refugee Board recommends that appropriate Treasury licenses and other necessary documents be issued permitting the execution of the project contemplated in the letter described above.

Remarks:

F. Hodel
For the War Refugee Board

Action:

Basic license No. W- issued
Remittance license No. ~~issued~~ NY 636791 issued July 5, 1944
Other: x

R. Hodel
Liaison Officer
Foreign Funds Control

Date: **JUL 5 1944**

JUL 1

NY 636791

Pursuant to application filed directly with this Department, you are hereby authorized to issue license to American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, 270 Madison Avenue, New York City, permitting it, notwithstanding General Ruling No. 11, to establish with the Chase National Bank, New York City, a credit for \$100,000 in the name of Reuben Resnik Istanbul, Turkey, for purpose of purchasing food supplies in Turkey for distribution in individual packages in enemy or enemy-occupied territory by the International Red Cross. License to permit payment of drafts drawn against this credit by Reuben Resnik, Istanbul, Turkey. License period six months

(Initialed) A.U.F.

402
RBPark:emj 7/3/44

7 0 0 7 8

THE AMERICAN JEWISH
JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, Inc.

270 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

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MOSES A. LEAVITT, *Secretary*

June 26th, 1944.

*Rec memo
6/28 dlt*

The War Refugee Board,
Washington 25, D.C.

Attention Miss Florence Hodel.

Gentlemen:

In connection with our program of purchasing food supplies in Turkey to be made up into individual food packages and to be sent into several of the occupied countries for distribution by the International Red Cross, we have been asked by our representative, Mr. Reuben Resnik, to remit a second \$100,000. to Turkey.

You will recall that Mr. Resnik is endeavoring to secure a better than official rate for the Turkish pound and in his last cable to us, he suggests that we set up a dollar credit to his account which he can thereafter convert into Turkish pounds.

We would, therefore, request that a license be issued to us to set up through the Chase National Bank a dollar credit in the sum of \$100,000. in the name of Reuben Resnik in Istanbul, Turkey.

Yours very truly,

Moses A. Leavitt
Moses A. Leavitt
Secretary

MAL:rl

77078

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 MORRIS C. TROPER, *New York*
 EDWARD M. M. WARBURG, *New York*

JUN 23 1944

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following confidential message for you from Resnik was received from Istanbul under date of June 16, 1944:

"For almost 7 weeks Ambassador has been making efforts to secure a favorable rate of exchange. The matter is not finally settled but looks doubtful. He has also agreed to ask Washington to request UKCC to accept our funds notwithstanding the latter's previous rejection. The difficulty with the Socony Vacuum Oil Company suggestion as well as with granting us the rate directly is that there is a law which would have to be modified or violated. In the meantime, I am making necessary purchases on funds that are being advanced to us by Joint friends but foreign currency will have to be sent within the next few days. When you send it, send dollars and we shall convert them here if and when it is necessary at the best possible rate or if another arrangement is worked out we shall return the funds."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

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

JW ✓
FH:lab 6/22/44

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

6-20-44

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

War Refugee Board:

Will you please
communicate in
paraphrase the substance
of this message to
Mr. Leavitt? Censor
has released it.

(R.L. Neacock)
State Dept Extension
457.

00079

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

RECT-407

Istanbul

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

Dated June 16, 1944

Rec'd 6:06 p.m., 17th.

Secretary of State,

CONTROL COPY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington.

JUN 18 1944

356, June 17, 11 a.m.

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS & RECORDS

Please transmit the following message from Resnik to
Loavitt Joint Distribution Committee, New York City.

For almost 7 weeks Ambassador has been making efforts
to secure a favorable rate of exchange. The matter is not
finally settled but looks doubtful. He has also agreed to
ask Washington to request UKCC to accept our funds notwith-
standing the latter's previous rejection. The difficulty
with the Socony Vacuum Oil Company suggestion as well as
with granting us the rate directly is that there is a law
which would have to be modified or violated. In the meantime,
I am making necessary purchases on funds that are being
advanced to us by Joint friends but foreign currency will
have to be sent within the next few days. When you send it,
send dollars and we shall convert them here if and when it
is necessary at the best possible rate or if another
arrangement is worked out we shall return the funds.

6/23/44
message sent to
WMB
EH
heart
JH

Loavitt will
send application
BERRY

000792

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

MRE-772

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

Ankara
Dated June 15, 1944

Rec'd 10:20 p.m.

*7/5/44
Resnik
with the
Lwasa Arch
Tulcan
Master
no copy
with them
M*

Secretary of State
Washington

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUN 30 1944
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS

1075, June 15, 5 p.m.

Copy
CONTROL COPY

The Department is doubtless aware Resnik, the representative in Istanbul of the American Joint Distribution Committee, has been purchasing food-stuffs and clothing in Turkey for shipment as relief supplies to the Jewish population in Transnistria and other occupied areas. These purchases have been paid for in dollars exchanged at the official rate of 1.30, as Turkish law requires that Turkish goods exported abroad must be paid for in foreign currency exchanged at the official rate. At the request of Resnik the Embassy has taken up with the Foreign Office the possibility of granting the diplomatic rate of exchange for these purchases. Up to the present time the Foreign Office has been unsuccessful in its efforts to induce the Ministry of Finance to grant the diplomatic rate.

UKCC is effecting these purchases in Turkey of relief supplies for shipment to Greece and is utilizing for this

4918

00079

-2- #1075, June 15, 5 p.m., From Ankara

for this purpose without the permission of the Turkish Government Turkish pounds obtained at the favorable rate. Resnik has suggested that as many of his purchases are made for him by UKCC it might be willing to pay therefor in the same manner as it pays for its own purchases for Greece, to be thereafter reimbursed in London or Washington in dollars. The local representatives of UKCC are agreeable to Resnik's request but require instructions from London to accord him the consideration requested. Resnik and the local representatives feel that if such a request is made by Washington it will be promptly granted. I recommend that the Department request London to instruct UKCC Istanbul to comply with Resnik's request.

STEINHARDT

WSB
RB

00079

JUL 24 1944

TO Mr. Warren
FROM Mr. Pehle

Reference is made to Cable No. 1075, June 15, 1944, from Ankara to the Department of State. The War Refugee Board herewith supports the recommendation of Ambassador Steinhardt and urges that the Department of State request the British to instruct U.K.C.C., Istanbul, as suggested by the J.D.C. Representative in Turkey.

5:00 p.m.
July 24, 1944

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

JBA
VHodel:ms 7/24/44

NRE-772

Ankara

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

Dated June 15, 1944

Rec'd 10:20 p.m.

Secretary of State
Washington

1075, June 15, 8 p.m.

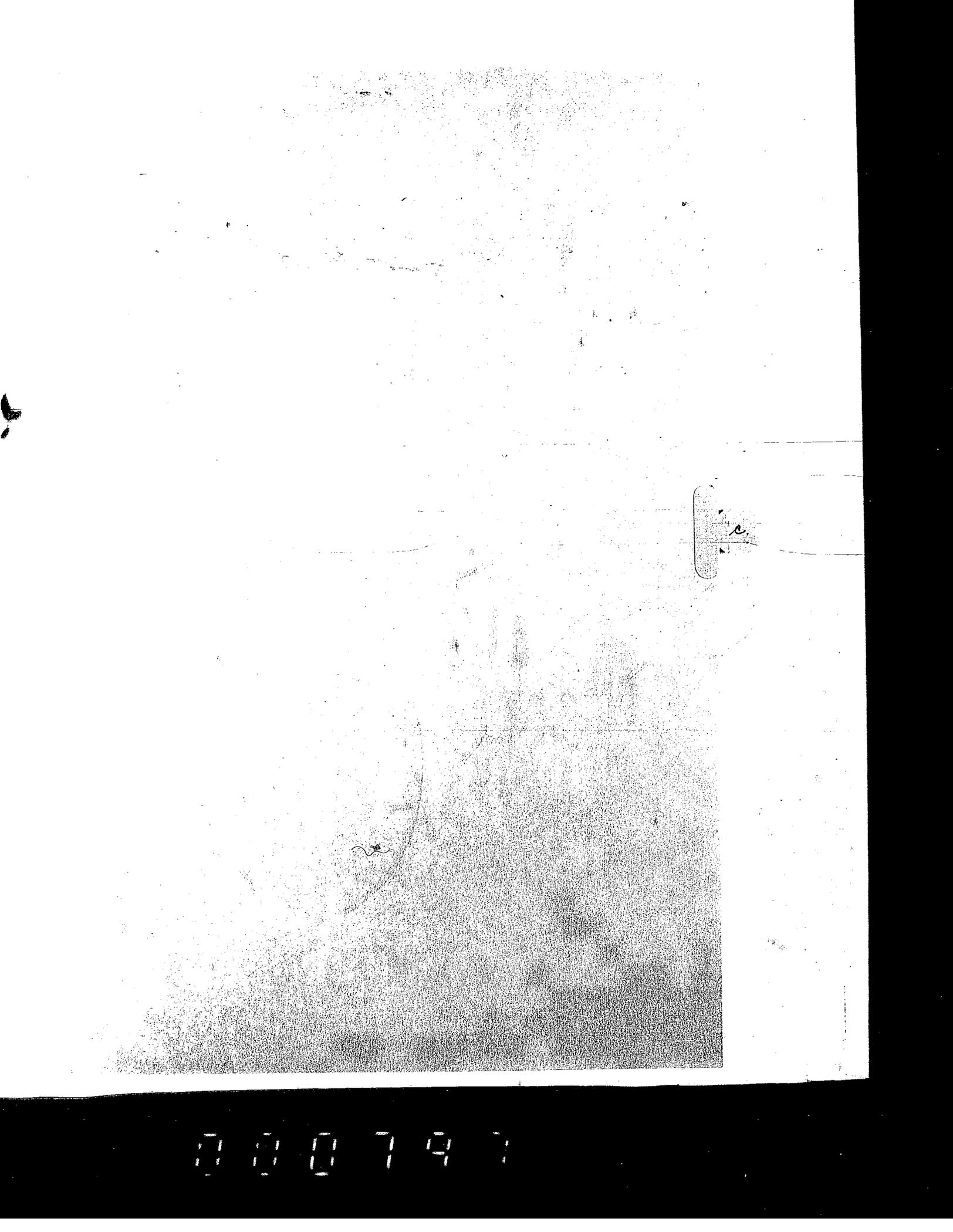
The Department is doubtless aware Resnik, the representative in Istanbul of the American Joint Distribution Committee, has been purchasing foodstuffs and clothing in Turkey for shipment as relief supplies to the Jewish population in Transnistria and other occupied areas. These purchases have been paid for in dollars exchanged at the official rate of 1.30, as Turkish law requires that Turkish goods exported abroad must be paid for in foreign currency exchanged at the official rate. At the request of Resnik the Embassy has taken up with the Foreign Office the possibility of granting the diplomatic rate of exchange for these purchases. Up to the present time the Foreign Office has been unsuccessful in its efforts to induce the Ministry of Finance to grant the diplomatic rate.

UKOC is effecting these purchases in Turkey of relief supplies for shipment to Greece and is utilizing for this purpose without the permission of the Turkish Government Turkish pounds obtained at the favorable rate. Resnik has suggested that as many of his purchases are made for him by UKOC it might be willing to pay therefor in the same manner as it pays for its own purchases for Greece, to be thereafter reimbursed in London or Washington in dollars. The local representatives of UKOC are agreeable to Resnik's request but require instructions from London to accord him the consideration requested. Resnik and the local representatives feel that if such a request is made by Washington it will be promptly granted. I recommend that the Department request London to instruct UKOC Istanbul to comply with Resnik's request.

STEINHARDT

WSB
RB

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Aksin, Bernstein, H.D. White
Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann,
Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Sargoy, Smith, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein,
Pehle, Files



000797

INTERNATIONAL RESCUE AND RELIEF COMMITTEE, INC.

LICENSES

Remit. License NI 022711

**THE MATERIAL IN THIS FOLDER
MUST NOT BE REMOVED**

**PLEASE RETURN TO
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
ROOM**

4405-0

000790

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

*7- War Ref Bd
(Mr. Pehle)*

AVII
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. (T W)

September 13, 1944

5 p.m.

AMEMBASSY

ANKARA

796

CONTROL COPY

The following for Steinhardt is WRB 109.

Please deliver paraphrase of the following message
to Leon P. DeNenberg, American Consulate, Istanbul,
from the International Rescue and Relief Committee:

QUOTE Have been advised you made expenditures
without approval of Embassy STOP Please comply with
specific terms of license and report your past and
future expenditures to Ambassador STOP Replying your
cable re new assignment in few days. UNQUOTE

HULL

(GLW)

VRB:MLV:KG

HE

SWP

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

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

CABLE TO ANKARA

From War Refugee Board to Steinhardt

Please deliver the following message to Leon P. Denenberg,
American Consulate, Istanbul, from the International Rescue and Relief
Committee:

"Have been advised you made expenditures without
approval of Embassy STOP Please comply with specific
terms of license and report your past and future expendi-
tures to Ambassador STOP Replying your cable re new
assignment in few days"

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO ANKARA NO. 109
+

11:30 a.m.
September 12, 1944

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

*Copy sent
to I&R*
FH:lab 9/9/44

*R.S.L. Jol - cleared
wrz/pcp*

International Rescue and Relief Committee
Incorporated

103 PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

LExington 2-7916

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Upton Sinclair
Dorothy Thompson
Oswald G. Villard

September 8, 1944

Miss Florence Hodel
Assistant to the Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Room 190
Main Treasury Building
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Miss Hodel:

Enclosed please find the message addressed to Leon Denenberg which we discussed over the telephone.

Thank you for your help.

Very sincerely yours,

Sheba Strunsky
Sheba Strunsky
Executive Secretary

SS/ir
Enc.



Registered with President's War Relief Control Board
Member Agency of the National War Fund through affiliation with Refugee Relief Trustees

September 8, 1944

LEON P. DENENBERG
AMERICAN CONSULATE
ISTANBUL TURKEY

HAVE BEEN ADVISED YOU MADE EXPENDITURES
WITHOUT APPROVAL OF EMBASSY STOP PLEASE
COMPLY WITH SPECIFIC TERMS OF LICENSE AND
REPORT YOUR PAST AND FUTURE EXPENDITURES
TO EMBASSADOR STOP REPLYING YOUR CABLE
RE NEW ASSIGNMENT IN FEW DAYS.

INTERNATIONAL RESCUE AND RELIEF COMMITTEE

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

BAS
Distribution of true
reading only by special
War Refugee Board. (██████████ W)

July 8, 1944

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUL 11 1944
DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

EMBASSY,

ANKARA

618

The following WRB cable 70 is for Hirschmann.

On recommendation of War Refugee Board, Treasury has

issued license to International Museum and Relief Committee
Inc., New York, permitting remittance of \$5,000 to Leon
Denenberg provided that such funds be utilized by Denenberg
only as authorized by Ambassador Steinhardt and/or Ira
Hirschmann.

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

For your guidance, the funds may be used by Denenberg
in order to arrange for the rescue of persons in enemy terri-
tory whose lives are in imminent danger and to sustain and
safeguard the lives of such persons pending evacuation to
places of safety. The necessary funds, goods or services
from persons in enemy territory may be acquired against pay-
ment by any of the three methods which are prescribed under
Section (A) of License No. W-2108 issued to the Union of
Orthodox Rabbis and set forth in Department's cable dated
April 8, 1944, No. 311.

Periodic reports should be filed by Denenberg through
Embassy.

HULL
HULL (GVW)

WRB:MMV:OMH
7/8/44

NE

PT SWP

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

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

CORRECTED COPY

Ankara

MS-198

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

Dated September 10, 1944

Rec'd 12:30 p.m., 12th

Secretary of State,
Washington.

1700, September 10, 6 p.m.

FROM HIRSEHMANN TO WRB, ANKARA'S NO. 153.

Reference is made to Ankara's 148. I have had further talks with Denenberg regarding the relief activities his committee in Turkey. He has now agreed that the expenditures which have thus far been made by him will be financed from other sources. He now proposes that the entire \$5000 be transferred to a committee composed of scholars and former labor and political leaders from Central European and of the Bank of England now resident in Istanbul for administration under a relief program to be conducted on behalf of the IIRC. We have approved this project as the committee appears to be reliable and have so advised Denenberg.

STEINHARDT

WSB

Corrected copy

CONTROL COPY

SEP 10 1944
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

ANT-198
This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Government
Agency. (~~RESERVED~~)

Ankara 7- W. W. Ref. Bd
Dated September 10, 1944
Rec'd 12:30 p. m., 12th.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

1700, September 10, 6 p.m.

FROM HIRSCHMANN TO WRB, ANKARA'S NO. 153.

Reference is made to Ankara's 148. I have
had further talks with Denenberg regarding the relief
activities his committee in Turkey. He has now
agreed that the expenditures which have thus far
been made by him will be financed from other sources.
He now proposes that the entire \$5000 be transferred to a
committee now resident in Istanbul for administration
under a relief program to be conducted on behalf of the
IRRC. We have approved this project as the committee
appears to be reliable and have so advised Denenberg.

STEINHARDT

WSB

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
CONTROL COPY
SEP 13 1944
COMMUNICATIONS

9/14/44
Steinhardt

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

BJR - 321
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arrangement. (W)

Ankara

Dated September 6, 1944

Rec'd 9:30 a.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

CONTROL COPY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
SEP 7 1944
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

1654, September 6, 1 p.m.

FROM AMBASSADOR STEINHARDT AND HIRSCHMANN FOR WRB

Ankara's No. 148, reference your 74 of July 7,
76 of July 8 and 99 of August 12.

For your information and for the record. Although the funds deposited to the credit of Messrs. Jabotinsky and Denenberg were to be expended subject only to authorization by the Ambassador and on Hirschmann, we are informed by Denenberg that withdrawals and expenditures have been made by him without our knowledge or authorization and continue in spite of Hirschmann's repeated requests of Denenberg to submit statements of the amounts withdrawn and the purposes for which they have been expended. Jabotinsky reports that he has been unwilling to avail himself of these funds under the conditions imposed and that to date he has not withdrawn any of the funds transferred from the United States.

STEINHARDT

EH:NPL

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 18 1972

CONTROL COPY

7- W. W. R. B. (17) 2010

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

August 12, 1944

2 p.m.

1944 AUG 15 AM 11 02

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF

COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

[Redacted]
For security reasons the
text of this message must
be classified as [redacted]

AMEMBASSY,

ANKARA.

698

The cable below for Hirschmann is WRB 99.

On recommendation of Board, Treasury has licensed
International Rescue and Relief Committee to remit 5,000
dollars per month for a period of 6 months to Leon P.
Dennenberg, Ankara, provided such funds will be utilized
only as authorized by the American Ambassador and/or
Hirschmann.

STETTINIUS
(Acting)
(GLW)

WRB:MMV:IG
8/11/44

NE

WT

SWP

S/CR

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

11 11 11

RECEIVED
REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.
AUG 15 PM 3 57

CABLE TO HIRSCHMANN, ANKARA, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

On recommendation of Board, Treasury has licensed International Rescue and Relief Committee to remit 5,000 dollars per month for a period of 6 months to Leon P. Dennenberg, Ankara, provided such funds will be utilized only as authorized by the American Ambassador and/or Hirschmann.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO ANKARA NO. 99.

11:15 a.m.
August 11, 1944

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

JH ✓ FH:jth 8/11/44

11 11 11 11 11

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

5- low by Bd - Peller

BAS
Distribution of time
reading only by special
War Refugees Unit. (██████████)

CONTROL COPY

5 p.m.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JUL 11 1944

DIVISION OF

*File
385A*

AMEMBASSY,

ANKARA

618

The following WRB cable to be for Hirschmann.

On recommendation of War Refugee Board, Treasury has issued license to International Rescue and Relief Committee Inc., New York, permitting remittance of \$5,000 to Leon Denenberg provided that such funds be utilized by Denenberg only as authorized by Ambassador Steinhardt and/or Ira Hirschmann.

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

For your guidance, the funds may be used by Denenberg in order to arrange for the removal of persons in enemy territory whose lives are in imminent danger and to sustain and safeguard the lives of such persons pending evacuation to places of safety. The necessary funds, goods or services from persons in enemy territory may be acquired against payment by any of the three methods which are prescribed under section (A) of License No. W-2186 issued to the Union of Orthodox Rabbis and set forth in Department's cable dated April 8, 1944, No. 311.

Periodic reports should be filed by Denenberg through Embassy.

HULL
(GVW)

WRB:MMV:ONH
7/8/44

NE

WT

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

000800

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

On recommendation of War Refugee Board, Treasury has issued license to International Rescue and Relief Committee Inc., New York, permitting remittance of \$5,000 to Leon Denenberg provided that such funds be utilized by Denenberg only as authorized by Ambassador Steinhardt and/or Ira Hirschmann.

For your guidance, the funds may be used by Denenberg in order to arrange for the rescue of persons in enemy territory whose lives are in imminent danger and to sustain and safeguard the lives of such persons pending evacuation to places of safety. The necessary funds, goods or services from persons in enemy territory may be acquired against payment by any of the three methods which are prescribed under Section (A) of License No. W-2166 issued to the Union of Orthodox Rabbis and set forth in Department's cable dated April 8, 1944, No. 311.

Periodic reports should be filed by Denenberg through Embassy.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO ANKARA NO. 76

July 7, 1944
12:10 p.m.

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

FH:db 7/7/44

JH

000810

MEMORANDUM

File

For attachment to:

FFC Letter No:

Date:

Project No.:

TO: Liaison Officer, Foreign Funds Control

FROM: War Refugee Board

Subject: Evacuation of refugees from Turkey by International Rescue and Relief Committee.

There is transmitted herewith ~~application No. NY 635571~~ application No. NY 635571 filed by the International Rescue and Relief Committee Inc. ~~request for license to remit \$2,000 to its representative in Turkey for the purpose of evacuating refugees.~~ *request for license to remit \$2,000 to its representative in Turkey for the purpose of evacuating refugees.*

The War Refugee Board recommends that appropriate Treasury licenses and other necessary documents be issued permitting the execution of the project contemplated in the letter described above.

Remarks: Stipulate expenditures to be made only as authorized by Ambassador Steinhardt and/or Ira Hirschmann, representatives of War Refugee Board in Ankara, Turkey.

For the War Refugee Board

Action:

Basic license No. W- issued
Remittance license No. ~~issued~~ NY 635571 issued June 29, 1944
Other:

635571
[Signature]
Liaison Officer
Foreign Funds Control

Date: JUN 29 1944

000811

JUN 29 1944

X
NY 633571 Approved, notwithstanding General Ruling No. 11, provided funds involved will be utilized only as authorized by the American Ambassador and/or Ira Hirschman, War Refugee Board, Representative, at Ankara, Turkey. Periodic reports should be filed with Treasury Department by Mr. Denenberg through American Embassy, Ankara, Turkey

O.A.S.

Orvis A. Schmidt
Acting Director
XXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

402

RBParke:omj 6/27/44

000812

June 24, 1944

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Parke
FROM: Miss Hodel

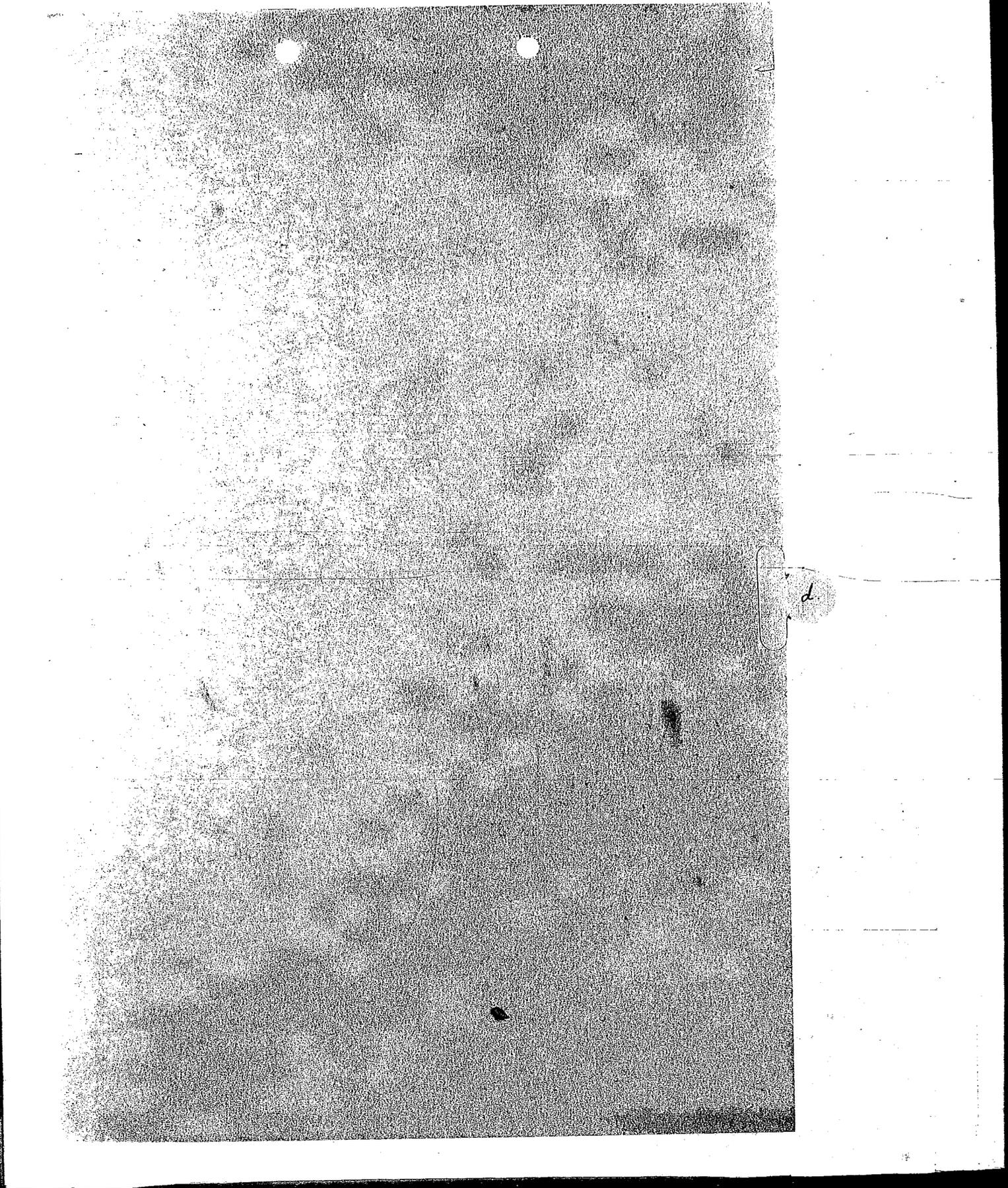
With respect to application No. NY 633671 the War Refugee Board recommends the issuance of a remittance license notwithstanding General Ruling No. 11. Expenditures to be made only as authorized by Ambassador Steinhardt and/or Ira Hirschmann, representative of the War Refugee Board in Ankara.

26

*W. Steinhardt
Ira Hirschmann*

FHiro 6/24/44

000813



000014

INTERNATIONAL RESCUE & RELIEF COMMITTEE, INC.

NY 643830

000815

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

October 25, 1944

Subject: Letter No. 77968 from the International Rescue and Relief Committee dated October 20, 1944, relative to request for amendment to NY 643830, permitting remittance of \$5,000 monthly to Professor Rustow, Istanbul, rather than to Mr. Denenberg, Ankara, Turkey.

In accordance with the suggestion of Miss Hodel, War Refugee Board, the requested amendment was discussed with Miss Strunsky, Executive Secretary of the International Rescue and Relief Committee, by telephone on October 24, 1944.

It appears that when Mr. Denenberg, the representative of this committee in Turkey, was recalled, a local committee was formed to carry on the work initiated by Mr. Denenberg. Professor Alexander Rustow was selected as the chairman of the local committee with the approval of the United States Ambassador at Ankara and of the War Refugee Board representative there.

The work carried out by Mr. Denenberg in Turkey primarily involved relief to refugees in Turkey. Funds remitted to him were, for the most part, utilized for this purpose. Mr. Denenberg was also concerned, however, with the rescue of refugees from Hungary. This phase of his activities, it appears, were carried out under the supervision of the War Refugee Board representative in Ankara.

The local committee, of which Professor Rustow is the chairman, would be primarily concerned with the relief of refugees in Turkey and incidentally with the rescue of refugees from Hungary. Funds remitted to Professor Rustow, according to Miss Strunsky, would be utilized for both relief in Turkey and rescue operations in Hungary, with emphasis, however, on the former.

In checking with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York as to the status of the request for the amendment in question it was learned from Mr. Deuel that the license was amended as requested on October 24, 1944, by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York without reference to this office as only a change of beneficiary was involved. The other terms and conditions of the license in question remained unchanged.

In view of the foregoing, no action is being taken on the letter under reference.

R. B. Parke

cc: Miss Hodel

jfh

000810

INTERNATIONAL RESCUE AND RELIEF COMMITTEE
INCORPORATED
103 Park Avenue, New York, 17, New York

Lexington 2-7916

October 20, 1944

Mr. Robert B. Parke
Treasury Department
Foreign Funds Control
Sloane Bldg.
12th and G Streets
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Parke:

I enclose copy of our request to the Federal Reserve Bank for an amendment of our license for Turkey. Anything you can do to expedite this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Very sincerely yours,

(signed) Sheba Strunsky

Sheba Strunsky
Executive Secretary

SS/eb
Enc.

000817

COPY

INTERNATIONAL RESCUE AND RELIEF COMMITTEE
INCORPORATED
103 Park Avenue, New York 17, N.Y.

October 20, 1944

Mr. F. Duell
Federal Reserve Bank
Foreign Funds Control Dept.
70 Pine Street
New York 5, N.Y.

Re: License No. NY 643830-R

Dear Mr. Duell:

We wish to apply for an amendment of our license for Turkey

No. NY 643830-R
issued August 11, 1944
expiring January 31, 1945
in the amount of \$5,000.00 per month
to Leon P. Denenberg, care of
American Embassy, Ankara, Turkey.

Since Mr. Denenberg has left Turkey, we wish the license to be transferred to

Prof. Alexander Rustow
University of Istanbul
Istanbul, Turkey,

who was appointed as Mr. Denenberg's successor with the approval of United States Ambassador in Turkey, Mr. Laurence Steinhardt, and Mr. I.A. Hirschmann, representative of the War Refugee Board.

Would you kindly expedite this matter for us so that there will be no interruption in our transmissions under this license.

Very sincerely yours,

Sheba Strunsky
Executive Secretary

SS/eb

000813

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

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

September 13, 1944

5 p.m.

AMEMBASSY

ANKARA

796

The following for Steinhardt is WRB 109.

Please deliver paraphrase of the following message
to Leon P. Denenberg, American Consulate, Istanbul,
from the International Rescue and Relief Committee:

QUOTE Have been advised you made expenditures
without approval of Embassy STOP Please comply with
specific terms of license and report your past and
future expenditures to Ambassador STOP Replying your
cable re new assignment in few days. UNQUOTE

HULL

(GLW)

WRB :MLV :KG

HE

SWP

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 18 1972

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

000819

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

CORRECTED COPY

MS-198

Ankara

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

Dated September 10, 1944

Rec'd 12:30 p.m., 12th

Secretary of State,
Washington.

1700, September 10, 6 p.m.

FROM HIRSHMANN TO WRB, ANKARA'S NO. 153.

Reference is made to Ankara's 148. I have had further talks with Denenberg regarding the relief activities his committee in Turkey. He has now agreed that the expenditures which have thus far been made by him will be financed from other sources. He now proposes that the entire \$5000 be transferred to a committee composed of scholars and former labor and political leaders from Central European and of the Bank of England now resident in Istanbul for administration under a relief program to be conducted on behalf of the IIRC. We have approved this project as the committee appears to be reliable and have so advised Denenberg.

STEINHARDT

WSB

000820

FRM
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangements. (S-1000-w)

August 12, 1944
2 p.m.

AMEMBASSY,

ANKARA.

698

The cable below for Hirschmann is WRB 99.

On recommendation of Board, Treasury has licensed International Rescue and Relief Committee to remit 5,000 dollars per month for a period of 6 months to Isaac P. Dennenberg, Ankara, provided such funds will be utilized only as authorized by the American Ambassador and/or Hirschmann.

STETTINIUS
(ACTING)
(OLW)

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

WRB:MGV:ED
8/11/44

RE

WX

SWP

S/CR

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

000821

(Copy)

Aug. 11, 1944

NY 643830

Pursuant to application filed directly with this office, you are hereby authorized to issue license to the International Rescue and Relief Committee, Inc., 103 Park Avenue, permitting it, notwithstanding General Ruling No. 11, to remit \$5,000 per month for a period of six months to Leon P. Denenberg, care of American Embassy, Ankara, Turkey, provided such funds will be utilized only as authorized by the American Ambassador and/or Ira Hirschman, War Refugee Board Representative at Ankara, Turkey. Periodic reports should be filed with Treasury Department by Mr. Denenberg through American Embassy, Ankara, Turkey. License period six months

Orvis A. Schmidt
Acting Director

000822

(Copy)

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

INTER OFFICE COMMUNICATION

Date

TO Miss Hodel
FROM R. B. Parke

August 10, 1944

Subject: Licenses to the International Rescue and Relief Committee, New York City, permitting it to remit \$5,000 per month for a period of six months to its representative in Ankara, Turkey, and \$2,000 per month for a period of six months to its representative in Stockholm, Sweden.

In accordance with your request there are transmitted herewith copies of this Department's wires authorizing the issuance of the subject licenses. You have indicated that you require such copies in order that the War Refugee Board may advise its representatives in Turkey and Sweden, respectively, of the issuance of the subject licenses. Conformed copies of the subject wires will be transmitted to you for your records as soon as they become available.

/s/ R. B. Parke

R. B. Parke

000823