CROSS REFERENCE ON

FOR:

Amendment to this License

Extension of this License

Renewal of this License

Correspondence concerning this application

Other (Specify)

For relative material concerning E. Jabotinsky's activities in Turkey

SEE: JABOTINSKY'S E. (SECRET FILE)
Dear John:

I think you will be interested in the quotation below from a broadcast of September 16 of an American newspaperman in Bucharest:

"Examination of shipping statistics has revealed that the mining in the Danube carried out entirely by the R.A.F. was 'astonishingly effective' according to one officer. Romanian shipping on the Danube was altogether over by August and German barges trying to get petroleum products to Germany despite the mines suffered heavy losses."

This confirms the information which had been reaching us in Istanbul concerning the danger of Danubian waters for the transport of refugees, and relates directly to the decision which was made by us in connection with the Jabotinsky proposal to charter vessels to proceed with refugees from Budapest via the Danube.

"With warm personal regards,

Cordially yours,

J. W. Pohle, Esquire
Executive Director
War Refugees Board
Treasury Building
Washington 25, D. C."
OUTGOING

TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

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special arrangement for security reasons.

The following for Hirschmann is UBG 100.

Please refer your No. 1423 of August 4 (Ankara No. 114)
and 1449 of August 8.

Thank you for full report concerning Jabotinsky proposal.
As previously indicated we rely entirely on your
judgment concerning proposals submitted by private organiza-
tions. Your cable is further indication that you are
giving full and impartial consideration to all proposals
submitted regardless of organization involved. This is
in line with Board's policy. Substance of your message
has been communicated to the Emergency Committee here.

Hull

8/16/72

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 18 1972
CABLE FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD TO KELLEY FOR HIRSCHMANN, ANKARA, TURKEY.

Please refer your No. 1423 of August 4 (Ankara No. 114) and 1449 of August 8, 

Thank you for full report concerning Jabotinsky proposal. As previously indicated we rely entirely on your judgment concerning proposals submitted by private organizations. Your cable is further indication that you are giving full and impartial consideration to all proposals submitted regardless of organization involved. This is in line with Board's policy. Substance of your message has been communicated to the Emergency Committee here.

THIS IS WBR ANKARA CABLE NO. 100.

9:00 a.m.
August 16, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Leiss, Mann, Hannon, Motorman, Table Control Files

J.W. Friedmanniro
TO:  
Secretary Morgenthau  
Mr. Gaston  
Mr. Paul  
Mr. White  
Mr. E.M. Bernstein  
Mr. DuBois  
Mr. Friedman  
Miss Hode  
Mr. Lasser  
Mr. Lesser  
Mr. Luxford  
Mr. Stewart  
Mrs. Taylor  
Files  
Mrs. Taylor Files

Please prepare some kind of message to Hirschmann re giving fair consideration to Jabotinsky's proposals.

J. W. Pehle  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD.
TO: Mr. Fehle

FROM: J. B. Friedman

Bergson was in today to talk about the Jabotinsky proposal. He had another somewhat garbled cable from Jabotinsky about it. I told Bergson exactly what Hirschmann had said and indicated we are not in any position to overrule Hirschmann. Bergson did not seem too insistent, but did suggest that we send a cable telling Hirschmann that we are glad to see that he is giving the same consideration to Jabotinsky (cont.)
proposal as to proposals presented by other people. Bergson wants to come in Tuesday to talk about the matter with you. I don't think there will be any difficulty in handling the matter with him.
AUGUST 11, 1944 3 P.M.

RETURN 166 & 1710

JUDD JAKOTINSEY
2319 FIFTH STREET, N. W. WASHINGTON

I AGREE TO ACCEPT YOUR SUGGESTION THAT THE GERMAN BOAT HINZKY 1500 PASSENGERS STOP IN GOTHENBURG ACCESSION COUNTERPARTS BOARD NEITHER APPROVES NOR DISAPPROVES BUT UNDERTAKES REFUSE NO PERSON IN GOVERNMENT OF GERMANY STOP THEREFORE DECIDES REFUSE ACCEPT MONEY UNDER HIS CONTROL UNLESS BOARD INSTRUCTS HIM AUTHORISE EXPENDITURE THIS PROJECT UNDERSTANDING BOAT WILL STAY BY HUNGARY UNTIL GROSSMAN DECIDES IF IT IS IN NOVEL TRAVEL THAT COSTS REASONABLY STOP STOP NOW INSTRUCTIONS AVAILABLE DUESHIAN TRIP REASONABLE RATE STOP

UNINTEGRATED PROJECT UNLESS RATIFIED BY BOARD STOP

JUDD JAKOTINSEY
This telegram must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

1449, August 8, 3 p.m.

FOR PERLE, WRB, FROM HIRSCHBAHN, ANKARA 124.

Please see Embassy’s 1423 and 1424 of August 4 for my views with regard to (REDEPTEL 674, August 3)

Jabotinsky’s proposal.

KELLEY

CSB
This is evidently the Jabotinsky proposal which Bergson spoke about and about which we cabled Ankara. While I don't see anything we can do at this juncture, I will be a little unhappy if Hirschmann brushes off the proposal without really going into it. The idea is obviously unorthodox, but perhaps there might be something to it.

Shall we act right away before passing it to the Emergency Committee here?
August 4, 1944

WASHINGTON, D.C.

FOR FEHIE WRB FROM HIRSCHMANN, Ankara No. 114.

The following is for your information.

Jabotinsky submitted for my approval a scheme to dispatch a wooden vessel of Turkish registry from Istanbul to Rumania and thence via the Danube to Budapest to embark refugees for return to Istanbul.

An immediate decision was requested.

My preliminary inquiries in Istanbul disclosed:

One. Traffic on the Danube is exceedingly dangerous; the waters are mined; and exact information as to the situation there is not readily obtainable.

Two. The vessel proposed was reported to be of too deep a draft for the Danube; and the superstructure too high to permit passage beneath the Danubian bridges.

Three. No information was yet available regarding the current stage of technical preparation and organization of people.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 18 1972
of people in Budapest for departure.

Four. No information was yet available in terms of German control regarding the possibility of vessels transporting Jewish refugees destined to Palestine, as enemy country, to sail down the Danube via military zone through Hungary, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Rumania without interference and perhaps removal of the passengers.

I informed Jabotinsky that, as investigations were not yet complete, I could neither approve nor disapprove his project at that time but that as soon as he was able to clarify the above points (a) possession of fuller information the project would be further considered with the view to assisting him.

Jabotinsky proposed sending a Turkish citizen to Budapest for the purpose of organizing the emigration and embarkation of refugees, and requested my assistance in this connection. According to our information the chance that this individual would succeed was remote. Consequently advised Jabotinsky that I could not be of assistance in this aspect of the proposal. I advised him further that until I was in a position to approve his project
his project I could not authorize the expenditure of funds transmitted to him under Treasury license for rescue activities.

Jabotinsky was informed by me that despite the foregoing he decided to undertake the above project at this time on his own responsibility it was a matter for his own decision.

Meanwhile our investigation of Jabotinsky's project and the possibility for making use of the method of Danubian passage is continuing and we shall keep you advised.

KELILEY

HTM
I have learned that the Emergency Committee to save the Jewish people of Europe is planning campaigns for the solicitation of funds for projects to be undertaken in Istanbul for the purpose of rescuing Jews from the Balkans.

For your information Jabotinsky has placed no (repeat no) other proposal for rescue work before us and there is little likelihood in our opinion that under present conditions here additional feasible proposals will be possible in the near future.

Also, funds are available from present sources for all refugee emigration now under way or under consideration for the immediate future. For your guidance recent political developments here and other factors...
Factors beyond control of any relief or rescue organization limit for the moment rescue possibilities and the existing difficulties cannot be overcome by the mere possession of funds. If you agree please transmit the above to Barrwald.

KELLEY

RR
August 3, 1944

TO BE SENT IN SEPARATE WIRE
6 p.m.

AMBASSADOR,

Ankara,

The following cable for Mr. Jabotinsky is WRB 91:

The Board has been informed that Mr. Jabotinsky has a concrete proposal for evacuating approximately 1,000 refugees across the Black Sea to Turkey.

It will be appreciated if you will discuss this matter with Mr. Jabotinsky and ascertain the nature of the proposal and its feasibility. A report on the proposal and your decision is requested.

STATEN

(Acting)

(W/2/14)
CABLE TO AMBASSADOR STEINHARDT, ANKARA, FOR HIRSCHMANN FROM THE WAR REFUGEES BOARD.

The Board has been informed that Mr. Jabotinsky has a concrete proposal for evacuating approximately 1,000 refugees across the Black Sea to Turkey.

It will be appreciated if you will discuss this matter with Mr. Jabotinsky and ascertain the nature of the proposal and its feasibility. A report on the proposal and your decision is requested.

THIS IS WRC CABLE TO ANKARA NO. 91

2:30 p.m.
August 2, 1944

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

JBFriedmanoss 8/2/44
CABLE TO AMBASSADOR STEINHARDT, ANKARA, FOR KIRSCHMANN FROM THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

The Board has been informed that Mr. Jabotinsky has a concrete proposal for evacuating approximately 1,000 refugees across the Black Sea to Turkey.

It will be appreciated if you will discuss this matter with Mr. Jabotinsky and ascertain the nature of the proposal and its feasibility. A report on the proposal and your decision is requested.

JEFriedmancess 8/2/44
Dear John:

In connection with the proposal made by Jabotinsky to charter a Turkish ship via the Danube to Budapest and return for the purpose of saving the Jewish people of Europe, and about which I telegraphed to you in my No. I am enclosing a copy of my reply to Mr. Jabotinsky relating thereto.

Cordially yours,

[Signature]

L. A. Hirschmann
Special Attaché

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

encl.
Istanbul, July 29, 1944

Mr. Deboutinsky:

This letter relates to the proposal you have presented to the "emigrant council" for the organization you represent, to chart a vessel of wooden structure to sail from Istanbul up the Danube to Budapest to embark on the Danube with a complement of some 1,000 refugees and transfer to Istanbul. You have referred to the Turkish ship, Inara, of 800 tons, which is at present in the sea of Marmara, and for which you contend, you are able to secure permission to proceed from Istanbul to Armeinia and up the Danube to Budapest, en to embark the passengers and return to Istanbul. The vessel is to be reconstituted for this purpose in Braila, in order to be fitted for passenger accommodation. You have indicated to us that a decision on this matter was pressing, and you requested an immediate affirmative or negative reply of the "emigrant council," as to whether or not we would approve the project.

Soon inquiry, the following salient facts have presented themselves:

(1) Our latest information regarding the safety of the Zuuba waters discloses that any boat sailing on these waters may be subject to grave danger of attack and explosion. It has been learned that, on occasion, these waters have permitted vessels to move with a degree of safety, but that this situation changes daily, and for military reasons certain belligerents completely re-mine the waters. It has not been possible to confirm the exact situation on the Zuuba, for obvious reasons, in this connection, we are making further investigations in the hope of securing something more promising for this aspect of your interesting proposal.

(2) From information which we have thus far received, the boat you have proposed is of too deep a draft for navigation on the Zuuba, and we are informed additionally that bridges which cross the Zuuba are of too low an altitude to permit anything but boats especially designed for navigation traffic to pass underneath.

(3) Provided that points (1) and (2) were satisfactorily conclusive, there would still remain the fundamental question of actor arrangement for the embarkation of the refugees. This would mean the advance arrangement of all technicalities involved in their permission to depart from Hungary. The name of the man you suggested to us not of Hungary to make these advance arrangements has been investigated, but according to our information the chances that he will be able to succeed are remote and seriously open to question.

(4) We have not yet been able to determine what degree
of control exists on the - ambulance. For boats carrying Jewish refugees destined to an Allied country which must pass through Hungary, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Rumania, along this zone of military operations, naturally, this matter would have to be clarified before embarking the evacuation of passengers on a voyage where diligent inquiry through normal channels reveals that the refugees will not be permitted to proceed through the - ambulance, and perhaps removed from the boat while en route.

It was in view of these impossibilities that we were led not to levy that the - Refugee Board at this stage can, neither nor two nor dispense with your project. Facts upon which our claim then must be based were not yet all revealed to us; although you required an immediate positive or negative reply, it could not yet be given.

We advise you further that the foregoing does not constitute a refusal to consider your request for authorization to embark refugees on your proposed - project. Under the Treasury licence issued to your Committee, funds may be expended only upon prior approval of the - Director of the Jewish Agency and/or the - Consul-General. In view of the above circumstances, and until the various points mentioned above have been clarified, you should not consider the possibility of funds being advanced to you. Obviously, the expenditure of funds therefor could not be authorized by us.

As you have been informed by me, I have been attempting to do everything within my power to find some means of assisting in any possible project for the rescue of refugees, and I am hoping that the above points can be satisfactorily cleared before you embark upon this enterprise, if possible. I think you will agree, in terms of your responsibility and ours, that it is essential to clear up these points before venturing on this project. Obviously there would be no justification in throwing people from the fire into the frying pan. However, if despite the above considerations you wish to proceed with this project on your own responsibility, that is a matter which you will have to decide for yourself.

I shall be happy to discuss the matter with you further upon the above points are cleared up to your and our satisfaction. I shall certainly endeavor to help you clarify them, if possible.

With personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

L. A. Miersmann
Special Attaché

Mr. Jaboinsky
Tomerson Apartments
19 Water Street
New York

1944
Mr. J. W. Pehle, Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.
Dear Mr. Leavitt:

Reference is made to your letter of August 8, 1944, in which you ask the Board to clarify the recent proposal of the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, Inc., to procure a ship in Turkey for the rescue of 1,000 Hungarian Jews.

The Board's representative in Ankara was requested to investigate this proposal and he has just advised us that it involves a scheme to dispatch a wooden vessel of Turkish registry from Istanbul to Rumania and thence by the Danube to Budapest to embark refugees for return to Istanbul. While Mr. Hirschmann has not completed his investigation of the matter and is not yet in a position to give his final recommendation, he has reported that his preliminary inquiries of the proposition disclose the following:

1. Traffic on the Danube is exceedingly dangerous at the present time due to the fact that the waters are heavily mined.

2. The vessel proposed by the Emergency Committee representative was reported to be of too deep a draft for the Danube and the superstructure too high to permit passage under the Danubian bridges.

3. No information is yet available regarding the stage of technical preparation and organization for departure of the refugees from Budapest.

4. No information is yet available regarding the possibility of transporting Jewish refugees down the Danube through military zones without interference and possible removal of passengers en route.
Mr. Hirschmann advised the Board that he will continue his investigation of the matter. However, recent developments in the Balkans cast considerable doubt on the immediate practicability of this or similar schemes.

Very truly yours,

[Signature] J. W. Fehle

J. W. Fehle
Executive Director

Mr. Moses A. Leavitt,
Secretary,
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,
August 8, 1944

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

We are in receipt of a letter dated August 5, 1944 from the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, Inc. in which they raise a question with reference to the procurement of a ship to rescue 1,000 Hungarian Jews. They say that they have sent a copy of this letter to you "in order to clarify the situation." It is also suggested that "Dr. Schwartz's attitude of non-cooperation goes so far as to deny certainly easily proven facts."

We wish to join in the request that you endeavor to clarify the situation. To us, it would be extraordinary that a ship able to carry 1,000 passengers would be available, without its being known to our representatives or to your representatives; and, if it is a fact that such a ship was available, then it must have been under conditions that were impossible of fulfillment.

Sincerely yours,

M.A. Leavitt, Secretary

[Signature]

per Evelyn M. Morrissey
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In the Armed Forces

Ahmed Buek, New York
William W. Goodkind, New York
Moorco S. Hellen, New York
Harold H. Hellen, New York
Edward A. Norden, New York
Lewis S. Straus, New York
Morris C. Trouber, New York
Edward M. W. Warburg, New York
CROSS-REFERENCE

1. See letter dated, December 1, 1974, to Mr. R. H. Eger, Asst. Corp. Sec., HFreI, relating to evacuation from Turkey.

SEE: 1. "EVACUATION FROM HIREN TURKEY" (3-8)
This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government Agency. (REstricted)

In cable from Ankara unnumbered (Received March 15, 11:30 p.m. chartering of the TARI delete word "unnumbered" and insert "353."

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES

CSB
Secretary of State
Washington

as anticipated in Katzki's cable to the DNB (Ankara's 14, re Embassy's 2376, December 16) Jabotinsky's approach to any negotiations with the Turkish authorities to charter the SS TARI without consulting the Embassy or the LRB representative, has afforded the Turkish Minister of Communications an opportunity to reopen the matter of the TARI and to present a claim to the Embassy through the Foreign Office for what in effect amounts to demurrage from April 9 to May 26 inclusive. The amount claimed is 117,500 Turkish pounds being 47 days at 2500 Turkish pounds a day.

It is not yet clear whether the Foreign Office intends to support the claim wholeheartedly. Under the circumstances I have taken advantage of the fact that there is
That there is no longer a WRB representative in Turkey to suggest to the Foreign Office that the Turk Embassy in Washington discuss the matter with the WRB in Washington. It might thus be possible to arrange to have the claim disposed of under reverse lend-lease.

STEINHARDT

MPP
SECRET

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

ME-8-1708
Ankara via Army

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

Rec'd. March 15, 1945
2:35 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

366

FOR DEPARTMENT AND WRB

As anticipated in Katzki's cable to the DRB (Ankara's 12, re Embassy's 2376, December 16) Jabotinsky's approach to any negotiations with the Turkish authorities to charter the SS TARI without consulting the Embassy or the WRB representative, has afforded the Turkish Minister of Communications an opportunity to reopen the matter of the TARI and to present a claim to the Embassy through the Foreign Office for what in effect amounts to dammages from April 9 to May 26 inclusive. The amount claimed is 117,500 Turkish pounds being 47 days at 2,500 Turkish pounds a day.

It is not yet clear whether the Foreign Office intends to support the claim wholeheartedly. Under the circumstances I have taken advantage of the fact that there is no longer a WRB representative in Turkey to suggest to the Foreign Office that the Turkish Embassy in Washington
-2- $356, undated, from Ankara via Army

in Washington discuss the matter with the WRA in
Washington. It might thus be possible to arrange to have
the claim disposed of under reverse lend-lease.

STEINHARDT

RB
Dear Sirs:

Enclosed herewith is a letter dated January 4, 1945, which was received for you from the Turkish Ministry of Transports through the United States Embassy in Ankara.

Very truly yours,

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe,
75 West 45th Street,
New York 19, New York.
Mrs. Towers

[Handwritten content not legible]
Translation of letter to Emergency Committee to save the
Jewish People of Europe from the Turkish Ministry of
Transports.

TURKISH TRANSLATION

The Turkish Republic
Ministry of Transport
Department of Sea Transports

Emir'ishu G을

Emergency Committee
Letter dated 16/3
Translational

Answering your request of 28.10.1944:

The transport of Jewish Emigrants from the Balkan countries to
Palestine has been for the time being stopped.

Therefore the obtaining of a ship for the transport of the
Jewish Emigrants in question is not possible.

Your communications are welcome.

Minister of Transport

/By/ A. Iiger
To: Mr. Peble
From: Mr. Warren

Reference is made to your communication of January 20, 1945 and enclosures thereto concerning possible objection on the part of the State Department and of Censorship to the release and delivery of the message from the Turkish Minister of Transport received as one of the enclosures in question.

Neither the Department nor Censorship has any objection thereto.

Enclosures
TO: Mr. Warren

FR: Mr. Pohle

I send you herewith a personal letter which Mr. Katsuki has addressed to me with the request that I forward the enclosures to the Emergency Committee. Will you please advise me whether there is any objection from the standpoint of the State Department or Censorship to the delivery of these enclosures to the Emergency Committee.

(Signed) J.W. Pohle

Attachment.

[Signature of Mr. Pohle]

PH: 1/20/45
Istanbul, January 8, 1945

Personal

SIR:

Mr. Jabotinsky, representing the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, has requested that I transmit to you, for delivery to the Committee, the enclosed copy of a letter dated January 4, 1945, which was received from the Turkish Ministry of Transportation, and the appended translation thereof into English. This letter relates to the request previously made for authorization to send a Turkish vessel from Istanbul to Constanza for purposes of transporting and renting from Eupatoria to Jaffa, Palestine. In this connection, I have sent you a number of telegrams relating to restrictions surrounding migration from the Balkans to Palestine, and others relating to Mr. Jabotinsky's specific project.

If you have no objection, will you please deliver the enclosed letter to the Emergency Committee. The extra copy is for your files.

Mr. Jabotinsky, in his letter to me, writes: "I am now considering further steps in this matter, and shall let you know as soon as my plans mature." I am not sure what this means in terms of Emergency Committee activities. I think, however, that in delivering the Ministry of Transportation letter to the Emergency Committee, they should be informed of all circumstances relating to the restrictions upon immigration, as I have advised you of them, as an interpretation of the Ministry's letter. This letter by itself, in the absence of such further explanation, may be subject to misinterpretation, or worse.

I have asked Mr. Jabotinsky to let me have, for the record, a report on the activities of the Emergency
Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

[Name]

Mr. J. B. Price, Executive Director
1250 Third Avenue
New York City

Enclosure: 2 copies of letter from Ministry of Transport
Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Chaim Weizmann was received through the American Consulate General in Jerusalem under date of January 22, 1945:

"The request of Jabotinsky for authority for his ship to embark emigrants destined for Palestine at Constanza was refused by the Turkish Ministry of Transport. His Washington principals have been advised of the refusal by Jabotinsky.

"The Ambassador in Ankara and the Refugee Board in Washington are fully advised concerning this matter.

"No transportation of immigrants from Constanza to Haifa is planned by Jabotinsky."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pohle

J. W. Pohle
Executive Director

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

February 1/25/45
FRED:
American Consulate General, Jerusalem
TO:
Secretary of State, Washington
DATE:
January 23, 1948
SUBJECT:
12

Below is a paraphrase of a message received from Herbert Katzki, Ankara by Hughes. We note that Joint Distribution Committee New York be given this message. (Reference Department's cable of January 9, No. 3.)

The request of Jabotinsky for authority for SS DARI or any other Turkish ship to embark emigrants destined for Palestine at Constantza was refused by Turkish Ministry of Transports. His Washington principals have been advised of this refusal by Jabotinsky.

Ambassador in Ankara and War Refugees Board in Washington are fully advised concerning this matter [and you may wish to suggest that permission to examine Bureau files be requested by JDC].

No transportation of emigrants from Constantza to Haifa is planned by Jabotinsky.

PFRKSTON

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

Please deliver the following message to Judah M太平 in Jerusalem from A. I. B. levitt, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

Emergency committee to save Jewish people advise us to allocate $200,000 for provisions and for additional $200,000 for provisions for 1,000 to 1,700 immigrants from Romania can be transported to Israel directly. They recommend we finance this project. Please discuss with Jewish Agency and ask Jewish Agency to advise us directly whether certificates are available for these immigrants. We would appreciate receiving any other information you or Jewish Agency may have received from Istanbul concerning proposal.

STETTINIUS.
CABLE TO AMERICAN CONSULATE, JERUSALEM, FROM WAR REFUGEES BOARD

Please deliver the following message to Judah Magen from M.A. Leavitt,

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

QUOTE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE TO SAY JEWISH PEOPLE ADVISES US JABOTINSKY CHARTERED SS TARI FOR $200,000 AND FOR ADDITIONAL $100,000 FOR PROVISIONS OTHER CHARGES 1500 TO 1700 IMMIGRANTS FROM RUMANIA CAN BE TRANSPORTED TO HAIFA DIRECTLY. THEY REQUEST US FINANCE THIS PROJECT. PLEASE DISCUSS WITH JEWISH AGENCY AND ASK JEWISH AGENCY TO CABLE US DIRECTLY WHETHER CERTIFICATES ARE AVAILABLE FOR THESE IMMIGRANTS. WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ANY OTHER INFORMATION YOU OR JEWISH AGENCY MAY HAVE RECEIVED FROM ISTANBUL CONCERNING PROPOSAL UNQUOTE

2:30 p.m.
December 29, 1944

Lass Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Ackermann, Cohn, Dubois, Hodel, McCormack, Files

Wrad 12/29/44
In reply please refer to 80125

Dear Judge Bennett:

Reference is made to your telegram of December 30, 1944, requesting prompt consideration of the request contained in your letter of December 7, 1944, addressed to Mr. John P. Pembie, Executive Director of the War Refugee Board, concerning your desire to transfer $200,000 to Turkey to finance the charter of the S.S. Ytri.

In view of advice which we have received from the War Refugee Board to the effect that Mr. Jabotinsky's request for a Turkish vessel to transport emigrants from Rumania to Palestine has been refused by the Turkish Ministry of Communications, this office will take no further action in the matter under reference.

Sincerely yours,

Orvis A. Schmidt
Director

Judge William S. Bennett,
Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe,
25 West 45th Street,
New York 19, N. Y.

ENN~Flebertysgr 1/6/44
London, Jan. 8 (AP)—Britain is again restricting the transfer of Jews from the Balkans to Palestine, a Foreign Office spokesman said today, but he denied a report that Britain was canceling a promise to give Palestine visas to all Jews arriving in Turkey.

The report was made today in New York by Alex Wilf, executive director of the American League for a Free Palestine. Wilf said he had received word from Eri Jabotinsky, member of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, who went to Turkey to arrange for evacuation of European Jews, that Britain had compelled Turkey to stop the issuance of transit visas to European Jews bound for Palestine.

"Jabotinsky does not know the facts," the Foreign Office commentator said, adding that during the crisis in Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria when the Jews were menaced and persecuted by the Germans those reaching Turkey were given visas for Palestine and elsewhere.

"But," he said, "that was during an emergency and that emergency no longer exists. There is no reason for the Jews to leave these countries now." With much of Europe now free, he explained, restrictions on entry into Palestine had been tightened.
Dear Judge Bennett:

In connection with your letter of December 27, 1944, which was referred to the Treasury Department for action, I wish to advise you that the representative of the Jewish Refugee Board in Ankara, Turkey, has just cabled the Board to the effect that Mr. Jabotinsky has informed the Embassy that his request for a Turkish vessel to transport emigrants from Haifa to Palestine has been refused by the Turkish Ministry of Communications. Mr. Jabotinsky also informed the Board's representative that he proposed to wind up his activities in three to four weeks as representative in Turkey of the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Judge William S. Bennett,
Emergency Committee to Save the
Jewish People of Europe,
25 West 45th Street,
New York 19, N. Y.
Ankara

Dated: December 31, 1944
Rec'd 5:50 p.m.;

January 1, 1945

Jabotinsky informs us (see Embassy's 2376,
Ankara's 205) that his request for a Turkish vessel
to transport emigrants from Rumania to Palestine met
with a refusal from the Ministry of Communications.
He attributes the refusal to intervention by the
British Embassy.

In my opinion this refusal is consistent with
the termination of the general agreement referring
to the admission into Turkey in transit of emigrants
from the Balkans proceeding to Palestine as reported
in Embassy's 2402. Ankara's 206 such termination to,
be regarded as a stage in the regularization of
emigration to Palestine as outlined in Ankara's
205 under reference.

For your confidential information Jabotinsky
informed

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter. 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 18 1972
-2- 2439, December 31, 1 p.m. from Ankara

informed us that as representative on the emergency committee in Turkey he proposes winding up his activities in 3 or 4 weeks.

STEINHARDT

WMB
Russian authorization was finally secured by the Ambassador to enable the 602 refugees and emigrants Hungarian, Polish and Romanian all proceeding from Romania to Palestine who were detained at Stora-Zagora and Kazanlik Bulgaria (see Embassy's 169, Ankara's 192, Embassy's 2255, Ankara's 191) to continue their voyage. (Ankara's No. 205) the first group comprising 280 persons departed from Stora-Zagora immediately upon receipt of authorization and arrived at Karaagac on the Turk frontier on December 21. Istanbul representatives of the Jewish agency called upon the Istanbul British passport control office during the morning of December 21 to obtain the necessary documents in accordance with the general agreement between the American and British Embassies and the Turk Foreign Office.
Office for the issuance of Turk visas to all refugees concerning which you have been informed in order that the group might be permitted by the Turk authorities to enter Turkey in transit. The representatives were advised by the British passport control office that the latter had been informed earlier in the morning by the British embassy in Ankara that on the afternoon of December 20 the British Embassy had notified the Turk Foreign Office in writing that the general agreement referred to should be regarded as terminated. This cancellation was made without notice to Ayresand or Steinhardt who on behalf of the American Embassy and the WRB had initiated and carried on the negotiations resulting in the general agreement nor to the Jewish agency nor to the British passport control office in Istanbul nor to me as representative of the Board. The British Embassy when advised of the arrival of the group at Turk frontier stated its decision must stand and matter must be referred to Jerusalem. During the afternoon of December 21 before it was possible to attempt to find even a temporary solution the 280 persons were returned to Bulgaria.
Bulgaria and are now at Stalingrad to which the remaining 328 detainees in the meanwhile had proceeded en route to Turkey and Palestine.

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

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

STEINHARDT

RB
In reply please refer to 78876.

My dear Judge Bennef:

Your letter of December 7, 1944, addressed to Mr. J. W. Pehle, Executive Director of the War Refugee Board, concerning your desire to transfer $200,000 to Turkey to finance the charter of the S.S. YARI for the purpose of transporting some 1500 refugees and indigents from Constantza to Haifa has been referred to this office for consideration.

In order to facilitate consideration of your request, it is suggested that this office be provided with more detailed information concerning the ultimate disposition of the funds involved and the identity of the parties from whom the S.S. YARI is to be chartered. Any additional pertinent information which you have available will be helpful to us in the consideration of this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Orvis A. Schmidt
Director

Judge William S. Bennef, Co-Chairman,
Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, Inc.,
25 W. 45th St.,
New York, New York.

EMO Flaherty senj 12/20/44
The following information was provided by Jabotinsky concerning his proposed charter of the SS TANGI (Department's 1157 WRB 134): He has requested the Ministry of Communications to grant permission for a voyage on the TANGI under charter to transport emigrants from Constanza direct to Haifa. The TANGI will carry up to 1600 passengers. If permission for the trip granted, he has requested the Ministry to authorize the voyage of another vessel. The Ministry of Communications has referred to the Turkish Foreign Office, whose decision has not yet been given.

Jabotinsky made two requests of the Emergency Committee: (1) advise whether the committee would be willing to finance a voyage from Constanza to Haifa involving the expenditure of approximately $200,000, (2) authorization to execute.
to execute a contract in the name of the Emergency Committee, if its response to (1) above is affirmative. He requested no funds and has nothing concrete in hand on which to base such a request. Jabotinsky plans to pay only amounts due in Turkey under the contract, expenditures in Rumania to be met by traffic collected there from a percentage of passengers who will be selected on the basis of their ability to pay their own fares. The emigrants will be selected from among those persons for whom Palestine certificates have been authorized, either from Palestine or by Jewish Agency confirmations previously issued in Istanbul during the emergency period. Selection and details are to be under the direction of Klarman, the revisionist representative in Rumania, and other persons associated with Jabotinsky states that he will discuss with the British Passport Control Office in Istanbul, after the execution of the contract, whether the Palestine entry certificates shall be issued in Istanbul or upon the arrival of the vessel in Palestine.

The emigration project is to be regarded as one involving the normal emigration of Jewish people from Rumania to Palestine, and not necessarily a rescue operation in aid of persons in peril of their lives because of Nazi
of Nazi oppression. Whether or not the Emergency Committee wishes to engage in this type of activity is a question for it to decide. Although emigration, which recently has taken place from Bulgaria and Rumania, has in his opinion, with one exception, included a fair representation of all groups and parties, including those in whom Jabotinsky is interested, pursuant to ration established in Palestine, Jabotinsky believes that emigration to Palestine from Bulgaria and Rumania should be removed from the "monopoly" of the Jewish Agency, and that the "element of competition" as evidenced by his projects Jabotinsky introduced as a "healthy" factor. He expects to receive a decision, of which he will inform us, from the Turkish Foreign Office during the week of December 17. The Emergency Committee already has authorized Jabotinsky to execute a contract for a Turkish vessel.

The foregoing concludes the information provided by Jabotinsky. In Embassy's 2178 Ankara's 105 you were informed of restrictions which have been placed upon immigration into Palestine. The representative of the Jewish Agency in Istanbul informed us that he had been officially advised by British Passport Control Office:

(1) emigration
#376, December 16, 11 p.m., from Apkara

(1) Emigration from Rumania and Bulgaria is not now regarded as a measure for saving of lives of people in peril of death. Consequently emigration from these two countries to Palestine is restricted by the terms of the White Paper. Emigration from Rumania to Palestine for the six months beginning October 1 is limited to 3500 persons. (Comment: as of today the unused number of certificates are 1400 to 1600 and 800, respectively.)

Emigration to Palestine is to be conducted on a selective basis as it was prior to outbreak of war through various local Palestine offices of Jewish Agency according to established schedules; (2) local Palestine offices of Jewish Agency which has responsibility in emigration to Palestine must assist in exercising control of emigration to Palestine from Rumania and Bulgaria. Prior approval of emigration must be secured from local British authorities. When British Consulates in Rumania and Bulgaria are re-opened this will take the form of issuance of entry certificates by respective Consulates. (Comment: As a practical matter when emigrants arrive individually in Istanbul on basis of British Passport Control Office in Istanbul since individual emigration readily can be kept within 1500 monthly overall limit reported in Ankara's 185.)
Ankara's (185). When large groups are organized the Palestine office in Rumania or Bulgaria must notify Istanbul so that the passport control office might in turn advise Jerusalem in order to synchronize their travel with emigration from other areas to keep within 1500 limit of monthly admissions to Palestine.

For your confidential information the passport control office in Istanbul unofficially advised the Istanbul Jewish Agency representatives that if the total number of emigrants for Palestine exceeds 1500 in one month the number 1500 exceeding 1500 perhaps might be admitted to Palestine but sent to some other destination. Likewise if the number of emigrants from Rumania and Bulgaria exceed 3500 and 1500, respectively, for the six months beginning October one the excess might be similarly treated. (Comment: People might set out for Palestine but not arrive there at all unless control is exercised).

In my opinion in view of British restrictions regarding Palestine immigration approval of Jabotinsky's project conducted independently of the Jewish Agency must be regarded with caution. If executed it might create a complicated and difficult situation especially were a vessel...
were a vessel transporting 1600 emigrants from Romania to Palestine suddenly to appear in Istanbul or Haifa.

In discussing the foregoing with the Ambassador, he deplored the fact that Jabotinsky had approached the Turk authorities to charter the SS TARI without consulting the Embassy or the representative of the War Refugee Board. The Ambassador observed that had Jabotinsky sought to charter an unnamed vessel he would not (repeat not) be disturbed but that in specifically requesting the "TARI" Jabotinsky may well have encouraged the Turk authorities to regard the approach as a renewal of the lapsed negotiations for the "TARI" resulting in the presentation by the Turk authorities of a claim growing out of the former negotiations.

STEINHARDT

WSB
DEC 13 1944

To: Mr. Heseltine

From: Mr. Pehle

There is forwarded to you herewith for consideration and appropriate action a letter received by the War Refugee Board from the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe. Also attached is a copy of a message to Ambassador Winant both of which have been sent to the Department of State to dispatch. The War Refugee Board will, of course, make available to the Treasury any report which is received from Mr. Katzki on the proposal involved.

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

Attachments.

Pehle 12/13/44
The cable below for Katzki is WRB 134.

Emergency Committee has asked Board to recommend issuance of appropriate Treasury Department license to permit transfer of $200,000 to Jabotinsky for charter of SS Tere to transport 1000 Jews from Constanza to Haifa. Although refugee problems in liberated areas are not regarded as being within Board’s functions (see WRB cable No. 106 of September 7, 1944, to Ankara), we would appreciate having report from you on the matter as soon as possible in order to be in position to give background material to Treasury.

STEETTINUS
(GLW)

NOTE: Originally issued with "STEETTINUS" rubric.

HPL

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 1-11-78
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 18 1972
Emergency Committee has asked Board to recommend issuance of appropriate Treasury department license to permit transfer of $200,000 to Haborinsky for charter of S.S. Tari to transport 1600 Jews from Constantza to Haifa. Although refugee problems in liberated areas are not regarded as being within Board's functions (see ARC cable No. 106 of September 7, 1944, to Ankara), we would appreciate having report from you on the matter as soon as possible in order to be in position to give background material to Treasury.

Miss Shauncy (for the sec), Abrahamson, Ackerman, Cohn, DuMols, Friedman, Hodel, Mannon, McCormack, Fites

12/11/44
12:16 P.M.

Phibd 12/11/44
December 7, 1944

Mr. John Deke, Executive Director
U.N.A. Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Deke:

We received several communications from Mr. Jabotinsky, in Istanbul, about the negotiations for the charter of the S.S. THAL for the purpose of transporting some 1000 Hebrews from Sanotan to Salon. These would be, to a great degree, refugees who have recently escaped from German-occupied territory or Hebrews who find themselves now in Palestine completely destitute.

In addition to the good it is doing for the people themselves, their transportation may very well result in additional Jews from German-occupied territory being able to enter Humana. This morning we received a cable from Mr. Jabotinsky informing us that the deal is about to be made with the owner of the THAL and the consent of the Turkish Ministry of Transport, and will involve an approximate cost of $200,000. We have instructed Mr. Jabotinsky to proceed and are now endeavoring to secure the necessary funds.

We are, therefore, writing to request your assistance in this matter. Mr. Bergen will return to Washington on Monday and will then present you with further details of the undertaking. Meanwhile, could you please transmit and recommend our request to the Foreign Funds Control Division of the Treasury Department to grant us the necessary permit for the transfer of the sum of $200,000 to Turkey for the above purpose.

I doubt you how important and urgent we consider this matter, and we shall be grateful for your good offices in securing for us the necessary permit as early as possible.

Very sincerely yours,

/s/ William S. Bennett

Judge William S. Bennett
Co-Chairman
Dear Mr. Pehle:

I am enclosing herein a copy of a letter dated November 20, 1944, addressed to Ambassador Steinhardt by Mr. Jabotinsky of the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe.

Although we have not been informed by Mr. Jabotinsky, we assume from his letter to the Ambassador that he is again out in the market to charter a boat to carry emigrants from Rumania to Palestine. We have no information concerning this project.

Several things are implicit, however, in Mr. Jabotinsky's letter. From paragraphs 1 and 2, both the Ambassador and I came to the conclusion that he apparently has made certain representations to the Ministry of Transportation which brought up the question of the S. S. Tari deal, which, somehow or other, the Ministry of Transportation seems to associate with Jabotinsky's request.

Paragraph 3 probably relates to the letter that we wrote to Mr. Jabotinsky at the time we were informed of the limitations placed upon emigration to Palestine from Rumania and Bulgaria for the six-month period beginning October 1, and in which we advised Mr. Jabotinsky not to assume that either the Embassy or the War Refugee Board would be able to extricate him from whatever project he might wish to undertake. We sent you a copy of this letter in our letter to you of November 17.

After discussing Mr. Jabotinsky's letter, both Ambassador Steinhardt and I thought it advisable not to enter into any discussion with him, and accordingly, in the name of the War Refugee Board, we addressed a reply to him under date of November 20, of which a copy is enclosed.

We are sending the copies of the two letters to you so that you will be fully informed in the matter.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

Herbert Katzki

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

Encls.
The Honorable
Laurence A. Steinhardt
American Embassy
Ankara

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

This is the matter I wanted to see you about: The Emergency Committee is planning to charter a Turkish ship - a freighter of about 3,000 tons - for the transportation of 1,500 Jewish refugees from Constantza to Haifa. The Ministry of Transportation are willing to authorize the use of such a ship but, before doing so, they want to know what the situation is concerning the TARI.

They suggested that the TARI transaction should be closed through a letter from the Embassy stating that, the condition of replacing the TARI by another boat being no longer acceptable, the deal should be voided.

All the prospective passengers would, of course, be chosen from among the present holders of Palestine Certificates and their number would be well within the limits of the quota now available.

Knowing your constant endeavors to organize the refugee transports just on those lines, I have decided to approach you directly with the request of informing the Ministry of Transportation as suggested above or, should this not be practicable, of kindly instructing me as to how I should proceed.

Thanking you for your interest,

Very sincerely yours,

ERI JABOTINSKY
Bellevue Palace, Ankara

P.S. I shall remain in Ankara, at the Bellevue, today and tomorrow at your disposal.
Ankara, November 20, 1944

Mr. Eri T. Jabotinsky
Emergency Committee to Save the
Jewish People of Europe,
Bellevue Palace Hotel,
Ankara.

Dear Mr. Jabotinsky:

The Ambassador has referred to me for reply your letter of November 20th in connection with the contemplated charter by the Emergency Committee of a Turkish freighter to transport Jewish refugees now in Rumania to Palestine, and in which you make inquiry concerning the negotiations which were carried on early in the year between the Embassy and the Turkish Government looking to the charter of the Turkish S.S. TARI.

As you are aware, the negotiations for the S.S. TARI were successfully concluded subject only to the granting of a safe conduct by the German Government which was never forthcoming, notwithstanding the intercession of the Turkish Government, the Vatican and various neutral powers. When it became apparent that it would not be possible for the S.S. TARI to make the trip, the proposed charter was allowed to lapse through the courtesy of the Turkish Government. As we understand the present position, no further action is expected of us by the Turkish authorities.

The War Refugee Board at the present time is not undertaking the charter of vessels for the movement of refugees from Rumania to Palestine.

Sincerely yours,

/S/
Herbert Katzki,
Representative
War Refugee Board

HK:pe
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement.

AMBASSADOR

ANKARA

September 7, 1944

6 p.m.

Special Representative overseas.

The following WBB cable no. 106 is for Hirschmann.

Several requests have already been received by the War Refugee Board for financial assistance in the relief of refugees in areas liberated by the Allied military forces.

For your information and guidance, War Refugee Board activities are to be strictly limited to the removal and relief of the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death, that is, who are still in enemy-occupied territory. Refugee problems in liberated areas are not (repeat not) regarded as being within the Board's functions. Accordingly, if you receive requests limited to the removal and maintenance of refugees in areas liberated from the Germans, you should refer such problems to UNHRA, the appropriate military authorities, the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, private refugee organizations, or other national or international groups which are authorized to deal with matters of this nature.

The foregoing shall not be construed to limit the activities of the Board dealing with arrangements for the removal of refugees in liberated areas whose presence serves to discourage and prevent the rescue of additional refugees from enemy-occupied areas.

This message has been repeated to another WBB Special Representative overseas.

CODE ROOM: Please repeat, using following opening sentences, to the missions below.
Stockholm - The following WBB cable is for Glenn.
London - The following WBB cable is for Hamer.
Oslo - The following WBB cable is for Ackerman.

WBB: 7, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712.

9/7/44.

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Arkin, Cohn, Drury, Dubois, Drury, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, McDonald, Marks.