Evacuation? and throwing [illegible]
Vol. 4, Folder 1, 7-8.

000895

PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES:
EVACUATION TO & THRU' TURKEY

7. PALESTINE CERTIFICATES

8. PRESSURE ON SATELLITE OFFICIALS

   a. Rumania
   b. Bulgaria

9. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

   a. General
   b. Administrative Accounts
   c. Miscellaneous Administrative Matters (Material Sent in from WRB Office, Turkey)

WAR REFUGEE BOARD RECORDS

000896

000897

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

EAD
Distribution of true
reading only by special
crypt expert. [redacted])

November 29, 1944

10 p.m.

[redacted]

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

AMEMBASSY

ANKARA

1108

The following for Katzki is WRB 131.

Please refer to your No. 2178 of November 13.

While we have not been able to obtain a full clarification of the matter referred to in your cable, we have been led to believe that the new allocation of quotas will not prevent the granting of Palestine certificates to persons in enemy controlled territory. Please follow the situation closely and advise us of any developments which affect the matter with which the Board is concerned, namely, rescue of persons in imminent danger of death.

STETTINIUS
(acting)
(GHW)

CONTROL COPY

WRB:MMV:KG
11/29/44

NE

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

000898

CABLE TO AMBASSADOR STEINHARDT AT ANKARA FOR KATZKI

Please refer to your No. 2178 of November 13.

While we have not been able to obtain a full clarification of the matter referred to in your cable, we have been led to believe that the new allocation of quotas will not prevent the granting of Palestine certificates to persons in enemy controlled territory. Please follow the situation closely and advise us of any developments which affect the matter with which the Board is concerned, namely, rescue of persons in imminent danger of death.

THIS IS WRB ANKARA CABLE NO. 131.

10:15 a.m.
November 29, 1944

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

JBFriedman:ro
11/27/44.

00089

C O P Y

LETTER FROM THE BRITISH EMBASSY TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT

September 9, 1943

My dear Hull,

I write to let you know that His Majesty's Government recently decided that in future all Jews, whether adults or children, who may succeed in escaping to Turkey from enemy-controlled territory since the closing of the Bulgarian-Turkish frontier in May last, will be eligible (after a preliminary security check in Turkey) for onward transport to Palestine, where they will be placed in camps, go through a further security check and if found satisfactory will be gradually released as legal immigrants into Palestine against the current half-yearly immigration quotas. By "onward transport" is meant such transport by sea or rail as may be arranged by His Majesty's Government in cooperation with the appropriate diplomatic mission.

This policy will also apply to Jews who manage to escape to other neutral countries, but where they have escaped to countries in which they are safe they will normally remain there. Thus the Jews at present in Mauritius, Cyprus, and Spain would remain there (unless, as is hoped, arrangements can be made in the case of Spain to remove them for the furation of hostilities to Allied territory in North Africa) and only in very special cases and for very special reasons would authority be given for any onward transport to Palestine.

The numbers to be admitted under these new proposals will not entail any increase in the total number of immigrants permissible for the period ending the 31st March, 1944.

I have been asked to emphasize the confidential nature of this letter, as secrecy is essential in the interests of the refugees themselves and His Majesty's Government intend to make no public announcement of the policy described above. They are, however, informing the Jewish Agency for Palestine in confidence of what is proposed.

I am writing a similar letter to Mr. Myron Taylor.

Yours sincerely,

R.I. Campbell

(This copy made from the bible)

000900

Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE [redacted]

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

September 3, 1944
5 p.m.

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

[redacted]

War Refugee Board

AMEMBASSY

ANKARA

772

CONTROL COPY

The following for Steinhardt and Hirschmann from War Refugee Board is its 107.

The information contained in your 1593 and 1595 of August 30, is highly gratifying and the Board wishes once again to congratulate you for these latest successes due to your unremitting efforts on behalf of refugees.

HULL
(GLW)

[redacted]

WRB:MMV:KG
9/8/44

NE

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

000901

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

The information contained in your 1593 and 1595 of August 30, is highly gratifying and the Board wishes once again to congratulate you for these latest successes due to your unremitting efforts on behalf of refugees.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO ANKARA No. 107.

10:50 a.m.
September 8, 1944

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

MSargent/dh 9/7/44

000902

No. 3431
X

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL
Istanbul, Turkey, August 26, 1944.

UNRESTRICTED

SUBJECT: Acknowledging Receipt of Eleven Lists of Hungarian Citizens Recommended for Palestine Certificates by Jewish Rescue Organizations in the United States.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's instruction of July 25, 1944, and previous instructions, enclosing nine lists of Hungarian citizens recommended for Palestine certificates by the World Jewish Congress, 1834 Broadway, New York 23, N.Y.

As directed in the instructions under reference, the lists have been delivered to Mr. Chaim Barlas, representative of the Palestine Agency in Istanbul. Mr. Barlas has acknowledged receipt of the lists under reference, and has requested that confirmation of delivery be forwarded to Dr. Kubowitzki of the World Jewish Congress.

An additional list, transmitted to the Consulate General in the Department's airgram No. A-55, of June 24, 1944, 12 P.M., has also been delivered to Mr. Barlas. Acknowledgment of the receipt of this list should be made to Dr. Bernstein of the Zionist Organization of America, 41 East 42nd Street, New York 17, N.Y.

A further list of names and addresses, transmitted as an enclosure to the Department's instruction of July 19, 1944, has been delivered to Mr. Leon Denenberg, representative of the International Rescue and Relief Committee in Istanbul. Confirmation of delivery of this list should be made to the International Rescue and Relief Committee, New York.

Respectfully yours,

848
LLS:mv

Burton Y. Berry
American Consul General

To Department in original and hectograph.

cc: Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Cohn, Drury, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Weinstein

000903

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

CONTROL COPY

RA-262
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement. ([redacted] W)

Ankara

Dated August 12, 1944

Rec'd 1 a.m., 13th

1944 AUG 15 PM 5 45

Secretary of State

Washington

1479, August 12, 5 p.m.

For security reasons the text of this message must be closely [illegible]

For your information (FOR PEHLE FROM HIRSCHMANN ANKARA'S NO. 132) the Governments of Rumania Bulgaria and Turkey have agreed in principle to grant transit visas to Jewish refugees from Hungary who have obtained Palestine entry certificates. The two thousand Hungarian Jews constituting the first group which had been ready to leave Hungary had been expected to arrive in Rumania some days ago. It is not understood in Istanbul why this emigration does not proceed since the Hungarian authorities in their announcement stated that exit facilities would be granted to Jews in Hungary for whom Palestine visas had been authorized and Turkish transit visas approved in principle.

Information received in Istanbul from reliable ~~private~~ sources indicates that although the Hungarian Government

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

000904

Government has agreed to provide the necessary exit facilities final authorization must be granted by the German military and political organizations in Budapest for the depature of each individual transport, and we are informed that such authorization has not until now been granted.

It is urgent that we know at the earliest possible moment what actually is causing the delay in the departure of this first group of 2000 Hungarian Jews in order that we may take such steps as may be possible from Instanbul to facilitate their emigration. We are exploring the situation from here but suggest that concurrently you request the Swiss Government and the International Red Cross to investigate the situation in Budapest. Please keep us advised of the results of your inquiry.

KELLEY

HTM

000905

CORRECTED COPY

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

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

[redacted]

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 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 Cretziana to persuade his Government to issue, without limit, Rumanian transit visas to Jewish refugees who are departing for Palestine from Hungary via Rumania. Cretziana advised Hirschmann, in another conversation on this matter today that the Government of Rumania has concurred in principle to issue Rumanian transit visas to Jewish refugees departing from Hungary, provided authorization to grant transit visas to such people has been given by the Turkish Government to their representative

Refer Embassy's cable 1391, dated July 30, 1944. Hirschmann has collaborated with the Jewish agency in obtaining prompt issuance of Palestine certificates, through the channel of the Swiss Legation in Hungary and the Swiss Minister in Ankara, to 8,200 Jewish Refugees in Hungary. This is with reference to paragraph 3 of the paragraph numbered one.

DCR:MED
8/18/44

KELLEY

Miss Chauncey(for the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Drury, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, Cable Control Files

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

000906

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

7 - War Ref Bd
(Mr. Pehle)

BE-346
This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Governmental agency. ~~(RESTRICTED)~~

Ankara

Dated August 30, 1944

Rec'd 7:30 p.m.

CONTROL COPY

Secretary of State

Washington

1595, August 30, 3 p.m.

FOR THE WRB

Ankara's 144.

During the past few months a total of approximately 800 Jewish refugees from Greece and the Greek islands have entered Turkey without Turkish visas or other documents through small ports on the Aegean en route to Palestine. These refugees have been promptly transported to Palestine with the assistance of the Turkish authorities who while not formally consenting to the movement have monetheless facilitated the same. These 800 refugees are in addition to all others reported by me as having transited Turkey en route to Palestine and are not (repeat not) included in the number reported as having entered through the port of Izmir.

STEINHARDT

RR

000907

Palestine

Distribution of
true reading only by
special arrangement.
([redacted]-16)

TO BE SENT IN [redacted]

War Refugee Board

July 28, 1944

AMEMBASSY
ANKARA

666

The cable below from Department and Board is War Refugee Board 83.

1. There follows the substance of a message received from Amlegation Bern:

> QUOTE A note from the Foreign Office, dated yesterday, states that according to a telegram from the Swiss Legation at Budapest, authorization has been given by the Government of Hungary for the departure of all Jews from Hungary who hold entry permits for another country, including Palestine.
>
> This same message states that transit through occupied territories will be permitted by the German Government. As soon as possible the Swiss Legation, in collaboration with the Palestinian Bureau, Budapest, will take necessary measures for evacuation. It is probably that Hungarian police passports will constitute travel documents. UNQUOTE

In view of the foregoing it is of the utmost importance that no effort be spared to induce the Turkish Government promptly either to issue transit visas to every person in Hungary holding a Palestine certificate or to inform the Hungarian Government that all such persons may enter Turkey enroute to Palestine without the formal issuance of visas, and to advise the Hungarian Government of its willingness to do so. Furthermore, every effort should be made with Jewish Agency representatives to secure the speedy issuance of as many additional Palestine certificates as possible to persons in Hungary. Time is obviously of the essence and the Board should be informed promptly of any difficulties that may be encountered.

2. Since the above quoted message may have broad implications, please endeavor urgently to ascertain whether the Turkish Government will promptly advise the Governments of Germany, Rumania, and Bulgaria and such authorities as there may be in Slovakia (as well as Hungary) that Turkey is prepared to issue transit visas to all persons holding Palestine certificates or to admit such persons enroute to Palestine without the formal issuance of transit visas. If Turkey has

already taken

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

000908

already taken this position, it would nevertheless seem appropriate at this time formally to restate it to all Axis governments. Please keep the Department and Board advised.

3. There follows the substance of the pertinent portion of a message to Amembassy London:

QUOTE In further response to message from Bern, the substance of which is quoted above, this Government is prepared to advise the Hungarian and neutral governments that all Jews arriving in neutral countries from Hungary will be afforded havens in United Nations territory just as promptly as military considerations permit, neutral governments to be given adequate assurances as to the maintenance of such persons in the meantime and to be requested to advise the Hungarian Government of their willingness to receive such persons. Please endeavor to ascertain from the Foreign Office whether the Government of the United Kingdom will join this Government in this attempt to save lives. American missions in neutral countries are being instructed to take appropriate action along these lines in collaboration with their British colleagues if possible, alone if necessary. Since time is of the essence, British missions should be advised of Foreign Office views promptly. UNQUOTE

Accordingly, you are requested to consult with your British colleagues and either in collaboration with them or alone, as the circumstances may develop, approach appropriate officials of the Turkish Government with the request that Turkey advise the Hungarian Government that it is prepared to receive Jews released by Hungary and permitted to go to Turkey. You may assure appropriate Turkish officials that if Turkey so advises the Hungarian Government, Jews arriving in Turkey from Hungary will be evacuated to United Nations territory as promptly as possible and that in the meantime the United States will undertake to make arrangements for their maintenance and support in Turkey. You should inform the Department and the Board promptly of the results of your consultation with your British colleagues and your approach to the Turkish Government.

4. There are a number of persons in enemy controlled areas to whom American visas were issued on and after July 1, 1941, the date when present existing procedures and security checks became effective, who, by reason of transportation difficulties and the advent of war, were unable to make effective use of such visas. It is believed that a large proportion of such persons are among those groups subject to enemy persecution. In the belief that the availability of new American visas for such persons may save their lives, the Swiss Government is being requested to advise enemy governments that American consular officers in neutral countries have been authorized to issue an

immigration visa

000909

immigration visa to any person to whom an American immigration visa was issued or for whom a visa was authorized on or after July 1, 1941, and who has been in areas controlled by Germany or any of Germany's allies since December 8, 1941, provided that such person presents himself to an American consular officer in a neutral country and is found not to have become disqualified for the issuance of a visa.

Accordingly, American consular officers in Turkey are hereby authorized to issue new American immigration visas to any such person to whom an American visa was issued or for whom such visa was authorized after July 1, 1941, provided that (a) such person other than a child under 16 years of age is found upon telegraphic reference to the Department for security check not to be the subject of an adverse report dated subsequent to the previous approval, (b) such person is not affirmatively found by the consul to be inadmissible into the United States under the law, or (c) the consul does not consider that the case is one which should be recommended for consideration under the committee procedure.

Please advise appropriate Turkish officials of the foregoing authorization and attempt to secure their prompt agreement to advise enemy governments of Turkey's willingness to permit the entry into Turkey, with or without transit visas, of all persons to whom American immigration visas were issued on or subsequent to July 1, 1941. You may assure such officials that any such persons so admitted will be adequately maintained and that any who may be found not (repeat not) to be qualified for the issuance of a visa will be evacuated as promptly as possible. Detailed instructions in connection with the issuance of new American immigration visas pursuant to the foregoing authority will follow promptly.

5. The foregoing measures represent an attempt on the part of this Government to take advantage of the information contained in the message from Legation Bern, the substance of which is quoted above, on various cases. The Board would appreciate any views that Hirschmann may have with respect to any further action that might be taken. In this connection, Hirschmann might consider, in the light of Department's 827, of July 11, WRB's 78, and such information as he may have through channels available to him, the advisability of requesting the Rumanian Government freely to admit Jews from Hungary into South Eastern Rumania pending their evacuation therefrom. Any views that Hirschmann may have should be transmitted to the Board promptly.

6. The instruction set out in paragraph marked three above is issued notwithstanding your 1287 of July 15.

STETTINIUS
Acting
(GLW)

WRB:MMV:OMH VD HE WE SE BC A-B S/CR

Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Bernstein, Cohen, Hodel, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Weinstein, Cable Control Files

000910

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

BJR - 362
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement. ([redacted]W)

Ankara

Dated July 10, 1944

Rec'd 11:25 a.m. 11th.

CONTROL COPY

Secretary of State,

Washington.

1248, July 10, 2 p.m.

FOR WRB FROM HIRSCHMAN

Ankara No. 92.

For your information ~~283~~ 272 Jewish refugees arrived in Istanbul on July 6th from Bergen near Hanover, Germany, and 61 from Vittel, France, and proceeded immediately to Palestine under the supervision of the Turk Red Crescent. These refugees represented an exchange for 113 German nationals from Egypt, South Africa and Palestine. The difference between the numbers exchanged results from a deficit in a former exchange, in which the number of Jewish refugees was less than the number of the Germans.

For your further information the Jewish refugees were all close relatives of people now residing in Palestine. Palestine nationals also were in possession of certificates issued by the Palestine Government at the

For security reasons the text of this message must not be quoted in full.

[redacted]

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

00091

at the suggestion of the Jewish agency and transmitted by the British Government to the protecting power. The 283 refugees were chosen by the Gestapo on an unknown basis from a list of 800 submitted by the Jewish agency.

You are informed that there remain three to four thousand exchange certificates of the above mentioned character outstanding but the British state that they have no additional exchange material available. From the foregoing it would appear that a precedent has been established for similar exchanges provided additional German exchange material can be secured. The above may be significant in connection with plans which may be in progress involving the exchange of holders of Central and South American passports.

KELLEY

WTD:MRM

000912

Refugee Bd.
(Mr Pelle)

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: SECRETARY OF STATE, WASHINGTON

TO: AMEMBASSY, ANKARA

DATED: MARCH 20, 1944

NUMBER: 221

CONTROL COPY

File

[redacted]

War Refugee Board sends the following for Hirschmann's attention.

War Refugee Board has received a report considered authentic which indicates that Jews who can prove that Palestine is their ultimate destination are allowed to leave Bulgaria to go to Turkey under present Bulgarian policy. Apparently, the Rumanian position is the same. At the same time the Board has received information that no entrance certificates to Palestine are available or being allotted for persons in enemy controlled areas. The case of Stephen Holczer is an illustration. Holczer while residing at Timisoara in Rumania received both a transit visa to Turkey and an exit-visa from Rumania which were arranged for by the Swedish authorities, but he was not able to use them as he was refused an allotment of a Palestine entry permit while in Rumania and consequently was not able to give the Rumanian authorities assurances that Palestine was actually his ultimate destination. ¶ It is evident that there is an urgent need to break the impasse which this situation has created. The solution of the problem possibly may be to find a way of meeting the conditions imposed upon the exit of Jews from Bulgaria and Rumania if the information we have regarding the positions of those

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

000913

of those countries is correct. ¶ It is requested that you ascertain the authenticity of the reports received by us concerning the attitudes of the two governments. We suggest that Shaul Meyeroff at Istanbul be contacted by you in connection with the above, especially with reference to an official letter dated June 19, 1943, addressed to Spassof, a photo copy of which was sent to Mereminski by Bader in August. If it appears that our information is correct you should use every possible means to avail yourselves of this avenue. You should keep us informed of the developments as they take place.

HULL

000914

MAR 3 - 1944

To: Mr. Stettinius

From: J. W. Pehle

Attention: George Warren

I would appreciate it if the annexed cable from the War Refugee Board to Mr. Hirschmann were transmitted with all possible dispatch.

(Signed) J.W.Pehle

L.S.L.
LSLesser:ia 2/29/44

000915

CABLE TO STEINHARDT, ANKARA, FOR HIRSCHMANN FROM THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Information which appears to be well substantiated has reached the Board that Bulgarian policy permits the exit of Jews from Bulgaria to Turkey provided they can show that their ultimate destination is Palestine. Apparently, the Rumanian position is the same. On the other hand, the Board is advised that certificates for entry into Palestine are not available or allotted to persons in enemy-controlled areas. Thus, the Board is informed that one Stephen Holczer, residing in Timisoara, Rumania, received, through the intervention of Swedish authorities, appropriate Rumanian exit-permit and Turkish transit visa which he was unable to use because as long as he was in Rumania he could not secure allotment of Palestine entry certificate and thus could not assure Rumanians that his ultimate destination was Palestine.

The urgent need of developing some means of breaking the impasse created by this situation is evident. If our information with respect to the Bulgarian and Rumanian positions is correct, the solution may be to devise some method of affording Jews in Bulgaria and Rumania some practical means of meeting the condition imposed upon their exit.

Please make every appropriate inquiry to determine whether our information concerning Bulgarian and Rumanian attitudes is correct. In this connection, contact Shaul Meyeroff, Istanbul, particularly with respect to an official letter dated June 19, 1943, addressed to Spasoff, a photo-copy of which Bader sent to Mareminski in August. If our information appears to you to be correct, take all appropriate steps to make every possible use of this avenue. Please keep us advised of any

LSLesser:als 3/2/44

000916

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington

TO: American Embassy, Ankara

DATED: February 26, 1944

NUMBER: 147

[redacted]

The following, for your information and guidance, is the substance of a letter sent to the Secretary of State on September 9, 1943 by the British Embassy in Washington. The British Embassy has recently transmitted a copy of this letter to me.

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

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

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-78
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 18 1972

000917

territory in North Africa, as is hoped, for such time as hostilities shall continue) and onward passage to Palestine would be considered only in cases deserving special consideration and for more particular reasons.

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

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

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

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

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

This message from Pehle for Hirschmann.

STETTINIUS
(Acting)

cc: Miss Chauncey, Mr. Paul, Mr. Gaston, Mr. H. D. White, Mr. Pehle, Mr. Luxford, Mr. Dubois, Mr. E. N. Bernstein, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Lesser, Mr. Friedman, Miss Hodel, Mr. Pollak, Mr. Bundy, Mr. Abrahamson, Miss Laughlin.

000918

2/17/44
Copies to:

Mr. Pehle
Mr. Luxford
Mr. DuBois
Mr. Lesser
Mr. Friedman
Mr. Pollak
Miss Hodel

000919

Sec FFC
Mr Pelle

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FEB 8 1944

FROM: AMERICAN EMBASSY, ANKARA

TO: Secretary of State, Washington

DATED: January 31, 1944

NUMBER: 159

[redacted]

You are requested to advise Rabbi Wise that I have taken up the subject of his personal cable to me received today with Barlas, head of the Jewish agency in Turkey, who has charge of the transit of Jews to Palestine from the Balkans. I am informed by Barlas of the difficulty with which he is confronted in increasing the movement which is caused by lack of transportation facilities rather than by unwillingness on the part of Turk authorities to cooperate. It is my opinion that unless transportation facilities are augmented by vessels especially chartered for the purpose, it is most unlikely that rail facilities can be materially increased under existing war conditions (you are referred here to my telegram of January 29, no. 153). I have been repeatedly assured by the Turk authorities of their desire to cooperate but they insist that they are unable to increase their rail facilities under existing conditions.

STEINHARDT

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

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a.

000922

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

GEM-812
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement.
([redacted]W)

Ankara

Dated September 19, 1944

Rec'd 6:58 p.m., 20th.

[redacted]

Secretary of State,

Washington.

1773, September 19, 7 p.m.

FROM HIRSCHMANN TO WRB

Ankara's No. 158.

Reference to Department's 800, September 16. Embassy's 1594, August 30 referred to verified reports regarding the impoverished condition now existing among the principal portion of the Jewish population in Bulgaria and the imperative need for BID to reach it without delay. Passman representative in Istanbul of the Joint Distribution Committee is prepared to explore the means to supply such and provided he is authorized to survey the situation in Bulgaria to determine the specific needs. It is for the above reason that permission was requested of the Board and State Department for Passman to enter Bulgaria and also Rumania.

STEINHARDT

UMB
MPL

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

000923

[illegible]-780
Distribution of true
[illegible] only by special
[illegible] ([redacted]-J)

Stockholm

Dated August 18, 1944

Rec'd 10:[illegible]

CONTROL COPY

Secretary of State,

Washington.

4155, August 18, 3 p.m.

[illegible] 73 FOR [illegible]

[redacted]

Rumanian Government has now [illegible] to overtures [illegible] in our number C2 for [illegible] (Negotiations's 2920 of August 3, 3 p.m.) and affirms that it is receptive to these proposals of facilitating evacuation of Jews from Rumania either through making certain vessels in Rumania available or the Dessarabia and Transylvania. As a preliminary, however, they request written guarantees as to expenses and information as to who will be the guaranteeing party. Pursuant to your instructions, local Rumanian Minister is being advised by Swedish Section of World Jewish Congress that it has in the meantime received information that active discussions are being held in Ankara regarding these transportation problems and that it appears best that entire negotiations be carried out from there.

Rumanian Government also passed along the following information.

That approximately

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By R. H. Parks Date SEP 18 1972

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That approximately 1000 Rumanian Jews were evacuated in small vessels to Palestine during April and May.

B. That approximately 8000 Hungarian Jews were expected at Constanza this month from which point they would be evacuated to Turkey on the SS SMYRNA.

C. That Rumanian decree ordering Hungarian Jews to be shot at Rumanian border was simply to prevent mass flight which in fact would greatly endanger their lives. Actually it is stated border guards have been instructed privately to shoot no one and not a single Jew has been shot fleeing across the border.

Rumanian Government has been assisting Jews in Hungary with Rumanian passports and has taken special measures to get them into Rumania.

JOHNSON

ED

LMS

000925

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

ECC-468
Distribution of
true reading only by
special arrangement.
([redacted] W)

Ankara

Dated August 7, 1944

Rec'd 10:45 p.m.

Secretary of State,
[redacted]
Washington.

1440, August 7, 3 p.m.

FOR PEHLE WRB FROM HIRSCHMANN. Ankara No. 12.

1944 AUG 9 PM 5 45
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

At a meeting on August 5 arranged through Sirond, Cretzianu informed me that the Rumanian Government had agreed in principle to grant transit visas to Jews arriving from Hungary into Rumania provided that the Turks would grant transit visas to the same refugees. I strongly urged Cretzianu to request his Government to permit without delay the entrance of Hungarian Jewish refugees into Rumania and to allow them to remain temporarily in Rumania until such time as transportation and technical facilities were provided for their evacuation. I urged Cretzianu not to permit his Government to "construct a technical wall" against these refugees from Hungary at this time, reminding him that such action would result in increased pressure on the Rumanian Government and would be remembered to the detriment of that Government.

Cretzianu referred to the chaotic situation now exisiting in Rumania in regard to transit, housing, food, et cetera

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By R. H. Parks Date SEP 18 1972

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food et cetera and asserted that a sudden influx of foreign population into the country might create an acute problem which could not be solved overnight. I stated that in my opinion the Intercross would take all measures necessary to provide such facilities including funds for these purposes if required. The latter seemed to satisfy Cretzianu.

I also informed him that the Bulgarian Government had agreed to permit refugees arriving from Rumania to enter Bulgaria and that it was taking all possible steps to facilitate the transit of such refugees to Turkey.

In the course of our conversation, I advised him as suggested in Department's 669, July 31 and referred to contents of Department's 627, July 11. Cretzianu said that he was pleased to interpret the desire of the United States Government to evacuate the oppressed Hungarian citizens to Rumania as a temporary haven as a recognition of the part of our Government that Rumania in contrast to Hungary now constituted a safe country for persecuted peoples. To this I replied that the results in Rumania would speak for themselves.

In view of Mr. Kelley's successful intervention with the Turkish Foreign Office in securing the latter's

authorization

000927

-3-#1440, August 7, 3 p.m. from Ankara.

authorization of the issue of Turkish transit visas to refugees with Palestine passports (REEMBS 1430, August 5) There would appear to be no obstacle now standing in the way of a large movement of Hungarian refugees through Rumania or into Rumania as a temporary haven.

I again promised Cretzianu that wide publicity would be given in America to the Rumanian Government's affirmative decision to porvide the haven and facilities referred to above.

KELLEY

WMB

EEC

000928

PLAIN TEXT OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: AMERICAN EMBASSY, Ankara

TO: Secretary of State, Washington

DATED: August 5, 1944

NUMBER: 1430

[redacted]

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

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By R. H. Parks Date SEP 18 1972

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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

DOR:WED

8/8/44

000930

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

MAE-451
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement. ([redacted]-W)

Stockholm

Dated August 3, 1944

Rec'd 4:02 a.m., 4th [redacted]

Secretary of State,

Washington.

2920, August 3, 3 p.m.

FOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD

From local intermediaries it would appear that the Rumanian Minister here is very sympathetic regarding difficulties of evacuating Jews from Rumania. He has allegedly agreed to forward to Bucharest with his strong support a request that the Rumanian Government supply transportation for such evacuations. It was considered best that the local Swedish Section of the World Jewish Congress be the initiators of the request. The Rumanian Minister allegedly appears convinced that his Government will be receptive to this request and anxious to take any step which might bring it good will. He also allegedly seems sure that on the basis proposed the Germans will not be in a position to refuse safe conduct. He is allegedly very uncertain, however, whether the Rumanians now have any vessels suitable for such evacuation, since most transport vessels

were said

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By R. H. Parks Date SEP 18 1972

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were said to have been either sunk or badly damaged in the evacuation from Odessa. In the event that it should become established that suitable vessels are, in fact, not available the Rumanian Minister has pointed out the following possibilities:

(One) The two Rumanian boats presently in Istanbul perhaps can be used. These were mentioned in our No. 48 for WRB (Legation's 2538 of July 9, 11 a.m.).

(Two) Possibly certain suitable Rumanian vessels, damaged at Odessa, were able to get back to Rumanian ports. If it were possible to replace the damaged instruments in Turkey, perhaps two or three boats could be made serviceable.

The Swedish Section of the World Jewish Congress has assured the Rumanian Minister that it will guarantee expenses of any such voyages, and it in turn will look to the World Jewish Congress for the necessary financial support.

As previously indicated, local Rumanian Minister allegedly feels very optimistic concerning this proposal and is forwarding it by courier to his Government in Bucharest. Apparently he dismisses entirely the possibility of any German interest in seizing serviceable Rumanian vessels on the grounds that German troop

transport

000932

transport requirements in the Black Sea have long since passed and that the Germans should have no further interest in such vessels.

The Board's comments would be appreciated.

JOHNSON

JT

WTD

000933

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

BMS
Distribution of this message only by special arrangement. ([redacted] W)

TO BE SENT IN [redacted] "W"

July 31, 1944

7 p.m.

AMEMBASSY,

ANKARA.

669

The following War Refugee Board cable 88 is for Hirschmann.

Please refer to your 1368 of July 25 concerning your request to Cretziamu that the Rumanian Government issue without delay thousands of transit visas to Jews in Hungary.

In a recent discussion with the Board, Ambassador Steinhardt suggested the desirability of taking precisely such action. Your initiative on this matter is much appreciated.

You may in your discretion advise Cretziamu of the American Government's hope that the Rumanian Government will do all possible to implement the formal assurance given by the Prime Minister of Rumania to the Rumanian delegate to the ICRC (our 627 of July 11). The Rumanian Government can do so by secretly facilitating the type of admissions referred to in your 1343 of July 22 as well as by granting transit visas. It is hoped that the Rumanian Government will permit Jews to enter and remain temporarily in Rumania even though it may not (repeat not) be possible to evacuate them immediately.

STETTINIUS
Acting
(GLM)

ACTING

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
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AND RECORDS
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WRB:MMV:KG
7/31/44

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

000934

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

BE-688
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement. ([redacted] W)

Ankara

Dated July 25, 1944

Rec'd 2:15 a.m., 26th [redacted]

Secretary of State

Washington

1365, July 25, 7 p.m.

FOR PEHLE WRB FROM HIRSCHMANN

Ankara No. 106.

Through the intermediary of the International Red Cross representative in Istanbul, a further meeting was arranged on July 21 at Istanbul between the Rumanian Minister to Ankara Alexandria Cretzianu Monsieur Jaquinet of the International Red Cross and myself.

I made the following urgent requests of Cretzianu:

One. In view of the reported new policy of the Hungarian Government that Jewish refugees will be permitted to leave Hungary for Palestine provided they have Rumanian transit visas, I requested that the Rumanian Government issue without delay thousands of such visas to Jews in Hungary who would remain in Rumania only long enough to embark on the vessels from Constanza. Cretzianu promised to immediately "warmly and strongly recommend to

Bucharest

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

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Bucharest by telegram that the above request should be granted".

Two. In view of the explained deadlock in Rumania which is preventing the departure of the Turk ships and the Greek ship SMYRNIE from Constanza concerning which I am (have?) informed Cretzianu, I requested him to obtain information regarding the reasons for this deadlock. I also asked Cretzianu to urge his Government to facilitate by all possible means without delay the departure of these vessels. Cretzianu agreed to do so.

Three. Since it has been reported in Istanbul that some Rumanian political personalities were seeking to proceed from Rumania to Turkey by means of the refugee ships I inquired of Cretzianu as to the veracity of this report since such a situation might possibly interfere with the movement of refugees. Cretzianu asserted that he was aware of this possiblity and informed me that there were two categories of politicians in Rumania who might be interested in such voyages:

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such voyages: (a) the so-called Liberals with whom he asserted he was in sympathy and who might be available to perform useful political services at this time outside of Rumania (b) politicians who are seeking to "desert the sinking ship" Cretzianu declared that he would work against the efforts of the latter to secure Turkish visas and such Rumanians employing the device of refugee ships to escape from Rumania would meet with his opposition.

Cretzianu informed me that the resolution of Mihaiu Antonescu, setting forth the auspices and authority of the Rumanian Inter-Ministerial Committee to deal with the transportation of Jewish refugees (reported to you in Embassy's 1321) was a matter of secrecy and had not as yet been disclosed, and that he would prefer that it be not publicly divulged for the present.

My impression from this interview further confirmed my view that Cretzianu is speaking for the Rumanian Government and is searching more intensively for a means of assistance in the rescue and transportation of refugees through and from Rumania.

KELLEY

WFS JJM

000937

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

Control Copy to Hadel

SFG-288
This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government agency. (~~RESTRICTED~~)

Ankara
Dated July 20, 1944
Rec'd 11:10 p.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

1321, July 20, 3 p.m.

FOR PETLE WRB FROM HIRSCHMANN

Ankara No 99.

DIVISION OF JUL 21 1944 COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

For your information Gilbert Simond of the Intercross forwarded to me today the following communication which he had received from Alexander Cretzianu Rumanian Minister to Turkey. This communication was in response to my request for information concerning the new official Rumanian organization for dealing with the belligerent attitude of Jews from Rumania. The following is translation of this document received from Simond:

"Communication received on July 13, 1944 from Mr. Alexander Cretzianu, Rumanian Minister to Turkey, conveying a statement by Mahai Antonescu, Vice President of the Council of Ministers.

I wish to inform you that an Inter-Ministerial Commission has been constituted since the beginning of the month of May, under my chairmanship, for the purpose of organizing officially and efficiently the belligerent

attitude

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attitude of Jews. During the sessions of this commission Fischer Fildermann and Zimmer, the representatives of the Jews of Rumania, have been consulted, as well as the Commissioner for Jewish Affairs. These persons have jointly established a practical means for orgainzing Jewish emigration, with the help of either medium size ships flying a foreign flag (which have recently affected transports) or ships of greater tonnage which the Service Maritime Agency may charter for that purpose.

The decision of the government has been officially communicated to the Swiss, Swedish, Turkish and Portuguese Legations; to the delegates of the International Red Cross Committee; as well as to His Eminence, the Apostolic Nuncio at Bucharest

The Inter-Ministerial Commission is in full activity. I hope that the international organizations which have dealt with the question of Jewish emigration will assist it by giving it their full support"

The above communication on behalf of Mahai Antonescu serves in our opinion to strengthen our view that the Rumanian Government is taking measures at the present time to assist the emigration of Jewish refugees.

KELLEY

RNK
WSB

000939

Miss Chambers (for the Secty), Abramowitz, Akzin, Bernstein, Bonsteel, Cohen, DeSoto, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Loughlin, Lesser, Lutford, Mann, Maxson, Marks, Melbourne, Pohle, Sargoy, Shendish, Stewart, Weinstein, H. D. White, Files

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

00094

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

July 11, 1944

WS
Distribution of this reading cable by special arrangement. ([redacted] W)

DIVISION OF
JUL 13 1944
COMMUNICATIONS

AMEMBASSY,

ANKARA.
627

The WRB cable 78 below is for Hirschmann.

Reference Ankara No. 78 for WRB (Embassy's 1125 of June 21).

For your information the following is text of cable received from McClelland in Bern under date of July 5, 1944:

QUOTE A message in code, received by air on June 2 from the Prime Minister of Romania, was the basis for the information given in Paragraph 2 of our message of June 17 Number 3867.

Statement was made by the Romanian delegate to ICRC, Soneriu, that he was able to give formal assurance (it is presumed for the care of the Allies) that Jews coming from Hungary into Romania would not only be allowed to cross the border secretly but that their safety would be looked out for by the Romanians.

The fact that the few Jews who are able to reach the frontier of Romania do not seem to find the Romanians making things difficult for them is born out by word received from Jewish sources in Budapest UNQUOTE.

WRB:MMV:KG
7/11/44

S/CR

NE

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

000941

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

KD-439
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement. ([redacted]-W)

Ankara

Dated July 7, 1944

Rec'd 3:54 a.m., 8th

Secretary of State
Washington
1230, July 7, 2 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUL 11 1944
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS & RECORDS

FOR THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD FROM HIRSCHMANN

Ankara No. 89

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

By arrangement with Gilbert Simond of the International Red Cross, I conferred yesterday with Alexandre Cretzianuc, Rumanian Minister to Turkey, at the home of Simond. Cretzianu took pains to emphasize the determined efforts of the Rumanian Government to assist in the transportation of Jewish refugees from Rumania. He asserted that since my absence from Turkey he had received two telegrams from Miscae Antonescu to the effect that "I am doing my utmost to assist in the transportation of Jewish refugees." Cretzianu insisted that he had in his possession further corroboration that the camp in Transnistrian which had contained 48,000 refugees had been completely disbanded in March 1944, but that he could not guarantee any orderly movement of refugees, since he asserted that the bombing of Ploesti and Bucharest had caused marked confusion and chaos in Rumania for all citizens and had multiplied the difficulties connected with all traffic movements.

Cretzianu promised to verify the authority and function of the Rumanian

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

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of the Rumanian Interministerial Committee dealing with refugee transportation, referred to in the Embassy's 1218, July 5 for the War Refugee Board. Stating that the Rumanians unanimously desire to withdraw from the war provided Rumania would not become another Italy, he warned that such a step at this time would unquestionably bring about complete German occupation and under such circumstances "I fear that Rumania may become another Hungary insofar as the Jews are concerned." Cretzianu emphasized the friendly role that his government was playing at this time in connection with the Jewish refugees. He promised to assist in expediting the embarkation of refugees on the ships in Constanza and to report to me through Simond the information he will receive from Antonesvu after he has communicated our conversation to Bucharest.

Cretzianu seemed deeply impressed by the strong warnings which our government has made to the Hungarian leaders regarding the fate which awaits the latter for their barbarisms and took a copy of a memorandum which I handed to him on this subject and which he requested permission to send to Bucharest.

I am proceeding today to Istanbul where I shall meet with the Jewish organization representatives there to form the advisory committee and endeavor to expedite the ship movements from Rumanian.

KELLY

WSB
RPL

00043

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington

TO: American Embassy, Ankara

DATED: May 17, 1944

NUMBER: 440

[redacted]

American Embassy, London, reports that it has been informed by London representatives of Jewish Agency, Palestine that deportation of Jews from Hungary and territories under its control has already begun and that 24,000 had been deported from Sub-Carpatho-Russia to date, in addition to general deportation of Polish refugees whose names are known to Hungarian police. American diplomatic missions at Moscow and London are being requested to endeavor to have the broadcasts from their respective countries in appropriate languages beamed on Germany and German-satellite countries transmit warnings to German and German-satellite military and civilian personnel carrying out deportation proceedings that they personally will be held responsible by the United Nations for their actions and the deaths that may result from deportation. Moscow and London have been asked to approach the Foreign Office in an attempt to have them use their influence upon the satellite governments and populations by all possible means to cause their resistance to German demands for the deportation and persecution of minority groups under their control.

For your information, OWI transmitters are carrying similar warnings. The Vatican is being approached with a view to obtaining its support in applying pressure on satellites, particularly Hungary, in this matter.

The essence of your 794 of May 2 has also been transmitted to London and Moscow. The Board hopes you will continue your efforts to have Turk authorities admit refugees from Balkans with or without transit visas. In this connection, if not already used in your approaches and if in your discretion it would not prejudice established movement of refugees from that quarter, you may wish to invite attention Foreign Office officials to the fact that they have reportedly admitted without visas large numbers of persons from Greece.

Embassy, London, further reports that Jewish Agency has informed its London representatives that of large group arrested in Bucharest for their activity in aiding escape of Jewish refugees from Hungary and other areas, all but 30 Jews have been released. Remaining 30 are about to be tried. Board has requested American Consul General.

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

00044

Jerusalem, to have Jewish Agency furnish you either through him or through its Ankara representatives all available details concerning these 30 persons. If, upon receipt of information, you deem action advisable, please request Simond to communicate with Cretzianu and refer to assurances given by Cretzianu in his conversation of March 29 as reported in numbered paragraph 2 of your 5B1, March 30. While Board is not unmindful of release of majority of persons charged with aiding Jews to escape, it hopes that 30 detained persons will likewise be released and possible opportunity to leave Rumania given them.

THIS IS WRB ANKARA CABLE NO. 36.

HULL

Nuss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Bernstein, Cohn, DeBolt, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Lunford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Rains, Sargoy, Smith, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H. D. White Pehle, Files.

00045

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE April 21, 1944

TO Mr. Pehle

FROM Mr. Hirschmann

Whoever returns to Turkey should make further representations to the Minister of Rumania to Turkey to press the latter's government to permit transportation for their refugees to be moved beyond the Ploesti Oil Fields. I believe some progress should be made in this direction. Perhaps a telegram should go out on this subject to Ambassador Steinhardt for Simond of the International Red Cross.

00046

Div Refugee Board
Mr Pehle

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, Ankara

TO: Secretary of State, Washington

DATED: March 20, 1944

NUMBER: 499

[redacted]

CONTROL COPY

The following is Ankara's No. 3 from Hirschmann for WRB.

Since our direct approach to the Rumanian Minister in Ankara (see our telegrams of March 13 and March 16 Nos. 440 and 474) produced satisfactory results, it was decided by the Ambassador and me that equally satisfactory results might be produced by a similar direct approach to the Bulgarian Minister here. Therefore, acting under authority which the Secretary of the Treasury vested in me (see the Department's telegram of February 12, 1944 No. 120) Simond was requested to arrange a meeting at Simond's home between Balbanoff, Simond and myself. I made it clear to Balbanoff at the beginning of our conversation that my sole function in Ankara was as WRB representative to deal with refugee problems; that any discussion which we might have would be confined to this subject exclusively; and that any other construction placed on our talk by him or his government could be only co(*)rtion. The reply was made by Balbanoff that he understood that it would be limited to the subject of refugees and that he welcomed a frank.(*) Balbanoff was informed by me that the reports of the brutal treatment accorded to the minorities in Bulgaria, especially the Jews, had outraged the government and the people of the United States and that

Bulgaria

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

00047

Bulgaria would be called upon in the near future to answer therefor. I then informed him that our Government was determined to do everything possible to rescue these people who were in danger of losing their lives and to find havens of refuge for them and that any continuation by the Bulgarian Government of the execution of these policies of the Nazi persecution would be born in mind by our Government in the future and that his Government would be well advised in its own interest to take advantage of such opportunities to permit refugees to depart across its borders as might be available to it in the future.

I suggested at the conclusion of my remarks that he report them to his Government. It was stated by Balabanoff in reply that the maltreatment of the minorities in Bulgaria had resulted from the policies of Gabrowski, the former Minister of Interior, who he asserted had been a tool of the Germans and was no longer a member of the Government. It was then stated by him that of late the Jews had been given much better treatment in Bulgaria and that he had reason to believe the "pressure" against them would continue to relax. It was suggested by me that Balabanoff dispatch to his Government an urgent message recommending that the same treatment as that received by other Bulgarian citizens be accorded henceforth to the Jews and all other minorities in Bulgaria and the deplorable conditions under which the Jews and other minorities are living in concentrated camps be ameliorated at once and

that the

00048

that the Bulgarian Government take immediate steps to authorize the granting of visas and to provide transportation for all refugees who wish to leave for Palestine or Turkey.

I was assured by Balabanoff at the close of our talk that he sympathizes fully with my suggestions, that he would cable his Government urging it to comply with them, and that he would send to Sofia a full report of our talk with further detailed recommendations and as soon as he received a reply he would request Simond for a further meeting with me.

STEINHARDT

(*) Apparent Omission

00049

Mr. Refugee Bd
(Mr Pehle)

CORRECTION

Copy only

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: AMEMBASSY, ANKARA

TO: Secretary of State, Washington

DATED: March 20, 1944

NUMBER: 499

CONTROL COPY

On page one, line sixteen, of this message delete "be only oc(*)ition" and insert "only be occasioned by deliberate distortion". The line should then read "could only be occasioned by deliberate distortion. The reply was made by Balbanoff".

000950

[redacted]

A meeting with Hirschmann was requested today by the Rumanian Minister through Simond, and Hirschmann was informed by the Rumanian Minister that he had received a reply from his Government the substance of which was as follows:

(1) It has been decided by the Government of Rumania to transfer to Rumania proper from Transnistra all Jews who are actually in Transnistra at the present time. This transfer from Transnistra has already started.

(2) The Government of Rumania pledges itself to facilitate in every possible manner the emigration of the Jews.

STEINHARDT

cc: Sec'y. (orig.), Abrahamson, Akzin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, McCormack, Paul, Pehle, Pollak, Rains, Standish, Stewart, H. D. White, Files.

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

00095

000952

The New York Times.
SEP 29 1944

REFUGEE BOARD AIDING BALKAN MINORITIES

By Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

ISTANBUL, Turkey, Sept. 26 (Delayed)—"Although recent political and military events in Bulgaria and Rumania unquestionably served to hide the condition of stricken Jews there, the United States War Refugee Board through its representatives will continue to carry out the mandate entrusted to it by President Roosevelt on Jan. 22, 1942," said Ira A. Hirschmann, board representative in Turkey, here today.

"The board's representatives will continue to be alert to the condition of Jews and other minorities in those countries and extend to them every possible aid and support during the whole difficult and convulsive transition period lying ahead."

He disclosed that recent revocation of anti-Jewish laws in Bulgaria was initiated by the board's negotiations with the former Bulgarian Government. He said further:

"The situation is entirely different in Hungary and Slovakia where, according to unofficial reports received by the board, the condition of Jews remains critical. The board's representatives in Istanbul and elsewhere therefore are pressing without letup every possible measure for rescue of those unfortunates.

"The present fighting in Transylvania may have sealed the possibility of escape from Hungary in the direction of Turkey, but the refugee board in cooperation with other responsible agencies in the field is exploring and exploiting all resources at their command in order to rescue and aid as many human beings as possible."

00093

GEM-812
Distribution of
true reading only by
special arrangement.
[redacted]W)

Ankara

Dated September 19, 1944

Rec'd 6:58 p.m. 20th

Secretary of State,

Washington.

1773, September 19, 7 p.m.

FROM HIRSCHMANN TO WRB

Ankara's No. 158.

Reference to Department's 800, September 16. Embassy's 1594, August 30 referred to verified reports regarding the impoverished condition now existing among the principal portion of the Jewish population in Bulgaria and the imperative need for BID to reach it without delay. Passman representative in Istanbul of the Joint Distribution Committee is prepared to explore the means to supply such and provided he is authorized to survey the situation in Bulgaria to determine the specific needs. It is for the above reason that permission was requested of the Board and State Department for Passman to enter Bulgaria and also Rumania.

STEINHARDT

WMB
NPL

Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Akzin, Cohn, Drury, Friedman, DuBois, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Cable Control Files.

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

00094

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

Distribution of [illegible] STATE
[illegible] pending only by [illegible]

[redacted]

1944 AUG 18 AM 11 11

August 18, 1944
9 p.m.

EMBASSY,

ANKARA.
709

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

The War Refugee Board cable 101 below is for Hirschmann.

Please refer to your No. 1480 of August 5 (Ankara No. 123).

The following cable has been sent to Harriman in this connection:

QUOTE In view of increasing difficulties in arranging for the evacuation of Jews from the Balkans by rail and sea and in view of the increasingly favorable war outlook, the War Refugee Board feels that greater emphasis should now be placed on convincing the satellites that it is to their interest to halt anti-Jewish activities and thereby make unnecessary the evacuation of Jews under present difficult and dangerous wartime conditions. With this in mind Hirschmann, the War Refugee Board representative in Turkey recently conferred with Balabanoff, the Bulgarian Minister to Ankara, and requested, among other things, that the Bulgarian authorities take steps to cease persecution of the Jews in Bulgaria and to afford them protection in that country thus obviating the necessity of involuntary emigration. Balabanoff indicated his view that the Bulgarian authorities would be favorably disposed to taking such action.

In his conversation with Hirschmann, Balabanoff apparently indicated

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

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indicated that the Bulgarian Government is on excellent terms with the Soviet Government and that Bulgaria would exert any reasonable effort to please the Soviets. If in your discretion you consider it desirable to do so, you may wish to approach the appropriate Soviet officials, informing them of the foregoing, and suggesting that they may wish to instruct their Charge d'Affaires in Bulgaria to urge the Bulgarians to take action of the nature indicated.

For your information, the Russian Embassy in Ankara has been advised of Hirschmann's talk with Balabanoff. UNQUOTE

HULL

KRB:MMV:KG
8/16/44

NE SE EE S/CR

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

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CABLE FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD TO KELLEY FOR HIRSCHMANN, ANKARA, TURKEY.

Please refer to your No. 1450 of August 8 (Ankara No. 125).

The following cable has been sent to Harriman in this connection:

QUOTE. In view of increasing difficulties in arranging for the evacuation of Jews from the Balkans by rail and sea and in view of the increasingly favorable war outlook, the War Refugee Board feels that greater emphasis should now be placed on convincing the satellites that it is to their interest to halt anti-Jewish activities and thereby make unnecessary the evacuation of Jews under present difficult and dangerous wartime conditions. With this in mind Hirschmann, the War Refugee Board representative in Turkey recently conferred with Balabanoff, the Bulgarian Minister to Ankara, and requested, among other things, that the Bulgarian authorities take steps to cease persecution of the Jews in Bulgaria and to afford them protection in that country thus obviating the necessity of involuntary emigration. Balabanoff indicated his view that the Bulgarian authorities would be favorably disposed to taking such action.

In his conversation with Hirschmann, Balabanoff apparently indicated that the Bulgarian Government is on excellent terms with the Soviet Government and that Bulgaria would exert any reasonable effort to please the Soviets. If in your discretion you consider it desirable to do so, you may wish to approach the appropriate Soviet officials, informing them of the foregoing, and suggesting that they may wish to instruct their Charge d'Affaires in Bulgaria to urge the Bulgarians to take action of the nature indicated.

For your information, the Russian Embassy in Ankara has been advised of Hirschmann's talk with Balabanoff. UNQUOTE

THIS IS WRB ANKARA CABLE NO. 101.

10:00 a.m.
August 16, 1944

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

JBFriedman:MJMarks:ro
8/15/44.

JBF MJM JBF

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

EOC-869
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement.
([redacted]W)

Ankara

Dated August 1, 1944

Rec'd 8:52 a.m. 2nd

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

CONTROL COPY

Secretary of State,

Washington.

1400, August 1, noon.

FOR PEHLE, WRB, FROM HIRSCHMANN, Ankara's 112.

A group of 40 children, 12 girls and 28 boys between the ages of twelve and seventeen years, accompanied by two adult escorts, arrived in Istanbul on July 30 by rail from Bulgaria. All were in possession of Turk transit visas and departed for Palestine on July 31 by rail. The children were part of a group of 100 for whom lists were submitted many months ago but whose documentation because of technicalities was only recently completed. Some of the children all of whom are Bulgarian had been waiting two years for the completion of imigration formalities.

Inquiry among the children indicated that an additional group of approximately 200 have their documentation for emigration to Palestine in varying stages of completion. Efforts are being made here to evacuate them during August in the same manner as the group of 40.

In view of

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

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In view of the statement made to me by Balaban of R (EEB 1371, July 26) I am pursuing this among other possible steps by the Bulgarians on order to obtain a concrete indication of the intentions of the Bulgarian Government in the matter of the amelioration of the conditions of its Jewish citizens and facilitating without delay the movement of those desiring to depart.

According to information received in Istanbul the Jewish Community of Rousse in Bulgaria has been designated by the Bulgarian Government as the agency which is to concern itself with the preparation of Jews desiring to emigrate to Palestine. Until now the Bulgarian regulations did not permit the existence of any Jewish organization in consequence of which all steps for emigration had to be undertaken for individuals by attorneys at large fees. The designation of the Rousse Jewish Community for this purpose may indicate a first step in a more orderly emigration of Jews from Bulgaria.

KELLEY

HTM

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

LPC
Distribution of true reading only by special [redacted]

July 29, 1944

AMEMBASSY,

ANKARA

697

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AUG 1
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS & RECORDS

The following War Refugee Board 90 is for Hirschmann.

The Board is highly pleased with your efforts to increase the refugee movement from Bulgaria referred to in your 1344 of July 22.

For your information an informal memorandum has been given to the Bulgarian Minister at Stockholm through Legation contacts. This memorandum which was prepared along the lines suggested by the Board and of which you were orally advised prior to your departure has apparently been forwarded by courier to the Bulgarian Foreign Office. Meanwhile the American Legation in Stockholm has received an informal reply from the Bulgarian Minister stating substantially the following:

QUOTE Bulgarian actions with respect to Jews have been enforced with leniency and sympathy by all of our Government branches. It is a well known fact even among the Bulgarian Jews that the late King Boris, as well as the head of the Orthodox Church of Bulgaria, have made every effort to insure that Jews were treated with compassion. This is no less true of the general Bulgarian population which has maintained a sympathy for Jews which even today will be readily admitted by the Jews. It

is

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

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is a fact that Jews today are living under circumstances not worse but better than those faced by large group of Bulgarian citizens who have been driven from their homes when they were destroyed by American bombing and who have lost all possessions.

The Government of Bulgaria has never turned a deaf ear to humanitarian considerations or those of tolerance. All Bulgarians are mindful that only through moral integrity can a small nation find strength. No less today than heretofore do we stand ready to give consideration to suggestions for the protection of Jews and other refugee groups, but we insist that those advancing such proposals should themselves be in a position to show leadership in humanitarian principles.

The air forces of the United States have been engaged in acts of great violence and cruelty against defenseless civilian populations in Doupnitza, Vratza, Sofia, Skopie, Velles, Plovdiv and others. A most arbitrary violence has been done to the Chateau of Vrana where the Queen, only recently made a widow, is residing with her two fatherless children of seven and twelve years. The Chateau, which was far removed from any objective of a military nature and even far removed from other habitations, was totally destroyed.

If the people of Bulgaria can be assured that there are people in the United States of such a character who sincerely deplore

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deplore these outrages and cruelties; if those who control the policies of the powerful American Republic, instead of directing threats, were to give assurances that the destruction and violence of their military leaders would be replaced, and that hereafter there would be no further ruin and slaughter of an innocent civilian population, then it may be said without question that the Government of Bulgaria would be prepared to recognize the moral justification and right of the United States to advance humanitarian pleas, and the Bulgarian population would readily welcome and approve action consistent with such advice. UNQUOTE

The Board suggested that the Legation consider replying informally to the Bulgarian Minister in the following vein:

QUOTE The problems arising from aerial bombings are not within the province of the War Refugee Board, but in considering such matters informally and objectively one cannot overlook the bombings by forces with which Bulgaria continues to be allied, of such civilian centers as Warsaw, Rotterdam, Belgrade, Amsterdam, London and Coventry. The methodical persecution and oppression of Jews and other helpless civilian minorities as heretofore and presently practiced in German controlled and German allied areas is quite separate and apart and over and above civilian suffering on both sides incident to military action,

particularly

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particularly aerial warfare. This Government has taken the unequivocal position that those responsible for the oppression, persecution, deportation or extermination of such civilian minorities as has been and is being witnessed in Germany, France, the Lowlands, Czechoslovakia, Poland, the Baltic states, the Balkan countries and elsewhere will be punished for their crimes. UNQUOTE

After quoting the appeal of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee of May 31 to the people of Hungary to protect the Jews, the Board's cable to Minister Johnson continued as follows:

QUOTE The same applies to other Axis countries, including Bulgaria. Those to whom these warnings are applicable have it within their power henceforth so to act with respect to Jews and other helpless civilian minorities as to invite more favorable consideration than their conduct up to now may warrant, and to demonstrate a resurgence of that moral integrity which alone gives nations, large or small, strength.

For your information and guidance, the informal response transmitted in your telegram under reference has, of course, made a very unfavorable impression. Whether the Bulgarian Minister or his principals realize the seriousness with which the American people and Government consider the unspeakable treatment accorded Jews and other minorities by Germany and her satellites

seems

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seems doubtful. It is likewise doubtful whether they realize the determination of this Government as expressed in the President's statement of March 24 and repeated by implication in the statement above quoted to see to it that those who share the responsibility therefor will be punished. UNQUOTE

STETTINIUS
Acting
(GLW)

ACTING

WRB:MMV:OMH S/CR NE EE NOE
7/29/44

000964

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

CONTROL COPY

LFG-420
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement. ([redacted]W)

Dated July 27, 1944

Rec'd 10:50 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

1381, July 27, 9 p.m.

FOR PEHLE WRB FROM KELLEY

Ankara No. 109.

Upon Mr. Hirschman's informing me that the Bulgarian Minister had advised him that the Bulgarian Government was agreeable to the use of the Bulgarian vessels VITA and PIRINE for the evacuation of refugees from Burgas, I requested the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to authorize the two Bulgarian vessels in question to proceed to Istanbul with refugees from Burgas. I informed him that the Bulgarian Government had given its consent to the use of these two vessels for the evacuation of refugees provided the Turkish Government gave its approval. I said that each of these vessels was capable of transporting about 400 refugees. I urged that the Turkish Government permit these vessels to make not merely a single voyage but repeated voyages provided the Bulgarian Government would agree to such arrangement.

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By R. H. Parks Date SEP 18 1972

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arrangement. The Secretary General welcomed the idea and said that the Turkish Government was particularly interested in establishing a regular procedure for the evacuation of refugees from the Balkans through Turkey. In the present instance, he said that it would be possible to arrange for one of these boats to arrive in Istanbul from Burgas every 10 days or 2 weeks and that way the Turkish Government would be able to make arrangements in advance for the movement of the refugees by train from Istanbul to Syria. He said that the idea appealed to him and he would recommend it to his Government. I requested him to issue appropriate instructions as soon as possible to the Turkish Consul in Sofia so that one of these vessels could leave for Istanbul in the very near future. He promised to do so.

KELLY

WMB RR

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

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

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special arrangement.
([redacted]W)

Ankara

Dated July 26, 1944

Rec'd 6:17 a.m., 27th

Secretary of State,

Washington.

1730 ~~1370~~, July 26, 4 p.m.

FOR PEHLE WRB FROM HIRSCHMANN.

The Bulgarian Minister to Turkey in an interview today arranged by Mimond of the Intercross informed me (Ankara's 107) that his Government had accepted the proposals which I had made and authorized me to transmit the following decisions of his Government.

One. The Jews are gradually having restored to them the status which they held before the war.

The "restrictions, oppressions, persecutions and abuses" are being eliminated.

Two. Facilities have been officially authorized which will permit them to leave Bulgaria with all possible assistance and a minimum of formalities.

Three. Instructions will be issued to expedite the departure from Bulgaria of vessels containing refugees.

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

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refugees.

Four. The departure by rail will be authorized by approximately 400 to 500 refugees weekly provided the Turk authorities grant transit visas en route to Palestine.

Balabanoff stated that the above measures were being communicated to the leaders of the Bulgarian Jewish Community. He emphasized that the change of policy was definitive but the steps would be gradual in order not to "fly in the face of the Germans". I urged upon Balabanoff the immediate withdrawal of the two notorious oppressive anti-Jewish Bulgarian laws. Balabanoff replied that those would definitely be cancelled within a brief time.

With respect to the technical difficulties involved in securing the necessary certificates to permit departure from Bulgaria, Balabanoff said that these difficulties would be relieved within technical possibilities. I thereupon urged that children be given first priority since they required few certificates, to which he agreed with the proviso that we define children as under 15 years of age. I told the Bulgarian Minister that the new policy of his Government

in regard

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in regard to refugees would be presented as a gesture of good will to Washington, and I suggested that the release without delay of large numbers of refugees would receive favorable publicity in America which the present Bulgarian Government is seeking.

Balabanoff stated that his Government's new regime was essentially liberal in policy and was attempting to find the best and quickest ways to "get out from under the Nazi yoke" being at the same time very sympathetic to the Soviets whom they held in high regard but not without some fear.

Balabanoff said that his Government agreed to the proposal concerning the sailing of the SS TARI to a Bulgarian port and return to Istanbul without a German safe conduct, provided the Bulgarians granted the necessary authorization, to which a Turk official had agreed with Ambassador Steinhardt and Simond. I will report further on this project which has been revived.

At the conclusion of the interview, I requested Balabanoff to confirm in writing the agreement of his Government to the foregoing. The Embassy's next numbered telegram will contain a translation of Balabanoff's letter.

KELLEY

WMB JJM

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

HMK- 9
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement ([redacted] W)

Ankara

Dated July 26, 1944

Rec'd 10:11 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

1371, July 26, 5 p.m. (SECTION ONE OF TWO)

FOR PEHLE WRB FROM HIRSCHMAN ANKARA 108

The following is a translation of a letter addressed to Simond of the Intercross by Balabanoff, Bulgarian Minister to Turkey, referred to in my 1370, July 26.

"In regard to the question you raised, relative to a Turkish vessel which could go to any Bulgarian port to embark Jewish children from Rumania and possibly also Jewish children from Bulgaria, I am able to communicate to you the following: In principle, the Bulgarian(*) would have no objection to this. But for a settlement of this question I would suggest that you address the Bulgarian Red Cross which on its part, will submit the question to the Government in order to obtain the latters decision.

I take advantage of this opportunity to share with you the impressions which I bring back from my last short visit in Bulgaria.

There is

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By R. H. Parks Date SEP 18 1972

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There is no doubt that the new Bulgarian Government regrets exceedingly all the measures which have been taken regarding I

KELLEY

(*)apparent omission

EEC JJM

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

GAR-107
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangements [redacted] W)

Ankara

Dated July 26, 1944

Rec'd 6:54 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUL 28 1944
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS & RECORDS

Secretary of State,

Washington

1371, July 26, 5 p.m. (SECTION TWO)

Jews in our country and that it does not in the least approve these measures. This Government intends to mitigate the situation of the Jews. But for reasons which will be readily understood, it could not proceed to annul immediately the law concerning the Jews. However, it is firmly decided to avoid all arbitrary action in the application of this law as well as all restrictive measures not provided for by the law. In the second place, the Bulgarian Government has decided to facilitate the emigration of Jews desiring to leave the country by reducing, for this purpose the administrative formalities to a strict minimum by removing all obstacles.

The President of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers has invited the Jewish Consistory in Bulgaria to come to see him and he has had a long conversation with its members concerning the situation of the Jews in the country.

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

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country. He has spoken to them of the steps which he intended to take to mitigate their situation and to facilitate the departure of those who might desire to leave the country. At Sofia, I was able to ascertain that the members of the Consistory came away from the conversation very well satisfied and pleased with their visit to the Bulgarian Prime Minister to whom I understand they expressed their thanks and gratitude for his plans for the Jews.

In general I consider that the policy of the new Bulgarian Government toward the Jews will be based on principles of equity and humanitarianism. Likewise I do not exclude the possibility of reaching gradually and quickly a completely normal state in the situation of the Jews in our country".

(END OF MESSAGE).

KELLY

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

[redacted]

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

MJB-938
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([redacted]W)

Ankara

Dated June 9, 1944

Re[illegible]

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUN 1[illegible] 1944
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS & RECORDS

Secretary of State,

Washington.

1039, June 9, 5 p.m.

FOR WRB FROM THE AMBASSADOR.

Ankara No. 72.

For the information of the board. In discussing today with Barlas of the Jewish Agency the reasons for the decreasing number of Jew refugees arriving in Istanbul by rail from Bulgaria he informed me that the President of the Jewish community in Ruschuk had recently called on the chief of police of Sofia to inquire why exit visas for Jew refugees were being withheld. The Chief of police replied that he had directed the discontinuance of the issuance of exit visas to Jew refugees after receiving a report to the effect that every Jew refugee arriving in Istanbul was being closely questioned by representatives of the British and American Intelligence Services concerning military and other conditions in Bulgaria.

STEINHARDT

BB RR

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

000974

TELEGRAM SENT

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

March 11, 1944
7 p.m.

AMEMBASSY,

MOSCOW.

554

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Our circular airgram of January 26 described the functions of the War Refugee Board, composed of the Secretaries of State, Treasury and War. This Board has been established by the President to take action for the immediate rescue and relief of the Jewish people of Europe and other victims of enemy persecution.

The Board is actively engaged in carrying out the policy of this Government as announced by the President, and is seeking the cooperation of all members of the United Nations in this tremendous task.

The Board is fully conscious of the great work which the Soviet Government has done to date in saving the lives of untold numbers of refugees, including Jews, from Hitler who were rescued in the midst of battle from the jaws of the German army. At the same time the Board is convinced that if it could secure the cooperation of the Soviet Government in some of the projects on which this Government is working, the chances of saving many people from death would be greatly increased. In view of the outstanding record of the Soviet Government in this whole matter we are not suggesting that pressure be put on them to do more than they are now doing. We feel, however, that if the Soviet Government can be convinced of the fact that we are sincerely determined to do what we can to prevent the murder of the Jews and other persecuted peoples by Hitler, they may be prepared to cooperate in some of the programs which we have under consideration.

There are many ways in which the Soviet Government might be of assistance in connection with these programs. The representative of the War Refugee Board in Turkey, Ira Hirschmann, at the suggestion of Ambassador Steinhardt, has already discussed two specific problems with Soviet Ambassador Vinogradov in Turkey. Vinogradov was informed of our intention

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exert pressure on Bulgaria and other satellite countries and was requested to take parallel action. Vinogradov was also informed of our efforts to get the Turkish Government to give permission for the use of a ship for evacuating refugees and was asked to support our request. Although Vinogradov agreed to speak to the Bulgarian Minister informally, he pointed out that on both of these matters he could not act formally except through Moscow. Vinogradov suggested that you should request the assistance of his Government on these two problems and he agreed to do likewise.

We feel that it is very important that you discuss this whole matter with the Soviet Government immediately. You should make clear the policy of this Government and discuss frankly the problems with which we are faced

The following information concerning some of the things we are working on and some of the obstacles we have encountered is furnished for your information and use in connection with your discussions with the Soviet Government:

The War Refugee Board is convinced that it is of utmost importance to undertake at once an organized and concentrated effort to make clear, by all appropriate means, to all Axis satellites that the Allied Governments view in a most serious light their assistance in any form to Hitler's program to exterminate the Jews, and other similar groups, regarding all such action as criminal participation in organized murder. The Board also believes it necessary to make clear to the satellites by all possible means, its intention to do everything in its power to rescue such unfortunates who are in danger of death, in order not only to give the satellites a clear view of the attitude of this country in the matter, but also of the opportunities which exist for assisting in the execution of our policy. The Board feels very strongly that a campaign of this kind must be made through all possible channels and be constantly repeated at every available opportunity. The Board believes that parallel action on the part of other Allied Governments would do a great deal to assure the success of this endeavor. At the moment it is important that pressure be brought to bear particularly on Rumania, Bulgaria, and Hungary, because in those areas there are many refugees in imminent danger of death who can be evacuated to Turkey and other places if those Governments permit it.

In addition to bringing pressure to bear through various channels on the governments of the satellite countries, the Board feels that there should be employed in this campaign all available means for effecting the widest dissemination of our attitude not only to the

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[illegible] themselves but to the largest number possible of the people of satellite countries. In this connection the Office of War Information is cooperating with the War Refugee Board in bringing home to the people in Germany and the satellite countries the fact that we consider this matter to be of paramount importance and intend vigorously to pursue all possible means of accomplishing our objective.

This cable has been repeated to Ambassador Steinhardt at Ankara.

HULL
( )

To the C[illegible]e Room:

Please repeat the foregoing to the American Embassy at Ankara with the following closing sentence, "The above is the Department's ____ of March ____ to Moscow. Please transmit the substance of the foregoing to Hirschmann."

WRS:GLW:KG EE WE SE AE NOE SWP
3/11/44

cc: Mr. Abrahamson, Mr. Akzin, Mr. Bernstein, Mrs. Cohn, Mr. DuBois, Mr. Friedman, Mr. Gaston, Miss Hodel, Miss Laughlin, Mr. Lesser, Mr. [illegible], Mr. Mann, Mr. McCormack, Mr. Paul, Mr. Pollak, Mr. Rains, Mr. Smith, Mr. Standish, Mr. Stewart, Mr. H. D. White, Mr. Pehle.

000977

cc: Miss Chauncey (for Sec'y
Paul
Gaston
White
Pehle
Luxford
DuBois
E.M. Bernstein
Stewart
Lesser
Friedman
Miss Hodel
Mr. Pollak
Bundy

000978

KEM-829
This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government agency. (BR)

Ankara

Dated February 22, 1944

Rec'd 3:10 a.m., 23rd.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

314, February 22, 7 p.m.

FOR PEHLE FROM HIRSCHMANN.

At our Ambassador's suggestion, I conferred today with Soviet Ambassador Vinogradov here. He agreed at first opportunity to speak with the Bulgarian Minister urgint that the Belgarian bottleneck for the evacuation of Jewish refugees be opened up. He was not very hopeful on this situation since he stated that Soviet efforts to secure concessions from the present Bulgarian Government to date had been futile. I told him of our intention to exert pressure on the satellite countries and asked him to take paralled action.

On the matter of supporting our request of the Turks for permission to use a ship for evacuating refugees, he was also pessimistic, stating that the Soviets had had no success with the Turks in any request. On both of the above matters he remarked that he could not act formally except through Moscow. He suggested that you,

acting for

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acting for the combined secretaries of your board, should telegraph Harriman to request assistance from Moscow. He agreed to do likewise. Please advise of your action.

STEINHARDT

WSS

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

BJR, 4 39
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement. ([redacted] W)

Ankara

Dated August 7, 1944

Rec'd 5:25 p.m. 9th.

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

DEPARTMENT OF STATE 1944 AUG 11 AM 9 40 COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS (LANSCHI)

Secretary of State,

Washington.

1446, August 7, 11 p.m.

FOR PEHLE WRB FROM HIRSCHMANN. ANKARA'S NO. 123.

In a further interview with Balabanoff on August 5 the position of WRB relating to Bulgarian Jewish refugees as set forth in the Embassy's 1414, August 2 was presented to him. Balabanoff said that he would inform his government without delay of my requests and would warmly recommend them.

In the course of the discussion Balabanoff stated that:

One. The political situation in Bulgaria had eased considerably in recent weeks, and this circumstance should tend to assist his government in taking measures which heretofore were subject to strong Nazi influence and opposition.

Two. The relationship between the Bulgarian and Soviet Governments had improved in the last few weeks.

In this connection I informed Balabanoff that all of my

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

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of my discussions with him were reported by me to the Soviets.

Three. He was fully informed of the telegrams relating to refugee movements exchanged between the WRB and the Bulgarian Minister in Stockholm.

Four. He would gladly recommend the revocation of the anti-Jewish laws in return for the continuance of the "happy omission" of bombing of Sophia, to which I replied that I had no authority to speak on military matters to him or his Nazi partners who were the initial perpetrators of the bombing of civilians.

Five. Would be interested in the nature of the goodwill which Bulgaria might build up in the United States by taking the steps which I requested especially with regard to the post-war period. He expressed a special desire to know how long the United States Government would retain an interest in European and Balkan affairs after the war. Again I replied that this was not within my knowledge or jurisdiction but that the United States Government's basic concern with minorities and humanitarian rights was well known.

Balabanoff is being handed an informal memorandum

written

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written by me to Pimond covering completely the points presented in the Embassy's 1414, August 2, he promised to inform me as soon as he had a reply from Sofia.

KELLEY

REP:WSB

000983

AMT-737
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement. ([redacted]T.)

Ankara

Dated August 2, 1944

Rec'd 10:45 p.m., 4th.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

1414, August 2, 8 p.m.

FOR PEHLE WRB FROM HIRSCHMANN

Through an intermediary I have transmitted the following message to Bulgarian officials;

One. We intend to hold the Bulgarian Government responsible for the taking without delay of the steps which Balabanoff informed me would be taken (REEMBSI370, July 26) with a view to ameliorating the situation of the Jews in Bulgaria and eliminating all varieties of persecution and abuse and facilitating by every possible means the departure of those Jews who desire to emigrate.

Two. We will not be satisfied until the two scandalous anti-Jewish laws are completely revoked and we expect the Bulgarian Government to take steps to this end with the least possible delay.

Three. In the meanwhile the Bulgarian Government is expected to be completely lax in the enforcement of the aforesaid

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

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the aforesaid laws.

Four. The necessity for the evacuation of Bulgarian Jewish citizens should be removed without delay and the emigration of such citizens should be the result of voluntary action and not of a necessity imposed by discriminatory treatment and laws.

Five. The Bulgarian Government should in its own interest take steps to rehabilitate its Jewish population for productive work.

Six. Existing relief agencies in Turkey, with the assistance of the United States Government will endeavor within possibilities to provide food, clothing and economic aid for the rehabilitation of Bulgaria's Jewish citizenry, and we expect the Bulgarian Government to give all possible assistance to this work.

Balabanoff and his intermediaries have emphasized their urgent desire to do something which could win for the present Bulgarian Government the good will of the United States at this special juncture, and have reported in a pointed way the effect which the absence of the bombing of Bulgaria since March 20 had had on the Bulgarian Government and people.

It should be our aim to salvage and to put back

on their

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on their feet as quickly as possible the entire remaining 45,000 Jewish population of Bulgaria rather than to press for the pitifully small sporadic movement of evacuation to Palestine which the circumstances prescribe at this time. We should emphasize that people rehabilitated in their own country will become more useful citizens and not create any postwar problem.

KELLY

JT
MRM

cc: Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Weinstein, Files

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