Evacuation To and

Evacuation To and Through Turkey
Vol. 5-A, Folder 1, 10A

000539

COOPERATION WITH PRIVATE AGENCIES IN TURKEY

A. GENERAL

B. MATERIAL SENT FROM WRB OFFICE IN TURKEY

1. American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee
2. Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe
3. HICEM
4. International Rescue & Relief Committee
5. Jewish Agency for Palestine
6. Vaad Hahatzala

WAR REFUGEE BOARD RECORDS

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COOPERATION WITH PRIVATE AGENCIES IN TURKEY

A. GENERAL

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Misc 7/10/44

Organization Representatives Engaged in Relief and Rescue Activities in Istanbul

The following list sets forth the agencies and their representatives in Istanbul, permanently located there.

1) Reuben Resnick represents the American Joint Distribution Committee.

a) Directly or indirectly engages in emigration from Turkey to Palestine or from occupied countries via Turkey to Palestine. For these purposes, it makes the necessary transportation arrangements or provides the funds therefor.

b) Provides relief for refugees in Turkey or in occupied areas either in funds or in kind, directly and indirectly, under Treasury license.

c) Provides maintenance for refugees while in transit from countries of emigration to countries of immigration.

2) Chaim Barlas represents Jewish Agency of Palestine, officially represents the Jewish Agency in Turkey and is in charge of their activities in that country.

3) Dr. J. Golden heads the Palestinian office in Turkey of the Jewish Agency. Directs a special office for assisting legal emigrants to Palestine departing from or travelling via Turkey.

4) Leder, Jewish Agency, delivers such assignments in Turkey for the Jewish Agency.

5) Zeev Schind, Moshe Averbuch, Ehud Ueberall represent Palestine organization interested in special emigration from occupied areas to Palestine, specially matters relating to shipping.

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6) Emachim Bader, Venja Pomeraniec represent Palestine organization interested in special relief assistance to people in occupied areas.

7) Jacob Griffel represents Agudath Israel of Palestine, and United States, and the Vaad Haazalah of United States interested in assistance, emigration, and providing relief for Orthodox people in occupied areas.

8) Joseph Klarman represents the Vaad Haazalah of the United States and Palestine organizations.

9) Ludwig Kastner represents the Vaad Haazalah of United States and the Bratislava Jewish community.

10) David Schweitzer represents the Hias-Ica emigration association (Hicem).

11) Leon Denenberg represents the International Rescue and Relief Committee, the Jewish Labor Committee, and is a correspondent for the New York Jewish Daily Forward, interested in relief and emigration of intellectuals, anti-Nazi refugees, scholars etcetera in occupied countries.

12) Eri Jabotinsky represents the United States Emergency Committee for the rescue of Jews in Europe, interested in the emigration of people in occupied areas.

In addition to the foregoing there were present in Ankara or Istanbul for longer or shorter periods at the end of June and first weeks of July:

13) Dr. Joseph Schwartz, European chairman of the American Joint Distribution Committee.

14) Dr. Judah Magnes of the Hebrew University, Palestine, who is a member of the Middle East Advisory Committee of the JDC.

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15) Harry Viteles, a member of the Middle East Advisory Committee of the JDC.

16) Eliezer Kaplan, a member of the Executive and Treasurer of the Jewish Agency.

17) Izok Mitrani represents the Bulgarian Department of the Jewish Agency.

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Prepared by Joshua Bakar of the Jewish Agency Immigration Dept

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Memo

Now, after the liberation of a number of countries in Europe from the Nazi regime, more first-hand information is coming regarding the fate of the Jews in the different countries. The information which reaches us generally confirms the former reports regarding the efforts made for the extermination of the Jews in Europe. About five million Jews have been exterminated by the Germans in the various European countries during the recent years and it appears that only one million Jews will have survived after the war, this being the most treacherous massacre ever recorded in History. Through miracle and thanks to the victorious armies of the Allies, the lives of these one million Jews have been saved but their condition is still most deplorable. They have no work, no houses, no food. All they had is now in the hands of "Aryans" and nothing is being returned to them in spite of the declarations given to this effect in the press, through the radio or otherwise. They have still to live in most inhuman and unsanitary conditions - ten, twenty and thirty souls in one room - as their houses have not been returned to them; they have no work because they cannot get back their tools and their shops. Although their personal safety is not threatened they are facing disaster through hunger, disease and deterioration. The only hope they inspire is to emigrate and find for themselves a new home where they could lead a productive life and feel they are really safe.

Only small portions of the Jewish communities have survived and these protions will never be able to continue their normal life in countries where most of their brethren have been massacred. Out of a former Jewish population of three million in Poland, it is reported that only 90,000 have remained in that country. The same fate is shared by Jews in a number of other countries in Europe.

In actual fact, little has been done to rescue these people. Palestine was almost the only country which contributed, and only to a small extent, to the rescue of Jews. 15,000 Jews entered Palestine during 1944 and about two-thirds of these were from enemy countries or from recently liberated territories. Enormous difficulties have been encountered in the way of the rescue work. No transportation facilities were made available for carrying out such vital tasks and, in addition, it was necessary to remove all kinds of difficulties regarding entry and transit visas. The procedure had been cumbersome and it was not till the beginning of 1944 that it was simplified and arrangements were made for the grant of Palestine visas in Turkey to Jewish refugees who succeeded in reaching that territory from enemy countries. But, alas, the arrangements were made too late to have any real effect for the rescue of masses. Only a few thousands could benefit of these facilities.

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The last blow to the rescue work was - the instructions issued by the Palestine authorities in December 1944 according to which the above facilities were to be abolished. The Turkish Government was officially informed in December 1944 that the former procedure will be discontinued and no visas for Palestine will, in future, be granted in Istanbul to refugees from Europe. According to these instructions the Palestine visas had to be obtained in the country of origin. Further restrictions on the way of rescue work were made through the implementation of the ruling that no more than 1500 persons were allowed to enter Palestine per month, as from October 1944 from all countries. This is the reason why only 3000 persons entered Palestine from the liberated territories of Roumania and Bulgaria during the months of October 1944 - January 1945. The scheme of 1500 immigrants per month was primarily intended for the first three months of October - December 1944 but till the middle of February 1945 no change has been introduced in the matter. In view of the catastrophic position of the Jews in Europe, these restrictions cannot be understood but for the probable intention of extending the period for the use of the 11,000 immigration certificates still left according to the White Paper 1939.

To appreciate the actual catastrophe some information is given below regarding the position of the Jews in the Balkans. Roumania: About 310,000 Jews live now in Roumania (The former Jewish population in the present territory of Roumania consisted of 500,000). The actual administration remained almost without changes and therefore very little can be expected for real improvement of the situation. Sufficient would be to mention that the former chief of the Police (Yonescu), who is responsible for many a crime, is still in office and that General Carlaou, military commandant of Jassy at the time of the progroms when no less than 150,000 Jews were massacred, is still the military commandant of this district. The greatest part of the community is a charge on the very few Jews who have still some means of subsistance but these can do very little for their brethren because they again have been victims of the nazi regime. The leaders are too busy with political problems to tackle the problems relating to Jews.

It is estimated that over 200,000 of the Jews living in Roumania have no hope of being "absorbed" and the only solution for these people is immigration to Palestine. About 94,000 have been released from forced labour camps, concentration camps and from jail, 18,000 have returned back from Transnistria. There are 3,000 orphans from Transnistria who crave for assistance. There are in the country also 20,000 refugees from other countries mainly Poland and Transylvania, this figure includes 3,000 of the Bor labour camps.

The Palestine Office at Bucarest has thus far registered 30,000 persons who desire to proceed to Palestine. Registration had to be stopped as there have been no practical possibilities of sending even part of these people to Palestine. Only 600 have crossed Turkey since the imposition of the new restriction - they

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left Roumania in November last and were subsequently held in Bulgaria till the beginning of January 1945 - and from then and till the present day not a single Jew could come out of Roumania.

Bulgaria: The position there is comparatively better. There are about 45,000 Jews in the country. There has been no physical extermination of Jews in Bulgaria proper, but no less than 23,000 were sent by the former authorities to "unknown destination" from those parts of Macedonia and Thrace which had been annexed by Bulgaria. Nothing has been heard from them since.

The conditions of the Jews now in Bulgaria is deplorable. They are suffering from hunger, cold and lack of clothing. Despite the many promises, nothing real has been done by the Government to alleviate their condition. The first batch of 1,000 pairs of shoes, alotted to Bulgarian Jews by the Jewish Agency after Mr. Ben Gurion's visit there (December 1944) will reach its destination only in the second half of this month. A further batch of shoes and clothing is being sent by the Joint Distribution Committee and is expected to reach Bulgaria shortly. But this in itself is not sufficient and much more has to be done, and urgently, if we desire to alleviate the lot of the Jews in this country to an appreciable extent. Ninety percent of the Jewish population is craving for immigration. Owing to the new restrictions none succeeded in leaving Bulgaria for the last two months or so.

Yugoslavia: Of the former Jewish population of 80,000 Jews only very few thousands have survived. The estimate given with regard to the Jews who still live in this country is circ. 4000 of whom 370 live in Belgrade. About 1,000 form part of General Tito's forces. A certain number found refuge in Italy and from there several hundreds found their way to Palestine. Almost all those who remained in this country desire to proceed to Palestine and although there are no practical possibilities for carrying out any immigration from this territory, the Jewish Agency, realizing the anxiety of the people has seen itself obliged to appoint a local representative for immigration affairs with the view to making the preparatory work as soon as conditions become more favorable.

While it is the declared policy of the Russians not to intervene in the internal affairs of these countries, nevertheless the attitude of the local authorities (with the exception of Poland, where no government recognized by all the Allies is yet functioning) has not been very encouraging in sofar as it concerns emigration. Representatives of the Jewish Agency's Department of Immigration have not so far been granted permission to enter these countries despite the great efforts made in the matter.

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The number of persons proceeding to Palestine from these countries has in actual fact been reduced recently to naught, because of the heavy machinery as regards entry permits to Palestine.

The immediate task should be to send to the Jews of these countries food and clothing; at the same time means and ways should be found for alleviating their lot fundamentally through their being transplanted to Palestine where they would lead a productive life.

Greece: Only 7,000 Greek Jews (including 300 orphans) have survived out of the formerly prosperous community of 90,000. Very few Jews live now in Salonica, where the Jewish Community numbered 50,000 before the war. It is in Athens that most of the surviving Jews are concentrated. Not a single Jew has yet been established in work in the whole country and their condition is desperate. Most of the Jews there are on the point of starvation. There is an immediate need for food and clothing but the firm desire of the few who have remained is immigration to Palestine. Here too the tendency exists by the local communists to obstruct any Jewish emigration. Because of the disturbances in Greece, the contact with this country became most difficult.

Hungary: is a country which is still in the process of liberation. The Jews are mainly concentrated in Budapest and this town has been the target of the greatest bombardments. There were 850,000 Jews in Hungary before. According to recent information only 120,000 appear to have survived in Budapest and probably only a few in the other parts of the country. As Budapest suffered most from war activities the position of the Jews there may better be imagined than described. It appears, however, that the lives of no less than 8,000 souls have been saved through the fact that they had immigration certificates for Palestine in hand. About 65,000 were saved through the protection given to them by the International Red Cross. Only recently, 10,000 Jews were deported to Germany and nothing has been heard of them since. The remnants are crying for help.

Never before had Jewry faced a disaster in the present-day dimensions. All efforts of Jewry should now be centralized to the rescue of the one man who has remained alive out of every six. A united effort could greatly contribute toward the alleviation of the conditions of the remnant of Israel in Europe. Every day counts. Relief work should be carried out in dimensions that behoves the calamity and without the least delay. Envoys should be sent by the J.D.C. and other relief organizations to the various poverty-stricken centers in Europe with the only aim of

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distributing food, clothing and essential needs for the rescue of Jews who may yet be rescued. Simultaneously ceaseless efforts have to be made for removing the artificial restrictions imposed on the exodus of the people who see their only hope in establishing themselves in productive and creative life in Palestine.

16.2.45.

J.N.B.

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16.2. 45.

J.M.B.

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Evacuations & other Jewry (10)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

MS-366
This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government agency. (~~RESTRICTED~~)

Jerusalem

Dated October 11, 1944

Rec'd 5:42 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

149, October 11, 4 p.m.

FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM JUDAH MAGNES, HENRIETTA SZOLD, CHARLES PASSMAN FOR JOHN PEHLE, WAR REFUGEE BOARD:

"As members of Middle East Advisory Committee of AJJDC, we have been in intimate contact with activities of War Refugee Board in Turkey and Balkans through its representative Ira Hirschmann and two of us have spent sometime in Turkey at different periods.

We feel deep obligation to express our gratitude and we are sure gratitude of all people everywhere for magnificent efforts rescuing Jews and restoring Jewish political prestige in Bulgaria and Rumania. The action of the United States Government in initiating policy of rescuing persecuted and homeless in midst of war is historic step in long American humane tradition and we urge fervently that this institution now happily established be permitted to continue its rescue activities and to

(Rec'd 10/13. 11 am
Contrad to Pehle
General distribution

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and to this end we plead that the term and conception of rescue be interpreted broadly and generously in accordance with the needs of the thousands requiring rescue."

PINKERTON

RB

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9/17/44
Copies to:

Mr. Pehle
Mr. Abrahamson
Mr. Friedman
Mr. Lesser
Miss Hodel

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THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE
Political Department
Jerusalem

P.O.B. 92

Istanbul, Sept. 30, 1944

Dear Mr. Hirschmann,

With deep regret I have learned, that soon you intend to leave for the states.

During this past period we have had the opportunity to work with you in many important matters in connection with the fate of the most unfortunate of the Jewish people in occupied Europe.

We recognize the fact that you have had a very deep human understanding towards our goal. But it is not only this. In this few lines we would also like to let you know that your friendly co-operation was always welcomed as extremely helpful.

Your support to our cause was so great and we could approach you so freely and without ceremonies that you have proved that still in the hearts of people exists the wonderful thing "democracy".

It is really a great souvenir that you have left among us and you can be assured, that it will be carried on in our hearts for ever.

We hope, that our paths will meet again in the not too distant future.

Cordially
yours

(Signed) G. E. Ueberall
P.D. Representative,
Turkey

Mr. I. Hirschmann.
Istanbul.

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THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE
Immigration Department
Jerusalem
P.O.B. 92

Istanbul, October 2, 1944

Mr. Ira A. Hirschmann
Special Attache
Istanbul.

Dear Mr. Hirschmann,

It is with deep regret that we heard of your return to the U.S.A.

President Roosevelt's order for the establishment of the War Refugee Board, as well as your designation as his special delegate here - the place where the innumerable attempts to save our unhappy people were and are being made - was of historical importance.

You were one of the main factors and pillars of these efforts and attempts. The conditionless devotion to our common goal and the simplicity with which you were always at our disposal, will never be forgotten.

We wish and hope that your leave-taking from us does not mean a leave-taking from the work you undertook. It is a sad work, but also the most important and serious one which decides of the life and prosperity of our Nation.

We feel confident that you will be our interpreter with the U.S.A. Government with regard to the necessity and directives in the next phase of our work.

We shall continue our efforts during your absence and you can be sure that it will be in full cooperation with Mr. Katzki.

May we, Dear Mr. Hirschmann, ask you to accept our sincerest thanks and the assurance of our esteem.

With best regards,

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Dr. Joseph Goldin

(Signed) Mendel Bader

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Dear Mr. Jabotinsky:

Upon my return from Ankara on September 30, I was handed your letter of September 28, and have noted the reported activities of Mr. Alterman in Bulgaria.

In your letter, you request authorization of the War Refugee Board to finance Mr. Alterman's trip out of funds under this board's supervision, for activities which he intends to pursue when and if he reaches Rumania. Mr. Alterman, according to information supplied by him via radio Sofia, has proceeded to Sofia, and presumably will proceed to Bucharest, as the representative of four separate newspapers. It is in this capacities that he has gained access to the officials with whom you report he has been conferring, notably the Bulgarian Minister of Propaganda. The activities he has undertaken in behalf of Jewish citizens of Bulgaria, and presumably of Rumania, are according to his own statement over the radio incidental to his formal business in these countries, that of newspaperman. Undoubtedly, the newspapers which have sent him to Bulgaria and Rumania have made the necessary financial arrangements to meet his requirements. Accordingly, I regret that under the circumstances, as you outline them and as Mr. Alterman has made it known publicly, I cannot authorize the expenditure of funs allocated for rescue purposes to be applied towards the financing of a trip of a newspaperman, which is a purely commercial venture and which should be financed from commercial and not from relief sources.

May I bring to your attention our letter to you of July 24, concerning the $5000 which you have received under license issued to the New York Emergency Committee. In paragraph 2 we advised you:

"In general, these funds may be used in making arrangements for the rescue of persons in imminent danger of losing their lives in enemy

territory and, while plans are being made for evacuation to safety, for the safeguarding and sustaining of such persons."

Under these circumstances, I am confident that you will agree that the proposed expenditure for which you request authorization does not come within the definition of the license.

Cordially yours,

I. A. Hirschmann
Special Attache

[illegible]
[illegible] No. 13
[illegible]
Istanbul

[illegible]

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Eri T. Jabotinsky
Emergency Committee
to save the Jewish People of Europe
Washington, D. C.

Istanbul, Sept. 28th 944

Mr. Ira Hirschmann
War Refugee Board
Istanbul

Dear Mr. Hirschmann,

I am happy to announce that Mr. Joseph Klarmann, who has been sent by the Emergency Committee to Bulgaria, has been able to develop a very successful activity. As no doubt you have already been informe , Mr. Klarman was received on september 19th by Mr. Lymo Kazasoff, Minister of Propaganda, who handed him a declaration in the name of the bulgarian Government. This declaration which was released to the press and over the radio on September 22, is the first of its kind containing both an expression of sympathy with a jewish state and the details of the practical restitution of jewish rights and property.

This declaration was the result of a protracted period of spade work, carried out by the Emergency Committee in Turkey. It has far reaching results not only for the fate of the Jews of Bulgaria but also for that of those of the neighboring countries. Thus in the last few days there is considerable agitation in this country for the restitution of the varlik. I also hope that it will open a possibility for a similar step of the rumanian Government. A correspondent of the Emergency Committee, Mr. Sraga Rosing has, I understand, been received by the King but I don't know if he was able to use the occasion for our purposes for he went to Rumania as a private journalist - however Mr. Klarman is planning to proceed to Rumania as soon as he will have established the machinery necessary for the practical exploitation of the Kazasoff declaration.

I do not know if this activity can be termed "saving the Jewish People of Europe" - the Bulgarians and Rumanians claim that, as far as they are concerned the Jewish People has already been saved - but it is certainly a relief activity and, like any manifestation of the importance set by the Jews, it may have salutary effects in the still occupied parts of Europe.

I have therefore the following request of the War Refugee Board:

To authorize me to finance Mr. Klarmans trip and activities out of funds which my Committee was permitted to send under your supervision.

Sincerely yours,

ss. E. Jabotinsky

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

War Ref Bd

(Mr Pehle)

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

July 29, 1944
3 p.m.

TO BE SENT IN [redacted] CODE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUL 29 1944

hdqrs only

CONTROL COPY

AMEMBASSY,

ANKARA

658

The following War Refugee Board cable 85 is for Hirschmann.

The War Refugee Board concurs in conclusions indicated in your 1322 of July 20 (WRB No. 100). Your efforts to coordinate the activities of private organizations are greatly appreciated.

HULL
(GHW)

WRB:MMV:OMH
7/28/44
S/QR

NE

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

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RECEIVED
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.
JUL 31 AM 11 16

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

The War Refugee Board concurs in conclusions indicated in your 1322 of July 20 (WRB No. 100). Your efforts to coordinate the activites of private organizations are greatly appreciated.

This is War Refugee Board cable No. 85.

9:00 a.m.
July 26, 1944

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

87

JBFriedman/MJMarks/sg 7/25/44

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

BAS-500
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement. ([redacted] W)

Ankara

CONTROL COPY

Rec'd 12:59 p.m., 21st.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

1322, July 20, 4 p. . (SECTION ONE OF TWO SECTIONS)

FOR Pehle WRBRD FROM HIRSCHMANN

Ankara No. 100

After weeks of negotiation between the Jewish Agency and the Vaad Haazalah representatives relative to an insistent demand by Griffel of the Vaad Haazalah that a larger representation of Agudath Israel and Vaad Haazalah refugees in Rumania be included in the contemplated voyages of ships from Constanza to Istanbul, I have advised Griffel that we will not (repeat not) interpose any objection to his taking independent steps to secure ships to bring from Constanza to Istanbul the refugees in whom his organization is exclusively interested.

A sharp difference has arisen and Griffel threatened to transmit telegrams and letters to his organization in the United States urgently demanding wide publicity for his contention of an alleged monopoly of the Jewish Agency in the matter. Our efforts have been directed towards effecting a compromise but the Jewish Agency, which in effect controls

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

00056 7

controls the distribution of certificates to Palestine, limits the issuance of such certificates for Agudath Israel people to a quota of six per cent after priority has been given to children, refugees from other countries and young trainees. In as much as the British Embassy has stated that every Jewish refugee reaching Istanbul would be given a Palestine certificate, we could percieve no grounds for requesting Griffel to refrain from taking independent action in securing ships. Especially was this so after he had been informed that there would be no difficulties placed in the way of his people leaving Bucharest and that the Jewish Agency was disinclined to alter its position either with regard to the quota alloted for Agudath Israel members or more especially regarding the allotment of places on ships for which the Jewish Agency makes arrangements. In this connection see point two below.

You are informed that the differences above stated have been composed by me and in the connection I have taken the following position as representative of the WRBRD:

KELLEY

WTD
WFS

00056

CABLES: "JOINTDISCO" NEW YORK

TELEPHONE: LExington 2-5200

File
HM

THE AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, Inc.

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

PAUL BAERWALD, *Chairman*
MRS. FELIX M. WARBURG, *Honorary Chairman*
JAMES N. ROSENBERG, *Chairman, Board of Directors*

ALBERT H. LIEBERMAN, *Chairman, National Council*
FRANK L. SULZBERGER, *Vice-Chairman, National Council*

JOSEPH C. HYMAN, *Executive Vice-Chairman*

Vice-Chairmen
GEORGE BACKER
JAMES H. BECKER
I. EDWIN GOLDWASSER
ALFRED JARETZKI, JR.
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MRS. H. B. L. GOLDSTEIN, *Comptroller*
ISIDOR COONS, *Director of Fund Raising*
MOSES A. LEAVITT, *Secretary*
LOUIS H. SOBEL, *Assistant Secretary*

July 13, 1944.

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I thought I should bring to your attention a letter from Mr. Leo Gallin, Executive Director of the United Jewish Welfare Fund of Los Angeles. It reads as follows:

> "A number of our contributors have called us about a wire appeal for the 'Emergency Committee to Save the Jews of Europe', which is asking, I believe, about $200,000 for a project in connection with alleged rescue activities in the Balkans.
>
> "Will you please rush to us all available information on this and other projects of the Committee, some of whose followers spoke of negotiations with JDC preceding this drive which they are now holding. I am particularly interested in official records on the entire subject."

I have sent Mr. Gallin our exchange of correspondence with the Emergency Committee. We do not know whether the Emergency Committee people in Turkey have gone over their project with Mr. Resnik and Mr. Hirschmann, since we have had no further word on this.

Sincerely yours,

J. C. Hyman

Joseph C. Hyman
Executive Vice-Chairman

JCH:mh

000568

Received in the Department on July 19.

FROM: American Consulate General, Istanbul

TO: Secretary of State, Washington

DATE: July 17, 1944

NUMBER: 422

CONTROL COPY

[redacted]

Jose Schwartz sends the following to the War Refugee Board for Pehle, JDC, New York.

Reference is made herewith to your no. 6PC received here July 11, delivered to us July 13.

I have been assured by the Member of Jabotinsky that they discussed no rescue project involving 200,000 or any other amount.

It is advised by Jabotinsky, furthermore, that he has no definite project to discuss at the present nor does he foresee any in the near future. I agree fully with your decision that War Refugee Board and our representatives must approve all rescue projects before being submitted to you for final decision.

I am assured by Barlas that request to Rabbi Ehren Freiss for 5,000 pounds was the result of a message from him in which help in the rescue program was offered by him.

7/22/44
Message sent to board.
JH

BERRY

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

000570

CABLES: "JOINTDISCO" NEW YORK

TELEPHONE: LExington 2-5200

THE AMERICAN JEWISH
JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, Inc.

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

PAUL BAERWALD, *Chairman*
MRS. FELIX M. WARBURG, *Honorary Chairman*
JAMES N. ROSENBERG, *Chairman, Board of Directors*

ALBERT H. LIEBERMAN, *Chairman, National Council*
FRANK L. SULZBERGER, *Vice-Chairman, National Council*

JOSEPH C. HYMAN, *Executive Vice-Chairman*

Vice-Chairmen
GEORGE BACKER
JAMES H. BECKER
I. EDWIN GOLDWASSER
ALFRED JARETZKI, JR.
ALEXANDER KAHN
ISAAC H. LEVY
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M. C. SLOSS
JONAH B. WISE

European Executive Council
BERNHARD KAHN, *Honorary Chairman*
JOSEPH J. SCHWARTZ, *Chairman*

I. EDWIN GOLDWASSER, *Treasurer*
ALEXANDER A. LANDESCO, *Treasurer*
EVELYN M. MORRISSEY, *Assistant Treasurer*
MRS. H. B. L. GOLDSTEIN, *Comptroller*
ISIDOR COONS, *Director of Fund Raising*
MOSES A. LEAVITT, *Secretary*
LOUIS H. SOBEL, *Assistant Secretary*

July 6th, 1944.

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

Dear John:

In accordance with our talk yesterday, I am enclosing herewith copies of correspondence exchanged between the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, Inc. and the Joint Distribution Committee.

Sincerely yours,

M. A. Leavitt
Secretary

MAL:mh
encls.

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P 15

WASHINGTON

C O P Y

EMERGENCY COMMITTEE TO SAVE THE JEWISH PEOPLE OF EUROPE

2317 16th Street, N.W.

June 8, 1944

Mr. Joseph C. Hyman, Vice-Chairman
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee
270 Madison Avenue
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Hyman:

In accordance with our arrangement, I am sending you a resumé of the various points we discussed during our conversation, attended by yourself and Mr. Leavitt for the Joint Distribution Committee and my associates, Peter H. Bergson, Gabriel Wechsler, and myself. I want to take this occasion, as well, to express my appreciation of the cordial and candid spirit with which you and Mr. Leavitt discussed the various problems we considered. I believe we reached a very basic and sympathetic understanding of the purposes and programs of our organizations in relation to the tremendous problem we are seeking to solve.

The chief object of our conversation was to find a means of co-operation whereby the Joint Distribution Committee would find it possible to allocate part of the necessary funds for getting large numbers of Hebrew refugees out of the Balkan countries in connection with the plans formulated by Mr. Eri Jabotinsky, our representative in Turkey. The specific project presented for your consideration involved a sum of two hundred thousand dollars and is the first of a number of large scale efforts to remove Hebrew people from the danger zone and to take them to places of refuge.

In the course of our discussion you made it clear that the principles on which you are operating are as follows:

1. As an American organization, you feel compelled to work through the official channels of the War Refugee Board and the American Ambassador in Turkey and are therefore limiting your financial support only to those projects that are authorized by the War Refugee Board.

2. Since your funds are limited, you cannot guarantee the support of all the projects approved by the War Refugee Board, but will allocate such funds as your budget permits to those that you regard as most practical and effective.

000572

3. You are making no invidious distinctions between the various organizations in the field in Turkey in allocating these funds, judging the various proposals purely on their merits and not on the basis of the organization that is engaged in carrying them out.

You will recall that we emphasized the fact that certain operations in Turkey do have the approval of the War Refugee Board but, by their very nature, cannot be carried out through the agency of the War Refugee Board. We feel that it is necessary, therefore, to supplement the activities of the Board by undertaking these private operations. We called your attention to the fact that, before the war, similar operations, under the direction of Mr. Jabotinsky and other Palestinians who are now members of our organization achieved great success and were responsible for the immigration into Palestine of more than thirty thousand Hebrews from East European countries. This work, we pointed out, was performed with the practical cooperation of the Polish, Rumanian, and Czechoslovakian Governments, and received the assistance of Turkish and Greek Governments. We stress the fact that the channels we developed in carrying out this work can now be utilized again by our representatives.

We note with regret that your budget for these activities is limited and that the funds we believe the Joint Distribution Committee should allocate for the projects we have undertaken may not be available. But we urge upon you further consideration of our proposals and we trust that you will instruct your representatives in Turkey to cooperate in every possible manner with Mr. Jabotinsky so that our combined efforts may achieve the maximum results.

Cordially yours,

signed Johan J. Smertenko
Executive Vice-Chairman

JJS:sb

000578

June 15, 1944

Dr. Johan J. Smertenko, Executive Vice-Chairman,
Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe,
2517 - 15th Street, N.W.,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Dr. Smertenko:

We wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of June 8th in which you summarize various points of the discussion at a meeting at which were present Mr. Bergson, Mr. Wechsler, Mr. Leavitt and myself.

You refer in your letter to specific programs of rescue and a concrete project involving the sum of $200,000. Neither Mr. Leavitt nor I has any recollection of any discussion with respect to a concrete project. The problems, as outlined primarily by Mr. Bergson, related to the general principle of securing financial aid for projects to be initiated by your Committee, and there was no reference to any immediate, concrete plan.

There is another matter that I would like to make clear. Neither Mr. Leavitt nor I indicated that the work of the JDC was carried out directly through the agency of the War Refugee Board. Let me give you our position as we tried to make it clear to you and to your associates:

JDC is prepared at any time to consider concrete proposals purely on their merits and not solely on the basis of whether one organization or another may be engaged in the execution of any such plans. The specific proposals, however, would have to be considered by the representatives of the War Refugee Board and by our own representative in Turkey, examined as to their feasibility and practicability, and upon the recommendation of the War Refugee Board and our own representative, we would be ready to give consideration to our financial participation in such project or projects. While there was a good deal of discussion, our position is to be regarded as set forth in the present communication to you.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph C. Hyman
Executive Vice-Chairman

JCH:mh

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EMERGENCY COMMITTEE To Save the Jewish People of Europe, Inc.
25 W. 45th Street, New York 19, N. Y.

June 26, 1944

Mr. Joseph C. Hyman
Executive Vice-Chairman
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc.
270 Madison Avenue
New York 16, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Hyman:

Your letter of the fifteenth was sent on to me in New York and I hasten to call your attention to the one point in our discussion about which we seem to have different recollections.

In the course of the general discussion regarding the need for cooperation between the Joint Distribution Committee and the Emergency Committee, Mr. Bergson mentioned the fact that Mr. Eri Jabotinsky, one of our representatives in Turkey, has cabled us that it is possible to take immediate action on one project involving the rescue of several thousand Jews. This project has been discussed with Mr. Reuben Resnick, your representative in Turkey, both by Mr. Jabotinsky and by representatives of the Vaad Hatzalah, the rescue committee of orthodox rabbis.

Mr. Bergson pointed out that Mr. Jabotinsky's approval of the project indicated that it was both possible and practical, that Mr. Jabotinsky had been one of the men instrumental in transporting over 30,000 Jews into Palestine in the three years before the war and that his experience in underground methods of emigration and immigration justified our belief that his approval of this particular project made it a feasible undertaking and that his estimate of $200,000 needed for carrying out this project, was a reasonable approximation of the necessary sum.

Mr. Bergson further pointed out that while the War Refugee Board can take charge of these refugees as soon as they reach Turkish territorial waters, it was in no position, as a government agency, to authorize underground methods of emigration. It was in connection with this statement that you declared that you felt it necessary to have the recommendation of the War Refugee Board before you would be ready to consider financial participation in any project.

I stress these facts because we are determined to find the funds for the project organized by Mr. Jabotinsky and I want to make sure that I do not misunderstand the grounds for your refusal to consider this project. It is not our province to question your decision to operate within the limits of the measures which are officially authorized by the War Refugee Board. Nevertheless, I wish to remind you that we explained that although this particular project could

000573

not be officially authorized by the Board, it was known to and approved by Mr. Pehle. May I also point out that once before a similar project, involving the S.S. Salmaria, undertaken by Mr. Jabotinsky was turned down by the Joint Distribution Committee as impractical and that despite this lack of support Mr. Jabotinsky was able to transport 2,400 Jews to Palestine in the same "unofficial" manner?

We fervently hope that we can still gain your cooperation in this specific instance as well as in other undertakings, but this cooperation must be based on the understanding that we plan to use every possible means to expand rescue activities, aiding the War Refugee Board wherever we can and supplementing its activities whenever we find the means to do so.

Sincerely yours,

(sgd) Johan J. Smertenko
Executive Vice-Chairman

000576

June 30, 1944

Prof. J. J. Smertenko, Executive Vice-Chairman
Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People
of Europe, Inc.
25 West 45th Street
New York 19, N. Y.

My dear Dr. Smertenko:

I have for acknowledgement your letter of June 26th with reference to a project which you state was the subject of discussion between us at our meeting on Tuesday, June 6th. You advise that this project was proposed to you by Mr. Eri Jabotinsky and related to the rescue of several thousand Jews.

Neither Mr. Leavitt nor I recall any reference to this or to any other specific project, nor do we recall that this project was stated to have been discussed with our representative, Mr. Resnik, in Turkey. We still do not know exactly what this plan consists of, and we have had no word from Mr. Resnik on the matter. In the meantime in the light of your letter, we have communicated with Mr. Pehle of the War Refugee Board who advises us that he knows of no such project as that described by you, nor has he approved of any such scheme submitted by Mr. Jabotinsky.

Our position is precisely the same as indicated to you in our letter of June 15th, and requires no restatement.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph C. Hyman
Executive Vice-Chairman

JCH:ds

000577

EMERGENCY COMMITTEE To Save The Jewish People of Europe, Inc.
25 W. 45th St., New York 19, N. Y.

July 3, 1944

Mr. Joseph C. Hyman
Executive Vice-Chairman
Joint Distribution Committee
270 Madison Avenue
New York 16, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Hyman:

It would be futile to prolong the debate as to whether you do or do not recall our discussion of the project proposed by Mr. Jabotinsky. What matters is that we should like to have your consideration of this project, and I am therefore setting it down as simply as possible.

> Eri Jabotinsky, now in Turkey with the approval of the War Refugee Board and the State Department, has reported to us that it is possible to take certain measures which will result in the immediate rescue of several thousand Jews in the Balkan countries. He estimates that the cost of the specific project he has under consideration will be about $200,000 and he asks us to provide him with these funds.
>
> Mr. Jabotinsky has a record of accomplishment in the evacuation and transportation of Jews from Europe. He was in charge of similar activities before the war, and even after the war was able to take about 2,500 Jews out of Eastern Europe and transport them to Palestine. This was done by chartering a Turkish ship, the S.S. Sakaria, getting her to a Rumanian port, and obtaining the necessary clearances to enable her to reach Palestine.
>
> Now Mr. Jabotinsky has been able to re-establish his previous contacts and to ascertain that, with due consideration of the difficulties and uncertainties of the present situation, his efforts in this particular case will be successful. Knowing Mr. Jabotinsky's character and accomplishments, we are confident that his conclusions are tantamount to assurances that the plan is practical and feasible. In view of these facts, we appeal to you to provide part of the necessary funds for putting this project into operation.

These are the bare essentials of our proposal, and I am certain that you will find Mr. Pehle wholly in accord with the idea that Mr. Jabotinsky be given every facility for expanding and carrying out rescue operations. That was the purpose of his trip to Turkey. May I point out that while complete success cannot be guaranteed by anyone before the project is undertaken, the sum of $200,000 requested will be needed only if the project is successful? The sum involved in the preliminary work is small and wholly insignificant in view of the expected results. Certainly, a few thousand dollars ought not to stand in the way of undertaking an operation which may result in the saving of several thousand lives.

Sincerely yours,

(sgd) Johan J. Smertenko, Executive Vice-Chairman

00598

July 7, 1944

Dr. J. J. Smertenko, Executive Vice-Chairman
Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People
of Europe
25 West 45th Street
New York City

My dear Dr. Smertenko:

I have for acknowledgment your letter of July 3rd, in which you advise that the project submitted to you by Mr. Eri Jabotinsky requires $200,000 in order to rescue several thousand Jews. In the absence of any further information, the mere application for $200,000 does not seem to us to constitute a project on which we can pass at this end.

Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, our European director, is at present in Turkey, and we are asking him to report to us on his discussion with Mr. Eri Jabotinsky with respect to any specific plans or programs regarding this $200,000 request. We are also asking the War Refugee Board to communicate with their representative in Turkey, Mr. Ira S. Hirschmann, on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph C. Hyman
Executive Vice-Chairman

JCH:RP

000578

2-war Ref. rd.
Mr. Pehle

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Consulate General, Istanbul

TO: Secretary of State, Washington

DATE: July 6, 1944

NUMBER: 395

[redacted]

CONTROL COPY

Following message is for Leavitt, WRB, from Joseph Schwartz.

Your cable was received by Resnik and he will give Hirschmann full cooperation. At the present time efforts are being made to coordinate the various agencies' activities. The Ambassador and Hirschmann met to discuss this subject. Full information as to progress made will be forwarded to you.

BERRY.

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

000580

JUL 12 1944

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following confidential message for you from Mr. Joseph Schwartz was received from the American Consulate General, Istanbul, under date of July 6, 1944:

"Your cable was received by Besnik and he will give Hirschmann full cooperation. At the present time efforts are being made to coordinate the various agencies' activities. The Ambassador and Hirschmann met to discuss this subject. Full information as to progress made will be forwarded to you."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

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

EBT EBTowler:agr 7-11-44

00058

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

War Ref Bd - Pehle

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

CONTROL COPY

BJR - 47
This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government Agency. (~~RESTRICTED~~)

Ankara
Dated July 5, 1944
Rec'd 4:59 p.m., 6th.

noted JBS 7

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUL 7 1944
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS & RECORDS

Secretary of State,

Washington.

1917

2017, July 5, 2 p.m.

FOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD FROM HIRSCHMANN, ANKARA NUMBER 86.

For your information a luncheon conference was arranged at the invitation of Ambassador Steinhardt on July 2 to consider and coordinate plans for the expansion of the work of rescuing refugees from the Balkans. Among those present were Ambassador Laurence A. Steinhardt, Counselor Robert F. Kelley, Ira A. Hirschmann, special representative of the War Refugee Board, and his assistant Herbert Katzki; and the following representatives of organizations engaged in refugee rescue work: Joseph Schwartz and Reuben Resnik, American Joint Distribution Committee; Dr. Judah Magnes and Harry Viteles, Middle East Advisory Committee of the American Joint Distribution Committee; Chaim Barlas, Jewish Agency; Jacob Griffell, Agudath Israel,

00582

Israel; Vaad Haazalah, and other orthodox groups; Zevschind, Histadruth; and David Schweitzer, Hicem.

It was agreed among the organizations that overlapping and duplication of effort now exists and that greater results will be obtained by coordinated efforts. Ambassador Steinhardt pointed out the unfavorable reaction he had received from Turkish high officials to counteract confusion resulting from numerous individual organizations approaching these officials frequently with similar or conflicting projects; also the difficulties placed in the path of the representatives of the United States Government in dealing effectively with the Turkish Government as a result of these conflicts.

An agreement was reached to form an over-all coordinating committee including all effective agencies now represented in Turkey. The committee is to be directed by Ira Hirschmann, War Refugee Board representative and his assistant Herbert Katzki.

It was understood that all efforts of individual organizations, especially those related to chartering of ships, would be pooled into a single coordinated effort in which all effective agencies would be afforded an opportunity to participate.

We are sure

00083

We are sure that you will take advantage of Ambassador Steinhardt's imminent return to Washington to learn from him at first hand and in detail the current situation existing in Turkey with regard to the refugee movement.

When the above mentioned committee is formed in Istanbul and operating, we will keep you informed of its program and developments.

KELLEY

JJM:EEC

00058 4

5-[illegible] Ref Rd
Pehle

CONTROL COPY

CORRECTION

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

July 8, 1944

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUL 9 1944
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS & RECORDS

In cable from Ankara 2017, July 5, 2 p.m.

FOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Delete serial number "2017" insert "1217".

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

CSB

000586

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MMS

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

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

June 16, 1944

8 p.m.

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

[redacted]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
17 194
COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

CONTROL COPY

AMEMBASSY,

ANKARA.

535

The following for Steinhardt is WRB cable 53 and refers to Ankara's 991 of June 1.

Observations of Foreign Office Secretary General seem wholly rational. Strongly felt by Board that the basic task of rescuing the largest possible numbers of refugees in enemy territory must not (repeat not) in any way be interfered with by differences of opinion between private refugee organizations. The coordination and supervision by the Embassy and Hirschmann of all rescue activities in Turkey towards assurance that each private refugee organization makes its most effective contribution to the overall program, the avoiding of unnecessary duplication of activities, et cetera, will prove possible we earnestly hope. The recommendations of the Embassy and Hirschmann will guide the Board.

HULL
(GHW)

WRB:MMV:KG
6/14/44

NE

S/CR

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

000586

CABLE TO AMBASSADOR STEINHARDT, ANKARA, TURKEY, FROM THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Please refer to your No. 991 of June first.

Suggestion of the Secretary General of the Foreign Office appears entirely reasonable.

The Board feels strongly that differences of opinion between private refugee organizations must not (repeat not) in any way interfere with the basic task of rescuing the largest possible numbers of refugees in enemy territory. It is our earnest hope that the Embassy and Mr. Hirschmann will be able to coordinate and supervise all rescue activities in Turkey to the extent necessary to assure that each private refugee organization makes the most effective contribution to the overall program, avoiding unnecessary duplication of activity, etc. Accordingly, the Board will be guided by the recommendations of the Embassy and Mr. Hirschmann.

This is War Refugee Board Cable to Ankara No. 53

June 13, 1944
2:10 p.m.

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

JBF:bbk - 6/8/44

JBF

00058

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

Noted
JWP

June 12, 1944

Dear John:

I enclose herewith a copy of a memorandum written to me relative to Steinhardt's cable 991 of June 1 which impresses me as making a very sound point. I thought you would like to have the memorandum for your consideration, and, if Mr. Hirschman has not already been instructed along the lines thereof, that you may wish to cable him in this general tenor.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Ed

Mr. John W. Pehle,
War Refugee Board,
Executive Office of the President.

000588

(COPY:ID)

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

June 7, 1944

To: U - Mr. Stettinius

From: NEA - Mr. Murray

I believe that Ankara's 991, June 1, 5 p.m. from Ambassador Steinhardt to the War Refugee Board merits careful attention. The Secretary General of the Turkish Foreign Office called in Ambassador Steinhardt and complained that there had been an influx of individuals representing various Jewish organizations and that there was apparently no collaboration between them. These individuals, without informing themselves as to what had been accomplished already, proceeded independently to approach the Turkish authorities with various suggestions. They seemed bent on "outstripping their rivals" and did not hesitate to resort to devious and illegal means to accomplish their purpose.

After emphasizing the desire of the Turkish Government to cooperate to the limit of its ability, the Secretary General suggested that the purpose of the War Refugee Board could best be accomplished by centralizing all future requests of the Turkish Government through a representative approved by the Embassy. The Secretary General said the Foreign Office would not receive a multitude of other individuals. Ambassador Steinhardt had no alternative but to agree that in the future all requests of the Turkish Foreign Office should be made by Mr. Hirschmann, or in his absence by an officer of the Embassy.

When you next see Mr. Pehle, you may wish to point out to him that it would be desirable for the War Refugee Board to emphasize to all the interested Jewish agencies the fact that Hirschmann and/or the Embassy is the WRB spokesman and that it would be most unfortunate for individuals or private agencies in Turkey to step out of this framework. Unless a disciplined front is presented to the Turks, the aims of the War Refugee Board will suffer.

Wallace Murray

NE:GLJones:MW NEA

000589

[redacted]

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

000590

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

00094

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

CONTROL COPY

FROM: American Embassy, Ankara

TO: Secretary of State, Washington

DATED: June 8, 1944

NUMBER: 1077

[redacted]

You are asked to inform the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the USA and Canada, Rabbis E. L. Silver, Israel Rosenberg, Vaadhatzala Emergency Committee, Rabbis Abraham Kalmanowitz, Aron Kotler, Moguda Israel World Organization, and Jacob Rosenheim in answer to their cable which I received today that in addition to exerting my own efforts on behalf of the Jewish victims of Nazi persecution, I have been rendering and will continue to render every possible aid to Messrs. Kastner, Klarner and Grifel and that it is assumed that my continuing efforts are known to them.

STEINHARDT

DGR:VAG:HL
6/10/44

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

000592

Attention: Rabbis Abraham Kalmanowitz
and Aron Kotler.

Gentlemen:

Ambassador Steinhardt has requested that in response to your recent cable you be advised that in addition to exerting his own efforts on behalf of the Jewish victims of Nazi persecution, he has been rendering and will continue to render every possible aid to Messrs. Kastner, Klamer and Grifel and that it is assumed that his continuing efforts are known to them.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

The Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee,
132 Nassau Street,
New York, New York.

FH:lab 6/13/44

000593

[illegible] TELEGRAM RECEIVED

[illegible]: American Embassy, Ankara

[illegible]: Secretary of State, Washington

[illegible]: June 5, 1944

[illegible]: 1018

[redacted] COPY

Here follows Ankara's No. 71 from the Ambassador for [illegible], B.

Replying to Department's cable of June 1, No. [illegible], it is suggested by me that the proposal which is contained in the cable to the World Jewish Congress from its Swiss representative be submitted to Barlas of the Jewish Agency for an expression of opinion or in the alternative that Wirschmann on his arrival here, make an appropriate recommendation to the War Refugee Board for transmittal to the World Jewish Congress.

Due to the steadily increasing number of organizations and individuals who are interesting themselves in the rescue of Jews from the Balkans and who are seeking funds for this purpose, it is becoming increasingly difficult for me to judge the extent to which their respective activities should be encouraged. The board may wish to bear in mind that in this connection the cost merely tends to increase by competitive bidding for the limited number of vessels available without increasing the number of vessels.

STEINHARDT

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

000594

JUN 3 1944

Dear Dr. Goldmann:

The following confidential message for you from Mr. Barlas was received through the American Embassy, Ankara, under date of May 10, 1944:

"It is my understanding that without my knowledge or that of the Ambassador, Griffel, Kastner and Klarmann sent a cable to the Vaadhahatzala Emergency Committee of 132 Nassau Street, New York City, in which they requested that $200,000 in Swiss currency be placed at their disposal at once, claiming that in the last five weeks they have successfully arranged for the sea transportation of about 1000 persons and that it would be possible for them to enlarge the movement with the money which they requested.

"You are informed that the movement they referred to was arranged solely by the Jewish Agency with the active assistance of the Ambassador.

"The persons sending the cable have taken no part in arranging for this movement and no funds are required by them. Moreover it is indicated by their cable that they are not familiar with the secret arrangements, of which you have been informed, that the Ambassador made with the Governor of Turkey, to allow, on a restricted basis, a continued illegal movement.

"My work will be undermined, I will be in trouble with the Turks and chaos will result if funds for rescue work are sent from America to anyone who asks for money. It is urgently recommended by me that unless requested by the Ambassador, a representative of the WRB, of the JDC, or myself, no funds for rescue work be sent to Turkey from the United States."

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Dr. Nahum Goldmann,
American Zionist Emergency Council,
342 Madison Avenue,
New York 17, New York.

FHflab 6/3/44

000596

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, Ankara

TO: Secretary of State, Washington

DATED: May 10, 1944

NUMBER: 848

[redacted] CONTROL COPY

Following is for WRB's attention.

It is requested by Barlas of the Jewish Agency that there be transmitted to Dr. Nahum Goldmann of the Zionist Emergency Council the following message:

It is my understanding that without my knowledge or that of the Ambassador, Griffel, Kastner and Klarmann sent a cable to the Vaadhahatzala Emergency Committee of 132 Nassau Street, New York City, in which they requested that $200,000 in Swiss currency be placed at their disposal at once, claiming that in the last five weeks they have successfully arranged for the sea transportation of about 1000 persons and that it would be possible for them to enlarge the movement with the money which they requested.

You are informed that the movement they referred to was arranged solely by the Jewish Agency with the active assistance of the Ambassador.

The persons sending the cable have taken no part in arranging for this movement and no funds are required by them. Moreover it is indicated by their cable that they are not familiar with the secret arrangements of which you have been informed, that the Ambassador made with the Governor of Turkey, to allow, on a restricted basis, a continued

illegal

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

00059

illegal movement.

My work will be undermined, I will be in trouble with the Turks and chaos will result if funds for rescue work are sent from America to anyone who asks for money. It is urgently recommended by me that unless requested by the Ambassador, a representative of the WRB, of the JDC, or myself, no funds for rescue work be sent to Turkey from the United States.

STEINHARDT

DCR:DDB:HL 5/15/44

RECEIVED
20 11 AM '44

000597

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL ∴ CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

330 WEST 42nd STREET
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

LONDON
55 New Cavendish St., W 1

GENEVA
37 Quai Wilson

BUENOS AIRES
Corrientes 2024-9o

JERUSALEM
Vaad Leumi, P. O. B. 471

MONTREAL
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY
Sonora 174-4

CABLES: CONGRESS, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: LONGACRE 5-2600

June 1, 1944

In reply refer
to No. 72

Mr. Lawrence S. Lesser
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Lesser:

Referring to my yesterday's letter containing the text of the cable from Mr. Barlas received on May 23rd by Dr. Goldmann, and to the conversation we had today over the phone, I would be extremely obliged to you for letting me have the message previously addressed by Mr. Barlas to Dr. Goldmann, and which is in your possession.

I need this text for our negotiations with the Vaad Hahatzalah.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki
Head, Rescue Department

ALK:bg

421

0 0 0 5 9 8

Filed

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE

TO Mr. Pehle

June 2, 1944

FROM L. S. Lesser

You will recall Griffel's request for $200,000 from the Vaad Hahatzala for rescue work. The following is a cable that the WJC received from Barlas:

"2420 REFERRING CABLE MAY 10 TRANSMITTED THROUGH AVENI STOP GLAD INFORM YOU AFTER CONVERSATION WITH GRIFFEL KLORMAN THAT THEY ACTED BONAFIDE BUT WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE ARRANGEMENT ACCORDING TO WHICH THEIR ACTION UNNECESSARY STOP MATTER THUS SETTLED AVOIDING FUTURE CONFUSION"

At approximately the same time, the Vaad Hahatzala received the following cable from Griffel:

"CABLE BARLAS FROM ANKARA TO WAR REFUGEE BOARD FOR BUCHIM COLDMAN AGAINST OUR PROPOSAL SENT YOU PROVOKED SUNDAYS JEWISH AGENCY VAAD HAHATZALA MEETING GENERAL OPPOSITION STOP MIS (THIS ?) CABLE ISSUED BECAUSE WAS COMPLETELY UNINFORMED RE OUR AGREEMENT WITH COMPETENT FACTORS WHO ARE ENTRUSTED BY COMPETENT INSTITUTIONS THIS RESCUE WORK AND ACTED IT TILL NOW STOP BARLAS REGRETED AND DECLARED HAVING RECTIFIED CABLE THUS WE ACTED BONAFIDES STOP WE REMARK IN MERITORIOUS RESPECT ACTUALLY OPINIONS DIFFERENCES BETWEEN BARLAS HIS COLLEAGUES BECAUSE BARLAS ATTITUDE FINANCIAL MEANS ONLY POSSIBLE JEWISH AGENCYS CHANNEL STOP ALL PRECEDED RESCUEWAYS EXCEPTED PROPOSED VALUELESS STOP YOUR FIRST AMOUNT OTOMANBANK UNTOUCHED WILL USE ONLY EFFECTIF RESCUE WORK STOP REPEATING PROPOSAL PLEASE WIRE DECISION"

I have asked that Messrs. Kalmanowitz and Kubowitzki sit down and work out a joint message to both Barlas and Griffel. This they have agreed to do.

LL

421

0 0 0 5 9 3

BY DIRECT WIRE FROM
WESTERN UNION
1223

CLASS OF SERVICE
This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

A. N. WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT
NEWCOMB CARLTON, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS
DL=Day Letter
NT=Overnight Telegram
LC=Deferred Cable
NLT=Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

TAF/RU TY215 BEYOGLU 118 17 2115

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE 132 NASSAU STREET NEW YORK

CABLE BARLAS FROM ANKARA TO WAR REFUGEE BOARD FOR BUCHIM COLDMAN AGAINST OUR PROPOSAL SENT YOU PROVOKED SUNDAYS JEWISH AGENCY VAAD HAHATZALA MEETING GENERAL OPPOSITION STOP THIS MIS CABLE ISSUED BECAUSE WAS COMPLETELY UNINFORMED RE OUR AGREEMENT WITH COMPETENT FACTORS WHO ARE ENTRUSTED BY COMPETENT INSTITUTIONS THIS RESCUE WORK AND ACTED IT TILL NOW STOP BARLAS REGRETED AND DECLARED HAVING RECTIFIED CABLE THUS WE ACTED BONAFIDES STOP WE REMARK IN MERITORIOUS RESPECT ACTUALLY OPINIONS DIFFERENCES BETWEEN BARLAS HIS COLLEAGUES BECAUSE BARLAS

000600

BY DIRECT WIRE FROM
WESTERN UNION
1223

A. N. WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT
NEWCOMB CARLTON, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

OF SERVICE
This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

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Ship Radiogram

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

TAF/ RU TY 215 VAAD P2/50

ATTITUDE FINANCIAL MEANS ONLY POSSIBLE JEWISH AGENCYS CHANNEL STOP ALL PRECEDED RESCUEWAYS EXCEPTED PROPOSED VALUELESS STOP YOUR FIRST AMOUNT OTOMANBANK UNTOUCHED WILL USE ONLY EFFECTIF RESCUE WORK STOP REPEATING PROPOSAL PLEASE WIRE DECISION

JACOB GRIFFEL LUDWIG KASTNER

JOSEF KLARMAN

PASS

CD 27

00060 1

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL .·. CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

330 WEST 42nd STREET
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

LONDON
55 New Cavendish St., W 1

GENEVA
37 Quai Wilson

BUENOS AIRES
Corrientes 2024-9c

JERUSALEM
Vaad Leumi, P. O. B. 471

MONTREAL
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY
Sonora 174-4

CABLES: CONGRESS, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: LOngacre 5-2600

May 31, 1944

In reply refer
to: No. 67

Mr. Lawrence S. Lesser
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Lesser:

Pursuant to our last conference I am sending you herewith the text of the cable Dr. Goldmann received from Mr. Barlas:

"2420 REFERRING CABLE MAY 10 TRANSMITTED THROUGH AVENI STOP GLAD INFORM YOU AFTER CONVERSATION WITH GRIFFEL KLORMAN THAT THEY ACTED BONAFIDE BUT WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE ARRANGEMENT ACCORDING TO WHICH THEIR ACTION UNNECESSARY STOP MATTER THUS SETTLED AVOIDING FUTURE CONFUSION"

Sincerely yours

Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki, Head
Rescue Department

ALK:ef

421

000002

MAY 30 1944

Mr. Ira A. Hirschmann,
c/o Bloomingdale's,
Lexington Avenue and 59th Street,
New York, New York.

Dear Ira:

Thank you for your letter of May 27, 1944, enclosing a letter received by you from Jacob Rosenheim, President of Agudas Israel.

I agree with your opinion that decision in this matter should be held in abeyance until you or Katski have had a chance to review the situation in Turkey.

Enclosed for your information is a copy of a letter which I have sent to Mr. Rosenheim.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle,
Executive Director.

Original signed by Mr. Pehle
copy to: Mr. Pehle

Enclosure

JBF:bbk - 5/30/44

987

000603

MAY 30 1944

Mr. Jacob Rosenheim,
President,
Agudas Israel World Organization,
226 West 97th Street,
New York 25, New York.

Dear Sir:

Mr. Ira Hirschmann, Special Representative of the War Refugee Board, has transmitted to me your letter of May 24, 1944.

Mr. Hirschmann is returning to Turkey in the near future to resume his work for the War Refugee Board. I am instructing him to review the situation raised by the various cables from Messrs. Griffel, Kastner, Klahrman and Barlas upon his arrival there. I think it would be extremely unfortunate for any steps to be taken to comply with the request of Mr. Griffel until Mr. Hirschmann has had an opportunity to discuss the matter with all interested persons.

In view of the interest and activity of your organization in refugee matters, I am sure you understand the necessity for avoiding any duplication of effort between various private organizations. As soon as a report is received from Mr. Hirschmann, I am confident that a decision can be made which will assure a most efficient refugee rescue program in Turkey. The War Refugee Board intends to leave no stone unturned to achieve the fullest possible coordination of the rescue activities of private organizations operating in the field.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle,
Executive Director.

Original signed by Mr. Pehle
Copy to: Mr. Friedman

JBF

JBF:bbk - 5/30/44

00060

BLOOMINGDALE'S
NEW YORK 22

EXECUTIVE OFFICES

May 27, 1944

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

Dear John:

The enclosed letter is for your information and that of Mr. Katzki.

My opinion is that any recommendation with regard to this apparently confused situation between these Jewish Rescue Agencies should remain status quo until Katzki or I arrive in Ankara, and I am writing to Mr. Rosenheim accordingly. Perhaps you would like to write to him also.

Cordially yours

I. A. Hirschmann

iah:ret

000603

MONUMENT 2-3543

ב"ה

הסתדרות העולמית „אגודת ישראל"

Agudas Israel World Organization

THE UNION OF UNIVERSALLY ORGANIZED ORTHODOX JEWRY
(WORLD-AGUDAH OF ORTHODOX JEWS INC.)

CENTRAL EXECUTIVE: LONDON - BRANCH OFFICES: JERUSALEM AND NEW YORK

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
226 WEST 97TH STREET
NEW YORK 25, N. Y.

May 24th, 1944

Mr. Ira Hirschmann
c/o Bloomingdale's
Lexington Avenue and 59th Street
New York City

Dear Mr. Hirschmann:

Following my letter of yesterday, I have to inform you that we received today the following open cable from Messrs. Griffel Kastner and Klahrman in Ankara:

"Cable Barlas from Ankara to War Refugee Board for Goldman against our proposal sent you provoked Sunday's Jewish Agency-Vaad Hahatzala meeting general opposition. Stop. This cable issued because completely uninformed re our agreement with competent factors who are entrusted by competent institutions this rescue work and achieved it till now. Stop. Barlas regretted and declared having rectified his cable. Thus we acted bona fide. Stop. We remark in meritorious respect actually differences opinion between Barlas his colleagues because Barlas' attitude financial means only possible Jewish Agency channels. Stop. All previous rescue-ways accepted proposed without value. Stop. Your first amount Ottoman Bank untouched will use only effective rescue work. Stop. Repeating proposal please wire decision."

It would be interesting to know whether indeed Mr. Barlas has withdrawn his former accusations, and adequate cooperation could be established between the four different Jewish organizations endeavouring in Ankara for the rescue of Rumanian and Hungarian Jews.

It would certainly be advisable for the War Refugee Board and for the Ambassador himself, to use their influence in that direction.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

JACOB ROSENHEIM
President

00060

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington

TO: American Embassy, Ankara

DATED: May 25, 1944

NUMBER: 467

[redacted]

The War Refugee Board requests that you deliver the following message to Mr. Jacob Griffel, Hotel Continental, Beyoglu:

"Your cable concerning additional 200,000 dollars received. Believed here that difficulty consists in shortage of shipping rather than lack of money, and fear competitive bidding for shipping without increasing total of persons rescued. Therefore, necessary you submit plans to American Embassy and consult Barlas and Resnik cabling your joint recommendation through Embassy.

View Hungarian situation it is suggested here that Hungarian Jews be informed to leave cities and hide countryside near Slovakian and Yugoslav borders. Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee, Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz."

For Ambassador: First paragraph of foregoing relates to 281 from Consulate General in Istanbul of May 8 and to your 848 of May 10. Would appreciate if, after hearing interested parties, you would cable us your advice.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO ANKARA NO. 40.

HULL

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

000607

CABLE TO AMERICAN EMBASSY, ANKARA

The War Refugee Board requests that you deliver the following message to Mr. Jacob Griffel, Hotel Continental, Beyoglu:

QUOTE Your cable concerning additional 200,000 dollars received. Believed here that difficulty consists in shortage of shipping rather than lack of money, and fear competitive bidding for shipping without increasing total of persons rescued. Therefore, necessary you submit plans to American Embassy and consult Barlas and Resnik cabling your joint recommendation through Embassy.

View Hungarian situation it is suggested here that Hungarian Jews be informed to leave cities and hide countryside near Slovakian and Yugoslav borders. Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee, Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz UNQUOTE

For Ambassador: First paragraph of foregoing relates to 281 from Consulate General in Istanbul of May 8 and to your 848 of May 10. Would appreciate if, after hearing interested parties, you would cable us your advice.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO ANKARA NO. 40 .

****
May 20, 1944
2:00 p.m.

Ba. L.S.L.
BAkzin:jp 5/19/44

000603

It is essential that differences of opinion between private refugee organizations do not (repeat not) in any way interfere with the basic task of rescuing the largest possible number of refugees from enemy territory. As you know, the War Refugee Board is trying to do everything possible to facilitate refugee operations in Turkey and its Special Representative, Mr. Ira Hirschmann, is soon returning to Turkey to resume his work. You are requested to keep Mr. Hirschmann fully informed of your activities and to seek his guidance. It is our earnest hope that Mr. Hirschmann will be in a position to coordinate and supervise all refugee rescue activities in Turkey to the extent necessary to assure that each private refugee organization makes the most effective contribution to the overall program, avoiding unnecessary duplication of activities, etc. Accordingly, in any case of disagreement with other organizations concerning refugee rescue operations the decision of the War Refugee Board representative should be accepted by you as final.

JBF:bbk - 5/24/44

00003

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Consulate General, Istanbul

TO: Secretary of State, Washington

DATED: May 8, 1944

NUMBER: 281

[redacted] CONTROL COPY

Following is for Vaadha Hatzala Emergency Committee, 132 Nassau Street, New York, from Griffel, Kastner and Klarmann.

You are informed that sea transports started successfully, in the last five weeks about one thousand persons. With our help there is seen a possibility of enlargement. For this purpose we need two hundred thousand dollar allotment. Action is crucial in the next month. To ensure continuation of sea transport you are asked to please send this amount in free Swiss currency at our disposal.

SQUIRES

5/15/44 Discussed with Mr. Taylor - Mr. Pehle and Mr. Taylor - Mr. Pehle will present message from Istanbul to Treas. Dept. advise us concerning reply. JH

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

0 0 0 8 1 0

May 15, 1944

Gentlemen:

The following confidential message for you was received from Griffel, Kastner and Klarmann through the American Consulate General, Istanbul:

> "You are informed that sea transports started successfully, in the last five weeks about one thousand persons. With our help there is seen a possibility of enlargement. For this purpose we need two hundred thousand dollar allotment. Action is crucial in the next month. To ensure continuation of sea transport you are asked to please send this amount in free Swiss currency at our disposal."

Very truly yours,

(s) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee
132 Nassau Street
New York, N. Y.

FH — cleared with Hasses & Friedman

FHodel:als 5/15/44

0 0 0 6 1 1

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE May 24, 1944

TO Mr. Pehle

FROM Mr. Hirschmann

I find this memorandum in my files relating to Mr. Jacob Griffel, who is the individual who recently requested $200,000. I am giving a copy of this to Mr. Katzki as it is my intention to have him work more directly with these organizations in Istanbul.

NH

Attachment

Final action
No attachment
returned to files

00612

Rec'd from Thomas - 3/2/44

C O P Y.

25, D.C.

In reply refer to
VD 840.48 Refugees/5075
840.48 Refugees/5080

My dear Rabbi Wise:

Confirming my telephonic conversation with your secretary this morning, we have received a telegram from Ambassador Steinhardt who states that he has discussed the matter with Mr. Barlas, head of the Jewish Agency in Turkey, who is also, as you know, in charge of the transit of Jews to Palestine from the Balkans.

Mr. Barlas states that his principal difficulty is caused by the lack of transportation facilities rather than unwillingness on the part of the Turk authorities to cooperate. The Ambassador states that in his opinion unless transportation facilities are augmented by vessels especially chartered for the purpose, it is most unlikely, due to the existing war conditions, that rail facilities can be materially increased.

The Ambassador states that the Turkish authorities have repeatedly assured him of their desire to cooperate but that under existing conditions they cannot increase their rail facilities.

I am also very pleased to inform you that from information just received from the Ambassador, the Turk Government will exert itself to the utmost to afford protection to the several thousand Jewish people of Turk origin who find themselves in France.

Sincerely yours,

Howard K. Travers
Chief, Visa Division

Rabbi Stephen S. Wise,
World Jewish Congress,
330 West Forty-second Street,
New York, New York.

000013

Rec'd from Travers - 2/2/44

C O P Y

25, D. C.

In reply refer to
VD 840.48 Refugees/5074

My dear Mr. Leavitt:

Confirming my telephonic conversation with you today, the Department has received a communication from Mr. Barlas at Ankara stating that he understands that a vessel flying a Portuguese flag which was chartered by the Joint Distribution Committee departed from Lisbon on January 23 carrying some 700 refugees. Mr. Barlas believes that in view of the fact that the principal difficulty in rescuing more than a limited number from Transnistria is because of the lack of transportation that he suggests that efforts be made to continue the charter of the Portuguese vessel in order that it might proceed from Palestine to Constanza and thus evacuate Jewish refugees from Transnistria.

As I stated on the phone, there is some question in my mind as to whether the Portuguese Government would permit the vessel in question to proceed to Constanza but is is possible that you will desire to have Mr. Schwartz investigate at Lisbon. It is believed that the War Refugee Board will be functioning in the near future and if that Board or the Intergovernmental Committee may assist, please do not hesitate to inform me. I am also glad to confirm that we have received information from Turkey to the effect that the Turkish Government will do everything it consistently can to protect the Jewish people of Turk origin who find themselves in France.

Sincerely yours,

Howard K. Travers
Chief, Visa Division

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

0 0 0 6 1 4

PARAPHRASE

FROM: ANKARA

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

No. 1526 of September 7, 1943, 4 p.m.

Reference is made to your 1726 of 10 p.m. September 4. No (repeat no) objection in principle is raised to the proposal of the Emergency Conference to Save the Jewish People of Europe concerning the sending of a representative to this country for the purpose of inquiring concerning practicable steps which might be taken for the release of Jews in countries under Nazi domination with the intention of removing them to places of safety. It may be, however, that the Department would wish to indicate to the Conference and to other committees in the U. S. which are motivated with the same purpose that there are in Turkey several representatives of various Jewish agencies trying to achieve the same objective. The Joint Distribution Committee and the Jewish Agency for Palestine both have representatives here now. I have been informed by these representatives that while the Bulgarian Decree, issued at the instance of Grabowski, remains in effect which forbids Jews from leaving Bulgaria or territory occupied by Bulgarian forces, there is little if anything which can be accomplished, because the rail communication between Turkey and Bulgaria constitutes virtually the only means of transportation from the Balkans.

STEINHARDT

000619

PARAPHRASE

Official File Copy

FROM: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

TO: ANKARA

No. 726 of September 4, 1943, 10 p.m.

The Department has been informed of the desire of the Emergency Conference to Save the Jewish People of Europe that a representative should be sent to Turkey and that other representatives should be sent to several other places for the purpose of inquiring about practicable steps which might be taken in regard to obtaining releases, from Nazi dominated countries, of Jews who remain in those countries and who are, therefore, subject to porsecution, the purpose being that they will be removed to safe places.

It has been called to the Conference's attention by the Department that you are the representative of the general interests of the Government, and your activities as well as those of the Department in connection with the subject matter of their interest has been related to them. The above-mentioned Conference is one of a number of such committees which have the purpose at heart which has been translated into action by the Department in so far as we have been permitted by circumstances. Representatives of this Conference have, however, requested that an inquiry be directed to you, to which the Department has given its consent, for the purpose of requesting your advice on the question whether a temporary representative would in any way contribute to the extrication of persons in the category mentioned from Balkan countries. The name of Mr. Ira Hirschman, who was Vice President of Bloomingdale's Department Store in New York, has been suggested in this connection. Mr. Hirschman states that he attended the Evian Conference and that you probably recall him.

We have not consulted the military authorities, which we would do prior to consenting to such a visit, even assuming the availability of air priorities.

We would appreciate your advice.

HULL

000616