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Discharge
by Henry L. Clarke
Vol. 5

0110331

18. MEMORANDA OF CONVERSATIONS IN TURKEY
19. LOCAL ACTIVITIES IN TURKEY

WAR REFUGEE BOARD RECORDS

110331

MEMORANDA OF CONVERSATIONS
(Material sent from WRB office in Turkey)

0110331

CROSS - REFERENCE

.....
(Name of Applicant)

.....
(Application Number)

- For Memorandum to Mr. Kelley 8/5/44 re: Conversation with Cretzianu-
- For Memorandum for Mr. Kelley 7/25/44 re: Conversation with M. Balabanoff
- For Memorandum of conversation with Messrs. Cretzianu and Jaquinet 7/21/44

888: ROMANIA AND BULGARIA (SECRET)

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January 23, 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES:

Subject: Internees in Anatolian camps.

Mr. Peter Englemann, who with his mother has recently been released from Yozgat, informed me that within the past few weeks some people have been liberated from the Anatolian internment camps. They included 12 Czechs who were able to prove their uninterrupted Czech nationality and loyalty. The Czech Legation in Ankara issued passports for them.

Similarly, between 6 and 8 Greeks were liberated. Some of them already were in possession of Greek passports. Others succeeded in establishing their Greek nationality and their right to Greek passports and protection. In addition, there have been 2 or 3 cases where interned women and children were released in instances where the husband has not been subject to internment and was at liberty in Turkey.

The Turkish Government is now making a contribution toward the maintenance of needy internees who are without other sources of income, but the rate of distribution at Yozgat is 65 kurus per day, plus a small contribution for heating. The contribution in Corum is 120 kurus per day. In Kirsehir, where are interned mainly people from Ankara, no payments have been made up until the present.

Herbert Katzki

MEMORANDUM

MEMO
Bulgaria

November 19, 1944

Notes on Conversation with:

- Mr. Joseph Levy of Rousse, representative of the Jewish Agency in Bulgaria;
- Mr. Vitali Chaimoff of Sofia, President of the Central Committee of Zionists in Bulgaria and member of the B'nai Brith;
- Mr. Sabatal Eshkenazi of Rousse, member of the Central Committee of Zionist organizations in Bulgaria.

These men arrived in Istanbul expecting to be able to travel to the United States, having been designated from Geneva as Zionist members of the Bulgarian delegation to attend the conferences of the World Jewish Congress in the United States.

I. The economic situation of the larger proportion of the Jews in Bulgaria is very bad. Although nominally the Jews have had their rights restored, practically these mean very little. They are not able to find employment, and their homes and businesses have not been restored to them, nor have they received any financial assistance from the Bulgarian Government. It is true, however, that Jewish people have the right to work if they can find employment, in the same manner as members of liberal professions such as doctors, lawyers, dentists, etc., may practice those professions if they can find clients. Obviously, this is not simple where people have been out of work for four years.

Concerning the return of funds expropriated by the Government, the 12 per cent capital levy which the Jews were required to pay as a tax is not to be restored. These funds were used by the Commissariat for Jewish Affairs for the administration of Jewish properties. A balance of approximately 150 million leva remains in this account. However, these have been earmarked for restoration to specific organizations, such as 50 million leva for

trusted Jewish Community funds in Macedonia and three to four million leva for the Keren Kayemeth. The special tax of 25 per cent on Jewish assets, which had been levied, has not been returned. The fact is that this is only a projet de loi which, if put through, will provide for payment in 5 per cent non-negotiable bonds payable in five years. This restoration, therefore, if carried out will not provide the beneficiaries with any cash on which to live. The 25 per cent tax at 1942 values amounted to 2½ billion leva. Although the 12 per cent tax on Jewish capital was supposed to provide a central fund for assistance to Jewish people, the amounts expended for this purpose were very small, and consisted largely in a contribution to various soup-kitchens in the amount of eight to 12 leva per person per day for feeding purposes. The personal blocked property has been returned to the original owners if it was still on hand with the Commissariat for Jewish Affairs.

II. The Jewish Consistoire--the Consistoire Centrale des Juifs en Bulgarie--with headquarters in Sofia, has been officially constituted. The members of the Consistoire were not elected by the Communities, but were appointed by the Government. The Consistoire (according to information given Major Henry of the International Red Cross) is composed of:

President: Mr. David Broham, lawyer, legal counsel to the Ministry of Social Work;
Secretary: Mr. Mantoko Rahaminoff, lawyer;
Vice-President: Mr. Jacques Natan, publicist;
Members: Mr. Nasia Isaacova, chemist; Mr. Edouard Arie, lawyer; Mr. Salia Tegger, businessman; Mr. Israel Mayer, laborer.

The list supplied me by Mr. Joseph Levy is: David Broham, President, Socialist; Jacques Natan, Edouard Arie, Mantoko Rahaminoff, Nasia Isaacova, Salia Tegger, Natan Grunberg, Joseph

Alcalay, Agrarian, and Chelomo Machiah, Zveno party. It is to be noted that although the Consistoire is supposed to represent all political parties, there are no Zionist members thereof.

III. Between 20 and 22 thousand Jews have thus far returned to Sofia. Their living conditions and their economic position are bad.

IV. About 15,000 of the Jews in Bulgaria are very poor. They urgently require, in addition to food, clothing, shoes, medicaments, and household furnishings. In addition, 2,000 families, involving seven to eight thousand persons, are artisans and small business people, who would be able to assist themselves if they were able to secure credits for capital. The regular banks require guarantees for loans, which these people are not able to provide. Accordingly, it would be well if funds could be found for the establishment of cooperatives. The cooperatives which heretofore existed were liquidated under the anti-Jewish regulations, with one exception. This was the Sofia Jewish Cooperative Bank, Geula, which at one time had 3800 members and a capital of 18 million leva. This bank could save itself by merging with a Bulgarian non-Jewish cooperative, so that its characteristic as a Jewish institution has been lost. This is so to such an extent that even though Jews are now supposed to be able to return to their former employment, the Jewish employees of the former Geula have not been able to get their jobs back. Many of the former officers and directors of Geula are still in Bulgaria. Mr. Chai-off was formerly vice-president. He did not think that it would be possible to raise much money in Bulgaria as capital for a cooperative.

V. The health of the Jewish people is bad. Eighty per cent of

the men, which includes between six and eight thousand young persons, who had been in the forced-labor battalions, contracted malaria during their service. Although not completely cured, they have now been called up for military service in the Bulgarian army or have returned to Sofia. Just prior to the departure of these inferments, a small epidemic of typhus and diphtheria broke out in one small group in Sofia. The crowded living conditions, with two and three families forced to share one room, carries with it the danger of wide-spread illness. There are no medicines of any kind in Bulgaria for the assistance of these people.

VI. Although the Consistoire is opposed to emigration, the larger proportion of Jewish people in Bulgaria wishes to leave that country. These people, especially the younger groups, see no future for themselves in Bulgaria, and wish to leave that country to re-establish themselves elsewhere. Although the Bulgarian Government has stated officially and publicly that they are not opposed to emigration, and in fact are willing to do everything they can to assist those persons within the framework of Bulgarian law who wish to emigrate, there still are a great many difficulties attendant upon the completion of the necessary formalities. There are still required the 10 to 15 different individual documents before a person may leave. The passports still are endorsed to indicate that they are being issued for emigration the same way as they were prior to the change in situation in Bulgaria, and which at that time committed that the holders were not to be permitted to return to Bulgaria. A simplification of emigration requirements should be secured.

November 22, 1944

I spoke with Major Henry today, who recently left Bulgaria where he had been engaged principally in prisoner-of-war work in behalf of the International Red Cross. He stated that he had interested himself in Jewish affairs and had been in contact on a number of occasions with the Jewish Consistoire, especially with Mr. Eraham. According to Major Henry, the situation of Jewish people in Bulgaria relatively is not bad. He stated that in his opinion about 10,000 people need clothing. In his opinion about 5,000 leva per person per month would enable a needy individual to cover his expenses. However, material help is needed because even with funds things such as clothing and medicines cannot be purchased in Bulgaria. Major Henry said that he received most of his information regarding the position of Jewish people in Bulgaria from the Consistoire people.

From my conversations with the Zionist group mentioned above and with Major Henry, I judge that there is a fundamental difference between the Consistoire people and the Zionists. The Consistoire members who, I am informed, had not been previously active in Jewish communal affairs, were hand-picked by the Government. Their viewpoint apparently is that now that the Jewish people have had their rights restored, they must remain in Bulgaria and make the best of the situation. This viewpoint is fundamentally

opposed to that of the Zionists, who naturally are in favor of emigration, which they say is the desire of the majority of Jews in Bulgaria. These factors, that is, the nationalist attitude on the part of the Consistoire and the opposite point of view of the Zionists, undoubtedly are reflected in all their relationships with the Bulgarian Government, and their attitudes with regard to Jewish problems in Bulgaria today.

HK/b

October 19, 1944

MEMORANDUM

10/19/44
Memo
Hungary
J.A.

During the course of a telephone conversation which Mr. Ueberall had with Mr. Pomeraniec from Sofia, Mr. Pomeraniec advised Mr. Ueberall as follows:

There have just arrived in Sofia three Hungarian Jews who came from Yugoslavia. They reported that there were 6500 Jews, for the most part Hungarians, who had been working in a copper mine in the town of Bor, near Nish, Yugoslavia. These people had been released by the Allied armies when they captured this territory, ^{and} or have been liberated, and the Russians have informed them that they are at liberty to proceed wherever they wish. Of the 6500 men, who were of the ages of 16 to 60, 5000 have been working in this mine for 15 months, and 1500 since June, 1944. At the time of the German evacuation from Bor, several hundred of these workers were evacuated to Belgrade with the German army to engage in the construction of fortifications there.

The Russians inquired among the liberated people whether they would be willing to join the Allied armed forces against the Germans. 900 declared their willingness to do so. An additional 700 stated that they were ready to fight, but as it developed, they were too weak physically from their labors in the mine to do so. The remainder of the liberates were either too young or too old to be useful for military service.

The men in the mines were entirely cut off from the outside world, and being ignorant of the conditions with regard to the Jews in Hungary, several hundred immediately set out for Hungary upon liberation, to rejoin their families. Some of them traveled as far as Negot, and others as far as Turnu Severin.

That is the last which the three Hungarians who came to Sofia heard of these groups.

The liberees apparently cannot remain in Bor, and must find some place to which to go. A number of them had expressed a desire to emigrate, particularly to Palestine.

Mr. Pomeraniec is attempting to secure permission from the necessary authorities to travel to Nish, in order to obtain information regarding the entire group at first hand.

HK/b

Macpherson

October 19, 1944

15/11/44
M. J. S.
R. J. S.
T. A.

M E M O R A N D U M

In a communication received by Mr. Ueberall from Mr. Averbuch in Bucharest, the following points were made:

1. The Russians in Rumania are giving no assistance to refugees in that country, whom they regard as Russian subjects. This would include refugees from Bessarabia, Transnistria, and Bucovina. As Russian subjects, they will be repatriated in due course to those areas from whence they came.

2. Neither the Rumanian Government nor the Rumanian Red Cross feels that it has any responsibility towards these alleged Russian refugees. They say that they have enough to do to assist Rumanian nationals, including Rumanian Jews and those refugees who are non-Russian. The Russian authorities, ^{the Rumanians} they say, are responsible for their own nationals.

3. The extent of want among the Jewish people in Rumania is very great. Approximately 20 per cent of Rumanian Jewry has ample funds and may be regarded as well-to-do. The remaining 80 per cent, however, is in very straitened circumstances economically, too poor to provide for their own necessities. Men, fathers and sons, have been in labor camps, and although they are now returning to their homes, neither they nor their families have had proper food for three and a half years. They are without food and clothing, a situation which becomes more acute with the approaching winter months. Although the men are now returning home, that is not to say that they are able to find employment immediately, and to earn the funds necessary to maintain their families and themselves. Fieldman has set up

a budget to cover minimum requirements for the needy Jewish people in Rumania, in the amount of 3½ billion lei. This is to cover food, clothing, shelter; particularly in behalf of former internees in labor camps, who are now returning, and for refugees. The substantial part of this budget should be made available for welfare work immediately. It is quite impossible for the Jews in Rumania to undergo another winter under existing circumstances.

4. The Rumanian Red Cross has secured permission from the Rumanian Government to organize transports of Jewish emigrants from Rumania until the termination of the war. Pandelis is cooperating with the Rumanian Red Cross, and Averbuch has found a means for composing differences among the various factions in Rumania, in order that there might be broader cooperation in refugee and relief work.

5. The captain of the Salahaldin expects to return to Istanbul with his vessel on October 26. He will return whether or not passengers have been embarked for the voyage. It does not appear that consent of the Russian authorities is now necessary for emigration from Rumania, even by sea. However, the Russians will not permit access to Constanza for embarkation, as this port is being used for military purposes. Consequently, Averbuch in order not to lose time in trying to secure Russian permission for Constanza, is attempting to arrange the sailing from another port, either Mangalia or Baltchik, both of which are small ports and not being used for military purposes. He will try to embark 500 people on the Salahaldin from one of these ports for the voyage to Istanbul.

6. Difficulty has arisen with regard to the issuance of

Bulgarian transit visas in Rumania. Although the Bulgarian authorities have notified their consul in Rumania that he is authorized to issue transit visas to applicants en route to Palestine, the instructions indicated that confirmations that Palestine certificates are available must come from the Turkish authorities. This is now being corrected to provide for confirmations by the Jewish Agency.

7. Formally, anti-Jewish laws in Rumania have been abolished. Effectively, however, there are no visible results of this abolition, as the Rumanian authorities are taking no steps to implement them in relation to the Rumanian population in general.

In a conversation with Mr. Joe Levy, who just returned to Istanbul from Bucharest, he informed me that Mr. Filderman had told him of the three-and-a-half-billion-lei budget which Mr. Filderman thought necessary for relief purposes to the Jewish people in Bucharest. Mr. Levy confirmed that the situation of the Jews in Rumania is disastrous, and that assistance should be sent to them immediately. He said that there were perhaps 150,000 Jews in Rumania, for whom aid is required. He made specific mention of approximately 30,000 Jews in Jassy, which might be regarded as the community worst off in Rumania.

HK/b

H. A. S. W.

October 9, 1944

10/9/44
Deneberg
Turkey

M E M O R A N D U M

Conversation between Mr. Katzki and Prof. Rustov

Professor Alexander Rustov, who is a member of the local committee established by Mr. Denenberg to assist anti-Nazi political refugees and intellectuals in Turkey, called on us today. The following facts emerged from his conversation with me.

1. The internees in Turkey are concentrated largely in Kirsehir, 150 persons; Yozgad, 210 persons; and Corun, 150 persons. These people had to make their own living arrangements, and for the most part live in rented rooms with private families. Life is very primitive, and it is expected that there will be physical hardship during the winter months.

Most of the internees have been able to take sufficient clothing with them, as they had the right to carry 150 kilos per person. Some, however, who did not have sufficient advance notice of internment, do not have their possessions with them.

2. According to Professor Rustov's estimates, a minimum of 60 to 80 Turkish Lira per person per month is necessary for living requirements. This amount will increase during the winter. Heating will cost about 300 Turkish Lira per room for the winter, but fuel is difficult of obtention.

3. Mr. Denenberg turned over to the committee \$5000 before his departure. About half of this amount is still on hand, and probably will be sufficient until the end of 1944. Funds are being made available for the internees from other sources. One of these is a small group of friends in Ankara of the internees, who have raised some funds among themselves. Their collections are being sent mainly to Kirsehir, at the rate of about 600 Lira

per month. In Yozgad the better-off financially are being taxed among themselves, to assist those internees without resources. This tax will amount to about 1100 Lira per month. Efforts will be made to institute a similar procedure in other centers.

Ankara, October 4, 1944

Dear Mr. Hirschmann:

There is enclosed herein a memorandum dated October 3, 1944 which was prepared as a result of the last meeting of the Small Operating Committee in Istanbul.

As I remember it, some of the suggestions made at the meeting were brought up at the meeting. Compliments in reviewing several of the suggestions and a report.

I hope that you had a good voyage up to this point and that your trip has gone smoothly.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Harbert Katski

Ira A. Hirschmann, Esquire
Special Attaché
c/o Mr. Joseph M. Jacobs, Consul General
American Legation
Cairo

C O P Y

Istanbul, 3rd October, 1944

Mr. Ira A. Hirschmann
Special Attaché
War Refugee Board
Washington

Dear Mr. Hirschmann:

At to-day's meeting of the Executive Working Committee we learned with mixed feelings of your decision to leave for Washington, and report and consult with your Board on further activity and future plans - in the light of the changed situation. True, the military and political field changed, one or the other country are out of the war; you were witness to the culmination of a task, terminated in the strict sense of rescue, with the restoration of all rights to the oppressed in Bulgaria.

The tenseness of the situation which moved those horrified by the inhuman treatment of helpless victims, to its very depths; which prompted the creation of the War Refugee Board for an all out effort to rescue, where there is still a spark of hope of success; this tenseness which confronted you, when you first faced the task is being gradually dissipated, but grim reality still prevails.-

At the meeting today, the last before your departure, some of us took occasion, each from his own point of view, to express the need and to impress upon you the urgency of exploring all ways for the full realization of rescue of broken and shattered lives, of homeless people, of nameless orphans, still in concentration camps, still exposed to the threat of deportation. Clearly the rescue of those - who are threatened with their lives is, in a sense, an end.

Outstanding in the effort of rescue directed from and through Turkey to Palestine, however, and in its complexity by its very nature, made more complex by the multitude of organizations engaged in the work, by limited means or physical facilities, was the unequivocal definition of the War Refugee Board of rescue to apply to all who are in danger, thus dissipating fears and doubts.

It led to another outstanding achievement, in that it produced the necessary unification and coordination of the effort. This principle must be applied in the interim period between rescue from destruction, and the reconstruction of lives, physically and morally broken down, and the ultimate return to a home.

Since the terms of references of the W.R.B. do not correspond any longer to the new situation, does it mean that the tasks of the Board have already been fulfilled and the reasons for its existence exhausted?

In Roumania, not all anti-Jewish laws have, as yet, been abolished. The waiting-rooms of philanthropic institutions there are now, more than ever, crowded with Jewish people, whose existence had been ruined and who are left with no other alternative than living on charity. Up-rooted refugees from Bucovina and other former Rumanian provinces are queuing at the doors of Palestine Emigration offices throughout Roumania. Refugees from Hungary and Poland are loitering everywhere, pale and hungry, haunted from street to street and possessed by the constant fear of being stopped and asked for a passport they do not possess and for an address they do not have. Thousands of orphan-children from former Transnistria and other starvation camps are wandering about, nameless, abandoned and driven at anything by the instinct of subsisting at any price, changing from one way of dog-life to another.

Now, as to Bulgaria. In fact, what good has it done to the Jews there that all rights have been, de jure, restored to them? The 25,000 Jews who in May 1943 have been expelled from Sofia and scattered over 25 places of concentration, how will they be able to recover their houses, businesses and means of existence, merely on the basis and strength of the Government's order that everything plundered, expropriated or purchased in public auction during the last two years, can be reclaimed without further formalities? Laws of this kind, by means of which a Government that perhaps actually has no funds is trying to shirk from the responsibility and task of rebuilding the broken

Jewish economic life, would not they perhaps bring about a new hatred and renewed frictions between Jews, claiming their property back on one hand and Bulgarians, who have to return it, on the other? Information received from reliable representatives in Bulgaria, depicts the terrible condition prevailing there among the returning Jews; with no roofs over their heads, with no means to subsist on, without the slightest idea as to how to start again earning some bread for one's wife and children, nor as to wherefrom to obtain some clothing to shield them from cold, right now on the threshold of winter - this is how most Bulgarian Jews stand now, while the rest of the country is jubilant with joy over the liberation from tyranny. True, the Government is promising, sincerely and in good faith to include the Jews into the general reconstruction schemes now under consideration. THE JEWS, HOWEVER, CAN NOT AFFORD TO WAIT. To them this is no question of improving one's standard of living, as it perhaps is to most Bulgarians; it is a question of how to preserve the lives and health of thousands and thousands of hungry people.

Then there is still the new inferno: Hungary. A report dated Sept. 4, from the representative of the Jewish Agency in Budapest to the representative of the International Red Cross sums up the position of the Jews in Hungary as follows: "Of 800,000 Jews there are only 200,000 left. The major part of those are kept in refugee-camps and forced labor camps. Starvation, cold and despair prevail in all these camps, no matter to which of the two types any of them belong. Moreover, the uncertainty and the permanent fear of deportation that may come along at any moment, drives people crazy. Waiting for rescue to come, those unfortunate human beings have constantly in their minds the picture of what has happened on previous occasions, when such rescue was hoped for, but never came true." The report further says: "An agreement has been concluded between Hungarians and the Germans under which even the remaining Jews of Budapest are to be transferred to concentration camps, probably to make them easier accessible to the

hangman. Hundreds of Jews are still trying to make the dangerous escape to Roumania or Yougoslavia. Are they to be left in the lurch now? Is there really no salvation for these Jews, who, on Sept. 4th, we definitely know it, were still alive?

There is no need for us to go on drawing the sad picture of the still raging catastrophe, the very catastrophe which President Roosevelt wanted to avert or at least minimize by creating the W.R.B. and by appointing you a special attaché. There is still much that can be done and has to be done. Specifically the following immediate measures should be considered:

1. Hungary. The United Nations should immediately mobilize all means of pressure in their power, so as to compel the Hungarian Government to put a definite stop to the deportations. This can be obtained by threatening the Hungarian Government with effective sanctions;
2. The Swiss and Swedish Government should be requested that, together with the International Red Cross, they create a control commission to be sent out to Hungary to examine the situation and take steps that no further deportations take place.

It is surmised that the Hungarian and German Governments which, so far, have proved reluctant to any control of such kind, would no longer venture to oppose to it if the demand for such a control is accompanied by the threat that the Red Cross would sever relations with Hungary and Germany and thus leave German and Hungarian interests, citizens, and war refugees, throughout the Allied World no longer protected.

3. Roumania. The Roumanian Government should be urgently required finally and completely to abolish all remnants of anti-Jewish legislation.
4. The Governments in Roumania and Bulgaria in general will be urged to facilitate as far as possible the emigration of Jews willing to emigrate from those countries.

As an immediate and urgent measure, the United Nations will aid and facilitate the evacuation by competent bodies of refugees from other countries now living in Roumania and Bulgaria, as well as of the

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unfortunate orphan-children from Transnistria.

To attain all this the following are necessary:

- a) pressure on the respective States in order to make the exit possible;
- b) the release of some of the now seized boats, so that they serve for the transportation of refugees;
- c) the approval of the Allied occupation Authorities in Roumania and Bulgaria of the emigration of the people in question.

We beg you, dear Mr. Hirschmann, to make yourself the interpreter of the consequences deriving from these views to President Roosevelt, to the War Refugee Board, and to the American Public Opinion. We trust that you will do it with the same energy, enthusiasm and conviction, that have characterized all your activity here in Istanbul and to which, to a very large extent, we owe the fact that it was possible to break through the cold and heartless wall, that had been surrounding the martyred remnants still alive and that thousands of them have been able to find their salvation in Palestine.

With all good wishes

respectively yours

(s) J. Goldin (s) Mendel Bader
(s) Mordecai Kessler (s) G. E. Ueberall
(s) Dave Schweitzer

P.S. Represents different points of view, expressed in different languages - hence, too long, needs editing. S.
An edited copy will be forwarded to you in Washington. *S.

(*Schweitzer)

11 11 11 3 5 11

MEMORANDUM

September 13, 1944

During the course of the exposé made in Istanbul on September 1, 1944, by Mr. Dan Bratiano of the Humanitarian Red Cross at a conference at which were present, in addition to Mr. Bratiano, Mr.irschmann, Mr. Passman and Mr. Katzki, the name of Mr. Kolb, Delegate of the International Red Cross in Bucharest, was mentioned.

Mr. Bratiano implied that Mr. Kolb is not to be regarded as a man of full integrity. He was of the impression that Mr. Kolb may be financially interested in some of the relief and rescue work undertaken in Rumania. He mentioned the following two matters:

(1) when it appeared that the St. Iuri might be chartered for a voyage to Constantza to transport refugees, Mr. Kolb, on his own initiative, purchased food and stores, including cognac and other luxury items, to the value of 12,000,000 Lei, to be placed aboard the ship for the passengers. In this connection, Mr. Bratiano mentioned, first, that the type of food-stuffs purchased were not all appropriate for an emergency voyage of this kind; and second, the quantities purchased were in excess of those which might be required for a voyage of such short duration as the St. Iuri would undertake. Subsequently, when the St. Iuri was chartered, Mr. Kolb made every effort to dispose of the surplus food and, in whatever manner he could, to have the surplus sold. He mentioned the quantities of goods to be sold to the Bureau, which it was unable to purchase because of the nature of the food-stuffs involved.

(2) At a certain time it became necessary to find food and shelter for Jewish children admitted to institutions in Bucharest. Mr. Bratiano mentioned in summary generally the obtaining of supplies to meet these requirements.

urgent. The Rumanian Red Cross at that time was without stocks from which the needs could be met. Recalling that the International Red Cross had sent, according to Dr. Bratiano, nineteen cases of medical supplies from Turkey to Dr. Kolb in Bucharest for administration by him, application was made by the Rumanian Red Cross for a part thereof for the Jewish institutions. Dr. Kolb stated that he had no supplies, nor was the Rumanian Red Cross ever able to ascertain what happened to the shipments made to Dr. Kolb, if indeed the shipments were made. In this connection, Dr. Bratiano implied that perhaps Dr. Kolb disposed of these shipments in a manner not contemplated at the time the shipment was made to him.

Harbert Katzki

HE/b

September 12, 1944

Memorandum of conversation held between
Mr. Hirschmann and Col. Gibson of the
British Embassy. Major Whittall was also
present.

Place: British Embassy
Time: 4:00 p.m.
Date: September 12, 1944

I explained to Col. Gibson that Ambassador Steinhardt had suggested that I talk with him regarding the Palestinian citizens who were attempting to go to Rumania; that several of them had arranged to receive impromptu designations as reporters for minor newspapers in America; that they were really representing the purposes of the Jewish Agency; that I had no quarrel with them, in fact admired them for their ingenuity, but that too many representatives in Rumania at the same time might cause confusion. Col. Gibson stated that it was in the interest of the British Government to send at this time a legitimate representative of the Jewish Agency, which is a British institution, and that they intended to send Mr. Barlas at the first opportunity, having warmly recommended his authorization to London. They were also interested in sending Mr. Ueberall who had made a good impression upon them. I concurred in the latter.

Col. Gibson stated that he had seen Grotzianu on Friday before Grotzianu left for Ankara, and that he was not encouraged to believe that there would be any airplane service within the next several weeks to Bucharest; that he, Col. Gibson, was leaving for Ankara on Friday in order to make plans for a special automobile to make the trip to Bucharest with British representatives. I asked for permission to be included in this, for myself and Passman. He could not promise for Passman, but did for me. This trip will take three days.

Col. Gibson disclosed the fact that the Jewish Agency operators had supplied a certain amount of intelligence information to the British, and that they were encouraging their activities. I was about to leave, and Col. Gibson asked me to remain for the purpose of securing my views on the so-called "Brandt case." I told him briefly of my activity in connection with it and my report that I had sent to Washington. He concurred in the opinion that Brandt was clumsy and honest, and that the rumors to the effect that Brandt had confessed were not founded on any fact.

Col. Gibson stated that he would get in touch with me as soon as something definite had been formulated.

IAH:VH

9/12/44

M E M O R A N D U M

Telephone Conversation between Mr. Hirschmann in Istanbul
and Mr. Packer in Ankara, September 12, 1944, 3:45 pm

I asked whether the report had been completed and sent out, and Mr. Packer stated that he did not know, as it was in MacDonald's hands. He said he would find out at once and let me know. He said he thought it was complete.

I also asked if there had been any delay in the transmission of the telegram requesting permission for me to go to Rumania. He said that he remembered a telegram which asked in principle for a decision, and he recalled one that referred to me that had left about a week ago, but it did not include Mr. Katzki's name. He would have this telegram investigated and a copy sent to me at once.

I asked for the ambassador, who was not in, and spoke to Mr. Colley about the attached announcement which appeared in the press regarding the closing of doors into Turkey for refugees from the Axis countries. I suggested that clearer interpretation of this should be secured and telegraphed to Washington. He stated that they were telegraphing to Washington about it, and that it did not refer to refugees other than to the members of the Axis family, and referred most specifically to Germans. I asked for an interpretation of this to be mailed to me, which he said he would do.

I stated that Mr. Katzki was in Izmir working on the Greek situation; that he had reported to me that no instructions had been received down there. Mr. Colley said he felt that that letter was perhaps closing up at this time.

L. A. Hirschmann

LA/b

September 8, 1944

Notes on Rumanian situation, suggested by Mr. Katzki:

1. Transportation - sea

I.A.H. knows these matters in detail. Find out how the scheme has worked until now. How each part of the job of selection was done, the people prepared, by whom, who prepared documents, etc., etc. This would involve going into the whole question of Zissu, Orat, Ruben, etc. Find out what Griffel's correspondent Petrusca is doing and under what circumstances he always cabled about having ships, etc. What are possibilities for future transportation by sea? What held up ships, etc?

Transportation - land

Why don't people come out by land? How about Turkish Foreign Office instructions about Turkish transit visas? Do they know about this?

2. Rescue from Hungary

Go into this in detail. How did it work in the past? Who did what? Can the work be continued? What information do they have about Hungarian situation, or elsewhere?

3. What existing relief, rescue and emigration organizations are there? Go into this set-up. Can it work? Can it be centralized? How?

4. Transnistria children

Where are they and how many? Why weren't they sent out to Palestine?

5. What are probabilities for future relief work? What needs doing, where, how many and under what circumstances can work be done under Russian occupation?

6. What is situation of Jews, their legal status, where are they and how many?

7. What is status of refugees in Rumania: the Hungarians, Slovaks, Poles, etc? Go into this question of the Polish nationals and see who is doing, what for them.

September 4, 1944

Notes of Telephone Conversation with Dr. Black.

This new Bulgarian Government will unquestionably be favorable to our interests. None of these men have had anything to do with the former regime, which introduced the anti-Jewish laws. In fact, they have been outspoken against the regime, and its performances.

The cabinet is moderate, a coalition of former groups. At least five men have been members of former cabinets.

The new Prime Minister, Muraviev, is an agrarian and the disciple of the former Prime Minister who took power after the last war, who was a remarkable figure. He was killed in a coup d'etat. Muraviev was once Minister of War and once Minister of Education.

This Government is not decisively pro-Russian, or one that has been dictated by the Russians. It is an attempt on the part of the Bulgarian people to salvage their independence. It is a middle-of-the-road government that has moved still further to the left, hoping to reconcile the strong demands of the Russians. It is believed that it will not last long, but it hopes to bridge the present difficult, turbulent situation, which is obscure and will probably be clarified this week. If they succeed in arranging for a satisfactory armistice, the Government may continue in power, but there is much confusion since the situation is intricate.

The Bagryanov Government did a great patriotic service during a most difficult period. It could not retain the support of outside governments, and it is not known whether it was pushed out by one or all of the Allied Governments.

The new Government is half-way between the Bagryanov Government and the Communists.

The Germans are out of Bulgaria, and out of power and influence. They are either out or interned.

This Parliament's term has completely expired, and it will probably not be recalled. In fact, it was convoked only by decree.

The strong man in this Government is Mishanov, a democrat who is 78 years old, of vast political experience. Under the circumstances, Dr. Black is pleased with this Government.

I. A. Hirschmann

IAIS 118VII

Aide Memoire

September 1, 1944

Conversation with Dan B. Bratiano of Bucharest

There was present in the first ten minutes of the conversation Mr. Frank Stevens. He left when Messrs. Katzki and Passman arrived. Mr. Bratiano handed me a letter for Mr. Resnik from Mr. Pildermann, at Bucharest.

Mr. Bratiano reported that the internecine quarrel between the Jewish organization representatives in Bucharest was the cause for the delay of the boats leaving Constanza between April and August. In addition, 10,000 refugees could have been evacuated instead of the several thousand, 300 of whom were sunk. He indicted with a broad stroke Mr. Zisou who, he maintained, was the main obstructing force.

Zisou was not accused of being personally dishonest. The reasons cited for his tactics which caused the delay were:

- 1) His work exclusively for the Zionist organization;
- 2) His personal ambition to appear as a "Napoleon";
- 3) His desire to put the shipping operations under humanian maritime control;

4) His desire to obtain a monopoly of a kind on the shipping for the Jewish Agency. (and this was being done for his own financial reasons, but apparently not in opposition to Israel.)

Mr. Bratiano suggests that a law or a decree be passed by the new Government so that the Jews will be set back in

their normal state as before the war. Their property, of which they were deprived, must be restored.

After a meeting with Messrs. Barlas and Elish, Mr. Bratiano made the following suggestions;

- 1) Supply medicines to Rumanians at once. These were originally provided by the Germans, and there is no supply for the winter;
- 2) Restore the normal civil and political rights of the Jews;
- 3) Assist those to leave who wish to do so;
- 4) Select a committee, which should include Fildermann, possibly also if necessary, Benvenuto, Zimmer, and Pincus, to be headed up by a British official. This latter point should be stated. This committee should be designated to settle the questions which might arise connected with the reconstitution of the Jewish population.

He stated that there were three or four thousand Hungarian and Polish refugees in Rumania, who should be evacuated. It is difficult to know how this will be done, in view of the fact that Rumanian boats will not be permitted to leave, although he believes the Rumania will be able to depart.

Rumania insists that whatever arrangements are taken place should be free of charge, based on the basis of the large financial contribution in the past and are to be paid by means of a passport. Similar arrangements should be considered in the case of migration, and should not conflict currently in the field.

On the subject of personalities, he spoke with complete confidence of Mr. Fildermann, whom he had apparently known for a number of years. He maintained that Kolb of the International Red Cross is not to be entirely trusted. Zissu, on specific occasions in which he participated, refused categorically to cooperate with Fildermann and certain Rumanian officials interested in assisting the emigration.

Bratiano made a strong plea for means of transportation for food, which could be used in Europe, namely France, Italy, Yugoslavia, and Greece. He maintains that there is plenty of food in Rumania, but most means of transportation have been shattered. He urged that this be done without delay, in view of the danger which he saw of the Russians' appropriating the food for themselves.

He made a plea for clothing and shoes, stating that there was no wool, no underwear, no fuel, wood or coal, in Rumania for the coming winter. Housing facilities are acutely limited, and medical supplies will be sorely needed.

Bratiano appears to be a man of 40. He states that he is the local office manager for the telephone company, and the delegate for emigration of the Rumanian Red Cross. He asserted that he had been interested in liberal politics in Rumania for a number of years. He impresses one as intelligent, honest, and forceful. His desire is apparently to secure funds and facilities for emigrants in the emergency, and, of course, is willing to assist the Jewish population as well in this endeavor.

Translation

Bucharest, August 28, 1944

Monsieur Rouben Resnik
Park Hotel
Istanbul

Dear Monsieur Resnik:

It was ten o'clock at night when I learned that Mr. Bratiano is going to start out at four in the morning for Istanbul. I am hastening to write you upon several urgent questions:

Jews in Hungary: It is not impossible that the ceding back of Northern Transylvania to Rumania is provoking excesses against the Jews. Five hundred thousand Jews have been deported, 200,000 live still in Budapest, 70,000 are to be found in labor groups.

I think one might impose the intervention of the United Nations in order to warn the German and Hungarian Governments that for each Jew deported or assassinated from the date of the communication, the United Nations will execute after the war 100 Germans or Hungarians, taken primarily from among the relative of members of the Government and members of the parties which sustained them. It is the method of the Germans who have assassinated hostages for every German killed in France, Belgium, etc.

I beg of you to urgently intervene with your Ambassador as well as the Ambassadors of England and Russia.

Aid: Twenty-five thousand Jews who are working out of the country are soon going to return to their homes. They are naked. We must supply them. This will cost at least 700 million lei.

We must have, in order to take care of the Polish and Hungarian refugees, as well as the children and the repatriates in general, the condemned Jews or political prisoners who have just been granted amnesty, and 35,000 families of whom the heads are doing forced labor, at least two hundred million lei each month, a sum to which is added the other categories who need 160 million lei a month.

We beg you to urgently intervene in order that some money may be placed at our disposition.

With warm regards,

W. Filderman

August 24, 1944

Memorandum:

Subject: Conversation with M. Gretzianu
Rumanian Minister to Turkey

Place: 32 Abdul Hakhamid Caddesi
Istanbul

Time: 12:30 p.m.

I immediately congratulated Gretzianu on the steps his Government has taken. He seemed pleased and excited. He expressed deep concern for his country during this interim period, stating that the Germans were bound to fight and tear his country to pieces. He stated that the Germans apparently know that something was in the wind, for information reaching him indicated that they were poised to strike back hard. In the long run he felt that his country had made the wisest move, but during the next few days, and while the war lasts, Rumania, he felt, would be subject to enormous penalties and sacrifices. Gretzianu was concerned with the question of the number of German divisions now in Rumania. He stated that he had heard from the American Military Attache, General Tindall, that there remained some 30 German divisions. From another reliable source he had heard that there were 18 in Rumania. His guess was that the truth was somewhere between the two, but he was concerned with the fact that the German divisions occupied the important control centers in Rumania, such as the aviation fields, radio, transportation, etc.

Gretzianu referred to the new Rumanian Government and the inclusion of one communist, which he said indicated the Government's sympathy in that direction. He said that the real leader was Maniu, who was a noble figure, the Grand Old Man of Rumania, but who was unfortunately old. Regarding Russia he said that this was the first time in Rumania's history that it had been at war with Russia, and Rumania feared that Russia's power complex might swallow his country up or dominate it; that under previous regimes their associations with Russia indicated that "She was not to be trusted." Considering that Russia had just become a new ally, I was somewhat surprised to hear the above, but only stated that I felt that Rumania had, of course, made the right step and in the long run history would justify it.

Regarding the refugees, Gretzianu stated that he had just received word from Antonescu recommending that the Alba Julia be permitted to sail. Now, of course, this was not in question, and he hoped that the Rumanian Jews would not want to leave Rumania. I concurred in this view. I questioned Gretzianu on the subject of the amnesty decree, asking whether it included minorities, Jews, etc., and he gave me his assurance on this. He emphasized the point that the so-called concentration camps had been broken up.

I inquired of Gretzianu what his status was, and he assured me that it was the same as before. He stated that the two Antonescues were definitely out of the new Government and would unquestionably have no place in the future Governments. He referred to M. Antonescu as having learned the error of his ways within the last year and come over to the liberal side. He said that King Michael wanted to make the move that was made yesterday long ago but he was living with a pistol at his head.

Referring again to the refugee situation, he stated that it was possible that some refugees might want to come out of Rumanian territory now occupied by Hungary (Transylvania), and that this might be a question for activity for us to consider, but that it would have to await news of developments.

Gretzianu was rushing off to Ankara, where he is to meet with Turkish officials, and stated that he would be returning to Istanbul within a few days.

I. A. Hirschmann
Special Attache

August 13, 1944

M E M O R A N D U M

Conversation between Mr. Katzki and Dr. Isaac Chaoul

I spoke this morning with Dr. Isaac Chaoul, a doctor from Bulgaria who just arrived in Istanbul on route to Palestine. We discussed generally the situation of Jewish people in Bulgaria, and the following are the new facts which he gave me. It should be noted, however, that Dr. Chaoul had been so long out of contact with Jewish affairs because of his long attachment to Jewish labor battalions that he was not too well informed regarding the situation in Bulgaria.

1. Dr. Chaoul himself was a practising physician in Sofia and other towns for about fifteen years. He was forced to discontinue his practice, and was first assigned as doctor to labor battalions in Thrace and Macedonia, and subsequently in South Dobruja, in the principal city of Dobrich. Dr. Chaoul effected his release from the labor battalion on the basis of the possession of his Palestine visa and his Turkish transit visa. He said that people in possession of these documents can obtain their release from labor battalions relatively easily. He said that there were a great many people in Bulgaria who have all their documents in order for emigration, but have been unable to depart because of the lack of regular transit visas. He also mentioned his departure, which was effected through the assistance of a Turkish friend who learned in Bulgaria about the new requirements for the obtaining of Turkish transit visas in Bulgaria.

2. He understands that steps are being taken for the establishment of the Jewish Consistoire in Bulgaria. The names he knows of people who will be in the Consistoire are: Mr. Naimey, an attorney of Iusse; Mr. Bachamloff, a lawyer, and Mr. Lidji, a lawyer, both of Sofia; Chief Rabbi Chananel; and Colonel Avram Tadjer. There may be other personalities involved, but these are the only names of which he knows. He did not know whether or not the Consistoire has already begun its activities. (The new Commissar for Jewish Affairs, Protich, stands very close to Mr. Lidji, but Mr. Chaoul had no information as to whether or not Protich was more anti-Semitic in his attitudes than anyone else. His own feeling is that at the present time the tendency would be away from anti-Semitism.)

Mr. Chaoul himself saw no indications of a relaxation of the anti-Jewish laws, but he himself knew of two technical regulations which had come into effect recently which might be some indication:

First. Formerly, the procedure was for Jewish people applying for passports to have their local community take the matter up with the local representative of the Commissariat for Jewish Affairs, who in turn sent the application to the Commissar for Gestation. This was a long, time-consuming job, and presented a considerable obstacle in securing passports. At the present time, Jewish applicants for passports may go directly to the local police with their application, in the same manner as any other Bulgarian.

Second. In the past, it was necessary to obtain from the Jewish Commissariat a specific authorization for each withdrawal to be made from blocked Jewish bank accounts.

Even though instructions were issued to the bank for three months' periods, specific consent had to be obtained for each month's withdrawal. Now, instructions are given to the bank for three months' periods, but withdrawals can be made each month automatically, without further official approval.

Dr. Chacul had no information regarding the status of the departure of the boats from Burgas. All he knew was that the Turkish Consul in Burgas definitely prevented the departure of the boats two or three months ago. He has no information as to whether or not the situation has changed.

To Dr. Chacul's knowledge, there are Jewish labor battalions working on roads in the town of Ichtiman, which lies between Vidin and Sofia, building roads at Lovetch, which is ⁱⁿ north Bulgaria, near Ploven and the road between Sofia and Varna, and at Vidin, which lies between Russe and Lom, near Russe, where a flood control dam is being built on the Danube. There are other labor battalions in Bulgaria, but Dr. Chacul did not know where they were located.

21314
Memo

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

August 18, 1944

Subject : Refugees from the Balkans

Participants: Mr. Kemal Aziz Payman, Director General,
Department of Consular Affairs,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and
Mr. Packer, First Secretary of Embassy.

Place : Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Date : August 18, 1944

I called this morning at his request upon Mr. Payman. Mr. Barlas was with him. Mr. Payman said that he had a note from Mr. Acikalin stating that the American Embassy had informed him that the SS VITA and SS FERINE could not sail from Burgas to Istanbul with refugees at the present time. He asked me if our information was official. I said that I knew nothing about this latest development; that perhaps Mr. Kelley had received information from Mr. Hirschmann and conveyed it to Mr. Acikalin. Mr. Barlas said that that was probably the case as he had received information to that effect from Bulgaria and had passed it on to Mr. Hirschmann. After some discussion Mr. Payman said that he would let the present orders permitting these two vessels to come to Istanbul stand for, say, twenty days before taking any action to rescind them, and he asked that if, in the meantime, Mr. Barlas or the Embassy should receive any further information he be promptly informed. Mr. Barlas and I agreed that we would let him know of any developments.

Mr. Payman went on to say that he had learned from Mr. Barlas that there were two convoys, one in Bucharest and one in Bophia, each consisting of 140 children and 10 adults, ready to depart for Turkey by train. He said that he was prepared to recommend to Mr. Acikalin that these trains be allowed to enter Turkey and asked if that was agreeable. I said the Embassy would be very pleased if these trains could be permitted to enter Turkey.

E.L.P.

Copy to Mr. Hirschmann, Istanbul ✓

ELP/gm

August 14, 1944

Memorandum for Mr. Kelley:

Information reaching me via Barlas, who reports that he talked with Payman in Ankara last week, indicates that the Turkish Foreign Office intends (if it has not already done so) to discontinue its rail transportation of refugees through Bulgaria to Turkey. In the copy of the telegram from the British Embassy, Ankara, to Foreign Office, London, dated August 9, to the American Embassy, which you handed to me on Saturday, point 5 confirms the above view. This move is apparently being made as a result of your conversations in which the Turkish Foreign Office agreed to permit the S. S. Perin and the S. S. Vita to make a regular circuit of trips from Bulgaria to Istanbul, to include as many as 800 refugees a week.

If the plan connected with the above two ships can be put into satisfactory operation, there is every reason to prefer to substitute the arrival of 800 refugees in this manner for the sporadic number averaging less than 50 a week now arriving in Turkey. If this plan is put into operation, however, it would cut off even this stream, were rail traffic from Bulgaria to cease. In addition, once a single trip of the two ships is successfully concluded, there is no way of our knowing that they can continue in the same manner. It is possible that arrangements can be made for other ships to proceed on a regular schedule, but to date this has been difficult of execution. Every possible means of developing such a weekly program of ships from Bulgaria is now being pressed by me through the agency involved in this operation, but considering the history of these ship movements I am doubtful that such a program can be successfully developed with any degree of regularity.

Accordingly, it is essential that the rail traffic, even in the small numbers now authorized, should be continued by the Turkish Foreign Office until such a day when the ship movements can be satisfactorily operated.

There is also the question of moving large numbers of Jewish refugees out of Hungary. We are informed that several thousands are now waiting on the Hungarian border for transportation, and you are aware of the representations which I have made to the Romanian and Bulgarian Ministers to Turkey to permit their transfer through Rumania and Bulgaria into Turkey, and of course, your own successful arrangements regarding transit visas with the Turkish Foreign Office.

I cannot see any possibility of evacuating such a large number by sea without causing an embarrassing blockade in either Rumania or Bulgaria. It will, therefore, be necessary at this juncture, in my opinion, to keep the rail traffic open, and I should be grateful if you would bring this to the attention of the Turkish Foreign Office when you return to Ankara.

As you know, I have suggested in one of my telegrams in this connection that our Government explore the possibilities of providing extra railroad cars to the Turkish Government for the purpose of this transit from Budapest through to Istanbul.

As progress is made in the situation for the embarkation of the two ships and/or others, I will keep you informed. I should be grateful if I could hear from you in Ankara regarding this, as it has become a matter of concern by the Jewish Agency and the JDC.

With renewed thanks,

L. A. Hirschmann

August 12, 1944

Memorandum of conversation held with
Dr. Black on August 11, 1944.

Dr. Black believes:

(1) That while the Bagryanov Government is neither pro-Russian nor pro-German, that there is definitely a change in the Government which previously was pro-Nazi;

(2) That the Germans cannot any longer interfere with the Bulgarian Government, politically or militarily; it is not in a position to do so;

(3) That the Balkans may overreach themselves at this stage; they may not swing far enough to the left; the Russians are pushing. Among other things the Russians are requesting of them to withdraw their troops from Thrace and Macedonia, and especially Yugoslavia. There are four Bulgarian divisions in those centers. Ironically the Russians are demanding of the Bulgarians that they not only withdraw their troops from Yugoslavia, but leave their materiel with the partisans;

(4) The present Bulgarian Government will, in all likelihood, continue in power; it is making a current effort to come to an understanding with the Russians; for example, to establish Russian Consulates in the various Bulgarian provinces; it has succeeded in inducing the Germans to withdraw their troops in Eastern Bulgaria; it is suppressing the export of food to Germany. Visitors arriving from Sofia say that they see fewer and fewer Germans in that city.

Balebanoff's statement to me that only one division of German troops now remained in Bulgaria was an important disclosure. While one division is about 12,000 troops, it is felt by Dr. Black that it does not even constitute a legitimate division, representing as it does more or less straggling ends of German troops.

I. A. Hirschmann

IAH:VH

August 11, 1944

M E M O R A N D U M

Conversation between Mr. Katzki and Mr. Pinchas

I spent some time today talking with Advokat Leon Pinchas, of Plovdiv, Bulgaria, who arrived in Istanbul en route for Palestine three days ago. The following are the salient points of our conversation:

1. Mr. Pinchas' former employer, a non-Jew and a close friend of Bagryanov, was advised by the latter that the situation of Jewish people in Bulgaria will improve shortly. This employer, who had been very helpful to Jewish people during the time of the persecutions in Bulgaria, advised Mr. Pinchas that, in his opinion after what Bagryanov had told him, it would be a mistake for Pinchas to emigrate.

2. Mr. Bagryanov has given a letter to Mr. Isidor Kalmy, a Bulgarian Jew, authorizing him to move freely through the country to advise Jewish communities that improvement in their situation will take place. Mr. Kalmy has already been in Pleven and Varna and other places in the northern part of Bulgaria to carry this news, and is expected to travel through the southern part of the country shortly. Mr. Bagryanov has spoken with a circle of more prominent Jewish people to determine what steps should be taken and in what manner for the amelioration of the condition of the Jews. Bagryanov offered immediately to authorize the removal of the Jewish star, which the Jewish people are required to wear. According to Mr. Pinchas, the Jewish people told Bagryanov that they did not want to have the emancipatory steps taken too quickly, but that they preferred a gradual change. It was their feeling that if the rights of Jewish people were restored too quickly difficulties would result with the Bulgarian population at large at the time when Jewish people seek reinstatement in their former employment, try to re-establish their businesses, etc. The Jewish people told Bagryanov, according to Mr. Pinchas, that the matter of the removal of the Jewish stars is not so

important for them, but that they would prefer that beginnings be made in the relaxation of the economic disabilities under which they now live.

3. The Jewish Consistoire in Bulgaria has not yet been reconstituted, but is in process of re-establishment. According to Mr. Pinchas, the Consistoire will include a delegate of the government Jewish Commissariat when it is finally constituted. The seat of the Consistoire will be Kanas Rugagevo, which is about five or ten kilometers from Sofia.

4. In the smaller communities of Bulgaria, the economic situation of the Jewish people is very bad. In the larger towns, although employment possibilities are strictly limited, under the anti-Jewish laws, nevertheless a large number of the people do work in their homes in jewelry, the manufacture of leather goods, etc. In this way they are able to earn some money to enable them to eke out their existence. These possibilities do not exist in the smaller places, and Mr. Pinchas mentioned specifically towns like Vidin, Vratsa, Lom, Russe, Pazajik and Haskovo. Haskovo is particularly bad.

5. Jewish men between the ages of 20 and 46 have been incorporated into labor battalions, and are required to do hard manual labor, frequently at long distances from their homes. Some of these people are sent as far as 500 kilometers from their places of residence. They receive no pay for this work, and when I asked Pinchas how they live, he indicated that they apparently get it from the air. Being away from their homes and with their reserves long since used up, these men in the labor battalions are in a very difficult plight. The families of the men in the battalions receive an allotment of 500 leva per month. Under present conditions this amounts to practically no help at all. The families of men in the army receive several times 500 leva per month, and their rent is remitted during the period of military service of the head of the household. In addition, Bulgarian people are largely

agrarians, and have reserves upon which they can fall back. The Jewish people, having been largely urban dwellers, and having been under economic disabilities for such a long period of time, do not have any reserves out of which they can help themselves.

6. In the opinion of Mr. Pinchas, if an improvement in the condition of Jewish people in Bulgaria takes place, emigration from that country will cease. In his opinion, and based upon what people have told him, it may well be that those Bulgarians who have already gone to Palestine might want to return to their native country. Perhaps the young people, the Pioneers, who have always wanted to go to Palestine, will still have this goal before them, but the older people will certainly want to remain where they are.

7. Mr. Pinchas, who is a Revisionist, criticized the method by which selections for Palestine emigration have been made. He said that selections are made by a Jacob Baruch, who is a representative of the Jewish Agency. Up to the present, most of the people who have left Bulgaria for Palestine have been the wealthier people, and those without funds remained behind. Furthermore, in his opinion, the older people should not have been sent to Palestine, but such facilities for emigration as existed should have been reserved for young people, who can contribute to the economic development of that country.

8. The one factor, according to Mr. Pinchas, which is now blocking substantial emigration from Bulgaria is the absence of Turkish transit visas. The number of visas authorized is still limited (he mentioned seven a week, but probably he referred to the agreement for nine visas per week). There are several hundred people now in Plovdiv who have all their documents in order for emigration, but who are unable to move because of the lack of Turkish transit visas.

9. People in Bulgaria who have Palestine visas authorized are making no efforts to cross the border into Turkey without Turkish transit visas. It is well known in Bulgaria that any

Jewish person arriving in Turkey will be able to go to Palestine. Nevertheless, no attempts are made to get to Turkey, with a handful of exceptions. Originally, people were turned back at the border by the Turkish border guards, but now even the Bulgarian guards turn them back if the people have no Turkish transit visas, anticipating that the Turks will turn them back anyhow. The entire border, being a military zone, is strongly guarded, and there are no possibilities for crossing ~~through the guards~~. The only place where people can cross the border is at Svilengrad, where supervision is rigid.

10. Up to the time of his departure, Mr. Pinchas personally saw no evidence of an amelioration of the economic position of Jewish people, nor had there been any abatement in the difficulties attendant upon the obtention of Bulgarian passports and other necessary documents precedent to emigration. He knew that the community in Russe had been officially designated as that which is to concern itself with emigration matters, but he personally saw no results from this designation.

11. In Mr. Pinchas' opinion, based upon his observations, there are two things of importance which can be done for immediate assistance to the Jews in Bulgaria: (1) The number of Turkish transit visas authorized for Bulgaria should be substantially increased. He said that under existing conditions there may be five to six thousand people in Bulgaria who want to emigrate. (2) Funds should be provided for the Jewish people who must remain behind in Bulgaria, to enable them to keep their heads above water until such time as a change in their situation takes place.

12. There are no internment camps for Jews in Bulgaria, according to Mr. Pinchas, nor are any deportations taking place.

13. It is Mr. Pinchas' personal opinion that the future of Jewish people in Bulgaria, should the anti-Jewish laws be abrogated, is not bright. In the past there was no anti-Semitism in Bulgaria. He believes, though, that the seeds have been

planted, and that at the first moment, should the Bulgarian people feel that the Jewish people are competing with them in the economic life of the country, or that they are achieving some position of prominence and stability, there would be a recrudescence of anti-Semitism. It is largely for this reason that, although he had been advised of better times to come for the Jewish people, he nevertheless decided to emigrate.

M.

August 11, 1944

Memorandum for Mr. Tolley:

I refer to the conversations held in your office this morning concerning the deportation of German, Austrian and Czech-Slovakian nationals, or former nationals of these countries, now stateless, who are either being deported or threatened with deportation to Germany, and about whom there is some question as to their political status.

I am concerned now with those German nationals who have not had some relationship with any of our Government agencies, and who in consequence might not have a basis for requesting the protection of such agencies. A list of some persons has been supplied to me (attached) who are the subject of interest. I have no way of knowing the affiliations of these people but am informed that they are reputed to be people of integrity who are anti-Nazis.

While you stated that our Government could not be concerned with individuals who were not in some way connected with any of our agencies, may I presume to suggest that the interpretation which has been placed upon the designated assignment of the War Refugee Board may include such individuals, provided, of course, that they are as described. In this connection I am attaching hereto a copy of Executive Order No. 9417 establishing a War Refugee Board. The Press Release issued on January 22, 1944 stated in part as follows:

"The President today, by executive Order, set up a War Refugee Board consisting of the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of War, to take action for the immediate rescue from the Nazis of as many as possible of the persecuted minorities of Europe -- racial, religious or political -- all civilian victims of enemy savagery."

I realize that we are in no position to make demands of the Turkish Government as to their procedure and decisions in this matter. At the same time, on general humanitarian grounds, it may be incumbent upon the War Refugee Board to request that we do so. I am not requesting that these individuals be retained in Turkey. That does not come within our jurisdiction. I am asking that we approach the Turkish Foreign Office, requesting in principle that a number of these individuals be interned, if necessary, pending investigation, and providing the opportunity to move them elsewhere than Turkey or Germany. It is noteworthy that the British have interested themselves actively on this subject in the case of some individuals.

You referred today to the War Refugee Board's program being confined to the rescue of Jews. It is true that most of the rescue efforts and results have been directed towards the rescue of Jews in the Satellite countries, but this springs exclusively from the fact that the preponderant list of persecuted individuals are Jews. A negligible but specific number of political refugees who are not Jews have been rescued. We are underlining our efforts to locate and rescue a number of these political figures in Hungary and Rumania. A number of them are Catholics. The mandate from Washington, as specifically designated in the President's Order creating the War Refugee Board, provides that we undertake efforts to assist in the rescue of all people, including Jews, whoever they are and wherever they are.

As a result of the above, I am of the opinion that the framework of our responsibility may be interpreted to encompass individuals who, by error, accident or intent, will become victims of the Nazi steam-roller once they are deported to Germany. May I strongly urge upon you to reconsider the opinion expressed by you today and to make such representations in principle as may be necessary to the Turkish Foreign Office to permit a period of time to elapse for the necessary explorations into the background of the individuals in question before deporting them?

I. A. Hirschmann

141417

Shelton
Meyers

Wm. Hirschmann

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

August 10, 1944

Subject: Refugees from the Balkans

Participants: Mr. Kemal Aziz Payman, Director General
of the Department of Consular Affairs,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and
Mr. Packer, First Secretary of Embassy.

Place : Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Date : August 10, 1944.

Mr. Payman telephoned me this afternoon and said that he had news from Istanbul that the refugees at Igneada were being transferred to Istanbul and that their Turkish transit visas were being arranged.

He said also that the promised instructions had been sent by telegram to Bucharest, Sophia and Constanza with regard to the SS VITA and PERINE and again requested that he be informed as soon as the Embassy had any information with regard to the departure of either of these vessels for Istanbul. I told him we would be glad to keep him promptly informed.

K.L.P.

ELP/gm

cc: Mr. Kelley
Mr. Hirschmann ✓

MEMORANDUM

August 9, 1944

Mr. Kemal Aziz Payman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed me yesterday by telephone that instructions had been issued to Bucharest on June 17, 1944, authorizing the issuance of Turkish transit visas for the Schleifer children. He turned over the telephone to Mr. Barlas, who was in his office, to speak to me further about this case. Mr. Barlas said that he would telegraph immediately to the Jewish Agency representative in Bucharest to get in touch with the children and have them apply for Turkish transit visas. He promised to let me know of any developments.

Mr. Payman suggested that in view of Mr. Barlas' proposed action there was no need for the Ministry to do more at the moment, to which I agreed.

E.L.P.

RIP/em

cc: Mr. Hirschmann ✓

August 10, 1944

Memorandum of conversation between
Mr. Hirschmann and Mr. Frank G. Wisner
held on August 10, 1944.

Wisner read from a memorandum allegedly from Giurescu in response to my query connected with the cooperation of Cretzianu and stated that he had a reply to the effect that: "Antonescu wanted to indicate to Mr. Hirschmann in the clearest way possible that he desired to give Mr. H. complete satisfaction in his rescue operations and that he was happy to hear that Cretzianu had been so helpful." Wisner reported that Giurescu was accepted as being an unofficial representative of Antonescu.

I. A. Hirschmann

August 9, 1944

M E M O R A N D U M

Mr. Resnik advised us that letters have been received in Istanbul from Budapest dated July 29 and July 31, reporting that general permission in principle had been received from the Hungarians and Germans for the departure from Hungary of Jewish people in that country who have Palestine visas authorized. However, before any transport can leave Hungary it is necessary to secure from the German military and political groups in Budapest authority and approval, before the principle above mentioned can be implemented.

Accordingly, in the opinion of the Budapest people:

- (1) Saly Meyer should meet Schroeder.
- (2) Two million francs should be made available to Saly Meyer for help in effecting the departure of the Jewish people.

Sixteen hundred ninety selected people from Budapest have been sent to Bergen-Belsen, and it is indicated that this group probably would be able to leave Hungary via Spain. A first transport of 2000 persons could come out via Constanza, if the necessary arrangements mentioned above could be made.

The Budapest people thought it important that further pressure should be exerted through the Holy See, Allied countries, and King Gustav of Sweden, in order further to protect the Jews in Hungary, and more especially to speed up their departure from that country.

Mr. Hirschmann stated to Mr. Resnik that both he and Dr. Schwartz had received specific instructions to refrain from negotiations or discussions of any kind having to do with the emigration of people from Hungary on the basis of proposals which have heretofore been put forward.

HK

August , 1944 7 p.m.

M E M O R A N D U M

Mr. Resnik gave us the following information, which he had received from the Antalya regarding the overland movement of the passengers of the SS Bulbul.

The trucks with food which had been dispatched from Istanbul to Igneada were unable to get through, and the food had to be held at the town of Sergen. Food is being bought locally, closer to Igneada, for feeding the Bulbul passengers. The Antalya has brought together 65 horse-carts by means of which the passengers will be brought to the town of Cherkaskoy, and the refugees probably will leave on Friday by railroad. The necessary arrangements with the railroad have already been made.

Permission which had been requested in Istanbul for lodging the refugees in this city in temples and other buildings belonging to the Jewish community was denied, and it is expected that the people will be lodged on commodious boats in Istanbul harbor. It is planned that these people will leave Istanbul for Palestine on Saturday night, August 12.

The Turkish Red Crescent is cooperating in the entire matter, and stated that they would pay for hiring the horse-carts, for food, etc.

HK

8/1/44

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August 8, 1944

Memorandum for Mr. Kelley:

Subject: Conference with Baron Thierry, Counselor
of the Hungarian Legation in Ankara

Date: August 7, 1944

Place: Home of M. Gilbert Simond
42 Necati Bey Caddesi, Yenisehir

Time 9:40 P.M.

Acting on information that Baron Thierry had manifested a sympathetic interest in the question of minorities and Jews in Hungary, I requested of Simond that he arrange an appointment with him for the purpose of exploring possibilities to further alleviate the condition of the oppressed people in Hungary. Baron Thierry is an affable, clean cut, cultured gentleman who seems well informed on the politics of the country, but lacking in power or position to act under his present superior officer and circumstances. Simond informed me that he decided, at Simond's invitation, to attend the rendezvous without requesting the permission of his Chief, Minister Jean Vornle, who is notoriously pro-Nazi. Baron Thierry speaks perfect English.

He read to me from a so-called decree issued by the Hungarian Government on July 18 regarding the Jews. Its contents, as read to me, were as follows:

1. The sending of Jews for work abroad has been suspended (deportations);
2. According to the proposals offered by the Swedes, the International Red Cross, the Palestine Jewish Agency, and the United States War Refugee Board, the Hungarian Government has authorized:

(a) Those Jews who have obtained, through the King of Sweden, Swedish citizenship, may emigrate to Sweden. Those Jews who have relatives and who have business connections with Sweden (merchants, etc.,) may emigrate to Sweden. This applies to 400 to 500 persons, approximately;

(b) Emigration to Palestine will be authorized to some 8,000 families, or 20,000 Jews, provided they have certificates of emigration granted by the British. This has been accomplished with the aid of the Swiss Legation in Budapest;

(c) The Hungarian Government has given the International Red Cross permission to emigrate all children under 10 to Palestine. The same organization has been authorized to give material aid to the Jews interned in Hungary. The Hungarian Government has taken steps with the German Government and has granted permission for the Jews to cross the German borders into Sweden;

3. In addition to the above concessions, the following facilities have been accorded to Jews:

(a) Baptized Jews will not be sent to work abroad (deportations);

(b) The special administration connected with Baptized Jews has been handed over to a council of baptized Jews on July 6, 1944;

(c) Jews who have been baptized before August 1, 1944 may remain in Hungary;

(d) Such Jews will obtain all facilities for freedom in Hungary;

(e) Jews with special merit certificates or honorary merit certificates will remain free;

(f) Priests who are former Jews are given their freedom;

4. The sending of Jews for work abroad, if it takes place, will be done within "respect of the laws of humanity" under the supervision of the Hungarian Red Cross:

(a) The expedition of food parcels authorized for persons in camps will be arranged through the Red Cross;

(b) The distinguishing badge for Jews is not to be worn by:

(1) Parents, sisters and brothers and children of Protestants and Catholics who were formerly Jews;

(2) By such people as have ecclesiastical decorations;

(3) Members of the order of St. Sereges (?);

5. The Regent of Hungary has the discretionary power to exempt some Jews according to his determination:

(a) Jews who live with Christians;

(b) Jews who have been decorated with more medals

(c) Facilities accorded to Jews living in Budapest are extended to baptized Jews outside the capital;

(d) A reinstatement is planned for those baptized Jews who have been sent to work in Germany;

6. As soon as it is possible there will be issued a statement as to who is to be considered a converted Jew, and this will apply to Jews of all ages:

(a) Non-Jews who work in companies in Hungary will be replaced by baptized Jews;

(b) Converted Jews will be accorded all facilities to attend divine services on Sundays and holidays;

The above is as near to the verbatim translation from the Hungarian as read by Baron Thierry, as could be transcribed. He reiterated that:

1. Deportations had been suspended, which is the main objective;

2. There have been no persecutions, no maltreatment within Hungary;

3. The Hungarian authorities have only assented in a routine way, but not through any initiative, in the former deportations.

I asserted that while this seemed a step in the direction of amelioration, that it specifically did not provide for the large population of Jews who were still being treated in a barbarous fashion. Baron Thierry again repeated that he did not

feel that there had been any maltreatments of Jews in Hungary itself and that none were taking place. When I suggested that the Hungarian Government, from its own power, seemed in a position to introduce the above decree and could therefore broaden the basis to include others, if not all the population, Baron Thierry replied that it should be determined first if the decree is workable before second steps are requested. It was suggested that "official bodies" present themselves to the Hungarian Government to request:

1. That has been achieved by the above request since July 13;
2. To offer any suggestions to cover a wider population;
3. That certificates be granted by and for other countries. This, he said, would be the best way to open the doors for the emigration of larger numbers of Hungarian Jews.

Baron Thierry insisted that the Hungarian Government would be sympathetic and open to suggestions. He was of the opinion that the congestion of rail traffic would seriously interfere with the emigration of thousands of refugees to Palestine, noted above.

If extra cars could be provided, perhaps this evacuation could be accelerated. The route now is on the main railroad from Budapest through Belgrade, Sviengrad and Istanbul. (Note: Perhaps we could provide some cars through the British and Turkey for this purpose, painting them white with Red Cross symbols as is done with ships.) The trip of the Orient Express was formerly 36 hours. It now takes 6 days.

When questioned about the stability of the present Hungarian Government, Baron Thierry stated that he had it on authority that the Hungarian Government is planning a change in its Minister of Interior, and that there will also be a change in the two Secretaries of State, all tending toward a more conservative government. He protested that Imreoydi, who, it is reported, the Nazis hope to install as Prime Minister, is only mildly anti-Semitic and is a brilliant conservative economist.

Baron Thierry asserted that it was felt in Hungarian circles throughout the latter stages of the war, as the Red Army advanced, that it was inevitable for the Germans to take military control of Hungary, but it was not expected that this would include oppressive racial measures.

-5-

Baron Thierry requested that this information be kept in confidence and not publicized, and that his name be withheld from any disclosures, which promise I gave him.

I. A. Hirschmann

August 7, 1944

Memorandum for Mr. Packer:

1. The names of the two individuals who wish to travel from Istanbul to the Syrian border with the refugees who have arrived on the S. S. Marina and those who expect to arrive on the Maskura and the Bulbul are David Zimand, a Palestinian, and San Diego Buchholz, an Argentinian. Mr. Katzki informs me that they will require authorization from Ankara.

2. No authorization has yet been arranged in Istanbul, Katzki informs me, for the placing of food on the boats.

I. A. Hirschmann

August 5, 1944

Notes for use of Mr. Hirschmann:

1. The Jewish Agency in collaboration with us has succeeded in securing the prompt issuance of Palestine certificates to 8200 Jewish refugees through the channel of the Swiss Minister at the Swiss Legation in Hungary, as reported in my 1391 of July 30.
2. See my 1365, July 25, in which I reported my conversations with Cretzianu and pressed him to provide Rumanian transit visas without limit to Jewish refugees leaving Hungary for Palestine. This has been followed by further solicitations to Cretzianu on this subject by Simond at our insistence. We are informed that the Rumanians have taken the above steps requested, and we are continuing to press the Rumanian Government to permit the entrance of refugees from Hungary.

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August 10, 1944

Minister of the Interior

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permitting one or more individuals freely to circulate about the country for purposes of such survey, opposition arising out of military and defense considerations. Dr. Black mentions specifically, however, cities such as Plavna, Waskovo, Plodiv, and Pazarjik, where large numbers of Jewish people now live, and which are directly on the main railroad lines. Other centers may be similarly located geographically, but be on main lines of communication which have nothing to do with military matters.

Dr. Black suggests that under the international and Gross could undertake such an objective survey, as they could be in a better position for any such work which might be undertaken. He mentions the establishment of such a group in the Balkans, but does not say.

In conclusion, Dr. Black reports the committee members and the Board subject to the usual inactivity, and that the Board members have been notified of the situation and are following.

By the Board committee, he thinks that it is possible that the Board will be able to do some work, but he is not sure of this.

The Board committee, he thinks that it is possible that the Board will be able to do some work, but he is not sure of this.

The Board committee, he thinks that it is possible that the Board will be able to do some work, but he is not sure of this.

The Board committee, he thinks that it is possible that the Board will be able to do some work, but he is not sure of this.

original would be in agreement with present trends.

As to the fourth paragraph, De. Black said that no Bulgarian law to the present has been enacted free the country. That the law have been forced to leave the country was the 10,000 Czechs, Hungarians and Slovaks, who were under Bulgarian control during the war. Many people were not Bulgarians.

In connection with De. Black's suggestion, attached to the Bulgarian benefit facilities, secured in behalf of their opponents from Hungary, I mentioned to him the information contained in the file, as received by me, to the effect that the Russian Government, after the war, offered all facilities to the former allies of the Axis, and that the latter were not to be considered as the enemy.

It is, of course, not to be understood that the Russian Government, in offering such facilities, was acting in a spirit of generosity, but that it was doing so in order to bring about a reconciliation between the former allies of the Axis and the Soviet Union.

Regards
Herbert Katz

MEMORANDUM

APR 22 1914
11:00
12:00
13:00

To Mr. Hirschmann from Mr. Katzki

You might want to consider, while in Ankara, discussing with Mr. Kelley the question of transfer of funds which he is holding in his account for you. You remember that, after you asked Mr. Kelley to transfer the \$5,000 to you it took eight days for the transfer to reach Istanbul, a day or two more for the transfer from the Constantinian to the Ottoman bank to be effected, and then three or four days to convert the dollars standing to the credit of our account at the Ottoman bank into Turkish Lira. Thus it takes two weeks for the transfer to go through.

Perhaps all this can be eliminated if Mr. Kelley, since the Constantinian bank is here, could convert your dollars into Lira in Ankara, and send the Lira to you in Istanbul by safe bank. The conversion of dollars into Lira, if made in Constantinian, will take three days, and then the Lira will only take one day for the money to be delivered to you, which would be four days in total of Constantinian.

Mr. Kelley could also make the transfer of your money very direct. If you would buy the Lira in Ankara, it would be a direct transfer of the Lira to you in Constantinian, and then the Lira would only take one day for the money to be delivered to you, which would be four days in total of Constantinian.

71344
MM 6/13

MEMORANDUM

Mr. Schind and Mr. Averbuch called on us this morning to read the partial text of a cable which they received from their representative in Bucharest, Pandelis, which was sent on July

27: "The Turkish consulate withholds the boat documents and is waiting for instructions regarding visas passengers stop intervene immediately or boat cannot depart."

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It is to be noted that this cable was sent on the day or the day before instructions were supposed to have been sent ordering the return to Turkish ports of Turkish boats now in various non-Turkish waters.

Mr. Bohrer advised me that the information which they had received from indirect channels yesterday or the day before to the effect that the Turkish boats were about to depart from Constanta with passengers, was based on a misinterpretation by other persons of the cables which they themselves had sent or received.

In connection with this cable, it is to be noted that the file of cables of the Turkish consulate, including the information received here, was submitted on July 27, 1941, to the Turkish Legation, Ankara, and the results of the investigation are not yet known. It is noted that the cable in question was sent about 10:00 p.m. on July 27, 1941, and that if the passengers had departed on the night of July 27, 1941, the absence of their names from the list of passengers would have been noted by the Turkish government.

It is noted that the cable in question was sent to the Turkish Legation, Ankara, on July 27, 1941, and that the results of the investigation are not yet known.

has been received in Istanbul from Zissu, lists for the encyclopedia
have been submitted by Zissu and Luban in Bucharest.

1944
Memo
Bulgarian

MEMORANDUM
on the 40 Bulgarian Children

On July 30, 40 children arrived in Istanbul from Bulgaria en route to Palestine. They comprised 18 girls and 22 boys, accompanied by two adult escorts, and were between the ages of 12 and 17. These children were part of a larger group of 100, whose names had been included on lists for emigration to Palestine many months ago. Some of the children have waited two years for the completion of their documents for emigration.

Inquiry among the children brought out the following matter of interest. They have to be considered with some reserve, however, considering the fact that they come from children who are not necessarily well-informed about the conditions of Jews in Bulgaria.

1. Within the past few days, a Colonel Badjar, a Jewish national by birth, had been chosen by the government to be president of a central Bulgarian consulate, which he has been ordered to organize. Colonel Badjar is said to have excellent governmental contacts, and was a personal friend of the late former Bulgarian King. The central consulate is now in process of formation.

2. It has to be noted that on the part of Bulgarian Jews, the conditions for them will become, if not more, any possible in getting their documents, and upon further examination of children with whom it was noted that they may be held only under the present laws. Getting their documents in Bulgaria for emigration to Palestine, or any other country, will be a long and difficult process.

3. Migration from Bulgaria from the technical viewpoint is still difficult, because of the great number of documents which Jewish people are required to present prior to their departure, and the difficulties attendant upon the obtention thereof. Prohibitions upon travel are an important contributing factor. According to the children, any Jew can emigrate from Bulgaria, provided he can get his documents in order. Up to the present time, these matters have been handled by a Bulgarian attorney, non-Jewish, by the name of Boris Apostolov.

4. Two hundred Jewish children in Bulgaria have their documentation for migration to Palestine in varying stages of completion. According to the children, all that is yet required is certain confirmations from the Swiss Legation in Sofia (I suppose this probably has to do with the authentication of passports by the Swiss Legation in behalf of the British Embassy in Turkey concerning which new affirmative instructions have recently been dispatched from Bern, according to my source).

5. According to the children, Mr. Apostolov makes him to advise the Jewish organizations in Istanbul that the Turkish Consul in Sofia has been authorized to issue 50 Turkish Transit Passports to Jews of this country, and that he is authorized to issue these without reference to any authorization from Ankara. (The passport is to be issued in the name of the child and is to be issued for a period of 30 days, and the child is to be accompanied by a parent or guardian to Istanbul, and the passport is to be valid for the duration of the stay in Istanbul.)

6. It is also stated that the Turkish Consul in Istanbul is authorized to issue 50 Turkish Transit Passports to Jews of this country, and that he is authorized to issue these without reference to any authorization from Ankara. (The passport is to be issued in the name of the child and is to be issued for a period of 30 days, and the child is to be accompanied by a parent or guardian to Istanbul, and the passport is to be valid for the duration of the stay in Istanbul.)

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a large number of documents, and that there had been no relaxation of these requirements insofar as they were concerned, even though they were children.

7. According to the children, there are no concentration camps at the present time in Belgium to which the Jews are being sent. There was one near Flévin, where 200 had been held, but they have been liberated. There are, however, 150 Jews in custody in this camp who are parents or close relatives of Jewish men who had joined the Partisans. Among the 150 there are also men who at one time had joined the Partisans, but had since returned from the front. This camp is being used as one of the few camps in which relatives of non-Jewish Partisans have been sent. There is, then, only this segregation of Jews in Belgium from non-Jews, and it is for the present purpose, in the case of Jews, to do with anti-Jewish legislation.

In addition, the children also mentioned that in Belgium, there are no camps for Jews, but that there are camps for non-Jews, and that the children are being sent to these camps. The children also mentioned that there are camps for non-Jews, and that the children are being sent to these camps. The children also mentioned that there are camps for non-Jews, and that the children are being sent to these camps.

27, 1943

advised defendant on August 2, to all the circumstances
 concerning the above-mentioned defendant's possession of
 the same, and that the defendant, it was understood
 defendant's ability, but defendant's to the defendant would
 be held responsible for the defendant's
 actions. In addition, the defendant, in the event of a
 conviction, would be held responsible for the defendant's
 actions.

*1934
June
1934*

MEMORANDUM

Conversation with Lardi, Swiss Minister,
on Hungarian Visas

1. On May 27th, the Swiss government in Ankara was requested to send a list of names, which they did not count but which is believed to have included 2,625 names, to their Swiss legation in Hungary, of persons for whom Palestine visas have been authorized. This list was sent by post, and bulletins were sent by pouch.

2. On June 22, the lists arrived in Budapest. On June 26, copies were received in Bern, Switzerland.

3. On July 19, the Hungarian government announced that it would permit anyone to leave for whom a certificate is to be authorized in order to become a bearer of the certificate.

4. On July 25, Thierry, Hungarian consul in Ankara, informed Lardi that the Hungarians were a usual practice that had been to obtain the authorization of 2,000 visas in 30 days in Hungary, but no limit since the authorization had for the .

M. Lardi

This was to be included in report on Hungary

July 18, 1944.

4:30 P.M.

Memorandum for Mr. Hirschmann.

Mr. Pecker has just telephoned from the Embassy to report that the two secretaries assigned for duty in your office in Istanbul will arrive on to-morrow morning's train from Ankara.

He asked me to inform you of this fact in order that you might make arrangements for meeting them and for hotel accommodations.


Residence of the Ambassador

6/15/44
7/15/44

July 15, 1944

Memorandum of Conversation With Mr. Kelley

I agree in principle with your telegram with one saving clause which would read to the effect that "Hirschmann concurs in the foregoing but is urging that request be made of the Turkish authorities at this time but that immediate instruction for representatives in Rumania, Bulgaria and Hungary to issue individual as well as transit visas where shiploads or trainloads of refugees are concerned".

Mr. Kelley stated that he would introduce some such clause at the bottom under his own name that Hirschmann concurs. I agreed.

In the course of the conversation I emphasized that the Turks are not cooperating in their failure to instruct their representatives as above stated. And it was for us to press this as we would be criticised.

Mr. Kelley stated that he would take up with the Turkish authorities the matter of Turkish transit visas at once and that in his discussion with the Turkish Foreign Office on Thursday they blamed the Bulgarians for the delay in releasing the ship from their port.

I. A. Hirschmann

2/14/44
Memo
C. H. C.

M E M O R A N D U M

Conversation with Mr. Jacob Griffel, July 14, 1944

Mr. Griffel advised us that he had received a telegram from his representative in Bucharest, Mr. Petrusca, indicating that the latter had spoken with the Bucharest representative of the Turkish Steamship Line, which owns the two ships Biga and Tereky. According to Mr. Petrusca, both these ships, which are at present in Istanbul, could be used for bringing refugees from Bucharest to Istanbul in accordance with the offers which have been made by the steamship agent in Bucharest. The Biga would carry 400 persons, at a cost of Turkish pounds 35,000, and the Tereky 500 persons at a cost of 40,000. Permits are available according to Mr. Griffel, to have both ships go to Constanza, but he is not actually requesting exhibition of the permits to him. According to Petrusca, exit permits could be obtained for passengers to be embarked on these two boats, provided confirmation is received in Constanza from the Jewish Agency that the passengers would not be turned back at Istanbul after their arrival here. The telegram which Mr. Griffel received from Bucharest required a guarantee that "alle Immigranten anstandlos Uebernahme Istanbul gesichert."

It is in connection with these messages that Mr. Griffel requested War Refugee Board authorization to send the boats to Constanza, which in its course led to the misunderstandings covered by our cable to Washington dated

Mr. Griffel stated that, in addition to transportation

Memo: Griffel

-2-

July 14, 1944

costs, insurance would have to be paid by the charterer, which in the case of the Tereky would cost about 8,000 Turkish pounds, the Biga something less. According to the information he had from Petrusca, other costs which must be met in Bucharest could be covered by funds obtained locally.

MEMORANDUM

Discussion with Mr. Eliezer Kaplan, July 12, 1944

Mr. Kaplan requested the assistance of the War Refugee Board in the following matters:

(1) The acute shortage of housing in Palestine is causing a number of problems in connection with the reception of refugees, who are coming or who might come in the future to that country. Efforts have been made by the Jewish Agency to expand housing facilities, but although necessary governmental permits have been issued, the absence of raw materials has made the erection of additional houses impossible. Mr. Kaplan stated that there are military camps in Palestine, formerly American, which are being transferred to the British. He asked whether the WRB could be helpful in securing this material for the construction of housing in Palestine.

It was agreed that Mr. Kaplan will send a full report including details, from Palestine, upon his return there. He will also send a memorandum which will be prepared by the Jewish Agency for the government of Palestine on the housing and rent situation. Consideration of Mr. Kaplan's request will be given after such reports are received.

(2) In view of information which has been coming through Istanbul from Rumania, which spoke of emigration from the latter country at the rate of seven thousand or ten thousand persons per month, Mr. Kaplan inquired as to the manner in which substantially increased numbers of persons could be transported from Istanbul to Palestine. Mr. Hirschmann said that, according

to his information, transportation by rail can be arranged, perhaps at the same rate in which the Kazbek passengers were moved. This response satisfied Mr. Kaplan.

(3) Mr. Kaplan asked whether the WKB could be helpful in obtaining Turkish visas in order to bring a few of the Jewish leaders in Bucharest to Turkey for discussions. Mr. Kaplan explained that he expected to write and telegraph to Bucharest in order to try to settle differences which, apparently, exist there. Mr. Hirschmann told Mr. Kaplan that he should try to compose these differences by mail and telegraph first, and that he preferred to keep as a last resort the bringing of these people to Istanbul.

(4) Mr. Kaplan referred to reports received from Budapest to the effect that the Swedish minister was prepared to issue Swedish visas to certain numbers of Jewish people in Hungary in certain categories, provided guarantee were given by the United States Government that such people would be evacuated from Sweden within three years. Mr. Kaplan will send a report to Mr. Hirschmann on the subject. Mr. Hirschmann offered to pursue the matter, especially with Mr. Wodig, Swedish minister in Ankara.

Simond was at pains to elaborate upon the steps which had been taken during my absence from Ankara connected with the efforts of all parties of various governments to secure a safe conduct for the U.S. "Tari". According to Simond, after I had departed for Washington, Von Papen was implored to dispatch four separate messages to Berlin warmly urging a safe conduct for the U.S. "Tari". Simond alleges to have seen these messages. At this time Von Papen was recalled to Berlin to discuss the critical relation which had arisen with respect to chrome and promised Simond to make a strong personal representation to Hitler for safe conduct for the U.S. "Tari".

Meanwhile in a discussion with the German Consul, Simond was informed that the American Ambassador had requested of Humar, the then Turkish minister of foreign affairs to visit Von Papen and also urge a safe conduct. This was contrary to my understanding with Simond as he was very clear with me in his assertions that the opportunity for success with the Germans could best be achieved through the International Red Cross and his personal friendly relations with Von Papen. This conversation with Humar some weeks later, Humar revealed to Simond that the American Ambassador had on several occasions requested of Humar to visit Von Papen to secure that safe conduct for the "Tari" and in the course of this conversation that Humar had twice visited Von Papen to repeat this safe conduct.

Simond further stated that Von Papen had on several occasions visited the American Ambassador, in the question of safe conduct for the "Tari" involving the U.S. "Tari" and that Von Papen had on several occasions visited the American Ambassador in Ankara to discuss the safe conduct for the "Tari" and that Von Papen had on several occasions visited the American Ambassador in Ankara to discuss the safe conduct for the "Tari".

In spite of this the German Consul informed Simona that the door was not closed and a negative answer was not given by Berlin connected with a safe conduct for the "Tari".

Thereafter Simona visited the American Ambassador and disclosed the above situation and its unfortunate results at which point the ambassador stated that "Hirschmann had requested me to ask the Turkish Minister to intervene in the matter". Simona was discouraged since this was contrary to my agreement with Simona and contrary to the information that he had on the subject.

Subsequently the question of curtailing the proposed voyage of the S.S. Tari was presented by Simona to the American Ambassador, i.e. to have the ship proceed from a Bulgarian port to Istanbul instead of originating it from Constanza to Sofia. Simona informs me that this subject was explored in detail by Ambassador Steinhardt, the former foreign minister Nizam Menemencioğlu and I. It is not yet a dead issue. I. is now in Sofia. He has offered to request assistance from his Government in the above matter. Simona is not very hopeful of success.

Note: Upon my return to Ankara, I discussed the subject of the S.S. "Tari" with the Ambassador on several occasions and my impression of it is that the matter should deal me to the responsibility of securing a safe conduct from the Turkish Government. I have not yet received a reply from the Turkish Government.

July 3rd, 1944.

GREECE

When I was last in Turkey I was aware of a trickle of constant movement of refugees across from Greece to Izmir, Turkey. The period of January and February is the worse possible time for traffic across these waters and the movement was so slow at that time that no report was made. So-called caïques capable of carrying 25 to a maximum of 40 passengers, ply a regular refugee traffic back and forth from the island of Evvoia to a small island north of Izmir. These refugees generally are removed by the so-called partisans from Athens to Evvoia and are put off on the shore at the Turkish isle. After some routine and formalities which are directed by representatives of the Jewish Agency, they secure their visas for Palestine. The Turkish police take the passengers to Izmir where the British Consulate has their visas and they proceed by train to Palestine. Harbor of Izmir has been closed since October, 1943 -

October, 1943 - January, 1944 - 300
January, 1944 - February, 1944 - 33

(Mr. Kabaky, please check on this operation with the British as to how to continue).

These immigrants are reported at the above island points. The British previously assisted in these movements informally. Today this is more necessary and the British and Americans have been forced to concentrate on their own political functions in this area.

July 3rd, 1944.

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION
WINTERS

FIVE SHIPS AVAILABLE FOR CONSIDERATION (4 TURKISH AND ONE GREEK) -

READY TO SAIL FOR ISTANBUL WITH PASSENGERS. THESE ARE:

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| KARDEK | 450 pass. |
| AMIRAL | 150 passengers |
| AMIRAL | 350 passengers |
| AMIRAL | 350 passengers |
| (Greek) -- SMYRNA | 1200 passengers |

In addition there are two boats in Varna, Bulgaria available for repatriation to Istanbul, but which cannot sail at this time. They are:

| | |
|--------|----------------|
| AMIRAL | 250 passengers |
| VITA | 350 passengers |

It is felt that it would be unwise to bring the latter two to Turkey at this time until the five ships above-named are unloaded.

After the sinking of the U.S. "Maritza" the Australian government decided to formalize its operation connected with its so-called life line transportation. They decided to permit children and adults to leave the country as it is reported that the British accepted their plan. Many of these refugees have come into Australia this fall, from Poland and other countries. The policy of the United States is to accept these refugees as they come to the United States.

The Government has a representative of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, including one representative of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who is in close personal contact with the United States. This person is reported to be a very rich man with many connections.

In addition there is a representative of the United States for the Joint Chiefs of Staff who is in contact with the United States. This person is reported to be a very rich man with many connections.

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October 7, 1944

MEMORANDUM

Conversation between Mr. Katzki and Mr. Cretzianu

10/7/44
JL
Cretzianu
Katzki
Reviewed

I called on Rumanian Minister Cretzianu today, to speak with him regarding the Kant family. I outlined the position to him: the circumstances under which they were colonized in Turkey, their past history as Rumanian nationals, their expulsion, etc. I pointed out to Mr. Cretzianu that although this family technically were not refugees and thus among the categories of persons whom the War Refugee Board was trying to assist, our aid had been solicited upon humanitarian grounds.*

Mr. Cretzianu thought that perhaps this family might already be known to the Ministry in Ankara, and he offered to go through his records when he returns to Ankara, to find out what they disclose. He pointed out that it may be embarrassing for the Rumanian Ministry to take any steps for the Kant family because, if they left Bessarabia 30 years ago, they did so during a period when that province was still Russian territory, so that they at that time were Russians. At the present time, as a result of the Rumanian armistice agreement, Bessarabia has again become Russian territory, so that the Kant family again technically may be Russians, or subject to Russian jurisdiction. This is a technical question which is complicated. Nevertheless, he will see in what way he can be helpful.

I advised Mr. Cretzianu that should he require further information regarding the matter of the Kant expulsion, we would be very glad to furnish it.

Herbert Katzki

October 7, 1944

10/7/44
Memo
Re Turkey
Rumania

M E M O R A N D U M

Regarding the Family of Zeilik Kant

We are informed that 30 to 40 years ago the Jewish Colonization Association, with funds received from the well-known Baron de Hirsch, established several agricultural colonies in Turkey, for the settlement of Jewish people from Bessarabia and Russia. Among the settlers located on one of the Jewish Colonization Association farms at Panderna (Vilayet Balikkessar) was the family of Zeilik Kant, which came from Bessarabia. This family is composed of ten members, of which five are Rumanian subjects, two Turkish subjects, and three Mexican subjects. Their names are given below.

*ZEILIK KANT - 72 years old, widower,
father of children KANT

*ALBERT KANT - 46 years old, eldest son,
married, has one child

LAURE KANT - Turkish subj.
wife of Albert
Kant

RAYMOND KANT - Turkish
subject, son of
Albert (2 yrs.)

*IZIA KANT - 32 years old, Unmarried.

*SESTHERA KANT - 44 years old, eldest
daughter, married to
a Mexican subject, has
two sons.

MORITZ SEGAL - Mexican
subject (husband
of Sesthera Kant)
Izia Segal) sons of
Rona Segal) Sesthera Kant

*IRANNA KANT - 27 years old, Unmarried
daughter, born in Turkey.

* Born in Bessarabia.

* Born in Turkey but of Rumanian nationality.

The five Rumanian nationals have received an order of expulsion,
after having lived for more than 3 years in Turkey.

We are advised that up to the early 1920's, the Rumanian members of this family when traveling abroad from Turkey were recognized as Rumanian subjects, and the Rumanian Consulate delivered to them the necessary passports for overseas travel. In 1938, their Rumanian nationality was lost as the result of a law affecting Jewish people from Bessarabia. Nevertheless, the Rumanian Consulate delivered certificates of Rumanian nationality in order to assist this family to secure the necessary Turkish identity papers, which had to be renewed every year.

Title to the farm on which the Kant family were tenants was registered in the name of the late Mr. Franz Philippson, a Belgian national, formerly president of the Jewish Colonization Association. We are advised that the Ministry of Agriculture has taken steps to expropriate this farm, which the Belgian Embassy is protesting. In connection therewith, the five Rumanian members of the Kant family have received an expulsion order from Turkey. This expulsion order, we are advised, was received by the fourth section of the police in Istanbul, issued in Ankara; and a fifteen-day time-limit, from September 13, was given. This expulsion order subsequently was stayed, and is now pending.

The Rumanian members of the Kant family, now being without nationality technically, have no country to which they can go, assuming that the expulsion order is enforced. It appears, according to our information, that there is nothing on the record to warrant the issuance of the expulsion order to the Kant family.

It may be that the facts are not sufficiently known by the higher Russian authorities, that is, that the Kant family were

only tenants on the Jewish Colonization Association farms. They might be very glad to have these facts called to their attention before further steps are taken with regard to the Kants. Meanwhile, the protection and assistance of the Rumanian mission in Turkey for this family undoubtedly would be of great help.

llc/b

MEMORANDUM

Conversation between Mr. Katzki and Mr. Albert Kant, Wednesday,
September 13, 1944, 5:45 p.m.

The following situation has been brought to our attention by Mr. Simond Brod of Istanbul, and subsequently by Mr. Albert Kant, whose name appears below, who called at our office personally, accompanied by his father, Mr. Solig Kant, who is likewise affected by the facts as will be brought out in this memorandum.

We were informed that thirty to forty years ago the Jewish Colonization Association, with funds received from the well-known Baron de Hirsch, established several agricultural colonies in Russia, for the settlement of Jewish exiles from Bessarabia and Russia. Among the settlers located in one of the Jewish Colonization Association farms at Bandirma, Turkey, was the family of Solig Kant, which came from Bessarabia. The family were Russian nationals but, we are informed, lost their Russian nationality some time ago as a result of a Rumanian law affecting Jews who had fled from Bessarabia.

Mr. Albert Kant, Mr. Albert Kant in 1938 a number of documents to the Consulate in London, which included this family. In due course, the family was accepted as British subjects, but the father, Mr. Solig Kant, was affected through a technicality.

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placed on the Bulgarian border, from whence they may go any place they can.

The members of the Kant family included in the order are:

- Selig Kant, 70 years old, born in Bessarabia;
- Albert Kant, 40 years old, born in Bessarabia;
- Izia Kant, 30 years old, born in Bessarabia;
- Esther Kant, 40 years old, born in Bessarabia;
- Anna Kant, 28 years old, born in Turkey, but of Rumanian nationality.

Mr. Albert Kant has a Turkish wife, Laura, and two-year-old child, Raymond, who are not permitted to leave Turkey. Mr. Kant is married to a Mexican national named Moritz Segal, and has two children, thirteen and eleven years of age respectively. Though the two children are stateless, they will not be permitted to leave Turkey, having been born here, nor will the husband, Moritz Segal, be permitted to leave the country.

The assistance of the American Legation was solicited to prevent the departure of the Kant family to any other country.

Mr. Brewster, on the foregoing, was advised by the representative of the Justice Administration Commission, a member of the Turkish Government, that the Kant family is not permitted to leave Turkey, and that the American Legation should be notified of this fact. It is stated that the Kant family is not permitted to leave Turkey, and that the American Legation should be notified of this fact. It is stated that the Kant family is not permitted to leave Turkey, and that the American Legation should be notified of this fact.

October 7, 1944

10/7/44
Ack. Turkey
Memo
Rumanian

MEMORANDUM

Conversation between Mr. Katzki and Mr. Gretzianu

I called on Rumanian Minister Gretzianu today, to speak with him regarding the Kant family. I outlined the position to him: the circumstances under which they were colonized in Turkey, their past history as Rumanian nationals, their expulsion, etc. I pointed out to Mr. Gretzianu that although this family technically were not refugees and thus among the categories of persons whom the War Refugee Board was trying to assist, our aid had been solicited upon humanitarian grounds.

Mr. Gretzianu thought that perhaps this family might already be known to the Ministry in Ankara, and he offered to go through his records when he returns to Ankara, to find out what they disclose. He pointed out that it may be embarrassing for the Rumanian Ministry to take any steps for the Kant family because, if they left Bessarabia 30 years ago, they did so during a period when that province was still Russian territory, so that they at that time were Russians. At the present time, as a result of the Rumanian armistice agreement, Bessarabia has again become Russian territory, so that the Kant family, again technically may be Russians, or subject to Russian jurisdiction. This is a technical question which is complicated. Nevertheless, he will see in what way he can be helpful.

I advised Mr. Gretzianu that should he require further information regarding the matter of Russian jurisdiction, we would be very glad to furnish it.

Herbert Katzki

HK/b

October 7, 1944

*10/7/44
Act. Turkey*

M E M O R A N D U M

Regarding the Family of Zeilik Kant

We are informed that 30 to 40 years ago the Jewish Colonization Association, with funds received from the well-known Baron de Hirsch, established several agricultural colonies in Turkey, for the settlement of Jewish people from Bessarabia and Russia. Among the settlers located on one of the Jewish Colonization Association farms at Panderma (Vilayet Balikkesser) was the family of Zeilik Kant, which came from Bessarabia. This family is composed of ten members, of which five are Rumanian subjects, two Turkish subjects, and three Mexican subjects. Their names are given below.

*ZEILIK KANT - 72 years old. Widower,
father of children KANT

*ALBERT KANT - 46 years old. Eldest son,
married, has one child

LAURE KANT - Turkish subj.
wife of Albert
Kant

RAYMOND KANT - Turkish
subject, son of
Albert (2 yrs.)

*IZIA KANT - 32 years old. Unmarried.

*ESTHERA KANT - 44 years old. Eldest
daughter, married to
a Mexican subject, has
two sons.

MORITZ SEGAL - Mexican
subject (husband
of Esthera Kant)
Izia Segal) sons of
Rene Segal) Esthera Kant

*HANNA KANT - 27 years old. Unmarried
daughter, born in Turkey.

* Born in Bessarabia.

**Born in Turkey but of Rumanian nationality.

The five Rumanian nationals have received an order of expulsion,
after having lived for more than 32 years in Turkey.

We are advised that up to the early 1920's, the Rumanian members of this family when traveling abroad from Turkey were recognized as Rumanian subjects, and the Rumanian Consulate delivered to them the necessary passports for overseas travel. In 1938, their Rumanian nationality was lost as the result of a law affecting Jewish people from Bessarabia. Nevertheless, the Rumanian Consulate delivered certificates of Rumanian nationality in order to assist this family to secure the necessary Turkish identity papers, which had to be renewed every year.

Title to the farm on which the Kant family were tenants was registered in the name of the late Mr. Franz Philippson, a Belgian national, formerly president of the Jewish Colonization Association. We are advised that the Ministry of Agriculture has taken steps to expropriate this farm, which the Belgian Embassy is protesting. In connection therewith, the five Rumanian members of the Kant family have received an expulsion order from Turkey. This expulsion order, we are advised, was received by the fourth section of the police in Istanbul, issued in Ankara; and a fifteen-day time-limit, from September 13, was given. This expulsion order subsequently was stayed, and is now pending.

The Rumanian members of the Kant family, now being without nationality technically, have no country to which they can go, assuming that the expulsion order is enforced. It appears, according to our information, that there is nothing on the record to warrant the issuance of the expulsion order to the Kant family.

It may be that the facts are not sufficiently known by the higher Turkish authorities, that is, that the Kant family were

only tenants on the Jewish Colonization Association farm. They might be very glad to have these facts called to their attention before further steps are taken with regard to the Kants. Meanwhile, the protection and assistance of the Rumanian mission in Turkey for this family undoubtedly would be of great help.

9/15/44
Ad. Tansey
Hicem

David Schweitzer
Ayret apt. 34
Ayaz Nasma 43.
Istanbul.

Tel. 84165

Istanbul, September 18, 1944

Mr. T. A. Hirschmann
Special Attache
American Embassy
Istanbul.

Dear Mr. Hirschmann,

In connection with the expulsion case that was called to your attention, I want to give you the following details. It concerns the family Kant, comprising 10 persons in all as per list attached, of whom several members of families are Turkish subjects and will be obliged to remain behind, thus involving the breaking-up of families besides.

However, it is not the matter of expulsion itself and all the hardships that it entails for these people, but the far reaching effects that I consider necessary to draw your attention to.

These people are former colonists, from a farm that is the property of the Jewish Colonization Association, London and is registered in the name of the late Franz Philpsson, for many years the President of the above-named association. This is one of three farms, partly abandoned, partly expropriated and a matter of court decision.

When I had the opportunity to explain to our ambassador the purpose of my mission here, I mentioned this assignment of mine to him too. He was kind enough, to give me some valuable advice.

There is in the name of two lawyers, Dr. Gnd. Banko and Dr. Gnd. Somerhan. The Belgian Embassy too, since the property belongs to the heirs, of a former Belgian subject and intervened vigorously with the government in this case, of which the dossier lies with them. The case is pending subject to the receipt of a group of attorneys on the one hand, and some such thing on the other, and given that the heirs are active on the other, the government

the former claim that was made, namely that there are no heirs and that the property is subject to expropriation.

The order of expulsion came about in the following manner: The Kant family applied for a renewal of their identity cards and their application was referred to Panderma, where the farm (Tikfur Ghiflik) is located. During the investigation which is a normal procedure, a special emissary, or emissaries were sent down here, who questioned these people as to why they are trying to get the farm back and why they don't sell it. The local authorities of Panderma no doubt believed that the farm belongs to the settlers who were expelled from it, and are not aware that it is the property of a foreign company and is subject to decision by the Conseil d'Etat.

So far as the information available shows, there seems to be nothing on record to warrant an expulsion order.

A precedent like that may have a disastrous effect on hundreds of similar cases. The Government in Ankara is probably unaware of the merits of the case and were this known to them, might find such action undesirable and inopportune.

Through the efforts of Mr. Brod an extension of time was granted to these people of fifteen days from the 13th. of this month and the police is at the heels of these people to expedite their departure. It is not even clear where they can go, since they were former Roumanian subjects in the territory now occupied by U.S.S.R. and the latter will not yet recognize them and the former will probably refuse visas. All of them have lived in this country for over 20 years.

I have gone into greater details and shall be glad to furnish more information if desired, because the case deserves fullest consideration possible.

Cordially yours

S. J. C. [Signature]

Persons who have received
expulsion order.

1. ABRAHAM KANT - 72 years old. Widower.
father of children KANT

2. ALBERT KANT - 46 years old. Eldest son
married, has one child

3. IZIA KANT - 32 years old. unmarried.

4. ESTHERA KANT - 44 years old. Eldest
daughter, married to
a Mexican subj., has
2 sons.

5. ADAM KANT - 27 years old. unmarried.
daughter, born in Turkey.

Persons who have not received
expulsion order, but have
family bonds.

LAURE KANT - Turkish subj.
wife of Albert
Kant.

RAYMOND KANT - Turkish subj.
son of Albert
Kant, two y. old)

MORITZ SEGAL - Mexican subject
(husband of
Esthera Kant.)

Izia Segal) sons of
Rene Segal) Esthera Kant

placed on the Bulgarian border, from whence they may go any place they can.

The members of the Kant family included in the order are:

Selig Kant, 70 years old, born in Bessarabia;

Albert Kant, 40 years old, born in Bessarabia;

Izia Kant, 30 years old, born in Bessarabia;

Ester Kant, 40 years old, born in Bessarabia;

Anna Kant, 28 years old, born in Turkey, out of Rumanian nationality.

Mr. Albert Kant has a Turkish wife, Laura, and two-year-old child, Raymond, who are not required and, we are informed, will not be permitted to leave Turkey. Ester Kant is married to a Mexican national named Moritz Segal, and has two children, thirteen and eleven years of age respectively. Though the two children are stateless, they will not be permitted to leave Turkey, having been born here, nor will the husband, Moritz Segal, be required to leave the country.

The assistance of the War Refugee Board was solicited to prevent what apparently is an injustice to require the five members of the Kant family to leave Turkey.

Through the aid of the War Refugee Board, we were advised by the representative of the Jewish Colonization Association in Istanbul that the Turkish Government is seeking an attempt to take control of the farm holdings in the region of that association, and that the only way to prevent this is to request the United States Government to advise the Turkish Government that the United States Government is not prepared to do so. The Turkish Government is also advised that the United States Government is not prepared to do so.

9/13/44

Albert Kant
Suhiye Pasaji
Kaire 23

Conservatoire de Musique
Istanbul

| | | | |
|----|-------------|----|-----------|
| | Felig Kart | 70 | } |
| x | Albert Kart | 40 | |
| | Sia Kart | 30 | |
| | | | Be ... |
| xx | Ester Kart | 40 | } |
| | Anna Kart | 28 | |
| | | | ... & ... |

Persons per
 ...
 ... about 20 years
 ...

+ ...
 ...
 xx Married ...
 ...
 ...
 ...
 ...

Report on the Kant family

- 9/13/44
At Turkey

Statement by A.Kant

The family is composed of 10 members, of which five are Roumanian subjects, 2 Turkish subjects and three Mexican subjects. Only five Roumanians have received the order of expulsion after having lived for more than 32 years in Turkey, with one person born in Turkey.(Anatolia).

Up to and subsequent to the year 1920, when one or other left this country for a short stay abroad, the above mentioned persons have been recognized as Roumanian subjects and the Roumanian Consulate delivered them the passports for overseas and later certificates for the interior of the country. In 1938, at promulgation of the anti-semitic law, Jews of Bessarabia had lost their Roumanian nationality, in which we were included.

In the meantime we addressed the Russian Consulate in Istanbul a petition obtaining Russian nationality, since all were born in Bessarabia. Owing to war the Consulate has not yet received approval from Moscow. We possess a declaration of the Russian Consulate written in Turkish, referring to this demand.

However, the Roumanian Consulate delivered us Certificates of Roumanian Nationality, in order to get our Turkish identity papers, which we had to change every year. We always changed them in P a n d e r m a. (Vilayet Balikkesser).

After the farm T i k f u r has been expropriated by the Ministry of Agriculture of which we were the farmers, the family K a n t received the formal order to leave the farm. We settled in Istanbul. In March 1944 the 5 Roumanian subjects addressed the Commissariat of the Police for renewal of their identity papers. We were asked if we possessed a permission of the Ministry of the Interior to stay in the country being Roumanian subjects. We declared that such an order had been issued by the Ministry of the Interior to the Vali of Balikkesser on our behalf. The functionary of the fourth section gave us temporary identity papers, telling us that he will enquire at Balikkesser. Every two weeks we were obliged to change these temporary cards.

On the 13th of this month we were called to the fourth section of the Police, and were informed that an order arrived from Ankara, and that we had to leave Turkey in fifteen days. This date expires on the 28th of this month.

On the 18th of this month these five persons have addressed telegraphically the Prime Minister, asking him to revise this order of expulsion and asking him to permit us to live in Turkey. Equally Mr. Albert Kant addressed the Vali of Istanbul, asking him to give permission to go to Ankara, in order to defend the matter at the competent ministries.

After an interview with the Vali and the Chief of the
Police of Istanbul the demand was accorded and he was allowed
to go to Ankara.

A. Kant

May 24, 1944

MEMORANDUM

Urgent telegram from Turkey requesting that a telegram be sent by President Roosevelt strongly urging the President of Turkey to respond in connection with a program that I work out for immediate action concerning either

- (a) Visa elimination
- (b) Land routes
- (c) Boats

IAH:ro

MEMORANDUM

From: Floyd H. Black.
To: Burton Y. Berry.
Subject: A Speculation about Bulgaria.

Since the founding of the present Bulgarian Kingdom in 1878-79, Bulgaria has always been to a large extent an isolationist country unwilling either to subordinate herself to, or collaborate closely with her neighbor or any great power. There are two reasons for this: the first is the independent and stubborn character of the Bulgarian people, a characteristic which makes it difficult for Bulgarians to collaborate closely with others or to compromise, and second, the fact that Bulgaria from the beginning has had one great primary objective in foreign policy, namely, the unification of all Bulgarians under one flag. They can not collaborate closely with any nation that does not recognize this policy. The second of these factors was forced upon Bulgaria by the substitution of the Treaty of Berlin (July 1878) for the Treaty of San Stefano (March 3, 1878). Although the boundaries assigned Bulgaria in the Treaty of San Stefano were considerably inflated, due in part to the lack of complete statistical knowledge of the population and in part to the desire of Czarist Russia, for purposes of her own, to establish a large Bulgaria, yet from the ethnographical point of view these boundaries were not far wrong at that time.

Thus at the very beginning of its history the Third Bulgarian Kingdom was presented with a problem of foreign

policy

policy which received the support of all classes of the population, a policy which to a Bulgarian has always seemed altogether just and desirable of attainment. Ever since that date all Bulgarian governments have followed this policy in foreign affairs. It was always in the background in Bulgaria's negotiations and relations either with her neighbors or with the Great Powers. This has given a unity and continuity to Bulgarian foreign policy which few nations have been so fortunate as to have. Disagreements in foreign policy have centered in the methods of achieving this desirable and rather than in the end itself.

The great political struggles which have occurred in Bulgaria have been over internal problems, as in the conflict between the peasant population and the town population, a conflict which has many ramifications in Bulgarian history, or in the conflict between the so-called conservative and liberal elements in political philosophy.

We have then in Bulgarian history the phenomenon of a foreign policy which tended to draw the whole nation together, unifying public opinion on one great aim, and at the same time internal political and economic problems which caused great controversies, tending at times to the verge of armed conflict.

This same general situation prevails today. No Bulgarian questions the desirability of unifying all Bulgarian-speaking people under one flag, although many

question

question the methods of attaining unification pursued by the present régime. Few Bulgarians would willingly give up all the territories now annexed. At the same time a great internal conflict is going on which is primarily economic. This struggle is represented by the communists and by the agrarians who desire and resort to political means to bring about the desired change. The financial and governing classes on the whole desire to maintain the present political system, while at the same time making as many concessions as possible to the agricultural and working classes in the way of reforms, increased wages, social insurance and other means, which, it is hoped, will so much improve the economic conditions of the working classes generally as to appease them, thus preventing a radical political upheaval.

In view of this general situation, so briefly and inadequately stated, is it possible to make any prediction about the course of political events in Bulgaria under the changing circumstances of a rapidly developing military situation? In this point no one can do anything but speculate because nobody knows or can know how events will develop, but one can not avoid conjuring up various possibilities. One of these possibilities is stated below.

When the Bulgarian revolutionary movement was developing in the period between 1935 and 1976, Bulgarians turned more and more to Russia. A great many Bulgarians, including a number of the principal leaders of the Bulgarian revolutionary movement, studied in Russia. Bulgaria was bound to Russia by ties of language, religion,

customs and by a common political interest - the struggle against Turkey. These facts, however, did not make the Bulgarian revolutionary leaders pro-Russian to the extent that they desired to make Bulgaria an appendage of Russia or desired that Bulgaria should be governed or controlled by Russia. They were glad to accept Russian military aid, and were grateful for it, but they did not want Russia or the Russians to stay in Bulgaria. They wanted to govern their own liberated country, and so proceeded very soon after the liberation to eliminate Russian political control while maintaining Russian cultural influence, which was inevitable. Thus the fears of the Great Powers, particularly England, which led to the tearing up of the Treaty of San Stefano and the substitution therefor of the Treaty of Berlin, were proved groundless. Bulgaria did not intend to be a mere Russian outpost in the Balkans. This was in conformity with Bulgarian character as much as it was in conformity with Bulgarian national interests.

A somewhat similar situation exists today. Bulgaria is still attempting to achieve the old national ideal of unification, although the problem is much more difficult now than it was in 1878, because of ethnographical and political changes which have occurred in the Balkans since that date. In 1941 Bulgaria joined the Axis not because she loved the Axis or loved the Germans or the Italians, or had anything particular in common with them except trade, but primarily because she believed that in this way the old policy of unification could be finally achieved. It was a risk and a gamble, but the leaders took it, and in 1941 they

had

had the whole-hearted and unanimous support of public opinion. Now the success of this policy is jeopardized. A large proportion of the population has come to believe that the governments of Filov and Bozhilov have led the country to the brink of catastrophe, but this does not mean that the overwhelming majority of the people do not believe in and desire the completion of unification.

Under these circumstances, and in view of the fact that German power is rapidly decreasing, while the power of Soviet Russia is as rapidly increasing, it can be only natural that Bulgarians will again look toward Russia as once more a possible source of assistance in achieving national unification. Bulgaria is not at war with Russia, although many of the acts of the Bulgarian Government have worked military harm to Russia, as has the granting of bases to the Germans on Bulgaria's Black Sea coast, especially at Varna. Bulgaria's aid to Germany in the form of food supplies and raw materials of many kinds has also helped Germany carry on her war against Russia. Large numbers of German wounded have been brought from the Russian front for treatment in Bulgaria. But the Soviet Government could square all these acts by eliminating the Bulgarian governing régime which is responsible for them without being offended by the conduct of the Bulgarian people as a whole, who have steadfastly refused to take an active part in Germany's war against Russia.

All Bulgarians know that their country has no hope of realizing its unification through any kind of negotiations

with

with the Anglo-Americans, because the latter are committed to the support of Greece and Yugoslavia. While this support does not involve the extension of the frontiers of Greece and Yugoslavia at Bulgaria's expense, it probably would involve the maintenance of frontiers as of April 1941. Hence Bulgaria has nothing to hope for in this respect from the Anglo-Americans. Thus the waning of German power and the hostility of the Anglo-Americans force Bulgaria to look to Soviet Russia for some kind of assistance just as she did at the time of her struggle for liberation.

The Soviet negotiations with Finland are very encouraging to Bulgarians, for the latter reason that if Soviet Russia is thus generous with regard to Finland, a nation at war with the Soviets, there is no reason to suppose that Moscow would not be equally generous with regard to a settlement in the Balkans. A strong and friendly Bulgaria may be just as useful to Soviet Russia as a strong and friendly Bulgaria was expected to be useful to Tsarist Russia in 1878. If Bulgarians believe that they can win the support of Soviet Russia in helping them achieve at least a considerable part of their policy of unification, they are likely to turn to Russia when the time comes. It now appears that at some date in the near future the Soviet armies will reach the frontiers of Rumania.

With sufficient encouragement from Moscow, the Bulgarians will be strongly moved to throw in their lot with Russia in return for Russian aid looking toward the fulfillment of their traditional policy of unification. In such case the

Internal

Internal situation in Bulgaria and the political leadership could doubtless be quickly adjusted to meet the new requirements.

FHB:sa

March 11, 1944.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES IN TURKEY
(Requests for Specific Aid)

(Material sent in from WRB office in Turkey)

19.

CROSS-REFERENCE

.....
(Name of Applicant)

.....
(Application Number)

For letter 12/26/44 from David Elstein - Reply 1/29/45

SBB: SCHLITZER FAMILY

Istanbul, March 8, 1945

Dear Dr. Goldin:

In connection with our telephone conversation of Saturday, the details of the matter about which I spoke are as follows:

Mr. Paul L. Gross of the American Consulate has requested, in behalf of Miss Ilona Fischer, a musician residing in Istanbul, any information available regarding the welfare and present whereabouts of Miss Fischer's mother, whose name and permanent address, as well as her last known address, are given below.

Mrs. Antalno Fischer, widow, 16 Brady Street, N. 22 Budapest V. (Permanent address.)

Part 1 at 13, Gyöngyös (Last known address.)

Mr. Gross mentioned this matter to Mr. Katzi before the latter left Istanbul, but at that time he did not have sufficiently exact information regarding Mrs. Fischer for us to make an inquiry.

I should be grateful for any information you can give me, or for any suggestions you might be able to make as to how we might obtain news of Mrs. Fischer. Mr. Gross suggests that if any information is received, which is not now available, after my departure from Istanbul, it be transmitted to him at the Consulate, and he will in turn pass it on to Mrs. Fischer.

With my thanks and kind regards,

Sincerely,

Virginia M. Duncan
American Board

Dr. Joseph Goldin
Truman Apartment No. 1
Ayub Sapa
Istanbul

14745
0112
024

January 23, 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES:

Subject: Internees in Anatolian camps.

Mr. Peter Englemann, who with his mother has recently been released from Yozgat, informed me that within the past few weeks some people have been liberated from the Anatolian internment camps. They included 12 Czechs who were able to prove their uninterrupted Czech nationality and loyalty. The Czech Legation in Ankara issued passports for them.

Similarly, between 6 and 8 Greeks were liberated. Some of them already were in possession of Greek passports. Others succeeded in establishing their Greek nationality and their right to Greek passports and protection. In addition, there have been 2 or 3 cases where interned women and children were released in instances where the husband has not been subject to internment and was at liberty in Turkey.

The Turkish Government is now making a contribution toward the maintenance of needy internees who are without other sources of income, but the rate of distribution at Yozgat is 65 kuruş per day, plus a small contribution for heating. The contribution in Corum is 120 kuruş per day. In Kirsehir, where are interned mainly people from Ankara, no payments have been made up until the present.

Herbert Katzki

December 7, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. KATZKI:

Madame Eugenie Aboulafya, Yeni Garai Caddesi 124, Istanbul, who called here yesterday in your absence for the purpose of discussing her possible emigration to Palestine, where she has a son, returned at 11:30 this morning.

I explained to her that the War Refugee Board, which was created to aid those persons who are in jeopardy of their lives, was not in a position to be of help in her case. I suggested that she present her request to Dr. Goldin, who might be able to furnish her with the information that she desires.

V.D.H.
V. D. Henderson

IN REPLY REFER TO

FILE NO. 848 MAJ/sl



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AMERICAN CONSULAR SERVICE

American Consulate,
Izmir, Turkey, November 13, 1944.

UNRESTRICTED

Herbert Katzki, Esquire,
War Refugee Board,
American Consulate General,
Istanbul, Turkey.

Dear Mr. Katzki:

Thank you very much for your letter of October 19,
1944, with reference to Miss Sarina Bistri who has
applied to this office for financial and other assistance.

I shall be guided by the several suggestions made
by you in your letter and will be pleased to advise
you if anything concrete develops in this case.

Sincerely yours,


Ellis A. Johnson,
American Vice Consul.

10/19/44
A. F. Turkey
Kelley

Istanbul, October 19, 1944

Dear Mr. Johnson:

We have your letter of October 5, concerning Miss Sarina Bistri of Izmir, together with the translation of the letter dated September 23, 1944, which you received from her.

We have made inquiry among the private relief organizations in Istanbul, to determine, insofar as anything can be done for Miss Bistri. I have been advised as follows:

(1) If Miss Bistri is in need of financial assistance, this is a matter which can be determined only in Izmir, by the representative of the local Jewish Community there. Whether or not Miss Bistri comes within the category of persons to whom assistance may be granted is one which will have to be determined by the committee which is familiar with conditions in Izmir, and which can investigate her needs and requirements. The chairman of this committee is Mr. Sabitay Saltiel.

(2) The relief organizations in Istanbul are not able to be of assistance to Miss Bistri in securing employment in Izmir. This likewise is a matter which she should discuss with Mr. Saltiel for such advice and assistance which it may be possible for him to give her.

(3) As a result of Miss Bistri's letter, that she has been in communication with the Turkish Foreign Office, to inquire for means which she might be able to finance in order to return to Turkey. Undoubtedly, the Foreign Office is making every effort to assist her and other persons similarly circumstanced in locating their baggage. We regret that there is no way in which we can be helpful to her in this connection.

One of the relief organizations in Istanbul has been in a position to find the Izmir committee, and in the

-2-

Miss Bistri. Should we receive any further information which might be of interest to you, we shall advise you in due course.

Sincerely yours,

Herbert Katzki
Representative
War Refugee Board

Ellis A. Johnson, Esquire
American Vice Consul
American Consulate
Izmir

/b

10/17/44
Act. Turkey

AMERICAN JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

American Consulate,
Istanbul, Turkey,
October 17, 1944.

Mr. Herbert Katzki,
War Refugee Board,
Istanbul.

Dear Mr. Katzki:

Re: Sarina Bistri,
Inonu Caddesi, 460
Salhane, Izmir.

I have asked a representative of the Izmir Jewish Community now visiting Istanbul to take up the question of the above's complaints when he returns to Izmir.

According to our present records, no cash relief has been given to Miss Bistri. She is known to be living with her relatives in Izmir.

Unfortunately we cannot supply employment, but I am certain that if it is necessary Miss Bistri will obtain cash assistance from the Committee in Izmir, should she apply there for aid. The Chairman of the Committee is Mr. Sabetay Saltiel, Cengizli Carsisi 13, Izmir.

I have asked for a report on Miss Bistri's situation and will advise you as soon as known to me.

Sincerely yours,

Mordecai Kessler
Mordecai Kessler.

IN REPLY REFER TO
FILE NO. 848 EAJ/sl

10/5/44
Act. Turkey



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AMERICAN CONSULAR SERVICE

American Consulate,
Izmir, Turkey, October 5, 1944

Unrestricted

George Katzki, Esquire,
War Refugee Board,
American Consulate General,
Istanbul, Turkey.

Dear Mr. Katzki:

I am enclosing herewith a copy of a self-explanatory letter dated September 23, 1944, addressed to me by Marina Bistri, Inönü Caddesi, No. 460, Salihane, Izmir.

Miss Bistri has called in person at the Consulate on two occasions and requested assistance in regard to the several matters mentioned in her letter. I have told her that the Consulate is not in a position to help her but that I would be glad to forward a copy of her communication to you for appropriate attention.

I shall be glad to deliver to Miss Bistri any reply which you may care to make in this matter.

Very truly yours,


Edwin A. Johnson,
American Vice Consul.

Enclosure:

1. Copy of letter from Miss Marina Bistri.

Literal Copy

Sarina Bistri
In8nd Cad. No. 460,
Izmir.

Izmir, the 23rd of September 1944

To The Consulate of the U. S. of America.

IZMIR.

Dear Sir:

Since today I didn't make any reclamation concerning the aid that the United States is doing to the people living in France the during of this war and to those who have suffered whether of the German campaign in France or whether by the destiny of the war which was made more difficult for us by the Nazis for the single reason of being a Jew.

When the Turkish Ambassador forced us to leave the French capital we had to make a choice rapidly; because we were told by the Consulate that the Turkish Government was not in the position to assume the consequences and the responsibilities of a German deportation. So we packed instantly and on March the 8th 1943 we sent our luggage before us because we were told that our luggage will cross the European soil under the Turkish protection and were to be arrived before us. On March the 10th we left Paris for Istanbul & (two) months after our arrival there was still no sign of our luggage. So we made a request to the Foreign Office and since now are awaiting anxiously an answer for we have all our clothes in these luggage.

There in Paris I was wanting to make a living. Here in Izmir I have no job because I don't know the language. I am now living with none of my relatives having a good situation two years ago. I feel that I am a load for them now and I demand if it is possible to be treated by the same way of those who left France.

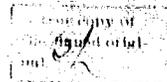
I am ready to accept any job here in Izmir and will be very glad if my present request is accepted.

I apologize, Sir, for the trouble I am giving you. In the hope of a positive answer, I am waiting anxiously,

Your obedient servant

S/ S. Bistri

Address:
In8nd Cad. No. 460,
Gallene, Izmir.



11/9/44
Act. Turkey

Istanbul, November 9, 1944

Dear Mr. Burstein:

We have just received your undated letter, addressed to Mr. Ira A. Hirschmann of the War Refugee Board, in which you request assistance in locating your sister, Sura Burstein, Orfelenatal, Dorohoi, Roumania.

We have no special facilities for locating individual persons in Roumania. However, we shall keep your letter before us, and should it become possible in due course to make inquiry, we shall do so and advise you of the results.

Very truly yours,

Herbert Katzki
Representative
War Refugee Board

Mr. Zui Burstein
21 Ben Yehuda St.
Haifa, Palestine

HR:VH

Zvi Binsten
- 21 Ben Yehuda St.
Haifa, Palestine

Mr. J. Hirschmann
War Refugee Board
U. S. A. Legation
Ankara, Turkey

and #14

Dear Sir:

On the first of October, 1944, I received a letter from my sister, Susa Binsten, a native of Roumania. The letter was forwarded thru Russia. Previous to this I received personal information about her through refugees from Transylvania who were fortunate to reach Palestine. They informed me; and her letter substantiated their information; that her condition was critical; as she remained the only survivor out of a family of seven; and that she is sick and unable to aid herself.

I consequently sent a telegram to her through the Red Cross, Geneva, stating that she should inform me as to her needs and that I would do all in my power to aid her.

On the seventh of this month I received a telegram

USA
1953
106.5-20

II

from Red Cross, Geneva, stating as follows:

"at present cannot send relief given to
Roumania stop you might possibly find means sending
required help direct via Ankara apply Hunsbrom
representative war refugee board USA Legation
Ankara

Intertransit range F 9292

I therefore appeal to you and request information
as soon as possible what means to take in order to aid
my sister. I am also fully prepared to bring her here to
Palestine

Her address is

Sara Buzdaru (age 20)
Confidential, Danubius
Roumania

Yours truly
Zvi Buzdaru

R ROSH PINNA
No 3396

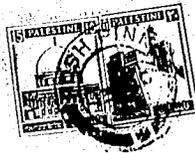
Mr. Katzka

War Refugee Board

U. S. A. Legation

Ankara

Turkey



Zvi Binstein
21 Ben Yehuda St.
Haifa
Palestine



11/9/44
Ach. Tarkaj
Greece
JDM.

Istanbul, November 9, 1944

Welfare Department
United Nations Relief & Rehabilitation Adm.
c/o American Legation
Cairo, Egypt

Gentlemen:

We do not know whether or not you have already established a local bureau for searching for individuals in Greece, in whom relatives elsewhere are interested. However, we have been asked to give assistance in locating the following people who are the relatives of Mr. Yorgo (George) Lasaridis, whose address in Istanbul is Misir Apartment, No. 8, 303 Istiklal Caddesi.

Brother Mr. Harilaos (Harry) Lasaridis, aged 35.
Electrician of the Municipality of
Thessalonica.

Brother Mr. Yeano (Yanis) Lasaridis, aged 45.
Mechanic, Socony Vacuum Oil Co.
Thessalonica.

Brother-in-law Mr. George Vassiliadis, aged 60.
His wife, Anna, aged 48.
Rue Nea Xilina Parapignata Kato Duba I 654,
Thessalonica.
(Office, Odon Egiptou).

Brother-in-law Mr. Kornilios Koutelas, aged 48.
His wife, Despina Koutelas, aged 43.
Their daughter, Anastasia (Sasu-Sula), aged 19.
Rue Nea Xilina Parapignata Kato Duba I 656,
Thessalonica.

Inquiry regarding all of the above persons may be made at the Club (Leski) Madjaroglou, Rue Duba, or at the drug-store of Dr. Karamoussa, Rue Ebnatias, Thessalonica.

224

We have also been asked to assist in locating the following persons, who are sister and brother-in-law of Mrs. Yorgo (George) Lasaridis:

Mr. Gregoire Miliadis, aged 55.
His wife, Marika Miliadis, aged 38.
Rue Andrutau 17, Athens.

Inquiry regarding the above persons may be made of Mr. Nicolas Miliadis, Theater Samardjis-Miliadis.

If you are able to obtain any information with respect to any of these people, we shall appreciate your advising us.

Very truly yours,

Herbert Katzki
Representative
War Refugee Board
c/o American Consulate General

00177

10/24/44
Act. Turkey

Istanbul, October 24, 1944

Dear Mr. Pierce:

We refer to your letter of September 11, to which we responded under date of October 14, in which you asked that we communicate with Madame Natalina Vouli in Istanbul, in order to secure some information concerning her husband.

We invited Madame Vouli several times to call upon us, and we finally received a letter from her for Mr. and Mrs. Abrevanel. The letter, the original of which we have in our files, reads as follows:

"Istanbul, October 24, 1944.

"Dear Sister,

"I am very glad you asked for news concerning my husband, Eju. He was in England lately, then he left for the States. Now he must be somewhere in Africa. I receive a letter from Eju from time to time. He is in good health, and so are we, my son and I. I hope the same for you.

"One day, when this war is over, I hope to see you again and spend a good time as we used to do. All my loves to you and my brother-in-law.

"Yours

"N. Vouli Hin

Your cousin's name is as follows:

"R. L. Abrevanel
Beyoglu, Fapancsi
nosulluok Jan, 109"

The foregoing is all the information we were able to secure. It is hoped that it provided Mr. and Mrs. Abrevanel with some of the information they desired to have regarding

-2-

Mr. Vouj din. Now that they have the address both of Madame Vouj din and Dr. Abravanel here in Beyoglu, they undoubtedly will continue their correspondence directly with them.

Sincerely yours,

Herbert Katzki
Representative
War Refugee Board

Mr. Trevor Pierce, Welfare Department
United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration
North African Refugee Center
American Consulate
Casablanca, Morocco

W/b

10/24/44
Akv. Turkey

Istanbul, October 24, 1944

Dear Esther,

I am very glad your asked from news concerning my husband Djin. He was in England lately, then he left for the States. Now he must be somewhere in Africa. I receive a letter from Djin from time to time. He is in good health, and so are we, my son and I. I hope the same for you.

One day, when this war is over, I hope to see you again and spend a good time as we used to do.

All my loves to you and my brother-in-law

Yours,
M. Djin Rankin

Your cousin's address is as follows:

Dr. M. Ibramul

Beuyuk Epehase

Resoliman Han, 109

10/17/44
Act. Turkey

Istanbul, October 17, 1944

Dear Madame:

On September 27, in response to our request, you came into our office and agreed to furnish us with a letter regarding your husband, Mr. Dju Vouli Min, to be transmitted by us to your relatives, Mr. and Mrs. Abrevanel.

We are sure you will understand that Mr. and Mrs. Abrevanel are anxious to have some word regarding Mr. Min. As we have not as yet received from you the communication you said you would let us have for transmission to Mr. and Mrs. Abrevanel, we are bringing the matter again to your attention. If you have written direct to the Abrevanels, we would appreciate your advising us.

Very truly yours,

Robert Katzel
Representative
War Refugee Board

Mrs. Hataline Vouli Min
Felik Proha
Meydan-ı Apartmanı 55/3
Seyoglu

u/b

10/14/44
Ach Turkey

Istanbul, October 14, 1944

Dear Mr. Pierce:

We refer to your letter of September 11, 1944, in which you ask that we communicate with Mme. Natalina Voulinin, the sister of Mr. and Mrs. Dario Abravanel. We invited Mme. Voulinin to our office, and advised her of the inquiry we had received. We told her that we would be very glad to transmit to you for Mr. and Mrs. Abravanel such information as she could give concerning her husband. She promised to let us have a letter, but up to the present time we have not heard anything more from her. As soon as we do, we shall of course advise you.

During the course of our conversation, she told us that she had had a telegram from her husband in London. We are passing this information along to you for the benefit of Mr. and Mrs. Abravanel.

Sincerely yours,

Herbert Katzki
Representative
War Refugee Board

Mr. Trevor Pierce, Welfare Department
United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration
North African Refugee Center
American Consulate
Casablanca, Morocco

HE/b

9/25/44
At. Turkey

Istanbul, September 25, 1944

Dear Madame:

We would appreciate your calling
at the office of the War Refugee Board,
Misir Apartments, Istiklal Caddesi,
Apartment B (second floor) at a time
convenient to you, on a matter in which
you are interested.

Very truly yours,

J. A. Hirschmann
Special Attaché

Mrs. Matallina Voul Hin
Rue de la Paix
Apartment 35/3
Boyonlu

/b

9/11/44
Act. Turkey

United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration
NORTH AFRICAN REFUGEE CENTER
American Consulate
Casablanca

11 September 1944

OCT 14 ANSD

Dear Mr. Hirschmann:

May we acknowledge with thanks your letter of 26 August 1944 giving us the information concerning Mr. David Juda NAHMIA of Istanbul. The enclosed notes were passed on to Mr. Henry NAHMIA who was grateful to receive them.

Herewith I enclose a self-explanatory letter written by Mr. Feinmann to the indicated shipping company. It was returned to us from London marked unknown at the U. S. Embassy or at the Ministry of War Transport. I send it on to you because the wife of the man in question is apparently in Istanbul, though Mr. and Mrs. ABRAVANEL have not heard from her since her letter to them in Barcelona about four months ago. In that letter, she mentioned that as far as she knew her husband was in the British Navy and on a run between England and North Africa. Mr. and Mrs. Agravanel are anxious to have news of their brother-in-law and hoped that your office could look up Mme. VOUI HIN and obtain from her some specific information as to his whereabouts.

Your assistance to us in these matters is very much appreciated by both residents and staff.

Sincerely yours,

Trevor Pierce

Trevor Pierce
Welfare Department

Mr. I. A. Hirschmann
Special Attache
American Consulate General
Istanbul, Turkey

Enclosed: Letter (with attached application) 26/7/44,
Feinmann to Lotus Shipping Co., Ltd.

ohb

7/26/44
Act. Turkey

United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration
NORTH AFRICAN REFUGEE CENTER
Civil Affairs
APO 759
U. S. Army

26 July 1944

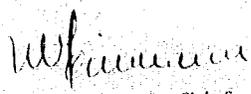
Dear Sir:

Under the aegis of the American and British Governments, a camp has been established here for the purpose of housing, temporarily, refugees who have recently lived in Spain. Many of our residents have relatives and friends with whom they have not been in communication for some time, and whose addresses they therefore wish to trace.

We enclose herewith a copy of an application made by a resident for this purpose. We write to you since it is indicated that the individual described therein worked on the Tanker "ECCOLA" which, according to a Lloyd's List of March 16th, 1928, was owned or operated by you.

Any information you can give us on this matter would be greatly appreciated. With many thanks,

Yours sincerely,



Morris Feinmann, Chief
Welfare Department

Polce Shipping Co., Ltd.
London
England.

chb
Enclosure: Application from AEPWADOL Table.

ACTION TAKEN: :

Date: :

To: :

By: :

U N R R A

United Nations Relief
and Rehabilitation Administration
NORTH AFRICAN REFUGEE CENTER

F O R T R A C I N G F R I E N D S O R R E L A T I V E S .

Your full name: ABRAVANEL Dario
Votre nom de famille et prénom: _____

Particulars of the person you want to find:
De plus amples détails sur les personnes que vous voulez
retrouver:

Full name: Dju Voui Hin Age: 38/40 ans
Nom de famille et prénom: _____

Profession: Cuisinier

Birthplace: Chine Relation: beau frere
Lieu de naissance: _____ Parenté: _____

Present address: Cuisinier sur le petrolier S/S MIOCENE
Adresse actuelle: _____

Last known address: _____
Dernière adresse connue: _____

(If you do not know the present address, give addresses where
this person has resided for the last 5 years and where you think
this person is at present, or where the person last established
permanent residence.)

(Si vous ne connaissez pas son adresse actuelle, donnez les
adresses successives de cette personne durant les 5 dernières
années et celle où vous croyez qu'elle réside en ce moment.)

Religion: _____ Nationality: _____

Further details: Etait domicilié a Istanbul et travaille
De plus amples détails: _____
actuellement dans la marine de S. M. Britannique.

Le S/S MIOCENE appartenait a une Cie. Anglaise dont les
agents étaient CAMES & Cie. a Istanbul.

L'adresse actuelle de sa femme est: Mme. Katalina Voui Hin

Faik Pacha - Meymenet Apartemani 55/3

Bay Oulu - Istanbul TURQUIL.

PARC-56
HJ/27

10/21/44
Act. Turkey
Leffers
J. P. ...

Istanbul, October 21, 1944

The Zionist Record
7th Floor, Permanent Buildings
Commissioner & Diamonds Streets
Johannesburg, South Africa

Attention of the Editor

Gentlemen:

We refer to your letter of September 15, 1944, which we have just received, in which you direct specific questions to us to which you desire our replies. In accordance with your request, we wish to inform you as follows:

1. Mr. Uri Jabotinsky is not and never has been an employee of the War Refugee Board in Istanbul or any other place. He is not associated and never has been associated in any way, officially or unofficially, directly or indirectly, with the War Refugee Board.
2. The migration by sea of Jewish people from Rumania to Istanbul en route to Palestine was organized by the representatives of the Jewish Agency in Istanbul together with representatives of Galician organizations affiliated with it. Such rescue by emigration included not only Galician nationalists but those of other countries who succeeded in entering Rumania. It is correct to say that there were many difficulties which had to be surmounted in organizing this movement. However, it is quite clear that whatever success the rescue program from Rumania had was achieved through the coordinated efforts of the Jewish Agency, the United States Agency in Ankara, with the American War Refugee Board in Turkey, and the American Joint Distribution Committee, together with Rumania, ...

children and adults, were repatriated to Rumania after the breaking up of the Transnistria deportation centers, the result of efforts of the War Refugee Board. Turkish transit visas for the emigrants arriving in Istanbul by sea from Constanza, the route by which they traveled from Rumania, were issued as a result of the interested cooperation of the Turkish Foreign Office, which was secured by the United States Ambassador, Laurence A. Steinhardt, and Mr. Ira A. Hirschmann, representing the War Refugee Board in Turkey. Without such visas, the entire rescue action would have failed. The American Joint Distribution Committee, collaborating in the rescue program with the Jewish Agency, provided 80 per cent of the total funds necessary to meet the costs of the voyage from Rumania to Istanbul, and 100 per cent of the cost of onward transportation from Istanbul to Palestine;

3. The body entitled the "New Zionist Organization" was not associated in any way whatever, to our knowledge, with the rescue program from Rumania referred to above.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. ...
Representative
War Refugee Board

10/19/44
Ack Turkey

Istanbul, October 19, 1944

Dear Mr. Schinbach:

We acknowledge receipt of your letter of September 14, 1944, in which you make inquiry regarding identity certificates for entry into Palestine issued to your relatives, Rachela, Gerda and Henryk Schinbach.

We have made inquiry of the local representatives of the Jewish Agency, who inform us that official confirmation of the certificates was sent by them to Mrs. Schinbach at the address the Agency then had in January, 1943. A second confirmation was sent by the Jewish Agency via Switzerland on October 27, 1943. The Jewish Agency informs us that up to the present time they have received no communication from Mrs. Schinbach, in consequence of which they are without information as to whether or not the confirmations were received by her.

We regret that we have no means at our disposal to try to locate your family in Poland. We assume that you have discussed the matter with the Had Gassas societies in Palestine, to determine whether or not they have available any inquiry service through which they might attempt to locate Jewish people who formerly resided in Poland.

Sincerely yours,

Herbert Katzki
Representative
War Refugee Board

Mr. Samuel Schinbach
39, Montefiore Street
Tel-Aviv, Palestine

2/6

הסוכנות היהודית לארץ ישראל
THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE
Immigration Department
JERUSALEM
P. O. B. 92

10/17/44
Act. Turk-1

OCT 19 RECD

Dr. J. Goldin

Istanbul, 17.10.44.

Sz/516

Dear Mr. Katzky,

I beg to refer to your letter of Oct. 9th re SCHINBACH Rachela, Gerda and Henryk, (Holders of Identity-Certificate No. I/939/42/D, issued on the 9.12.42.)

An official confirmation of the certificate has been sent to Mrs. Schinbach's address in January '43 and a second confirmation to Switzerland on Oct. 27th '43.

We have however, so far, received no answering message from Mrs. Schinbach, or any communication as to whether the documents in question have reached her.

Sincerely yours



Mr. Herbert Katzky,
Representative
War Refugee Board,
American Embassy,
I s t a n b u l

10/19/44
Act. Turkey
J.A.

Istanbul, October 9, 1944

Gentlemen:

We have received an inquiry regarding Rachela Schinbach, her daughter Gorka and son Henryk, whose last known address, according to our information, was Tomaszow Narowicki, Wescrodnia 15, Poland.

We are advised that immigration certificates for Palestine have been issued for this family, in order that they might join Mr. Samuel Schinbach of Tel-Aviv, who is the husband of Rachela Schinbach and the father of the children.

We wondered whether you had any fresh information regarding the Schinbach family. We would appreciate your advising us so that we can inform our inquirer.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Katzki
Representative
War Refugee Board

Edward H. Under and J. Goldin
Telcel, Aydede Caddeesi
Koruy Ap. 7
Istanbul

HR/b

9/14/44
Act. Turkey

Samuel Schinbach
30, Montefiore Street
Tel-Aviv, Palestine

September 14, 1944.

Ira A. Hirschmann, Esq,
c/o American Embassy,
A n k a r a
Turkey

Dear Sir:-

I beg to thank you very sincerely for your kind letter which was posted by you from Washington, dated April, 27, 1944, in reply to my letter addressed to you on the 26.3.1944.

I extremely appreciate your kind preparedness to help me in the investigations of the whereabouts of my family, and I hope that the person you have entrusted with this matter has taken the necessary steps for this purpose.

In order to bring before you the whole matter, I take hereby the liberty to forward you again copy of my first letter addressed to you dated the 26.3.1944, and shall be greatly obliged if you would kindly look what has been done meanwhile in this case.

I beg to apologize for troubling you, and thanking you sincerely in anticipation for your kind attention and reply, I remain, Dear Sir,

Very respectfully yours,

schinbach

Enclosure: Copy of letter.

Copy

Samuel Schinback
30, Montefiore Street,
Tel-Aviv, Palestine.

the 26.3.1944

Ira Hirshman, Esq.,
c/o American Embassy
A n k a r a
Turkey.

Dear Sir,

I learnt of your presence in Turkey through the local press on a special mission in connection with the activities to save war refugees from Nazi hands. I take therefore the liberty to ask you very cordially to devote a few minutes of your valuable time to my present letter. -

I am in Palestine since more than one year, having been legally admitted to this country. I came from Australia after having been caught at the outbreak of war in England, interned here by error and sent to Australia.

My family was deported by the Nazis from Germany to Poland, and the last known address to me was Tomaszow Mazowiecki, Wschodnia 15.

My wife, Rachela Schinbach, daughter Gerda and son Henryk have been together at the above address.

On my arrival to Palestine, I immediately applied for an Immigration Certificate for my above family, and such Certificate was granted by the local authorities under No. 1/959/42/D and sent to the British Embassy at Ankara. But unfortunately I had no news at all from my family since a period of about two years, and all my endeavours to communicate with them remained fruitless.

I take therefore the courage to apply to you, Sir, asking you very cordially to try your utmost by using all sources being at your disposal to find out the whereabouts of my above family and to take all the proper steps for to save them, and to make it possible that they can take advantage of the Immigration Certificate granted to them and thus join me here.

I beg to apologise for troubling you with my letter, but I am sure that you will fully appreciate my feelings and worry for my desolated family and will not refuse to help me as far as you can.

Thanking you sincerely for your kind endeavour and awaiting your early good news, I am, Gentlemen,

Very respectfully yours,

cc to Mr. Squires, October 19

10/19/44
Att. Turkey

Istanbul, October 19, 1944

Dear Mrs. Boston:

The American Consulate General in Istanbul has referred to us a copy of your letter of August 13, 1944, in which you made inquiry regarding emigration possibilities to Palestine of your relatives, Mr. and Mrs. Adolphe Rosensteln, of Shumen, Bulgaria.

We have made inquiry of the Istanbul office of the Jewish Agency, which supervises the distribution of certificates for Palestine in this area. They advise us that Palestine certificates have been issued for Mr. and Mrs. Rosensteln under number B/3/27. Confirmation of the issuance of these certificates was sent to Mr. and Mrs. Rosensteln on August 20, 1944.

In accordance with arrangements which have been made with the Turkish Foreign Office by the American Embassy in Ankara, the War Refugee Board, and other agencies, there should be no obstacle to prevent Mr. and Mrs. Rosensteln from undertaking their journey to Palestine at the present time. That is to say that the question of Turkish transit visas has been met, and it is now the Bulgarian regulations relating to emigration which will have to be met by Mr. and Mrs. Rosensteln in Bulgaria. The satisfaction of these regulations is a matter which they will have to pursue. From that point forward, however, under present circumstances it ought to be possible for them to complete their emigration to Palestine.

Sincerely yours,

Harbert Katzki
Representative
War Refugee Board

Mrs. Mark A. Boston
63 Honbury Avenue
Beverly, New Jersey

cc/b

10/19/44
Act. Turkey

Istanbul, October 19, 1944

Dear Mr. Squires:

We refer to your letter of October 4, with which you transmitted to us a copy of a letter dated August 13, 1944, received by you from Mrs. Mark A. Boston of Newark, New Jersey.

We have made inquiry regarding the possible emigration of Mr. and Mrs. Rosenstein, now in Shumen, Bulgaria, to Palestine. In accordance with your suggestion, we have written directly to Mrs. Boston in Newark, and to complete your files we are enclosing herewith a copy of our letter to her.

Sincerely yours,

Herbert Katzki

Leslie Albion Squires, Esquire
American Vice Consul
American Consulate General
Istanbul

Enclosure

HR/b

10/17/44
Act. Turkey

הסוכנות היהודית לארץ ישראל
THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE
Immigration Department
JERUSALEM
P. O. B. 92

OCT 19 RECD

Dr. J. Goldin

Istanbul, 17.10.44.

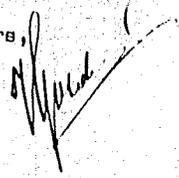
Sz/515

Dear Mr. Katzky,

In answer to your letter of Oct. 9th re Adolphe Rosenstein & wife Rosa, Holders of certificate No. B/3/27, I have the pleasure to inform you that a certificate-confirmation has been sent to the applicants on Aug. 20th '44.

As you are aware, such a confirmation enables the certificate-holder to enter Turkey. There exists therefore, to our knowledge, no obstacle which might prevent Mr. and Mrs. Rosenstein from undertaking the journey to Palestine.

Sincerely yours,



Mr. Herbert Katzki,
Representative
War Refugee Board,
American Embassy,
I s t a n b u l .

10/19/44
Act. Turkey
S.A.

Istanbul, October 9, 1944

Gentlemen:

We have received an inquiry with regard to Mr. and Mrs. Adolpho Rosenstein, whose address is given as 75, General Stoletoy Street, Ohumen, Bulgaria. We are advised that Palestine immigration visas have been authorized for this couple, but that Turkish transit visas are lacking.

We would appreciate your examining your records and advising us what the status of the migration of Mr. and Mrs. Rosenstein is, so that we in turn can inform our inquirer. We would appreciate anything that can be done to facilitate the departure of Mr. and Mrs. Rosenstein, as according to our information their son is on active duty in the Army of the United States, and is much concerned over their welfare.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Katzki
Representative
United States Consulate

Basma, H. Madarou, J. Goldin
Tolates, Bydada Caddesi
Koruy, No. 7
Istanbul

mk/b

IN REPLY REFER TO IAS/ac
FILE NO.

10/4/44
Re Turkey



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL

Istanbul, Turkey.
October 4, 1944.

Mr. Herbert Katzki,
War Refugee Board,
Istanbul.

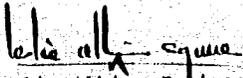
Dear Mr. Katzki:

There is enclosed herewith a copy of a letter received by this office from Mrs. Mark A. Roston, 63 Hansbury Ave., Newark, N.J., regarding the father and mother of her husband, an officer in the United States Army.

Mrs. Roston indicates that her husband's parents are living in Shumen, Bulgaria, and are experiencing difficulty in securing appropriate visas for travel to Palestine. I am forwarding this letter for your consideration, in the event that it may be possible for you to assist her in this matter.

I am informing Mrs. Roston that her request has been turned over to the representative of the War Refugee Board in Istanbul, and that she may expect to hear from your organization, either directly or through this office, in the event that information regarding her husband's parents becomes available.

Sincerely yours,


Leslie Albion Squires
American Vice Consul

Enclosure;
As stated.

Newark, N.J., 13 Aug. 1944

Consul General,
c/o General Consulate of the U.S.A.
Istanbul, Turkey.

Dear Sir,

I am writing in behalf of my husband, 1st Lt. Mark A. Roston M.C? (AS# O-536690) who is on active duty in the Army of the United States.

At the present time my husband's Father and Mother, Mr. and Mrs. Adolphe Rosenstein, are living at #5, General Stoletov Street, in Shumen, Bulgaria. They have both emigration visas for Palestine. We just heard that unfortunately they have been unable to secure transit visas through Turkey.

My husband has been very much concerned for the welfare of his parents, and naturally he would like to see them reach Palestine as soon as possible.

I would be very grateful if you would personally intervene in this matter, in an effort to obtain the necessary papers for them for their passage through Turkey.

I have written a letter to the President of the Turkish Republic giving him the same information and appealing for his aid.

I would also appreciate if you would inform me of any further steps which I might take to expedite matters.

I am also concerned about their financial status. Is there any way in which I could send them some money, either through your office or some other reliable channel?

Thanking you very much for giving this your consideration, I am

Very truly yours,

Mrs. Mark A. Roston
63 Hanbury Ave.
Newark, N.J.
U.S.A.

10/14/44
Act. Tarkey

Istanbul, October 14, 1944

Dear Mr. Pierce:

We refer to your letter of September 18, in which you requested additional information regarding Mr. David Nahmias of Istanbul. We invited his brother-in-law, Mr. Sam Lion, to call upon us, and advised him of the contents of your letter. We suggested that both he and his wife, who is a sister of Mr. David Nahmias, write to Henry Nahmias again to provide all the details regarding the illness of David Nahmias, so that Mr. Henry Nahmias no longer will have the impression that information is being withheld from him.

The two enclosed letters, the one signed by "Sam", the other by "Henrietta", are those which were handed to us. We are sending them to you for delivery to Mr. Henry Nahmias, and we hope that he now has the information he requires.

Sincerely yours,

Herbert Katzki
Representative
War Refugee Board

Mr. Trevor Pierce, Welfare Department
United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration
North African Refugee Center
American Consulate
Casablanca, Morocco

/s/
enclosures

10/9/44
Act. Turkey

Istanbul, October 9, 1944

Dear Dr. Lion:

We would appreciate your calling at
the office of the War Refugee Board, Misir
Apartments, Istiklal Cadesi, Apartment B
(second floor) at a time convenient to you,
on a matter in which you are interested.

Very truly yours,

Harbert Kutzel
Representative
War Refugee Board

Dr. Lion
Boferoglu Han 3
"Ismail Tunel"
Boyerlu

/b

9/18/44
Act. Turkey

United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration
NORTH AFRICAN REFUGEE CENTER
American Consulate
Casablanca

18 September 1944

Dear Mr. Hirschmann:

In further reply to your letter of 26 August 1944, Mr. Henry MAHMIAS is concerned over the possibility that, out of regard for his brother's ill health, his mail is being kept from him to prevent his learning of any unfortunate fact that might be contained therein. Henry MAHMIAS has written to his brother, directly, a number of times. But he claims that the contents of the letter from David MAHMIAS transmitted by you indicate that the latter has not received these letters.

He therefore asks "personal contact." I said that this was unlikely since his brother could not come to your office. Nevertheless, he hoped you might have some means at least to discover specifically whether or not his brother received the two letters written from Barcelona before coming here. Moreover, it has been suggested to Mr. Mahmias that he write again now that he is at this address, and now that he has the information you have been good enough to send him.

Evidentially Mr. David MAHMIAS does not live with his sister, but lives alone at the following address:

Kuyulu Bostan sokak 29/1
Cihan apart. N.5.
Tosvikiye, Istanbul.

With many thanks,

Sincerely yours,

Frederic Pierce

Frederic Pierce
Welfare Department

Mr. I. A. Hirschmann
Special Attache
Embassy of the United States
of America
Istanbul, Turkey

chb

8/26/44
Act Turkey

Istanbul, August 26, 1944

Dear Mr. Melasani:

I refer to your letter of August 17, and the questionnaire enclosed therein requesting information concerning Mr. David Juda Haimias of Istanbul.

We invited Mr. Serapion, the brother-in-law of Mr. Haimias, to visit us at our office. Mr. Serapion began explaining to us the circumstances of his brother-in-law's illness. We felt, however, that Mr. Haimias would much prefer to have a letter from his relatives here, and we therefore asked Mr. Serapion to write a note to us which we, in turn, could send on to you. The enclosed letter signed by his sister, Sarah Haimias, and the short note signed by David Haimias, are the letters which were made available to us. Will you please advise us if that Mr. Haimias is satisfied with the content of these letters.

We are glad to have been able to be of assistance to you in this matter. Presumably, Mr. Haimias is still in the hospital, and will communicate directly with his relatives in Istanbul, now that he knows where they are located.

Sincerely yours,

L. W. CROGGAN,
Special Attache

Mr. Serapion Haimias, 21st
of the Government
at the address of the
and offices of the
at the address of
at the address of

Very truly yours,

8/7/44
Act Turkey
K

United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration
NORTH AFRICAN REFUGEE CENTER
American Consulate
Casablanca

7 August 1944

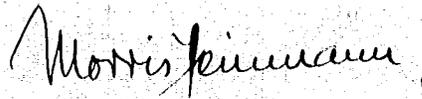
Dear Mr. Hirschman:

As described to you in a letter of 13 July 1944,
many of our residents have relatives they wish
to trace.

Herewith another application, from ~~MAIRIAS~~ y
SALTEEL Hanania (Honey) who wishes information
concerning his brother, ~~MAIRIAS~~ David Juda
in Istanbul.

Any assistance you can give us in this matter
would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,



Morris Feinmann, Chief
Relief Department

and
application as stated.

ACTION TAKEN: :
 Date: 7-8-44:
 To: :
 By: :

UNRRA

United Nations Relief
 and Rehabilitation Administration
 NORTH AFRICAN-REFUGEE CENTER

FOR TRACING FRIENDS OR RELATIVES.

Your full name: Hananial Henry Nahmia Saltiel
 Votre nom de famille et prénom:

Particulars of the person you want to find:
 De plus amples détails sur les personnes que vous voulez
 retrouver:

Full name: David Yuda Nahmia, Age: 60 ans.
 Nom de famille et prénom:

Profession: Propriétaire à Paris

Birthplace: Salonique Relation: frère
 Lieu de naissance: Parenté:

Present address: chez M^{me} Henriette Lion (ma sœur)
 Adresse actuelle: Kefeli Han N° 18 - Rue Yemenezi

Last known address: Belgothia Istanbul
 Dernière adresse connue:

(If you do not know the present address, give addresses where
 this person has resided for the last 5 years and where you think
 this person is at present, or where the person last established
 permanent residence.)

(Si vous ne connaissez pas son adresse actuelle, donnez les
 adresses successives de cette personne durant les 5 dernières
 années et celle où vous croyez qu'elle réside en ce moment.)

Religion: Juive Nationality: espagnole

Further details: Refugie de France se trouve
 De plus amples détails: à Istanbul depuis mai 1940 - habence

pas ma sœur M^{me} Henriette Lion. La
dernière lettre que j'ai reçue pas moi de ma
sœur à Barcelone portait la date du
1 mai 1944. Elle me disait que mon
frère est malade. Mon frère David
a un compte à la Guaranty Trust
à New-York. Je voudrais savoir
s'il reçoit de l'argent de ce compte
suffisamment pour se faire

Address of my maternal uncle in Istanbul.
M^{re} Hanah Saltiel Standard Oil Company
Istanbul (Istanbul).

L'infirmière - Adresse de mon beau frère à Istanbul
 81 Van Lion, Refugie à Han N° 18 - Rue Yemenezi - Belgothia - Istanbul

Prendre que je m'occupe de lui
 avec Saltiel mon neveu et lui
 et mon oncle bien

PAR-56
 HJ/27

10/12/44
Act. Turkey

Istanbul, October 12, 1944

Dear Mr. Kohon:

Your letter of October 10, 1944, addressed to the American Consulate, Istanbul, has been referred to me.

It is suggested that you telephone me within the next few days in order to arrange an appointment at my office, Misir Han 8, located at 303 Istiklal Caddesi, for a discussion of your problem. My telephone number is 40562.

Very truly yours,

Herbert Katski
Representative
War Refugee Board

Mr. Yomtov Kohon
Sisane, Yolcu Zade Mektap Sok.
Vitali Levi Apartment 33/3
Galata, Istanbul

HR:VH

10/12/44
Act. Turkey

Istanbul, October 12, 1944

Dear Mr. McVicker:

There is enclosed herewith for your information copy of my reply to the translation of the letter of October 10 from Mr. Yomtob Kohen which you forwarded to me with your letter of October 11.

Very truly yours,

Herbert Katzki
Representative
War Refugee Board

Charles P. McVicker, Jr., Esquire
American Vice Consul
American Consulate General
Istanbul

Encl.

HK:VII

IN REPLY REFER TO
FILE NO.

10/11/44
Act. Turkey



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL
Istanbul, Turkey, October 11, 1944

Dear Mr. Katzki:

I am enclosing herewith translation of a letter which I believe is more in your field of endeavor than in mine. I will not acknowledge Mr. Kohen's letter until you let me know whether you will handle the case or not.

Very truly yours,

Charles P. McVicker, Jr.
Charles P. McVicker, Jr.
American Vice Consul

Enclosure:
as stated

Herbert Katzki, Esquire,
War Refugee Board,
c/o American Consulate General,
Istanbul.

*Mr. Katzki
has been informed that the
board has decided to refer the
case to the War Refugee Board
for their consideration.*

10/11/44
*The above mentioned
refugee case is
under review in
the War Refugee Board
and will be
referred to the
War Refugee Board
about Dec. 1/1*

TRANSLATION

Istanbul, October 10, 1944

American Consulate,
Istanbul.

Sir:

I have learned that at the American Consulate there is a Jewish delegate whose duty it is to give compensation to all Jews who have suffered from anti-semitic laws, and that the American Government is obliging the Italian Government to pay indemnities to those Jews who have suffered from the famous Decree of September 12, 1938, concerning the expulsion from Italy of all foreign Jews residing in that country after 1939.

Unfortunately, I am one of the victims of this decree and I have been obliged to leave Italy and to liquidate my business with almost a total loss. Presently I am without work and my financial situation is far from satisfactory.

I can present official documents proving my above statements and I would be very grateful if you would grant me an interview so that I could explain my situation and take the necessary steps in order to recover the money I have lost.

Thanking you in advance and hoping to hear from you soon, I am,

Very truly yours,

Signed: Yomtov Achen

Address:

Yomtov Achen
Şişane, Yolcu Zade Hektap sokak
Vitali Levi Apart. 33/3
Galata - Istanbul.

October 9, 1944

10/9/44
Act. Turkey
Memo

M E M O R A N D U M

Conversation between Mr. Katzki and Prof. Rustov

Professor Alexander Rustov, who is a member of the local committee established by Mr. Donenberg to assist anti-Nazi political refugees and intellectuals in Turkey, called on us today. The following facts emerged from his conversation with us.

1. The internees in Turkey are concentrated largely in Kirsehir, 150 persons; Yozgad, 210 persons; and Corun, 150 persons. These people had to make their own living arrangements, and for the most part live in rented rooms with private families. Life is very primitive, and it is expected that there will be physical hardships during the winter months.

Most of the internees have been able to take sufficient clothing with them, as they had the right to carry 150 Kilos per person. Some, however, who did not have sufficient advance notice of internment, do not have their possessions with them.

2. According to Professor Rustov's estimates, a minimum of 60 to 80 Turkish Lira per person per month is necessary for living requirements. This amount will increase during the winter. Fuel will cost about 300 Turkish Lira per person for the winter, but fuel is difficult to obtain.

3. Mr. Donenberg turned over to the committee 15000 Lira upon his departure. About half of this amount is still on hand, and probably will be sufficient until the end of 1944. Funds are being regularly available for the internees from other sources. One of these is a small group of friends in Ankara of the internees, who have raised some funds among themselves. Daily collections are being sent mainly to Kirsehir, at the rate of about 600 Lira

per month. In Yozgad the better-off financially are being taxed among themselves, to assist those internees without resources. This tax will amount to about 1100 Lira per month. Efforts will be made to institute a similar procedure in other centers.

10/2/44
Act Turkey
Greece

Istanbul, October 6, 1944

Dear Miss Cox:

Mr. Kessler mentioned to us that you had asked him to speak to us about the Israels and Gabuys, who desire to emigrate to Palestine.

We had delayed replying to you as there is no definite information we can give you at this moment. The present position is that there are no Palestine migration certificates available for people already in Turkey who desire to emigrate to Palestine. This quota of certificates, which varies from that which has been and is available for refugees in other countries, has already been exhausted. We have spoken to the Jewish Agency representative in Istanbul regarding this family, and they have the matter before them.

Should the situation alter so that an additional quota of Palestine certificates is made available for residents in Turkey, we shall advise you.

With best wishes,

Yours truly,

Herbert H. Kessler
Acting Representative
American Council

Miss Dorothy Cox
Department of State
10/6 American Council
Turkey

/b

10/3/44
At. Turkey

MEMORANDUM TO MR. KATZKI

October 3, 1944

Mr. Kessler called this morning to say that he had received a letter from Miss Dorothy Cox, in Izmir, which contained among other things the following paragraph:

"Please ask Mr. Katzki whether he has been able to do anything for the Israels and Gabays, whose case was referred to him by me."

I will keep a copy of this memorandum for your return.

H. Hirschmann

P.S. Mr. Schwartz called this afternoon, he wanted to speak to Mr. Hirschmann. I said I did not know when Mr. Hirschmann would be back but that you would be back at the end of the week if he would call then.

9150/44
Act Turkey
Ambassador

Istanbul, September 30, 1944

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

In reply to your letter of October 27, concerning the ten Turkish families who are residing in Budapest and who claim Turkish nationality, there is no way available to me to ascertain whether or not these individuals have applied to the Turkish Consulate in Budapest for protection.

Accordingly, the only possibility that I can see of introducing efforts to assist these families at this time is to have the facts, as far as you know them, laid before the Turkish Foreign Office. I am assuming that the Foreign Office could consult the representation in Budapest to determine if these individuals have received protection of the Turkish Government. If not, it may have been refused.

My office connected with this situation was mentioned in my letter of October 27.

Very truly yours,

L. S. Logan

Honorable Laurence S. Carter
Ambassador to Turkey
American Embassy
Istanbul

L/S

9/5/44
Act. Turkey

Istanbul, September 5, 1944

Dear Sir:

I delivered your August 16th letter to Professor Dr. A. Kiroff in Istanbul. Professor Kiroff made no observation after he read the letter, so that I take it that the matter is closed.

With warm personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

I. A. Mischmann
Special Agent

Mr. Leonard A. Kiroff
Special Agent, Istanbul
B. of the Refugee Bureau
a/c of the letter of the 16th August 1944
and the letter of the 16th August 1944
and the letter of the 16th August 1944

4/0

8/16/44
Act Turkey

SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE
U. S. WAR REFUGEE BOARD
c/o UNITED STATES POLITICAL ADVISER
ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS

August 16, 1944

DEAR SIR:

YOUR LETTER OF JUNE 18, 1944 CONCERNING THE INCLUSION OF YOUR FAMILY IN THE TRANSPORT OF REFUGEES TO THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN REFERRED TO ME BY AMBASSADOR ROBERT D. MURPHY FOR REPLY SINCE I WAS PLACED IN CHARGE OF THE SELECTION OF THIS GROUP.

DUE TO DELAYS IN THE MAIL YOUR LETTER HAS JUST REACHED ME AND AS YOU MAY HAVE OTHERWISE LEARNED, NOT ONLY HAVE THE ENTIRE GROUP OF REFUGEES BEEN SELECTED BUT THEY HAVE ALSO ALREADY REACHED THE REFUGEE SHELTER IN THE UNITED STATES. I MIGHT ALSO ADD THAT WE WERE UNABLE TO CONSIDER REFUGEES LOCATED IN COUNTRIES OTHER THAN ITALY BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF TRANSPORTATION EXISTING UNDER WAR TIME CONDITIONS. I AM SORRY TO INFORM YOU, THEREFORE, THAT UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO GIVE CONSIDERATION TO YOUR REQUEST.

VERY TRULY YOURS,

LEONARD E. ACKERMAN
SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE
MEDITERRANEAN AREA
U. S. WAR REFUGEE BOARD

PROF. DR. K. MIROFF
ISTANBUL (TURQUIE)
URKUDAR -- BAGIARBASI
TARABULUB SOKAK 4

Handwritten note:
I will
please
The letter
I will
not

RECEIVED
SEP 11 1944
U.S. EMBASSY
ISTANBUL

9/1/44
Act. Turkey



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Istanbul, September 1, 1944

SEP 4 1944

Dear Mr. Troff:

We would appreciate your calling
at the office of the War Relocation Board,
Misir Apartments, Istiklal Cadesi,
Apartment 2 (second floor) at a time
convenient to you, on a matter in which
you are interested.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]
L. W. Hirsch and
Special Attache

Prof. Dr. E. Troff

War Relocation Board
Misir Apartments, Istiklal Cadesi,
Istanbul

8/24/44
Act. Turkey
Pehle
Thefkur

Istanbul, August 24, 1944

Dear Mr. Pehle:

The enclosed clipping from "La Turquie" of August 23, 1944 relates to the recent steps taken by the Turkish Government in connection with their disposal of the remaining German nationals in Turkey. The situation connected with individuals who were ordered to return to Germany against their will seems to have cleared at this writing. The internment of the remaining 500 Germans, we are informed, is the last step that the Turkish Government is taking in connection with this problem unless there are some new developments therein. I am sending this information by pouch inasmuch as it did not seem to warrant a telegram, and in order to make the record complete.

You will also be interested in the enclosed clipping covering your statement of August 22 connected with the Molkura sinking. It is interesting to see the way a story originating from Istanbul goes half way across the world and back and still retains its freshness. You can also see how important a story from the War Refugee Board is treated in this part.

Cordially yours,

A. C. H. H. H. H. H.
Special Attache

John A. Pehle, Special
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Rosenberg Building
Washington, D. C.

encl.

Istanbul, August 23rd, 1944.

Dear Mr. Hirschmann,

Referring to our telephone conversation yesterday about the German subject Herr Erich Starke, I have the honour to inform you that I have just got a letter from Herr Starke, of which you will find a copy enclosed, informing me that he has now been allowed to remain in Turkey in a camp. All the same thanking you for your kind promise of assistance yesterday, I remain, Sir,

sincerely Yours

L. H. von Platow

1 enclosure.

File

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Copy.

Sehr geehrter Herr Baron,

Auf dem Wege zum Lager, habe ich die Ehre, Ihnen für Ihre
frdl. Ansprache bei Hirschmann noch einmal meinen Dank auszu-
sprechen. Der auf heute - Mittwoch - ausgesetzte Besuch bei
Hirschmann erübrigt sich nun allerdings. Wenn so sich auch nicht
das erfüllt, was Sie für mich angeregt haben, so bin ich doch
der Nazi-Falle entronnen. Und das ist die Hauptsache.

Mit ergebenem Gruss

Erich Starke

8/18/44
Act. Turkey

August 18, 1944

Memorandum:

Mr. Tobias Pearlman, who called at the Consulate this morning in an attempt to see Mr. Hirschmann, identified himself as a Turkish subject who, before the war, was agent for certain German factories doing business in Turkey. He stated that at the present time, because he is a Jew, those factories have taken their business from him and have given it to German agents. He appeared to think that Mr. Hirschmann would intervene in the matter in his behalf.

I explained to Mr. Pearlman that his problem did not come under the jurisdiction of the War Refugee Board, and consequently there was nothing that we could do to assist him to recover his business. I told him, however, that if he wished, I would relay the above statements to Mr. Hirschmann or Mr. Katzki; that he might telephone at 3:30 in the afternoon and I would tell him whether or not they believed his complaint was one to be considered by this organization.

Mr. Pearlman called at 3:30. I informed him that I had talked to Mr. Hirschmann and Mr. Katzki and that they had instructed me to tell him that it was not possible for the War Refugee Board to interfere in a situation of this type.

VDH

8/14/44
Act. Turkey

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT - Steps Required in Order that German Citizens may Secure Permission to Remain in Turkey.

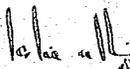
DATE - August 14, 1944.

In accordance with a suggestion of Mr. Kelley, the office of the Vali was requested, on this date, to indicate the steps required in order that a German citizen may be permitted to remain in Turkey.

The office of the Vali states that the following procedure has been established:

1. A German citizen desiring to remain in Turkey must write a formal letter to the Vali requesting permission to remain in Turkey.
2. In this letter he must state that, if permitted to remain in Turkey, he will agree to proceed to any destination within Turkey, in accordance with the orders of the Turkish government. This step is obviously for use in the event that the Turkish government decides to place all Germans remaining in Turkey in concentration camps.
3. The letter addressed to the Vali must contain full facts regarding the applicants' status, and must include the above statement. It should be delivered in person to the office of the Vali.
4. The office of the Vali will then direct the petitioner to proceed to the Police Authorities.
5. The Police authorities will examine the files in connection with the petitioner, and will determine whether the petitioner is included on any of the Turkish "black lists" of suspected persons.
6. If the petitioner is not included on one of the Turkish "black lists", the police will grant permission for the petitioner to remain in Turkey.
7. If the petitioner is included on a Turkish "black list", the police will notify him that he must depart for Germany.
8. If the petitioner is informed that he must depart for Germany, the Turkish authorities will permit him to remain in Turkey only in the event that he is documented immediately for travel elsewhere. If such documentation is secured, the Turkish authorities have indicated that the petitioner will not be deported to Germany, but will be permitted to depart for another point beyond the frontier of Turkey.

The above outline contains all information available at this time regarding the procedure required to permit German citizens to remain in Turkey.


Leslie Albion Squires
American Vice Consul

8/15/44
Ach. Turkey

ING. HANS BUCHNER
HAZAKAL İnşaat Ltd. Şti.

Tel. 40556

İSTANBUL

8/14/44
Act. Turkey

7/14/44, 1944

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8/14/44
Act. Turkey
Friedrich Groll (Marant. sp. 37/370, N. 1111)
Walter Groll } Adita " 8730
II. Gruppe 435

Karl Groll (Marant. 1/3670, N. 1111)
Karl Groll } Adita 8736
Peter Groll

5. Gruppe

Marant. sp. 1/3670, N. 1111

8/7/44
At Turkey

Ankara, August 7, 1944

Dear Monsieur Simond:

I have been requested by Mr. Selley, Charge d'Affaires, u.i., to communicate with you suggesting that you inform, through telegram if you deem it advisable, the International Red Cross representatives in Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria, that the Turkish Foreign Office will grant transit visas through Turkey to all refugees in any of the above three countries who are provided with Palestine entry certificates.

Thanking you for your cooperation,

Cordially yours,

I. A. Hirschmann
Special Attache

Monsieur Gilbert Simond
48 Neouti Bay Caddesi
Yenisehir, Ankara

2/23/44
Act. Turkey

Note for Mr. Hirschmann.

ON THE QUESTION OF THE GENERAL SCOPE OF RESCUE WORK HERE.

Report

It is to be borne in mind that all that is being done here now is the direct outcome of the facilities granted by the British for Immigration into Palestine, and the consequent limited permission of transit by Turkey.

Imagine for one moment that the Palestine intake was to cease, and then the President's order and its provisions as to 'Rescue of Victims', 'Transportation, Maintenance and Relief of Victims of Enemy Oppression', 'The Establishment of Havens of Temporary Refuge for Such Victims', 'Cooperation of Foreign Governments and Their Participation in The Execution of Such Plans and Programs' etc. would become a dead letter. We would be at Bermuda again.

- 2- Yet Turkey is one of the few positions where a ray of hope of rescue is still visible. or to use the words of the President's Order, one of the 'places where it is likely that ~~the~~ assistance can be rendered to War Refugees'. Hence the appointment, quite irrespective of the Palestine intake, of a special attsché with diplomatic status in Turkey.
- 3- Let us, therefore, distinguish the two sides of the general work:
 - a/ facilities in connection with Palestine
 - b/ other means of rescue
- 4- As to a/, the delicacy of the position vis-à-vis the British must not be forgotten: it is they who work the machinery, and although Palestine is in a sense an international or League of Nations trust, it is they who are responsible for immigration matters, and it is they who obtained from the Turks the transit arrangements. All negotiations with the Turks for increased facilities, or for their cooperation must therefore, I think, be done in full concert and harmony with the British, who must be urged into more initiative and activity.
- 5- What can be achieved as to a/ is :-
 - I. more land visas; more expedition in sending out lists of visas to consuls; and as regards Bulgaria, abolition of visas altogether, and substitution for them of lists to be kept at the frontier with instructions to let in any person and his dependants appearing on the list. Rumania and Hungary will have to continue with visas, for otherwise Bulgaria would not allow transit.
 - II. Maritime transport to Istanbul, and so far as Rumania is concerned, abolition of visas altogether, and substitution for them of lists of persons to be allowed to land.

Hungary will have to continue with visas, for otherwise Rumania may refuse to admit Hungarians for transit.

III. So long as maritime transport direct to Palestine cannot be secured, and if maritime transport to Istanbul continues regularly and at frequent intervals, then permission to have a temporary transit camp here, to allow for people to be absorbed by rail to Palestine, with a definite promise on our part to provide food for the camp from Allied sources.

IV. Maritime transport direct to Palestine, which can still take in over 20 000 persons.

6- As to b/, Turkey will be most difficult to approach with any proposal of 'a haven of temporary refuge' in the sense of a camp for the duration of the war. At most she would agree to the extension of transits. But there are possibilities in other directions:

- a) A haven of temporary refuge in North Africa, where abandoned camps and equipment could be used instead of being sold to the Egyptians as now proposed.
- b) The same in Cyprus or in Syria, or even in Palestine (on a special status to be detailed in camp).

7- For transit purposes it has become possible to obtain more transit visas from the Turks 'en route for Mauritius'. When the people arrive in Istanbul, they will be given by the British visas for Palestine. This might be extended further.

Proposals in (6) and (7) must of course be discussed with the British.

8- In this connection, why not have more transit visas 'en route for America'? If the Turks are, as rumoured by some, prevented by Arab-German pressure from increasing openly the number of transit visas for Palestine, then Africa, like Mauritius, may be the official destination, with a tacit understanding that on arrival here, visas for Palestine will be granted by the British. The visa for America may be given 'valid for 6 months', and would anyhow lapse thereafter through lack of transport facilities.

9- All along, steps should continue of intimidating minor Axis powers with the consequences of anti-Jewish excesses, and of providing for the starving Jews food and clothing. Freedom of movement for the Jews of Transilvania and Czernowitz is particularly a matter of great urgency.