MINUTES OF MEETINGS IN TURKEY
REPORTS

WAR REFUGEE BOARD RECORDS
MINUTES

of a meeting

of the Operating Group of Relief Organizations

at the office of the War Refugee Board, Istanbul

October 9, 1944

Those present: Herbert Katzki, Mordecai Kessler, David Schweitzer, Shud Ueberall, J. Goldin, and Menachim Bader.

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 a.m.

1. Mr. Bader reported the receipt of telegrams originating in Bucharest, requesting that steps be taken to modify the Turkish Foreign Office agreement relating to the issuance of Turkish transit visas by the Turkish Consulate in Rumania to Jewish people emigrating to Palestine. The present agreement provides for the issuance of 400 Turkish transit visas every ten days for the voyage by sea from Constanza and Burgas, to be divided between the Turkish Consulates in those cities. The request was that this arrangement be modified to authorize the issuance of transit visas for land travel from Rumania.

There was full discussion regarding this suggestion, during which Mr. Bader suggested a formula that the modification, if requested, provide for the issuance of transit visas for land travel to the extent that the 400 visas authorized every ten days were unused for sea voyage. In this way, he proposed to avoid requesting a radical change in the agreement which, if sought, might precipitate a reconsideration by the Turkish Foreign Office of the entire agreement.

In view of the fact that there is no information available in Istanbul as to the actual situation in Rumania regarding emigration, the possibility of transportation by sea, railroad, etc., the meeting decided that efforts should be made to secure fuller details before making any requests of the Turkish Foreign Office.
2. As a matter of interest, Mr. Bader reported that the Bulgarian Government will begin shortly to issue exit visas for children emigrating to Palestine under the Children's Scheme. The Jewish Agency in Istanbul regards this information with all reserve.

3. Mr. Katzki reported briefly on the steps heretofore taken by the War Refugee Board in relation to emigration of Jewish people from Hungary.

4. In behalf of the War Refugee Board, Mr. Katzki expressed his thanks to Mr. Schweitzer, who is departing from Istanbul to Palestine, for the advice and aid he extended to the War Refugee Board in connection with the program it has been carrying out in Turkey.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Herbert Katzki
MINUTES
of a meeting
of the Operating Group of Relief Organizations
at the office of the War Refugee Board, Istanbul
October 2, 1944.


The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m.

1. Mr. Hirschmann informed the committee that he had been recalled to Washington for consultation by the War Refugee Board, as the result of the changed situation in the Balkan area. He had asked the committee to meet in order that he might have the advantage of any last-minute observations or suggestions they might care to make which he could carry with him to Washington. He expressed his thanks to the members of the committee for their helpful cooperation, advice, and assistance, which they as representatives of their respective organizations and individually had extended to him during the time he was in Turkey. He assured them that the work of the War Refugee Board would continue in Turkey, and advised them that Mr. Katzki, who has been vested with full powers and who has the backing of the American Embassy and Consulate General, would continue the War Refugee Board programs in this area.

2. Mr. Goldin reported that Mr. Bader and he had obtained a letter from Bulgarian Minister Belabonoff in Ankara, officially confirming the statements of policy which had been broadcast recently over Radio Sofia, relating to the treatment of Jewish people in Bulgaria. This letter covered the following points:

(a) The Bulgarian frontier authorities have been advised of the authorization of the Turkish Government to permit the entry into Turkey for emigration to Palestine of all Jewish people presenting themselves at the Bulgarian frontier.

(b) The Bulgarian Government has authorized the Bulgarian Legation in Bucharest to issue Bulgarian transit visas to any applicant in Romania who wishes to travel through Bulgaria on route to Palestine. This instruction to the Bulgarian Legation...
likewise authorizes the issuance of Bulgarian transit visas to Jewish people from Hungary and Poland.

(c) The Bulgarian Government has issued regulations contemplating the return to Jewish people in Bulgaria of properties which had been expropriated, and for payment of compensation for properties lost. In addition, funds will be made available for the re-establishment of Jewish schools and social institutions.

3. Mr. Bader, based upon information which he has received, expressed his opinion that the present Bulgarian Government would not be strong, and that one should not depend solely on the official statements made by Bulgarian authorities as an indication that the problems of Jewish people of that country have been resolved and their difficulties terminated. The problem of reconstruction and rehabilitation will be very long and drawn out. Although promises have been made to the Jewish people, a very large proportion of the latter are without resources. This may continue for some time before the Bulgarian Government itself is in a position to aid them. Furthermore, the future of Jewish people who had lost their positions is obscure, as the promised reinstatement of Jewish people to their former economic status is very complicated. He suggests, therefore, the need for continuing emigration and providing assistance to the Jewish people while still in Bulgaria.

He recommended consideration of the advisability of extending a loan to the Bulgarian Government, specifically to assist it in carrying out its representations concerning the rehabilitation of Jewish people.

There has been no recent information from Humania. The position of Humanian Jewry may be the same as that of Bulgarian Jewry. In Mr. Bader’s opinion, it may be necessary to take special steps for migration of refugees in that country, for the Transnistrian children, etc.

Mr. Bader reported that Mr. Krausz, Jewish Agency representative in Budapest, advised the International Red Cross delegate there.
that, of the former Jewish population in Hungary of 800,000, only 200,000 persons still remained in Hungary. Inferentially, despite the assurances given by the Hungarian Government, deportations did continue, as the figure of 200,000 is substantially smaller than the estimates which had been made during August. Most of the 200,000 are now in camps or in concentrated areas, subject to the dangers which attach to such a situation.

Krausz recommends that the International Red Cross establish an observation post in Budapest in order to protect the lives of the Jewish people in Hungary. Mr. Bader's friends in Geneva are attempting this, and he suggests that perhaps Mr. Simond, the International Red Cross delegate in Turkey, might be approached. In the meanwhile, the national Red Cross organizations affiliated with the International Red Cross should support the request for a Budapest observation bureau, in which connection the United States, Great Britain, and perhaps also Sweden can be especially helpful.

Mr. Bader, in behalf of the Jewish agency, expressed his great sorrow that Mr. Hirschmann was leaving, and the hope that his departure will not be final. He expressed his appreciation for Mr. Hirschmann's great interest and support in the rescue work of the Agency from the Balkan area, without which much less would have been accomplished.

4. Mr. Schweitzer seconded Mr. Bader's expressions with reference to the aid Mr. Hirschmann has given in Turkey and promised, in behalf of the committee, full support to Mr. Katzki during Mr. Hirschmann's absence. He thought it important that Mr. Hirschmann interpret to the larger post-war organizations, such as UNRRA, and the Intergovernmental Committee, the problems which will exist in the Balkans and the need for assistance which will arise when military operations cease. In his opinion, the War refugee Board should not terminate its activities as soon as an area becomes liberated, in strict construction of its terms of
reference. The War Refugee Board, as a vital organization, should alter its policy so that its influence and effectiveness can be continued in post-war work.

5. Mr. Goldin reported that he had been approached by individuals among the three or four thousand Turkish nationals who have been repatriated to Turkey from France on the subject of their early return to France. Many of them had substantial interests and resources in France, which made them anxious to return to that country as soon as possible.

It was the opinion of the meeting that the question of improving the condition of Jewish people who have already been saved is of minor importance when compared with the need for rescuing persons whose lives are still in danger. The question of the return to France of repatriated Turkish nationals in Turkey should be deferred until more urgent matters have been met.

6. Mr. Ueberall expressed the appreciation of the groups he represented for the cooperation and support which Mr. Hirschmann and the War Refugee Board extended to them. The work of rescue of Jewish people from countries under Nazi pressure, especially Hungary, is not ended. In addition, regular emigration from Bulgaria and Romania must be supported. Although the expressed policy of the War Refugee Board is the rescue of persons in imminent peril of death, the work of the Jewish Agency does not end there. The Jewish Agency still has the task of emigration to Palestine, and Mr. Ueberall requested that Mr. Hirschmann explain the situation to the War Refugee Board in Washington, so that the Board and the United States Government continue their interest in normal emigration from liberated areas to Palestine.

7. Mr. Hirschmann promised to inform interested agencies and circles in the United States of the views expressed at this meeting. He suggested that a memorandum be prepared by the agency representatives at the meeting, setting forth the suggestions they had made, so that he can have this in writing for reference purposes.
in Washington. He stated that, at this stage, it is important that Washington be informed as to the views of people in Istanbul who are close to rescue and relief problems, and he promised to impart this information. Mr. Hirschmann again thanked the committee for their cooperation, and expressed his continuing interest in their activities.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15.

Herbert Katzki
At the request of a meeting of the various relief organizations at the office of the UNRRA, Jerusalem, International 13 March 1946.

Convening: Dr. A. Eichmann, UNRRA, Jerusalem, for the Jewish Agency; H. J. Szefer, Executive Director, for the Joint Distribution Committee; E. Leibovici, D. Schweitzer.

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

1. L. E. Soper, UNRRA, addressed the meeting, received a list of the official UNRRA personnel (in Jerusalem), the list of the main groups interested in the matter, and the officials handling the relief. The meeting was addressed by the Joint Jewish Agency. The Joint Jewish Agency, after examining the list of the various relief organizations, decided to continue with the investigation.
III. An American reporter stated that he had discussed informally with Ambassador Steinhardt the possibility of the release by the Soviets of the Russian vessel "Myronov" now in Tampico, Mexico, in accordance with the terms of the Russian-American agreement. This vessel previously had been arrested by the United States authorities to transport refugees from Russia to Bulgaria. Ambassador Steinhardt saw no basis for American intervention upon which objection to the proposition could be raised by the Americans.

After discussion, it was decided a visas were to be held the question in abeyance until the position regarding relief and evacuation from Russia and the status of the Russians living in the territory controlled by the United States.

IV. A U.S. envoy reported information which has been released from the Kremlin. According to this information, a large-scale evacuation from the Soviet Union is now planned.

Although the situation is uncertain, there is reason to believe that the evacuation may involve a large exodus of people, including some families. The exact number of those to be evacuated is not yet known, but it is estimated that the number may exceed 100,000 people. The evacuation is expected to take place over the next several weeks.
V. H. Irons, referring to the claims of any groups or cliques to use or to sell on the market, efforts are being made for the Joint Board to cause no endpoint to remain
in place or position. Particularly, however, the possibility of a change in the nation's situation can be mentioned,
and as may be involved, the key point to be considered
will still have to be that in Pennsylvania, in the
view of the Joint Board, is the need for and closecohesion of many changes. One such is that the Board
must continue to function in essence, of course,
not only to use the change by the Joint Board, wide to change
a high and future role, but to play a central role in the national
and the use of events, major and minor, and
sustained. The future, coming in addition to the Board's,
and as may be involved.
Copy handed to
Ambassador Steinhardt,
September 6, 1944
MINUTES
of a meeting
of the Operating Group of Relief Organizations
at the Office of the War Refugee Board, Istanbul
September 4, 1944.

Those present: I. A. Hirschmann, Chairman; Heribert Katzki,
Chaim Barlas, Dr. Elian, Charles Passman, Nordecal Hessler,
David Schweitzer, Richard Sebrell.

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

1. Mr. Barlas reported the following:

A. His trip to Ankara on August 29 was in connection
with routine affairs of the Jewish Agency, especially
regarding the emigration to Palestine of 500 children in
Austro-Hungarian custody and children whose transit visa
was expiring.

B. A recent telegram from Bulgaria reports that
the SS Yugo, one of the ships which was to be used to carry
emigrants from Bulgaria to Istanbul, had been sunk. Steps
are now being taken to replace this ship in accordance with
agreements previously made.

C. Several discussions have been held with Mr.
Cratschin concerning emigration from Romania.

D. Several meetings have been held with Mr. Passman on
questions relating to relief for Jewish refugees in Greece.

E. Censorship of postal matter sent to and received in
transit of the agency in the occupied countries is being
instituted by law, which may have a serious effect on the
agency's ability to provide assistance in the area in all countries.
organizations in that country. Mr. Bratiano told a one-sided story, and decision should be reserved regarding Mr. Zissu until he has opportunity for reporting his version of events.

Referring to point 8 above, Mr. Nirschmann reported that Mr. Passman, Mr. Katzki and he had had a long conference with Mr. Bratiano, who described in some detail the clash of personalities which had taken place in Bucharest and which, he said, had been the result in substantial measure of the autocratic and arbitrary actions of Mr. Zissu. Mr. Nirschmann stated that the War Refugees Board will not condone any such attitudes, and that it will refuse its aid, financially or in any other way, to projects which reflect personality clashes, partisanship and rivalry to the detriment of the objective of peace activities, and are not democratic in their conception and execution.

II. Discussion was had regarding the policy to be followed for rescue work from Hungary in the future.

A. Mr. Nirschmann refers to the term of reference of the War Refugees Board, which limits its activities to the rescue of persons who, for reasons of race, religion, or political beliefs, were in imminent need of aid, and who, excluded due to political conviction or race, to escape to another country. Under such circumstances, the Board's presence in certain areas is due to its role in the assistance of refugees, would in fact be illegal to the assistance of refugees, would in fact be illegal to the assistance of refugees.

B. Investigation made it apparent that the present situation of some areas in that country has been well-materialized. Furthermore, the Board hereupon could not become an instrument to act on the application of any legal action in favor of a national or regional cause, but at the will of the national or regional authorities, in the interest of the nation or region, or the interest of the war refugees, or the interest of the nation or region.

Mr. Passman stated that if the situations indicate that intervention on behalf of national or regional causes, they...
will all, without exception and without discrimination, be given Palestinian certificates. To this end, refugees will have priority in whatever emigration movement from Transjordan takes place.

C. Dr. Eliash formulated the Jewish Agency position as follows:

"Unless some general statement is made by the Transjordanian Government in behalf of refugees in that country, and the children from Transjordan, they will be regarded as the first charge upon the emigration work of the Jewish Agency. Otherwise, their emigration as well as that of Palestinian nationals will be regarded as normal and voluntary."

D. Mr. Hassan stated that the Joint Distribution Committee will not finance the movement of ships from Transjordan or anywhere else unless the Joint Distribution Committee has a measure of control in such projects. Rescue work will be conducted jointly by representatives of the War Refugee Board, the Joint Distribution Committee, and the Jewish Agency. Normal emigration work will be in the hands of the Jewish Agency.

III. Mr. Weizmann reports that the color of the new Palestinian government indicated that it was his intention to carry out the policy initiated by the government of present, with reference to the withdrawal of the European anti-Jewish laws. Although the War Refugee Board is agreed to continue its work, the Joint Distribution Committee has not been consulted on the evacuation of Jewish people from Transjordan and other countries. The improvement in the situation of Transjordan makes this country promising for Jewish emigration, and the Mission is in agreement with the Joint Distribution Committee in making the best use of the opportunity which assistance from the Jewish Agency affords.
of temporary and emergency relief for the Jewish people in Bulgaria.

IV. Mr. Hirschmann made reference to reports which have been received in Istanbul indicating that the Jewish Agency representative in Budapest, Kraus, had taken certain steps which served to block the mechanism which had been established for moving Hungarian Jews to Romania. Mr. Farkas stated that the circumstances were such that Kraus had no alternative, unless he was prepared to have a number of individuals engaged in rescue work for profit take over the work of the Jewish Agency in Hungary.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Herbert Mendl
Notes on Use at the meeting, September 4

1. Berlas' talk with Dr.
Also, the results of his conferences in Ankara during the course of his last trip there.

2. Ask Berlas about the contract which he has with Antalya.
He has never reported this in any of the meetings.

3. What does the Jewish Agency propose doing about the situation in Rumania as reported by Dratian, especially with regard to the reported obstructionist tactics of Mr. Wizn and his group.

4. What does the Jewish Agency propose doing about the situation in Hungary, as reported by Mr. János, who told about discrimination in the issuance of certificates, arrests fighting in the office of the Rumanian Consulate, which resulted in the break-down of the procedure which had been worked out for bringing people from Hungary to Rumania.

5. Proposed policy of the and in connection with repatriation from the Allied countries.

a. Bulgaria: In view of the anti-Jewish laws, probably do not want a repatriation but only normal emigration.

b. Greece: The situation nationals themselves are worse or may be able to assist in that country. Leave open only the question of the repatriation of non-nationals. nationals in that country, but to keep this repatriation to be seen in the sense that each nation is the only the responsibility of that country. Emigration to return as a normal business situation through the hands of the J.D. In connection with such repatriation of the Jewish agency as an in a closed group among themselves.
MINUTES
of a meeting
of Representatives of Relief Organizations
at the office of the War-Refugee Board
Istanbul, August 25, 1944

Those present: J. A. Hirschmann, Herbert Katzki, Irving H. Sherman, for the War Refugees Board; Reuben Rosenk, Charles Passman, Lordei Kaslar, for the Joint Distribution Committee; Chaim Harlas, Joseph, Saul Boyerhoff, Yoshe Avichar, Menahem Ubersoi, Itzhak Becher, Yul Fosermanic, for the Jewish Agency; Leon Donenbarg, for the International Rescue and Relief Committee; and Yabosk, for the Emergency Committee for the Rescue of Jewish People in Europe; David Schwitzer, for the Hias-Heju Immigration Association (Huna); Jacob Gril, Itzca Ahrman, and Ludwig Kastner for the Agudath Israel and the Vaad Mahatzalah.

David Zeynade of the Jewish Agency was present by invitation. Akiba Levinsky and administer Lado were unable to be present, and sent their excuses.

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 by Mr. Hirschmann, as chairman.

Mr. Hirschmann opened the meeting by welcoming Masara, Passman, Asslar, Boyerhoff, Ubersoi, Becher, and Sherman, who had arrived in Istanbul subsequent to the previous meeting of representatives of relief organizations, July 10. He expressed his regrets at the departure of Mr. Schindl, who had left Istanbul for Palestine.

Mr. Hirschmann reviewed briefly the activities of the War Refugees Board representatives in Istanbul subsequent to July 10, and the rescue work which has been accomplished by the various agencies since that date, under the following headings:

(a) Efforts made to ameliorate the status of Jewish people in the Balkans by means of the abrogation of the anti-Jewish laws.

(b) Steps taken to secure the emigration of the remaining government to the emigration of Jewish people from that country, the granting of transit facilities by the various governments to Jewish people fleeing from Germany, and the establishment of transportation centers in countries en route for the emigration of transportation facilities for their further travel to
Istanbul and Palestine.

(c) Negotiations and discussions with the Turkish authorities culminating in the broad agreement on the part of the Turkish Foreign Office concerning the issuance of Turkish transit visas in Hungary, Rumania, and Bulgaria, and the entry into Turkey in transit of refugees traveling by land and by sea.

(d) The present situation in Hungary in consequence of the promulgation of July 10, 1944, by the Hungarian Government, with reference to the emigration of Jewish people from Hungary in certain categories and under certain conditions.

(e) Transports which have passed through Istanbul on the SS Kazbek, Corina, Bilibil, and overland.

(f) Projects which had been submitted to the war refugees board representatives for consideration, notably by Mr. Grissel for emigration from Rumania, and by Mr. Jabotinsky for emigration from Budapest via the Danube.

Mr. Hirschmann referred also to projects of emigration which are in varying stages of completion, namely the voyages of the SS Emmylind, Unterland, also Gulla, and persons of the Kirk, from Constanza, and the SS Kirin and Crim, from Constanza. Analysis was made also of the possible effect upon emigration and rescue work by the changing attitude of countries regarding Jewish people in its territory, and the recent decision of the Hungarian government to the Jewish alliées to travel alien also.

In examining the present valley of the war for a while, Mr. Hirschmann stated that, although fundamental changes in principle are to be under consideration, on the whole situation is slowly as in central in Rumania, nevertheless, efforts still continue to reestablish Jewish colonies and
others from both those countries so long as it appears that their lives are in danger because of racial, religious, or political beliefs. Although present information is to the effect that the German authorities in Budapest have not sanctioned the departure of Jewish people from Hungary, despite the public pronouncement of Admiral Heimhke, efforts for their evacuation will continue in any manner and in any direction which seem feasible.

During the discussion which followed Mr. Almada's review, Mr. United made the following observations:

1. It must not be assumed that it is either too late or that too short a time remains for the evacuation of people from Romania, but every effort must be made to take advantage of whatever opportunities exist for evacuating people from Romania before emigration becomes impossible, since the United Nations in control in that country deem it advisable to restrict emigration.

2. While no information is available regarding the situation on the Hungarian-Romanian border, one must assume that this transfer from Hungary to Romania will occur, and in any case it will be necessary to find other means by which Jewish people can either be evacuated or via Yugoslavia to other countries, or perhaps, in foreign countries, and to plan a route into such countries to be available.

Mr. Almada informed the assembly of his efforts taken since his appearance here before. He represents the United Nations in Switzerland, Sweden, Portugal, and Spain, and he made reference to a letter he had written to the Foreign Minister of France in that country. He also stated that the importance of finding a safe haven for as many as possible.
in Istanbul currently informed of all information which might come into the possession of the representatives of the relief organizations here, one which might have a bearing upon or would provide fresh points of view in the development of relief work programs.

Dr. Barlas re-emphasized the need for continuing relief work at full pressure and stated that he had already instructed the Jewish agency representatives in the various countries of migration to continue their efforts to the maximum. He thought it important that, despite possible modification in the aid being given, the situation must be closely observed, and that, in addition, full attention must be directed upon the problem of Hungary.

Dr. Siemon stated that all work must continue as though no changes had occurred. Should the situation improve, the only loss will be one of energy which will have been expended in following various projects. If the situation does not improve, no time will have been lost.

Mr. Berlin reviewed the meeting for the central executive of all Jewish organizations, and indicated that in addition to the immediate relief requirements which had been met through the agency in London, an effort had been made to bring relief to many Jewish starved and hungry in eastern Europe, even though it would be more practical to meet the needs of those in need in the United States.

A general discussion ensued on various matters which had been handled at the meeting.

After concluding further formal business, the meeting was adjourned.
August 25, 1944

NOTES:

Welcome and introduce newcomers, -- Mesars.
Passman, Kessler, Meyeroff, Ueberall,
Pomeranico and Sherman (pro tem.) Mention
Shind has left.

1. Review of events that happened since last meeting:

(a) Efforts politically

(1) Attempts to bring pressure upon Bulgarians
to take fundamental steps regarding the
Jewish citizenry. (This problem is still
in process).

(2) Efforts to have Romanians permit Jews to
leave Hungary.

(3) Relationship with Turkish people on
transit visas, travel, etc. New code
(Exhibit A) for Hungary, July 18 decree,
Inability of Germans to permit Jews to
leave.

(b) After last meeting we left for the Kajbuk
Since then there arrived the two other boats,
and the sinking of the Haskura about which
we have the final report. Read this report.
(Exhibit B)

(1) Group of 43 children from Bulgaria.

(2) Decision to keep up our rescue work in this
field. (Exhibit C - Telegram No. 694)

(c) Numbers of projects of various kinds that have
been submitted:

(1) Griffel

(2) Danube boats (Jabotinsky)

(d) War scare in Turkey.

2. Changing scene:

(a) Bulgaria and Jewish question

(b) Romanian situation

3. Present status of projects:

(a) Smyrne, Salahaldin, and perhaps Milka, Constantza,
and Alba Julia from Rumania. Information
received today from Kolb that the Salahaldin
is about to leave with 1,000 passengers.

(b) Vita and Perin from Bulgaria

(c) Movement from Hungary
4. Open meeting for new suggestions.

5. Position of the Board that we are proceeding in our program of rescue without cessation until we have information that the situation does not require it.

   (a) The condition in Hungary is as bad or worse than it was before.

   (b) Bulgaria is a belligerent and the situation there requires attention until political moves indicate otherwise. We have managed to include the Jewish question as a major issue in the platform of the Bagryanov Government's apparent desire to withdraw from the war.

   (c) Rumania is still an open question. If it becomes a battle ground similar to Italy, as indicated by Gretzianu that it will, we may have very serious problems of rescue. Our decision is to watch and wait and to function.
August 26, 1944

NOTES:

Welcome and introduce newcomers -- Resenu, Peasman, Kessler, Mayeroff, Ueborall, Pomeranze and Sherman (pro tem.) Mention Shind has left.

1. Review of events that happened since last meeting:
   (a) Efforts politically
      (1) Attempts to bring pressure upon Bulgarians to take fundamental steps regarding the Jewish citizenship. (This problem is still in progress).
      (2) Efforts to have Bulgarians permit Jews to go into Hungary.
      (3) Relationship with Turkish people on transit visas, travel, etc. New code (Exhibit A) for Hungary, July 10 decree, inability of Germans to permit Jews to leave.
   (b) After last meeting we left for the Hashem. Since then there arrived the two other boats, and the sinking of the Khafra about which we have the final report. Read this report. (Exhibit B)
      (1) Group of 43 children from Bulgaria.
      (2) Decision to keep up our rescue work in the field.
      (a) Numbers of projects of various kinds that have been submitted:
         (1) Griffel
         (2) Bomba boats (Janainsky)
         (3) (none)
      (d) War scare in Turkey.
   2. Chapter, nonnal:
      (a) Bulgaria and Jewish question
      (b) Hungarian situation
   3. Present status of projects:
      (a) Seyriga, Alkaldin, and perhaps Willa, Demezha, and Aliu Julia from Humana. Information received today from Kolb that the Alkaldin is about to leave with 1,000 passengers.
      (b) Vito and Perin from Malaya
      (a) Movement from Hungary
4. Open meeting for new suggestions.

5. Position of the Board that we are proceeding in our program of rescue without cessation until we have information that the situation does not require it.

(a) The condition in Hungary is as bad or worse than it was before.

(b) Bulgaria is a belligerent and the situation there requires attention until political moves indicate otherwise. We have managed to include the Jewish question as a major issue in the platform of the Yugoslav Government's apparent desire to withdraw from the war.

(c) Palestine is still an open question. If it becomes a battle-ground similar to Italy, as indicated by Croizianu that it will, we may have very serious problems of rescue. Our decision is to watch and wait and to function.
1. Further interrogation of the captains of \textit{KAKURU} and \textit{BIBUL} took place today.

2. All evidence shows that \textit{KAKURU} was sunk on August 5th about 0130 local time, about 25 miles N. W. of IGNEADA, by gunfire from one of two (or possibly three) submarines on the surface. The gun used was probably a 20 m/m automatic cannon with explosive missile.

3. It is evident that the skipper of the \textit{KAKURU} lost his head and abandoned ship at the first hit; his statement that he received no warning is therefore discounted in view of the statements of:

(a) the captain of the \textit{BIBUL} (a steady witness) that he saw a red rocket fired on his starboard bow at about 2230/4th at approximately the point where \textit{KAKURU} was at the time.

(b) other survivors of the \textit{KAKURU} who state that the enemy vessel made lamp signals in the direction of the ship and fired a red rocket.

4. According to the captain of the \textit{BIBUL}, the attacking vessel came up from astern, firing as she came, passed by the stationary vessel to starboard, still firing, and ceased ahead of her. Fire was then opened on the dinghy, in which were the captain and crew of the vessel. They promptly jumped out, and the dinghy was hit three times and capsized.

24/10/44
Hirschmann is sent the following telegram (WHA Cable No. 97) from the War Refugees Board. The following is in reference to the Embassy’s telegram No. 144 of August 7, 1429 of August 5 and 1439 of August 7. The sinking of the refugee ship BULGARIA with the loss of lives which resulted is regretted by the Board, though the near arrival of the ships LADY MA and BULGARIA is very encouraging. The Board greatly appreciates the efforts of Hirschmann and Kelley in connection with the above.

Any information in addition to that which has already been furnished concerning the sinking of the BULGARIA will be appreciated by the War Refugees Board, though it is appreciated that security requirements may prevent the sending of certain details.

With reference to the Embassy’s telegram No. 144, the War Refugees Board will fully support the decision which you take with respect to possible future voyages of the Bulgarian or any other boats indicated in the telegram under reference, after you have consulted with the private organizations involved with the Embassy. The Board knows that the decision which you will reach will take into account the comparative risks to the refugees of the uncertainties of such voyages or the risks of remaining in Hungary, Romania or Bulgaria, as the case may be. It is assumed that the refugees themselves have been warned through the appropriate private organizations of the risks which such voyages involve. The C.O. has been informed of the above and agrees with the statements above.

(Code letter missing, but words supplied by Co. Room)
Hirschmann is sent the following telegram (W.B. Cable No. 97) from the War Refugee Board. The following is in reference to the embassy's telegrams Nos. 1440 of August 7, 1629 of August 5 and 1627 of August 7. The sinking of the refugee ship "ARKARAH" with the loss of lives which resulted is regretted by the Board, though the late arrival of the ships "KHALKA" and "BULBUL" is very encouraging. The Board greatly appreciates the efforts of Hirschmann and Kelley in connection with the above.

Any information in addition to that which has already been furnished concerning the sinking of the "ARKARAH" will be appreciated by the War Refugee Board, though it is appreciated that security requirements may prevent the sending of certain details.

With reference to the embassy's telegram No. 1440, the War Refugee Board will fully support the decision which you make with respect to possible future voyages of the Hungarian or any other boats indicated in the telegram under reference, after you have consulted with the private organizations involved and the embassy. The board knows that the decision which you will reach will take into account the comparative risks to the refugees of the uncertainty of such voyages as well as the security of remaining in Hungary, and the board knows that the refugees themselves have been warned, through the appropriate private organizations, of the risks with such voyages involved. The board has been informed of the above and agrees with the statements above.
1. Further interrogation of the captains of MBFURS and BULBUL took place today.

2. All evidence shows that MBFURS was sunk on August 5th about 0130 local time, about 25 miles N. W. of IGNEADA, by gunfire from one of two (or possibly three) submarines on the surface. The gun used was probably a 20 mm automatic cannon with explosive-missile.

3. It is evident that the skipper of the MBFURS lost his head and abandoned ship at the first hit; his statement that he received no warning is therefore discounted in view of the statements of

   (a) the captain of the BULBUL (a steady witness) that he saw a red rocket fired on his starboard bow at about 2230/4th at approximately the point where MBFURS was at the time.

   (b) other survivors of the MBFURS who state that the enemy vessel made lamp signals in the direction of the ship, and fired a red rocket.

4. According to the captain of the MBFURS the attacking vessel came up from astern, firing on the caravan, passed by the stationary vessel to starboard, still firing, and moved ahead of her. Fire was then opened on the dinghy, in which were the captain and crew of the vessel. They promptly jumped out, and the dinghy was hit three times and smashed.

22.6.44
MINUTES
of a Meeting
of the Operating Group of Relief Organizations
at the Office of the War Refugees Board, Istanbul
August 21, 1944, 4:45 p.m.

Those present: I. A. Hirschmann, Herbert Katzki, Reuben
Assnik, Charles Passman, Zeev Schind, Shud Ueborall, Chaim
Barlas.

Prior to the meeting, Mr. Schweitzer telephoned to say
that because of other engagements which he had made and which
he was not able to cancel, he could not be present.

Mr. Hirschmann opened the meeting by requesting informa-
tion concerning the investigation of the Kefkura sinking.
He reported that the United States Naval Attaché's office
was not able to make anyone available to attend the examina-
tion which would be made of the respective captains of the
Kefkura and the Millbil. He reported, however, that the
British Naval Attaché agreed to make available to him a copy
of their report when it has been prepared.

Mr. Barlas stated that the examination of the two captains
was expected to take place within the next few days. Such
examination should not be made solely from the technical
point of view, which might be that of the Naval Attaché, but
from the point of view of the rescue organizations, in order
to determine the possibility of continued rescue work by sea.

He stated that he had asked to Mr. Zimm to Buchanan the
names of the passengers on the Kefkura. His own view was
that because of the last-minute redistribution of the passen-
gers among the three boats, such lists might not be available.
In Istanbul, he himself is sending to Buchanan the names of
the Millbil and Millbil passengers, so that through a process
of elimination the names of those on the Kefkura might be
determined.

Inquiry had been made by members of the Istanbul Jewish
community regarding reports that 130 bodies had been washed
ashore along the Black Sea coast. It appears that this report is not true.

Although Mr. Simond of the International Red Cross seems to question the report that the Mefkura was sunk by gun-fire, discussions with the five surviving passengers definitely indicate that this is true.

Mr. Schind stated that one of the British naval officers said that he would make an assistant available to talk to the captains of the Bibiull and the Mefkura.

Mr. Hirschmann introduced the subject of the telegram received by Mr. Simond from the International Red Cross delegate, Kolb, in Bucharest, by reading the telegram of August 18 to the meeting (copy attached to these minutes), with reference to the status of Mr. Zissu in emigration work and the proposed sailing of the Alba Julia. Mr. Simond wanted to reply on the preceding Friday or Saturday, August 18 or 19, but he had dissuaded him from doing so until the matter could be discussed among the representatives of the relief organizations. Mr. Sarlas reported that he had cabled Zissu confirming that he was the representative of the Jewish Agency and that he has plain pouvoir to do whatever is necessary with respect to the Alba Julia situation. He thinks that Zissu requires a strengthening of his position in his relationship with the Government and that he is quite capable of handling the Alba Julia matter. He had advised Mr. Schind to inform Kolb to the effect that Zissu is the representative of the Jewish Agency in emigration matters, and enclosed the status of the boat for the benefit of Mr. Passman, in his view, if Zissu is to represent the Jewish Agency, Sarlas should instruct him specifically as to what to do and that he should not be given entire
discretion, but he should be informed that the Ora is not to be eliminated until another organization has been established through which ships can be sent. It is this function, namely, which Ora now serves. Mr. Serles stated that he is sending a second cable to Zissu ordering the prompt dispatch of the ships now in Constanza. He agreed to make copies of both wires available to Mr. Hirschmann.

Mr. Asfik stated that the JDC had received complaints about the Ora, but nevertheless had advised Mr. Feldmann that the Ora should go ahead with its work, however, if complaints continue, and the flow of people is impeded because of the differences in leadership, the question should be reviewed.

Mr. Fassman reported that upon the eve of his departure from Palestine to Istanbul wires were received by Mr. Kaplan from Zissu via Switzerland to the effect that if Zissu is not given full control of emigration work, the flow of refugees will stop.

Mr. Safran was of the opinion that if Mr. Zissu represents the Jewish Agency and is doing his work properly, he is obliged to work with the Ora and to make every effort to send to Istanbul those ships which are now ready and available in Constanza. Mr. Zissu apparently desires to eliminate the Ora.

Mr. Hirschmann emphasized that internal questions involving the status of various Jewish agencies or their respective organizations is not on which he can interfere, but that the interest of the war refugee board can only arise if such disputes result in a blocking of emigration work. He asked that these differences be consumed outside the meeting, and that final plans taken be reported at the next meeting.
Mr. Barlas analyzed the telegrams he had received from Zissu concerning the proposed voyage of the *Alba Julia*. The proposals were based upon the transportation of 4,000 passengers. This would cost, according to the proposals, two hundred million lei, plus 20 million lei for insurance of the equipage, plus 30 million lei for other internal costs. This would aggregate 56,000 lei per person, or 13 pounds. The insurance of the boat would cost additionally 12 pounds per person. If the number of passengers were reduced to 3,000, the costs per passengers would be 17 pounds plus 12 pounds.

The proposal suggested that five million Swiss francs be deposited as an insurance guarantee for the value of the vessel, in the event that it is lost, or alternatively that insurance be purchased with insurance companies. According to Mr. Barlas, the premium rate would be 12 per cent. According to the telegram, it would be possible for the *Alba Julia* to leave within ten days. If financing details and necessary authorizations could be given immediately.

Mr. Hirshman was of the opinion that the question of financing ought to be determined by the Jewish Agency and the JECD together, and suggested that this be done subject to report at the next meeting.

We last reported that the *Mais* and *Agrippa* are in Constanza, and the *Miles* will be departing shortly from Varna to Constantza. In addition, it is contemplated that two additional boats be sent from Istanbul for the evacuation of refugees in Rumania. Mr. Hirshman emphasized the importance of having the vessels from Rumania at the earliest possible moment, so that the way would be clear for the refugees from Hungary in the event that the several armored trains be realized, although he will propose that the
Hungarian refugees be permitted to remain in Humania until their onward voyage is possible, it will be necessary for the good of the work in general to move them promptly. Under such circumstances the way would be cleared and boats available.

Mr. Hirschmann read a memorandum dated August 14 concerning railroad transportation from Bulgaria. He reported that according to this memorandum movement from Bulgaria may take place via railroad should it become apparent that the Vite and the Cirin are unable to engage in a shuttle service between Burgas and Istanbul.

Mr. Barlas reported that he had received telegrams to the effect that 140 children were ready to come from Humania but that the Turkish Consul had refused the necessary visas, interpreting his instructions as meaning that he is permitted to grant visas only for sea travel. This matter has now been clarified.

Mr. Barlas reported further that he had sent 1,000 Palestine certificate confirmations to Bulgaria, to be used as a basis for Turkish transit visa applications for overland travel, and that both725738 and 725746 had been advised of the general overall agreement concerning Turkish transit visas which had been made by the Turkish Foreign Office.

Mr. Schön had received a cable that Bulgarian authorities would not permit the Vite and Cirin to leave Bulgaria because of the sakura disaster. A recent arrival from Bulgaria brought a message from Joseph Levy of the Jewish community saying that the refugees are ready for the Cirin and he thinks that they will be able to embark shortly. In his opinion, people in Bulgaria are still prepared to leave that country, despite reported prospects that the
condition of Jewish people in that country will be ameliorated.

Mr. Hirschmann advised the meeting that the order on the part of the Bulgarians which had been holding up the departure of the Vite and Pirin has been cancelled.

Mr. Hirschmann reported briefly on the political situation in Bulgaria, insofar as the Jewish people there are concerned. He had let it be known to the Bulgarian authorities that as far as the United States Government is concerned they desire that emigration from Bulgaria take place on a voluntary basis, and that it should not be a forced emigration, because of the failure on the part of the Bulgarian authorities to eliminate the anti-Jewish laws. In his opinion, the number of people who will want to emigrate from Bulgaria will be substantially reduced, should representations concerning the elimination of the anti-Jewish laws be carried out. Quite possibly, however, the young people may still want to emigrate, in the meanwhile, the United States Government has requested ambassador Harriman in Moscow to make such representations as might be possible to enlist the support of the Russian Government in demanding the Bulgarians to take ameliorating steps in its relationships towards the Jews.

Mr. Varlen suggested that since the Alliance Governments had criticized the actions of the satellite countries in oppressing the Jews and had broadcast warnings to them, they ought now to approve the action taken by the Bulgarian Government, should it change its policy in that connection. In this connection Mr. Hirschmann indicated that the War Refugee Board had already been informed of the possibility of doing just that thing.
Mr. Karlas stated that he had received a telegram to the effect that 2115 persons are ready to leave Hungary and are in possession of Hungarian exit and Hungarian transit visas, but that German consent for the departure of these people is still required. The organizations in Hungary are pursuing this matter further.

Mr. Passman presented the offer made by Palestinian transportation companies to make available 400 lorries for transporting refugees. This was discussed in the meeting, and the general impression was that complexities arising out of the shortage of gasoline, the necessity for crossing military zones, travelling through Axis countries, might make such a proposal unfeasible. It was decided that this offer should be investigated further as to its practicability.

Mr. Schindl, who expected to be departing for Palestine on August 24, took occasion to express his thanks for the assistance and cooperation which he had received from the War Refugee Board in connection with that part of the transportation of refugees in which he and his associates are interested. He expressed the hope that the War Refugee Board would continue its friendly efforts in collaboration with his associates who will remain in Istanbul to carry on the work.

Mr. Sarnoff, in acknowledging Mr. Schindl's request, assured him of the continuing assistance of the War Refugee Board and added that he, too, had decided to visit Palestine and continue his work in that country. He expressed the hope that despite all obstacles the work done in Istanbul would continue.

In no being no further action, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.
Attachement to Minutes

TAM-WOSSMIE NGU. DE KOLB, le 16 AOUT

Les correspondants des institutions juives, qui ont
la confiance, m'ont montré le télégramme qu'ils ont adressé
tur Istanbul, et me demandent de l'appuyer énergiquement.

Je vous prie de vouloir bien faire comprendre à
Istanbul, que l'État doit être définitivement écarté, et que
RUBIN, contre lequel existent des griefs sérieux, doit être
congédié; sans de telles mesures, l'émigration juive sera
gravement compromise.

La question doit être entre les mains de M. ZISSU,
qui est un homme intègre et appuyé par le Gouvernement roumain.
Ce qui autant que l'on prévoit le prochain passage d'un grand
nombre d'émigrés hongrois.

L'affrètement du bateau ALMAJULIA se prépare et sera
utilisé pour l'émigration jusqu'à Istanbul. La capacité de
transport est de quatre mille personnes.

La question de l'achat des deux bateaux roumaînes
stationnés dans le port d'Istanbul est de nouveau à l'ordre
du jour. Veuillez me cibler d'urgence si le chef du
autre mouvement juif peuvent parvenir une somme de 9 millions (Y)
pour le voyage aller et retour de l'ALMAJULIA.

Votre message dit que ce est nouveau pour ce jour. Ouat
est responsable du nombre des passagers ayant pris place
sur les deux bateaux qui furent envoyés par nos soins.

Je suis dans l'attente de votre renseignements au
sujet du navire. de KOLB.
MINUTES

of a Meeting

of the Operating Group of Relief Organizations
in the Office of Mr. Barlas, August 17, 1944, 7:00 p.m.


Mr. Hirschmann opened the meeting by suggesting that it would be advisable at this time to review the projects for evacuating refugees from Hungary by sea, in view of the Kefkure disaster. In this connection, he alluded to WBB cable No. 97. Mr. Barlas reported that a small committee, consisting of Messrs. Barlas, Resnik, and Meyerhoff, is investigating all the facts, as far as they can be ascertained, regarding the sinking, and that a full report will be made upon the conclusion of their investigations. In the meanwhile, it is his opinion that evacuation by sea from Hungary must continue, and he has already written Mr. Zissu to that effect.

Mr. Resnik stated that the Kefkure survivors and the 
Mishol passengers with whom he spoke felt that the dangers of sea transportation were pretty strong, and that something more ought to be done in terms of safety if movement by sea is to continue. If Hungarian naval escorts of the boats up to Bulgarian waters could be secured, why could not similar safety measures be taken for the voyage beyond that point? Telegrams which he had seen and which were being sent to Hungary to relatives in Hungary by Mishol passengers advised against leaving Constanza by boat for the voyage to Istanbul.

Mr. Schind pointed out that investigations of the disaster are not yet complete. Information thus far to hand was that the Kefkure travelled without lights and that warnings from the attacking boats that the Kefkure stop its engines and stand by were disregarded. It is important to know whether
similar signals to stop were received by the *Hilweil and exactly what the circumstances were under which it did stop and subsequently continue its voyage.

The three refugee boats were escorted by humanitarian vessels and sailed under German permission, under specific instructions as to route. These are factors which have a bearing upon the investigation. The insurance companies are also checking up on the facts.

Mr. Barlas suggested that an effort be made to secure the assistance of members of the American and British Attaches offices in conducting the inquiry. Mr. Scindia was of the opinion that until the investigation was finished there should be no change in policy regarding movement by ship. Perhaps people in Hungary will be unwilling to travel by sea, but this would be their decision and not ours. It is only by moving people from Hungary that it will be possible to assist refugees from Hungary who will be dependent upon humanitarian transit facilities. It should be noted that the *Hilweil was the first ship which was a casualty after eight others had successfully completed their trips to Istanbul.

Mr. Schwitzer felt that people in Hungary are in possession of all the facts, and they will decide as to whether or not they wish to travel by sea. In the meantime, they must be given the opportunity to make their own decision in this regard.

Mr. Hirschmann summarized the position by stating that it was agreed by all present in principle as to the need for continuing sea-transportation. However, this leads to several questions: first, what safety provisions can be taken for future voyages; secondly, for whom shall the ships be made available, for Hungarians, Bulgarians, or Romanians; and thirdly, what delayed the departure of the *Hilweil and *Hilweil.
Mr. Schind stated that it was impossible to answer the last question definitely, but it was the opinion of his group in the absence of other information that the delay was the result of internal politics. He can only hope that, because of various steps which have been taken, such discord will not arise in the future. Zissu, Földermann, and Petrusca all were involved in the dissensions. Some of the delays may have occurred because of the methods of financing transportation, which involved the choosing of people who are in a position to pay sufficient sums for their passages to cover internal expenditures which must be made in Romania.

If the Bellacta or other Bulgarian boat can be sent at once to Constanza, this should be done. This will have a good moral effect even if it must sail with a small number of people. Indeed, orders have already been dispatched to Constanza that the Salchadin be sent off, carrying any number of persons, however small, who are willing to make the trip at this time. In a cable from Bucharest, dated August 14, Mr. Schind's group was advised that arrangements for the rebuilding of the Salchadin are going on, and it will be ready to make the trip within the next few days, with the Seymio, likewise, preparations for accommodating passengers are going forward. In his opinion, the work must go on because at this moment there is no other solution to the transportation question.

Mr. Kielst was of the opinion that up to the present time there was no factor in the situation which should cause the stoppage of sea transport. However, maximum efforts for safety must be taken. Some survivors reported to him that life-saving equipment was not satisfactory. They were insufficient in number, but deficient in quality. There were language difficulties, Inasmuch as none of the passengers
could speak Turkish, and neither the captain nor the crew members knew any other language. Means of egress from the boat were likewise inadequate.

According to Mr. Schweitzer, the version of some of the people was that it was impossible for the refugees passengers below decks to get out of the hold. In his opinion, clarification should likewise be secured of a current report that 15 per cent of the passengers must pay for the voyage in order to cover internal expenses, or the departure of boats is delayed.

Mr. Barlas stated that any refugees can leave Romania without paying transportation, and that up to the present time no refugee has been required to pay for his voyage.

Mr. Hirschmann thought it advisable to withhold judgment until the full report of the investigating committee be received, but that in the meanwhile all efforts for sea transport should continue. The possibilities that escorts be sent with the boats who are able to interpret languages should likewise be checked. Mr. Schindl stated that orders have been sent to continue that neither life-belts must be found, that all passengers must wear their life-belts at all times, that not more than one side should be on route at any one time, that refugees able to act as interpreters be provided for the ships, and that the number of persons on the vessel be reduced in order to avoid overcrowding; in this connection, instructions have already been sent to Bucharest to embark no more than 400 passengers on the *Alimmaden*, on which it was originally planned to send 500.

Mr. Zschimmer introduced for discussion the major In which the Allimladden passengers were rescued and sheltered In his behalf. He stated that upon his return to reports received by him, there was substantial room for improvement.
in the matter of organization. Mr. Sarias thought that the refugees were satisfied and that everything went all right. It must be taken into account that the local people who assisted in the work at the Jewish school where the people were sheltered were without experience in the matter. Mr. Henik pointed out that the school facilities were not set up for the kind of service which was expected of them, and that in his opinion the matter was handled satisfactorily.

Mr. Schwaizer stated that on the whole the work was done satisfactorily, but was of the opinion that there was substantial room for improvement in terms of the organization of the work in providing medical assistance and other types of aid; although the dining-room was well organized, there was substantial room for improvement in other aspects of the work.

Mr. Hirschmann, to sum up, felt that it was important that the representatives of the other organizations in Istanbul many of whom have had experience in the movement of refugees, ought to be given some responsibility where emergencies of the present kind arise, all in the interest of the task to be performed.

Mr. Hirschmann requested information regarding the status of the SS Zita and Perla. Mr. Selina reported that he had sent orders to surgeons to prepare these boats for departure but was without reply. Mr. Selina experience in communicating with the official Jewish agency representative in Bulgaria showing readiness without response. The reason for the absence of responde was not known. Various supplement Jewish officials, because of the Markham disaster, were unwilling to take the risk of the sea voyage, as perhaps they did not feel the urgent pressure to leave as did.
for example the refugees who had entered Rumania. In any
event, this matter is being followed up closely, and if no
response is received within the next three or four days,
other steps will be taken.

Mr. Harlas then read to the meeting a letter dated
August 12, 1944, which he had received from the British
Embassy in Ankara, summarizing the terms of an agreement
which had been made by the Turkish Foreign Office with ref-
erence to the issuance of Turkish transit visas to applicants
therefor in Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria, and who were in
possession of certain documents as a basis for supporting
their requests.

In the above connection, Mr. Hirschmann read in full
the entire text of the telegram which was sent by the British
Embassy in Ankara to the Foreign Office, London, and which
gave in detail the terms of the agreement. He reported that
he had asked Mr. Simons of the International Red Cross to
inform Intercross delegates in Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria
of the Turkish transit visa facilities now made possible
under the agreement.

Mr. Harlas reported that he had sent a test group of
100 confirmations to the Jewish agency representative in
Bulgaria, to determine whether or not it will be possible
for the holders thereof to cross the Turkish border without
further ado, as a test of the possibilities under the
agreement. Instructions had been dispatched by cable and
letter to Budapest to send a first group of 600 refugees to
Rumania or Bulgaria as a further test.

Discussion turned again as to the manner in which people
from Hungary can be transported, with particular reference
to rail traffic difficulties. It was pointed out that, under
the agreement, apparently movement from the satellite countries was to be confined to sea voyages, on the Pirin and Vinit, and that on these grounds rail entry into Turkey was to cease.

Mr. Barlas reported that this part of the agreement has since been amended, and that land traffic is to be kept open. The British embassy agreed to send a special memorandum to the Foreign Office on the subject.

Mr. Barlas reported further that he had a message from Switzerland that two groups of children should be leaving shortly from Bulgaria. He expected to investigate this matter further in Ankara within the next few days.

With regard to Hungary, Mr. Barlas reported that word had been received from Arons and Kozly, a Jewish agency leader in Budapest, by letter, while they had been ten days ago, which indicated that, first: Arons is optimistic as to possibilities for emigration from Hungary; second: Kozly reports that although the Hungarians agreed in principle, they have taken no steps to put these principles into action.

Mr. Barlas has received definite information that German transit visas for Hungarian refugees have been arranged, but no information as to the present time regarding Bulgarian transit. He thought it advisable that steps be taken to secure from various bureaus through Bulgaria in transit of Hungarian Jews. Should this facility be secured, it would then be possible to bring further measures in Hungary for release of areas from that country.

After being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30.

Baruch Shtick
August 15, 1944

Notes for use at 7:00 p.m., conference

1. SILK PROGRAM:
   (a) Remarks;
   (b) Review of Moffatt, important people in school and living;
   (c) Korean learn new for dealing;
   (d) Future program.

2. INSTRUCTION:
   (a) From the War;
   (b) Polling in talks with Relief Design Office;
   (c) Children are adjusted to local school by Sept. 20.

3. PROGRAM:
   (a) Defer to new work and report Relief Design Office;
   (b) Review of these plans;
   (c) More on new program;
   (d) Relief Design Office.

9th. Shigoro and Shiba were informed.

Major A. B. Bell
MINUTES
of a Meeting of the Operating Committee
of Relief Organizations
July 31, 1914

The meeting took place in the office of Mr. I. A. Hirschmann
at the American Consulate General, Istanbul. Those present were:
I. A. Hirschmann, Berbert Katzal, Zac Schindel, Chaim Saris,
David Schuettzer, and Nathan Baunick.

Mr. Schindel reported that, according to a telegram dated
July 27 received in Istanbul from Mr. Enderlin in Bucharest, the
Turkish consul to Bucharest was creating difficulties in clearing
the Turkish barge from Constanta, because of the absence of
Turkish barge crews. Schindel judged that apparently everything
was in order for the departure of the ship, except for
Turkish customs clearance. He thought it important that the
Turkish Foreign office send specific instructions to the Turkish
consul to Bucharest of a positive nature, to the effect that
the barge could be allowed to leave under the auspices of the
Committee of Benefit Affairs.

In explicating this, Schindel explained that, at the request of
the Foreign Office, he had written a long letter to the
Foreign Minister, representing in such a way that the
order for the departure of the barge to
Bucharest was an essential condition for the
departure of the ship. However, after a long
period of time, he learned without explanation, that Schindel's
letter to the Foreign Office had been lost, but a copy of the
original of the Foreign Office was sent to the
Turkish
books concerning anything without benefit which has been made
clear. Ambassadour statement has this explained with us.

Samantha of the Foreign office and Mr. Waller, interested on
the issue separate opinions on the matter, she, Samantha assured
the palace that it necessary clear to be a taken decision.

The explicit calypso, nevermind, we, decision has brought
we, Waller's attention the information contained in Fullhall's
letter.

In prior speech's had taken for the situation, it was
agreed that we Metander must be told or L. Pearson,
both the one who over the last was any other in revolution
all the information in Fullhall.

III. The one who could determine the possible effect
and produce the final results. The result that
takes into account was not internal, would be
able, these the argument that is and 100 percent,
but not of the needed result is all, in the amount
of the needed result is all, to make sure
the argument that is and 100 percent.
with the decision of the previous government concerning Jewish
population at the present time it is not possible to return any
information asked for, but we are now working on a new
sense will be demonstrated.
An Italian government official was asked for a statement
relating to the question of the state of the Italian Jewish
population in the final solution of the problem of the Jews.
A statement is not likely to be made by the Italian
government in connection with the problem of the Jews.

In the meantime, the situation generally, although

still strained, is steadily improving. It is hoped that

the situation will continue to improve. The Italian

government is working on a new sense.
This men has been in touch with Joseph Levy of the Jewish
committee of concern, which has been charged with responsibility
for migration work with Jewish people from Bulgaria. In his
opinion, the Bulgarian hosts now in Vienna will be able to care
enough.

New York reported that the next group of 25 children from
Bulgaria is expected to leave on August 10.

In the actual situation of the sheltering of
refugee children by the United Nations Refugee Agency, the
situation is quite one of lepin. The right to protection
is limited to a small number of people. In the case of
the children, it is likely that the UNRRA will be
able to provide care. In the

situation, the only solution seems to be an

improvement of the sheltering facilities for all the children. The

situation is quite difficult, and the

UNRRA will be working to improve it.

The situation is quite difficult, and the

situation is quite difficult, and the

UNRRA will be working to improve it.
for separate ships. Mr. Griffal was informed that the Board had
no objection if he was able to secure boats in an orderly way,
not that the Board, not being interested in the spy, petition,
or anything else of people to be removed, would encourage any
organization which set about a reasonable scheme. Before
Mr. Griffal got the answer, I ask him a question about the
letter with the details about some of the illegal actions in Istan-
bul. Further say, this statement of policy had been reported
to Washington, which had approved this off. Consequently, there
were no questions of this policy. It was a statement of policy.

Mr. Griffal agreed with us, the humanitarian viewpoint, so
outlining the report. We had a chance to ask him the story, asking
the next step and said, we can't ordan the necessary. We were
in the convention, an international convention and that was a
bit of legal and not to consider certain action until it was
an agreement to Istanbul.
Should he do so, the subject would want to know about it as
he is in turn a wise legislator. In the meantime, he
tought it more important to name the four shady men in Constantza,
which appearly are blooded from, rather than to hurry about
the effect of naming other shady things at some future time.

The discussion was too concerning the proposed project of
Mr. Sopho's and a woodcut from Mr. Shank up the subject. Mr. Sopho outlined in some detail the project
as it was presented, as well as the group that believed in his
project. Mr. Shank could not support the scheme, as it seemed
to be in conflict with the natural and keep in the country. It is Sheldon's project
of which the subject is that the situation was something
like an empty of arguments out, since the Senate at the
end of the month on this, we felt that something needed
something. As soon as the Senate has, it is to
be. Mr. Sopho outlined the project in this way:

(a) To distribute and display items to be
made of wood. The idea is to:

(b) To be able to have items such as
often other interest.

(c) To be able to have items such as
often other interest.
expects to leave Istanbul either the end of this week or the beginning of next week.

Mr. Hannick reported that the Austro-Germany is investigating the position in Salonika in behalf of Titcan Vapour, he raised the question as to whether it might not be sound for the Austro-Germany to send additional ships to Constantinople, if it seems apparent for, upon it to do so. The SOC had been in a position to dispatch boats with necessary armament, but had refused from doing so. In order not to involve its own interests, the

Mr. Hannick reported that he had given to Constantinople for the

An Aliens to arrive from Salonika to Constantinople, and additional

The Nakhoda July 11, 1919, in Constantinople. Practically,

On the part of our.o owns, it seems not sound. Only the

Our line will be able to leave for Salonika.

In the closure of the question of the

The question of dates had been

In the case of the

In the case of

In the case of the

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concluding comments to support: (c) we had no plan with the
British embassy to initiate such a proposal to send Turkish
refugees back to Budapest for the transportation by railroad
of some 500,000 refugees, and the British embassy had advised
us not to appropriate this matter subject to the Turkish Foreign
office. In this connection, the Yugoslav Board might be
approached by the British embassy to\textit{support} this against the loss
seen by their own of the Yugoslav
country. Hence, this project is having to be finalised and
will be left as a Yugoslav responsibility until such time.

If so, bring no further knowledge, but nothing further.
consensus of opinion that this problem would have to be met in a practical way, and that it was probable, the Turkish authorities would cooperate. To this, there may be nothing on hand, especially then, even when the refugees were kept out in the border to hold public contact, to Turkish police, necessary and the case is the Syrian border.

It was mentioned that it would be desirable if the Turkish foreign office would advise the Syrian government concerning the attitude about admitting people into Turkey in cases not in contradiction of Turkish transit views, also the need for deporting the people. That advice the Turkish consulate in Damascus was awaiting, it wanted advice the process that was carried over the problem of the, as a conclusion would take in operation.

... could mention to the other that the individual letters of transit not, other than to, or, situation in, situation were not away in any common, and produce a satisfaction of the remain in much, something the more the given two or three problem was not, they finally various in nature with representatives in Damascus, now to some information concerning the entrance of the individual letters, but reach for the, date for information the matter of letters, for some unknown reason, no and it been spread, or committed to the subject's attention, as to the last year, through the operation, the start, or, again as again a strong case was presented on the subject.

... added, that they were, of course, and itself, reported that it to the statement that there and have these it reported.
to the obtaining of additional Turkish boats in Istanbul, for
which, according to a report, no licences at the last meeting
were available for the trip to Constantinople. Upon
discussion, it was decided that licences for boats had actually
been issued. Instead, there exists simply an assurance given
by the Ministry of Communications to me, as well as to other
people, who have been in the meantime supplied with what the
Ministry gave, had been concerned, to the effect that licences
would be issued for small Turkish boats, if not sooner than the next
example, or sooner, to give the news of the boats in a way,
which could still be useful during the next voyage, since the
strength of our own large ships and small Turkish boats in
Constantinople and going to be issued. However, it has been pointed
in speaking with me, or at least, who wrote, as one of the
examples, or of some boats of these or other boats, that
such licences are not available, and the same interest, similar
boasts and licences, if possible, to feed the suspicion of such
licences.
There is no doubt concerning the probability of the departure of this group, In addition, there are three more groups of

70 each, totaling 210 children and 18 escorts, which will be coming out from Africa during August. In his opinion, there is no need for following up the matter at this time, as the critical questions have already been set.

According to the previous meeting, Mr. Smith reported that in November, while he was still in Istanbul, he had

the J.C in New York to have a one-time event of 50,000 to be transmitted to us, only prior in written, to be held at the

location of the J.C. event. Questions, comments, and suggestions were also made in reports. Mr. Jones, etc., were also asked to consider the anticipation of the J.C. event. In addition, a request was transmitted to New York for a report of a 4,000-person event.

In connection with the number of children attending the J.C. event, Mr. Smith reported that a total of 700 children, one of the critical concerns, had been transmitted to the J.C. event, and that a total of 50,000 children, the total number of children attending the J.C. event, had been transmitted. In addition, a total of 4,000 children, the total number of children attending the J.C. event, had been transmitted. In addition, a total of 4,000 children, the total number of children attending the J.C. event, had been transmitted.
Seeing the International ice-crown, however, had an identical 

section or re młod is part of the above: that is, not 
as in that case the existing authority and e., could be 

in this condition, or, in other words, that there could concern 

itself with this question.

(6) which is a difference of opinion as to whether or not 

certificate has the same meaning as the term as used by 

the states sign's partp coordination of 

election candidates before their meeting, rather than the context or 

elected, to determine all those new relations to be taken to the source, in 

which every reasonable, were to be expected. In 

usual, we know, to various operations, which are not 

necessary, the various operations would be expected. 

result, it is unnecessary, we are given time, but 

not to say how. The debate is said to clear earlier, 

we. In the water into the source of 

Motion would make itself clear, 

motion of which is the source of 

the worst of all, that is: The 

in the water of the worst of all, that is.
to concern itself with questions of transportation, commodity, transit time, etc. It is most important at this stage, with the consideration of concrete ways to meet the problem, that the transportation and logistics be made to resemble a commodity or a service, and that the transportation be available. The available transportation conditions

need to be understood and evaluated so that the transportation can be made to resemble a commodity or a service, and that the transportation be available. The available transportation conditions

need to be understood and evaluated so that the transportation can be made to resemble a commodity or a service, and that the transportation be available.
been incorporated to handle the refugees while in transit in Istanbul. A more general discussion on this subject, and plans of action, the group decided to send a report by cable to Istanbul, July 14, at 9 o'clock, to establish these problems. These letters are further substantiation, but it was a question of time.
Minutes of an Informal Meeting
of the Operating Group of Relief Organizations
held at the American Consulate, Istanbul

July 17, 1944

Those present: I. A. Hirschmann, Herbert Katzki, for her refugee board; Joseph Schwartz and Abraham Hechlick, American Joint Distribution Committee; Joseph Kaplan, Chaim Darlis, and Lave Schima, Jewish Agency; David Schweitzer, Hiss-ica Deportation Association.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Hirschmann at 4:15 p.m. as welcome to representatives present, and stated that it is not regarding those present as forming either a formal or informal committee, but his only desire was to get work done; on the characterization of the meetings, of which this was the first, can be developed later.

Mr. Hirschmann advised the group that there are still three foreign boats at Constantza, namely, the "Swirl", a Greek boat, designed to carry refugees from Constantza to Istanbul. The last reports had been to the effect that the "Swirl" has permission to carry people from Constantza and is now awaiting the completion of some technical details before undertaking its voyage. The three Turkish boats are ready to leave at any time, but in addition there are three Bulgarian boats in Varna, the "Hlc", the "Vlt", and the "Vrn", which likewise can be sent from Varna to Constantza to carry one or two in Istanbul. The "Hlc", on definite permission to go to Constantza for this purpose, the question now arises as to whether or not any of the three boats shall be sent to Constantza to be kept there in the event that emigration again becomes possible. In his opinion, the "Hlc" should be sent to...
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Constenza, leaving the other two boats at Varna to carry refugees from Bulgaria, should this become possible. It was his view that, because of the reported uncertain political situation in rumelia, it might be well to concentrate there the largest number of available boats to move people as rapidly as opportunity afforded. In any event, even if emigration by sea from Bulgaria should become possible, it would take several weeks before arrangements could be made for filling two boats, so that the third, the 

\[\text{unknown}\] could be secured. In a light, the shipping situation in rumelia is not as acute as it is in rumenia, since there is a number of small boats going to Varna each week from Istanbul, to carry merchandise to Bulgaria.

Mr. Kaplan stated that there was some difficulty with regard to the 

\[\text{unknown}\]. Mr. Wehman informed him that the departure of the boat depended entirely upon the preparation of passenger lists. According to Mr. Wehman, it is not possible for the 

\[\text{unknown}\] to leave at all, as Mr. Kaplan stated that two cables had been sent to play, stating that the 

\[\text{unknown}\] must sell, and indicating that nothing might be a viable condition any discussions concerning the rumelian boats upon the departure of the 

\[\text{unknown}\]. He asked whether it would be possible, through fresh channels, to set up that is to say the 

\[\text{unknown}\], either through Filsermann, or through channels available to 

\[\text{unknown}\]. It should also be determined whether the 

\[\text{unknown}\] of rumelian boats has any reality, or whether the entire discussion is without foundation.
In Mr. Schind's opinion, and according to information he has, it would take at least two months to get the Hungarian ships in physical condition to travel to Istanbul.

Mr. Hapsnick stated that it is possible to send additional Turkish boats directly from Istanbul to Hungary, and suggested that perhaps the Turkish minister, who had just returned to Hungary, might be helpful. He foresees no difficulties in obtaining the necessary Turkish permits for the boats to go directly to Constantza. Such boats could be made available through the same channels as are those now being used.

Discussion then ensued as to the person or agency responsible for the filling of the ships in Constantza. The discussion developed that it was entirely unclear as to whether this responsibility lay with Zsau, the Hungarian government, both together, or with the organization that, which has prepared the boats which thus far have come from Constantza.

Mr. Kaplan reported that Zsau stated explicitly and Zilis in part that, as the three Turkish boats now in Constantza have left, only Hungarian ships can be used for carrying refugees.

Discussion was then had as to the advisability of sending additional Turkish boats to Constantza at the present time, despite Zsau's statements concerning Hungarian ships. It was agreed that the actual presence of additional boats might exert sufficient pressure to make them acceptable for use. No decision was taken as to this. The meeting then adjourned.
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To the manner in which pressure might be applied on Zissu to remove whatever obstacles he may be creating to the movement of the ships, if, indeed, he is creating any. Mr. Kaplan stated that he will write a strong letter to Mr. Zissu on the subject, of which a copy will be made available to Mr. Hirschmann. Mr. Hirschmann would consider whether or not, and by what means, he would attempt the same thing.

Mr. Hirschmann reported that he had written to Charge d'Affaires Kelley concerning the Turkish ship Anadolu, which could go to Constanza if Turkish permission were received. He had asked Mr. Kelley to follow this up with the Foreign Office. It was decided that Mr. Barlas and Mr. Rosenfield should make inquiry into the general question of sending further Turkish ships from Istanbul to Constanza with Turkish permission.

Bulgaria. Mr. Schine suggested that steps be taken to arrange for the release of people now in Bulgaria, of whom a large number are ready to desert for transport by sea to Istanbul, in the same manner as those coming here from Rumania. Turkish boats are available for this purpose, since several go to Bulgaria each week with cargo.

Mr. Kaplan's information is that Bulgaria does not oppose the exit of Jewish people, but that it appears that the Turkish consul has been obstructing it. It is suggested that Mr. Hirschmann have the Turkish Foreign Office inform the consulate in Bulgaria that the Turkish government is ready to close its eyes to the fact that people apply by ship to Turkey on route to Palestine, without being in possession of Turkish transit
visas. Apparently, the Turkish consul has informed the Bulgarian government that he opposes the departure of Jewish people to Istanbul under these circumstances. In addition, the Turkish Foreign Office should advise the Bulgarian government of its attitude concerning the arrival in Istanbul of people without Turkish transit visas.

Dr. Schweitzer suggested pursuing the question of increasing land traffic from Bulgaria to Turkey by increasing from nine to twenty the number of transit visas authorized weekly for Sofia. An additional argument might be used on the grounds that no refugees are arriving from Hungary, for which nine visas weekly had likewise been authorized.

Mr. Hirschmann referred to the reluctance of the Bulgarian government to permit refugees to come to Istanbul on the grounds that they are subjected to too many G-2 investigations upon their arrival here. He thought it might be helpful if assurance could be given to the Bulgarian government that no such interviews would take place in Istanbul, so far as refugees were concerned.

Mr. Sitchmann stated that, in a memorandum which he had prepared for transmission to the Bulgarian government, he had suggested that priority be given to children and young people, if migration from Bulgaria were permitted, so he thought in order to overcome Bulgarian objections to emigration on the grounds of G-2 interviews.
Mr. Schwartz opposed emigration limited to specific categories, since more people than just children and youths want to leave Bulgaria, and their departure may not be opposed.

Hungary. Mr. Kaplan reported that further clandestine movement of refugees in Hungary to Rumania, according to information he had just received, depended upon finances.

He, in behalf of the Jewish Agency, and Dr. Solomon, are consulting together on this question. Mr. Schwartz indicated that finances provide no problem at the moment.

Mr. Kaplan thought it important that movement from Hungary to Rumania be augmented, through strengthening of appropriate local organizations. Although Rumania officially has decreed a death sentence to anyone assisting such movement, in reality they apparently are willing to take no notice of it. Naturally, complications arise also in Bucharest, where decision must be taken as to whether available places on boats should be given to people already in Rumania or those coming from Hungary, since all are anxious to leave. Mr. Schindler reported that there are already fifteen hundred Hungarian refugees in Rumania who could be brought to Istanbul, were shipping facilities available.

Mr. Schindler referred also to the group of six hundred deportees down in Hungary, who are in possession of Swiss passport, on which might be Rogers as a permit for migration. Apparently, a deadline of July 1st for moving them out of Hungary has been extended to August 1st, but the matter should be followed up.

Mr. Kaplan referred to a scheme put forward by the Swedish
minister in Budapest, by which Swedish visas of a limited number and to certain categories of Jewish people might be issued, if a guarantee is provided the Swedish government that such people would be removed from Sweden within three years' time. This matter should also be looked into and followed up.

Mr. Kaplan referred to a letter he had just received from Budapest which indicated that tens of thousands of persons could be saved if the cost of their maintenance could be taken over. He is pursuing the matter, in order to secure more information.

Mr. Hirschhame referred to his conversation with Mr. Grissel, and advised the group that the War Refugee Board, as representing the United States Government, has adopted the principle that it cannot discourage the sending of ships by individual private agencies, if they have responsible projects in hand, and had tried to concentrate all ship questions into one channel, but apparently all necessary agreements could not be achieved.

Both Mr. Kaplan and Mr. Schwartz expressed their approval of the idea of periodic conferences similar to the present one, and felt that much good could result from them in terms of cooperation and coordination of the work. Both felt that better understanding and cooperation had been reached in behalf of their respective organizations as a result of their personal talks in Istanbul.

Mr. Hirschhame explained the presence of Mr. Schwartz, saying that he had been invited in order to present the point.
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of view of an outsider, that is, one who is neither Jewish Agency nor Joint Distribution Committee. He will be invited to subsequent meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.
Min. es of an Informal Meeting
held on Tuesday, July 15, 1944
at the Office of the O.W.I., Istanbul
of Representatives of Relief Organizations in Istanbul


The meeting was called to order at 4:45 p.m. by Mr. I. A. Hirschmann, as representative of the War Refugee Board.

At the outset, Mr. Hirschmann explained that the entire meeting was informal and off the record, and requested that no reports be made by the representatives of the respective organizations to their head offices until such time as definite accomplishments could be reported.

Mr. Hirschmann explained that he had called the meeting pursuant to suggestions made by Ambassador Steinhardt at an informal luncheon conference, which he arranged in Ankara on July 2, 1944. A number of people now present had likewise been present at Ambassador Steinhardt's luncheon.

For the benefit of those who were not there on July 2, Mr. Hirschmann recapitulated briefly some of the things concerned which the ambassador had spoken to the organization representatives. The ambassador urged that the relief organizations coordinate their efforts for the rescue of persecuted peoples, independent action, such as dispatching missions to various countries, independent contact with various authorities without regard to what others might have done before, co-ordinating projects, all as very difficult the work of the embassy in its relationship with the individual organizations, with Washington and with officials in Turkey. All this had an effect disadvantageous to those when the several agencies tried to serve. The ambassador had, therefore, suggested that the work of the organizations, all of which was directed in the same only, be coordinated, perhaps through the establishment
of a committee upon which would be represented all the agencies in Turkey engaged in refugee relief work. However, recognizing that such a committee might be too large and unwieldy, the Ambassador had suggested, further, that a smaller operating committee be created which would be responsible for the execution of the day-to-day work involved in the rescue and relief programs. The Ambassador also proposed that both committees operate under the leadership of the War Refugee Board and its special representative, Mr. Hirschmann.

In accordance with the Ambassador's suggestion, Mr. Hirschmann had called today's meeting together. Furthermore, he wished to take advantage of the presence in Istanbul of Dr. Wegner, Dr. Schwartz and Mr. Kanlen, all of whom had had wide experience, and whose judgment and advice would be most helpful.

Mr. Hirschmann went on to explain the great and sympathetic interest of the United States Government in refugee rescue activities, which had been exemplified in part through the creation of the War Refugee Board. Mr. Hirschmann had been sent to Turkey by the board both to initiate rescue projects and to assist the agencies already in the field in those programs upon which they were working. He referred to the many ways in which the Board can be helpful to the private agencies, and called upon them to make use of him to the fullest extent where his assistance might be of assistance. He briefly outlined the problems in Istanbul and Bucharest, the point of origin of many of the refugees now passing through Turkey, and then asked for suggestions from the floor as to the manner in which the work in both centers might be coordinated in order to achieve far-better results.

Dr. Wegner stated that he had studied the situation in Turkey at first hand for a number of years, and had spoken with a great many people. In fact, that, although there may be room for improvement in the work up to this point, it was wise for
all to withhold judgment at the present time. It is his own feeling, however, that accomplishments have been very great, and the work of the organizations very much better than he had been led to expect. Dr. Wagner then outlined briefly what he had learned during his various conversations concerning the position of Jewish people in the Balkan countries, and emphasized the scope of the problem which, in his opinion, made all the more necessary concerted action on the part of the relief organizations. He recommended, therefore, that the representatives of the various organizations form themselves into an advisory committee which would meet from time to time to report, advise and suggest programs and plans of action to a smaller actions committee, to be created, which would conduct the day-to-day work. This smaller committee, however, need not take instructions from the larger advisory committee, although being guided by it. He asked for coordination and cooperation behind the ear refuge board and Dr. Hirschmann. Concerning the distribution of places on the boats coming from Smyrna, he suggested as a solution to the problem in Istanbul that the passengers be designated, one-half by the Zionist representative, and one-half by an ecclesiastical person.

Dr. Schwartz stated that thought should be given at this meeting to the mechanics to be set up, and not to the designation of responsibilities. As per, with that Dr. Wagner's idea, but all organizations so committee, in addition, there should be general discussion on the release of information on where they are, the agency, etc. especially the representative's boat not be crystallized into a formal advisory group, and that assuming everything be given on an informed basis. He closed thus with the following suggestion:

1) the representatives of the ear refuge board should call the meeting in their newspaper, and the papers of the Jewish people, the necessary, he pointed out that more formal organization might result in an attention arising out of the
fact that number of the representatives, being Palestinian, were British subjects; and consequently it might be embarrassing for them if they were tied up too closely with an American organization, the War Refugees Board. Their actions might be construed as being subject to American control.

2) The Joint Distribution Committee could not formally tie itself up with a mixed group, which included agencies interested not only in relief, but also in political work, The JDC is non-political in character, and is interested solely in humanitarian work. Therefore, it does not want to, nor can it, become involved in political matters. However, the JDC would be very happy to meet with representatives of any organization either at the call of Mr. Hirschmann or at that of the other organizations if they think it desirable.

It is recommended, therefore, that the small working committee be made up of the representatives of agencies effectively working in the field of rescuing people or the relief of people in occupied countries. The JDC would be very glad to participate in such a committee, provided the members were satisfactory to it.

As Mr. Schwartz saw it, the work in Interned should itself be divided into three sections:

a) the rescue of people by providing transportation,

b) the relief of people in occupied areas,

c) facet for rescue people while in transit through Turkey.

It is suggested that the smaller committee, in addition to rescue activities of the Jewish Agency, the JDC, or minority groups, even though their participation in the work is small because they are not essentially interested, be suggested a second committee of 10 people, keeping the number small for the purpose of getting things done.

For reasons outlined the exception of an advisory committee, it is suggested that these meetings should take place in the form of conferences, as far closely supplementing their work of
course, the principle of all the organizations is to save as many people as possible, and the function of the conference would be to put workable ideas before the group. He touched briefly on the matter of the selection of emigrants, and pointed out that some of the organizations, such as the Jewish Agency, have responsibilities toward Palestine which must guide them in making selections. Therefore, this question cannot be regarded as a simple one. He recommended that discussions for the improvement and expansion of the work be taken up immediately after today's meeting and that the organizations intensify their efforts.

Mr. Barlas suggested omitting all discussions having to do with the refugee position in Bucharest, and that this meeting should confine itself to the question of organization. He thought that the War Refugee Board should call meetings of representatives whenever three organizations requested them.

Mr. Jabotinsky stated that he had been studying the situation for several weeks and that during this period he had undertaken no projects at all. In his opinion the cooperation offered by the American Embassy has been good, and he expressed his expectation that, with the presence of Mr. Hirschmann, the cooperation extended through the Embassy and other channels will be even better. He also thought that the committee work, once by Sevits, Schlein, Averbach, and others done mentioned by name, had been excellent. He thought, however, that the question of the distribution of places on boats cannot be the subject of discussion, as this is related to that of responsibility for determining who is or who is not suitable settled for Palestine. He thought it important that, in settling up the Italian condition, due regard should be had for settling non-Jewish refugees, and added the point that, since it brought to the aid of rescue work under United States Government auspices.

At this point, Mr. Hirschmann in response to a question
defined the purposes of two proposed committees as follows: the large group would be informative, and the smaller group would make operating decisions. Mr. Benenberq was of the opinion that the time had arrived when all the organizations should cooperate and work together, and that everyone should participate in the work, avoiding monopoly.

Mr. Asplan suggested that Mr. Hirschmann assume the responsibility for designating the smaller operating committee, to consist of up to five persons, not counting Mr. Hirschmann, who would serve as chairman. The meeting unanimously accepted this proposal.

Mr. Hirschmann accepted this responsibility, saying that he will designate a committee after full discussions with those present.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15.