

Programs of Relief to Refugees and
Resettlement of Refugees. Evacuation to and
through Turkey

Newspaper Clippings

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U. S. Board Bares Atrocity Details Told by Witnesses at Polish Camps

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1944.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 25—In the first detailed report by a United States Government Agency offering eyewitness proof of mass murder by the Germans, the War Refugee Board made public today accounts by three persons of organized atrocities at Birkenau and Oswiecim [Auschwitz] in southwestern Poland that transcend the horrors of Lublin. The accounts were vouched for by the WRP.

While at Lublin 1,500,000 persons were said to have been killed in three years, 1,500,000 to 1,765,000 persons were murdered in the torture chambers of Birkenau from April, 1942, to April, 1944, according to these Government-verified reports. Many thousands of other deaths by phenol injection, brutal beatings, starvation, shooting, etc., also are recounted.

"It is a fact beyond denial that the Germans have deliberately and systematically murdered millions of innocent civilians—Jews and Christians alike—all over Europe," the WRB declared.

"This campaign of terror and brutality, which is unprecedented in all history and which even now continues unabated, is part of the German plan to subjugate the free peoples of the world," it added.

"So revolting and diabolical are the German atrocities that the minds of civilized people find it difficult to believe that they have actually taken place," the board stated. "But the Governments of the United States and of other countries have evidence which

Food Dilemma? Read Margaret Zellgren on the Women's Page of the Brooklyn Eagle.—Advt.

Continued on Page 24, Column 8

U. S. BOARD BARES ATROCITY DETAILS

Continued From Page 1

clearly substantiates the facts."

After describing the nature of the reports now made public, the WRB added:

"The board has every reason to believe that these reports present a true picture of the frightful happenings in these camps. It is making the reports public in the firm conviction that they should be read and understood by all Americans."

Simultaneously with Government publication of the narrative from two young Slovak Jews, who escaped last April 7—being the only Jews to have escaped from Birkenau—and a non-Jewish Polish major—the only survivor of sixty Poles moved to Birkenau from Lublin—Peter H. Bergson, chairman of the Hebrew Committee for National Liberation, announced at a news conference that the United Nations War Crimes Commission had "refused to take into consideration any acts committed against persons other than nationals of the United Nations."

German atrocities against Jews and others of nationalities included in the German sphere of influence have not been recognized by the commission, Mr. Bergson said.

He added that his committee was recommending the following action to the United Nations concerned:

"1. That they issue a joint declaration proclaiming that crimes committed against Hebrews in Europe, irrespective of the territory on which the crime was committed or the citizenship or lack of citizenship of the victim at the time of death, be considered as a war crime and punished as such."

"2. That the Governments of the United Nations concerned instruct their representatives on the War Crimes Commission to see to it that the abovementioned declaration is put into effect."

"3. That representatives of the Hebrew people be given membership on the War Crimes Commission and that temporarily, until such time as a Hebrew national sovereignty be re-established, the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation be authorized to constitute the Hebrew representation on the War Crimes Commission."

So low did the value of human life sink in the death camps and so frightful was the terror and tragedy, the document indicated, that some of the prisoners turned murderers and informers, hoping for some slight favor, aided their Nazi slave-masters to escape the execution wall or gas chamber. Few, if any, did.

The Polish major escaped from Oswiecim, where more than 1,500,000 persons were systematically murdered or tortured to death after it was turned into an execution camp some time in 1941.

The name of those telling the stories, their present whereabouts and the circumstances under which they came to the board's attention were not disclosed. Commenting upon the accuracy of their stories, however, the board asserted:

"The declarations tally with all the trustworthy yet fragmentary reports hitherto received, and the dates given with regard to transports to various camps agree with the official records. These statements can, therefore, be considered entirely credible."

How cheaply the prisoners themselves came to regard human life was reflected in the account by the two Jews of a "special squad" of 200 other Slovak Jews who were employed in gassing and burning the condemned at Birkenau before they themselves were similarly executed after planning a mutiny and escape.

"The men belonging to the 'special squad' lived separately," one of the eyewitnesses said. "On account of the dreadful smell spread by them, people had but little contact with them."

"Change" Excites Squad

"Besides, they were always filthy, destitute, half wild and extraordinarily brutal and ruthless."

It was not uncommon to see one of them kill another. This was considered by the others a sensation, a change. One simply recorded that number so-and-so had died.

"Once I was an eyewitness when a young Polish Jew named Jossel demonstrated 'scientific' murder on a Jew in the presence of an SS [Elite] guard. He used no weapon, merely his bare hands, to kill his victim."

Oswiecim was the administrative headquarters and reception center for prisoners coming to both camps. Here they received numbers corresponding to the number of prisoners actually in the camp, which, the eyewitness said, at the time of their escape had risen to 180,000.

"La Republique"

February 5, 1945

Cairo, 4, A.A.:

The Foreign Minister of the Arabian countries will hold a meeting on February 14 to study the formation of an Arabic union. Seven states will participate in it. They are Egypt, Iraq, Seoud Arabia, Yemen, Transjordan, Syria and Libia. The Prime Minister of Egypt will preside over the meeting. Palestine will participate in it as an observer.

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THE ENGLISH LIBERAL PARTY ASKS THE GOVERNMENT
TO GIVE UP ITS PALESTINE POLICY.

The Military element reproaches the party (Liberal)
for its strong Jewish influence.

London, 4, A.A.:

The Assembly of the Liberal Party adopted, with a large majority, the resolution of Member of Parliament Geoffrey Mander, requesting the British Government to give up the Palestinian policy defined by the White Paper, and to execute with fidelity its obligations under the mandate and the Belfour declaration.

After the discussions, in the course of which Member of Parliament Dingle Foot /sic/ observed that the undertakings toward the Arabs were not less valid than those toward the Jews, Captain Minto raised a tumult in declaring that many military men reproached the Liberal Party for its strong Jewish influence.

Resolutions were adopted asking the British Government not to recognize Spain.

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Translation

January 30, 1945

"LA REPUBLIQUE"

(Newspaper published in Istanbul)

London, 29, A.A.

The meeting of the Zionist Federation of Great Britain passed a resolution yesterday demanding a more humane British policy in the affairs of Palestine, a policy which would sweep away with one stroke all the tendencies to terrorism. Another resolution advocates the reestablishment of Palestine as a Jewish State or as a Commonwealth included in the new democratic order.

The meeting expressed the hope that the new State, when it is created, would find a suitable place in the British Commonwealth. The meeting renewed the wish for cooperation with the Arabic peoples and expressed confidence that the Arabs would understand that the installation of the Jews in Palestine is a vital factor in the revival of the Middle East.

Finally, the organization underlined the necessity for the abrogation of the 1939 White Paper and for international assistance in order to accelerate the admission of all Jews desiring to settle in Palestine.

January 18, 1945

LA TURQUIE
LA VIE JURIDIQUE

Traitement
des réfugiés de guerre

par le Dr FERIT H. SAYMEN
Prof. agr. à la Faculté
de Droit d'Istanbul

La guerre, l'occupation militaire, l'envahissement, le changement de régime, parfois la peur du risque, le désir de jouir des biens de la terre, parfois l'insécurité poussent les civils et quelquefois les militaires à fuir leur pays, à déserteur leur poste et à se réfugier dans des pays voisins. C'est un devoir des Etats que d'accorder asile à ces réfugiés, qu'il est de prendre les précautions édictées par le souci de sécurité intérieure et les prescriptions du droit international.

Mais ce problème des réfugiés pose une question de droit interne qu'il est nécessaire de résoudre au mieux des intérêts en présence, en tenant compte de l'efficacité des lois internes dans les limites territoriales d'un Etat et des exigences du droit des gens. Cette question présente plus de difficultés et exige plus de doigté quand l'Etat en question est un pays neutre ou non belligérant. C'est le cas de la Turquie et c'est à propos d'une circulaire du Ministère de la Justice publiée récemment (4-12-1944) que nous avons jugé utile de traiter de cette matière.

Voilà de quoi il s'agit : Pour des raisons indiquées plus haut, et pour bien d'autres probablement, un grand nombre de personnes pénètrent en notre territoire soit par terre, soit par mer. Certaines d'entre elles et surtout les militaires, parfois déguisés en civils sont porteurs d'armes. Certaines autres n'ont aucun papier permettant d'établir leur identité et parlant leur nationalité. Or il se peut qu'avec ces réfugiés politiques et militaires, des agents étrangers de toutes sortes franchissent les frontières terrestres ou les eaux territoriales turques. Les personnes chargées de la surveillance de ces lieux n'étant ni compétentes ni qualifiées pour faire une discrimination entre les véritables réfugiés et les réfugiés-camoufflés, et d'autre part étant tenus responsables de la sécurité intérieure du pays, ils ont tôt fait de s'emparer de quiconque leur paraît suspect et de les déléguer au Parquet.

Or, celui-ci chargé de faire respecter la loi et n'ayant cure des prescriptions internationales fait juger et condamner ces malheureux. Quelle est la législation appliquée à cet effet ? D'abord la Loi de Passeport du 28 Juin 1938 (No 3519) qui prescrit dans son

La vie juridique

(Suite de la 2^{me} page)

immédiatement appréhendés et délégués au Parquet comptent pour y être jugés. Or aucune de ces mesures, dispositions, interdictions ne peuvent être observées ou respectées par des réfugiés parfois traqués, souvent apeurés ou près de paniquer. Mais d'autre part, il n'est pas juste de leur faire subir un traitement de droit commun, les traiter comme quelqu'un qui aurait sciemment, volontairement et peut-être avec préméditation pénétré dans une région militaire interdite, ou accédé au territoire sans passeport régulier. Leur faire payer une amende, les emprisonner et ensuite les renvoyer ne serait pas seulement inhumain et contraire aux règles du droit international, mais violerait la lettre et l'esprit de la loi. Car ce qui distingue principalement dans ce cas le réfugié du délinquant de droit commun, c'est son absence d'intention nuisible, c'est son ignorance des interdictions.

En tenant compte de toutes ces considérations, le Ministère de la Justice a lancé une circulaire à tous les procureurs de la République où il est dit notamment : « Pour juger du cas des étrangers civils ou militaires réfugiés sur notre territoire, il est nécessaire de rechercher méticuleusement et en détails si leurs agissements ne sont pas dus aux nécessités de la guerre, s'ils ont pénétré ou non intentionnellement dans les régions interdites et s'ils se sont comportés avec une volonté criminelle. Ce n'est qu'après avoir établi tous ces points qu'on pourra les traiter en conséquence. »

C'est à dire leur faire subir le traitement des réfugiés politiques militaires ou celui des délinquants ordinaires de droit commun. Et d'ajouter : « Dans le premier cas ils seront soumis aux règles du droit international et dans le second aux dispositions de la législation interne. Est-il nécessaire de remarquer que cette discrimination est tout à fait juste et équitable et conforme aux principes du Droit ? »

Copy of translation
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Translation
attached

des régions indiquées plus haut, et pour bien d'autres proportions, un grand nombre de personnes pénètrent en notre territoire soit par terre, soit par mer. Certaines d'entre elles et surtout les militaires, parfois déguisés en civils sont porteurs d'armes. Certaines autres n'ont aucun papier permettant d'établir leur identité et portant leur nationalité. Or il se peut qu'avec ces réfugiés politiques et militaires, des agents étrangers de toutes sortes franchissent les frontières terrestres ou les eaux territoriales turques. Les personnes chargées de la surveillance de ces lieux n'étant ni compétentes ni qualifiées pour faire une discrimination entre les véritables réfugiés et les réfugiés-camoufflés, et d'autre part étant tenus responsables de la sécurité intérieure du pays, ils ont tôt fait de s'emparer de quiconque leur paraît suspect et de les déferer au Parquet.

Or, celui-ci chargé de faire respecter la loi et n'ayant cure des prescriptions internationales fait jager et condamner ces malheureux. Quelle est la législation appliquée à cet effet? D'abord la Loi de Passeport du 28 Juin 1938 (No 3519) qui prescrit dans son article 1: « Les ressortissants turcs ainsi que les étrangers ne peuvent entrer en Turquie et en sortir qu'aux endroits indiqués par le gouvernement et munis de passeports ou documents valables. » Or les réfugiés n'en ont pas et pénètrent en Turquie par quelque point que ce soit.

L'article 3 de la même loi indique la sanction de l'imprécafé contenu à l'article précédent: il prévoit purement et simplement le refoulement de ces étrangers. D'autre part l'article 47 de la même loi prévoit une amende de 50 à 200 livres ou un emprisonnement de 1 à 6 mois pour être immédiatement refoulés ensuite, pour ceux qui ne sont pas porteurs de passeports ou documents réguliers. Et selon l'article 48 la peine est 25 à 50 livres ou d'un emprisonnement de 1 à 6 mois ou de tous les deux cumulativement pour ceux qui pénètrent en Turquie en des points autres que ceux désignés par le gouvernement. C'est aussi le cas des réfugiés et les juridictions criminelles appliquant la loi en les condamnant.

Une seconde loi qui touche à la matière, est celle du 21 Juin 1924 (No, 1110) relative aux Régions militaires interdites. Bien que non belligérantes, la Turquie est sur pied de guerre depuis le début des hostilités et par ce fait les régions militaires interdites ont été élargies de plus en plus et se trouvent pour la plupart dans les régions frontalières. Or l'article 1 de cette loi, modifié en mars 1931, interdit de façon catégorique l'accès de ces régions aux étrangers, à moins qu'ils ne soient munis d'une autorisation spéciale accordée par le Conseil des Ministres, mais dans des buts purement techniques, comme la construction de chemins de fer. Il est aussi interdit à quiconque, étrangers ou indigènes d'observer la région à l'aide de jumelles, de prendre des photographies, de faire des dessins, croquis, cartes etc. Les étrangers ne peuvent pénétrer dans les régions qu'en profitant des trains les traversant et des vaisseaux suivant la ligne de parcourt délimitée. Exceptionnellement on peut leur indiquer un itinéraire qu'ils doivent suivre rigoureusement. Les contrevenants sont

Volz suite en page 3 col. 3

des régions indiquées plus haut, et pour bien d'autres proportions, un grand nombre de personnes pénètrent en notre territoire soit par terre, soit par mer. Certaines d'entre elles et surtout les militaires, parfois déguisés en civils sont porteurs d'armes. Certaines autres n'ont aucun papier permettant d'établir leur identité et portant leur nationalité. Or il se peut qu'avec ces réfugiés politiques et militaires, des agents étrangers de toutes sortes franchissent les frontières terrestres ou les eaux territoriales turques. Les personnes chargées de la surveillance de ces lieux n'étant ni compétentes ni qualifiées pour faire une discrimination entre les véritables réfugiés et les réfugiés-camoufflés, et d'autre part étant tenus responsables de la sécurité intérieure du pays, ils ont tôt fait de s'emparer de quiconque leur paraît suspect et de les déferer au Parquet.

C'est à dire leur faire subir le traitement des réfugiés politiques et militaires ou celui des délinquants ordinaires de droit commun. Autrement dit, dans le premier cas ils seront soumis aux règles du droit international et dans le second aux dispositions de la législation interne. Est-il nécessaire de remarquer que cette discrimination est tout à fait juste et équitable et conforme aux principes du Droit?

Translation

La Turquie, Thursday, January 18, 1945

LA VIE JURIDIQUE

Treatment of War Refugees

by Dr. Ferit H. Saymen,
Prof. agr. in the Faculty of Law of Istanbul

War, military occupation, invasion, change in government, sometimes fear of risk, the desire to enjoy the good things of the earth, sometimes insecurity, drive civilians and sometimes soldiers to flee from their country, to desert their posts and seek refuge in neighboring countries. It is a duty of the State to give asylum to these refugees, after taking precautions dictated by consideration for internal security and the provisions of international law.

But this problem of refugees presents a question of internal law which it is necessary to resolve in the best interests, and taking account of the efficacy, of the internal laws within the territorial limits of the state, and the exigencies of human rights. This question presents further difficulties and needs more careful handling when the state in question is a neutral country, or a non-belligerent. That is the case with Turkey; and it is with regard to a circular of the Ministry of Justice, recently published (December 4, 1944) that we deem it advisable to treat of this matter.

This is the situation: For the reasons given above, and probably for many others, a large number of persons is coming into our country by land and by sea. Certain of these, and especially soldiers, sometimes disguised as civilians, carry arms. Certain others have no papers to establish their identity, and especially their nationality. But it is possible that with these political

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and military refugees, foreign agents are passing through the land frontiers or the territorial waters of Turkey. The persons charged with the surveillance of these places, being neither competent nor qualified to make distinctions between true refugees and scurious ones, are quick to arrest those who seem to them suspect, and to turn them over to the Court of Justice.

Then, the person charged with respecting the law and not cognizant of international regulations, judges and condemns these unfortunates. What is the legislation applied to this end? First, the Passport Law of June 28, 1938 (No. 35/9), which prescribes in its Article 1: "Turkish subjects as well as foreigners may not enter Turkey or leave it except at points indicated by the Government, and when in possession of passports or valid documents." But the refugees have none, and enter Turkey at whatever point they can.

Article 3 of the same law indicates the basis of the order contained in the preceding article: it is directed purely and simply to turning back these foreigners. On the other hand, Article 47 of the same law provides for a fine of 50 to 200 pounds, or imprisonment of one to six months, and immediate deportation afterwards, for those who have no passports or regular documents. And, according to Article 48, the penalty is 25 to 50 pounds or imprisonment for one to six months, or both, for those who enter Turkey at points other than those designated by the Government. This is also the case with refugees, and criminal law is applied in condemning them.

A second law which touches on this subject is that of June 21, 1924 (No. 1110), regarding Forbidden Military Districts. Although non-belligerent, Turkey has been on a war footing since the out-

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break of hostilities, and for this reason the forbidden military districts have been more and more enlarged, and are found for the most part in the frontier regions. But Article 1 of this law, modified in March 1931, categorically forbids strangers access to these regions, unless they are in possession of a special authorization from the Council of Ministers, and then only for purely technical ends, as for the construction of railroads. It is also forbidden to everyone, foreigner or native, to observe such a region with binoculars, to take photographs, to make drawings, sketches, maps, etc. Foreigners may not enter these regions except by public carriers and boats which traverse them, following a fixed route. In exceptional cases, they may be given an itinerary, which they must follow with extreme care. Offenders are immediately arrested and turned over to the Court of Justice competent to judge them. But none of these measures, dispositions, restrictions can be observed or respected by refugees sometimes hunted, often terror-stricken or near panic. But on the other hand, it is not just to make them undergo the treatment of common law, to treat them as if they knowingly, voluntarily, or perhaps with premeditation had entered into a forbidden military district, or entered the country without regular passports. To make them pay a fine, to imprison them, and finally to deport them would not only be inhuman and contrary to the rules of international law, but would violate the letter and the spirit of the law. Because that which principally distinguishes the refugee in this case from the common criminal, is his lack of harmful intent, it is his ignorance of the restrictions.

Taking account of all these considerations, the Ministry of

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Justice has put forward a circular to all the Prosecutors of the Republic, in which it is particularly said: "In judging foreigners, civilian or military refugees on our territory, it is necessary to investigate, meticulously and in detail, whether their actions are not due to the necessity of war, if they have entered intentionally or not into the forbidden districts, and if they have conducted themselves with criminal intent. It is not until all these points have been established that one can pass judgment on them."

That is to say, they shall be given the treatment of political or military refugees, or that of ordinary delinquents, in other words, in the first case they shall be subject to the rules of international law, and in the second to the disposition of internal law. It is necessary to remark that this discrimination is entirely just and equitable, and that it conforms with the principles of the Law?

Arrivés de Juifs

1000 Juifs sont arrivés de Constantza en notre ville à bord du motor-boat "Toro", jaugeant 230 tonnes qui avait quitté Istanbul pour se rendre à Zonguldak et qui avait changé de destination. Le patron et le propriétaire du motor-boat ont été livrés au tribunal de la Sauvegarde nationale pour n'avoir pas accompli leur mission. Les émigrants israéliens seront envoyés en Palestine.

Arrivage de marchandises

Le vapeur Maracle est arrivé en notre ville avec une cargaison de 27 tonnes de pièces de rechange pour camion, de 25 tonnes de pneus et différentes autres marchandises.

Les ressortissants tyres intrônés en Allemagne

Le SON POSTAL annonce que des démarches sont effectuées pour que les étudiants et les fonctionnaires de l'ambassade turque de Berlin intéressés à Sommering à Vienne soient amenés en Turquie à bord d'un des bateaux suédois qui assurent la ligne Stockholm-Istanbul. On estime que cette question sera prochainement réglée et que les Allemands expulsés en Turquie seront ainsi en charge avec les Turcs d'Allemagne.

Journal d'Orient
Decembre 7, 1944

**908 Israélites sont arrivés
de Constantza**

Le motor-boat "Toros" jaugeant 250 tonnes est arrivé hier de Constantza ayant à bord 908 Israélites.

Le motor boat affecté au service du transport du charbon entre Istanbul et Zonguldak, est allé à Zonguldak et s'est rendu de là, sans permission, en Roumanie. Le propriétaire du "Toros" a été déféré hier au tribunal de la Sauvegarde Nationale.

Attaque de destroyers

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les petits vagabonds qui pro-

EN MARGE DU CONGRES MONDIAL JUIF

En causant avec les délégués de l'organisation sionniste de Bulgarie

L'ordre du jour du Congrès. -- La création de l'Etat juif. -- Les groupes sionnistes de Bulgarie. -- Le sort des Juifs de Bulgarie et d'Europe.

Les Etats-Unis deviennent représentant de l'Agence chaque jour le lieu de réunion juive en Bulgarie ; Vitali d'une nouvelle Conférence in-Haymof, président du Congrès internationale. Peut-être le mité central de l'organisation Nouveau-Monde deviendra-t-il le noyau du monde de demain. Eskenazi, membre de cette Bref tandis que les travaux organisation et secrétaire du de conférence de la aviation Groupe Poalesion. civile touchent à leur fin, « Les décisions qui seront L'Amérique se prépare à de prises à l'issue des débats nouvelles assises, entre autres seront des plus importantes » celles du Congrès Mondial me déclarent mes interlocuteurs.

Je me suis entretenu avec L'air grave des délégués les délégués de l'organisation bulgares attire mon attention. sionniste de Bulgarie en route -- Le Congrès, ajoutent pour les Etats-Unis.

Ce sont MM. Joseph Lévy, (Suite en page 2 col. 7)

M 27/44
M. Sc.
Newspaper

LA TURQUIE
Mars 27, 1944

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En causant avec les délégués de l'organisation sioniste de Bulgarie

Suite de la 1^{re} page

ces messieurs, s'occupera de la situation politique et économique des Juifs résidant dans les pays libérés. Actuellement, en Bulgarie, les Juifs jouissent d'une position politique excellente mais leur situation économique est lamentable. Il leur faut une maison, des chaussures et surtout des médicaments. Les mêmes nécessités se font sentir dans tous les pays libérés. Nous demanderons donc aux Américains — et cela constitue le premier point de l'ordre du jour du Congrès — de venir en aide à tous les Juifs. Le second point a trait à la création d'un Etat juif en Palestine. Avant-guerre, de nombreux sionistes cherchaient à s'assurer leur avenir dans un pays de leur choix, mais après les persécutions et les leçons des hostilités actuelles, il est à espérer qu'ils ne viseront plus qu'à fonder l'Etat juif ».

Ce couronnement du mouvement national juif se produira, de l'avis des délégués, par la force même des choses, tout acte brutal portant sa condamnation.

« — Tous les Juifs me dit M. Levy, au sujet de l'assassinat de Lord Moyne, con-

... plus qu'à fondre l'Etat juif.

Ce couronnement du mouvement national juif se produira, de l'avis des délégués, par la force même des choses, tout acte brutal portant sa condamnation.

«— Tous les Juifs me dit M. Levy, au sujet de l'assassinat de Lord Moyne, condamnent cette manière d'agir et désapprouvent les terroristes. Les déclarations du Dr. Weidzman (reproduites par votre journal) expriment le point de vue général.»

— L'idée de la création de l'Etat juif compte-t-elle de nombreux partisans en Bulgarie ?

«— L'Etat juif tel que nous l'envisageons est un Etat démocratique où les conditions de vie de toutes les personnes qui le composeront seront les mêmes que celles des Juifs. L'organisation bulgare qui tend à ce but, est dite une parce qu'elle comprend le groupe sportif Macabi, le «Ehatalutz» qui, de chaque individu cherche à en faire un élément productif; le «Vitzo», association féminine; le «Poalision», sionnistes-socialistes et le groupe des sionnistes généraux. Le gouvernement bulgare reconnaît notre organisation et l'autorise à déployer librement son activité. Ces sortes de groupements existaient presque partout en Europe avant la guerre. Ils reprennent actuellement leur activité aussitôt après la libération des pays occupés.»

— Jusqu'à quel degré les Juifs de Bulgarie ont-ils eu à souffrir des précédents gouvernements de Sofia ?

«— Les restrictions furent d'une dureté extrême, mais les Juifs ne pâtirent néanmoins pas dans leur vie. Le sort fut moins clément pour les Juifs de la Thrace et de la Macédoine qui eux, ont été déportés. D'après les statistiques incomplètes que nous sont parvenues la communauté juive européenne a eu à déplorer 5 à 6 millions de disparus ou de tués. A ce compte, le restant des Juifs en Europe se chiffrent au maximum à 1.200.000 personnes.»

Lorsque je quittai M. M. Levy, Haymanof et Eskenazi ils m'exprimèrent en chœur les remerciements des Juifs de Bulgarie au gouvernement turc pour l'aide accordée par celui-ci dans les affaires d'émigration.

G. FENAL

La Conférence pour la Palestine

**Un programme pour
remédier au problème des
réfugiés juifs a été adopté**

**L'avenir de la Palestine serait
abordé lors de la prochaine
conférence des Quatre**

Washington, 21 A.A.— La Conférence pour la Palestine se termina dimanche à Chicago avec l'adoption d'un programme en huit points destiné à remédier au problème des réfugiés israélites et recommandant la libre immigration des Juifs en Palestine le droit pour les Juifs d'acheter de la terre en Palestine, l'abandon du Livre Blanc britannique, la reconnaissance du Commonwealth israélite et di-

verses mesures concernant l'établissement des Juifs en Palestine. Le Comité s'occupant des réfugiés politiques institué par le Président Roosevelt était représenté par son directeur James Macdonald qui recommanda que le problème de l'avenir de la Palestine soit abordé lors de la prochaine conférence par MM. Churchill, Roosevelt, Staline et de Gaulle, s'il y participe.

La Turquie

NOV. 22, 1944

11/24/44
Pres. News

Translation
attached

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Translation

From La Turquie of November 22, 1944

A PROGRAM TO REMEDY THE PROBLEM OF JEWISH REFUGEES
HAS BEEN ADOPTED.

The future of Palestine will be considered at the time
of the next conference of the Four.

Washington 21, A.A.

The meeting concerning Palestine terminated Sunday at Chicago with the adoption of a program in eight points destined to remedy the problems of Jewish refugees, and recommending free emigration of Jews to Palestine, the right of Jews to purchase land in Palestine, the abandonment of the British White Book, the recognition of the Jewish Commonwealth, and various measures concerning the establishment of Jews in Palestine.

The Committee in charge of political refugees, instituted by President Roosevelt, was represented by its director, James MacDonald, who recommended that the problem of the future of Palestine be broached at the time of the next meeting of Churchill, Roosevelt, Staline and de Gaulle, if he participates in it.

Translation

November 20, 1944

Broadcasts Recd ved in Bulgarian

SOFIA

Cairo. 20. Reuter.

After a meeting which took place between four Arabian political societies, a message was addressed by them to President Roosevelt protesting against his opinion in favor of the Jews in connection with their installation in Palestine, and in the message it is stated that the Mohammedan Arabs will continue their fight against Zionism.

000510

Le Journal d'Orléans
Octobre 28, 1944

Dernière H

Une proclamation de M. Dewey sur les crimes de guerre

Washington, 27 A.A. — Le gouverneur de New-York, M. Thomas E. Dewey, candidat républicain à la Présidence des Etats-Unis, a fait une proclamation disant :

« Selon des informations qui arrivent aux Etats-Unis, de source absolument sûre, les nationaux-socialistes encerclés et sachant que leur défaite est inévitable, ont recours à la méthode terroriste comme des gangsters et menacent d'exterminer leurs vraies victimes. (Les Polonais, les Juifs, et les autres non-Germains), enfermés dans les abominables camps de concentration dans quelques régions de la Pologne et d'autres pays encore occupés par les nazis.

« Le monde civilisé est maintenant en position de donner, en termes les

plus comminatoires l'avertissement aux Nazis (commandants militaires, membres du gouvernement allemand, leurs aides, leurs instigateurs et leurs adhérents) qu'ils seraient inévitablement certainement traités en justice s'ils accomplissaient leur projet, s'ils commettaient ces meurtres brutaux, sadiques.

« Je suis heureux de noter que notre département d'Etat a déjà donné l'avertissement que si ces projets étaient exécutés, les coupables de tels meurtres comparaitront en justice et seront châtiés pour leurs crimes abominables. L'opinion publique américaine appuiera entièrement la déclaration faite par notre département d'Etat.

Translation

Extract from "ANTUIKA" ["Rescue"], October 4, 1944

... As it is known, out of the orphans that have been brought over from Transnistria at the cost of such tremendous sacrifices, only a few hundred have been able to leave, whereas 1350 are still here.

The Soviet Command has taken these children under its protection, considering that they all are Soviet citizens by birth. Consequently, the Command has ordered that these children be transferred from the homes where they have been sheltered up to now to new premises, which had hitherto been serving as homes to certain educational institutions controlled by the Ministry of Labor.

On this occasion, the Committee of Assistance that had hitherto been taking care of the children, received the following letter from the Prime Minister:

Presidency of the Cabinet

Council of Social Welfare

Municipal Committee of Bucharest

September 23, 1944, No. 6774

To the Committee of Assistance, Bucharest,

79, Calea Hogilor.

To have the honor to inform you that, subsequent to the demand made by the Russian Military Command, the Jewish children originating from Transnistria, Bessarabia, and northern Bucovina are to be repatriated. Pending the final arrangements for their repatriation, these children will be housed by the

Council of Public Welfare in conformity with the instructions issued by the General Commanding the Russian Forces and by the Chief Mayor of Bucarest.

"With the purpose of carrying out these instructions, I have delegated four officials who will undertake a census of all these children, in cooperation with your police natives, in the way we fixed it up before in the conversation we had with your President, Lawyer Benzelberg.

"I would like to ask you to be good enough to instruct your respective organs to carry out this census in the most urgent way.

"Isten General Secretary

"General Coconet."

Translation.

Extract from "TRAIT D'UNION" [Discus] 7, October 4, 1944.

"IT IS NOT THE WAY IT LOOKS"

A short introduction to the history of
Jewish emigration from Rumania in the last decade,
by Joan Cohen.

... Dr. A. L. Zissu, President of the Zionist organization in Rumania and mandatary of the Jewish Agency for Palestine in Rumania, having visualized the urgent need for carrying on the emigration of Rumanian Jews to Palestine, regardless of ways and costs, has been trying on the one hand to intensify the rate of emigration, and on the other to escape from its ugly blackmail and spoliation in which certain greedy shipping agents had been indulging, in connivance with some fascist elements inside the Government itself. It is a fact that years ago, in order to be able to evade the almost prohibitive provisions established by the Mandatory Power with regard to immigration, it had been found necessary to resort to the cooperation of certain clandestine elements and shipping agents. That cooperation and the methods that went with it have created conditions of transportation that were inhuman, and involved material sacrifices beyond any imagination. Evidently, those unscrupulous and spoliating elements, namely shipping agents and captains of vessels, were at the beginning merely collaborators to whom very high prices would be paid by the official bodies dealing with emigration. Lately, however, they started doing it all on their own account, and very often turned into criminal undertakers instead of discharging

their jobs as shipping agents and ship-owners. They turned the tragic problem of Jewish migration, that is a problem of general interest, into a criminal enterprise of blackmail and spoliation. Thus it was very natural that these shipping agents should, by means of graft and astronomical bribes, ensure to themselves the cooperation of important members of the country's administration, in order, with the help of the latter, to be in a position to blackmail and profiteer on the migration legally initiated and carried out by the Emigration Office of the Zionist Organization.

It is good that everybody should know that neither the Zionist Organization nor the Emigration Office were ever able to charter a single vessel nor carry out a single transport except on the conditions of a monopoly arrogated and incessantly exercised by influential agents with the connivance of the State. These agents have been able, by means of tremendous grafts, to assure for themselves a tremendous influence, both with the German Consulate as well as with the competent authorities in the Rumanian State administration. It is good that people should also know that these influences were so powerful and so efficient that not even the official emigration bodies or the Jewish Agency in Istanbul, whose boats would be chartered at the cost of immense efforts, were able to free themselves from this heavy servitude. Every attempt for removing these influences would immediately result in the creation of certain situations, both in Istanbul and in Bucharest, that would simply suppress migration at all.

This was the reason why vessels used for transportation, their quality and cost as well as the rate and the general conditions of migration, were at a certain time fully and

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completely at the discretion of that private monopoly exercised by the shipping agencies. At the end of April, 1944, Mr. Zissu, as Mandatory of the Jewish Agency for Palestine and Rumania and as President of the Zionist organization, started a campaign intended to convince the former Government to make up its mind whether it was ready loyally and honestly to give its support to Jewish emigration and then be prepared to hand over this matter to the exclusive competence of a Jewish public institution, as it could be the Zionist Organization of Rumania. If, on the other hand, the Government was not prepared to do it, Mr. Zissu pointed out, then it would have to admit its connivance, let it be even a silent one, with those private commercial organizations that, with the aid of spoliation, had in fact monopolized the whole activity of emigration.

Thus, the Government was placed in an alternative which it could no longer fail to realize. The result of it was that, on June 2, 1944, the Government finally gave its agreement, in principle, to the propositions stated in one of the memoranda addressed to it by Mr. A. L. Zissu. Thus, an emigration office was created, presided over by Mr. A. L. Zissu, Mandatory of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, with technical councillors, to be appointed by him.

This represented a great achievement, both for the prestige of the Zionist Organization of Rumania as well as for the fate of emigration, because through the tenacity and clear political vision of Mr. A. L. Zissu, a possibility was found that, after hard struggle, the activity of emigration of Rumanian Jews and of Jewish refugees from Hungary and Poland to Palestine should, from a spoliatory and criminal trade exercised by unscrupulous

shipping agents, be transformed into an institution of national rescue.

However, Radu Lecca, the hangman of the Jewish population in Rumania, did not disarm. With the help of the very people who, by this reform, saw themselves dispossessed of a source of fantastic profits from crime and plunder, and also with the help of the tremendous funds put by others at his disposal for graft, as well as the help of certain Jews who degraded themselves to become instruments of others and took part in political speculations or simple profiteering on migration, Lecca finally succeeded in halting or the departure of boats for waters and seas, thus endangering the whole work of rescue of Jewish refugees from Hungary and Poland, of the Jewish children restricted from Transnistria, and of young pioneers (Halutzim). It took a good deal of heavy struggle against the men in the Government as well as against their backing in the shelter of the former Interscru region, and it also required tremendous financial sacrifices, until it became possible to lift the ban that prevented the departure of those boats. As an illustration to this, it is enough if we point out that only for making possible the departure of the boat "KAZAN" the Migration Office had been compelled to pay to the Council of Public Welfare, at the demand of and under the pressure from the Interministerial Commission for Jewish Migration appointed by Marshal Antonescu, the sum of 75 million lei [over 30,000 -- Translator]. Today, both the Zionist Organization as well as the Migration Office are trying to recover this sum from the Public Welfare Council.

Unfortunately, the pending contracts made by the respective

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bodies of the Jewish Agency, abroad could no longer be cancelled except at the cost of heavy financial penalties, which would have made the cost of emigration even heavier. Thus, the Emigration Office was compelled to take over, on its own account, the heavy charge of a situation of fact, namely that emigration was continuing.

The Emigration Office succeeded, however, in achieving another very important result, which was primary to the whole problem, namely to subject emigration to the following principles:

(1) the principle of free passage,

(2) the principle that neither the Jew nor the non-Jew, whether Palestinian, whether because of his being an agent of Nazism under any form, or because of his being a member of the Councils, could not embark on these boats, no matter how much money he was ready to pay. He could not do it even if he had resorted to blackmail, as was the case of Bernard Komarnitz and others, who had tried to make use of pressure on behalf of the Government and the Nazi agent Bernabucci. As a matter of fact, since it was being handled by the Emigration Office, the emigration proved to be that the proportion of 92.5 per cent of the passengers of each boat.

Nevertheless, if this chapter of Jewish emigration from Rumania also has enough sad passages, it is so because, during the three months only, that this office has been functioning, having to brave all storms and to face all kinds of fiendish attacks both from within and from outside, it could not possibly remedy entirely a situation that had been lasting for years . . .

000510

Journal de l'Évent Oct. 1944

Départ pour l'Amérique
S/S "GUILTE,"
Pavillon Portugais
partant vers le 23 Octobre 1944 de HAIFA acceptant passagers et
cargaison pour
LISBONNE et PHILADELPHIA
Pour plus amples informations s'adresser à :
L'Agence S. TRABICH et Co.
Istanbul Sirkeci. ADA HAN No 16 (Ex-Horasancivan Han)
Téléphone: 23243

000519

L'ECHANGE DES ALLEMANDS

Internés en Turquie contre des ressortissants turcs d'Allemagne

Nous avons annoncé il y a quelques jours que les autorités envisageaient d'expédier en Espagne les 350 ressortissants allemands internés à l'intérieur de l'Anatolie ainsi que les 200 autres qui, n'ayant pu rentrer en Allemagne, par suite des événements survenus dans les Balkans, avaient été internés à Tarabya, Ayaşpaşa ainsi que dans le lycée allemand. Le s/s "Ege," avait même été désigné pour ce port. Cependant, les fonctionnaires de notre ambassade et de nos consulats, ainsi que quelques jets turcs qui sont internés

et qui devaient être échangés contre les Allemands d'ici, ne pourront venir à Istanbul, par suite de manque de communication, il a été décidé de surseoir pour le moment à la décision de l'envoi en Espagne des Allemands internés ici. Par ailleurs il nous revient que l'Espagne aussi n'aurait pas voulu intercéder dans cette question. C'est pourquoi le ministre des communications vient d'ordonner que le s/s "Ege" reprenne le service d'Istanbul-Izmir. Ce navire a quitté notre port samedi soir à destination d'Izmir.

LA Turquie Oct. 9, 1944

000520

Extract from "ISTANBUL PRESS COMMENT" (September 28, 1944) *file*

We are indeed sorry to see that the harmful curiosity which from time to time recurs in one of our morning papers, has again put in an appearance. This colleague, under the effect of certain influences, is continually taking up the same subject and by his publications is dwelling at length on a minority question. The impression which a foreigner will gain in reading these articles or their translations will be simply frightful. Indeed, according to the atmosphere created by these writings, this is a country where the minorities are being treated like Parias, and that their fortunes are being seized under such pretexts as the capital levy. Moreover, the Government, in order to crush the minorities economically, is resorting to a thousand-and-one measures by way of establishing trade unions and other such institutions. Almost all the publications in this paper end with a severe and out-of-place warning such as "we must give these minorities their rights in time, for otherwise it will be too late". This naturally means the necessity of refunding the money collected under the capital levy law. These articles moreover convey the impression as though the author were trying to act as the forerunner of a political pressure by pointing to the existence of foreign forces which would compel us to restore the rights of the minorities. All these accusations which we do not come across even in the columns of those American newspapers gathering their information on Turkey from political refugees who have fled from our country to the States, announce the existence of a minority problem in Turkey. This colleague of ours, moreover, is engaging in prejudicial publications in an effort to pose as the defender of the cause of the minorities. We wish to point out in this connection that none of the minorities has raised the slightest complaint during the twenty years of the Republican regime. As a matter of fact, all of them are enjoying the protection of the country's laws without receiving any discriminative treatment... As regards the capital levy we believe that our colleague is acting under the influence of negative propaganda carried out by evil elements. It should be borne in mind, moreover, that the Government which collected some three hundred million liras by way of capital levy has collected an amount twice as large from the peasants under the tax on soil products. To demand the refunding of these funds which are being spent for the country's defense services certainly does not constitute a patriotic move. Naturally we do not approve of the unfavorable atmosphere created around this country which has gained the appreciation of the entire world for its fair attitude in the matter of the minorities.

We also feel obliged to confess that our colleague's publications convey the impression as though he were reporting our government and state to others.

("We Should Not All Of a Sudden Bring Up a Minority Question!" by Tasviri Efkar - TASVIRI EFKAR - Editorial, Sept. 28)

000521

Istanbul, 21.9.1944.

Under the headline "Radical change in policy of the War Refugee Board" reports the Revisionist paper "Hamashkif", Tel-Aviv:

" Mr. I. Hershmann, representative of the WRB to Turkey disclosed in the middle of August, that it was his opinion, that emigration from Balkan countries is not necessary any longer. With a liberated Bulgaria and Rumania is it evident, that the only function of the WRB will consist in pressure to be put on the respective governments, including the Hungarians, to improve conditions for Jews in their countries.

This change in Mr. Hershmann's policy means, that in stead of efforts to save Hungarian, Rumanian and Bulgarian Jews and refugees in these countries they will have to stay there and wait for the results of his endeavour to obtain for them equal rights."

We shall be delighted to publish an authorised statement in the Palestine press.

000522

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"This change in Mr. Hirschmann's policy means, that instead of efforts to save Hungarian, Rumanian and Bulgarian Jews and refugees in these countries, they will have to stay there and wait for the results of his endeavor to obtain for them equal rights."

We shall be delighted to publish an authorized statement in the Palestine press.

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*file
misc.*

LOCAL REPORT

August 31, 1944

Halil Lutfu, one of the owners of "Tan" is back from Ankara. Permission has not been granted yet to resume publication of the newspaper. Length of suspension has not been indicated.

Emin Ahmet Yalman, owner of "Vatan", went to Ankara to obtain permission to resume publication of his newspaper. According to some sources, "Vatan" will reappear within a week.

The Trial Of The Impostors.

The sentence of the military court following the trial of Suvari and his accomplices who, pretending to be martial law officers deceived some merchants, was modified by the court of appeals. The case will be shortly reconsidered by this body.

Gold Prices Declining.

Anglo-American successes, the Rumanian armistice and the probability that Bulgaria will capitulate any moment, are causing daily declines in the price of gold on the local bourse.

Today, the rate of the "Reshad" gold lira is 33 liras 50 piasters, that of the Gulden, 29 liras 50 piasters and that of the "Kulce" 468 piasters.

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LA TURQUIE

★ QUOTIDIEN DU SOIR ★

Numéro 752 — VENDREDI 28 JUILLET 1944

Déclarations du Ministre des Communications

LA NAVIGATION SERA AUSSI SUSPENDUE EN MEDITERRANEE ET EN EGEE

Les essais en cours n'auront aucun effet sur le transport du charbon à Istanbul

Le ministre des Communications, le général Ali Fuat Cebesoy, qui s'est rendu à Izmit pour étudier la nouvelle situation des voies ferrées à la suite de la suspension du trafic maritime de la Mer Noire pour des raisons d'essais de défense passive, a déclaré ce qui suit au correspondant du « Vatan » :

— Je suis en train d'étudier l'influence qu'a eue sur notre trafic ferroviaire la suspension provisoire du trafic maritime pour des raisons d'essais de défense passive. En entreprenant ces essais nous avons avant tout cherché à éviter toute entrave



Le général Ali Fuat Cebesoy

au commerce et à l'économie du pays.

Nous avons, pour ces essais, choisi la saison la plus propice et pris toutes les mesures voulues. Actuellement les passagers de la Mer Noire sont

régulièrement transportés par nos chemins de fer. Pour les localités telles que Trabzon-Hopa et Samsun-Zonguldak entre lesquelles le trafic ferroviaire n'est pas possible, le trafic se fera par mer. Les navires « Erzurum », et « Dumlupinar » ont été désignés pour ces services.

Suivant les résultats qui seront obtenus par ces essais de défense passive, la mesure sera également étendue à la région de l'Egée et de la Méditerranée. La date n'en est pas encore fixée mais il est très probable qu'elle aura lieu dans le courant des semaines prochaines.

Ces essais n'auront aucun effet sur le transport du charbon à Istanbul qui continuera à être régulièrement ravitaillé.

Il n'y a aucun changement dans les services aériens et les rumeurs relatives à leur suspension éventuelle sont infondées.

000526

Services maritimes entre la Turquie et l'Amérique

Mersine, 22 — Un navire allié battant pavillon norvégien qui a apporté à Iskenderun une cargaison comprenant notamment des produits pharmaceutiques vient d'arriver ici avec une cargaison de 128 tonnes de tabac et appareillera pour New-York après avoir effectué un chargement de chrome. Ce vapeur touchera également différents ports anglais. Il inaugure ainsi les premiers services maritimes directs entre l'Amérique et les ports turcs, services qui s'effectueront en 22 jours et auxquels seraient affectés 4 bateaux.

Un autre bateau américain transportant une cargaison composée de produits pharmaceutiques, telons, fil de fer, tissus et de 500 tonnes de potasse a appareillé le 15 et s'en va vers l'Amérique pour la Turquie.

LE JOURNAL D'ORIENT

Aus. 23, 1944

Journal du 21/23/47

Front de l'Ouest

res de Berlin dit que « Paris serait épargné des opérations militaires, comme il le fut en 1941. »

A Lisieux

Londres, 22 A.A. — Les Britanniques entrèrent à Lisieux.

Ceux qui sortirent de la trappe

Londres, 22 A.A. — On apprend du Quartier Général que des troupes allemandes bien formidables (fairly formidable, dit le texte anglais), qui la plupart réussirent à sortir de la trappe de Normandie, se concentrent dans la région de Moutiers.

Au nord et à l'est de Dreux, les troupes américaines sont en contact avec les Allemands dans la région de la rivière Acre.

Le général Koenig est nommé gouverneur de Paris

Cherbourg, 22. A.A. — On annonce officiellement à Cherbourg que le général de Gaulle a nommé le général Koenig gouverneur militaire de Paris.

On remet en usage la Ligne Siegfried

Stockholm, 22 A.A. — Le journal suédois « Afton Tidningen » rapporte que 100.000 hommes de l'organisation Todt commencèrent à remettre en état la ligne Siegfried. L'électricité et les conduites d'eau de cette ville fonctionneraient déjà à nouveau. Les troupes auraient déjà occupé les casemates souterraines.

De même qu'en 1939, la population demeurant dans le voisinage de la ligne Siegfried aurait déjà été évacuée.

Belfort et les Vosges seront défendus

Genève, 22 A.A. — Les Allemands sont résolus à défendre Belfort et les Vosges. Ils concentrent des forces considérables dans toute la région de Belfort, Montbeliard et Haute-Saône. Parmi les troupes qui gardent le gouvernement de Vichy se trouvent des cosaques encadrés par des officiers et sous-officiers allemands.

Arrivée de réfugiés européens à New York

—o—
New-York, 7. A. A. — Plus de
1.000 réfugiés européens parmi les
quels un grand nombre de Fran-
çais sont arrivés hier à New-York.
Le gouvernement des Etats-Unis se
chargera d'eux jusqu'à la fin de la
guerre.

LE JOURNAL D'ORIENT

Aug. 8 '14

000524

Un convoi d'Allemands quitte ce soir Istanbul

Les Allemands résidant dans les différents vilayets ont commencé à arriver en notre ville. Notamment le haut personnel du consulat à Izmir et les autres Allemands qui séjournent en cette ville sont arrivés hier la nuit via Bandirma. Le premier convoi de 150 personnes parti d'Ankara est attendu aujourd'hui en notre ville. Il n'y a pas eu hier soir de départ d'Allemands de notre ville. Le deuxième convoi quittera ce soir Sirkédji. D'autre part un certain nombre d'Allemands résidant en notre ville ne veulent pas, pour différentes raisons, rentrer en leur pays et ont présenté des requêtes en ce sens au Vilayet. Leur cas est soumis à une enquête de la part de la direction de la Sûreté. Si le résultat des investigations est positif, il sera pris à leur endroit une décision adéquate aux instructions dont l'arrivée est attendue d'Ankara.

On présume que les Autrichiens qui sont antinazis et ceux dont le passeport a été repris par les autorités consulaires allemandes et ceux qui auraient entrepris des démarches en vue de passer à la sujétion turque et dont les formalités ad hoc n'ont pas encore été achevées ainsi que les Allemands juifs, ne seront pas expédiés à leur pays.

En vue de délibérer sur ces questions une réunion a été tenue hier au Vilayet avec la participation du directeur de la Sûreté.

Il nous revient par ailleurs que la nouvelle suivant laquelle on aurait interdit d'écouter les diffusions des radios des pays axistes dans les endroits publics n'est pas exacte. Aucune communication n'a encore été faite au Vilayet à cet effet.

Umum nesriyat idare eden yazi i
ri Müdürü : Kemal Salih Sel
Sahibi ve Basmuharriri :
YUNUS NADI ABALIOĞU
Cumhuriyet matbaası

La République
5/11/18

000530

**Facilités pour le passage
en transit des Juifs
à destination de la
Palestine**

Ankara, 8.— Les démarches entreprises au sujet de l'autorisation de passage en transit des Juifs des Balkans à destination de la Palestine ont favorablement abouti. Notre gouvernement a pris les dispositions voulues et a accordé toutes les facilités. Depuis le début de l'année passée plusieurs convois de Juifs possédant notre visa de passage en transit ont traversé notre pays à destination de la Palestine. Un convoi de 43 enfants traversera ces jours-ci notre pays. D'autre part des groupes de 40-50 Juifs munis des visas réguliers de transit arrivent de la Roumanie, Hongrie et Bulgarie et se rendent en Palestine.

LA TURQUIE

Aug. 8, '44

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Le passage des Juifs en transit d'Istanbul

Ankara, 7 (par tél.) On sait que notre gouvernement accorde toutes les facilités voulues au transit des Israélites qui se trouvent dans la nécessité de quitter leur pays.

L'an dernier plusieurs enfants de confession juive étaient partis en transit de notre pays, ayant quitté la Hongrie, la Roumanie et la Bulgarie.

43 Israélites bulgares qui viennent de quitter la Bulgarie partiront au

jour d'hui en transit de Turquie.

1.828 Juifs qui viennent de quitter Constantza à bord d'un moteur sans pouvoir obtenir de visa sont arrivés à Istanbul, d'où ils pourront partir pour la Syrie après que les formalités requises seront complétées.

Aug 8, 1944 *[Signature]*

000532

INFORMATIONS LOCALES

Nos échanges commerciaux avec la Suisse seront-ils interrompus ?

Ceux avec la Suède pourraient se faire en transit par le Portugal

On mande d'Ankara qu'à la suite de la rupture des relations politiques avec l'Allemagne le commerce turco-suisse sera le plus éprouvé. Sur le refus de transit de l'Allemagne les transactions avec la Suisse seront fatalement interrompues.

L'arrivée de machines et des installations industrielles de vingt mil-

lions de livres commandées en Suisse par l'Etî Bank et la Sumer Bank sera pour cette raison, ajournée à l'après-guerre. Quant à nos relations avec la Bulgarie, la Roumanie et la Hongrie elles continueront mais il n'est pas exclu qu'elles aient à faire face à un tas de difficultés et d'entraves. Bien que la frontière de la Bulgarie ait été, il y a trois jours, fermée seulement pour quelques heures, elle fut rouverte ultérieurement et le trafic normal se rétablit. Nos rapports économiques avec la Suède quoique condamnés faute de voie

directe, à être interrompus, certaines démarches ont été entreprises en vue du transport par mer des marchandises suédoises à la Turquie. D'après une proposition les produits turcs seraient amenés à bord des cargos turcs jusqu'à Lisbonne et les marchandises suédoises arrivées à bord des navires suédois seront transportées par la procédure de l'échange. Quoiqu'il en soit, de grands efforts sont déployés en vue d'assurer la continuation et le renforcement des relations commerciales turco-suédoises.

Le transport des marchandises d'exportation et d'importation

Ankara, 6.— A la suite de la rupture des relations diplomatiques et économiques avec l'Allemagne, les échanges commerciaux entre la Turquie et la Suisse souffriront le plus. Le transit par l'Allemagne sera naturellement interdit.

Comme conséquence, les commandes de machines et des installations industrielles d'un montant de 20 millions de Livres, faites par la Sümerbank et l'Etibank en Suisse attendront le retour à la paix pour être exécutées.

Bien que nos relations avec la Bulgarie, la Roumanie et la Hongrie continuent, il est fort probable que les échanges commerciaux rencontrent beaucoup de difficultés et d'inconvénients.

Nos échanges avec la Suisse ne pourront plus se faire par suite de la carence de route.

Des démarches ont été faites pour que les marchandises destinées pour la Suisse soient transportées par des navires turcs à Lisbonne où arriveraient également les marchandises suisses à importer en Turquie et seraient transbordées sur les navires turcs.

La Turquie

2/6/44

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Le Journal du Moment

— LUNDI 21 JUILLET 1944 —

L'AIDE AUX REFUGIES JUIFS

— 0 —
New-York, 23. A.A. — Le Comité américain pour les réfugiés juifs annonce que pendant les premiers 6 mois de 1940 ils avaient consacré 10.459.472 dollars pour venir en aide aux réfugiés se trouvant outre-mer.

000535

Zwei U-Boot-Angriffe im Schwarzen Meer

Ankara, 21. Juli (A.A.)

Am 19. Juli um 20.30 Uhr wurde der Kohlentransporter „K a n a r y a“, der unter türkischer Flagge fährt, 5 Meilen von der Einfahrt in den Bosphorus entfernt in unseren Hoheitsgewässern 7-800 m von der Küste entfernt, von einem unbekanntem U-Boot angegriffen, als er in den Bosphorus einlaufen wollte. Die beiden U-Boot-Torpedos verfehlten das Schiff und explodierten an der Küste. Die zuständigen Behörden führen die notwendigen Untersuchungen durch.

Ankara, 21. Juli (A.A.)

Am 20. Juli 1944, um 15 Uhr, wurde zwischen dem Bosphorus und Karaburnu der 26 Tonnen große Segler „Ş e m s i Bahri“, der sich auf der Fahrt nach dem Bosphorus befand, das Opfer eines U-Bootangriffes. Der Segler wurde getroffen und versenkt. Drei Personen der Besatzung werden vermißt. Der Kapitän, der sich retten konnte, wurde durch das Motorboot „Şahini Bahri“ in den Bosphorus gebracht.

Istanbul, 22. Juli.

Wie die Generaldirektion der Staatlichen Schifffahrtsgesellschaft mitteilt, werden die Dampferfahrten nach den Häfen des Schwarzen Meeres vom Sonntag, den 23. Juli 1944, ab bis auf weiteres eingestellt.

La Tribune 7/21/44

CHRONIQUE POLITIQUE

Les Juifs et l'Allemagne

par le Prof. T. ADAM

La tragédie des Juifs d'Europe a atteint un degré tel, sage au Régent Horthy l'adju- que l'indifférence, si légère rant, au nom de l'humanité, de soit-elle, devient une grave faire usage de toute son influ- violation des devoirs de l'hu- ence pour préserver les Juifs manité. Pour vous faire une de nouvelles persécutions. Ce idée sur l'assaut que donne en message aussi resta sans effet ce moment le Nazi contre les pratique.

débris d'Israël en Europe, La seule chose à faire, c'est je vous citerai deux faits pro- de hâter l'avance des armées de libération venant de l'Est et de l'Ouest, afin de détruire les forces du mal, avant qu'elles aient pu achever leur œuvre. Cette œuvre a été décidée et réglée sans doute dans tous ses détails. Un journal rappelait dernièrement et fort opportuné- ment, un discours prononcé le 30 septembre 1942 au Sport-Palace par le Führer qui disait : "Le judaïsme a déclenché une guerre mondiale pour exterminer les peuples aryens de l'Europe; or, ce ne sont pas les peuples aryens, mais les Juifs qui seront exterminés. En Allemagne, il fut un temps où les Juifs riaient de nos prophéties. Je ne sais s'ils rient encore ou s'ils ont cessé de rire. Mais je puis vous assurer d'une chose : ils cessent de rire partout et j'aurai également raison de cette prophétie". Il est inutile de dire que ce ne sont pas les Juifs qui ont attaqué la Pologne en septembre 1939. Les Juifs se trouvant sur son

a adressé le 13 juin un mes- sage au Régent Horthy l'adju- rant, au nom de l'humanité, de faire usage de toute son influ- ence pour préserver les Juifs de nouvelles persécutions. Ce message aussi resta sans effet pratique. La seule chose à faire, c'est de hâter l'avance des armées de libération venant de l'Est et de l'Ouest, afin de détruire les forces du mal, avant qu'elles aient pu achever leur œuvre. Cette œuvre a été décidée et réglée sans doute dans tous ses détails. Un journal rappelait dernièrement et fort opportuné- ment, un discours prononcé le 30 septembre 1942 au Sport-Palace par le Führer qui disait : "Le judaïsme a déclenché une guerre mondiale pour exterminer les peuples aryens de l'Europe; or, ce ne sont pas les peuples aryens, mais les Juifs qui seront exterminés. En Allemagne, il fut un temps où les Juifs riaient de nos prophéties. Je ne sais s'ils rient encore ou s'ils ont cessé de rire. Mais je puis vous assurer d'une chose : ils cessent de rire partout et j'aurai également raison de cette prophétie". Il est inutile de dire que ce ne sont pas les Juifs qui ont attaqué la Pologne en septembre 1939. Les Juifs se trouvant sur son

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Le Dr Goebbels et la "question des représailles", "Nos nouvelles armes écrit-il"

les chefs de toutes les très- pendant qu'il est probable- ment qu'en échange des facilités- qu'on leur ont accordées pour- importation de vivres et matiè- res premières, malgré le blo- cades des banques des pays- neutres que les fortunes na- zies qu'elles ont en dépôt se- ront considérées comme ar- mes passées en contrebande et- contiguës après la guerre- par les Nations-Unies. Les- trésors d'art importés et pla- cés dans les pays neutres se- ront restitués à leurs proprié- taires. Aucune indication n'a été na- le. soumis à une cour internatio- nale.

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La tragédie des Juifs d'Europe a atteint un degré tel que l'indifférence, si légère soit-elle, devient une grave violation des devoirs de l'humanité. Pour vous faire une idée sur l'assaut que donne en ce moment le Nazi contre les débris d'Israël en Europe, je vous citerai deux faits produits l'un en Pays Balte, l'autre en Hongrie.

Il y a une semaine les Russes libèrent la ville de Vilno, troisième grande ville juive du monde, après New-York et Lublin. Savez-vous ce que les Russes y ont trouvé comme Juifs? Exactement une vieille femme et un jeune garçon. En Hongrie, on sait que depuis le 20 Mars dernier, un nouveau gouvernement, appuyé par l'armée d'occupation, auquel la plupart des ministres hongrois accrédités à l'étranger, ont refusé de reconnaître le caractère constitutionnel, libre et national, a été constitué. Ce gouvernement, celui de Sztojay, désireux de mériter la confiance placée en lui par le Reich et de faire pardonner à son opinion publique, "l'illégitimité", de sa naissance, a pris la décision unique dans l'histoire de l'Europe allemande et nazie de faire disparaître tous les Juifs se trouvant sur son territoire: c'est-à-dire 800.000 Juifs hongrois, plus 100.000 Juifs tchèques, polonais, yougoslaves, roumains, bulgares, venus chercher la relative sécurité dont bénéficiaient leurs coreligionnaires à l'ombre de la couronne de St. Etienne. On a pensé à Budapest qu'en supprimant les Juifs, on aura une belle couleur fasciste afin de plaire aux maîtres nazis et en distribuant leurs biens aux non-Juifs, on aura une popularité afin de combler celle qui manque de plus en plus. Aussitôt la mesure fut mise en exécution. 800.000 Juifs furent dépouillés de leurs biens, parqués quelque part en Hongrie et déportés en Pologne. En cours de route, 100.000 trouvèrent la mort sur 400.000 déjà déportés. Et l'opération continue...

M. Eden, M. Hull, la Commission sénatoriale des Affaires étrangères des Etats-Unis, la Commission oecuménique pour les réfugiés, Mgr Spellman, archevêque catholique de New-York, et enfin Sa Sainteté ont tour à tour protesté, mais leurs paroles sont tombées dans le vide. Un auguste vieillard, le Roi de Suède, ayant reçu sur le drame des Juifs hongrois un rapport de son ministre à Budapest, rompt avec sa réserve habituelle

a adressé le 13 juin un message au Régent Horthy l'adjurant, au nom de l'humanité, de faire usage de toute son influence pour préserver les Juifs de nouvelles persécutions. Ce message aussi resta sans effet pratique.

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Il est inutile de dire que ce ne sont pas les Juifs qui ont attaqué la Pologne en septembre 1939, que l'extermination allemande n'a pas été réservée seulement aux non-aryens et que les pauvres Juifs ont cessé de rire depuis longtemps et que la prophétie terrible de Sport-Palace s'est réalisée. Ce n'est pas tout.

La persécution des Juifs a pour mobile et pour fondement une autre prophétie dont on ne parle pas. Cette autre prophétie prévoit que dans une décennie après la disparition du nazisme il y aura une nouvelle vague d'antisémitisme et que les dirigeants de l'Allemagne seront alors bénis par l'Europe pour l'avoir débarrassée du dernier citoyen juif. Ainsi toutes les souffrances que le nazisme aurait fait subir à l'Europe lui seraient pardonnées (Le souci de l'éternité a toujours hanté les esprits wagnériens!) D'où le redoublement de la fureur des persécutions des Juifs au fur et à mesure que l'Allemagne se rapproche de sa défaite et que la force, instrument de son œuvre, commence à manquer. On peut prévoir que les derniers moments seront très durs pour Israël puisqu'alors le nazisme sera très pressé de réunir quelques faits favorables à lui pour le jugement de l'Histoire telle qu'elle est conçue par les gens de Berlin.

L. par ra. a mal le I. tra. fati à de qui reur de f gner de. Ce imm. obs. des sont. qui bles s'es La T. pris de l. d'un. D. on t papie milli. G C L' mar plus sectic Gran la fl quali cadet ne ni de l' la sig fols j thér. mer. ténis) on eh tante de Di ficles bles. bours. Lo porte, volt, ch. d'un nooir. dépend de la et, à Londres il est conv- tion de

JEWISH JOURNAL AND DAILY NEWS

May 5th, 1944.

"5000 Jewish children are already being rescued assures Hirschmann"

Special Report to the Jewish Journal from S. Mandell.

"A door has been opened for the rescue of Jews in Europe. The first ships of refugees have already arrived in Turkey on their way to Palestine. The next transport will have 5,000 Jewish children from Roumania."

This cheering news was given at a special conference with the Jewish press at the Lotus Club by Ira A. Hirschmann who has recently returned from Turkey executing an important mission for the War Refugee Board.

Mr. Hirschmann told the newsmen of a number of confidential things about the scope and methods of the rescue work which is being done and he expressed his hope that this activity will be widened more and more.

"The administration of President Roosevelt has done a marvelous job.-this Mr. Hirschmann emphasized,-the War Refugee Board has been a great and effective instrument for the rescue of the persecuted and suffering Jews in Europe. In addition John W. Fehle the director of the Board who is heartily devoted, the services of the Ambassador to Turkey are outstanding. (Lawrence Steinhardt) Ambassador has labored day and night with me in order to break through a door which has been sealed with a thousand locks to prevent rescue work."

Mr. Hirschmann continued to give us details of his feverish efforts to get at first permission from the Turkish Government to have the refugees enter Turkey and then the complicated negotiations with Bulgaria and Roumania to let the refugees out.

Ira Hirschmann received from President Roosevelt the broadest authority. This coupled with his high diplomatic status enabled him to reach the highest authorities and to carry through things which were never dreamed of previously in this war.

In giving us the details of his work Mr. Ira Hirschmann repeatedly emphasized the warm Jewish heart of Ambassador Steinhardt, who is always very busy with the most important problems of American diplomacy and in spite of this he was frequently awakened in the middle of the night in order to intervene with the Turkish authorities so that the incoming ships containing refugees should not be sent back.

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Ira Hirschmann has spoken with admiration about the Palestine young people, the representatives of the Jewish Agency who are managing the rescue work in Ankara and Istanbul. These are the leaders of the underground movement who restlessly seek all kinds of methods to take out as many Jews as possible from Hitler's Gehenna. Then he started an outpour of admiration of the wonderful work of the Joint Distribution Committee.

"The money for this work of rescue (Ira Hirschmann said with enthusiasm) is being supplied mostly by the Joint. The size of the money costs are not being taken into consideration, no price is too high to rescue Jewish lives. The Joint conducts its relief work on an even, intelligent manner and has earned the reputation as the greatest private rescue organization in the world. The Joint has earned its prestige through the years of honest and ceaseless work. If in some cases the name of the Joint was not mentioned, there must be a reason for it and you can bet that the Joint is behind the work with its financial and moral support. If I would remain now in this country, I would devote all, my energies to the Joint as this is the greatest and the most solid Jewish organization for rescue."

As it is well known the Joint received its money from the United Jewish Appeal which expects to collect this year \$32,000,000 for the rescue work of the Joint, the United Palestine Appeal and the National Refugee Service.

Hirschmann spoke also with high regard about the leadership of the Joint and particularly about the chairman Paul Baerwald.

The Jews in Transnistria. It was very fascinating to get from I. H. the information about his daring work in rescuing the 50,000 Jews in Transnistria that remained alive.

At the very beginning there were 175,000 Jews there from Roumania but the health conditions in the camps were so horrible that people died like flies for two years. There were over 100,000 victims due to this condition. H. used his influence with the Roumanian Government to give up this concentration camp and to permit the Jews to settle in the larger cities in Transnistria in order to give them a better chance to find food and shelter as hide-outs from the Nazis.

"The Jews that remained alive in Transnistria, H. continued, were faced with sure death. If they would not have died from epidemics, they would have found their deaths when the Nazis retreated through that section. No miracles were expected as nobody could foresee that the marching Red Army would occupy the territory in such a short time and the Nazis would not have had even a chance for the mass murders. From previous experiences I knew that in every city

and town that was abandoned by the Nazi armies, they always found time in the last minutes to shoot the Jews with machine guns. This is the reason why I saw fit to use all my powers so that the Roumanian Government shall give up the concentration camps."

He also said "I am proud of this achievement. I am convinced that I rescued these Jews from a sure and unavoidable death."

Speaking of his mission in Turkey, I. H. mentioned repeatedly about the great assistance from the International Red Cross and from the Soviet Ambassador in Ankara, Vinograd who as everyone knows is a Jew.

At the closing, Mr. Hirschmann appealed with typical Jewish patriotic enthusiasm to the leading Jewish organizations in America that in these tragic times that our people are living through, all political differences should cease and all efforts shall be concentrated on relief rescue.

"The immediate problem is" Hirschmann exclaimed, "to get free havens for the driven European refugees. I deliberated whether I shall remain in Ankara or come back to America and call on the public to the proof that it is possible to rescue men and women. I have decided to come here and I am glad of it. Now I hope that the entire American people will support the idea of free havens for refugees in order to save those that remained alive."

TRANSLATION FROM "JEWISH DAILY FORWARD" - MAY 5, 1944

48,000 JEWS RESCUED
ON THE SIDE OF THE RIVER DNIESTER, THE FIRST THREE BOATS
WITH REFUGEES ALREADY ARRIVED TO TURKEY
REPORTED BY IRA HIRSCHMANN, PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S EMISSARY
FOR THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD
HIRSCHMANN PRAISES THE RESCUE WORK OF AMBASSADOR STEINHARDT.
HE SAYS THAT THE JEWISH REFUGEES MUST FEEL THAT THEY ARE
NOT ALONE IN THIS WORLD.

A complete report on the activities of the War Refugee Board to rescue the Jews of Nazi-occupied Europe was given yesterday, May 4, 1944, at a press conference by Ira A. Hirschmann, the Special Emissary of President Roosevelt, who has recently returned from Turkey where he was active in the rescue work.

Mr. Hirschmann reported to those present about the great work which is being done by the War Refugee Board about rescuing the Jews of the Balkans. The Jewish conditions in Balkan lands, said Mr. Hirschmann, is much worse than we first could imagine. In his opinion the War Refugee Board should have been created much sooner.

The Roosevelt administration, according to Mr. Hirschmann's report, is deeply worried as far as the problem of rescuing the Jews of the Nazi-hell is concerned, and he was granted by the government full power to execute the work. The government of Turkey has prepared the ground for the activities of Mr. Hirschmann before his arrival in Ankara, the capitol of Turkey. Thanks to the powers which were granted to him from the White House, he could get in a direct contact with the highest personalities from other governments, and to enable him to do such work which brought good results. His first important work was to break through a way for the boats with Jewish refugees that had to cross the Turkish waters. It was the hard way. He met with all kinds of difficulties but he finally succeeded in making his way and to build a bridge in order to further continue with his work.

Mr. Hirschmann's work would probably be impossible if not for the cooperation and assistance of the American Ambassador to Turkey, Mr. Lawrence Steinhardt. Mr. Steinhardt is now occupied with much work. His position in Turkey is now a very responsible one. He has at times to acknowledge hundreds of important telegrams daily, and still Mr. Steinhardt has been devoted with all his heart to the rescue work. Many times

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TRANSLATION FROM "THE DAY" (NEW YORK), APRIL 22, 1944.

THOUSANDS OF JEWS SAVED, SAYS IRA HIRSCHMANN
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRESIDENT'S REFUGEE
BOARD TELLS "THE DAY" ABOUT HIS MISSION
TO SAVE JEWS

Special for "THE DAY"
by S. Dingall

Washington, April 21.-- Many thousands of Jews have already been rescued from Nazi-occupied countries, and many more will still be rescued, declared Ira Hirschmann, representative of President Roosevelt's War Refugee Board in an exclusive interview for "The Day" shortly after his return from Europe.

When President Roosevelt announced last January his War Refugee Board of three Cabinet members, instructing them to make use of every way and every means to rescue refugees from Nazi-occupied countries, everybody felt that America is shaking off the dust of Evian and Bermuda and is embarking on a new road of true rescue.

This feeling was further strengthened when, a fortnight later, it became known that the President's rescue Board had sent a first delegate to Turkey, not a diplomat, but a young energetic Jewish businessman, Ira A. Hirschmann of New York, and that it had given him full authority to carry out rescue activities on the widest possible scale.

Ira A. Hirschmann has returned these days from his European mission to report to the President's War Refugee Board concerning his work during the period of over two months which he spent in Turkey, and to make new recommendations for rescue activities based on the facts and conditions which he had found on the spot.

Mr. Hirschmann has returned a week ago and has been staying all this time in Washington where he is engaged in conferences relative to the work of rescue.

His office is in the Treasury Department -- quite a modest office of two rooms with a secretary who answers his telephone (which rings ceaselessly) and brings in the papers he is asking for.

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Mr. Hirschmann is a dark-complexioned Jewish young man, with an expression full of charm, of medium height, with penetrating black eyes, an energetic face and quick movements. He is the type which Americans call "go-getter" -- a man used to getting things done.

I met him in his office soon after the lunch-hour, but he had not yet lunched. He took two apples out of his pocket and put them on his desk: "This will have to be my snack."

I asked him whether he had already reported to the Board concerning his work, and whether he can acquaint me with the contents of the report.

Mr. Hirschmann replied that he had submitted a brief report and had attached several memoranda which might prove useful to the Board in its future activities.

The report will not be made public; not because it contained secrets, but because the general character of the Board's activities is such that it could be hindered by too much publicity. "We make use of all sorts of ways and devices to get the victims out of Nazi-occupied areas, and as soon as the enemy will learn about them, we shall no longer be able to utilize them", declared Mr. Hirschmann.

I asked him to give me a general idea of his work in Turkey.

He thought for a while and opened before me a book of cables which he sent almost daily from Ankara to the War Refugee Board in Washington.

The cables are signed by Ambassador Steinhardt and are sent to the address of the Department of State, since in this way only they can avoid censorship. Some of them are sent in code.

Had it been possible to relate the entire contents of the cables, they would have produced the greatest sensation and would have shown that for the first time we are in the presence of a true rescue action. The number of the rescued people mentioned in the individual cables does not amount to many thousands. But each cable tells of a completed action of rescue, and the number of cables is quite large.

With Mr. Hirschmann's permission, I shall relate here a few facts which I have gathered from the cables.

A boat was filled with refugees from Rumania to be transported into Turkey. But the boat's crew refused to sail fearing Russian submarines and mines.

It became necessary to negotiate with the Russian government. The War Refugee Board received the assurance of the Soviet government that it will let the boat pass. In this manner, 239 persons were rescued.

It became necessary to obtain a safe conduct from the Nazis for another boat filled with Jewish children. Neither Mr. Hirschmann nor the American Ambassador could deal with the Nazis, but the children had to be saved. Thereupon, Mr. Hirschmann talked it over with Mr. Simond, Representative of the International Red Cross. Mr. Simond, together with the Apostolic Delegate -- the Pope's Ambassador in Turkey, went to the German Ambassador von Papen. Von Papen is a Catholic. The safe conduct was given, and 1,500 persons were saved.

In the same manner certain things have been accomplished to ease the position of the Jews of Hungary who suddenly fell into the hands of the Nazis.

Mr. Hirschmann succeeded in chartering two boats -- the "Tari" and the "Milca" -- which have systematically carried loving souls from slavery to freedom....

His only weapon was a calling card of 3 lines, reading: Ira A. Hirschmann, Attache of the Embassy of the United States, Ankara.

This calling card opened for him all the doors of Turkish government officials and of foreign embassies. He was received everywhere not only with courtesy but also with great interest.

He ascribes this to the great popularity of President Roosevelt in Europe. He enjoys everywhere the greatest confidence, and great things are expected of him. No one in Europe, except the Nazis, of course, would believe that there are people in America who don't like the President.

I asked Mr. Hirschmann why he selected Turkey as first point for the work of the War Refugee Board.

He replied: -- Turkey is an open window to the Balkan. My ambition was to transform the window into a door. The difference between window and door is that through a window one may only look, but through a door one may enter.... -- Did you succeed in this? -- I asked. -- To a certain extent, yes. I could not open a wide door, so I opened a narrow doorway and a few thousand children came through it, to begin with.

Mr. Hirschmann smilingly added:

-- Children do not require much space. Besides, it is easier to obtain the sympathies of neutral powers when one appeals to them on behalf of children. Afterwards adults also are entering. In addition, one should emphasize -- says Mr. Hirschmann -- that when it is a matter of rescuing a family, the parents always ask that the children be saved first and that they, themselves, be taken out last.

-- How many refugees have been rescued by the War Refugee Board? -- I asked him.

-- It is impossible to give a precise figure -- he answered -- nor is it advisable to make such a figure public. But you can say that everybody was rescued wherever this was possible, and I believe that this policy will be continued by Mr. Pehle, the Executive Director of the War Refugee Board.....

Mr. Hirschmann had two offices in Turkey, the one in Ankara, the other in Istanbul.

Ankara is Turkey's diplomatic center. The Nazis and their adherents keep there now their best diplomats, through whom they conduct political warfare against the United Nations by all kinds of intrigues. It is easy to imagine, therefore, how difficult it is for American representatives to work in such an atmosphere.

Istanbul, on the other hand, is the center of Turkish commerce and the largest port. Tens of boats enter the harbor daily, and it was necessary to keep one's eyes open for every boat with a view to determining to what extent she could be used for purposes of rescue.

So Mr. Hirschmann had to travel always between Ankara and Istanbul, carrying his "office" with him. While he was in Istanbul, the diplomatic work was conducted for him by Mr. Steinhardt.

I pointed out to Mr. Hirschmann that Mr. Steinhardt, while still Ambassador to Soviet Russia, had been criticized here for his attitude toward refugees. Mr. Hirschmann asked me to deny this impression about Mr. Steinhardt.

-- He threw himself into the rescue work with body and soul, neglecting all other important activities -- declared Mr. Hirschmann.

He found Steinhardt a loyal and devoted Jew who does not let anything stop him when an opportunity arises to rescue a group of Jews. He ignores all formalities and all precedents.....

Mr. Hirschmann quickly emphasized, however, that it is the President who merits the greatest credit. Ambassador Steinhardt and he are merely the instrumentalities through which the President and the War Refugee Board carry out their plans.

Mr. Hirschmann declared that only upon reaching Ankara did he find out what broad powers the President has given him. No ambassadors have such powers. Naturally, he made as much use as he could of these powers for the purposes for which they have been given to him.

I asked Mr. Hirschmann what he thought of the White Paper and what effect it would have on future immigration into Palestine.

Mr. Hirschmann replied that this was a political question which he cannot discuss, but he, personally, is not so pessimistic concerning the future of the immigration into Palestine.

Mr. Hirschmann could not find enough words to praise the work of the Jewish Agency for Palestine and of the Joint. Both organizations have greatly helped him in the work of rescue.

He spoke with special enthusiasm about Mr. Barlas, the representative of the Jewish Agency in Ankara.

He also gave credit to the British representatives in Turkey who helped him a great deal.

He ascribes the major part of the success of the War Refugee Board to its Director, John W. Pehle, a former official of the Treasury Department, and also to the Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Morgenthau.

Secretary Morgenthau kept him yesterday in conference for two hours, making inquiries about every detail of the rescue work in Europe.

-- We have in him a great American and a good, warm-hearted Jew who is not sufficiently appreciated -- said Mr. Hirschmann.

I asked him what the Jewish press, and American Jews in general, could do to aid in the rescue work.

Mr. Hirschmann's eyes shone:

That's a good question -- he said -- and I shall gladly answer it. Two things can be done: in the first place, support the War Refugee Board in all its plans in every way, because the people on it are devoted earnest people who have no other aim than that of rescuing from Hitler as many Jews, and also non-Jewish victims, as possible.

-- Secondly, stop the internecine fight among various organizations for the sake of honors, and not to make capital from Jewish misery.

-- Too much noise does not help -- he continued -- but, on the contrary, it creates the impression on the outside that we ourselves do too much already, and this is far from being true.

Mr. Hirschmann's mission for the War Refugee Board is terminated. He returns today to New York and will resume next week his important position in Bloomingdale Brothers' Department Store, in which he serves as Vice-President and business expert.

But his name will remain written in letters of gold in Jewish history as the first Jew whom fate chose to be America's messenger of mercy to rescue tens of thousands of European Jews from death.

Rabbi Solomon P. Wohlgernter
2754 Washington Street
Seattle 44, Washington.

Rabbi of the Congregation Bikur Cholim past 14 years
American Citizen by Naturalization
Member of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of America and Canada
and of the Administrative Committee of the Vaad Hatzelaah
132 Nassau Street, New York City.
Member of the Zionist Organization and Mizarachi Organization
of America; Delegate to the American Jewish Conference and
Member of the Rescue Committee.
Past President of the Seattle Federated Jewish Fund and identified
with all Jewish Movements in American Jewry.

Rabbi Kalmonmanowitz

District 4337

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NEW YORK TIMES
FEBRUARY 20, 1944

REFUGEE AID CHIEF AT WORK IN TURKEY

Hirschmann Cuts Red Tape
as He Maps Plans to Help
Oppressed Europeans

By JOSEPH M. LEVY

By Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

ANKARA, Turkey, Feb. 19—From his bed to which he was confined by an attack of influenza, Dr. Isaac Herzog, chief rabbi of Palestine, at present in Ankara in connection with plans for the rescue of Jews from Europe, rose to greet Ira A. Hirschmann, vice president of Bloomingdale Brothers, Inc., who has just arrived here to take up his duties as official representative of the newly formed War Refugee Board.

Mr. Hirschmann went to work within half an hour of his arrival in Ankara. He is invested with full responsibility of implementing the board's program and policy in Turkey.

One of his main tasks will be to develop the plans for the rescue and transportation as well as relief and maintenance of refugees. No American diplomat of this war has received such extraordinary powers in carrying out his duties as those granted to Mr. Hirschmann. Under the authority vested by the Treasury in the War Refu-

gee Board, Mr. Hirschmann will be the first and only United States citizen in Turkey to be allowed to disregard the Trading With the Enemy Act.

Asked whether he had an idea of the enormous difficulties that would confront him, Mr. Hirschmann said:

"Certainly, no one more than I realizes how complex and intricate is the task undertaken by the Refugee Board. A cursory glance at the position makes it clear that a full mobilization of every resource at our command will be necessary if we are to attain any measure of success. I fully expect to encounter great obstacles in my work, but how could we ever justify ourselves before the bar of history if we did not probe every avenue and left no stone unturned to try to save all that can be saved of those unfortunate human beings regardless of race or creed faced with annihilation in Europe.

"I expect help not only from individuals and organizations but from the entire civilized world. Let us pray that all other nations will follow the example of the United States and give us their unstinted aid in this great humanitarian undertaking."

To Rabbi Herzog's appeal not to waste time on red tape Mr. Hirschmann replied that the Refugee Board, headed by its dynamic director, John Pehle, was an instrument tempered for immediate and unreserved action, untrammelled by party restrictions and that it would be a grievous crime to allow this work of mercy salvation to be impeded by any formalities.

000551

FEB 22 1944

Ira Hirschmann Arrives at Ankara

Ira Hirschmann, vice president of Bloomingdale Bros., Inc., New York, has arrived in Ankara, Turkey, on a mission for the President's war refugee board, it was announced today.

Hirschmann, long active in refugee work, will be assigned to the U. S. Embassy in Ankara as a special attaché in carrying out his task of expediting rescue of Jews and other persecuted peoples from Europe.

000552

NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE

FEBRUARY 22, 1944

Ira Hirschmann Named War Refugee Board Aid

Assigned to Ankara to Help
Persecuted Minorities

From the Herald Tribune Bureau
WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—John W. Pehle, Acting Executive Director of the War Refugee Board, announced today that Ira Hirschmann, vice-president of Bloomingdale Brothers, Inc., of New York City, has been designated as the board's special representative in Ankara, Turkey, assigned as special attache to the Embassy in connection with war-refugee matters.

Mr. Hirschmann arrived in Ankara on Feb. 14, and is now engaged in the development of programs and the implementation of measures for the rescue, transportation, maintenance and relief of Jews and other persecuted minorities in Europe.

He has passed considerable time in western and central Europe. In 1938 he attended the Evian conference as an observer for the United States government. Later he went to Austria where with the co-operation of friends he arranged for several hundred refugees to leave the country.

000553

NEW YORK POST

FEBRUARY 26, 1944

Washington Memo

By Charles Van Devander and William O. Player Jr.

Last Monday's appointment of Ira Hirschmann, vice-president of Bloomingdale's, as a special representative of the War Refugee Board in Ankara, Turkey, is to be followed shortly, Acting Director John W. Pehle tells us, by the assignment of similar representatives to other strategic points abroad, including Berne and Madrid.

Hirschmann, who has been designated as a special attache to the U. S. Embassy at Ankara in connection with refugee matters, has actually been on the job there since Feb. 14—working out field measures for the rescue, transportation, maintenance and relief of Jews and other persecuted minorities in Europe.

Hirschmann had previously spent much time abroad, was a U. S. observer at the Evlan conference in 1938 and subsequently went to Austria to arrange personally for several hundred refugees' flight from that country. His most recent service with the government was as a special assistant to Chairman Davis of the War Labor Board.



IRA HIRSCHMANN

000554

MARCH 12, 1944

Rescuing Refugees— and in Time!

New Board Is Striving to Get Victims 'Out of Europe 'In Mass'

By EMILY TOWE

"We must save them now or there will be none to save!" This urgent statement came last week from Jakob Pehle, acting executive director of the War Refugee Board, appointed by President Roosevelt to rescue Jews and other minorities from sadistic torture and slaughter in Europe.

Only a few weeks after Hitler's notorious New Year declaration that "our whole life, our effort and our existence must be directed to the complete extermination of the Jews all over Europe," President Roosevelt announced formation of the board with directions to act immediately to save lives.

The War Refugee Board director does not talk in generalities about what might be done to rescue Jews in Europe. He says his organization was formed to "act right now" and that is just what the board is doing.

Working in Turkey

Already a representative is in Turkey working persistently to save as many Jews as possible and plans are under way for sending others to key neutral countries that are most concerned with the refugee problem.

"The board is strengthening the underground forces in Nazi-occupied countries that are helping the clandestine escape of refugees," Pehle explained.

"Another major task is to move refugees from congested areas such as Spain and Turkey so that they will not clog the passage for others to escape to freedom."

Within the borders of Nazi Germany, the board has scant hopes of doing anything to relieve the plight of Jews, Pehle said. It is believed that most of the Jewish residents have already been liquidated there and in Poland.

But the pressure of the United States on the satellite countries to desist from persecutions within their borders may meet with some success. When Axis Italy started persecution of her Jewish citizens under direction from Germany, the government did not really put its mind to the gruesome task as did her more fantastic neighbor. Even before surrender to the Allies Italy was cooperative in releasing Jews to neutral countries.

Some See the Light

So it may be that satellite countries such as Rumania, Hungary, Bulgaria, the Balkans and to a slight extent Vichy France, will heed the call of humanity and release their Jewish refugees, Pehle said.

Without doubt, the changing trend of the war during the past few months has had an influence on their attitude.

Perhaps, they may see this as an opportunity to redeem themselves in the eyes of the world—an acknowledgment that they selected the wrong side but will make up for it to some extent by saving the lives of Jews within their borders.

"We hope to influence them to stop persecution of the Jews who have to stay in these satellite countries," explained Pehle, "and at the same time, we will seek the release of Jewish men, women and children if it is a matter of saving their lives."

The tragedy of Jewish persecution is by now a pitiable story familiar to Americans. Cruelty of the Germans toward defenseless Jews has even nauseated some of the more humane citizens within that country.

However, the new board is not permitted to work for the release of individuals. It is left to private organizations. The War Refugee Board is "concerned with saving masses of lives," according to Pehle.

Sent on to Camps

Relief work of this type was formerly under the jurisdiction of the State Department. But now the cause will be pressed more urgently as the Secretaries of State, Treasury and War, who compose the board, are empowered to let foreign countries know that the United States is in earnest about this humanitarian project.

Ira Hirschmann, New York department store executive, is now in Ankara, Turkey, assigned as special attaché to the embassy in connection with war refugee matters. Other representatives will soon be sent to Berne, Switzerland, Madrid, Spain, and Lisbon, Portugal.

"After we get the people out of the Nazi occupied and satellite countries, our organization leaves their welfare, such as food and shelter, to private organizations," Pehle explained.

From Spain and Turkey, the refugees are sent to camps in Palestine and North Africa as soon as possible to make room for arrival of more refugees in the neutral havens. From Spain alone, 600 persons were sent last month to Palestine.

Privately Financed

The staff of the War Refugee Board works closely with other United Nations groups, private welfare agencies within this country and organizations such as the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, the Foreign Economic Administration, the Friends Society, the International Red Cross, and Jewish organizations.

Except for administrative funds from the Government, it will be financed through private contributions.

Only two hours after announcement of Pehle's appointment as acting director, a representative of the Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society handed him a check for \$100,000.

The new acting executive director of the War Refugee Board is known as a "Government career man."

In 1934, he became a member of the legal staff of the Treasury after a few months private law practice in New York. In 10 years he worked up to the position of assistant to the Secretary of the Treasury and Director of Foreign Funds Control.

As director of the frozen funds of enemy and neutral countries, he has had wide experience in negotiating with representatives of foreign governments and departments and agencies of this Government that will be called on to participate in the work of the War Refugee Board.

From his law background and Treasury Department experience, Pehle has turned full attention to the saving of countless lives.

Though an estimated 2,000,000 Jews have already been slaughtered and, according to the Archbishop of Canterbury, 10,000 more Jews are being killed each day, Pehle believes the board can wield its power to reduce the number who fall into nameless graves or die by tortuous starvation.

000556



Mother and Child, Refugees From Europe

Refugees Waiting Transportation to Place of Safety



000557

NEW YORK POST

MARCH 13, 1944

Palestine Door Opens to 5,000 Balkan Children

Ankara, Mar. 13 (ONA)—First steps toward mass evacuation of refugees from Rumania and Bulgaria have been completed, the Overseas News Agency was told by Ira A. Hirschmann, representative here of the War Refugee Board.

Hirschmann revealed that Turkey had agreed to passage of 5,000 children to Palestine. He added that negotiations were nearly concluded for a Turkish ship capable of carrying 1,000 children at a trip. The ship will pick up its passengers at Constantza, Black Sea port, and take them to Haifa.

British authorities, Hirschmann said, will provide Palestine visas and he is hopeful of getting a German safe conduct.

At present only 100 persons weekly are allowed exit from the Axis-controlled Balkan states.

Arrive From Bulgaria

Haifa, Mar. 13 (JTA)—Fifty Jewish children from Bulgaria arrived here today. They were met by representatives of the Jewish Agency and taken to Jewish settlements where they will reside and be educated.



IRA HIRSCHMANN
Speeds Aid for Youngsters

000558

U. S. REPRESENTATIVE COMPLETES PLAN FOR EVACUATION OF JEWS FROM BALKAN COUNTRIES

ANKARA, Turkey, March 12. (JTA) -- The first steps toward mass evacuation of Jewish refugees from Rumania and Bulgaria have been completed, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was told today by Ira A. Hirschmann, representative here of the United States War Refugee Board.

Mr. Hirschmann revealed that Turkey has agreed to passage of 5,000 children to Palestine. He added that negotiations for a Turkish ship, capable of carrying 1,000 children at a trip, are shaping up for early settlement. The ship will pick up its passengers at Constanza, Rumanian Black Sea port, and take them to Haifa.

The British authorities, Hirschmann said, will provide Palestine visas and he is hopeful of getting a German safe conduct. At the present time, only about 100 persons weekly are allowed exit from the Axis-controlled Balkan states. They are allowed 24 hours to pass through Turkish territory.

000554

JEWISH AGENCY SAYS ARRANGEMENTS TO SAVE JEWS FROM BALKAN LANDS MUST BE KEPT SECRET

LONDON, March 13. (JTA) -- Members of the Jewish Agency who are interested in saving as many Jews from Nazi countries as possible, today expressed anxiety over the fact that Ira Hirschmann, representative of the United States War Refugee Board in Turkey, has disclosed certain details to the press of the rescue arrangements that are about to be completed, under which Jews will be transported from Bulgaria and Rumania to Palestine.

"Mr. Hirschmann, being new on the job, is unaware that he is handling a most delicate matter," a prominent spokesman for the Jewish Agency said. "Any publicity beyond reporting the groups that have actually been saved is bound to jeopardize the entire action."

000560

40,000 REFUGEES ESCAPE TO RUMANIA

They Flee Before Retreating Nazis—Turks Give Transit to Hundreds of Children

OUTLET PASSAGES NARROW

Spain's Assistance Held Vital —U. S. Expected to Name Aides to Other Neutrals

By NANOY MacLENNAN
Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, March 31—More than 40,000 civilian victims of Nazi oppression have escaped as far as Rumania from the path of Germany's retreating armies in the Russian area between the Dniester and Bug Rivers, and several hundred, mainly children, already have received transit through neutral Turkey in their flight from Rumania and Bulgaria into Palestine, John W. Pehle, executive director of the War Refugee Board, disclosed today.

The escapes took place only a few weeks after President Roosevelt set up the board on Jan. 22.

In view of military developments it is impossible to say how much longer evacuations can take place through the Near East. Hence, it is emphasized, it is increasingly necessary to have "the full and unstinting cooperation" of the Franco Government in facilitating the passage of refugees through neutral Spain, the only other main European outlet from the Nazi zone of oppression, Mr. Pehle said.

The other neutrals, Sweden and Switzerland, present peculiar difficulties. Escape to Sweden is particularly difficult. Sweden does not represent a passageway but a haven, and as such already contains, about 75,000 refugees, Mr. Pehle observed.

In opening their borders to fleeing refugees, all neutrals give priority to children, women and older men, for political, as well as humanitarian reasons, Mr. Pehle declared. Anxious to preserve their neutrality status, these governments tend to avoid having large numbers of obviously pro-Ally able-bodied men on their soil, he explained.

Transit through Turkey still needs to be freer, it was strongly emphasized. The situation in Spain is even more difficult, it was gathered. Strong efforts, it is understood, are being made to assist the Swiss to receive more refugees.

Ira Hirschmann, the first special representative of the War Refugee Board, stationed in Ankara, Turkey, since Feb. 14, is due in Washington shortly for "urgent consultation." Mr. Hirschmann, vice president of Bloomingdale Bros., Inc., New York, has achieved what has been called "remarkable success in his mission in the Balkans and the Near East, although from the diplomatic standpoint some of the means he used to obtain action were described not only as informal but unconventional."

The War Refugee Board is expected soon to announce the appointment of Boswell G. McClelland, now in Switzerland, as special representative there. Mr. McClelland, native of Palo Alto, Calif., will serve as Special Attaché on refugee matters at the United States Legation in Berne. He is the son of Ross St. John McClelland, engineer and banker, and during 1940-42 was engaged in refugee work in Italy, France and Switzerland.

Other special representatives of the War Refugee Board to be announced will be stationed in Sweden, Spain, Portugal and North Africa, Mr. Pehle said.

000561

Saving Europe's Jewish Job

Directs World-Wide Human Policy

By MURIEL LEVIN

Washington—John W. Pehle is doing a job. A quiet person, he is doing what many would consider the most dramatic job in the world today.

With the world in the midst of war, with millions threatened with massacre and homelessness, he is saving lives from a small, quiet office in the Treasury Building.

Only a decade out of Yale Law School, he has spent those 10 years in government service, making a career of what some would regard as the duller clerking. He worked up to the position of director of Foreign Funds Control, gained wide experience in dealing with foreign governments and U. S. departments and agencies, came into close contact with representatives of private relief agencies.

Now he has become boss of the War Refugee Board. Pehle was appointed acting executive director of the board early in February, shortly after it was created by President Roosevelt. The organization consists of Secretary of State Cordell Hull, Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson and Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau Jr.

Thus far he has only a small staff but the Presidential order creating the board provided for the appointment of special at-

taches to United States embassies at foreign capitals where refugees may be helped. One of these, Ira Hirschmann, has already started work at Ankara. Other representatives will soon be sent to Switzerland, Spain and Portugal.

Many refugees—sometimes 100 a week—make the cold and difficult trip across the Pyrenees into Spain where the Franco government has received many thousands. Others make their way from Rumania to Turkey, or from Yugoslavia to Italy in small boats. About 6,000 Jews escaped from Denmark to neutral Sweden when Nazi persecutions in the first of the occupied countries became especially severe late last year.

The board's job is to strengthen the underground forces that are helping the clandestine escape, and to empty the heavens so that more will be admitted.

Pehle said that the most promising way of getting large numbers of refugees out of Hitler-occupied Europe was through the Balkans. This could be done overland through Bulgaria, or by sea from Rumania, with the permission of the governments of those countries. Pressure on Axis satellites is expected to be somewhat effective. There is also a possibility that Germany might be willing at some point

in the war to permit the departure of large numbers of refugees, but Pehle holds out little hope of such a development.

He explained that the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees has a somewhat different task than that of the WRB, which will probably work more closely with the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration.

The Intergovernmental Committee is charged with planning the permanent resettlement of refugees who will not, for one reason or another, return to their homes. The problem of the WRB is to save lives—now. UNRRA deals with the relief problems of refugees at the time an area is liberated by the Allies.

The War Refugee Board, Pehle told this correspondent, has not yet gone to Congress for money because it wants to have something tangible to show. Authorized to accept contributions from voluntary sources, the WRB has already received one check for \$100,000 from the Hebrew Immigrant Aid and Sheltering Society. There have not been any other large contributions, but the WRB can always find a private agency ready to do a specific job—usually the Joint Distribution Committee.

A few words about Pehle

himself. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Otto W. Pehle of Omaha, Nebraska. His father, formerly with the Loose-Wiles Biscuit Company, is now in the oil business.

Pehle and his wife live in a log cabin in Bethesda, Maryland. Mrs. Pehle, an artist, is the daughter of a former professor of bacteriology at Cornell. They have two children: John W., Jr., who is four, and Stephen, six months old. Pehle likes to garden, admits to a fondness for the detective stories of Dorothy Sayers, bowls regularly with a group of lawyers in Foreign Funds Control, and smokes a pipe constantly.

When interviewed at the close of the day, the new director seemed tired, for he leaned back in his chair with his eyes closed. His relaxed appearance, however, was in direct contrast to his alert and comprehensive answers to questions.

He replied modestly and emphasized that it was more important to actually save people than to talk about saving them. He said that he could attribute little specifically to his own efforts, but pointed out that progress was being made, that new things had been done since the formation of the War Refugee Board.

000562

APRIL 11, 1944

STEINHARDT HELPS 245 MORE EXILES

U. S. Envoy Uses Offices Again
to Gain Rumanian Refugees
Passage Through Turkey

By JOSEPH M. LEVY

By Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

ANKARA, Turkey, April 10—

The eighty-ton steamship Maritza arrived in Istanbul yesterday from Constanta, carrying 245 refugees from Rumania, and only five of them possessed Turkish transit visas.

As in the case of the steamship Milla, which arrived here illegally March 30 with 239 refugees aboard, United States Ambassador Laurence A. Steinhardt, who is a close friend of Numan Memencioğlu, Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs, arranged for their transport through Turkey toward Palestine. Turkish police, port officials and the railway administration arranged to put four coaches on tomorrow's train for Palestine at the disposal of the refugees.

The 245 Maritza emigrants included twenty children under the age of 10, thirty between 10 and 14 and one 3-day-old infant. In the group were 110 adults who had escaped from concentration camps.

Although passage of steamers like the Milla or the Maritza from Constanta to Istanbul is perilous, since the ship travels at her own risk without regular papers or guarantees of safe conduct from belligerent powers and may be fired on or torpedoed without notice, nevertheless there are scores of thousands of Jews who are ready to embark on any kind of sea transport to get out of Rumania. Within the past fortnight no refugees have arrived in Turkey by railway from Europe.

It is not yet known whether the new puppet Government in Hungary will allow any Jews to leave the country. It is most improbable, however, that any appreciable number of refugees will be able to come through by rail from the Balkans or other parts of Europe as practically all rolling stock is now used by the Germans for military purposes. The only rescue route is by sea, and even this possibility may be stopped soon if the German-Russian battlefields spread deeper into the Balkans.

The creation of the War Refugee Board by President Roosevelt is considered a most praiseworthy act by all those here interested in the humanitarian work, but they deplore that the establishment of this board was not thought of years, or even six months, earlier, when the chances were far greater than today to save large numbers of refugees.

Although formed only recently, the War Refugee Board, through its representative in Turkey, Ira A. Hirschmann of New York, has accomplished many great tasks that will alleviate the suffering of thousands in war-torn Europe. Mr. Hirschmann left last Thursday for the United States, where he will report to the War Refugee Board on conditions in the Balkans and on the possibilities of rescue work with Turkey, the only gateway through which some can still be saved. There is anxiety here that Mr. Hirschmann will not return to this area because his leave of absence from Bloomingdale Brothers, Inc., of New York, where he is vice president, has expired. Gilbert Stimson, representative of the International Red Cross here, who collaborated with Mr. Hirschmann in all his activities, said today that it would be a "catastrophe" if Mr. Hirschmann did not return soon.

Wants "Bridge of Ships"

By Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.
CAIRO, Egypt, April 10—Ira A. Hirschmann said today on his arrival here that it would be possible to establish a "bridge of ships" from the Balkans over which the remaining communities of refugees might pass to safety.

Mr. Hirschmann spoke of the "enormous difficulties and great possibilities" confronting those seeking to extricate human beings from the stricken regions and praised the War Refugee Board as a "wonderful instrument" that President Roosevelt forged to that end. The envoy said he had been much impressed by the cooperation forthcoming in the first stages of the "broad program of saving lives in the Balkans," paying a tribute to the good-will he had received from British and Turkish as well as American authorities who had taken an interest in the Balkan refugee problem.

Washington Memo

By Charles Van Devander and William O. Player Jr.

Pehle Sends Special Agent to Sweden To Speed Scandinavian Refugees

Washington, Apr. 12.

Executive Director Pehle of the War Refugee Board has appointed Iver C. Olsen, a former Treasury associate, as the board's special representative in Sweden to develop programs and implement measures for the rescue, maintenance and relief of Jews and other persecuted minorities in Europe.

Which is just another way of saying that Olsen is going to try to duplicate, in the Scandinavian area, the remarkable job that Ira Hirschmann has been doing in the Middle East, as the board's special representative in Turkey since last February. (Hirschmann, by the way, will return to Washington sometime this month for "urgent consultation" with the board.)



JOHN W. PEHLE

Olsen is, appropriately, a native of Norway but was educated at Boston and Georgetown Universities and Crawford's Diplomatic School of Washington. He was a special assistant to Pehle while Pehle was the Treasury's Director of Foreign Funds Control, and since last October has been a financial attache of the Treasury's Monetary Research Division. He has written a number of articles on banking, investments and economic problems.

Like Hirschmann, Olsen will enjoy diplomatic status abroad, as a special attache of the U. S. Embassy in Stockholm on war refugee matters.

Much of the board's work overseas is so inextricably linked with military and diplomatic activities that, for security reasons, it can't be discussed; but, in a speech to the Women's National Press Club last night, Pehle revealed that Hirschmann had succeeded in breaking certain transportation bottlenecks which have been handicapping refugee movements through Turkey.

"Obtaining the necessary ships in Black Sea waters under present conditions is a most difficult job," he said, "involving permission of the Turkish or other neutral governments providing the shipping, safe conduct from all the belligerent Powers and an intricate mass of shipping details."

Some evacuation routes have already been opened up in the Balkans, he added, and there is a possibility of rescuing many people from Bulgaria and Rumania via Constantza and the Black Sea.

"We are pressing various neutrals to open the way for a flow of refugees from occupied areas, to relax border controls and announce their willingness to accept refugees," he said. "Several actual evacuation operations are now going on, and a number of projects under the auspices of private agencies are also under way."

Sweden, he pointed out in discussing the neutrals, has already been very helpful in assisting most of the Jewish population of Denmark to escape to her borders.

Spending out an exceptionally busy day, Pehle spent yesterday afternoon in conference with Sir Herbert Emerson, Director of the Inter-governmental Committee on Refugees, who had arrived in Washington only an hour or so before the meeting.

The only announcement forthcoming afterward was that they had discussed "the relations of the committee and the War Refugee Board," but in informed quarters they get together, first of all, kind since the U. S. decided to strike out for itself in the refugee field—was considered extremely important.

It was interpreted as at least an indication that the international committee, set up at the otherwise rather fruitless Bermuda Conference, is getting interested in practical activities, and now that we've set the ball rolling, may want to pitch in and help.

Nothing could please the War Refugee Board more, as Pehle said last night, "We have no desire to act unilaterally."

WASHINGTON POST

APRIL 12, 1944

**WASHINGTON POST - 4/12/
Refugee Board to Send
Second Man Abroad**

The War Refugee Board announced yesterday appointment of a second special representative abroad and reported its first representative, Ira Hirschmann, would return shortly from Turkey for "urgent consultations" regarding efforts to rescue Europe's Jews from the Nazis.

John W. Peltic, WRB head, said Iver C. Olsen of Gilford, N. H., financial attaché of the Treasury's monetary research division, would go to Stockholm to take charge of refugee work in Sweden.

000565

APRIL 12, 1944

DIRECTORS OF WAR REFUGEE BOARD AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE MEET IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, April 11. (JTA) -- The work of rescuing Jews from occupied Europe will be intensified as a result of a conference here today between Sir Herbert Emerson, director of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, and John W. Pehle, director of the War Refugee Board. Patrick Malin, the American vice-director of the Intergovernmental Committee, was also present.

Sir Herbert, who recently arrived in this country from London, disclosed that he will meet with Myron C. Taylor, the "father" of the Evian Conference who is vice-president of the Intergovernmental Committee and a member of President Roosevelt's Advisory Committee on Refugees. Sir Herbert will also meet with the members of the War Refugee Board and intends to confer with leaders of various American voluntary relief organizations which, he said, are doing invaluable work in the field of refugee assistance.

War Refugee Board Appoints Representative in Sweden

Meanwhile, it was announced here today by Mr. Pehle that the War Refugee Board has appointed a special representative for Sweden. The appointee, Iver C. Olsen, has been assigned to the U. S. Legation in Stockholm as a special attache on war refugee matters. A native of Norway, he has been financial attache of the Treasury's Division of Monetary Research since last October. Prior to that he was special assistant to the Director of Foreign Funds Control.

The Board also reported today that Ira Hirshmann, its representative in Turkey, has already left Ankara en route to Washington for urgent consultations on matters concerning the rescue of Jews from Nazi satellite countries. (The Turkish ship "Maritza" carrying 260 Jewish refugees from Rumania without any visas reached Istanbul yesterday. The refugees were permitted to land and left today by train for Aleppo en route to Palestine.)

000566

**GESTAPO RAIDS JEWISH
OFFICES IN RUMANIA**

ZURICH (JTA)—The Gestapo has raided Jewish offices in Bucharest where lists of Rumanian Jews who are awaiting transportation to Turkey en route to Palestine were kept, it was reported here from Rumania. The lists were confiscated, the report said.

(In Washington, John W. Pehle, executive director of the War Reliance Board, disclosed that more than 40,000 civilian victims of Nazi oppression — obviously Rumanian Jews who had been deported to Transnistria—succeeded in reaching Rumania prior to the retreat of the German armies from Transnistria. Many of them expected to receive Turkish transit visas in Bucharest to enable them to reach Palestine. Mr. Pehle also revealed that Ira Hirschmann, the W. R. B. representative in Turkey, is due shortly in Washington for "urgent consultation." He emphasized that new developments make it impossible to say how much longer evacuation of Jews from the Balkan countries can be carried out through the Near East.)

41-12-44

Thousands of Jews Saved By U. S. War Refugee Board

WASHINGTON, April 12—The War Refugee Board, set up by President Roosevelt in February, today took credit for a possible saving of 40,000 Jewish refugees.

The Board, which President Roosevelt set up after Breckinridge Long of the State Department had advised the House Foreign Affairs Committee against it, has been on the defensive from the start.

In a talk before the Women's National Press Club here last night, Mr. Pehle stated, however, that the State Department has fully co-operated with the Board and asked the Board be judged only "in terms of how much has been done that can be done."

Use Roosevelt Warning
In its effort to obtain mercy for the Jews of Europe, the Board has leaned heavily on psychological ammunition, especially President Roosevelt's warning of March 24 to Germany and her satellites that "this Government will use all means at its command to aid the escape of all victims of the Nazi and Jap executioner — regardless of race or religion or color."

This message has been beamed to occupied countries by radio and printed in over 100 Swiss newspapers through the Board's efforts.

British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden's March 30 statement to Parliament that persons among Germany's satellites who showed mercy to the Jews will be remembered when Germany is defeated has also been widely publicized.

WASHINGTON, April 12—The War Refugee Board, set up by President Roosevelt in February, today took credit for a possible saving of 40,000 Jewish refugees by direct pressure on the Rumanian Government and announced it will try to do more in the Balkans before the Allies invade.

According to John W. Pehle, Executive Director of the Board, made up of the Secretaries of State, Treasury, and War, the Board was instrumental in getting 10,000 Jews banished to Transnistria moved out of the path of the retreating German army.

Rescue of Balkan Jews, Mr. Pehle indicated, is largely in the hands of Ira Hirschmann, the Board's representative in Ankara, Turkey. Mr. Hirschmann is Vice-President of Bloomingdale's Department Store in New York City.

Olsen in Sweden
Appointment of Iver C. Olsen, as the Board's special representative in Stockholm, Sweden, has just been announced. A resident of Gilford, N. H., Mr. Olsen is a native of Norway, who has been financial attaché of the Treasury Division of Monetary Research.

Mr. Pehle's description of the Board's accomplishments in the last two months coincided with the arrival here from London yesterday of Sir Herbert Emerson, head of the Intergovernment Committee on Refugees, set up by 22 governments in Evian, France, in 1938. The Committee recently agreed with the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Admin-

NEW YORK POST

APRIL 17, 1944

Washington Memo

By Charles Van Devander and William O. Player Jr.

Encounter With a Citizen of Tomorrow On the Long Road to Palestine

Washington, Apr. 19.

Ira Hirschmann was winding up a press conference report of his experiences in the Middle East as a special representative of the War Refugee Board, and some of the reporters were pocketing their pencils and pads.

"But there's one thing more I might tell you about," said Hirschmann, a little self-consciously. "I don't know whether it interests you, but it certainly interested me—and that's the people themselves whom I saw over there—especially some of the children.

"There was one little boy, a Polish Jew—he couldn't have been more than 13—and he had been walking, walking from Poland to Turkey for five years. That means he was 8 years old when the Nazis came, when he saw his parents killed by a firing squad, his little sister trampled. She did get away, but only to be run down later in the road.

"This little fellow ran into a house and jumped into a barrel of water in the cellar and hid there all night with only his head sticking out. The Nazis didn't find him; and afterward he started walking. Once he walked right into a concentration camp and stayed there for a while, but the Nazis didn't have any record of him and he slipped out without their noticing it.



IRA HIRSCHMANN

"He kept on walking and finally got to the Slovakian border. The underground movement helped him into Hungary, and from there on he traveled in a group of children like him—with a guide provided by the underground. Once he got so tired that he nearly gave up and wouldn't go any further, and they had to carry him.

"When I saw him at Istanbul he was nervous and talked so fast I could hardly understand all that he tried to tell me—but I have authoritative reasons to believe it was all true.

"And he showed me a picture that he carried around with him—it was a beautiful girl—she must have been about 19 at the most—and I asked him why he carried the picture. 'Oh, she was our leader, our heroine,' he told me. 'She did many brave things to save us.'

"'Wonderful!' I said. 'And where is she now? I want to see her, and talk to her!' 'Oh, she was shot,' he told me, matter of factly. 'They caught her and killed her.' I said that was terrible, but asked him why he still carried the picture. 'We all do,' he told me. 'She is our symbol.' No, I don't believe he said 'symbol'—but, anyhow, that's what he meant."

NEW YORK POST - APRIL 17, 1944 (CONTINUED)

Hirschmann paused, blushed at the realization that he had got lost in his own story, and looked embarrassedly about the room.

Then, with a nervous little chuckle, he added:

"It isn't news—and, of course, you wouldn't want to use it—but I wanted to adopt that kid. I tried to adopt him—I would have liked to bring him back to America with me. But the Zionists already had their eye on him—he's the kind of material they need in Palestine.

"And I spent a good deal of time talking with officials of Great Britain's Middle East Relief and Rehabilitation Administration over there and they told me it was people like this boy—that have been and will be rescued—that are going to make the best, the most freedom-loving people of the postwar world.

"They've squared their jaws—they've been through the fire—they're determined to fight—against the kind of things they've had to endure.

"They want to go back home some day—they're hoping for the time when their homes will be free again—free places for them to flourish in.

"And, when I think about that boy—I'll never forget him—I say to myself, 'What a CITIZEN that kid is going to be!'"

Ira Hirschmann looked around the room again, still a bit self-consciously—but, this time, proudly, too.
And he chuckled, nervously, to himself.

000570

IRA HIRSCHMANN, WRB REPRESENTATIVE IN ANKARA, ARRIVES IN WASHINGTON; CONFERS WITH PEHLE

WASHINGTON, April 17. (JTA) -- Ira A. Hirschmann, War Refugee Board representative in Ankara, arrived here today. He immediately met with John W. Pehle, director of the Board.

000571

War Refugee Board Scans Best Role for United States

By ~~Mary~~ **Hogaday**

Staff Correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor

WASHINGTON, April 18—The War Refugee Board is considering a plan to bring refugees to the United States and keep them in camps until the war is over, when they would be returned home or resettled elsewhere, it became known here today. The Board was recently appointed by President Roosevelt.

In another humanitarian move yesterday, the House of Representatives gave its indorsement to Herbert Hoover's plan for immediate feeding of occupied nations of Europe through the blockade. Both the Senate and the House have now advocated feeding through the enemy lines, but the decision is in the hands of United Nations military chiefs who have thus far refused to permit this loophole in the blockade.

That the War Refugee Board is canvassing the possibility of bringing Jewish and other liberal refugees escaped from the Nazis to the United States on a temporary basis was confirmed today by John V. Pehle, Executive Director of the Board, at a press conference at which Ira Hirschmann, New York merchant, the Board's representative in Ankara, Turkey,

disclosed Board plans for chartering and getting enemy safe conduct for a Turkish boat to take 1,500 Jewish refugees from Constanta, Romania, to Haifa, Palestine. Mr. Hirschmann estimated that Jews and others rescued through the efforts of the Board since its setting up in January have run into "thousands."

Situation in Palestine

Approximately 27,000 Jews can still get into Palestine under quotas fixed by the British White Paper, but since the British have shown no inclination to extend these quotas, the War Refugee Board has begun to look around for other havens for the Jews whom it has promised to rescue from annihilation.

Board officials are known to feel that the United States is in a poor bargaining position in searching for havens, especially in Latin America, because it has not done well by the refugees itself.

When he opposed establishment of the War Refugee Board before a House committee in December, Assistant Secretary of State Breckinridge Long reported that about 580,000 victims of Nazi persecution have entered the United States in the last 10 years under the regular immigration system.

Under the proposal, refugees would be brought to this country in much the same manner as prisoners of war are now handled, without individual visas.

Mr. Hirschmann, who spent two months in Turkey, told many tales of refugees who filtered through to Ankara from the occupied and satellite countries. One

boy who he said "walked for five years," he wanted to adopt, but found him snatched up by the Zionists, who saw in him a potential leader in Palestine.

Help from Romania

He described how United States Ambassador Laurence A. Steinhardt and he succeeded in getting the Romanian Government to help in the rescue of 48,000 refugees who had been left in distress in Transnistria, but was unable to report whether they had all been removed since the Russian armies have since moved in and clogged transportation.

About 750 refugees recently came out of Constanta on small Bulgarian boats and were helped on their way to Palestine, he said.

From his contact with refugees who had smuggled themselves over border after border to get to Ankara, Mr. Hirschmann forecast that many of them will gain back their mental poise, return to their homes eventually and become the leaders of freedom-loving people. Many of those helped to escape were children without their parents, he said.

Noting a recent drying up in the exodus of refugees from Europe, Mr. Pehle surmised that many had given up hope. The broadcasts and other encouragements given by the War Refugee Board will bolster their morale, he predicted. He admitted that the position of minorities in the satellite nations had become more precarious in recent months due to increased Nazi domination, in the face of imminent Allied invasion.

NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE

APRIL 18, 1944

Hirschmann Back in U.S. For Refugee-Board Talks

Reporting to W. R. B. on His
Mission to Turkey

From the Herald Tribune Bureau

WASHINGTON, April 17.—Ira Hirschmann, vice-president of Bloomingdale Bros., Inc., of New York, and the first special representative to be appointed by the War Refugees Board for a mission abroad, returned to Washington today for "urgent consultation" with the W. R. B. after two months in Turkey, where he arrived on Feb. 14.

Mr. Hirschmann has been concerned principally with transportation problems in Turkey, which was until the Nazi occupation of Hungary the most strategic spot in Europe for getting refugees out. The major route, it was pointed out, is from Istanbul across the Black Sea by ship to Costanza, and thence overland to Palestine. Although the number of refugees escaping this way has not been great, Mr. Hirschmann has won the credit for getting at least some persons out through Turkey.

Mr. Hirschmann passed the day conferring with John W. Pehle, executive director of the W. R. B., and will describe his work at a press conference tomorrow.

000573

U. S. May Open Free Ports to Save Europe's Refugees

By WILLIAM O. PLAYER Jr.

Washington, Apr. 18.—John W. Pehle, executive director of the War Refugee Board, indicated today that a proposal to establish "free ports for refugees" in this country is receiving serious consideration from this government.

The proposal was first made on Apr. 15 by Samuel Grafton, New York Post columnist, and Pehle referred to it in response to a question concerning what plans, if any, were being made to eventually establish havens in the U. S. for European refugees.

Pehle emphasized, however, that this was merely one of a number of similar ideas being studied by the Board, composed of Secretaries Hull, Stimson, Knox and Morgenthau, and when pressed for further details, said all such possibilities were being carefully canvassed, but that was all that could be said about them at this time.

Balkans "Catastrophic"

"Whether anything can be done along this line," he added, "there's no way of knowing."

The discussion arose at a joint press conference held this morning by Pehle and Ira Hirschmann of New York, who has spent the past two months in the Middle East as a special representative of the Board attached to the U. S. Embassy in Turkey.

Hirschmann said that the Board had come into the European minorities picture at, figuratively, "five minutes to 12." The situation in the Balkans, at the time he went to work for the Board, he declared, was "indescribably bad—catastrophic."

Work a "Privilege"

Bolstered by the tremendous prestige of President Roosevelt abroad and the whole-hearted cooperation of Ambassador Steinhardt in Turkey, Hirschmann said, the Board has been able to accomplish a great deal already—except that he termed it a "privilege," rather than an "accomplishment," to have been able to "keep people from dying or being struck down by barbarians."

Rail and ship transportation have been opened up to considerable numbers of refugees from the Balkans, he said, and they are now moving through Turkey to Palestine. In addition, most of a total of 20,000 refugees who had been concentrated in Transilvania, and were "dying like flies" there, have now been moved into the Romanian interior. Even there, their position has become very precarious as a result of strong German measures in Romania during the last month or so, but there is good reason to hope that they eventually may be able to get out safely.

Hirschmann said that the Board has been able to do a great deal of work in the past two months, but that it is still in the early stages of its work.

He said, "one could see that all this tremendous prestige stemmed from President Roosevelt himself. Maybe some people don't like him over here, but that's not true over there. To them, he is god—and when you tell them that there are some who don't like him in this country, they simply won't believe it!"

F. D. R.—Their God

The President's recent appeal to all freedom-loving peoples of the world to join the U. S. in its efforts to rescue the persecuted minorities abroad had an "electrifying effect," he declared, and brought new hope to many who had all but despaired.

"It was like a prayer and a promise hovering over them," he explained—"and it couldn't have come from anyone better than President Roosevelt—their god!"

NEW YORK WORLD-TELEGRAM

APRIL 19, 1944

Refugee 'Free Ports' Considered by U. S.

By the United Press.

WASHINGTON, April 19.—John W. Pehle, executive director of the War Refugee Board, has indicated that this country may be considering proposals for establishment in the United States of free ports where refugees from Nazi Europe could await resettlement.

Asked at a press conference yesterday whether the board was considering such proposals, Mr. Pehle said:

"We're considering a lot of things."

Mr. Pehle was asked about the plan at a joint press conference with Ira Hirschmann of New York, vice president of Bloomingdale Bros., Inc., who returned yesterday from Turkey, where he had been since Feb. 14 as Special representative of the War Refugee Board in Europe.

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APRIL 19, 1944

Free U. S. Ports To Aid Refugees Are Considered

War Refugee Board Studies Setting Up Places Where They Could Wait Rescue

From the Herald Tribune Bureau

WASHINGTON, April 18.—The War Refugee Board is considering, among other proposals, a plan to establish free ports of temporary residence in the United States for refugees from Nazi Europe, it was disclosed today by John W. Pehle, executive director of the board.

Mr. Pehle was asked about this free port plan at a joint press conference with Ira Hirschmann, of New York, vice-president of Bloomingdale Bros., Inc., and special representative of the W. H. B. in Europe. Mr. Hirschmann returned to Washington yesterday from Turkey, where he had been since Feb. 14.

The purpose of refugee free ports would be to provide a place in the United States where refugees who had no other place to go could wait in safety until it became possible for them either to return to their homes or to settle elsewhere. While in a free port, the refugees would not be permitted to travel to other parts of the United States unless they were legally admitted through the regular immigration procedure.

Mr. Pehle said he could not say how far consideration of the free port plan had gone and that no decision had been made in action taken so far. It is the duty of the War Refugee Board to study all possible ways of finding temporary havens for refugees, he explained.

Mr. Hirschmann, whose account of his experiences in Turkey occupied most of the press conference, said that President Roosevelt is regarded as "a god" in occupied Europe because of his efforts on behalf of oppressed peoples.

"There may be some people in this country who don't like him," said Mr. Hirschmann, "but that is not true in Europe. He is a god there. They can't believe there is any opposition to him. He is in their eyes a savior."

Mr. Hirschmann said Mr. Roosevelt's declaration of March 24, in which he called on the free peoples of Europe and Asia "temporarily to open their frontiers to all victims of oppression," had had an "electrifying effect" in the Balkans. It was broadcast over and over again, and it gave people hope because it made them feel some one was coming to help them, he said.

Mr. Pehle added that Mr. Roosevelt's declaration had an important effect in overcoming the discouragement of some refugees who had given up trying to get out of the Nazi grip and decided that since their case was hopeless they might just as well die where they were. With the Roosevelt encouragement these people made a new effort, he said, adding that it is essential that they keep trying to help themselves.

Mr. Hirschmann said the War Refugee Board had been instrumental in moving refugees from a camp in Transnistria, the Romanian borderland now held by the Russians, into the interior of Romania, whence they may hope to get out through Turkey.

There were 48,000 people, mostly Jewish, crowded into the Transnistria camp, Mr. Hirschmann said, under conditions which were too deplorable and heartrending to describe.

"The whole principle of taking human beings and putting them in one place not fit for human life, and having that accepted as routine without protest, without an attempt by civilized people to rescue them, is one that has to be challenged, apart from the misery of the people themselves," he said.

Just as arrangements had been completed to move the 48,000 into

the interior, the Russians moved into the Transnistria, and transportation lines were choked as a result. The movement of the refugees was "not expedited," to say the least, Mr. Hirschmann said, but it did get under way, with assistance of the Romanian government.

Mr. Hirschmann said the Russians were also very cooperative, and he paid high praise to Laurence Steinhardt, American Ambassador to Turkey. Mr. Steinhardt "not only backed me up, he plunged into the work," said Mr. Hirschmann. "I think this board and the President and the people of this country who are interested in human beings wherever they are, should be very grateful for having Mr. Steinhardt in Turkey at this time."

The War Refugee Board has been negotiating with the Turkish government to charter the S. S. Tari to carry 1,500 refugees to Haifa. Everything has been arranged, except a safe conduct from the Germans, and it is hoped that the ship will sail any day, he said. In the last few weeks three small Bulgarian boats brought 250 refugees each to Istanbul from Constanza, in Rumania. The usual route from Istanbul to Palestine is overland.

NEW YORK TIMES

APRIL 19, 1944

'Free Ports' to Admit Refugees May Be Set Up Under U. S. Plan

WASHINGTON, April 18.—The Administration is giving consideration to the establishment of a system of "free ports" in this country for the admission of war refugees who are barred from entrance by immigration laws.

John W. Pehle, executive director of the War Refugee Board, confirmed reports that the proposal was being discussed but declined to give any amplification except to indicate that if the idea were adopted the WRB would be the logical administrator.

It was understood that the plan calls for creation of reserved areas near Eastern ports where refugees with no other place to go could be kept until arrangements had been made for their permanent disposition. The areas would be fenced and refugees taken in would not be considered as legal residents of the country.

It was pointed out that the same principle is now employed in regard to foreign goods destined for reshipment to other countries. The goods are held in warehouses without payment of customs duties.

Since the refugees technically would not be in the country they would not be subject to immigration quota restrictions, just as the goods stored in free ports are not subject to duty because they have never been officially designated as imports.

Adoption of such a plan, it is held, would put the United States in a position to request other countries to follow suit.

Protests are anticipated from

Congress, where immigration restrictionists are expected to contend that the proposal would be an evasion if not a violation of the law.

Mr. Pehle made the disclosure at a press conference held jointly with Ira Hirschmann, who returned to this country recently from two months as the WRB's special representative at Ankara, Turkey.

Thousands Reported Rescued

Although he did not directly connect British restrictions on the movement of refugees into Palestine with arguments for the establishment of a free port system here, Mr. Pehle pointed out that if the WRB's rescue activities reached such proportions that the Palestine quota was filled, steps would have to be taken either to arrange for the entrance of additional refugees into Palestine on a temporary basis or to provide some other haven for them.

Mr. Hirschmann reported that thousands of homeless persons had been rescued through WRB efforts from Nazi-occupied countries, including three boatloads of 250 each taken from Constanza, Rumania, to Istanbul. Most of them were subsequently moved to Palestine by rail.

Negotiations are almost complete, he said, for the chartering and safe-conduct of the steamship Tari, a Turkish ship, to carry 1,500 refugees direct from Constanza to Haifa, Palestine.

He said the WRB also had expedited the removal from Transdanestria to the Rumanian interior of some 48,000 refugees, the remainder of about 160,000 who had been put in the path of the Russian armies by the Rumanian Government.

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TURKISH SHIP WILL CARRY 1,500 JEWS FROM RUMANIA TO PALESTINE, HIRSCHMANN REVEALS

WASHINGTON, April 18. (JTA) -- Ira A. Hirschmann, special representative in Turkey of the War Refugee Board, revealed today that negotiations have been completed with the Turkish Government for the use of a Turkish passenger boat to take 1,500 refugees from the Rumanian port of Constanza to Haifa. He called it the largest single evacuation of the war.

Hirschmann, just returned from Turkey, told a press conference today that the "S.S. Tari" would make the trip as soon as safe conduct has been granted for the voyage by the Germans. He disclosed that the Soviet Government granted a safe conduct for the Tari yesterday, and that the Turkish Government has already announced its agreement to the refugee mission.

Asked about possible Russian aid in rescuing Jews from the Balkans, Hirschmann declared that Soviet diplomats in Ankara had been very helpful and had further expressed a desire to do everything they could to assist in the current efforts. Hirschmann quoted Russian officials as having given full assurances that the USSR would do everything to assist those refugees who came into their hands in the course of the Red Army advances. He described the condition of refugees in the Balkans as "indescribably bad and bordering on the catastrophic."

"The President's action setting up the War Refugee Board," Hirschmann said, "came at about five minutes to twelve. But it had an electrifying effect on both the victims of Fascism and the people who are trying to deal with the problem."

Before the conference got under way, John W. Pehle, director of the WRB, praised Hirschmann for the tremendous contribution he had made toward easing the tragic situation in the Balkans. Pehle said that Hirschmann's leave of absence from Bloomingdale Bros., New York department store, is up and he is reporting back to his firm, but he indicated that every step possible is being taken to see that Hirschmann stays with the War Refugee Board.

Hirschmann listed as a major accomplishment of the Board, the safe removal of about 48,000 refugees from what he described as horrible, plague-ridden concentration camps in Transnistria to the interior of Rumania, where they would at least be free to shift for themselves and where the conditions were vastly improved. He expressed the belief that the mechanism which has been set up and put to work in recent weeks would result in the rescue of many thousands of more people, provided military events did not throw present plans completely out of gear.

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WASHINGTON POST

APRIL 19, 1944

WASHINGTON POST
**Refugee Board
Considers Plan
For Free U. S. Ports** 4/19/44

The War Refugee Board is considering, among other proposals, a plea to establish free ports in the United States for refugees from Nazi Europe, it was disclosed yesterday by John W. Pehle, executive director of the board.

Pehle was asked about the "free port" plan at a joint press conference with Ira Hirschmann, special representative of the WRB in Europe, who returned to Washington Monday from Turkey, where he had been since February 14.

The purpose of refugee free ports would be to provide a place in the United States where refugees who have no other place to go could wait in safety until it became possible for them either to return to their homes or to settle elsewhere. While in a free port the refugees would not be permitted to travel to other parts of the United States unless they were legally admitted through the regular immigration procedure.

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TRANSLATION FROM "THE DAY" (NEW YORK), APRIL 22, 1944.

THOUSANDS OF JEWS SAVED, SAYS IRA HIRSCHMANN
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRESIDENT'S REFUGEE
BOARD TELLS "THE DAY" ABOUT HIS MISSION
TO SAVE JEWS

Special for "THE DAY"
by S. Dingall

Washington, April 21.-- Many thousands of Jews have already been rescued from Nazi-occupied countries, and many more will still be rescued, declared Ira Hirschmann, representative of President Roosevelt's War Refugee Board in an exclusive interview for "The Day" shortly after his return from Europe.

When President Roosevelt announced last January his War Refugee Board of three Cabinet members, instructing them to make use of every way and every means to rescue refugees from Nazi-occupied countries, everybody felt that America is shaking off the dust of Evian and Bermuda and is embarking on a new road of true rescue.

This feeling was further strengthened when, a fortnight later, it became known that the President's rescue Board had sent a first delegate to Turkey, not a diplomat, but a young energetic Jewish businessman, Ira A. Hirschmann of New York, and that it had given him full authority to carry out rescue activities on the widest possible scale.

Ira A. Hirschmann has returned these days from his European mission to report to the President's War Refugee Board concerning his work during the period of over two months which he spent in Turkey, and to make new recommendations for rescue activities based on the facts and conditions which he had found on the spot.

Mr. Hirschmann has returned a week ago and has been staying all this time in Washington where he is engaged in conferences relative to the work of rescue.

His office is in the Treasury Department -- quite a modest office of two rooms with a secretary who answers his telephone (which rings ceaselessly) and brings in the papers he is asking for.

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Mr. Hirschmann is a dark-complexioned Jewish young man, with an expression full of charm, of medium height, with penetrating black eyes, an energetic face and quick movements. He is the type which Americans call "go-getter" -- a man used to getting things done.

I met him in his office soon after the lunch-hour, but he had not yet lunched. He took two apples out of his pocket and put them on his desk: "This will have to be my snack."

I asked him whether he had already reported to the Board concerning his work, and whether he can acquaint me with the contents of the report.

Mr. Hirschmann replied that he had submitted a brief report and had attached several memoranda which might prove useful to the Board in its future activities.

The report will not be made public; not because it contained secrets, but because the general character of the Board's activities is such that it could be hindered by too much publicity. "We make use of all sorts of ways and devices to get the victims out of Nazi-occupied areas, and as soon as the enemy will learn about them, we shall no longer be able to utilize them", declared Mr. Hirschmann.

I asked him to give me a general idea of his work in Turkey.

He thought for a while and opened before me a book of cables which he sent almost daily from Ankara to the War Refugee Board in Washington.

The cables are signed by Ambassador Steinhardt and are sent to the address of the Department of State, since in this way only they can avoid censorship. Some of them are sent in code.

Had it been possible to relate the entire contents of the cables, they would have produced the greatest sensation and would have shown that for the first time we are in the presence of a true rescue action. The number of the rescued people mentioned in the individual cables does not amount to many thousands. But each cable tells of a completed action of rescue, and the number of cables is quite large.

With Mr. Hirschmann's permission, I shall relate here a few facts which I have gathered from the cables.

A boat was filled with refugees from Rumania to be transported into Turkey. But the boat's crew refused to sail fearing Russian submarines and mines.

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It became necessary to negotiate with the Russian government. The War Refugee Board received the assurance of the Soviet government that it will let the boat pass. In this manner, 239 persons were rescued.

It became necessary to obtain a safe conduct from the Nazis for another boat filled with Jewish children. Neither Mr. Hirschmann nor the American Ambassador could deal with the Nazis, but the children had to be saved. Therefore, Mr. Hirschmann talked it over with Mr. Simond, Representative of the International Red Cross. Mr. Simond, together with the Apostolic Delegate -- the Pope's Ambassador in Turkey, went to the German Ambassador von Papen. Von Papen is a Catholic. The safe conduct was given, and 1,500 persons were saved.

In the same manner certain things have been accomplished to ease the position of the Jews of Hungary who suddenly fell into the hands of the Nazis.

Mr. Hirschmann succeeded in chartering two boats -- the "Tari" and the "Milca" -- which have systematically carried loving souls from slavery to freedom....

His only weapon was a calling card of 3 lines, reading: Ira A. Hirschmann, Attache of the Embassy of the United States, Ankara.

This calling card opened for him all the doors of Turkish government officials and of foreign embassies. He was received everywhere not only with courtesy but also with great interest.

He ascribes this to the great popularity of President Roosevelt in Europe. He enjoys everywhere the greatest confidence, and great things are expected of him. No one in Europe, except the Nazis, of course, would believe that there are people in America who don't like the President.

I asked Mr. Hirschmann why he selected Turkey as first point for the work of the War Refugee Board.

He replied: -- Turkey is an open window to the Balkan. My ambition was to transform the window into a door. The difference between window and door is that through a window one may only look, but through a door one may enter.... -- Did you succeed in this? -- I asked. -- To a certain extent, yes. I could not open a wide door, so I opened a narrow doorway and a few thousand children came through it, to begin with.

Mr. Hirschmann smilingly added:

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-- Children do not require much space. Besides, it is easier to obtain the sympathies of neutral powers when one appeals to them on behalf of children. Afterwards adults also are entering. In addition, one should emphasize -- says Mr. Hirschmann -- that when it is a matter of rescuing a family, the parents always ask that the children be saved first and that they, themselves, be taken out last.

-- How many refugees have been rescued by the War Refugee Board? -- I asked him.

-- It is impossible to give a precise figure -- he answered -- nor is it advisable to make such a figure public. But you can say that everybody was rescued wherever this was possible, and I believe that this policy will be continued by Mr. Pehle, the Executive Director of the War Refugee Board.....

Mr. Hirschmann had two offices in Turkey, the one in Ankara, the other in Istanbul.

Ankara is Turkey's diplomatic center. The Nazis and their adherents keep there now their best diplomats, through whom they conduct political warfare against the United Nations by all kinds of intrigues. It is easy to imagine, therefore, how difficult it is for American representatives to work in such an atmosphere.

Istanbul, on the other hand, is the center of Turkish commerce and the largest port. Tens of boats enter the harbor daily, and it was necessary to keep one's eyes open for every boat with a view to determining to what extent she could be used for purposes of rescue.

So Mr. Hirschmann had to travel always between Ankara and Istanbul, carrying his "office" with him. While he was in Istanbul, the diplomatic work was conducted for him by Mr. Steinhardt.

I pointed out to Mr. Hirschmann that Mr. Steinhardt, while still Ambassador to Soviet Russia, had been criticized here for his attitude toward refugees. Mr. Hirschmann asked me to deny this impression about Mr. Steinhardt.

-- He threw himself into the rescue work with body and soul, neglecting all other important activities -- declared Mr. Hirschmann.

He found Steinhardt a loyal and devoted Jew who does not let anything stop him when an opportunity arises to rescue a group of Jews. He ignores all formalities and all precedents.....

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Mr. Hirschmann quickly emphasized, however, that it is the President who merits the greatest credit. Ambassador Steinhardt, and he are merely the instrumentalities through which the President and the War Refugee Board carry out their plans.

Mr. Hirschmann declared that only upon reaching Ankara did he find out what broad powers the President has given him. No ambassadors have such powers. Naturally, he made as much use as he could of these powers for the purposes for which they have been given to him.

I asked Mr. Hirschmann what he thought of the White Paper and what effect it would have on future immigration into Palestine.

Mr. Hirschmann replied that this was a political question which he cannot discuss, but he, personally, is not so pessimistic concerning the future of the immigration into Palestine.

Mr. Hirschmann could not find enough words to praise the work of the Jewish Agency for Palestine and of the Joint. Both organizations have greatly helped him in the work of rescue.

He spoke with special enthusiasm about Mr. Barlas, the representative of the Jewish Agency in Ankara.

He also gave credit to the British representatives in Turkey who helped him a great deal.

He ascribes the major part of the success of the War Refugee Board to its Director, John V. Pehle, a former official of the Treasury Department, and also to the Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Morgenthau.

Secretary Morgenthau kept him yesterday in conference for two hours, making inquiries about every detail of the rescue work in Europe.

-- We have in him a great American and a good, warm-hearted Jew who is not sufficiently appreciated -- said Mr. Hirschmann.

I asked him what the Jewish press, and American Jews in general, could do to aid in the rescue work.

Mr. Hirschmann's eyes shone:

That's a good question -- he said -- and I shall gladly answer it. Two things can be done: in the first place, support the War Refugee Board in all its plans in every way, because the people on it are devoted earnest people who have no other aim than that of rescuing from Hitler as many Jews, and also non-Jewish victims, as possible.

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-- Secondly, stop the internecine fight among various organizations for the sake of honors, and not to make capital from Jewish misery.

-- Too much noise does not help -- he continued -- but, on the contrary, it creates the impression on the outside that we ourselves do too much already, and this is far from being true.

Mr. Hirschmann's mission for the War Refugee Board is terminated. He returns today to New York and will resume next week his important position in Bloomingdale Brothers' Department Store, in which he serves as Vice-President and business expert.

But his name will remain written in letters of gold in Jewish history as the first Jew whom fate chose to be America's messenger of mercy to rescue tens of thousands of European Jews from death.

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APRIL 24, 1944

OPINION

The Path Through Stamboul

Big war events are shaping up on the Russian Front and on the invasion coast. But what I want to write about today has to do not with destruction, but with salvage. It has to do with clearing the tortured path to freedom for at least a fraction of the millions—mainly Jews, but others as well—who are doomed by Hitler's tightening grasp on the satellite nations.

I speak of the work of the new War Refugee Board, created recently by President Roosevelt and ably headed up by John Pehle. It sends my mind back to the ill-fated Bermuda Conference, of the latter Committee last year. Things are different now, because action has finally started.

In all creative enterprises there is a point up to which the outcome is uncertain, and some crucial phase on which the success of the whole hinges. In the case of refugees, the crucial lay in the most heroic efforts to save lives. It is a task of the utmost urgency and importance. It is a task which, as a result of the path being cleared, will lead to a mass area of refuge in Romania, Bulgaria, and Hungary on the one hand, and the haven of Stamboul on the other. The path through Stamboul is the path to freedom, and it is our duty to keep it open.



John Pehle

The story of how that task was accomplished will some day emerge as one of the moving stories of the war. I say this because I have had some of the details of it from trustworthy sources. I have had only a part, because the rescue work still is going on. But what I have heard has strengthened the conviction I have always had that a democracy can be strong in acting for freedom—that it can do a job of mercy well when it gets tough.

The two men who made the job in the field possible are Ira Hirschmann, who went to Stamboul on a mission for the War Refugee Board, and Laurence Steinhardt, American Ambassador to Turkey. Hirschmann's job was that of a trouble-shooter, backed up by the power granted the Refugee Board by the President. Steinhardt's was to use our prestige and care for our interests in a project that is deeply American exactly because it goes to the root of humanity itself. Both men have worked devotedly and effectively, and the thanks of Americans are due them.

When the story is finally told it will



Ira Hirschmann



Laurence Steinhardt

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P M - APRIL 24, 1944 (CONTINUED)

be the story of refugee internment camps in the satellite countries in which tens of thousands had been killed, and other tens of thousands died of starvation and disease; of pressures to disband the camps; of a modern "underground railway," in which a group of men from Allied countries risked their lives to get the human contraband out of their death-houses and past the border guards; of the conscripting of whatever ships were at hand—roomy and healthy if possible, leaky and crowded if none other was available; of the agonies of obtaining transit rights and safe passage and visas, and of the indispensable mediation of the International Red Cross; of pressures on Axis satellites and negotiations with neutrals; of the breaking of log-jams in Washington and London and Stamboul. And all of this done without the slightest cost to the war itself.

I put the story in this way because it seems to me not only an adventure in humanity, but a lesson in governmental action. We cannot take pride at the pitifully small number of refugees we have rescued. Thus far, those saved through the Turkish route have been only about 5000—perhaps half of them children. There will be more to come, but at best it is not a mass migration, but a trickle. The path of the refugees has not been a smooth highway, but a narrow and dolorous road. The real efforts at rescue started terribly late, after months of double-talk and phantom governmental committees. I feel stirrings of anger when I think of the men who hindered and postponed the efforts by saying that it was too bad, but it was just impossible. I shouldn't like to have their conscience today.

What Pehle has shown in Washington, and Hirschmann and Steinhardt in Turkey, is what happens when good administrative talent is enlisted in a great cause—even though at the very last hour. They have shown that a democracy is not great if it wills only its ends: it must will the means as well.

The work in Turkey will go on. It offers a pattern for similar work in other

potential rescue areas—in Spain and Portugal, in Italy and Yugoslavia, in Sweden. It is good to know that the War Refugee Board has already assigned able representatives of the Quakers and the Unitarians to the field work required in those areas.

But Americans must do more than administer the work and foot the bills. The idea of establishing free ports for refugees, which the Board has recently been considering, is not only a good idea, but one that is essential to our own decency. If we do not put ourselves out to give at least a temporary haven to Hitler's victims, how much right do we have to urge and cajole other countries to do what we will not do ourselves?

—MAX LEINER

000587

IRA A. HIRSCHMANN TO BE HONORED AT HEBREW UNIVERSITY DINNER IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, April 26. (JTA) -- Ira A. Hirschmann, War Refugee Board representative in Turkey, who returned to the United States last week to confer with John W. Pehle, executive director of the WRB, and with Secretaries Stimson, Morgenthau and Hull, who comprise the Board, will make his first public address on May 4 at a dinner in his honor at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, arranged by the Friends of the Hebrew University, it was announced today.

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April 30, 1944.

Article by Boris Spolov

THE HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT WAS WILLING TO RELEASE THE JEWS. THE PRO-NAZI ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT WAS WILLING TO RELEASE THE JEWS. THE VICHY-FRENCH GOVERNMENT WAS WILLING TO PERMIT THE DEPARTURE OF THOUSANDS OF JEWISH CHILDREN. THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WAS READY TO RELEASE HER JEWS. BUT WHAT DID THE SO-CALLED RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS DO TO JUSTIFY THEIR EXISTENCE?

The purpose of President Roosevelt's War Refugee Board is to rescue from Nazi hands as many Jews as is possible. The great obstacles that stand in its way. The project to settle Jewish refugees in the Virgin Islands. The role of the various Jewish organizations in the rescue work.

The Nazi occupation of Hungary has opened the eyes of many to see that England has until now done nothing to save the Jews from Nazi hands. Less than a quarter million Jews live in Hungary. The Hungarian government was willing to permit their emigration. But nothing was done to help them out.

Now it is late. Now when German soldiers stand on all Hungarian borders it is not practical and easy to take out Jews in great numbers, or not even in small numbers. Now the plight of the Jews in Hungary is precarious. Only a fast defeat of the Nazis will save them.

Surely the intention of the last created War Refugee Board was good and proper, and she means and will try to rescue as many Jews from Nazi hands as conditions will permit. She is, though, late. She was created too late. And the other international relief organizations which were in existence before and still exist such as, for example, the Inter-Governmental Committee for Refugees, they sat still the whole time with folded hands and made not the slightest effort to justify their existence.

The Hungarian Government was willing to release the Jews. The Pro-Nazi Roumanian Government was willing to release the Jews. The Vichy-French Government was willing to permit the departure of thousands of Jewish children. The Bulgarian Government was ready to release her Jews. But what did the so-called relief organizations do to justify their existence.

In the midst of the darkest days of European Jewry, especially since the outbreak of the war, the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees kept itself completely in the background, just as though

she never existed, just as though no refugees existed, and just as though the question of rescuing Jews from Nazi hands was entirely completed.

The explanation for this inactivity, if not a violation, the inactivity is merely because the English Foreign Office did not want the Committee to be active. An intensive work for this Committee would result in a larger migration of European Jews to Palestine. This the Foreign Office did not want and does not want it now.

But the situation at the present time is somewhat different. The slumber in which the Intergovernmental Committee fell into then, fell in when she should have been feverishly active. It forced Pres. Roosevelt to give up the Avion baby as unnecessary, and he established the War Refugee Board, and this time, without consulting England, this time as a surprise to England. The results were felt immediately. The War Refugee Board immediately began to work on and American Standard China began to transport Jews from the Roumanian border to Turkey and from there to Palestine. The difficulties of getting visas were dispensed with in neutral countries. Franco-Spain all of a sudden, reminded herself that the Jews in Greece and Jugoslavia, were, after all, at one time Spanish subjects, and therefor brought them into Spain, through Germany, on Spanish passports. From Transistoria 40,000 Bessarabian and Bukovinian Jews were transported to Roumania with the idea that they would be taken out, little by little, from Roumania. These things and others, which the young War Refugee Board had accomplished in the few weeks of her existence, was not done without being noticed by the foreign office in England. Of course, not as far as the dormant Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees. The same Committee, all of a sudden realized that she had a competitor, a young, energetic, and very active competitor - a refugee committee that is actually rescuing.

The result was felt immediately. First, between the memorandums, the Intergovernmental Committee and the War Refugee Board, and through a personal investigation to America by Sir Herbert Emerson, the English Chief Director of the Intern. Committee, and in fear that the War Refugee Board should not take the entire credit for the rescue work of the Jews, Sir Herbert Emerson now came to Washington to come to an understanding, and to show that his Refugee Committee is not entirely dead. The understanding which is being reached in Washington between the War Refugee Board and the Avion Committee for Refugees, does not clear everything up. But one thing is clear.

The War Refugee Board will continue to carry on the war refugee work with the same enthusiasm as it has done up to now, and the Intergovernmental Committee will continue to sleep in London, just as it has done up to now.

At last the understanding, which is a conclusion that the Inter-governmental Committee will confine itself to help those who have left their homeland to return to their home. This is work to be done after the war. In the present the immediate work is the task of rescuing Jews from the Balkan Countries. This the I. C. Committee will not do. This she passes up to the War Refugee Board to be done.

This present new situation crystallizes the whole question of rescue work. It now becomes clear, that the immediate work of rescuing Jews from Nazi-lands is now thrown entirely upon America, and if England stands aside, and the reason for the same is not hard to guess. The only land in which Jewish victims of Nazi regimes can now save themselves is Palestine. And for England it does pay for her to stay in a work which would require her to open the doors of Palestine wide for the Jews.

The American Government which at the moment does not want to put England on the spot on the Palestine question, must assume the new English policy in the rescue work of Jewish refugees in its present status, and must look for other places outside of Palestine for rescued Jews. Such places which lay close to the Balkan countries are not available, which brings up the question now of transporting rescued Jews to North America, and whether a certain part of them will be permitted to enter on American shores.

The entrance of Jewish refugees from Europe upon American shores to open for them hope of freedom, to live on them until after the war, does not mean to let them enter as immigrants in the various states. It means, more than anything else, that the question of opening the American Virgin Islands as a temporary home for Jewish refugees can again now arise as a revival of the dead.

The question to permit the entrance of refugees on these American islands was given earnest consideration in Washington shortly before the outbreak of the war. The Virgin Islands come under the administration of the Department of the Interior. The State Department has no control over them. It is a well-known fact, that except for various native inhabitants of the islands and except for the Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes, everyone is for the idea wholeheartedly to permit the entrance of Jewish refugees from Europe without hindrance for the duration of the war.

The project is to settle, for the time being, Jewish refugees in the Virgin Islands, and it has many supporters in Washington. The refugees, although being on American soil, will not be in the United States Proper, and to come over to the U.S. from the islands, it will be necessary for them to obtain visas as under the existing immigration quota.

When the question of permitting refugees in the Virgin Islands was brought up in Washington in 1940, the State Department was against it. American consuls in European countries were of the opinion that the whole visa system would suffer thereby if refugees would be permitted to come to American shores promiscuously without quota visas. Also, at that time, the question of shipping came up. Military opinion against it, also carried much weight, in that the plan for the time being should be laid aside.

Now when the worthiness of the project of rescuing refugee Jews from Nazi hands of rescuing refugee Jews from ^{SS} hands becomes a fact which is laid at the door of the War Refugee Board, which was created by Pres. Roosevelt, there is the hope that the plan will be taken up again. All of the arguments which were brought up in previous years against it, can now be set aside in view of the new understanding on the subject.

It would naturally be much better if the rescued refugees of Europe were permitted to enter America, the same as other immigrants. As of today, when the immigration quota has not been filled for the last several years, and there would not have to be any hardship in leaving in tens of thousands of European Jews in America under the existing quota.

But the question of filling the quota is primarily a question with which the various central Jewish organizations should interest themselves in. Right now it is very proper to mobilize on their side the War Refugee Board, and through it carry out the idea of obtaining American visas for the plagued Jews.

It is true that the rate of the immigration quota was much lighter before. It would receive, in the present effort, the full support of the American Federation of Labor, of many influential people in Washington, and from all liberal circles in America.

One of those associated with the War Refugee Board who show the way in which Jews can be rescued from Nazi lands, and has really saved several thousand of them, is the young New Yorker Jewish business man, Ira Hirshman. He was in Turkey several months, during which time, he did more than the whole Inter-governmental Committee for Refugees could show during all the years of its existence.

Ira Hirshman has now returned to New York, and it is problematical whether or not his firm will permit him to return to Europe. He is the vice-president of the large Bloomingdale department store, and his trip to Turkey, on behalf of the Jewish victims in Nazi lands, was permitted for a specific time limit.

It would naturally be a great loss for the entire rescue work, if Hirshman should be unable to return to Turkey, where he has installed such good rescue operations in such a short time. Turkey was always unsympathetic towards the refugee question. She never wanted at any time to enter into the rescue of Jews from Nazi lands, and had always held her doors strongly shut against rescued Jews. Hirshman changed that. He was instrumental in influencing the leaders of the Turkish government, that they should take an active part in the rescue work. And things happened that should have taken place a long time ago.

Turkish ships began, as a neutral nation, to arrive on the shores of Roumania, and took from there hundreds of Roumanian and Hungarian Jews and were deposited in camps in Turkey from whence they were taken to Palestine, through Syria. When you combine these results with the time when ships with Jewish refugees were permitted to sink in the stormy waters of the Black Sea, because Turkey then would not permit them to enter its seaports, and that only happened a year ago, it then becomes clear as to the magnitude of the services rendered by the young Ira Hirshman. Needless to say that his work did not stop with the changing of the position of the Turkish Government, but he also negotiated with leaders of Hungary, Roumania, Bulgaria, and other Nazi-controlled countries.

The deeds of Ira Hirshman showed what one can do when he is earnest and his heart is in the right place. His results in Neutral Turkey acted as a conviction against the non-acting Inter-Governmental Committee.

As a result of the accomplishments of Ira Hirshman, the War Refugee Board has sent two special emissaries, one to Sweden and one to Switzerland. In these two countries which lie directly in line with Nazi-Germany and occupied Europe, there is still much to be done. One can rest assured that these two representatives will be as successful in their respective posts as Ira Hirshman was in Turkey.

The full credit for the proper impetus which was brought in the rescue work must be given to the director of the War Refugee Board, John W. Pable. He is a young Washington executive, who takes the work of rescuing Jews from Nazi hands in an earnest manner. He not only thinks of his work during his office hours, but during all of his waking hours, both day and night.

Jewish leaders in all walks of life who have had the opportunity of meeting Mr. Pahle, are all without exception, sold on his earnestness to do the right thing in the refugee work. He makes the impression of a man who knows what he wants, and does not permit himself to be dragged into any bureaucratic red tape when it comes to carrying out a plan. His doors are always open to any one who can bring him any ideas by which to help in the rescue of more Jews. And in the same spirit, all his assistants are working.

One can not go into details and tell everything that the young War Refugee Board has now in mind with reference to getting out as many Jews as conditions will permit from Nazi lands. Most of the plans of the Refugee Board must be kept in secret, so that they might be carried out expeditiously, and without failure.

One thing can be told here. The War Refugee Board is in continuous contact with all of the important Jewish organizations in America, and is interested in their plans. She is in constant contact with the Jewish Distribution Committee, and with leaders of all other important Jewish groups. She knows who is who and does not permit herself to be swayed by noise-makers who do no good. She also does not permit herself to be swayed by loud advertisements which certain unimportant Jewish groups from time to time insert in English newspapers.

Today, The War Refugee Board is doing work not only in Turkey but is making plans to rescue Jews from Nazi lands also through Spain. It can now be told how the Spanish Government recently helped many hundreds of Spanish Jews in occupied Greece to escape from Nazi toils, because of their Sephardian ancestry who originated in ancient Spain. Now Spain issued visas to them, and induced the Nazis to permit them to return to Spain as citizens of Spain.

The Nazi government quickly complied with this request, and the rescued Jews are now in Spain. It is true that the Spanish Government is not willing to permit them to remain in Spain, and is negotiating with Jewish relief organizations to transport them elsewhere, but it is also true that the Spanish Government under General Franco has in the meanwhile rescued them from Nazi lands, and she did this solely because she desires to remain on good terms with America.

The rescued Greek Jews will now be transported to Africa, and the Spanish Government is making arrangements to admit other refugees to take their place. There are still to be found many Jews in occupied France, Belgium and Holland. The Spanish Government is not sending them back any more, which was the case before the War Refugee Board was created.

The big problem of the War Refugee Board at this moment is not merely on how to rescue the Jews from the Balkans through Turkey, but also on how to rescue 5000 Jewish children from occupied France. The American Government is desirous of admitting them to America with formalities. It is only necessary to gather them together in France, and bring them into Spain.

The greater part of these Jewish children are scattered in non-Jewish homes and institutions in France, who shelter them so that the Nazis will not deport these children to Poland. The hard part is in gathering them together to be sent to Spain.

The Gestapo must not know that they are Jewish, so as to permit them to leave.

An endless task also faces the War Refugee Board, in Bulgaria. There also are found several thousand Jewish children, who it is trying to get out. The Bulgarian government is desirous of permitting their departure. The Red Cross is willing to help in their transportation. But the Gestapo has control now in Bulgaria, and it is not therefore up to the Bulgarian Government to permit their exit.

More and more plans for active refugee work lay now on the table of the Director of the War Refugee Board in Washington. Their carrying out requires large sums of money, millions of dollars. This, however, is not the real obstacle. The real obstacle is that the Gestapo stands in the way between such countries as Roumania, Hungary and Bulgaria, who are willing to release the Jews, and the War Refugee Board which is ready to find other lands for them to live in.

Financially active in helping the War Refugee Board in carrying out her rescue plans is the Joint Distribution Committee. A many-sided picture of the work of the "Joint" at the present moment would be given if it would not hurt the chances of rescuing more Jews. The "Joint", however, holds that the rescue work is important, and not the loudness of publicity, the "Joint" doing the greatest share of the rescue work in conjunction with the War Refugee Board. She, therefore, abstains from loud publicity, at a time when other organizations create more noise than work, basing their work mostly on publicity.

Many institutions in Washington, when they get more intimately acquainted with the activities of various Jewish groups in America, can not understand why American Jews tolerate the existence of certain Jewish organizations whose sole aim is vociferous publicity which blinds the eyes of well meaning people. That is an inherent trait, which cannot be brought out amongst the large non Jewish world. The only salvation for Jews lies in the fact that the leading personalities in Washington who busy themselves with relief work, know today very well who are the worthy ones in American Jewish life, and who are not. They know who are the real Jewish workers, and those who do nothing but the shouting.

And that alone is of great worth in the work of rescuing the European Jewry from Nazi lands.

JEWISH JOURNAL AND DAILY NEWS

May 5th, 1944.

"5000 Jewish children are already being rescued assures Hirschmann"
Special Report to the Jewish Journal from S. Marshall.

"A door has been opened for the rescue of Jews in Europe. The first ships of refugees have already arrived in Turkey on their way to Palestine. The next transport will have 5,000 Jewish children from Roumania."

This cheering news was given at a special conference with the Jewish press at the Lotus Club by Ira A. Hirschmann who has recently returned from Turkey executing an important mission for the War Refugee Board.

Mr. Hirschmann told the newsmen of a number of confidential things about the scope and methods of the rescue work which is being done and he expressed his hope that this activity will be widened more and more.

"The administration of President Roosevelt has done a marvelous job," this Mr. Hirschmann emphasized, "the War Refugee Board has been a great and effective instrument for the rescue of the persecuted and suffering Jews in Europe. In addition John W. Pella the director of the Board who is heartily devoted, the services of the Ambassador to Turkey are outstanding. (Lawrence Steinhardt) Ambassador has labored day and night with me in order to break through a door which has been sealed with a thousand locks to prevent rescue work."

Mr. Hirschmann continued to give us details of his fervent efforts to get at first permission from the Turkish Government to have the refugees enter Turkey and then the complicated negotiations with Bulgaria and Roumania to let the refugees out.

Ira Hirschmann received from President Roosevelt the broadest authority. This coupled with his high diplomatic status enabled him to reach the highest authorities and to carry through things which were never dreamed of previously in this war.

In giving us the details of his work Mr. Ira Hirschmann repeatedly emphasized the warm Jewish heart of Ambassador Steinhardt, who is always very busy with the most important problems of American diplomacy and in spite of this he was frequently summoned in the middle of the night in order to intervene with the Turkish authorities so that the incoming ships containing refugees should not be sent back.

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Ira Hirschmann has spoken with admiration about the Palestine young people, the representatives of the Jewish Agency who are managing the rescue work in Ankara and Istanbul. Those are the leaders of the underground movement who restlessly seek all kinds of methods to take out as many Jews as possible from Hitler's Gehenna. Then he started an outpour of admiration of the wonderful work of the Joint Distribution Committee.

"The money for this work of rescue (Ira Hirschmann said with enthusiasm) is being supplied mostly by the Joint. The size of the money costs are not being taken into consideration, no price is too high to rescue Jewish lives. The Joint conducts its relief work on an even, intelligent manner and has earned the reputation as the greatest private rescue organization in the world. The Joint has earned its prestige through the years of honest and ceaseless work. If in some cases the name of the Joint was not mentioned, there must be a reason for it and you can bet that the Joint is behind the work with its financial and moral support. If I would remain now in this country, I would devote all, my energies to the Joint as this is the greatest and the most solid Jewish organization for rescue."

As it is well known the Joint received its money from the United Jewish Appeal which expects to collect this year \$32,000,000 for the rescue work of the Joint, the United Palestine Appeal and the National Refugee Service.

Hirschmann spoke also with high regard about the leadership of the Joint and particularly about the chairman Paul Baerwald.

The Jews in Transnistria. It was very fascinating to get from I. H. the information about his daring work in rescuing the 50,000 Jews in Transnistria that remained alive.

At the very beginning there were 175,000 Jews there from Roumania but the health conditions in the camps were so horrible that people died like flies for two years. There were over 100,000 victims due to this condition. H. used his influence with the Roumanian Government to give up this concentration camp and to permit the Jews to settle in the larger cities in Transnistria in order to give them a better chance to find food and shelter as hide-outs from the Nazis.

"The Jews that remained alive in Transnistria, H. continued, were faced with sure death. If they would not have died from epidemics, they would have found their deaths when the Nazis retreated through that section. No miracles were expected as nobody could foresee that the marching Red Army would occupy the territory in such a short time and the Nazis would not have had even a chance for the mass murders. From previous experiences I knew that in every city

and town that was abandoned by the Nazi armies, they always found time in the last minutes to shoot the Jews with machine guns. This is the reason why I saw fit to use all my powers so that the Roumanian Government shall give up the concentration camps."

He also said "I am proud of this achievement. I am convinced that I rescued these Jews from a sure and unavoidable death."

Speaking of his mission in Turkey, I. H. mentioned repeatedly about the great assistance from the International Red Cross and from the Soviet Ambassador in Ankara, -Vinograd who as everyone knows is a Jew.

At the closing, Mr. Hirschmann appealed with typical Jewish patriotic enthusiasm to the leading Jewish organizations in America that in these tragic times that our people are living through, - all political differences should cease and all efforts shall be concentrated on relief rescue.

"The immediate problem is" Hirschmann exclaimed, "to get free havens for the driven European refugees. I deliberated whether I shall remain in Ankara or come back to America and call on the public to the proof that it is possible to rescue men and women. I have decided to come here and I am glad of it. Now I hope that the entire American people will support the idea of free havens for refugees in order to save those that remained alive."

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TRANSLATION FROM "JEWISH DAILY FORWARD" - MAY 5, 1944

**48,000 JEWS RESCUED
ON THE SIDE OF THE RIVER DNIESTER, THE FIRST THREE BOATS
WITH REFUGEES ALREADY ARRIVED TO TURKEY
REPORTED BY IRA HIRSCHMANN, PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S EMISSARY
FOR THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD
HIRSCHMANN PRAISES THE RESCUE WORK OF AMBASSADOR STEINHARDT.
HE SAYS THAT THE JEWISH REFUGEES MUST FEEL THAT THEY ARE
NOT ALONE IN THIS WORLD.**

A complete report on the activities of the War Refugee Board to rescue the Jews of Nazi-occupied Europe was given yesterday, May 4, 1944, at a press conference by Ira A. Hirschmann, the Special Emissary of President Roosevelt, who has recently returned from Turkey where he was active in the rescue work.

Mr. Hirschmann reported to those present about the great work which is being done by the War Refugee Board about rescuing the Jews of the Balkans. The Jewish conditions in Balkan lands, said Mr. Hirschmann, is much worse than we first could imagine. In his opinion the War Refugee Board should have been created much sooner.

The Roosevelt administration, according to Mr. Hirschmann's report, is deeply worried as far as the problem of rescuing the Jews of the Nazi-hell is concerned, and he was granted by the government full power to execute the work. The government of Turkey has prepared the ground for the activities of Mr. Hirschmann before his arrival in Ankara, the capital of Turkey. Thanks to the powers which were granted to him from the White House, he could get in a direct contact with the highest personalities from other governments, and to enable him to do such work which brought good results. His first important work was to break through a way for the boats with Jewish refugees that had to cross the Turkish waters. It was the hard way. He met with all kinds of difficulties but he finally succeeded in making his way and to build a bridge in order to further continue with his work.

Mr. Hirschmann's work would probably be impossible if not for the cooperation and assistance of the American Ambassador to Turkey, Mr. Lawrence Steinhardt. Mr. Steinhardt is now occupied with much work. His position in Turkey is now a very responsible one. He has at times to acknowledge hundreds of important telegrams daily, and still Mr. Steinhardt has been devoted with all his heart to the rescue work. Many times

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in the middle of the night he had to get in touch with different Ministers and he was always ready to cooperate. Mr. Hirschmann has won praiseworthy words from Mr. Steinhardt and he considers him as one of the future leaders of American Jewry. The most difficult task was to bring into the port of Turkey the first liner "MILKA" with Jewish refugees from Rumania. It required plenty of work but through the assistance of Mr. Steinhardt this task was realized, and after the "MILKA" it wasn't so hard any more to bring into port the other two liners, the "BELLACITTA" and the "MARITZA". In conjunction with this Mr. Hirschmann gave details about the great rescue work which is being done by the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem in cooperation with the Joint Distribution Committee. The Joint is now in back of all the Jewish rescue work. It dedicates for this work the necessary funds and the necessary prestige. Mr. Hirschmann further reported about the rescue work which was done in Rumania. In Transnistria which is now occupied by Russia 175,000 Jews were sent out by Rumania two years ago, who were enslaved in the concentration camps. In the period of the past two years only 50,000 out of the 175,000 Jews remained alive; the rest died from hunger and epidemic diseases.

Mr. Hirschmann undertook to rescue the rest of the Jews in Transnistria and he succeeded through neutral governments to get in touch with the Rumanian government and his request that it should dissolve the concentration camps and permit the Jews to leave and to settle down in the cities of the country. After consultation with the Rumanian government he finally succeeded in rescuing 48,000 Jews from the concentration camps and to enable them to live freely as Rumanian citizens.

The International Red Cross showed a great measure of goodwill and assisted in this work of rescue.

Mr. Hirschmann also got in touch with the Soviet Power through her Ambassador in Ankara and was promised that the Soviet Government will take care of those Rumanian Jews who still remained in Transnistria. The Rumanian Government permits those Jews who are anxious to leave to get out of Rumania. The agenda of the day now is the rescue of 5,000 Jewish children from Bulgaria who expect to arrive into a Rumanian port. The second point on the agenda of the day is the question of creating in America free ports for Jewish refugees. This is a very important problem which must be solved as quickly as possible. For this question, first of all a favorable public opinion must be created and a real effort should be made in the government circles.

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MAY 5, 1944

WAR REFUGEE BOARD PLANS TO MOVE 5,000 JEWISH CHILDREN OUT OF RUMANIA

NEW YORK, May 4. (JTA) — The War Refugee Board is determined to rescue 5,000 Jewish children from Rumania, it was revealed here today by Ira A. Hirschmann, who recently returned from Turkey where he was the Board's special representative.

Speaking before a group of editors at the Louis Club, Mr. Hirschmann lauded the Joint Distribution Committee, the Jewish Agency for Palestine and the U. S. Ambassador in Turkey, Laurence Steinhardt, for the efforts which they are making to save as many Balkan Jews as possible. He emphasized that the Joint Distribution Committee enjoys a very fine reputation abroad for its efficient relief activities. He also commended the International Red Cross for cooperating with him in the rescue of Jews from Rumania.

The Rumanian Government, Mr. Hirschmann said, promised to place no difficulties in the way of Jews desiring to leave the country. So far three ships carrying Jewish passengers have succeeded in leaving Rumania and reaching Turkey. The passengers were permitted to land on Turkish soil, in transit to Palestine, as a result of efforts made by Ambassador Steinhardt.

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J T A DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

MAY 7, 1944

NEW TRANSPORT OF JEWS FROM RUMANIA ARRIVES IN PALESTINE; MORE TRANSPORTS EXPECTED

JERUSALEM, May 5. (JTA) -- Another transport of 230 Jewish immigrants from Rumania arrived here today from Turkey where they disembarked several days ago from the Turkish steamer the S. S. Milka, which sailed from the Rumanian port of Constanza. A transport of 1,500 Rumanian Jews is expected to arrive here soon.

The 122 Jewish orphans from Rumania who reached Palestine several days ago left the clearance camp today and were transferred to various children's institutions throughout the country.

The children, most of them orphans whose parents perished in Transnistria, are between four and 16 years of age. One of them is described in the Palestine press as "Young Tarzan" because for more than a year he wandered in the woods living on roots, grass and leaves.

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As the Editor

Views the News - - -

A Miraculous Rescue Story

London Evening Standard's Jerusalem correspondent has cabled his newspaper a miraculous story, involving the flinging of a Jewish infant from the jaws of death to life and safety.

A high official of the Jewish Agency vouches for the truth of the story which reveals that some months ago, in Hungary, a train jammed with Jews headed for Nazi "death camps" in Poland, paused at a siding next to a train on which a group of fortunate Balkan Jews was headed for a port to embark for Palestine. In a few moments during which the two trains had stopped next to each other, the Jews—one group headed for death camps and the other on the road to life and dignity—converted. When the former learned the destination of the latter, a young mother flung her infant to one of the Palestine-bound women.

The names of the two women have not been disclosed. What is known, however, is that the woman bound for Palestine had embraced a new-found "son." As his foster mother, she became the symbol of the rescue efforts which seek to snatch human beings from death traps to rebuild their lives in free environments.

This story is symbolic of the great responsibilities which face all free peoples in the world today. Tens of thousands could have been saved several months ago had the democracies avoided procrastination and had President Roosevelt appointed his War Refugee Board sooner. Tens of thousands can be saved even today—provided that farcical White Papers are scrapped.

The story reported by the Jerusalem correspondent of the London Evening Standard and vouched for by the Jewish Agency is a challenge to the United Nations to speed rescue efforts and to avoid blunders which would call for miracles rather than realistically planned projects to save the hundreds of thousands who have been doomed to death by the Nazis.

Rescue Work Gains Momentum

Approach of the invasion of Nazi-occupied Europe by the United Nations is accompanied by important news.

The War Refugee Board is making rapid advances in efforts to rescue as many victims of Nazism as possible, and there is every indication that, at least the plan to liberate the sufferers will prove workable.

The arrival of hundreds of new settlers in Palestine, the plan, announced by Ira A. Hirschmann, special representative of the War Refugee Board, to rescue 5,000 children from Romania, and the request made by President Roosevelt for an advance of \$100,000,000 to the UNRRA (United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration) indicate that the responsible leaders are not asleep at the switch.

In the meantime, the proposal for the establishment of "free ports" for refugees in this country is gaining momentum and may be counted upon to contribute to the solution of the problem of homelessness for many thousands.

The problem of refugee homelessness is not from lack of space but the news of efforts to accomplish the important humanitarian purpose is certainly more encouraging than it was three months ago, before President Roosevelt created the War Refugee Board.

WRB Determined to Rescue 5,000 Children In Romania

Hirschmann, War Refugee Board's Representative in Turkey, Who Recently Returned, Reports Efforts to Move Jewish Youngsters Out of the Balkans

NEW YORK (JTA)—The War Refugee Board is determined to rescue 5,000 Jewish children from Romania, it was revealed here by Ira A. Hirschmann, who recently returned from Turkey where he was the Board's special representative. Speaking before a group of editors at the Lotus Club, Mr. Hirschmann praised the Joint Distribution Committee, the Jewish Agency for Palestine and the U. S. Ambassador in Turkey, Laurence Steinhardt, for the efforts which they are making to save as many Balkan Jews as possible. He emphasized that the Joint Distribution Committee enjoys a very fine reputation abroad for its efficient relief activities. He also commended the International Red Cross for cooperating with him in the rescue of Jews from Romania.

The Romanian Government, Mr. Hirschmann said, promised to place no difficulties in the way of Jews desiring to leave the country. So far three ships carrying Jewish passengers have succeeded in leaving Romania and reaching Turkey. The passengers were permitted to land on Turkish soil, in transit to Palestine, as a result of efforts made by Ambassador Steinhardt.

New York Times Backs Plan for "Free Ports"

NEW YORK, (JTA)—Support for the plan to establish "free ports" in the U. S. for refugees in order to save as many Jews from occupied Europe as possible, is given by the New York Times in an editorial which urges that the War Refugee Board be the agency to carry out this plan.

"When the idea of 'free ports' in this country for war refugees was brought up in Washington recently there seemed to be two possible objections to it, one good and one bad," the editorial says. "The first objection was that it would be inhuman to establish what might be regarded as concentration camps for refugees we

were not willing to admit. The second was that some of these refugees might eventually get into the country, beyond the restrictions of the quota law. A study of the situation indicates that neither argument is valid.

"A refugee brought, say, to Ellis Island and there comfortably housed and fed and treated with consideration, would be in heaven compared with the same person in Germany or Romania. As for the danger of refugees escaping into the United States from their places of detention, this is hardly a menace to the safety of the Republic. We take the risk with our captive enemies. Why not with our wretched friends?"

Senators Support Plan for Refugees

NEW YORK (JPS)—Senators James M. Mead of New York and James E. Murray of Montana have declared themselves in favor of the plan for "free ports" in the United States for refugees from Nazi-occupied Europe, in messages addressed to The New York Post. The plan is now under consideration by the War Refugee Board.



New York ~~World~~ Telegram
15 1944

Lighthouse Aids Palestine Blind

Plans for a new \$100,000 building to shelter and rehabilitate war blind will be announced by Mrs. Samuel D. Friedman, president of the Palestine Lighthouse, at the organization's spring luncheon tomorrow in the grand ballroom of the Plaza. The Lighthouse has been active in helping the blind of Palestine and the Near East for nearly 25 years. Quarters for 200 additional blind are needed to carry on postwar work.

Mrs. Abram I. Elkus is chairman of the luncheon; Mrs. Robert Weil, co-chairman, Harry Hirschfeld will act as toastmaster. Speakers will include I. A. Hirschmann, special representative of the War Refugee Board recently returned from Palestine and Turkey; Miss Helen Keller, honorary vice president, and Rabbi Stephen S. Wise.

Among the sponsors and hostesses are Mrs. Felix M. Warburg, Mrs. Joseph Strock, Mrs. George Backer, Mrs. Samuel Spiegel, Mrs. Stephen Wise, Mrs. Jerome Hirschfeld and Mrs. Julius Wolff.

000605

NEW YORK TIMES

May 17, 1944

PALESTINE CALLED HAVEN FOR REFUGEES

*Described as a 'Beckoning Door'
to Thousands*

Rehabilitated refugees who have "gone through the fire and who know the value of freedom" were called the "people of the future" by I. A. Hirschmann, special representative of the War Refugee Board, who spoke yesterday at the annual luncheon of the Palestine Lighthouse in the Plaza Hotel.

Recently returned from a trip to Turkey and Palestine, Mr. Hirschmann said that he could not have accomplished his job of helping to "bring helpless people from a world of horror into safety" without help from Palestine. That land, he added, represents the "only beckoning open door" to hundreds of thousands of refugees.

Plans for a new \$100,000 building to shelter and rehabilitate war blind, were announced by Mrs. Samuel D. Friedman, president of the lighthouse. The present building, she reported, is filled to capacity, so that some adult members must be boarded out.

Mrs. Friedman revealed that the Palestine Lighthouse had already bought the site for the new building, and added that she believed it would be possible to obtain priorities to begin construction before the end of the war.

Other speakers at the luncheon were Miss Helen Keller, an honorary vice president of the Palestine Lighthouse, and Rabbi Stephen S. Wise of the Free Synagogue. Mrs. Abram I. Elkus acted as chairman and Harry Hirschfield was toastmaster.

000606

SPEED SEEN NEEDED FOR JEWS' RESCUE

1,500,000 in Hungary and
Rumania Can Be Saved,
Says Official in Palestine

By Wireless to The New York Times
JERUSALEM, May 19 (Delayed).
Swift action by the British could
save up to 1,500,000 Jews in Hun-
gary and Rumania, in the opinion
of Isaac Gruenbaum, chairman of
the United Rescue Committee for
European Jews.

If practical measures are not
taken, however, it is felt that the
same process of extermination as
occurred in Poland will befall the
Jews of those two countries. A
memorandum on conditions there
and suggestions for remedial steps
recently sent to the United States
War Refugee Board, said Mr.
Gruenbaum, who from 1935 was
a Polish Deputy.

Recent reports told of the arrival
in Palestine of several hundred
refugees from eastern Europe and
there are indications that more
will arrive within the limit of
20,000 permits still available under
the British White Paper.

Eighty-five per cent of the money
required to finance refugee aid
here has been contributed by Jews
of Palestine. Most of the remain-
ing 15 per cent came from South
Africa and other countries.

Turkey Not Informed

In July, 1943, Mr. Gruenbaum
said, the British Government made
the statement that if escaping
Jews reached Istanbul, Turkey,
from Axis countries, they would
receive Palestine visas under the
White Paper quota. But no official
communication to this effect
reached the Turkish Government
and it consented to grant transit
permits to only nine families a
week each from Rumania, Bulgaria
and Hungary.

Last March official assurances
were given the Turkish Govern-
ment and transit difficulties were
removed.

Obstacles also had to be over-
come with regard to the exit from
Rumania. This was substantially
achieved by the assistance of United
States representatives after Ira
A. Hirschmann completed his mis-
sion on behalf of the War Refugee
Board. But the accelerated emi-
gration that Mr. Hirschmann's as-
sistance indicated never material-
ized, Mr. Gruenbaum said. One
thousand Jews, many of whom
were repatriated from Transdnie-
stria, recently left Rumania.

Developments in Hungary have
aroused grave anxiety. There have
been signs that the tempo of the
atrocities perpetrated there against
Jews will be faster than in Poland.

More Money Asked

Mr. Gruenbaum declared that
Jewish communities outside Pale-
stine apparently did not realize the
acute nature of the Jews' plight in
Hungary and Rumania and had
not contributed sufficient funds.

The three greatest obstacles to
saving the Jews at the present
time, he said, were the White
Paper restrictions on mass admis-
sions to Palestine and the bar-
riers to entry into other countries,
the latter being imposed by Axis
countries against the departure of
their Jewish victims and insuffi-
cient funds.

000601

WAR REFUGEE BOARD AIDE STRESSES PALESTINE'S POST-WAR ROLE

"I THINK Palestine is inevitable. I don't think you can take any force as affirmative as Palestine and hold it back," declared I. A. Hirschmann, special representative of the President's War Refugee Board in an exclusive interview with a representative of the U.P.A. Report this month. Mr. Hirschmann made the statement in response to a question as to what he thought would be Palestine's role in post-war immigration.



I. A. Hirschmann

Mr. Hirschmann, who is a vice-president of Bloomingdale's Department Store, recently returned from Palestine and other Middle East sectors where he had gone to facilitate the rescue programs of the War Refugee Board.

"I can hardly believe we accomplished what we did," he told the interviewer, referring to the hundreds of Jewish men, women, and children who were literally snatched from death in the Balkans and enabled to start life anew in Palestine. "I suppose it might be called the result of teamwork. The power invested in me as a representative of the War Refugee Board made it possible to deal promptly with high

(Continued on page 4)

War Refugee Board

(Continued from page 1)

Officials. I was able to assist the agencies already there and give impetus to their work. The efforts of the United States Ambassador in London, A. G. Harcourt, were really a brilliant job. The War Refugee Board's agency for Palestine is doing a brilliant job. I am convinced that the War Refugee Board's efforts in Palestine are being extremely well handled. Mr. Hirschmann has been very successful in his efforts to bring about a new, independent, civilized world should be encouraged, provided it does not encourage others," he said. "Such a place." Turning upon the difficulties encountered, he declared: "Palestine is not without problems or dissension. On the contrary, it is a profoundly disturbed area that seems to have a challenge for the future civilization of Jewish faith in Palestine is well-founded."

independent, civilized world should be encouraged, provided it does not encourage others," he said. "Such a place." Turning upon the difficulties encountered, he declared: "Palestine is not without problems or dissension. On the contrary, it is a profoundly disturbed area that seems to have a challenge for the future civilization of Jewish faith in Palestine is well-founded."

'FREE PORTS' FOR REFUGEES

NOW that the President has publicly approved the idea of temporary havens or "free ports" for European refugees, perhaps the long delay can be ended. While rescue plans have dragged out, month after month and year after year, hundreds of thousands more Hitler victims have died who might have been saved—the exact number nobody will ever know.

But it is known that the Nazi terror at this moment is rising in Hungary and Romania, and that there is yet time to get many of the refugees out if action is immediate. Ira A. Hirschmann, the very able representative in Turkey of the U. S. War Refugee Board, has demonstrated that. We hope that Mr. Hirschmann, who recently returned to Washington to report, may soon be back in the Near East speeding the rescue of refugees.

The hardest problem, however, is to find places to send them after they are brought out. The United Rescue Committee for European Jews reports from Jerusalem that 1,500,000 could be saved from Hungary and Romania alone, but that only 20,000 more can be received in Palestine under the limit fixed by the British White Paper. Certainly the Churchill government should cancel its White Paper policy.

But other havens also must be found. Because of the complication of immigration laws in the United States and other countries, and because the immediate problem is to provide temporary refuge until they can return to a free Europe, the plan for "free ports" was devised. It would allow refugees to remain for a while in "fenced areas," in this country and others.

Since our Government has brought large numbers of Axis prisoners into the United States, and even allows some to work outside their camps without imperiling the nation, surely there is nothing unreasonable in providing at least temporary restricted accommodations for the victims of Axis persecution.

Close-up
May 24, 1944

Silvery Notes Playing at the Box Office

By MARY BRAGGIOTTI

When Ira Hirschmann went to the Middle East last February as special representative of the War Refugee Board, he left his attractive wife, Hortense Monath Hirschmann, the pianist, nursing more than a lonely heart. He left her codling a fine fear that she would never, never be able to handle the business end of the New Friends of Music which he bequeathed her during his absence.

When he returned recently, he detected a new confidence in the little woman. She had proved to herself that she could be a virtuoso of facts, figures and salesmanship as well as the piano. She'd survived the harrowing experience of speaking for the first time on the radio. Having "never written a word in her life," she had inscribed an excellent six-line foreword for the subscribers' program booklet. And she could show him, with becoming wifely modesty, an 89 per cent advance subscription sale for the 1944-45 season—the largest spring sale the New Friends of Music has had in its eight seasons of existence.

"I think writing that foreword was the hardest," said Miss Monath in the big upstairs studio of the Hirschmann duplex apartment. "It took me a whole day. But the radio was pretty bad, too. My husband is the public end of us, you know. He always speaks on the radio at the beginning and end of every New Friends season. This time I had to do it. I went around for three days before the broadcast saying, 'Good afternoon! Good afternoon!' in every different way I could think of."

Musical End of Friends Hers Since the Beginning

That sort of business was new to Miss Monath, but the musical end of the New Friends has been hers to uphold since the beginning. She chooses the programs—and they take some choosing. This season she took the courageous step of having every one of the 16 concerts devoted to the works of Beethoven, so that listeners could get a unified conception of that composer.

"If success is the proper gauge of good judgment, Miss Monath's programs have hit the bell. At an average admission fee of 66 cents a seat per concert, the New Friends of Music have come out financially ahead of the game every season. From the artistic angle, the organization which Ira Hirschmann and Hortense Monath started together in 1936, a year before their marriage, is generally considered by music lovers to have started a renaissance of chamber music in the U. S.

"Chamber music was thought of in this country as something vague for a very few people," said Miss Monath, a striking, brown-eyed brunette with hair done smoothly in a coiffure which molds her shapely head. "Amateurs played it among themselves, but the word 'amateur' has always been looked down upon here. As a matter of fact, amateurs have kept music alive over generations. Mozart and Beethoven, for instance, played a great deal with musical amateurs in their own homes."

Listening to chamber music was a habit with Miss Monath, acquired during the years she spent in Europe studying the piano and concertizing. Mr. Hirschmann, in whose life music had always been an important force, had long cherished the idea of running a series of concerts, uninvolved

with backers, which would be within the financial range of the average music lover.

"We thought we could make a success of chamber music concerts," said Miss Monath, "if we just got down to music—if we could get rid of the irrelevant factors in concert-giving, such as long intermissions. They distract people. Encores detract from the unity of a concert. And flowers are not only extremely irrelevant, but horrifying—like a funeral. We eliminate all those things. We also start on time."

Another factor which Miss Monath and Mr. Hirschmann have thrown out of their concerts is undue stress on the personality of a performer, no matter how fine an artist or how famous he or she may be. The artists' whole-hearted acceptance of this policy has been a source of pleasure to the New Friends.

Always Assumed Piano Would Be Her Life Career

Music has come first for Hortense Monath since she was 12 years old. In fact, her career as a concert pianist comes even before her work with the New Friends. Once in a great while, when she is soloist in a New Friends concert, her musical interests merge.

She was born in Newark, N. J., where her father was a doctor and her mother a well-known piano teacher. Naturally, little Hortense was given piano lessons by her mother practically as soon as she could balance on a piano stool.

"I always assumed I was going

to be a pianist," she said, "but I thought it was a blow from fate every time I had to practice. I guess I just didn't want to be different. It wasn't until I was 13 that I awakened to the fact that I really wanted to play. I suppose that startling so late gave me a lot of health—but I realized later that those who work young save themselves a lot of work when they get older."

An Aunt Accompanied Her During a Trip to Germany

She has worked hard ever since. Until she was 15 or 16 she studied in the U. S. Then she went (scrupulously guarded by an aunt, she explains) to Germany, where she was the pupil of the pianist, Artur Schnabel, for four years. She made her debut in Hamburg and played all over Europe until 1932, when she made her American debut at Town Hall in 1932. Two months later she played with Koussevitzky and the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

It was shortly before her Town Hall recital that she met her husband-to-be. Hirschmann (now vice-president of Bloomingdale's) was at that time an executive at Bamberger's in Newark. Miss Monath went to see him in his office about an interview with her that was to run in the store's magazine.

"I discovered he was an intense admirer of Schnabel's," said the pianist. "He spoke about Schnabel with such comprehension that I think that's what first interested me in him. He's the most ardent musical layman I know. He yearned to be a conductor and I

always say I ruined his career because he doesn't dare play the piano any more for fear I'll get wild if he makes mistakes!"

Miss Monath reads everything, as long as it's serious. She likes to walk, swim, play pingpong and badminton. Now and then she retreats to her parents' place in New Jersey and digs in the garden. In town, her relaxation—and "pet vice"—is the movies, and they don't have to be good. She hates hats, preferring to

wrap her own turbans. In general, she likes to lead a quiet life, for she doesn't see how people can work or develop if they're always trying to get away from themselves.

She is bewildered when anyone brings up the question of men versus women musicians.

"I don't know where sex begins in musicians," she admitted. "With tuxedos? Hairdos? Lipstick? Sex really shouldn't be imposed on music."

By Wells Carr

Know Thyself

Can You Be Amusing?

Without being a clown? You're working much too hard if you have to fall all over yourself to get a laugh from your friends. No, you don't have to memorize the "thousand and one jokes for every occasion," nor do you need to learn to play a musical instrument in five easy lessons!

A score of 9 to 15 means your friends find you interesting and amusing. A rating between 3 and 6 shows you rely too much upon performing or clowning to amuse your friends. If you're under 3, you're a "sob-sister," a prankster or too sarcastic to be well-liked. Score 0 for 0; add or subtract according to directions for yes. Then total your score.

1. Do you join in a laugh with a friend even though it's not awfully funny? (Add 3) ()
2. Do you often tell a funny anecdote where you got the worst of it? (Add 3) ()

3. Do you generally get a little hurt and sulky when kidded? (Sub. 3) ()

4. Even though it gets a laugh, are many of your jokes too sharply pointed? (Sub. 3) ()

5. When friends visit, do you try to plan a program that will keep them interested and their spirits high? (Add 3) ()

6. Do you often join in the fun when your friends act silly and nonsensical? (Add 3) ()

7. Do you find it difficult to keep what's bothering you to yourself? (Sub. 3) ()

8. Are you acutely afraid of appearing undignified or unrefined? (Sub. 3) ()

9. Do you try to keep up with current things and new ideas so that you can talk about them intelligently? (Add 3) ()

10. Do you boast about what a "card" you are, play pranks or bore others with a dull routine? (Sub. 3) ()

(Press Alliance, Inc.)



HORTENSE MONATH—virtuoso of facts, figures and—oh yes!—the piano.

Post Photo by Calvacca