

CONTINUED
FROM
PREVIOUS
REEL

000001

Prisoner with R... to relief and
... of Prisoners: Evacuations To
and Through ...

... To ...

000002

2

000003

000004

CABLE TO AMERICAN EMBASSY, PARIS, FOR ROSEWELL MCCLELLAND FROM WAR
REFUGEE BOARD

Reference your No. 1739 from Bern of March 23. Katzki is
entirely at your disposal. Any arrangement you make with him
will be satisfactory to Board. Advise Katzki that Andrews agrees.

10:55 a.m.
March 29, 1945

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Cohn, DuBois, Gaston, Hodel, Hutchison,
McCormack, O'Dwyer, Files.

File *Cleared*
with Bureau & Gen. O. Dwyer
FH:nd 3/29/45

000005

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

LFG-420

Distribution of true
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arrangement. (W)

Bern

Dated March 23, 1945

Rec'd 9:30 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

1739, March 23, 5 p.m.

FOR O'DWYER WRB FROM MCCLELLAND

Department's 998, WRB'S 438, March 9 and 1090

WRB'S 455, March 16.

Many thanks your telephone call March 21. I regret
that illness prevented my going to Paris immediately on
receipt your 998 but I was laid up with flu until March 20.

It would be most helpful to have Katzki in Paris in
first place actively to follow up negotiations with SHAEF
concerning allocation trucks tires and fuel for ICRC
WRB relief and evacuation work in Germany and secondly
to accelerate evacuation from Seitzerland of "Hungarian"
group of 1672 refugees as well as some 700 stateless from
the Resienstadt convoy. Slowness with which this has
been moving is beginning to have unfavorable reaction
in dealings with Swiss. It is most important at this
critical time that at least a few hundred of the refugees

moved on as

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

-2-#1739, March 23, 5 p.m., from Bern

be moved on as promptly as possible in view of conceivable arrival in Switzerland shortly of unknown numbers of new evacuees. Katzki could perform most valuable service as WRB liaison man to handle such matters now and in future with SHAEF in France AFHQ in Caserta and UNRRA.

I had someone to do this outside work who could assist me in Switzerland for a week or two from time to time I could continue swinging the job at this end without need of your sending a special WRB man to assist me full time here.

I shall discuss this whole question with Katzki and would appreciate your opinion. Please wire me in Paris.

HARRISON

WFS

000001

LFR
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arrangement. ()

March 19, 1945

5 p. m.

US URGENT

AMLEGATION

Bern
1121
FOR HARRISON

As no word has been received from McClelland since
March 8 it is assumed that he has gone to Paris.

In order to enable the Board to be prepared for the
situation which may develop in Switzerland, it is requested
that you reply at once to the following questions:

(1) Have any trucks been acquired for delivery of War
Refugee Board food parcels in enemy territory?

(2) What are the prospects of evacuating detainees
from enemy territory to Switzerland?

(3) Will Intercross use returning POW relief trucks
for evacuation of detainees in Switzerland?

The above is WRB 465.

ACHESON
(Acting)
(GLW)

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Akzin, Cohn, DuBois, Gaston,
Hodel, Hutchison, McCormack, O'Dwyer, Files

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

0000000

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

PER

PLAIN

1945 MAR 21 4 54

March 20, 1945

AMLEGATION

BERN

1130, Twentieth

The cable below for McClelland is URB 459.

Please deliver the following message to Isere Sternbach,
Hijels, Montreux, from the Vood Arhetzala Emergency Committ.

QUOTE Informed trucks carrying food and medication for
prisoners of war in Germany may be available on return trips
for transports refugees to Switzerland. We request you
appeal to International Red Cross and consult McClelland.

UNQUOTE

GREW
(Acting)
(and)

URB:MMV:KG
3/20/45

WE

DWP

115-X

000009

CABLE TO AMERICAN LEGATION, BERN, FOR MCCLELLAND FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Please deliver the following message to Isaac Sternbuch, Hifejs, Montreux,
from the Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee:

QUOTE INFORMED TRUCKS CARRYING FOOD AND MEDICATION FOR PRISONERS
OF WAR IN GERMANY MAY BE AVAILABLE ON RETURN TRIPS FOR TRANSPORTS
REFUGEES TO SWITZERLAND. WE REQUEST YOU APPEAL TO INTERNATIONAL
RED CROSS AND CONSULT MCCLELLAND. UNQUOTE

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 459


copy sent to Vaad 3/16/45

10:15 a.m.
March 16, 1945

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Akzin, Cohn, DuBois, Gaston, Hodel,
Hutchison, McCormack, O'Dwyer, Files.

RBH: 3/15/45 *RBH*

000010

Mr. Bunam left  attached message
to be transmitted to Sternbuch and
asked that the contents of it also
be sent to McClelland from the Board.

000011



The
Mayflower
Washington 6, D.C.

Isaac Sternbach
Hijps, Montreux

Informed trucks carrying food and
medication for ^{Prisoners of} ~~American War Prisoners~~
and in Germany may be available on
return trips for transports refugees
to Switzerland. ^{W.P. Cross} Decision up to International
Red Cross appeal for them to Int. R. Cross
and counsel McClelland
~~with McClelland's intention~~

VARD HAHATZALA

Rabbi Aaron Kotler
Irving M. Bunim

3/15/65
Changes cleared
with Bunim
Jot

000012

March 16, 1945

Dear Sirs:

The following message for you from Leon Kubowitzki was received through the United States Embassy in Paris under date of March 10, 1945:

"Have tried to secure immediate and direct conferences between Swiss Government and International Red Cross and proper German authorities concerning large-scale repatriation and release of civilian detainees and feeding programs until they are released. I saw Von Steiger, President of the Confederation and talked with Burkhardt twice. I had conferences with several people and obtained simultaneous representations to the various National Red Cross delegations. Although appointed Swiss Minister to France, Burkhardt, for your confidential information, is soon going to confer with Himmler. At the same time Swiss Minister Berl, as protecting power, is requesting an interview with Himmler. Burkhardt and Steiger have assured me that there will be no limitation on the number of refugees admitted into Switzerland. I understand that the German Government has agreed, in principle, to allow repatriation by nationalities of civilians who are unemployed and that agreement has already been reached as to the first nationality. It is Burkhardt's expectation to get German Jews out as Intercross proteges. Civilians in northern areas are to be assembled at Luebeck and Swedish Red Cross requested to send a ship. It is anticipated that evacuation from southern areas can be effected in part on return trips of trucks taking food to POWs. Except for war prisoners, use of trucks is prohibited for food transportation. Situation requires close contact of our European offices with War Refugee Board."

000013

- 2 -

I am sure you will regard the foregoing message as extremely confidential.

Very truly yours,

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

Dr. Stephen S. Wise,
Dr. Nahum Goldmann,
World Jewish Congress,
1834 Broadway,
New York 23, New York.

RECEIVED
JAN 10 1954
WJED

000014

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

LC-502

Distribution of true
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arrangement. (W)

Paris

Dated March 10, 1945

Rec'd 10:08 p.m., 11th

Secretary of State,

Washington.

1152; March 10, 10 p.m.

Following is a close paraphrase of a message
accepted from Leon Kubowitzki, World Jewish Congress,
for transmission to the Department for the latter's
decision regarding onward conveyance in whole
or in part to the War Refugee Board for Doctors Wise
and Golman, 1834, Broadway, New York City.

Since arrival Geneva, endeavored obtain immediate
direct talks between appropriate German authorities,
Swiss Government and International Red Cross regarding
grand scale release and repatriation of civilian
detainees and feeding action until their release. I
was received by Von Stoiger, President of the Confeder-
ation, and I saw Burkhardt two times. I conferred
with numerous personalities and brought about simultaneous
representations to the various National Red Cross
delegations. I can advise you in confidence that
Burkhardt, despite his appointment as Swiss Minister

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

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

000015

-2-#1152, March 10, 10 p.m., from Paris

to Franco, is proceeding soon to confer with Himmler. As protecting power Swiss Minister, Berl, is simultaneously asking for interview with Himmler. I have assurances of Burkhardt and Steiger that the number of refugees admitted into Switzerland will not be limited. Germany has agreed in principle, I understand, to repatriate unemployed civilian populations according to nationalities and that first nationality has already been agreed upon. Burkhardt expects, with regard to German Jews, to get them out as International Red Cross proteges. It is at Luebeck that civilians in northern areas are to be concentrated and the sending of a ship requested of the Swedish Red Cross. From the southern regions evacuation is expected to be done partly by Allied Army trucks on returning from carrying food to war prisoners. SHAEP unfortunately prohibits using trucks for carrying food to other than war prisoners. Uninterrupted contact of War Refugee Board and our European offices is required on this situation.

Before releasing this message see secret OSS Paris January 20, 1945, Germany political report from Switzerland No. B1398 S/8. If not immediately available contact Hauck, office of Strategic Services, Washington.

CAPPERY

MJT

000016

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS
CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL • CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

1834 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, 23, N. Y.

February 20, 1945

CABLES: CONGRESS, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 6-1900

LONDON
55 New Cavendish St., W 1
GENEVA
37 Quai Wilson
BUENOS AIRES
Corrientes 1979
JERUSALEM
Vaad Leumi P. O. B. 471
MONTREAL
1121 St. Catherine St. W
MEXICO CITY
Sonora 1744

In your reply please refer to #313.

Brigadier General Wm. O'Dwyer,
War Refugee Board,
Treasury Building,
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Miss Frances Hodel

Dear Sir:

From various information we received recently we learned that Jewish refugees who arrived at the German-Swiss border were not able to enter Switzerland unless their relatives or friends in the United States of America could arrange for financial guarantees for them. Such arrangements could only be made after the elapse of ten days or more after their receiving a cable informing them of the necessity to make such arrangements.

I beg to call your attention to the fact that Jewish refugees as long as they have to stay in Germany are in great danger. Therefore, I take the liberty to suggest that the War Refugee Board induce the Swiss Government to admit such refugees without any delay. Should the Swiss Government insist on certain financial provisions for their admittance, I am sure that the War Refugee Board will be able to offer a solution and that also the Jewish Community in Switzerland will be ready to be of assistance in such cases.

I would appreciate to know whether you will be good enough to lend us your valuable assistance in this most pressing matter.

Thanking you for your anticipated cooperation, I am,

kg/dd

Very sincerely,
Kurt L. Grossman
KURT L. GROSSMAN

000017

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS
1834 BROADWAY
NEW YORK 23, N. Y.

Special Delivery
SPECIAL DELIVERY



Brigadier General Wm. O'Dwyer
War Refugee Board
Treasury Bldg.
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Miss Frances Hodell

NOT IN THE AIR MAIL

000013

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

February 14, 1945
Distribution of DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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special arrangement.
(SECRET W)

1945 FEB 19 AM 9 59

AMEMBASSY

COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS
(LIAISON)

LONDON
1222

The following for Sir Herbert Emerson from O'Dwyer is

WRB 44.

I have received your message of February 9th. I expect to come to London shortly and will notify you in advance as to approximate date of my arrival. The matters mentioned in your cable can be discussed at that time. Meanwhile, since the source of our information concerning the refugees now arriving in Switzerland is Roswell McClelland, the Board's representative in Bern, I suggest that you arrange to have your representative in Switzerland discuss the various problems involved with McClelland and obtain all detailed information from him.

WRB:MMV:KG
2/16/45

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

GREW
(ACTING)
(GLW)

BC

WE

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

000019

CABLE TO SIR HERBERT SIMMONS, LONDON, FROM O'DWYER, WAR REFUGEE BOARD

I have received your message of February 9th. I expect to come to London shortly and will notify you in advance as to approximate date of my arrival. The matters mentioned in your cable can be discussed at that time. Meanwhile, since the source of our information concerning the refugees now arriving in Switzerland is Roswell McClelland, the Board's representative in Bern, I suggest that you arrange to have your representative in Switzerland discuss the various problems involved with McClelland and obtain all detailed information from him.

THER IS WRR LONDON CABLE NO. 44

4:45 p.m.
February 15, 1945

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Akzin, Cohn, Drury, DuBois, Gaston,
Hodel, McCormack, O'Dwyer, Files

PHind 2/15/45

000020

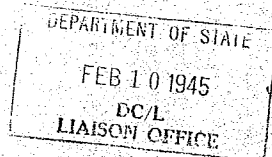
DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

PEM-599

PLAIN



London

Dated February 9, 1945

Rec'd 12:05 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

1411, Ninth

FOLLOWING FOR WRB FROM EMERSON IGC

"We have seen press reports that about 1,200 Jews have just arrived in Switzerland from Theresienstadt and that the party includes between 500 and 600 Jews of Dutch nationality. It is further reported that another party of 556 persons from Theresienstadt is expected immediately and that others may follow. We have cabled to the Swiss authorities asking for confirmation and also for information relating to exact numbers distribution by nationality number holding valid Palestine certificates and also plans if any in regard to the party. We will let you know any relevant information we receive and shall be glad if you will keep us similarly informed. We think it very desirable that there should be consultation and coordination regarding these groups between the War Refugee Board and ourselves for instance it may well be

000021

-2- #1411, Ninth, from London.

well be found that some of the Dutch Nationals even if they have protective documents for other countries will wish to return to Holland and it therefore seems essential that there should be a full inquiry into the antecedents and wishes of members of the groups before definite plans are made for their future. We also think it important that we should take the same line in our approaches to the Swiss Government especially in view of the assurances which have been several times given to the Swiss Government that they will be relieved of the cost of maintenance if they so desire and if the Swiss Government accepts this offer it would presumably be for the Intergovernmental Committee to secure the necessary funds.

"Since groups from places other than Theresienstadt have already entered and may enter Switzerland we have no doubt that you will agree that the same procedure of consultation and coordination should be followed in all such cases".

WINANT

RB

000022

Examinations to three Switzerland

Subject

(2)

January 31, 1945

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Harold Trobe was received through the American Legation in Lisbon under date of January 29, 1945:

"JDC 155. Saly Mayer advises 67 Dutch and German nationals arrived Switzerland."

Very truly yours,

Florence Model

Florence Model
Assistant Executive Director

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

RW

RDrury 1/31/45

000023

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

M.C-1240

PLAIN
Lisbon

Dated January 29, 1945

Rec'd 3:06 a.m., 30th

Secretary of State,
Washington.

216, Twenty-ninth
X

FOR LEAVITT FRO. MARCEL TROUBE

WRB 297, JDC 155 Saly.ayer advises 67 Dutch and
X
German nationals arrived Switzerland.

CROCKER

MJF

*marked Ed
pyle*

*Jan 31/45
PS*
CONTROL COPY

000024

Evac. to + thru 'switz.

With the Compliments of the
AGUDAS ISRAEL WORLD ORGANISATION

33, Queen's Drive,
London, N.4.

30 JAN 1948

We have received cabled advice of the arrival last week
in Switzerland of the following people from German internment camps:-

ABRAHAM Siegfried, Haiti	LANGER Maria, Bolivia
ABRAHAM Gerda, Haiti	LANGER Anita, Bolivia
ABRAHAM Hans, Haiti	LANGER Georg, Bolivia
ABRAHAM Henry, Haiti	LOEWENBERG Lucie, Ecuador
ABRAHAM Ruth, Haiti	MEYER, Elkan, USA
ADELSEBERGER Clothilde, Paraguay	MEYER Sophie, USA
ADLER Ilse, Ecuador	NEUHAUS Siegbert, Honduras
BING Franziska, Ecuador	NEUHAUS Toni, Honduras
BING Felix, Ecuador	NEUHAUS Lea, Honduras
BRILL Barend, USA	NEUHAUS Micha, Honduras
BRILL Sara, USA	NEUHAUS Herta, USA
BRILL Abraham, USA	NEUHAUS Eva, USA
ELIAS Andrew, USA	NEUHAUS Curt, USA
ELIAS Pinelopi, USA	NOTOVITZ Samuel, Honduras
ELIAS Panagiotia, USA	NOTOVITZ Helene, Honduras
FREUND Jean, USA	PHILIPP Herbert, Honduras
FREUND Dolli, USA	PHILIPP Mary, Honduras
FULDAUER Rachel, Paraguay	PILICZ Wellaliba, Bolivia
FULDAUER Johanna, Paraguay	PILICZ Wanda, Bolivia
FULDAUER Salomon, Paraguay	PLAUT Felicitas, Germany
COMPENTZVOET Milli, USA	PLAUT (Husband) Chicago
COMPERTZ Moses, USA	PLAUT Hadessa, USA
COMPERTZ Simon, USA	REISMANN Irene, USA
HAAS Erich, Ecuador	REISMANN Polak, USA
HAAS Marga, Ecuador	ROSEBOOM Abraham, Ecuador
HASENBERG Heinz, Ecuador	ROSEBOOM Karoline, Ecuador
HASENBERG Gertrud, Ecuador	ROSEBOOM Alexander, Ecuador
HASENBERG Irene, Ecuador	ROSENBAUM Annemarie, USA
HOLLANDER Sara, Honduras	ROSENBAUM Selma, USA
HOLLANDER Gerda, Honduras	ROSENBAUM Dora, USA
HOLLANDER Paul, Honduras	ROSENTHAL Gertrud, Ecuador
ICHENHAEUSER Ida, Ecuador	SARFATY Bonni, Netherland
ICHENHAEUSER Betti, Ecuador	SARFATY Jeanne, Netherland
ISNER Sallis, USA	SARFATY Joost, Netherland
IRION Luise, USA	SARFATY Jotti, Netherland
IRION Guenther, USA	SCHACHNER Rivka, Uruguay
JOSEPH Julius, Uruguay	SCHLAMM Max, Ecuador
JOSEPH Felicia, Uruguay	SCHLAMM Meta, Ecuador
JOSEPH Joachim, Uruguay	SCHLAMM Jutta, Ecuador
JOSEPH Peter, Uruguay	SCHMELKE Freida, USA
JOSEPH Salvador, Uruguay	SCHMELKE Moshe, USA
JOSEPH Joski, Uruguay	SCHMELKE Rita, USA
JOSEPH Siegfried, Uruguay	SIMON Werner, Ecuador
JOSEPH Hilde, Uruguay	SIMON Helene, Ecuador
JOSEPH Ellen, Uruguay	SOEP Jakob, Netherland
JOSEPH Robert, Uruguay	SOEP Berta, Netherland
KAISER Trude, Paraguay	SOEP Abraham, Netherland
KATZVICH Charlotte, Peru	SONNENBERG Benjamin, Paraguay
KAUFMAN Ernst, Ecuador	SONNENBERG Sabine, Paraguay
KAUFMAN Bernhard, Ecuador	SONNENBERG Gisela, Paraguay
KAUFMAN Lea, Ecuador	LASCH Eva, USA
KIWI Leopold, Paraguay	LASCH Anna, USA
KIWI Malwina, Paraguay	LEDA Wilhelm, Stateless
KNOLLER Manette, Haiti	LEDA Guenther, Stateless
KNOLLER Berta, Haiti	LEDA Marion, Stateless
KNOLLER Berthold, Haiti	LESSER Hertha, Paraguay
KNOLLER Heinz, Ecuador	LESSER Wolfgang, Paraguay
KNOLLER Henriette, Ecuador	LESSER Ruth, Paraguay
KNOLLER Renee, Ecuador	LESSING Engeline, USA
KORNGOLD Riwe, Haiti	LESSINGER Joseph, Honduras
KORNGOLD Marlene, Haiti	LESSINGER Margarete, Honduras
KUCHELMEISTER Ida, USA	LEVY Jakob from Berlin

(continued)

LEVY Fanny, Honduras
LEWALD Walther, Paraguay
LEWALD Lotte, Paraguay
LEWALD Ruth, Paraguay
LEWALD Mirjam, Paraguay
LEWALD Irene, Paraguay
SOEP Wolf, Netherland
STEINACHER Lotte, Paraguay
STEINACHER Sabine, Paraguay
STEINACHER Hans, Paraguay
STRAUSS Tilly, USA
SUSSMANN Friedrich, Ecuador
SUSSMANN Margarete, Ecuador
SUSSMANN Peter, Ecuador
TREFF Dora, USA
VANLEUWEN Henri, Unknown
WEIL Siegbert, Paraguay
WEIL Nanni, Paraguay
WEINBERG Leopold, Paraguay
WEINBERG Hedwig, Paraguay
WIENER Margarete, Paraguay
WIENER Mirjam, Paraguay
WIENER Eva, Paraguay
WIENER Ruth, Paraguay
WINTER Rosa, USA
WOLF Jakob, USA
WOLF Jenny, USA
WOLF Marie, USA
WOLF-SCHWAB Sara, USA
WYSENBECK Siegbert, Netherland
WYSENBECK Rosa, Netherland
ZAROMPF Ayigdor, Honduras
ZIEGER Aron, Germany
ZIEGER Max, USA
KAISER Jerika, Paraguay
KAUFMANN Recha, Ecuador (died on arrival)
WINER Marguerite nationality unknown (died on arrival)

GUATEMALA Dr. Csiek, Paraguay.
LIENER Arje, Paraguay
Formerly Poland
RINGER Salomon, Paraguay
Formerly Antwerp

000026

Please deliver this to Miss Hodel
along with the manila envelope.

Thanks.

VIA AIR MAIL

000027

For ②
See [illegible]

, Switzerland

Please transmit for War Refugee Board the following message from J. Stolz, New York, in identical form but separately to the following persons in Bern: E. F. Rimensberger, Schweizerischer Gewerkschaftsbund, Monbijoustrasse 61; Robert Bratschi, President of the Union of Railwaymen, Effingerstrasse 19; Mrs. Kagi-Fuchsmann, Schweizerische Arbeiterhilfe, care of Swiss Trade Union Center, Monbijoustrasse 61; and H. Grundbacher, Secretariat International Typographers Union, Langestrasse 36:

QUOTE A War Refugee Board consisting of Secretaries State War Treasury has been appointed by President United States to save endangered refugees all parts world. John Pehle Director. This inaugurates entirely new policy and offers facilities saving thousands lives. Labor movement the Free World the Unitarian Service Committee other humanitarian organizations cooperating to full. We need your assistance in securing information about conditions and in organizing rescue machinery in neutral and occupied countries. All necessary funds will be provided. Please give warmest reception to those who will approach you. Establish contacts other lands. Secure cooperation our friends everywhere. Send immediately comments and suggestions. If delegates coming to International Labor Conference provide them with fullest information. Communicate with me through the person who will contact you with this message. We are counting on you in this final vigorous effort to save many lives. UNQUOTE

Please transmit any responses or inquiries with respect to this message to the War Refugee Board through the same channels as you received this message. You will, of course, contact the persons above named and arrange to transmit any messages from them to Stolz to the War Refugee Board through such channels.

NOTE: This cable is not numbered as it is being dispatched through a confidential channel, and we were asked not to number it.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

25-2

LSLesser;als 3/11/44

00002A



CONTROL COPY

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

3 - W.B.B. (Treas.)

London, March 11, 1944.

No. 14413

Subject: Memoranda on Refugees Arising
From Kullmann's Visit to Switzerland.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

1/ I have the honor to inform the Department that Lord Winterton, as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees has requested an opportunity to talk with Ambassador Winant on subjects growing out of the recent visit to Switzerland of Dr. Kullmann, Honorary Deputy Director of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, and to enclose herewith copies of the memoranda which accompanied Lord Winterton's request.

It is expected that the subject matter contained in these memoranda will be referred to in later communications growing out of Lord Winterton's call after it takes place.

The Director and Chairman have particularly requested that the secrecy of these papers be carefully respected.

Respectfully yours,
For the Ambassador:

W. J. Gallman
Counselor of Embassy

Enclosures:

- 1/ Two copies of the following:
 1. Lord Winterton to the Ambassador, March 10, 1944 (255/112).
 2. Secret memorandum on Refugee Children in France, March 1, 1944 (IC/216/96) by H.W.Emerson.
 3. Secret memorandum on Rescue, Concealment and Preservation of Refugees in the Occupied and Satellite Countries of Europe, March 1, 1944 by H.W.Emerson.
 4. Translation of reports received in London, February 10, 1944 from the Jewish National Committee, residing in Warsaw.
 5. Secret memorandum dated March 10, 1944 by H.W.Emerson submitting definite proposals for the consideration of the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States.

BY Ozalid.

CC/PB

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

only one
attachment
Remind in
files

140.40 REFUGEES/5675

PS/CF

000024

COPY

ENCLOSURE No.1/(1) to despatch No.14413 of March 11, 1944, from the Embassy at London, England.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES

Our Ref.: 255/112

Your Ref.:

11 d. Regent Street,
London, S.W.1.
10th March, 1944.

My dear Ambassador

As Chairman of the Executive Committee, I am enclosing three Memoranda by the Director arising out of Dr. Kullmann's visit to Switzerland. Two of them are dated the 1st March, 1944, and the third is dated the 10th March, 1944. Your Excellency will see that they contain material of great importance, and that the proposals contained in the third Memorandum raise issues which closely concern the governments of the United Kingdom and the United States of America. It would clearly be premature to bring them before the Executive Committee until they have been considered by the two governments. While, therefore, I am sending a copy to the Foreign Office asking for consideration of the proposals by the British Government, I have instructed the Director not to circulate them at this stage to the Executive Committee. Before I instructed the Director to make specific proposals, I thought it desirable to take some action as British representative, and I should much appreciate an opportunity of an early talk with Your Excellency in order to explain how the matter stands.

Sincerely yours,

Winterton

His Excellency the Honourable John Gilbert Winant,
Embassy of the United States of America,
Grosvenor Square, W.1.

000030

C O P Y

Enclosure No.1/ (5) to despatch
No.14413 of March 11,1944 from
the Embassy at London,England.

MEMORANDUM

The Chairman has asked me, in pursuance of my two Memoranda of the 1st March, 1944, to submit definite proposals for the consideration of the Governments of the United Kingdom and United States of America.

My proposals are as follows.

I.

- (a) Assistance to be utilised inside Switzerland on behalf of persons who are given temporary asylum there.

Help to the Swiss Government by allowing additional imports of food and clothing into Switzerland in accordance with the number of persons to whom asylum is given.

- (b) Assistance to private organisations who have guaranteed the maintenance of groups of refugees inside Switzerland.

The organisations concerned are provided with the necessary financial resources largely by funds raised in Switzerland among the Swiss public, but partly by assistance from American organisations and, in particular, the Joint Distribution Committee. The assistance here required is the grant of licences to the American organisations concerned for the remittance of the necessary funds. Hitherto, the licences have been obtainable, and it is proposed that they should continue to be made available. If they can be made available at the official rate, (as apparently has been done in one or two recent cases), this will be of considerable value to the organisations concerned in helping them to conserve their funds for other purposes. For the present, at any rate, the Swiss organisations, with the help of the American organisations, are well able to cover the liabilities they have incurred, and there is no necessity for the American and British Governments, for the time being, to give direct financial assistance for this purpose.

II

Operations outside Switzerland with Switzerland as a base.

These operations have been hitherto partly on a cash basis and partly on a credit basis, the former representing something like 30% of the total.

- (a) Cash Operations.

So far as cash operations are concerned, the outside voluntary organisations have the necessary funds to continue the operations on the present cash scale, and further to extend them to some extent, if the necessary facilities are given. The forms of assistance proposed are:-

- (1) The grant of the necessary licences enabling them to obtain in Switzerland, or some other neutral country, the necessary foreign exchange for operations in other countries, e.g., Roumanian lei for operations in Roumania, the licences being subject to the necessary safeguards to ensure that the dollars or Swiss francs, as the case may be, do not pass for the benefit of the enemy.

(11)

REGRAD
UNCLASSIFIED

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- (ii) Here again, if the licences can be granted so that remittances can be converted at the official rate, the voluntary organisations would be benefited accordingly.

It is not proposed, for the present at any rate, that the American and British Governments should make any grant for cash operations.

(b) Credit Operations.

(i) The scale of these, at present, is not exactly known. Since the beginning of the war to the end of 1942, they involved roughly eight million dollars. They are probably now on a scale of about three million dollars a year. My information is that these might be increased to a maximum of twenty million dollars, but this would obviously take a considerable time. I would propose that the American and British Governments make a provision jointly, to the Intergovernmental Committee, of four million dollars in the first place, in order to extend these credit operations, thus raising them to a possible annual limit of seven million dollars, the position being reviewed later.

(ii) If this proposal were accepted, the actual sum of four million dollars could be either given at once to the Intergovernmental Committee, to be held by it in suspense account, to meet its liabilities after the war, or the funds could be provided after the war in accordance with the liabilities actually incurred up to a maximum of four million dollars.

(iii) The Intergovernmental Committee would be in a position to make the necessary arrangements with the organisations and individuals carrying on the operations in Switzerland to extend them up to the prescribed limit.

(iv) The operations could be defined on the following lines:- The persons to whom assistance should be extended would be those who had had to leave, or might have to leave, their countries of residence on account of race, religion or political beliefs, and who were in danger of life or liberty. The majority would be Jews, but there would be others. The object of the operations would be the escape of persons to neutral countries or other countries of comparative safety; rescue from internment camps, concealment inside occupied or satellite countries, including the provision of false documents, etc., and the preservation, where necessary, of such persons in concealment.

(v) Hitherto credit has been raised on a purely verbal basis. This has tended to restrict it. It would be of assistance if a scheme could be devised of further covering the lender by a form of receipt, which, however, should not be capable of use as a means of currency, and so place foreign exchange at the disposal of the enemy. The form of repayment hitherto agreed upon has been the payment of a fixed number of dollars after the war. The difficulty about receipts might be overcome either, (a) by a form which made it non-negotiable, or (b) by an arrangement under which receipts were issued in regard to each transaction, but were placed in safe deposit in Switzerland itself, and were not handed over to the lender until after the war.

III/

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III

Relations between cash and credit transactions.

The facilities for credit transactions, and therefore, the necessity of cash transactions vary from country to country. For instance, it is easy to raise credit in Hungary because there has been little persecution of Jews and practically no confiscation of Jewish property. There is a big Jewish population. It is very difficult to raise credit in Yugoslavia because there are very few Jews left, and those there are have very few assets. A uniform practice cannot, therefore, be applied to all countries. But in a country where credit can be raised, it is undesirable, unless all operations can be put on a cash basis, to carry on cash operations to an extent which will undermine credit. This is a matter which will need watching in the issue of licences, but the organisations concerned are alive to this matter and are in the best position to advise.

IV

Similar operations from bases other than Switzerland.

I understand that some of the Allied Governments and, in particular, Poland, are, with the agreement of the American and British Governments, financing operations of the same or similar character, partly from their own resources and partly from resources made available by voluntary organisations. It would seem that the only action required here is that the facilities to such Governments should be extended so far as possible.

H. W. EMERSON

Director.

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February 14, 1944

MEMORANDUM

Allied, stateless, and ex-enemy
refugees in Switzerland. (Status
of projects as disclosed by files
of Visa Division, State Department.)

I. Negotiations between American, British, and Swiss
Governments respecting the problem in general.

After the fall of Mussolini on July 25, 1943 and the Allied Armistice of September 8, 1943 many refugees fled to Switzerland from Italy and from that part of France formerly occupied by Italian troops. The following documents relate to these refugees and also discuss the broader question of Anglo-American-Swiss policy toward the reception of refugees by Switzerland.

1. The earliest document in the file is a telegram from Winant to the State Department, dated September 9, 1943 in which reference is made to earlier messages from the Department to the American Embassy, London, which are not identified. The telegram refers to an informal meeting in the office of the Director of the Inter-Governmental Committee on Refugees, which was attended by the Embassy, the Foreign Office, the Director, and the Vice Director. The following personal suggestions were presented by the Director for the consideration of the State Department and the Foreign Office. The suggestions stated that prior messages from the Department raised two questions which are closely related: (1) The safety of refugees in Italy proper, and (2) The safety of refugees in portions of France formerly occupied by the Italians. The unconditional surrender of Italy has changed the position in some respects. The situation is better in that (1) direct negotiations with the Italians now can take place; (2) it is in the interest of the Italians to satisfy the wishes of the Allies; (3) it may be expected that the territory in Italy occupied by the Allies will expand; and (4) the prospects that Switzerland will have access to countries not occupied by the enemy, are improved. This may have an important influence on the attitude of the Swiss toward giving asylum to refugees. On the other hand, unconditional surrender may complicate matters because (1) the Germans will try to control as much of Italy as they can; (2) the Germans will control departments of France hitherto controlled by the Italians. On the basis of the above, the refugees in Italy can be aided by

John F. Mc...

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(1) encouraging or bringing pressure upon the Italians to assist their escape; (2) encouraging the Swiss to give asylum to refugees from Italy. To be effective, this must include assurance regarding food supplies and assurance that Switzerland will be relieved of the refugees as soon as possible. The latter might take the form that, as soon as possible, the Allies will take back into Italy the refugees from that country in Switzerland. This assurance should be confined to returning the refugees to Italy and not to transfer elsewhere because (1) other places are needed for other refugees; (2) it is easier to return the refugees to Italy; and (3) if the refugees are returned to Italy it will be easier to solve the problem of their eventual disposition. The Director made it clear that the above suggestions related only to foreign refugees in Italy.

2. On September 24, Hull sent a telegram to the American Embassy, London, in reply to the above. He stated that in view of the military situation in Italy the Italian Government could not take steps to insure the safety of the refugees in question. Hence there remained the sole possibility (unless the refugees could escape to Spain, which seemed unlikely) of their crossing to Switzerland. Before discussing with Washington agencies the Director's proposals for facilitating the refugees' entry into Switzerland, the Department deemed it advisable to obtain a definition of the Swiss Government's attitude toward the reception and maintenance of the refugees. It was suggested that the British Government instruct its Minister at Bern to approach the Swiss Government at the same time that the American Minister makes his approach.

3. On September 27, Winant replied to the Department, stating that the Foreign Office proposed to send ABN instruction to the British Minister in Bern along the following line: (1) The British Minister should, after consulting the American Minister, inquire of the Swiss Government how many refugees were in the country before the Italian Armistice; (2) What was the number of refugees and prisoners admitted after July 25? (3) What assurance would the Swiss Government need or expect from the British and American Governments in order to receive and maintain refugees? The Foreign Office felt that the two ministers should point out that furnishing any supplies to Switzerland would be difficult at the moment, but that Great Britain and the United States are anxious to do anything to encourage Switzerland to receive refugees, since it is the only country of refuge for persons in France and Italy.

4. On October 5, Hull telegraphed the American Embassy, London, that the Department had instructed Bern to cooperate with the British Minister along the lines suggested, but that a distinction should be made between refugees from persecution and others who should be prosecuted for having persecuted those presently attempting to escape their jurisdiction. On the same date Hull telegraphed the American Legation, Bern, the import of all the above messages and referred to Bern's 6103, September 30, copy of which is attached. In light of the information contained in the September 30 message, Hull stated that the American and British Ministers might wish to submit recommendations for a different course of action than that proposed above.

5. On October 11, the British and American Ministers communicated with the Swiss Government along the line suggested by the British.

6. On October 15, Hull telegraphed Bern requesting complete information respecting the influx of refugees into Switzerland, stating that groups within the United States were bringing pressure to aid these people.

7. On October 20, Harrison replied to the Department that the request for information had been submitted to the Swiss Government. He stated that the number of refugees of all categories in Switzerland on October 12, 1943 was officially estimated at 61,462. These included 35,500 military internees (including 20,685 Italians and 10,500 Poles); 8,200 temporarily admitted emigrants (principally Jewish refugees); and 26,000 other civilian refugees. Escaped prisoners of war are interned in camps and separated from civilians. Civilian refugees (apart from emigrants) are placed in camps, institutions, private homes on farms, schools, or other residences, and in only a few cases are allowed unrestricted liberty of movement.

8. On October 27, Harrison wired the Department that on October 25 the Swiss Government had given a preliminary reply to the questions asked by the Department on October 5. The Swiss expressed a lively appreciation of the United States Government's interest in the problem. There were 33,000 refugees in Switzerland prior to the Italian Armistice. These include 10,500 Polish military internees and 78 British internees who entered in June 1940, plus civilian refugees of whom 7,950 (mostly from central Europe) entered Switzerland before September 1, 1939. Since the War and up to January 1, 1943, 9,400 refugees entered the country and subsequent arrival of civilians has been at the rate of 500 to 800 per month. Counted among 14,000 civilian refugees who entered from the beginning of the War to the end of August 1943

are about 3200 Germans (90% Jews), 3,200 French, 1,100 Dutch, and 3,700 Poles.

In addition to 3,300 refugees in Switzerland at the beginning of September 1943, the country has given shelter to many who could depart overseas before the total occupation of France (refugees from central Europe) or be repatriated (29,500 French soldiers interned from June 1940 to February 1941, 8,500 civilian refugees in June and July 1940, etc.).

The change of the Italian Government in July 25, 1943 led to no great increase in the number of refugees in Switzerland, the August figure being 770; but the Armistice of September 8 caused a new influx of more than 29,000. This brings nearly to 63,000 the number of refugees in Switzerland today. Of the 29,000 who came since September 8, there are 20,500 Italian soldiers, 4,000 Italian civilians and prisoners of war released from Italian camps, including 1800-1900 British, 300-400 Greeks, 700-800 Yugoslavs, 200 French, etc.

Needless to say, this number of refugees has placed great burdens on Switzerland which become greater as their stay lengthens. The Swiss Government hoped that it would soon furnish a survey of the problem with an explanation of the various measures which would assist that Government in carrying out its task.

9. On November 13, the Department telegraphed the American Embassy, London, authorizing them to transmit the information contained in the above message to the Director of the Inter-Governmental Committee.

10. On November 19, Harrison communicated to the Department the contents of a note from the Swiss Government, dated November 16, containing further information and replying to the questions which had been asked by the British and American Governments. The note stated that the arrival of greater numbers of refugees from belligerent countries has placed Switzerland in an exposed position, and it might occur that its small area could no longer offer anything but precarious asylum. The first care of the Swiss Government is to maintain strict neutrality. The large number of refugees in Switzerland constitute an unstable and in most cases an unassimilable element. They all know that Switzerland can give only temporary asylum while awaiting repatriation to countries of origin or emigration to countries where they can make new homes. It would be of

great value if the Swiss authorities were certain that as soon as circumstances would permit, the American Government will lend its cooperation in assuring their departure.

Swiss authorities are concerned about keeping the refugees orderly and quiet. Police control is not enough. The most effective way to combat demoralization is to keep the refugees at work. But this is possible only if the stable population is not unemployed. If native labor must be employed on public utility works to lessen unemployment, refugees can no longer be given such work.

The extent to which Swiss industry can be kept active depends upon the possibilities of importing and exporting. A reduction in foreign trade resulting in unemployment would have grave repercussions on the increasingly serious problem for Switzerland of receiving and caring for refugees. The Swiss Government would be grateful to the American Government if it would give sympathetic consideration to this aspect of the question, the importance of which from a moral and practical standpoint goes beyond material changes involved in caring for the refugees. These changes are not negligible. Apart from gifts in cash (over 12,500,000 Swiss francs) and in kind (clothing, foodstuffs, loan of buildings and grounds, maintenance of refugees by individuals free of charge), Swiss expenses and advances for refugees exceed 100,000,000 francs. These expenditures increase daily and by millions each month. Should this be prolonged, additional finances will be necessary.

To procure warm clothing, etc. for nearly 63,000 refugees, 30,000 of whom arrived within a few weeks in a destitute condition, it has been necessary to draw on stocks set aside for Swiss civilians and for the Swiss Army.

The increase in the number of refugees imposes an increasingly greater burden on food supplies. The Swiss Government hopes that in case of need it could make supplementary purchases and that the American Government would license the purchase and transportation of textiles and foodstuffs.

11. On December 9, Hull telegraphed the American Embassy in London, instructing them to transmit the import of the above telegram to the Director of the Inter-Governmental Committee.

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12. On December 13, the Department received a telegram from Wilson, Algiers, stating that Harrison in Bern had recommended aid for 26,000 Italian civilian and military refugees in Switzerland, and that funds be raised among Italians in the United States by public subscription. Wilson concurred in Harrison's recommendation.

13. On December 17, Hull sent to the American Embassy at London a suggested reply to the Swiss note of December 16 which was reported in Harrison's message of November 19. The suggested reply expressed the appreciation of the United States Government for the generous reception which the Swiss Government has extended to refugees. The United States looked forward to the time when these refugees may be repatriated and it would lend its cooperation in every feasible way to the achievement of this end. The United States also appreciated the burden upon Swiss resources which resulted from the care of refugees and would give sympathetic consideration to proposals of the Swiss which would ease this burden. The American and British Governments would give as favorable consideration as circumstances permit to requests for additional imports of foodstuffs and textiles through the blockade. Reference was made to the Department's telegram of October 15 in which it was mentioned that relief organizations in the United States desire to assist. A substantial amount of money is available in the United States if the Swiss Government desires to use it.

The above message was repeated to Bern.

14. On January 1, 1944, Hull telegraphed to the American Legation, Bern, referring to Bern's 7727, December 9, which is not in the file. The Department assumed that the suggestion in the final paragraph of that message is Magistrati's and not the Legation's in view of statements made in Bern, 7262, November 19 (not in the file), from which the Department gained the impression that the Swiss Government preferred to handle the refugee situation itself and would not welcome unsolicited outside assistance. This impression was strengthened by Geneva's 373, November 24. (Copy of Geneva's 373, November 24, is attached hereto.)

As noted in the Department's message of October 15, there exists in the United States both the desire and the funds to assist refugees in Switzerland. The American Red Cross is not taking action for the present, in view of Geneva's 373, November 24.

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The Department, pursuant to Bern's 7262, had discouraged the transmission of funds to Switzerland for refugee assistance although, as will be noted from the Department's message of December 17, the United States is prepared to assist the Swiss in this matter in every feasible way.

In the following cases, most of which were first cleared with the Swiss, funds either have been transferred or authorized for transfer: (1) \$10,000 for Yugoslav refugees by American Friends of Yugoslavia through Intercross; (2) \$21,000 for Czech refugees from the United Czechoslovak Relief; (3) \$73,000 for expenditure by the American Committee for Christian Refugees; (4) undetermined, but unsubstantial, amounts from French North African funds in the United States for French refugees, to be expended by M. Deleusse. In addition, the Polish American Council has been authorized to transfer \$120,000 per year for the assistance of Polish military internees.

It is open to question whether a public campaign in the United States for funds to assist Italian refugees would be desirable at this time. However, sources probably could be found from which funds could be obtained if the Swiss Government desires. The Department wishes to have the Swiss views on the matter, as well as Bern's comments on the entire question of remittances from the United States to Switzerland for refugee relief.

15. On January 5, Winant sent a telegram to the Department, copy of which is attached hereto, stating that the message of December 17 from the Department was communicated to the British who propose a modified draft of the reply to the Swiss note. As will be observed from the attached document, the British modification does not change the substance of the American proposal of December 17, except that it takes the form of a joint note from the British and American Governments and expressed the hope that the refugee problem would be discussed at the forthcoming London economic conference.

16. On January 20, Hull notified the American Embassy at London that the modified note prepared by the British was acceptable. It was suggested that the British Minister in Bern might wish to support the note to be presented by the American Minister rather than present an identical note. Bern has been instructed to delay presentation of the revised note until the British Minister, after having received instructions from his Government, has discussed the matter with the American Minister in Bern. On January 20, the revised note was sent to Bern with instructions to delay presentation until the British Minister discussed the matter.

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17. On January 28, Harrison in Bern wired the Department stating that the British Minister had received the same note except that it omitted reference to the sympathetic attitude of relief work organizations. Harrison asked instructions as to whether such reference should be made.

18. On February 2, Hull instructed Bern to include the above-mentioned reference since the British had agreed thereto.

II. Negotiations between American and British Governments respecting reference of problem to Inter-Governmental Committee.

1. On December 8, Bucknell in London sent a telegram to the Department setting forth a note of December 3 from the Foreign Office and asking for instructions. The note stated that the British feel that there is a case for handing to the Inter-Governmental Committee the problem presented by civilian refugees, allied or stateless, in Switzerland. This would fall within the policy of lightening the Swiss burden. However, neither Allied military refugees (escaped prisoners of war), nor military internees in the strict sense (e.g. British and Polish Division) should fall within the Committee's sphere of action. The note requested the London Embassy to get the Department's views on this. If the Department agreed, the British and American Governments could cooperate in drawing up a reference to the Director.

2. On December 16, 1943, Hull replied to Bucknell's telegram, stating concurrence with the views expressed in the British note and instructing the American Embassy, London, to collaborate with the British in drawing up a reference to the Director of the Inter-Governmental Committee.

3. On January 18, 1944, Winant telegraphed the Department, referring to his letter of December 17 (missing from the file) and instructions of the Department, dated December 16, to collaborate with the British in making a joint reference to the Inter-Governmental Committee. (Copy of Winant's cable is attached hereto.) Winant reported that the following reference was suggested by the British: (1) The Inter-Governmental Committee will be asked to care for stateless persons and ex-enemy refugees in Switzerland; refugees of Allied

nationality should be cared for by those governments, but there would be nothing against any Allied government seeking the help or advice of the Committee; (2) Any Swiss request for exceptional blockade facilities for the maintenance of refugees should be addressed to the British and American Governments. The Inter-Governmental Committee could not handle this matter. If the Swiss need financial assistance, this should be done through the Inter-Governmental Committee.

4. On February 2, Hull suggested to London certain modifications of the reference proposed by the British. (Copy of Hull's telegram is attached hereto.) Briefly, the revision clarified two points: (1) The Committee should not be expected to assume responsibility for providing material aid, but it may act in a consultative capacity; and (2) The Committee should be the agency through which activities on behalf of refugees in Switzerland should be cleared.

Fr. Hartwig

Attachments.

NOTE: Missing Documents

1. Bern, 7727, December 9.
2. Bern, 7262, November 19.
3. Letter from London dated December 17.

Attachments for Memorandum of
February 14, 1944 entitled:

"Allied, stateless, and ex-enemy
refugees in Switzerland. (Status
of projects as disclosed by files
of Visa Division, State Department.)"

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Y FMM

PLAIN

LONDON

Dated January 5, 1944

Rec'd 9:55 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

98, Fifth

We communicated to Foreign Office draft proposed in Department's 7977, December 17, midnight, and have a reply dated January 4 proposing a modified draft as follows for which Department's approval is requested as soon as possible in order that Foreign Office may instruct British Minister at Bern to concert action with American Minister:

"The American and British Governments are aware of and greatly appreciate the generous reception extended by the Swiss Government to the large number of refugees who have made their way to Switzerland. The time is anticipated when these refugees may be repatriated, and the British and United States Governments will cooperate in every way toward the achievement of that end. The two governments

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2 98, Fifth from London

Governments are conscious of the burden upon Swiss resources which has resulted from the care of such refugees, and will be glad to give sympathetic consideration to such proposals as the Swiss Government may wish to make toward easing the burden which such care has placed upon the economy of Switzerland. The Swiss Government may be assured that the Governments of the United Kingdom and of the United States will give us favorable consideration as may be permitted by the circumstances to requests for the purchase and extraordinary import through the blockade of additional supplies of food stuffs and textiles to relieve the burden placed on Swiss resources as a consequence of assistance extended to refugees. Reference is made in this connection to telegram 2537 of October 15, from the Department of State to the American Legation at Bern, in which mention was made of the sympathetic attitude in the United States on the part of various relief organizations and their desire to be of assistance. The American and British Governments suggest that opportunity may be taken of the Swiss Economic Delegations

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-3- 98, Fifth from London

Delegation's visit to London to discuss with representatives of the two governments any further questions in connection with the refugee problem which the Swiss Government may wish to raise."

WINANT

JRL

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IJJ

PLAIN

Geneva

Dated November 24, 1943

Rec'd 3:30 a.m.; 26th

Secretary of State,
Washington.

373, Twenty-fourth.

FOR AMCROSS FROM JAMES.

"365, Your SW592

Internees St. Michelstgestel Ruwenber assimilated
and eligible for relief. Camp visited by Intercross.
33 Yugoslavs at Komaron Hungary definite status POWS.
Camp Westerbork Holland is transit camp principally for
Jews. Intercross cannot visit or send relief this camp.
Only information here concerning Johanna Hart received
in inquiry emanating New York last year which stated
she deported October 1942. Intercross inquired concern-
ing her to Jewish Council Amsterdam on July 30, 1943.
Intercross unable make direct inquiries concerning
deported people.

Your SW588

Blanket position not yet established but Inter-
cross pressing competent authorities for reply.

Your SW585

Paravicini

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-2- #373, Twenty-fourth, from Geneva

Paravicini has cabled 'against 23909 packages according GRIPSHOLM Manila manifest (after deducting 3500 cartons food parcels discharged Shonan for Malaya and 96 cases womens clothing for Shanghai) 23446 packages were loaded TEIA MARU for Manila. According receipt dated November 8 issued by Lieutenant Japanese Army Manila received actually 21548 packages whereof about 200 in loose condition' will revert on receipt further information requested from Paravicini.

Your SW584 Winant well prisoner Stalagluft 3 Piwar notified November 8 London advised same date.

Your SW579

Ancross acceptance present situation forwarded Egle with reservations stated your cable.

Your SW573

Satisfactory consign drugs 'Joint Relief Commission for delivery civilian population Lithuania.

Your SW549

Swisscross reports approximately 500 civilian Czeche refugees Switzerland. Swisscross feels forwarding dollars mentioned per month if used purchase textiles here will have adverse effect on small reserves now Switzerland and also encounter exchange difficulties. Swisscross suggests preferable utilize funds purchase America actual clothing and suggests if this done

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-3- #373, Twenty-fourth, from Geneva

done distribution by Swisscross itself. Swisscross states not necessary send foodstuffs as refugees receive same rations as Swiss. Also sufficient medical supplies Switzerland. Will advise further after talking Kopecky:

Your SW 530. My 363.

Swisscross report reiterates responsible Swiss authorities doing all possible and Swisscross conducting collection clothing other items favor refugees military internees. If requested by National Red Cross Societies Swisscross willing help those societies aid their respective nationals now Switzerland but at this time Swisscross itself does not request aid from any National Red Cross Society. Swisscross position that problem is above all a problem for Switzerland and its own organization without, however, precluding the possibility that events might necessitate Swisscross requesting outside aid. Impossible at this time to secure more detailed information such as requested your SW530. However, many these civilian military internees need shoes, clothing, blankets.

Your SW 471. My 324.

Dunning letter September first in view YMC program occupational therapy do you wish me continue negotiate our sending equipment.

Your SW346

000049

-4- #373, Twenty-fourth, from Geneva

Your SW346.

Latest report Intercross Delegation Greece answers your questions concerning 3171 hospitalized ex-soldiers (one) yes (two) 'the hospitalized exsoldiers are distinctly separated from civil invalids and cared for in separate establishments' (three) hospitalized exsoldiers receive normal rations enjoyed by civil population in addition to SFP. Intercross just forwarded long report concerning hospitalized and non-hospitalized Greek soldiers in Greece.

My 286. Detail figures first and second Trans-Atlantic trips Caritas with analysis received am forwarding. Figures first trip vary somewhat from those given my cable. Operating expenses in thousands Swiss francs crew first trip 102 second trip 98 social insurance payments first 11 second 12 repairs and upkeep first 31 second 23 fuel first 95 second 87 insurance first 179 second 184 port expenses first 72 second 63 agency fees commissions first 14 second 16 loss by exchange first 74 second 76 reserve for expenses not yet accounted for first 11 second 9 share of initial expenses first 56 second 56 balance to cover extraordinary repairs general administrative expenses et cetera first 102 second 164 total first 748 second 810.

Redfern

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-5- #373, Twenty-fourth, from Geneva

Redfern letter number 77 InterCross prefers as official title in English 'International Committee of the Red Cross'. Suggest complying their wish and this title be used particularly in 'The Red Cross News and POW Bulletin'.

InterCross reports approximately 1700 Yugoslavs POWs Norway considered POWs under convention and on same footing Polish POWs interned Norway. Latter visited by InterCross delegate and InterCross able send relief. Yugoslav POWs Norway need food clothing and while not visited on last trip Norway by InterCross delegate he expects visit next trip. Do you authorize forwarding relief these people. InterCross has just heard from camp leader 17B some 2100 American prisoners there some of whom transferred from Stalag 7A. Clothing situation satisfactory according camp leader as certain supplies transhipped from Stalag 7A. Food parcels reserves low but InterCross endeavoring forward additional SFP earliest possible. From unofficial figures total American POWs civil internees Germany now approximately 14,000. As you forwarded only roughly ten thousand number one Christmas parcels for Americans InterCross forwarding balance from ordinary SFP Christmas parcels.

Extremely

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-6- #373, Twenty-fourth, from Geneva

Extremely serious shortage freight cars experienced here all this month. Intercross doing all possible with competent Swiss German authorities. Will keep you posted.

First carload containing SFP arrived Rumania second containing food clothing also for our POW's Bulgaria left here November 22".

SQUIRE

EDA

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TELEGRAM RECEIVED

PLAIN

Bern

Dated September 30, 1943

Rec'd 8:40 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

61Q3, 30th.

Legation's 5937, September 23.

Federal Councillor von Steiger head Federal Department Justice and Police informed Swiss Parliament September 29 that 21,860 refugees from Italy including 960 escaped POWs arrived Switzerland since September 17. Total refugees from all countries now 57,734. Previously arrivals averaged 30 daily now 300. Despite rumors no border incidents occurred.

Three weeks quarantine imposed especially as safeguard against typhus although no cases yet noted. Barracks with capacity 5,000 order costing 3 million francs. Army supplied 20,000 blankets also underclothes socks. Italians to be used construction work woodcutting road building quarries where most useful.

Military considerations require removal from southern frontier cantons of recent arrivals from Italy as soon as possible. From legal point of view distinction must be made between military internees whose status is defined in international law political refugees to whom right of asylum is extended under certain rules and panicky civilians who have no reason to remain here. Right of asylum and Swiss humanitarian ideals will continue to motivate Swiss authorities who must also be mindful of dictates of national safety and practical possibilities.

HARRISON

MRM

740.0014 EUROPEAN WAR 1939/4361

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Y

TELEGRAM SENT

February 2, 1944

PLAIN

Department

AMEMBASSY

LONDON.

829, second

Concerning terms of approach to IGC Director referred to in your 452 January 18, Department suggests that the words QUOTE seeking the help or advice of the Committee UNQUOTE in last sentence of paragraph numbered one be changed to read QUOTE seeking information and advice from the Committee UNQUOTE. It is our view that above change makes clear that the Committee is not expected to assume responsibility for providing material aid but it may act in a consultative capacity.

The following addition is suggested at the end of last sentence of paragraph numbered two QUOTE and its advice should be sought in each instance. The Committee should be informed of blockade facilities which may be granted by our respective Governments for maintenance of refugees UNQUOTE. It is thought that IGC should be the agency through which activities on behalf of refugees in Switzerland should be cleared and the above addition is intended to clarify this point.

840.48 Refugees/5014

HULL
(AAB)

VD:RU:RWG:GF Eu CI/L EH SWP

Mr. Pell

000054

LFR

PLAIN

London

Dated January 18, 1944

Rec'd 6:37 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

452, eighteenth

My letter of December 17.

We raised with Foreign Office the instructions contained in Department's 7946, December 16 and have received from Foreign Office the following reply requesting Department's agreement on terms of joint approach to Intergovernmental Committee director:

"Please refer to that part of your letter to me of December seventeenth which deals with instructions received by the United States Embassy from the State Department to collaborate with the British Government in drawing up terms of reference to the Director of the Intergovernmental Committee in regard to the proposal that the Intergovernmental Committee should take over the care of civilian refugees in Switzerland whether Allied, stateless, or ex-enemy refugees.

"We have now consulted the various Departments concerned and would like to suggest for your agreement or comment

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-2- #452, eighteenth, from London

or comment the following terms of reference:

"One. The Intergovernmental Committee to be asked to be the authority to look after and be responsible for the care of stateless persons and ex-enemy refugees in Switzerland. Though the advice and help of the Intergovernmental Committee representative would undoubtedly be valuable regarding refugees, in general we feel that those of Allied nationality should be looked after by and be the responsibility of their respective governments. Our reason for this is that Allied Governments are most anxious to bear and are in fact bearing responsibility for their own refugees, looking upon them as potential supporters when their respective countries are liberated. There would, of course, be nothing against any Allied Government ^{seeking information and advice} [seeking the help or advice] of the Committee in connection with its refugees but we should prefer ourselves not to disturb the existing practice.

"Two. Any Swiss request for exceptional blockade facilities for the maintenance of refugees ought, we feel, to be addressed to His Majesty's Government and the United States Government by the Swiss Government itself. The Ministry of Economic Warfare is, of course, the Department.

* change suggested by Sec. Dept. Feb. 2

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-3- #452, eighteenth, from London

the Department here to whom communications on this subject are addressed and the question could conveniently be handled in conjunction with the Economic Warfare Division of your Embassy. The Intergovernmental Committee could not conveniently we think be the authority to deal with this matter which has to be handled within the framework of our general economic policy toward Switzerland. We agree, however, that the Intergovernmental Committee would be a useful source of information regarding the number and needs

in form of financial facilities which may be granted by our Government for maintenance of
of the refugees, and its advice should be sought in such instances. The Committee should be *refugees*

"Three. If it is necessary to help the Swiss financially, a particularly difficult problem in present circumstances, the Intergovernmental Committee should be the channel through which financial help to be provided by both our Governments in consultation and mutual agreement can conveniently be given.

"I should be grateful if you would let us know whether your Government agrees with these points and whether a joint approach by the United States and British Governments can be made to the Director of the Intergovernmental Committee to take over refugees in Switzerland on these terms."

LMS

WINANT

* Changes suggested by State Department Feb. 2

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Paraphrase of telegram No. 2004, March 30, 3 p.m., from Bern.

We have sent the following telegram to Madrid:

With reference to your March 27, 8 p.m., classes of refugees described below will be allowed to enter Switzerland:

Political refugees (these understood to be defined as fugitives who are subject individually to arrest or imprisonment because of political beliefs), escaped prisoners of war, deserters. Swiss Government usually does not turn down helpless individuals (children under six and parents accompanying them, pregnant women, the sick, the aged and close relatives of Swiss nationals. In so-called "heartbreak" cases humane discretion is exercised.

Majority of refugees enter secretly. Refusals are probably less than number of entrants. Since August 1, 1942 refugees allowed to enter included about 100 deserters, 200 escaped prisoners of war, 700 French (Alsation non-Jews), 200 Polish and other Aryans, 100 Dutch non-Jews, 8000 of all nationalities (telegram to Department, March 2, 1979)

Swiss police are instructed that persons deported be permitted to return to country whence they came, same way they came to Switzerland, that is secretly, to reduce risk of being caught.

Above should be considered as confidential.

Under humane conditions, admitted refugees are legally interned pursuant to new federal decree of March 12, 1943 (See our 1997, March 29, not always in camps. If able-bodied, they are required to perform work of general usefulness. Their valuables are subject to sequestration to pay expense of upkeep and provide funds for eventual emigration.

Repeated to Department only.

HARRISON

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February 14, 1944

MEMORANDUM

Evacuation of 100,000 Children From
Occupied Areas to Switzerland. (Status
of Project as Disclosed by Files of
Visa Division, State Department.)

1. The earliest document in this file is a telegram dated August 12, 1943 from Stone and Lehman in Washington to Riefler and Funkhouser, American Embassy, London, which states that sometime previously the British Embassy in Washington through Noel Hall reported that the Swiss Government had responded favorably to a preliminary approach relative to receiving in Switzerland up to 100,000 children from occupied areas for a limited period. The British suggested that the Swiss select the children on the basis of need without reference to political or racial qualifications.

The telegram states further that the possibility of a similar scheme for sending children to Sweden has been discussed with the British. It was stated that the State Department and Office of Foreign Relief are greatly interested in this plan and in the proposal of Mr. Adler-Rudel, representative of the World Jewish Congress, to transfer 20,000 Jewish children from Germany and occupied territories (primarily Poland) to Sweden for the duration of the War. Reference was made to the fact that the latter plan had been discussed by the British Minister in Stockholm with the Swedish Government. (Reference was made to London 4095, June 21, 1943 which was not found in the file.) The telegram stated that the two Swedish plans are under active consideration in Washington, but no final decision has been made on how they may be promoted.

The telegram stated further that there is no reason why the original Swiss plan should not be pressed. (Nothing was found in the file concerning this plan.) The British suggested that negotiations to this end be transferred to London in connection with forthcoming Anglo-American-Swiss War Trade Negotiations. (The file does not disclose the date of this conference.) The original British proposal called for permission for Switzerland to import additional food and raw material for clothing, to compensate for any supplies the Swiss might use in caring for the children, but stipulated that the Allied Governments must make the necessary arrangements for acquisition of Swiss francs which should not be secured against sterling or gold under the proposed Anglo-Swiss Financial Agreement. Parenthetically, it was noted that if Allied dollar balances will be used

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to finance these arrangements it would probably be necessary to make a similar stipulation that the Allied Governments must arrange directly with the Swiss for acquiring francs against blocked dollars. The Swiss Government would be asked to approach the German Government and to assume responsibility for selection of the children, their transportation to Switzerland, and possibly the cost of their maintenance in Switzerland. The Allied Governments could defray costs outside Switzerland.

Riefler and Funkhouser were instructed to discuss the above plan with MEW. The telegram concluded that OEW had no objection provided a satisfactory plan for selecting the children was adopted. Copies of correspondence with Noel Hall (not found in the file) were being sent to London air mail.

2. On September 24, 1943, James W. Riddleberger, First Secretary of the Embassy, London, wrote to Hull, enclosing copy of a letter dated September 16 from Mr. Dingle Foot, Parliamentary Secretary of MEW, to Thurnheer, Swiss Minister, and copy of Thurnheer's reply dated September 24. Copies of these letters are attached hereto.

It will be observed that Mr. Dingle Foot gives the following formal assurance on behalf of the British and American Governments: (1) These Governments have learned with satisfaction that the Swiss Government would, if circumstances allow, receive children from occupied areas; (2) The British and American Governments will give facilities for extraordinary imports into Switzerland to feed and clothe the children; (3) Facilities of this kind can be provided for 100,000 children, or more; (4) It is suggested that the Swiss Government may wish to determine how the children shall be accommodated before the other details, such as imports, etc. are considered.

In reply, Mr. Thurnheer stated that he had communicated with his Government on the subject and that he hoped to report soon, although conditions did not promise rapid developments.

3. On December 28, 1943 a State Department interdepartmental memorandum from Brandt to Travers (copy of which is attached) notes the above correspondence and suggests that a telegram be sent to London inquiring as to the status of this matter. Reference was made to the fact that Mr. Long mentioned this matter in his testimony on November 26 before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

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4. On January 13 the State Department received a telegram from Winant, London, which refers to London's 239, January 11, which is not in the file. There is also a pencilled notation, "See telegram to London No. 381, Jan. 15, see teleg. drafted by FEA 2/2/44." None of these telegrams has been found. The telegram of January 13, copy of which is attached, sets forth a telegram sent by MEW to the British Legation, Bern, on January 12, of which the Economic Warfare Division in London was not informed until the telegram had been dispatched. This telegram instructs the British Legation to request the Swiss Government to approach the Germans as soon as possible for permission in principle for children to leave occupied territory. The British stated they would be happy if the inquiry included Jewish children from Germany and elsewhere. This would clear the ground for the forthcoming discussions at the London conference.

5. On January 14, 1944 the State Department sent a wire to the American Embassy, London, requesting them to ascertain the status of the project and report as soon as possible. (The file does not disclose whether such report has been made.)

6. On February 3, 1944 Hull sent a telegram to the American Embassy, London, referring to the above telegram of January 13 and the Department's 381, January 15, which is not in the file. In the telegram of February 3 the London Embassy was instructed to associate itself with the British representations which it is assumed have already been made to the Swiss Government, in view of the forthcoming economic conference at London. It was suggested that the London Embassy discuss the British position with MEW and inform the American Legation in Bern of the background.

J.E. Hartung

Attachments.

NOTE: Missing Documents

1. London 4095, June 21.
2. Copies of correspondence with Noel Hall of British Embassy in Washington.
3. London 239, January 11.
4. Department's 381, January 15.
5. Telegram drafted by FEA February 2.

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ATTACHMENTS FOR MR. HARTIG'S
MEMORANDUM OF February 14, 1944.

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MM

PLAIN

London

Dated January 13, 1944

Rec'd 4:35 p.m.

Secretary of State

Washington,

U.S. URGENT
327, Thirteenth

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FOR DEPARTMENT AND FEA

Embassy's 239, January 11 and despatch 11336,
September 24, 1943.

Following telegram was sent by MEW to British
Legation, Bern, on January 12. Owing to an oversight
EWD was not informed until telegram had been despatched.

"As you know, the Swiss have been invited to come
prepared to discuss, at the forthcoming economic negotia-
tions, the reception in Switzerland of selected children
from Belgium, France and other Allied occupied territories.
They have already been told that we and the Americans
would welcome such action on their part, and would be glad
to give facilities for extraordinary imports to ease the
burden of feeding and clothing children so received within
a provisional limit of 100,000.

"Please

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-2- #327, Thirteenth, from London.

"Please request that they now as a first step and as soon as possible approach the Germans for permission in principle for children to leave occupied territory in this connection. We should be glad if they would include Jewish children from Germany and elsewhere in Axis Europe in the enquiry.

"This would clear the ground and facilitate the forthcoming discussions. It will be understood of course that the selection of children under such a scheme could not be left to the Germans or to puppet governments in occupied countries.

"For your information, if the Germans refuse, we intend to give their attitude the fullest publicity. If this point should arise when you speak to the Swiss you should therefore avoid any undertaking that the matter will remain secret."

MEW is awaiting your views on Embassy's 239 before approaching Swedish Legation here. Please expedite reply.

WTD

WINANT

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

A-L/B

VISA DIVISION
OFFICE of the CHIEF

DEC 28 1943

December 28, 1943
Department of State

VD - Mr. Travers

Dear Perce:

I obtained from Mrs. Crowe of your Refugee Unit the attached copy of a despatch dated September 24 from London regarding the rehabilitation in Switzerland of children coming from the occupied territories. The despatch shows that the British authorities communicated with the Swiss Minister at London in the matter on September 16, 1943 and received a reply dated September 18, 1943 from the Minister stating that he had referred the matter to his Government. I suggest that a telegram be sent to London inquiring as to the status of the matter. Mr. Watson of the Under Secretary's office, who has asked me about this matter, should be informed of the reply. You will recall also that Mr. Long mentioned it in his testimony on November 26 before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

A-L/BRANDT:MSL

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(COPY)

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
of the
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AMERICAN EMBASSY

No. 11336

BY AIR POUCH

London, England, September 24, 1943

Economic Warfare (Blockade) Series No. 654

Subject: Letter from Mr. Foot, Parliamentary Secretary of MEW, to M. Thurnheer, the Swiss Minister, and the reply of M. Thurnheer concerning the possibility of receiving in Switzerland children from occupied territories.

~~SECRET~~

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's telegram No. 4860 of August 12, 1943, and to enclose a copy of a letter sent by Mr. Dingle Foot to the Swiss Minister on September 16, 1943, and a copy of the reply from the Swiss Minister, dated September 18, 1943.

Mr. Foot's letter was seen and approved by both Mr. Riefler and Mr. Funkhouser before its despatch to the Swiss Minister and is believed to be consistent with the policy of our government as set forth in your reference telegram.

Respectfully yours,
For the Ambassador:

James W. Riddleberger
First Secretary of Embassy
Economic Warfare Division

Enclosures:

1. Draft letter to the Swiss Minister from Mr. Foot.
2. Copy of letter from the Swiss Minister to Mr. Dingle Foot.

MC:HM
(COPIED BY VD:RU:GF)

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

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(COPY)

Enclosure No. 2 to despatch No. 11336 of September 24, 1943
from the Embassy at London, England.

COPY OF LETTER FROM THE SWISS MINISTER TO MR. DINGLE FOOT

September 18th 1943.

Dear Mr. Foot,

I thank you very much for your letter of September 16th, No. T.550/C/28, and have read with great interest the assurances contained therein concerning the British and U. S. Governments' views on the reception in Switzerland of children from the occupied territories who are suffering from the consequences of the War.

I have immediately communicated on the subject with the Swiss Government. Although the present general conditions do not seem very promising for rapid developments, I hope to be soon able to revert to this matter which, as you know, I am following with deep sympathy.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) W. Thurnheer.

(Copied by VD:RU:GF)

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(COPY)
Enclosure No. 1 to Despatch No. 11336 of September 24, 1943
from the Embassy at London, England.

Ref. No.
T.550/C/28

DRAFT LETTER TO THE SWISS MINISTER FROM MR. FOOT

You will remember that earlier in the year we discussed together the possibility of children from occupied territories being received in Switzerland, if the necessary arrangements could be made. I then told you informally that His Majesty's Government would favour such an action, and was glad to learn later that your Government, though foreseeing certain difficulties, were themselves sympathetic to the idea and would be willing immediately to study the question on receipt of a formal indication of His Majesty's Government's views.

It has always been understood that any arrangements made in Switzerland for such a purpose would be controlled by the Swiss Government itself. On the other hand it has also always been understood that the Swiss authorities could not be expected to embark on any extension scheme of this nature if it depended entirely upon the internal resources of Switzerland in present circumstances.

The question has since been discussed in further detail by the British and American Governments, and I am now authorized to assure you formally as follows:

1. The British and American Governments have learned with greatest sympathy and satisfaction that the Swiss Government would be glad, if circumstances allow, to arrange for the reception in Switzerland of children from the occupied territories who are suffering from the consequences of the war.

2. The British and American Governments would have pleasure in giving facilities for the extraordinary imports into Switzerland through the blockade to help feed and clothe children received under such an arrangement, provided of course that the selection of these children was acceptable to them and to any Allied Governments who might be concerned. Such extraordinary imports might take the form either of goods for Swiss consumption compensating goods from Swiss stocks released for the use of children enjoying hospitality, or of special supplies provided as the gift of outside sympathizers and consigned for the use of the child guests to whatever body in Switzerland might be designated by the Swiss authorities as organizers of the scheme.

3.

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3. Facilities of this kind can be promised on a scale sufficient to provide for up to 100,000 children, though eventual provision for a larger number need not necessarily be excluded. It is hoped however that the Swiss authorities will, if sympathetic, proceed forthwith to consider the reception of whatever number of children can be immediately envisaged, even though it be less in the first instance than the figure of 100,000 mentioned above.

4. It is evident that there are various questions to be considered before any progress can be made, as for instance the possibility of accommodating and caring for the children in your country, the nature of the imports to be provided and the arrangements under which they should be provided, the principle of selection to be followed, the financial provisions necessary in so far as contributions from outside Switzerland may be required, and an eventual approach to the German Government to obtain permission for the children to leave occupied territory. The first of these (accommodation) is evidently a matter which your Government will now wish to investigate before expressing an opinion about the second (imports). The British and American Governments will then be willing to consider how the necessary supplies can best be provided. As regards the financial question, it appears that this would best be discussed between your Government and Allied Governments who might be concerned, when a suitable point has been reached in the development of your plans. I think you will agree that any arrangement made would in present circumstances have to fall outside the normal framework of Anglo-Swiss financial relations.

For our part, we should be glad at any time to open discussions regarding the blockade and other arrangements which will concern us, as soon as your authorities are in a position to formulate their desires in this respect; and I will arrange forthwith if you think it desirable for the necessary instructions to be sent to our Legation at Berne.

MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC WARFARE, LONDON.
September 16, 1943

(Copied by VD:RU:GF)

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