

Reception of Refugees in Belgium and
Position of Refugees: Evacuation to
Switzerland

Movement of Refugees from
Switzerland, Vol 2

Folder 1

This section's original order was in reverse format
and kept intact.

(2)

000256

000257

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

**INCOMING
TELEGRAM**
DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

ACTION - DC/L
INFO:
S
U
EUR
HEA
DC/L-C
WRB
SIF
FC
A-D
A-H
SA

SG-1979 - H 1945 AUG 21 PM 4 01 PLAIN

DC/L
EMISON

BERN

Dated August 20, 1945

Rec'd 10:52 p.m.

Wm. R. ...
J. Sawyer

Secretary of State,
Washington.

CONTROL COPY

3939, Twentieth

O'DWYER WRB FROM KATZKI

Transport of 706 persons, holders of Palestine entry certificates, departed from brig Switzerland at 8 a.m. August 20 by special Swiss train. Planned route is via Domodossola and Novara, Italy where they will be taken over by Allied railroad facilities for onward movement to Taranto, to arrive there about August 28. The 706 persons included 34 from Theresienstadt and balance from Bergen Belsen. They comprised 232 Hungarians, 160 Rumanians, 157 Czechs, 45 Poles, 11 Dutch and 101 stateless. 152 of total number were members of the youth Alizah up to age 16 and 147 were Chalutzim (agricultural trainees) between 16 and 20 years old. In addition there were 30 young children accompanied by their parents.

All persons

000258

-2- #3939, Twentieth, from Bern

All persons were in possession of national passports of Swiss Government documentation and were security checked in Bern prior to departure. Swiss authorities provided generous rations to cover requirements until AFHQ takes over transport in Italy. Entrainment proceeded smoothly and Swiss authorities cooperated to fullest extent.

HARRISON

MFS

000259

44

000260

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

from Security *A 42*
INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

ACTION - WRB

INFO:

EUR

LG-589-M

Bern

NSA

Distribution of true

DC/L-C

reading only by special
arrangement. (WR-1)

August 15, 1945

WRB

ITP

LA

Rec'd 3:45 p.m.

SWP-4

FC-9

A-D

Secretary of State

Washington

3894, August 15, noon

FOR ODWYER WRB FROM KATZKI

Reference WRB 544 August 8, arrangements have been made for overland movement from Switzerland to Tarento Italy about August 20 of 700 Palestine certificate holders ex Bergen-Belsen and Theresienstadt proceeding to Palestine. Should this movement take place as planned I shall be able to return to Washington shortly thereafter and shall be guided by your instructions.

For your information UNRRA London has now requested UNRRA representative Switzerland to investigate possibilities for accepting delivery in Switzerland instead of Goteburg of 206,000 WRB food parcels (see Department's 2410 WRB 542 July 28 and Bern's 3733 July 30). We shall keep you advised of developments, meanwhile assume you are pursuing matter with UNRRA London.

HARRISON

MWB

SECRET WR-1

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

000261

48

000262

US BRITISH ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
COMBINED CIVIL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

PARAPHRASE

Rec'd Aug 6 1946

8 15419, 3 Aug 1946

From: USFBI

To: CGAO

Ref: VOG 497

In reference to VOG 497 (FWD-23666) the following additional information is submitted:

Request made by authorities in Switzerland to transport 750 Jews whose destination was Italy, has now been withdrawn. As soon as British authorities have finished documentation and screening process a group of 700 Jews whose destination is Palestine will be transported by way of Toronto in Italy. This group is the last for which the United States has made commitments.

cc Glasser, Schmidt (4), Bronz (3), Gunter, Willis, Pollack,
Bitterman, Miss Hodel

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

000263

000264

RDMcC:rm



LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Bern, July 31, 1945

AIR MAIL

Dear General O'Dwyer:

I wish to refer to my wire of July 20, 1945, (Legation's 3632), concerning the change in the attitude of the Swiss authorities regarding the evacuation from Switzerland of any of the refugees formerly from Bergen-Belsen and Theresienstadt, other than the 700 for whom Palestine immigration certificates have been received. As stated in my cable, the Swiss authorities have decided that they no longer feel it necessary to avail themselves of our evacuation guarantees. This was due to a number of factors: continued opposition on the part of the refugees themselves to being moved, relative smallness of the number of persons in the last analysis involved (the Swiss having decided against trying to move about 400 of these refugees who desired to go to Palestine but for whom certificates were not yet available, there being some 1100 aspirants in all), and finally the fact that in the course of the past six weeks a considerable number of displaced persons, mostly Italians, have left Swiss territory with promise of more to leave during coming months on the basis of a repatriation agreement reached with the Allied military authorities in both Germany and Italy.

For the Board's information and records, I, therefore, enclose copies of the letter of July 16th from the Police Division of the Federal Department of Justice and Police, and of my answer of July 23rd.

In spite of the fact that the Police Department (Refugee Section) expressed the somewhat sanguine hope that we would be able to temporarily maintain this guarantee of evacuation, it is my feeling, based on conversations with them, that our answer will be satisfactory and the whole matter will drop.

We are, however, still actively engaged in arranging for the departure of the group of 700 Palestine certificate holders.

You may wish to bring this matter to the attention of the Department of State so I enclose an extra set of copies of all the documents concerned.

Sincerely yours,

Roswell D. McClelland

Roswell D. McClelland

Brig. Gen. William O'Dwyer
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington, D.C.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Tack's Date SEP 19 1972

000265

Département fédéral de justice et police
DIVISION DE POLICE

Berne, le 16 juillet 1945

N 42/23 Sü
N 42/39

Monsieur Roswell McClelland
Assistant spécial au Ministre
des Etats-Unis,
Légation des Etats-Unis
B e r n e

Monsieur,

Nous avons l'avantage de revenir sur la conversation téléphonique que vous avez eue il y a quelques jours avec M. Schürch pour le prier d'établir une liste de tous les réfugiés qui se trouvent dans l'impossibilité de regagner leur patrie et qui ne figurent pas parmi les 700 candidats au visa pour la Palestine. Vous nous avez offert, dès l'établissement de cette liste, de demander au commandement des forces alliées en Italie quand ce groupe de réfugiés pourrait être transporté dans le sud de la péninsule.

Nous avons consulté nos dossiers pour estimer le nombre des participants à ce convoi. Avant même d'avoir pu procéder à toutes les enquêtes ou de les avoir achevées, nous sommes en mesure de constater que leur nombre sera relativement peu élevé. Il faut exclure d'emblée de ce convoi plusieurs catégories de réfugiés:

- 1) Les réfugiés qui seront mis au bénéfice d'un visa pour la Palestine.
- 2) Ceux qui désirent rentrer directement dans leur pays d'origine et qui en auront prochainement l'occasion sur la base des accords conclus avec les délégations militaires alliées.
- 3) Les vieillards et les malades, les enfants en bas âge et quelques réfugiés dans des conditions spéciales.

Dans ces conditions le convoi prévu ne compterait guère plus de 300 personnes et peut-être même beaucoup moins; nous nous sommes demandé si nous devons procéder à ce convoi de départ d'autant plus qu'il rencontre une hostilité croissante également de la part des réfugiés de Theresienstadt. Malgré l'intérêt que les autorités suisses trouveraient à un convoi réalisé sur la base des assurances données par vous, nous croyons devoir renoncer provisoirement à la formation de ce convoi pour l'Italie du sud, en raison des répercussions qu'il aurait, et de la diminution sensible du nombre des participants. Nous prenons cette décision à regret, d'autant plus que la préparation vous avait coûté beaucoup de peines et d'efforts; mais nous demeurons persuadés que vous comprendrez notre point de vue, en voyant la résistance que vous avez trouvée dès le début chez ces deux catégories de réfugiés contre l'idée du convoi de départ. Il n'a pas été possible de faire repartir les deux groupes de

000266

Monseigneur.

BB
CC
SS
AA

DIVISION
Département fédéral
de la Justice

- 2 -

réfugiés dès leur entrée en Suisse, comme nous l'avions prévu primitivement et la succession des événements politiques et militaires a rendu difficile la réalisation de notre plan.

Tout en renonçant provisoirement à la formation d'un petit transport tel que nous l'avions prévu, nous vous prions de bien vouloir nous aider dans la mesure du possible, à la préparation du départ ou du retour de tous ces gens, et nous espérons que les assurances données aux autorités suisses par le gouvernement américain gardent toute leur valeur.

Veillez agréer, Monsieur, l'assurance de notre considération distinguée.

LE CHEF DE LA DIVISION DE POLICE ad int.

000267

TRANSLATION
FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND POLICE
DIVISION OF POLICE

Bern, July 16, 1945

Mr. Roswell McClelland
Special Assistant to the Minister
Legation of the United States
B e r n

Sir:

We wish to refer to the telephone conversation which you had a few days ago with Mr. Schürch in which you asked him to draw up a list of all the refugees who were unable to be repatriated and who did not figure among the 700 candidates for Palestine visas. You offered, as soon as this list was drawn up, to ask the Allied military authorities in Italy when this group of refugees could be transferred to Southern Italy.

We have gone over our files to determine the number of persons to be included in such a convoy. However, before having been able to start an investigation of all the cases involved, we were aware of the fact that the number was relatively small. Several categories of refugees must be a priori excluded from this convoy:

1. Refugees who will receive a Palestine visa;
2. Those who desire to return directly to their countries of origin and who will shortly have the opportunity of doing so on the basis of agreement reached with the Allied military authorities;
3. Elderly and ill persons, young children and certain refugees for special reasons.

Under the circumstances the projected convoy would scarcely involve more than 300 persons and perhaps even less. We, therefore, wondered if we should continue to press for the departure of such a convoy. All the more so since it encountered growing opposition among the refugees from Theresienstadt. In spite of the interest which the Swiss authorities might have in going through with the evacuation of this convoy, on the basis of guarantees given by you, we believe it advisable to temporarily give up the matter or organizing this convoy for Southern Italy because of the repercussions it would have and the considerable decrease in the number of participants. We take this decision with regret knowing that the preparation for the departure of these persons caused you a great deal of trouble and effort. We are convinced, however, that you will understand our point of view having experienced the opposition which was evident from the very beginning among the two categories of refugees concerned against the idea of evacuation. It was not possible to organize the departure of these groups of refugees immediately following their entry into Switzerland as we had originally planned and the sequence of political and military events has now rendered difficult the realization of our plan.

In giving up the idea of forming the small convoy which we planned, we should be most grateful for any help in preparing the departure or return of all these people and we hope that the assurances given to the Swiss authorities by the American Government will remain in force.

Please accept, Sir, the assurances of my distinguished consideration.

Chief of the Division of Police a.i.

(signed) JEZLER

000268

RDMcC:rm

Bern, July 23, 1945

Division of Police
Federal Department of Justice and Police
Bundeshaus
B e r n

Attention: Dr. Jezler

Dear Sirs:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your comprehensive letter of July 16 concerning the refugees in Switzerland who previously arrived from Bergen-Belsen and Theresienstadt other than the candidates for the 700 Palestine certificates.

Careful note has been taken of your analysis of the composition of this group, particularly of the fact that the number of individuals actually involved is relatively small, and of your conclusions that, in face of continued opposition on the part of the refugees themselves to being moved to Italy, the Federal Authorities consider it advisable to temporarily renounce availing themselves of the offer of the Allied Governments to evacuate these refugees.

Having had considerable experience over a period of several months with this specific group of refugees and being acquainted with the inherent difficulties of the problem of moving them, I fully understand the motives which prompted the Federal Authorities' decision to no longer insist, in accordance with guarantees previously given by the Government of the United States, on the removal of these refugees.

That the United States will be glad to assist, insofar as it may lie within its power, in the ultimate disposition of this specific group of refugees is, I believe, implied by the general assurances of the Government of the United States.

As you know, specific preparations are at present being made, in collaboration with the Allied military authorities in Italy, concerning the departure, it is hoped in the near future, of the 700 refugees from among

000269

- 2 -

the Bergen-Belsen and Theresienstadt groups who have received authorization for Palestine certificates, as well as plans on a larger scale with our and other Allied military authorities at Frankfurt for the evacuation and repatriation of considerable bodies of other refugees at present in Switzerland.

Sincerely yours,

Roswell D. McClelland
Spec. Assistant to the Minister

000270

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AMERICAN LEGATION
BERN, SWITZERLAND

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Brig. Gen. William O'Byer
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
c/o Treasury Department
Washington, D.C.

By air mail
Par avion

Dove

Att. No. 777

63790

000271



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000272

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

3a INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

RS-287
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement; [REDACTED]

Bern
Dated July 20, 1945
Rec'd 7:05 p.m.

Secretary of State
Washington

US URGENT

CONTROL COPY

3632, July 20, 6 p.m.

FOR O'DWYER OF WRB FROM MCCLELLAND

Legation's 3560, July 14.

Swiss authorities informed me on July 16 that after reconsideration of whole question and in face of continued opposition on part of refugees themselves, Swiss now deem it undesirable evacuate groups B and C from Switzerland. Only group remaining, therefore, to be evacuated is A.

On July 14 APHQ inquired whether these 700 (group A) destined for Palestine would be ready to move. Meanwhile through British Legation Bern and with assistance our Embassy London we have succeeded obtaining certain concessions such as permission use collective passports, calculated to speed up issuance certificates to this group in Switzerland. British security check will be transferred to their Consulate General in Naples.

With luck and

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

000273

-2-#3632, July 20, 6 p.m. from Bern

With luck and perseverance I think we can get group A documented by end this month. I accordingly suggested tentative departure date from Switzerland of August 6 to AFHQ and asked them if they planned make technical arrangements for picking up group at Swiss border and transporting it overland.

In view these developments it might be advisable postpone any approach to UNRRA for time being. Herbert should return to Switzerland with Harrison toward end this month. We will reexamine progress then and inform you.

HARRISON

JT

000274



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000275

-2-#3560, July 14, 10 a.m. from Bern

C. Some 350 others mainly from Theresienstadt who: (1) desire and have reasonable possibility emigrating overseas; (2) are stateless ex-German Jews who do not wish to be repatriated; and (3) are nationals of Poland, Hungary, Rumania, et cetera who do not (repeat not) desire repatriation.

According to most recent messages from SHAEF of June 28 AFHQ agreed that it would be most feasible move all these refugees overland from Switzerland to Italy, A and B for further despatching to Palestine as rapidly as possible, C because we had agreed take them off Swiss hands. As originally planned they would be received and accommodated by UNRRA in Italy. They also belong to categories of refugees falling under IGCR'S (Inter-Governmental Committee on Refugees).

As you know we have attempted for several months in keeping with the board's engagement evacuate those refugees from Switzerland.

In cooperation with SHAEF all preparations for their departure were twice made for June 4 and again July 2. In the first instance refugees refused to be moved to Italy. (Legation's 2982, June 1) since authorization for Palestine certificates had just arrived and

000277

-3-#3560, July 14, 10 a.m. from Born

arrived and they did not wish to leave until they could proceed directly there. On second occasion the Palestine ^{candidates} ~~and (*)~~ were not yet documented, in fact still arguing among themselves regarding nominal distribution of certificates and hence again not ready to go.

It unfortunately still does not appear that any of them will be movable within next few weeks. New liaison for example will have to be set up with AFHQ's G-5 (our previous liaison having been with SHLEF) and numerous technical details of transport worked out and coordinated once more. An extensive repatriation movement of upwards of 26,000 Italian refugees from Switzerland is now under way and will probably last until mid August. This will probably postpone any movement our refugees. It is further quite likely since British passport control officer in Geneva is awaiting special instructions regarding documenting Palestine emigrants that this will not be accomplished before several more weeks. In short whole matter can drag well into September.

In view fact that VRB will soon no longer exist and after end of July have no further representation in Switzerland I seriously recommend you consider

turning

000278

4-#3560, July 14, 10 a.m. from Bern

turning whole question over to UNRRA. For your confidential information he and I have informally discussed this matter with UNRRA representatives here, who, however, are unwilling act unless instructed to do so by their head officer. If UNRRA's answer is affirmative it would be advisable they send men up from Italy to work on this movement.

Meanwhile we shall make another attempt to move at least a few hundred from groups B and C into Italy by end of July if possible.

HARRISON

HJF

(*) apparent omission repetition requested

000279

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

CORRECTION

MEC-406
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. [redacted] (WR-1)

Bern

Dated July 16, 1945

Rec'd 6.03 p.m.

*War Dept
D. Sawyer*

Secretary of State,
Washington.

CONTROL COPY

Cable 3560, July 14, 10 a.m., from Bern, "FOR
O'DWYER OF WRB FROM MCCLELLAND, page three, line three,
delete "land (*)" and insert "candidates" making line
read "the Palestine candidates were not yet documented".

DIVISIONAL OF CENTRAL SERVICES

JP

[redacted]
[faint stamp]

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-78
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

000280



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000281

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

RD-832
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement, [REDACTED] W)

Bern
Dated June 27, 1945
Rec'd 5:55 p.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

3327, June 27, 11 p.m.

O'DWYER WRB FROM MCCLELLAND.

LEGT'S 2982, June 1 and telephone conversation
June 22 with Florence Hodel.

According to most recent info obtained from SHAEF
it will not be possible evacuate first group of approx
700 Bergen-Belsen and Theresienstadt refugees from
Switzerland to southern Italy before mid-July. They will
probably go overland.

SHAEF hopes be able despatch second group of 700
certificate holders directly to Palestine toward end
of July.

RB

HARRISON

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

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

000282

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DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

3 A

INCOMING
TELEGRAM
DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

AdeR-1457 1945 JUN 1 PM 2 51

PLAIN
Bern

Dated June 1, 1945

Rec'd 11:38 a.m.

DC/L
LIAISON

Secretary of State,

Washington.

US URGENT

2982, First

ODWYER WRB FROM MCCLELLAND

Legations 2874) May 24th

In view attitude of Zionist faction among
refugees who were to be evacuated to southern
Italy from Switzerland beginning with first
convoy scheduled leave Geneva June 4, Swiss
authorities today informed me they will not
be able go through with June 4 transport
and requested I inform SHAEF accordingly. I
have wired SHAEF today asking them cancel first
convoy. 700 Palestine certificates were
authorized May 30 for delivery to Zionists among
refugees from Bergenbelsen and Theresienstadt in
Switzerland, as result Zionist group numbering
approximately 1100 refused evacuation to Italy
threatening

CONTROL COPY

000284

-2-#2982, June 1, from Bern
threatening physical resistance and declaring
they will only leave when can proceed directl-
Palestine. It is however hoped Swiss can
still organize and assemble group for second
convoy consisting refugees not (repeat not)
desiring go to Palestine so that a departure
can take place toward end June. Will keep
you informed further developments this exceedingly
trying situation.

HARRISON

RR

000285



57

000286

TO: Files
Mr. MacCormack
246

(This is the one you called me
about concerning State's request
that number & date not be
given out)

Text of cable, paraphrased,
forwarded to George
McCauley, Unrra,
for transmission
to Major Frank Golan

P. J. M.
H. H. H.

MISS HOEDEL

000287

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

GEM-423

Bern

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

Dated May 11, 1945

Rec'd 5:04 p.m.

Quar...
Mr. McClelland

Secretary of State,
Washington.

2703, May 11, 11 a.m.

FOR WRB FROM MCCLELLAND

PLEASE INFORM MAJOR FRANK GOLLAN, UNRRA

"Your May 4 to American Legation Bern.

In keeping with guarantees given by United States and British Governments several months ago to Swiss Government to evacuate from Switzerland special groups of deportees extricated from German occupied areas, Hilde Goldmann, Czechoslovak citizen from Theresienstadt, born Brno, April 28, 1912, will be moved, probably toward end of May, along with over 2,000 other refugees to UNRRA reception centers in southern Italy. If plan is to bring this lady to the United States this may be more rapidly accomplished if she goes first to Italy since emigration in future on individual basis from Switzerland to the United States will be complicated, lengthy and expensive process."

HARRISON

JM

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

CONTROL COPY

RECEIVED
DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION
MAY 11 1945

000288



000289

Mr. P. J. C. C. C.

FROM: London

Date: March 7, 1945

RECEIVED 15 11:27/Recd.: March 14, 5p.m.

SECRETARY OF STATE

MEMORANDUM

CONTROL COPY

A-230, March 7, 1945.

FOR THE SECRETARY, HOUSING AND DEPARTMENT

McCann's confidential telegram No. 1870, February 23, 2 p.m.

There is quoted below the text of a letter dated March 5, 1945, received from Sir Herbert J. Emerson, Director of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, suggesting a thorough investigation of the wishes of the Jewish refugees from Helson Bergen and Theresienstadt now in Switzerland who may wish to be repatriated:

"In continuation of our correspondence regarding refugees from Helson Bergen and Theresienstadt now in Switzerland, I enclose a copy of a cable that I have received from Mullman who is now in Paris. I may explain that Galy Mayer is the representative of the Joint Distribution Committee in Switzerland, who has done extremely good work in arranging for the rescue of Jews. Weill, who is mentioned in the cable, is another Jewish worker in Switzerland who is fully in the confidence of Galy Mayer.

"2. You will see that according to this message many refugees from Hungary wish to return to that country. Similarly I understand that the refugees from Theresienstadt include a number of Dutch citizens who wish to return to Holland. Other parties of refugees who are able to reach Switzerland are likely to be similarly

composed/

000290

composed of two distinct groups, first, those who wish to return to their own countries, and second, those who wish to go elsewhere. With regard to the first group, namely those who wish to return to their own countries, the common sense policy would seem to be for them to stay in Switzerland pending repatriation, if the Swiss Government is willing to keep them, unless repatriation is likely to be expedited by their temporary removal elsewhere. For instance, I can conceive that Hungarians who wish to return to Hungary may get there quicker via Philippeville than by staying in Switzerland until a direct route to Hungary is open. On the other hand, those who wish to return to Holland had much better wait in Switzerland than in Philippeville, if the alternative is open to them. Of course, there may be no alternative, since the Swiss Government may insist on their early removal, but hitherto it has always been very reasonable in these matters, and I would hope that it would continue to be so. The most efficient arrangement would be to have in future a thorough investigation of the wishes of the persons concerned as regards repatriation before decisions are reached regarding their transfer or not, the object being to try and get the agreement of the Swiss Government to a policy which will allow those, at any rate, to stay in Switzerland who wish to be repatriated, and whose repatriation would not be expedited by their transfer from that country.

"3. We have not had first hand information about these particular groups of refugees because our representative does not take over his functions until the 1st April, but when he does so, we would propose to instruct him on the above lines.

"4. I did not reply to your letter of February 19, in which you conveyed a message from General O'Leary, since I hoped that the

letter/

000291

letter would be shortly arriving in London. Since his arrival has been postponed, perhaps you will be good enough to let him know that I am greatly looking forward to meeting him, and to discussing matters in which we are both interested. Indeed, you may wish perhaps to send a copy of this letter to the War Refugee Board."

The following is the text of the telegram from Dr. Kullmann, referred to in Mr Herbert's letter:

"Gely Mayor informs me through Bill Gelsen Bergen that Hungarians in Switzerland now number 2,200. They are mostly wealthy and include many doctors, lawyers and nurses. Almost all wish to return. Swiss Government feel that the best chance of early repatriation is via Philippeville and hope that early arrangements may be made for them to proceed there.

"2. According to Mayor inside story of the arrival of the Theresienstadt group is as follows. Gussy, a retired federal councillor, was attacked in the press on account of the high prices he had paid for obtaining the release of a few political and Jewish internees. In order to exonerate himself and at the suggestion of the Vatican and Dr. Steinbuech, outreau of American Orthodox Rabbi Federation, he negotiated release of the Theresienstadt group, stating, without authorisation, that Mayor would show gratitude in cash. The sole condition imposed by Kullman was that the group should not include technicians, intellectuals or prominent Jews. Mayor of course refused to make any payment and the arrival of further groups seems unlikely.

"3. Contrary to previous reports it appears that Jews have also been exterminated in Theresienstadt and that only 8-12,000 now remain out of some 35,000-40,000.

London/230

-4-

"4. Laver also reports that Upper Silesian camps were emptied before Russian occupation and that substantial numbers of inmates were transferred to new camps in the Vienna region."

The Department will note that in the last paragraph of Sir Herbert's letter he states that he has not replied to General G'Dwyer's message since he expected to see him in London before this time.

SECRET

000293



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000294

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

JB-234
Distribution of true
reading only be special
arrangement (SECRET-W)

Caserta
Dated March 5, 1945
Rec'd 3:09 p.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

830, March 5, 11 ?

The following has been received from Bern

82, March 3, 2 p.m.

MAR 6 1945
CONTROL COPY

KINDLY DELIVER FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO BRIGADIER
GENERAL CHARLES SPOFFORD, ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF,
CMJK--5 AFHQ FROM McCLELLAND OF WAR REFUGEE BOARD:

Swiss Government would like to evacuate 1672
Hungarian Jewish refugee Zulus approximately 760 other
Jews out of group of 1200 who recently reached Switzer-
land from Theresienstadt, as soon as possible.

Remainder of 1200, that is some 440 Jews of Dutch
nationality, will stay temporarily in Switzerland
pending decision of Dutch Government regarding their
ultimate destination.

Whereas Swiss authorities would prefer evacuate
these 2522 refugees in as large units as possible they
are willing move them in four or five smaller increments
if shipping space for one or two larger units is not
available from French port of embarkation to North

Africa

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

000295

-2- #830, March 5, 11 ? from Caserta

Africa to Allied authorities.

Kindly advise therefore how shipping arrangements are working out and Swiss will adapt evacuation accordingly. It would be helpful if you could suggest or set some future sailing date for all or any part of this group of refugees. In cooperation with Swiss who are willing furnish trains for transport through France we will get corresponding number of refugees to French port of embarkation.

Evacuation can therefore take place as soon as maritime transport is available.

Repeat to WRB in Washington.

KIRK

EEC

000296



000297

3/7/45
Copy to:

Maj. Taylor

**INCOMING
TELEGRAM**

**DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION**

W. Taylor
W. Taylor

MS-1872
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. ([redacted] W)

Bern
Dated March 3, 1945
Rec'd 7:23 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

1375, March 3, 2 p.m.

The following telegram has been sent to Caserta.

82, March 3, 2 p.m.

Kindly deliver following message to Brigadier General Charles Spofford, Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5 AFHQ from McClelland of War Refugee Board: "Swiss Government would like to evacuate 1672 Hungarian Jewish refugees plus approximately 760 other Jews out of group of 1200 who recently reached Switzerland from the Resienstadt as soon as possible. Remainder of 1200, that is some 400 Jews of Dutch nationality, will stay temporarily in Switzerland pending a decision of Dutch Government regarding their ultimate destination.

Whereas Swiss authorities would prefer evacuate these 2522 refugees in as large units possible they are willing move them in 4 or 5 smaller increments if shipping space for 1 or 2 larger units is not available from French port of embarkation to North Africa to Allied authorities.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972 kindly advise,

CONTROL COPY
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAR 5 - 1945
DC/L
LIAISON OFFICE

000298

-2-1375, March 3, 2 p.m., from Born.

Kindly advise, therefore, how shipping arrangements are working out and Swiss will adapt evacuation accordingly. It would be helpful if you could suggest or set some future sailing date for all or any part of this group of refugees. In cooperation with Swiss who are willing furnish trains for transport through France we will get corresponding number of refugees to French port of embarkation.

Evacuation can, therefore take place as soon as maritime transport is available.

Repeat to WRB in Washington.

HARRISON

JMS

000299

000300

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

MB-1056
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. ()

London

Dated February 23, 1945

Rec'd 11:03 p.m.

Manly
George

Secretary of State,
Washington.

CONTROL COPY

1870, February 23, 2 p.m.

FOR DEPARTMENT AND WRB

In note dated February 21 Foreign Office
informed Embassy as follows: (REDEPTEL 66,
January 3, 12 p.m. and 308 January 13, 12 p.m.)

For security reasons the
text of this message must
be closely controlled

Particulars have now been received from British
Legation at Bern concerning the group of 1675 Jewish
refugees from Bergen-Belsen. British authorities
are naturally pleased at release of these refugees.
There are however considerable difficulties to British
agreement for immediate admission "of all or indeed any"
of the group into Palestine. Arrangements were made by
the British authorities when practically the whole of
Europe was occupied by the enemy whereby a large number
of European Jews were advised that certificates for
entry into Palestine would be issued to them should
they reach neutral territory. At the same time British
passport control officer at Istanbul was authorized to
issue Palestine visas automatically to any Jewish

refugee who
DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

000301

-2- 1870, February 23, 2 p.m., from London

refugee who reached Istanbul. This arrangement was designed simply and solely to save from persecution as many Jews as possible. A certain claim to immunity from the worst forms of persecution was given them by a document to the effect that they would be admitted into Palestine. Consequently not much regard for the "absorptive capacity" of Palestine was held in giving these assurances. It was ensured through the authorization to the British passport control officer at Istanbul to grant visas that no Jew who succeeded in reaching the Turkish frontier would be turned back. This position was fully understood and accepted by the Jewish agency for Palestine. The British had to take steps to provide that Palestine immigration take place in a more orderly manner now that conditions in Europe have changed and the area of enemy action domination has shrunk.

Immigration to Palestine at the present time is on a basis of a quota of 10300 Jewish immigrants. This quota is to be filled as from October 1, 1944 at a rate not exceeding 1500 a month. The Jewish agency for Palestine has the initial choice of immigrants under this scheme. Consequently there must first be considered the admissibility of these refugees into Palestine under

the present quota

000302

-3- 1870, February 23, 2 p.m., from London

the present quota arrangements. However the British agree with the American authorities that the Swiss Government "who seem themselves to have taken the initiative on this point" should not be burdened any longer than is absolutely necessary with the presence of these refugees. The best solution therefore would seem to be their removal from Switzerland to some other place where temporary housing and care can be given them. From further correspondence through military channels British understand that the War Refugee Board intends for the present to do this and that steps are already underway on the part of SHAEF, AFHQ and UNRRA looking toward the removal of the whole group from Switzerland either to an UNRRA camp in Italy or to the UNRRA camp at Philippeville. It is very likely that some of these refugees will prove to be UNRRA'S responsibility under resolution Nos. 57 and 60 of the Montreal conference. UNRRA is authorized by these resolutions to carry operations for the care and repatriation or return of persons "who have been obliged to leave their country or place of origin or former residence or who have been deported therefrom by action of the enemy

000303

-4- 1870, February 23, 2 p.m., from London

of the enemy because of their race, religion or activities in favor of the United Nations". So far as the British are concerned this arrangement consequently fully acceptable. The Foreign Office assumes that the Inter-Governmental Committee is being kept fully informed of developments by the War Refugee Board since the IGC has special responsibilities with respect to Hungarian Jews who escaped from enemy hands under arrangements made last summer in connection with the so-called Horthy offer.

WINANT

CSB

000304

000305

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

EK-953
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. (W)

Bern *W. R. P.*
Dated February 23, 1945
B. Sawyer

Rec'd 5:50 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

CONTROL COPY

1194, February 23, 2 p.m.

FOR MRB PRO McCLELLAND.

Grasset of SHAEF and Spofford of AFHQ Paris were
sent following wire today. (Department's 769, February
20; MRB'S 416). *attached*

FOR MRB PRO
TEXT ONLY
NO CT

"Whereas Swiss authorities would prefer evacuate
1672 Jewish refugees destined for Philippeville in one
unit, they are willing move them in three or four
smaller increments if shipping space for all 1672 at
one time from French port of embarkation to North Africa
is not available to Allied authorities. Kindly advise
therefore how shipping arrangements are working out
and Swiss will adapt evacuation these refugees accordingly.
Swiss have offered supply trains if necessary".

I am informed by British Legation Bern that British
Foreign Office London has agreed that this whole group
should be removed from Switzerland as soon as possible
to Philippeville where their claims to admissibility to
Palestine can be properly investigated.

HARRISON DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date **SEP 19 1972**

LMS
Delay due to original message being garbled.

000306

000307

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

DATE February 20, 1945

SEM
Distribution of
true reading only by special arrangement.
1945 FEB 23 PM 4 37 8 p.m.

COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS
(LIAISON)

*War Dept
File*

AMLEGATION

CONTROL COPY

BERN
769

The following for McClelland is WRB 410.

With respect to movement of 1872 Hungarian refugees from Switzerland, Board is advised that under date of January 31, 1945, SHAEF cabled to you in Bern via Ampolad and again under date of February 16, 1945, asking you whether movement was to be in one group or in increments. Board also understands that aforementioned SHAEF cables advised you of method of communication to SHAEF.

For security reasons text of this message be closely preserved
GREW
ACTING
(GLW)

WRB:MMV:KG
2/19/45

WE

SE

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

000308

CABLE TO AMLEGATION, BERN, FOR MCCLELLAND FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

With respect to movement of 1672 Hungarian refugees from Switzerland, Board is advised that under date of January 31, 1945, SHAEF cabled to you in Bern via Ampolad and again under date of February 16, 1945, asking you whether movement was to be in one group or in increments. Board also understands that aforementioned SHAEF cables advised you of method of communication to SHAEF.

*Submitted copy and
referred in file*

FHshd 2/19/45

000309

000310

343
9/15

February 16, 1945

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Mr. Trobe was received through the American Legation in Lisbon under date of February 15, 1945:

"Resnik cables UNRRA has been requested by War Refugee Board to remove 1627 Hungarians in Switzerland now to UNRRA camps. (This is for your information) This is presumably the Bergen-Belsen group. It has been suggested by the UNRRA Italian mission that Palestine certificate holders should be sent directly to Palestine potential certificate holders to UNRRA camps in Palestine and those desiring ultimate repatriation to camps of Italian UNRRA. It has been suggested by AFHQ that whole group could be moved to camp at Philippeville. Consideration is being given to the matter. This unaffecting our negotiations steamship LIMA since we concerned with different group. Have advised Joseph Schwartz."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Florence Hodel

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

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

RBH
RBHutchison:inn 2/16/45

000311

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

MES-290

PLAIN

Lisbon

Delivered February 15, 1945

Rec'd: 2:10 p.m.

FEB 15 10 24

Secretary of State

Washington.

343, Fifteenth

WRB 320 JDC 174

FOR LEAVITT FROM TROBE

"Resnik cables "UNRRA has been requested by War Refugee Board to remove 1627 Hungarians in Switzerland now to UNRRA camps. (This is for your information) This is presumably the Bergen-Belsen group. It has been suggested by the UNRRA Italian mission that Palestine certificate holders should be sent directly to Palestine potential certificate holders to UNRRA camps in Palestine and those desiring ultimate repatriation to camps of Italian UNRRA. It has been suggested by AFHQ that whole group could be moved to camp at Philippeville. Consideration is being given to the matter." This unaffecting our negotiations steamship LIMA since we concerned with different group. Have advised Joseph Schwartz."

CONTROL COPY

NORWEB

RB

message sent 2/16/45

000312

000313

CJH
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. (W)

February 13, 1945

5 p.m.

AMLEGATION

BERN
686

The following for Huddle and McColland from Department
and War Refugee Board refers to your 881 February 8 and is
WRB 400.

With respect to this Government's assurances to Swiss
please note that in Department's 240 of January 16, 1945,
the assurances given therein are not (repeat not) limited
to refugees coming from any specific enemy or enemy con-
trolled territory.

For Department and UNRRA are being consulted regarding
arrangements for the evacuation from Switzerland of this
latest group of 1210 refugees.

Department and Board are advised that military authori-
ties are now in touch with you concerning details of evacua-
tion of 1672 refugees from Bergenbelsen.

GREW
(Acting)
(GLW)

TRB:HW:KG
2/13/45

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

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks, Date SEP 19 1972

000314

000315

February 10, 1945

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Harold Trobe was received through the American Legation in Lisbon under date of February 9, 1945:

"JFC 162. Saly Mayer advises recent official exchange from Hergen-Belsen consisted approximately 900 persons, most of whom Jewish. We hopeful obtain list near future American Embassy here."

Very truly yours,

Florence Hodel

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

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

RD ✓
RDruy 2/10/45

000316

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

EK-512

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
RECEIVED

PLAIN

Man Ref. 31

100 FEB 9 PM 2 11 Lisbon

Undated

RECEIVED
FEB 9 5
(LON)

Rec'd 4:09 a.m., February 9,
1945

Secretary of State,
Washington.

CONTROL COPY

283, Undated.

Sent 2/10/45

URB 306. JDC 162. FOR LEAVITT FROM HAROLD TROBE. *RS*

Saly Leyer advises recent official exchange from Bergen-
Belsen consisted approximately 900 persons, most of
whom Jewish. We hopeful obtain list near future
American Embassy here.

NORWEB

MJF

000317

000318

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM
CONTROL COPY
1945 FEB 3 PM 1 46

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

Mar 23
1946

COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS
(LIAISON)

CC-717
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. (W)

London
Dated February 2, 1945
Rec'd 6:46 a.m. 3rd

Secretary of State,
Washington.

1161, February 2, 7 p.m.

FOR WRB. FROM LAMM

We have again taken up with British matter mentioned WRB 33 and 37. Foreign Office cabled British Minister in Bern for full report when matter first brought to its attention. Bern has not replied notwithstanding repeated reminders from Foreign Office. Accordingly British still unable to give us an answer, but expect to be able to do so soon.

VIMANT

WRB

For Security
Text of LHM
be closely monitored

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

000319

000320

LF-137
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. (S)

Bern

Dated January 25, 1945

Rec'd 9:45 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

530.
531, January 25, 3 p.m.

FOR WRB FROM MCCLELLAND

In course of constant contact with various officials and agencies of Swiss Government during past many months on subject of admission to Switzerland of refugees from Nazi persecution, (Department's 240, January 16, WRB's 364) we have observed no lack of willingness on part of Swiss to grant large numbers of such persons temporary asylum. On contrary Swiss have repeatedly interceded with Germans as in case of projected evacuation of upwards of 12,000 Jews from Budapest in effort to expedite and organize such evacuation.

On occasion of coming of second Bergen-Belsen convoy of 1300 individuals in early December Federal police was somewhat disturbed over unannounced arrival of group of unknown persons of this size from Germany on understandable grounds of military and internal security.

We have repeatedly conveyed to Swiss our Government's assurance that any such refugees admitted to Switzerland would be evacuated as promptly as possible. Although Swiss have not as yet chosen to avail themselves of our offers of maintenance they took occasion in course of recent discussions relative to conversion of dollar equivalent of the 20,000,000 into Swiss francs to express informally their distress at United States unwillingness to allow them import into Switzerland even from Spain some 300,000 tons of food stuffs purchased for general Swiss consumption and warehoused in Spain for past many months. Our lack of understanding (as they interpret it) of growing difficulties their food situation and our simultaneous requests that they admit large numbers of new refugees contrast rather unfavorably in their minds. It is worth nothing in this respect that Switzerland has recently received a new contingent of close to 10,000 French refugee children from the Muhlhouse region.

HUDDLE

MJF

cc: Miss Chauncey (For Sec'y), Ackermann, Akzin,
Cohn, Drury, DuBois, Gaston, Hodel, Marks,
McCormack, Pehle, Files.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

000321

000323

DEPARTMENT

OF Distribution of State
Reading only by special
arrangement. (SECRET)

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF

1945 January 23, 1945 DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

1945 JAN 25 AM 11 01

AMLEGATION

BERM

385

COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS
(LIAISON)

CONTROL COPY

The following for McClelland is WRB 377.

Reference our No. 369 of January 22, 1945 (WRB No. 374).

War Department advises that you should communicate through American Embassy, Paris, with Lieutenant General A. E. Grassett, Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5, SHAEF, and Brigadier General Charles M. Spofford, Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5, AFHQ, who have been advised of your connection with the matter.

War Department also advises that consideration will be given to the accommodation of the refugees at some camp other than Philippeville if SHAEF or SACMED so recommends.

Please keep Board advised of developments.

SECRET
For security reasons, the text of this message should be closely guarded.

WRB:MMV:KG
1/23/45

WE

SMF

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

000324

CABLE TO AMLEGATION, BERN, FOR MCCLELLAND FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Reference our No. 369 of January 22, 1945 (WRB No. 374).

War Department advises that you should communicate through American Embassy, Paris, with Lieutenant General A. E. Grasset, Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5, SHAPE, and Brigadier General Charles M. Spofford, Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5, AFHQ, who have been advised of your connection with the matter.

War Department also advises that consideration will be given to the accommodation of the refugees at some camp other than Philippeville if SCAEF or SACED so recommends.

Please keep Board advised of developments.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 377.

2:45 p.m.
January 23, 1945.

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Ackermann, Akzin, Cohn, Drury, DuBois,
Gaston, Hodel, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Files.

JH
F:hd 1/23/45

000325

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
WASHINGTON

22 January 1945

Mr. J. W. Pehle
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Executive Office of the President
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I have your letter of 16 January requesting that SHAEF arrange transportation for 1672 refugees from Switzerland to Philippeville, Algeria, and asking the name of the SHAEF official with whom Mr. McClelland, your representative at Bern, should communicate on the arrangements.

Cables are being sent to SCAEF and to SACMND, asking whether transportation can be arranged, but indicating that consideration will be given to the accommodation of the refugees at some other camp than Philippeville if SCAEF or SACMND so recommends.

It is believed that Mr. McClelland should establish communication through diplomatic channels with Lieutenant General A. E. Grasset, Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5, SHAEF and Brigadier General Charles L. Spofford, Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5, AFHQ. We are advising SCAEF and SACMND of Mr. McClelland's connection with the matter.

As soon as reply has been received, you will be advised.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ John J. McCloy

JOHN J. McCLOY
Assistant Secretary of War

000326

3

000327

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF

January 22, 1945

Microfilm of this
message to be made
arrangement.

JAN 23 PM 4 51 P.M.

AMLEGATION

COMMUNICA
AND RECORDS
(LIAISON)

CONTROL COPY

BERN
369

The following for McClelland is WRB 374.

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

Please refer to your 213 of January 18 regarding the
evacuation from Switzerland of 1672 refugees from Bergen
Belsen.

Inasmuch as it will probably take some time before it
can be determined whether these refugees will be admitted
to Palestine, it has been decided to move the entire group
of 1672 to Philippeville pending a final decision regarding
their ultimate destination. UNRRA has been requested to
make arrangements for the reception of the entire group in
Philippeville. SHAEF will arrange for their transportation.

It is suggested that you communicate with the American
Embassy at Paris for communication with G-6 of SHAEF con-
cerning the details of this movement.

STETTINIUS
(GIM)

WRB:MMV:KG
1/22/45

WE

SWP

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

000328

CABLE TO RUDDLE, BERN, FOR MCCLELLAND FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Please refer to your 213 of January 12 regarding the evacuation from Switzerland of 1672 refugees from Bergen Belsen.

Inasmuch as it will probably take some time before it can be determined whether these refugees will be admitted to Palestine, it has been decided to move the entire group of 1672 to Philippeville pending a final decision regarding their ultimate destination. UNGRA has been requested to make arrangements for the reception of the entire group in Philippeville. SHAEF will arrange for their transportation.

It is suggested that you communicate with the American Embassy at Paris for communication with G-5 of SHAEF concerning the details of this movement.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 374.

1:15 p.m.

January 22, 1945

WJH - per discussion with Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Ackermann, Akzin, Cohn, Drury, DuBois, Gaston, Hodel, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Files

WJH:hd 1/22/45 mgm

000329

000330

C
O
P
Y

January 16, 1945

4 p.m.

LFR
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. (SECRET)

Assurance to
Swiss Govt.

AMLEGATION

BERN
240

The following for McClelland is WRB 364

Doubts have been expressed by certain private relief agencies in America, hopeful of being able to arrange large scale escape of refugees from Nazi persecution, whether Swiss Government is willing to keep its doors open to a further flow of such refugees, whatever their numbers. Please investigate, if necessary, and advise us.

Should you believe it useful now or at any future time, you are authorized to emphasize to Swiss officials that previous assurances given by this Government concerning the maintenance and evacuation of refugees from enemy persecution who would be admitted to Switzerland were not (repeat not) restricted to any particular number of persons and that this Government would deeply appreciate continued Swiss cooperation in this humanitarian endeavor by admitting all such refugees who may be able to reach

Switzerland, without regard to numbers.

WRB: MMV:KG

WE

GREW (Acting) (GLW)

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Data SER 10 1572

000331

000332

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

EAK-1207
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. ()

London

Dated January 16, 1945

Rec'd 5:20 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

552, January 16, 8 p.m.

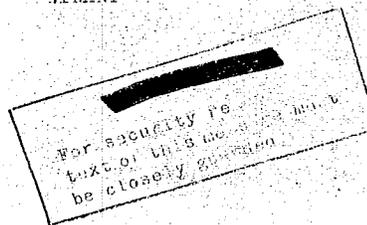
FOR PERLE FROM HLNN

CONTROL COPY

Matter of having Bergen Belsen group evacuated
from Switzerland to Palestine was taken up with Mason,
Refugee Section, Foreign Office immediately upon
receipt WRB 33. Contents of WRB 37 have been conveyed
to him and urgency of the matter stressed. As soon
as a reply is received I shall telegraph it im-
mediately.

SECRET

TTD



DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 14 1972

000333

000334

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

January 13, 1945
Midnight

EMBASSY

LONDON

308

The following for Mann is WRB 37.

Reference our number 66 of January 5, 1945.

We have just received another cable from McClelland indicating that the Swiss are pressing for the immediate evacuation of Bergen-Belsen group from Switzerland. McClelland advises that this group comprises a further 320 Hungarian Jews who arrived in Switzerland in August 1944, in addition to persons mentioned in Department's 66 of January 5. This brings total up to 1672 persons.

Please reply urgently with regard to possibility of having this entire group admitted to Palestine.

GREY
(Acting)
(GHY)

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

WRB:MMV:RG
1/13/45

DC

ME

NE

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

000335

CABLE TO LIAISON, LONDON, FOR INFO FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Reference our No. 66 of January 3, 1945.

We have just received another cable from McClelland indicating that the Swiss are pressing for the immediate evacuation of the Bergen Belsen group from Switzerland. McClelland advises that this group comprises a further 320 Hungarian Jews who arrived in Switzerland in August 1944 in addition to the persons mentioned in Department's No. 66 of January 3. This brings total up to 1672 persons.

Please reply urgently with regard to possibility of having this entire group admitted to Palestine.

THIS IS WRE LONDON CABLE NO. 37.

4:45 p.m.
January 13, 1945

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Ackermann, Akzin, Cohn, Drury, Dabois, Gaston,
Lavel, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Piles

WMB:BA:PH:hd 1/13/45 *JH*

000336

000337

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

12 JAN 13 AM 9 41

EAK-35

Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement ()

Bern

Dated January 12, 1945

Rec'd 11:14 a.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

213, January 12, 9 a.m.

FOR WRB FROM MCCLELLAND

Substance your 49 communicated to Swiss
authorities. (Department's 49, January 3 WRB 34)
who expressed appreciation promptness Board's efforts
organize evacuation this group from Bergen-Belsen
from Switzerland. Swiss also expressed hope that
pending reply from London regarding permission
enter Palestine for majority these refugees arrange-
ments could be started for transit this group France,
a trip which they will have to undertake in any
event whether they proceed to Palestine or North
Africa. In this connection Swiss federal railways
prepared if necessary furnish trains for trans-
port these people to French port of embarkation.

Federal police wish rectify oversight in their
recent communication concerning size group stating
they wish include first Hungarian convoy from

Bergen-Belsen

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

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

CONTROL COPY

000338

-2- #213, January 12, 9 a.m., from Bern

Bergen-Belsen (Legation's 5517, August 23) numbering
group h(*)ly 320 persons. This would bring total
group in question up to some 1672 rather than 1352.

HUDDLE

RB

(*) Apparent omission

000339

000340

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

January 3, 1945
9 p.m.

Distribution of
true reading only by
special arrangement.

1945 JUN 16 AM 11-03

ALLEGATION

BERN
49

(LONDON)

CONTROL COPY

The following for McClelland is WRB 343.

Please refer to your 8379 and 8380 of December 28 regard-
ing the evacuation from Switzerland of the 1352 refugees who
recently arrived from Bergen-Belsen.

The War Refugee Board advised the War Department at
the time your 7289 of November 1 was received of the possible
need of transportation and accommodations for Jewish refugees
from Hungary. The Board has since been advised by the War
Department that AFHQ and UNRRA have agreed to hold the
Philippeville Camp in Algeria in reserve for emergencies
arising from any possible movement of Hungarian Jews.

However, in view of the description of this group of
1352 refugees in the communication to you from the Chief of
the Federal Police, the Board has cabled Mann in London,
requesting him to seek the consent of the British Government
to the admission of this group to Palestine. If Mann is
unsuccessful in obtaining the consent of the British to this,
the Board will undertake to make arrangements to have them
moved to Philippeville. Although the Board will do all pos-
sible to hasten the evacuation of this group from Switzerland,
there can be no assurance that this can be accomplished within
the

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

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

000341

-2- #49, January 3, 1945, 9 p.m. to Bern

the next few weeks.

If necessary, arrangements can be made to provide funds for the maintenance of this group for the period of their stay in Switzerland.

You will be advised as soon as a reply is received from Mann.

STETTINIUS
(GLW)

WRB:MMV:RG
1/3/45

WE

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000342

CABLE TO HUDELE, BERLIN, FOR McCLELLAND FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Please refer to your 8379 and 8380 of December 28 regarding the evacuation from Switzerland of the 1352 refugees who recently arrived from Bergen-Belsen.

The War Refugee Board advised the War Department at the time your 7269 of November 1 was received of the possible need of transportation and accommodations for Jewish refugees from Hungary. The Board has since been advised by the War Department that AFHQ and UNRRA have agreed to hold the Philippeville Camp in Algeria in reserve for emergencies arising from any possible movement of Hungarian Jews.

However, in view of the description of this group of 1352 refugees in the communication to you from the Chief of the Federal Police, the Board has cabled Mann in London, requesting him to seek the consent of the British Government to the admission of this group to Palestine. If Mann is unsuccessful in obtaining the consent of the British to this, the Board will undertake to make arrangements to have them moved to Philippeville. Although the Board will do all possible to hasten the evacuation of this group from Switzerland, there can be no assurance that this can be accomplished within the next few weeks.

If necessary, arrangements can be made to provide funds for the maintenance of this group for the period of their stay in Switzerland.

You will be advised as soon as a reply is received from Mann.

THIS IS WRB BERLIN CABLE NO. 343.

2:00 p.m.
January 2, 1945

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abkermann, Akzin, Cohn, Drury, IMBois, Gaston, Hodel, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Files

MM Cleared with + Pella Jcy
MM:PH:d 1/1/45 Keavitt

000343

18.

000344

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement. (S) (W)

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

January 3, 1945
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
midnight

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

1945 JAN 6 AM 10 59

EMBASSY

COMMUNICATIONS
ATTACHES
(L1304)

LONDON

86

The following for Mann is MRS 3

CONTROL COPY

The War Refugee Board was recently advised by McClelland in Bern that approximately 1365 refugees from Bergen-Belsen arrived in Switzerland on December 7 and are temporarily being housed in Caux under control of the Swiss army. McClelland has been advised by the chief of the Swiss Federal Police that the majority of these refugees are Hungarians, including persons from Transylvania, but that there are also a few Poles, Slovaks and Yugoslavs. The Swiss stated further to McClelland:

UCBA all these refugees intended to go to Palestine some as young workers others as veteran Zionists or prominent members of Jewish organizations, still others to join relatives already there. Most of them had been assured that they would be admitted although none of them actually possess Palestine certificates or equivalent document. On other hand they all hold documents issued by Hungarian Red Cross or an international Jewish organization stating that a Palestine certificate in their name is available at Istanbul. These documents were for most part issued shortly before occupation of Hungary by Germans. For past few years it appears that several thousands of Hungarian Jews have gone to Haifa via Istanbul on basis of such documents. All these Hungarians who recently arrived in Switzerland

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

000345

-2-#66, January 3, Midnight to ~~London~~
Switzerland originally intended to pick up their Palestine certifi-
cates in Istanbul and once in possession of them to proceed to
Haifa. Almost all of them have relatives in Palestine. They do
not know whether the certificates supposedly available for them
at Istanbul are still valid or whether the Zionist organizations
have taken any steps to assure their emigration. UNQUOTE

Although it is not certain that this is the same group refer-
red to in our WRB-19 of November 3 and your 9730 of November 9, it
is hoped that you will be able nevertheless to obtain the consent
of the British to the admission of this group of refugees to
Palestine. The Swiss are extremely anxious and consider it impera-
tive (repeat imperative) that this entire group of refugees be
removed from Switzerland as soon as possible. This is an excellent
opportunity to demonstrate to the Swiss our good faith in promising
to find temporary havens for all refugee Jews arriving in Switzer-
land from Hungary, particularly since the Swiss have indicated
their willingness to permit 8,000 more Hungarian Jews to enter
Switzerland on a temporary basis.

AFHQ and UNRRA have agreed to hold the Philippeville Camp in
Algeria open to meet emergency needs such as that created by any
possible movement of Hungarian Jews. However, it is the Board's
feeling, in view of the above-quoted communication by the Swiss to
McClelland, that efforts should be made to have this group
admitted

000346

-3-#66, January 3, Midnight, to London
admitted to Palestine rather than to Philippaville.

Please take this matter up with the British and reply
urgently. If the British consent to admit these refugees to
Palestine, the United States Government will of course cooperate
in arranging transportation.

STETTINIUS
(GLW)

WRB:MMV:KG
1/3/48

BC WE NE SE

000347

CABLE TO KINANT, LONDON, AND MANN FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

The War Refugee Board was recently advised by McClelland in Bern that approximately 1355 refugees from Bergen-Belsen arrived in Switzerland on December 7 and are temporarily being housed in Caux under control of the Swiss army. McClelland has been advised by the chief of the Swiss Federal Police that the majority of these refugees are Hungarians, including persons from Transylvania, but that there are also a few Poles, Slovaks and Yugoslavs. The Swiss stated further to McClelland:

QUOTE: All these refugees intended to go to Palestine some as young workers others as veteran Zionists or prominent members of Jewish organizations, still others to join relatives already there. Most of them had been assured that they would be admitted although none of them actually possess Palestine certificates or equivalent document. On other hand they all hold documents issued by Hungarian Red Cross or an international Jewish organization stating that a Palestine certificate in their name is available at Istanbul. These documents were for most part issued shortly before occupation of Hungary by Germans. For past few years it appears that several thousands of Hungarian Jews have gone to Haifa via Istanbul on basis of such documents. All these Hungarians who recently arrived in Switzerland originally intended to pick up their Palestine certificates in Istanbul and once in possession of them to proceed to Haifa. Almost all of them have relatives in Palestine. They do not know whether the certificates supposedly available for them at Istanbul are still valid or whether the Zionist organizations have taken any steps to assure their emigration. UNQUOTE

Although it is not certain that this is the same group referred to in our WRB-19 of November 3 and your 9736 of November 9, it is hoped that you will be able nevertheless to obtain the consent of the British to the admission of this group of refugees to Palestine. The Swiss are extremely anxious and consider it imperative (repeat imperative) that this entire group of refugees be removed from Switzerland as soon as possible. This is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate to the Swiss our good faith in promising to find temporary havens for all refugee Jews arriving in Switzerland from Hungary, particularly since the Swiss have indicated their willingness to permit 8,000 more Hungarian Jews to enter Switzerland on a temporary basis.

AFHQ and UNRRA have agreed to hold the Philippeville Camp in Algeria open to meet emergency needs such as that created by any possible movement of Hungarian Jews. However, it is the Board's feeling, in view of the above-quoted communication by the Swiss to McClelland, that efforts should be made to have this group admitted

000348

to Palestine rather than to Philippeville.

Please take this matter up with the British and reply urgently. If the British consent to admit these refugees to Palestine, the United States Government will of course cooperate in arranging transportation.

THIS IS WRB LONDON CABLE NO. 33.

2:00 p.m.
January 2, 1945

Miss Chauncey (for the Sect'y) Ackermann, Akzin, Cohn, Drury, DuBois, Gaston, Hodel, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Files

mjm *Cleared with Pehle* *JG*
WMeFH:hd 1/1/45

000349

000350

2 War. Ref. Bd. (Pahle)

PANAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: AMERICAN LEGATION, BERN
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: December 28, 1944
NUMBER: 8379

CONTROL COPY

The following message is from McClelland for WRE.
See Legation's 7997 of the seventh of December and
7269 of the first of November.

I have received communication from the Chief of Federal
Police dated the twenty second of December substance of which
is transmitted in my 8380 of the twenty eighth of December,
with regard to group of 1352 Jewish refugees originally from Hungary
and lately evicted in Switzerland from Bergen-Belsen.

It is imperative that serious consideration be given
at once to the practical task of evacuating these refugees from
Swiss territory in view of this communication and with reference
to paragraph four of our 7269. Accordingly I should appreciate
data as to the plans of the Board in respect to this matter and
naturally stand ready to aid in any way possible on this side.

With regard to the Palestine angle of evacuation of
this group it might be wise to have Board's representative
man in London consult with British officials to determine whether
the group can actually be admitted to Palestine.

DCH:MLG
12-29-44

MLG

BUDDLE
DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

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16.

000352

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

LSB-237

PLAIN
Bern

Dated December 28, 1944

Rec'd 8:33 p.m., 29th

Secretary of State,
Washington

8380, Twenty-eighth

"With reference to our conversation of December

14 I recently dispatched one of my assistants to Gaux where these refugees are temporarily housed in order to determine composition of group. All ages and social classes are represented although percentage of intellectuals and professional men is relatively high. The majority are Hungarians including persons from Transylvania who acquired Rumanian nationality as a result of Vienna arbitration but there are also a few Poles, Slovaks and Yugoslavs.

All these refugees intended to go to Palestine some as young workers others as veteran Zionists or prominent members of Jewish organizations, still others to join relatives already there. Most of them had been assured that they would be admitted although none of them actually possess Palestine certificates or equivalent

CONTROL COPY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DEC 29 1944
AM 9

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-2- #8380, Twenty-eighth, from Bern

equivalent document. On other hand they all hold documents issued by Hungarian Red Cross or an international Jewish organization stating that a Palestine certificate in their name is available at Istanbul. These documents were for most part issued shortly before occupation of Hungary by Germans. For past few years it appears that several thousands of Hungarian Jews have gone to Haifa via Istanbul on basis of such documents. All these Hungarians who recently arrived in Switzerland originally intended to pick up their Palestine certificates in Istanbul and once in possession of them to proceed to Haifa. Almost all of them have relatives in Palestine. They do not know whether the certificates supposedly available for them at Istanbul are still valid or whether the Zionist organizations have taken any steps to assure their emigration. I believe that this information will permit you to form a rough idea of this group of refugees as well as of the manner in which their emigration might be organized. I should be extremely grateful if you would use your influence to assure an early departure of these refugees. It is particularly important to know whether they can leave within the next few weeks. If this is the case we will leave them together

000354



15.

000355

*J. Ward Ref. 100
(Schell)*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: December 21, 1944
NUMBER: 8272
X

CONTROL COPY

Please refer to message from this Legation dated December 16th,
No. 817Z

There is given below the gist of the material part of note from
Federal Political Department dated December 16th.

Some time ago the Legation of Switzerland in Berlin was directed to make vigorous representation to the Government of Germany in the interest of Jews, pointing out to that Government that refuge of a temporary nature could be found in Switzerland by Jewish emigrants. The Political Department, being motivated by considerations of a humanitarian nature, and within the framework of these representations, has not failed to ask the Swiss Minister in Berlin to examine into the possibility of another representation with a purpose in view that the people appearing on the list transmitted be authorized to depart from German territory also. The Political Department at the same time is glad to take cognizance of the assurances so kindly given by the Legation in connection with its request, that the Government of the United States will make provision for the maintenance of all people admitted to Switzerland in this manner while they are waiting there to depart for the

United States
SG

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
BY R.H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972
OFFICIAL

000356

United States or for some destination other than the United States. If circumstances require it, Federal authorities reserve the right to make use of this offer.

Referring to the third from the last paragraph of telegram from the Legation to which reference is made above, the Swiss Federal Police have now declared in a formal manner their willingness to authorize the entry into Switzerland of those people above referred to either individually or collectively for whom United States immigration visas are available here in Switzerland. Nevertheless, this move would not go far toward solving the problem of locating these people or obtaining permission for their departure from Germany, in the opinion of the Swiss Federal Police. It was pointed out by the Federal Police that informing the Government of Germany through diplomatic channels that Swiss visas were available for such people and in this way acting de facto as a sort of protecting power would not be apt to have much effect on the Germans, as in the case of the Hungarians, and would in truth very possibly be rejected by the Germans as not being justified sufficiently. For this reason the Federal Police share the view of Division of Foreign Interests that declaring these people exchangeable would probably afford to the Swiss a better possibility of according protection to them while they are still in the hands of the Germans, though the Federal Police are entirely willing to admit any of these persons, or all of them, into Switzerland.

HUDDLE

LCW
99R:12:BLE 12-28-44

000357



14.

000358

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
CORRECTED COPY

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

ALH-1085
Distribution of
true reading only by
special arrangement.

1944 DEC 19 AM 9 27

Bern

Dated December 16, 1944

Rec'd 4:52 p.m., 17th

Secretary of State

Washington

8177, December 16, 5 p.m. (SECTION ONE)

Department's 3844, November 11 (WRB 269)

All lists mentioned have been received and trans-
mitted to Swiss with exception number 222 which not yet
received. However, list bearing number 220 received but
not mentioned by WRB.

Swiss note dated December 7 referring to contents
second paragraph Department's 2605 July 28 and third
group of lists mentioned Department's telegram under
reference states that Swiss Legation Berlin has requested
that following be brought to Legation's attention before
Swiss representative notifies list to German Government:

Judging from experience Swiss Legation considers
that representations which it would make to German
authorities in this connection would contribute nothing
to assure effective protection to persons covered by
Department's 2605 so long as they can not participate in
American-German exchanges. It would appear preferable to

refrain

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

000359

-2- #8177, December 16, 5 p.m., from Bern

refrain for the present from notifying to German Foreign Office these lists of non-exchangeable persons to whom the American Government is prepared to extend its hospitality because communication these lists could only create confusion prejudicial to smooth conduct of negotiations for forthcoming American-German exchange. Inquiry is made whether, notwithstanding foregoing, communication of lists to German Government is desired.

In another note also dated December 7 Swiss refer to contents first sentence numbered part three of Department's 2918, August 24 and to first and second groups of lists mentioned Department's 3844, November 11 and transmit following observations of Swiss Legation Berlin:

American Legation by note dated November 21 (which transmitted contents Department's airgram A-540 on November 9) gave notification that Department had established a seventh category of persons entitled to participate in American-German exchanges that is, category G which includes wives and children of alien residents of United States or of other American Republics.

HUDDLE

JT

000360

ARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

74 DEC 16 PM 5 01

JEM-1099
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. (SECRET W)

Bern
Dated December 16, 1944
Rec'd 7:05 p.m., 17th.

Secretary of State
Washington

8177, December 16, 5 p.m. (SECTION TWO)

(?) (?) (?) persons resident in United States in a single
category such as category and accordingly eliminate dis-
tinction established by Department's 2918.

Owing foregoing Foreign Office inquires whether per-
sons referred to in said telegram could be assimilated to
category G. If this not possible it desires know whether
Swiss Legation Berlin may be authorized defer transmission
lists to Germans until negotiations for forthcoming ex-
change are completed.

Question of authorizing Swiss entry visas individual-
ly or collectively is still under consideration by federal
police. In preliminary discussion chief of police ex-
pressed grave doubt as to protective value of authorizing
Swiss visas to large number of persons whose present where-
abouts is completely unknown and whose last addresses are
several years old. His experience with German police led

him

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

000361

-2- #8177, December 16, 8 p.m. (SECTION TWO) from Bern

him to believe that they would take very little action on basis of lists in question and in view of Jewish race of persons concerned disclaim any knowledge as to their whereabouts.

In view of Swiss Legation's observations it appears to Legation that classification of persons as exchange-able would afford a better possibility of according protection than authorization of Swiss entry visas.

Legation wishes also confirm receipt WRE lists Nos. 265, 269 and 274 which already forwarded to Swiss. Lists Nos. 276, 277, 27(?) 302, 303, 305, 306 and two lists both bearing No. 307 have been received and their transmission to Foreign Office will be withheld pending Department's observations to comments given above. (END MESSAGE)

HUDDLE

W3B

Large portion at beginning undecipherable and serviced.

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000363

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

JCM-01
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement.

Bern

Dated December 7, 1944

Rec'd 12:55 p.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

US URGENT

7297, December 7, 4 p.m.

FOR WIRE FROM ICEBERG

Legation's 7464, November 10.

I am happy to be able to report that approximately
355 persons balance of the Hungarian Jews in camp
Guzsargabesen arrived in Switzerland during night of
December 6 to 7 having crossed frontier at St. Margrethen.
They are at present temporarily housed near St. Gall under
control of Swiss Army.

HUDDLE

CONTROL COPY

DECLASSIFIED
Sign. Date Letter: 1-11-73
By R. H. Parks Date: SEP 19 1972

000364



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000365

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

MB
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. ()

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

November 29, 1944

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

6

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

War Ref
P
P

ALLEGATION

BERN

4030

The cable below for McClelland is WRB 292.

Please deliver paraphrase of the following message to
Isaac Sternbuch, St. Gall, from Rabbi Aron Kotler and
Abraham Kalmanowitz of Vaad Mahatzala Emergency Committee:

QUOTE (1) Urge you continue efforts with Swiss Govern-
ment to effect rescue of 8,000 Hungarian Jews. Suggest you
approach McClelland for information regarding American
Government's attitude toward this project. (2) Likewise
approach McClelland regarding American attitude toward pro-
posal of collective intercession of Vatican and neutrals
in regard to treatment of civilian internees. (3) Advise
whether 1574 from Bergenbelsen already reached Switzerland
send names outstanding persons in group. UNQUOTE

The following from WRB to McClelland:

You may, in your discretion, inform Sternbuch about
items one and two above. Reference Department's 3760 of
November 3, 3786 of November 7, and 3788 of November 7.

STETTINIUS
(Acting)
(GCW)

WRB:MMV:KG
11/29/44

WE

SE

CONTROL COPY

DEPT. OF STATE
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

000366

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON, BERN, FOR MCCLELLAND, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Please deliver the following message to Isaac Sternbuch, St. Gall, from Rabbis Aron Keller and Abraham Kalmanowitz of Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee:

QUOTE (1) Urge you continue efforts with Swiss Government to effect rescue of 8,000 Hungarian Jews. Suggest you approach McClelland for information regarding American Government's attitude toward this project. (2) Likewise approach McClelland regarding American attitude toward proposal of collective intercession of Vatican and neutrals in regard to treatment of civilian internees. (3) Advise whether 1374 from Bergenbelsen already reached Switzerland and names outstanding persons in group. UNQUOTE

The following from WRB to McClelland:

You may, in your discretion, inform Sternbuch about items one and two above. Reference Department's 3760 of November 3, 3786 of November 7, and 3788 of November 7.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 292.

*Cyprus
Dad H. H. H.
11/25/44
R.R.*

1:45 p.m.
November 24, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Ackermann, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Lesser, Mannon, McCormack, Files

EDrury:BAksia:tmh 11-22-44

*BA JDA - Cleared with
Kesser*

000367

ועד ההצלה

VAAD HAHATZALA

(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)

132 NASSAU STREET
(ROOM 610)
NEW YORK 7, N. Y.
PHONE RECTOR 2-4235

November 20, 1944

War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Att: Miss F. Hodel

Dear Miss Hodel:

May we ask you to please expedite the attached message through the facilities of the War Refugee Board.

With our sincerest appreciation,

Very respectfully yours,

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

A. Kalmanowitz
Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

To rescue, save and preserve from war destruction the Torah values
(Yeshivoth, Rabbis, Scholars and Communal Leaders)

To utilize the possibilities for rescue of European Jewry where the
Vaad Hahatzala program is especially needed.

000368

ועד ההצלה

VAAD HAHATZALA

(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)

132 NASSAU STREET

(ROOM 619)

NEW YORK 7, N. Y.

PHONE RECTOR 2-4235

Message to Isaac Sternbuch
St. Gallen, Switzerland
through the AMERICAN LEGATION, BERN

-
- 1) Concerning 8000 Hungarian Jews, American Government has assured Swiss Government that provision for group guaranteed. Urge you continue efforts with Swiss Government to effect rescue.
 - 2) American Government also communicated approval and strong request to neutral countries and Vatican for proposed collective intercession.
 - 3) Advise whether 1374 from Pelsen Bergen already reached Switzerland. Send names outstanding persons in group.

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

Habbis Aron Kotler
Abraham Kalmanowitz

*Changes in
list cleared
with Kalmanowitz
by A. Kotler*

To rescue, save and preserve from war destruction the Torah values
(Yeshivah, Rabbis, Scholars and Communal Leaders)

To utilize the possibilities for rescue of European Jewry where the
Vaad Hahatzala program is especially needed.

000369

V. H. E. C.
132 NASSAU STREET
Suite 819-820
NEW YORK 7, N. Y.

NOV 21 AM 7 57

32
1



SPECIAL DELIVERY SPECIAL DELIVERY

War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Att: Miss E. Hodel
Room 2410



000370

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: November 7, 1944
NUMBER: 3786

To Minister Harrison and McClelland, Bern.

Reference your 7269 of November 1.

Please transmit to Swiss Government this Government's appreciation of Swiss action reported therein. You may assure Swiss officials that this Government will do everything possible to assist them in every way in connection with the reception and evacuation of the contemplated refugees from Hungary.

In this connection, please ascertain and advise the Board of total number of refugees now in Switzerland, and of the numbers holding (1) Palestine certificates, (2) valid visas to any other countries, or (3) valid passports of countries to which they can safely return.

This is RRB Bern cable No. 264.

STETTINIUS
ACTING

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Ackermann, Akzin, Cohn, Drury, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Lesser, Marks, Mannon, McCormack, Pehle, Files.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

000371

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: AMLEGATION *Bern*
DATED: November 7, 1944
NUMBER: 3788

To Minister Harrison at Bern for McClelland.

Reference your 7170 of October 28 to the Department. For your information the following is the text of a letter written by Pehle to The Apostolic Delegate in Washington:

QUOTE A report from Bern from private sources indicates that the Nunciature at Bern may present to the Holy See a proposal whereby the Vatican, together with certain neutral governments, would intercede with the German Government on behalf of civilian deportees in German-controlled territories. According to the report, the proposal envisages that Germany would be requested

(a) to liberate or allow to be interned in neutral countries those deportees who are elderly men, women, and children; and

(b) to apply to other deportees treatment similar to that accorded prisoners of war.

Without knowing whether this report is correct, I, nevertheless, wish to assure you that, in the opinion of the Board, a step of this kind might result in saving the lives of deported civilians in German-controlled territory.

I should, however, like to draw your attention to two particularly import circumstances. First, the Germans have often shown a tendency to exclude Jews from concessions made in response to foreign intercessions, and to assume that Jews are not among the persons on whose behalf any intercession is made unless express reference is made to them. Second, the valud of any German concessions will be doubtful unless provision is made for effective supervision of their execution by competent neutral authorities.

Should you deem it appropriate, I would be very grateful if you could bring the foregoing comments to the attention of the Holy See. CLOSE QUOTE.

This is WRB Bern cable No. 259.

STETTINIUS
ACTING

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Ackermann, Akzin, Cohn, Drury, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Lesser, Marks, Mannon, McCormack, Pehle, Files.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

000372

DEPARTMENT
OF

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

DCR: LATE
This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government Agency.

November 3, 1944
10 p.m.

EAST DISTRICT STATE

NOV 6 AM 11 04

ALLEGATION

BERN
3760

RECORDS
(LANSON)

The cable below for Harrison and McClelland is WRB 255.

On October 30 the Board's representative in Ankara reported substantially as follows:

QUOTE A telegram dated October 25 from Jewish Agency's Budapest representative Krausz received by Jewish Agency Istanbul stated that exit permits will be procured for the first group of 2,000 Palestine certificate holders in Hungary. The projected route of travel would be through Switzerland and Portugal, according to Krausz, who requests aid of WRB in procuring the necessary transit visas. Verification of Krausz's report with McClelland in Switzerland is suggested. Only meager and general information concerning Jews in Hungary obtainable in Istanbul, but unconfirmed reports that evacuation of Hungary may be in contemplation contained in Turkish newspapers. Future developments may make renewed inquiry advisable at present concerning emigration from Hungary possibilities. Jewish agency states the 2,000 certificate holders possess passports and are still in Budapest. UNQUOTE

Kindly verify above information. If correct please take all steps necessary to ensure swift Swiss action to enable arrival Switzerland without delay of certificate holders from Hungary. Swiss authorities may be assured that this Government will use its

best

000373

-2-#3760, November 3, 10 p.m. to [unclear]

best efforts to procure unimpeded progress to Palestine of these
certificate holders.

Kindly inform Department and Board whether Ankara report is
correct and of steps in this matter that you may undertake.

Stettinius
(ACTING)
GHW

WRB:MMV:KG
11/2/44

WE

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DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

77A-104
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. (██████████)

Bern
Dated November 24, 1944
Rec'd 10:41 a.m.
██████████

Secretary of State,
Washington.

7716, November 24, 9 a.m.
FOR WRB FROM MCCLELLAND.

Legation's 754L, November 14.

According to latest news from Swiss Legation
Budapest brought by Minister Jaeger who is at present in
Bern, some 7,000 persons (composed of family groups)
holding Palestine certificates are ready to leave for
Switzerland. They have all necessary papers including
German transit visas but are unable to depart for lack
of transportation. Meanwhile they are relatively un-
molested and are exempted from forced labor service as
are all persons possessing Swiss "protective" documents.
In view of military situation it seems unlikely that
Germans will choose to allot rolling stock for their
transportation. Essential thing is, however, they are
not (repeat not) being deported.

Departure of 4,500 or more persons holding Swedish
protective papers is even more doubtful as they are
reported not to have been granted German transit visas yet.

Will keep you posted on any new developments in this
situation.

BB

HUDDLE

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

000376

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DEPARTMENT

Distribution of
STATE reading only by
special arrangement.

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

10 p.m.

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

CONTROL COPY
This copy reads the
text of this message must
be closely guarded.

AMPOLAD

CASERTA
325

The cable below is from War Refugee Board.

The following is the substance of a message that has been received from McClelland, WRS representative at Bern:

QUOTE The Swiss received a message from their legation in Budapest on the 27th of October which stated that an agreement had been arrived at between the Governments of Germany and Hungary according to which the emigration of about 8,000 Jews from Hungary would soon be authorized and that by the 15th of November this would have to be carried out. Means of transportation to the frontier of Switzerland would be furnished by the Germans and the Hungarians.

The Swiss Political Department on the 31st of October instructed its legation in Budapest that these refugees would be received in Switzerland, this instruction following approval by Federal Council and in order to offset any possible use by the Germans or the Hungarians of lack of readiness on the part of the Swiss/as an excuse not to allow these people to depart. The decision was in line with assurances which in August were given to us.

All pertinent information with regard to documentation, composition, and ultimate destination of the group was requested urgently by wire of the Swiss Legation in Budapest on the 28th of

October
DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

000378

-2- 385, November 15, 10 p.m., at Caserta
October and again on the 1st of November, since it is not clear
whether all of the 8,000 are holders of Palestine certificates, or
whether only a part of them hold such certificates.

November 1 conversations with Chief of Federal Police and
with representative for relief and refugee affairs of the Political
Department reveal that the Swiss are concerned seriously regarding
the practical difficulties which are involved in receiving and
housing a group of this size, even temporarily, at such short
notice. Switzerland has received more than 25,000 new refugees
during the past six weeks, they pointed out, (chiefly women and
children from Valdocosola in Italy and from the combat zones in
France) while, on the other hand, only 8,000 people have departed
2000 French civilians and 6000 military escapees. It would be
difficult to solve the problem of fuel, blankets, and housing
sufficient to properly take care of 8,000 people in winter; in
addition, many of the refugees may be clothed inadequately.
Accordingly, the Swiss are anxious that steps be taken as soon as
possible for the evacuation of such Hungarian refugees. The
practicability of furnishing Swiss trains for the transportation
at once to Marseilles or to some other French seaport of all those
who are eligible for emigration to Palestine is being looked into
by the Swiss. Therefore, it would be wise if the board at once
could study the problem of obtaining one or more ships for Palestine
in

000379

-3- #385, November 15, 10 p.m., to Caserta
in addition, the Swiss would appreciate any efforts which could be
made toward evacuation to North Africa or some other territory of
Allied choice of all or a part of those who are not destined for
Palestine.

Radio Budapest, evidently reversing the decision which was
reported in October 24 telegram from the Legation, repeated several
times during the evening of the 29th of October and the morning of
the 30th of October, instructions addressed to all Hungarian author-
ties, the army, and the police, to the effect that protective docu-
ments or foreign passports should be respected and that future
Jewish holders of such documents should not be sent to compulsory
labor service; and, in addition, that rights of extraterritoriality
should be enjoyed by foreign Consulates, Legations, and premises of
ICRC.

Now it seems probable that the majority of the 50,000 male
Jews reported as being deported as labor are being sent to western
Hungary for work along the Austro-Hungarian border, on fortifica-
tions there.

It is very difficult to believe that the release of 8,000 Jews
has suddenly been decided upon in view of the recent intensified
anti-Jewish stand taken by the Szalassy regime as well as the con-
sistent refusal of the Germans to allow the departure of even the

initial

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-4- #385, November 15, 10 p.m., to Caserta
initial group of 2,000 holders of Palestine certificates.

We will keep you informed with reference to this matter.

UNQUOTE

It is requested that you deliver a copy of this message to Governor Cochrane UNRRA and to G-5 Section AFHQ for their information and preliminary informal consideration since it may be desirable to use Phillipeville should the rescue of these refugees be effected. Any comments which they may have will be appreciated. McClelland's message also being given to War Department and UNRRA Washington.

TTTTT
ACTING
(Gl...)

LRB:MMV:KG
11/13/44

SE

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SWP

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CABLE TO ANFOLAD, CASERTA, ITALY, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

The following is the substance of a message that has been received from McClelland, WRB representative at Bern:

"The Swiss received a message from their Legation in Budapest on the 27th of October which stated that an agreement had been arrived at between the Governments of Germany and Hungary according to which the emigration of about 8,000 Jews from Hungary would soon be authorized and that by the 15th of November this would have to be carried out. Means of transportation to the frontier of Switzerland would be furnished by the Germans and the Hungarians.

"The Swiss Political Department on the 31st of October instructed its Legation in Budapest that these refugees would be received in Switzerland, this instruction following approval by Federal Council and in order to offset any possible use by the Germans or the Hungarians of lack of readiness on the part of the Swiss as an excuse not to allow these people to depart. The decision was in line with assurances which in August were given to us.

"All pertinent information with regard to documentation, composition, and ultimate destination of the group was requested urgently by wire of the Swiss Legation in Budapest on the 28th of October and again on the 1st of November, since it is not clear whether all of the 8,000 are holders of Palestine certificates, or whether only a part of them hold such certificates.

"November 1 conversations with Chief of Federal Police and with representative for relief and refugee affairs of the Political Department reveal that the Swiss are concerned seriously regarding the practical difficulties which are involved in receiving and housing a group of this size, even temporarily, at such short notice. Switzerland has received more than 35,000 new refugees during the past six weeks, they pointed out, (chiefly women and children from Valdosola in Italy and from the combat zones in France) while, on the other hand, only 8,000 people have departed:- 2000 French civilians and 6000 military escapees. It would be difficult to solve the problem of fuel, blankets, and housing sufficient to properly take care of 8,000 people in winter; in addition, many of the refugees may be clothed inadequately. Accordingly, the Swiss are anxious that steps be taken as soon as possible for the evacuation of such Hungarian refugees. The practicability of furnishing Swiss trains for the transportation at once to Marseilles or to some other French seaport of all those who are eligible for emigration to Palestine is being looked into by the Swiss. Therefore, it would be wise if the board at once could study the problem of obtaining one or more ships

000382

for Palestine; in addition, the Swiss would appreciate any efforts which could be made toward evacuation to North Africa or some other territory of Allied choice of all or a part of those who are not destined for Palestine.

"Radio Budapest, evidently reversing the decision which was reported in October 24 telegram from the Legation, repeated several times during the evening of the 29th of October and the morning of the 30th of October, instructions addressed to all Hungarian authorities, the army, and the police, to the effect that protective documents or foreign passports should be respected and that future Jewish holders of such documents should not be sent to compulsory labor service; and, in addition, that rights of extraterritoriality should be enjoyed by foreign Consulates, Legations, and premises of ICRC.

"Now it seems probable that the majority of the 50,000 male Jews reported as being deported as labor are being sent to western Hungary for work along the Austro-Hungarian border, on fortifications there.

"It is very difficult to believe that the release of 8,000 Jews has suddenly been decided upon in view of the recent intensified anti-Jewish stand taken by the Szalassy regime as well as the consistent refusal of the Germans to allow the departure of even the initial group of 2,000 holders of Palestine certificates.

"We will keep you informed with reference to this matter."

It is requested that you deliver a copy of this message to Governor Cochrane UNRRA and to G-5 Section AFHQ for their information and preliminary informal consideration since it may be desirable to use Phillippeville should the rescue of these refugees be effected. Any comments which they may have will be appreciated. McClelland's message also being given to War Department and UNRRA Washington.

McClelland, G-5 Section AFHQ, Akerman, G-5 Section AFHQ, Friedman, Hodel,

Lackermann: Lab 11/8/44

Shulern 2.5.8. *JH* Cleared
with Pele

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DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

ASE - 385
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. (W)

Bern
Dated November 15, 1944
Rec'd 11:20 a.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

US URGENT
7541, November 15, 2 p.m.
PCR WRB FROM MCCLELLAND.

Swiss received wire from their Legation at
Budapest dated November 3. (Legation's 7269,
November 1) stating that departure of 7,000 Palas-
tinian certificate holders and 4500 holders of Swedish
protective documents was being organized and should
take place within about two weeks, military situation
permitting.

HARRISON

RR

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

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DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

PEM-216

This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Government
Agency. (b)(7)(D)

Born

Dated November 10, 1944

Rec'd 1:03 p.m., 11th

Secretary of State,

Washington...

7462 November 10, 8 p.m.

FOR WRB FROM MCCLELLAND
text... One... Expression of appreciation and assurances con-
be closely guarded. must
ained in paragraph one your 3786, November 7 have been

conveyed to Mr. Pilot. Information requested in para-
graph two is being collected and will be wired shortly.

Two. On November 8 Swiss Political Department
still had no news from its Budapest Legation regarding
composition or departure of group of 8,000. A third
wire requesting clarification was sent on November 7.

Situation in Budapest is most unsettled so that it
is doubtless increasingly difficult for Swiss Legation
to supply precise information concerning possibility
departure these persons. Communications with Budapest are
also becoming uncertain. It now seems most unlikely
operation can be effected by November 15.

Three. We have credible intimations that balance of
Hungarian-Jewish group from Bergen-Belsen some 1,500 souls
will be sent to Switzerland shortly.

RB

HARRISON

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

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DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

KEM-618
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. (SECRET W)

London
Dated November 9, 1944
Rec'd 5 p.m.

NOV 10 PM 5 05
RECEIVED
DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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

Secretary of State,
Washington.

9736, November 9, 5 p.m.

FOR PEHLE FROM MANN

Browne and I saw Mason, Chief Refugee Section,
Foreign Office, and informed him of contents of WRB 19.

He would not give definite commitments concerning steps
which British would take. British Minister in Bern had
been advised by Jewish agency on October 31 that
negotiations conducted directly with Germans had assured
exit of 8,000 Jews and Mason believes that the 2,000
reported by Katsi are a part of that group. He has
cabled Bern to determine facts and instructed Minister
to do everything possible to obtain entry of these
persons into Switzerland. As soon as a reply has been
received or it is learned that some or all of these
persons are in Switzerland, Mason has said that he will
be in a position to advise the steps which British will
take. He agrees with boards view that this is an
unexpected chance to rescue some of doomed Jews in
Budapest if report is true and that this opportunity
must not be allowed to end in failure.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972 Mason

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-2- #9736, November 9, 5 p.m., from London.

Mason, as you know, is very cautious and hesitates to commit himself on anything. Also when we discussed subject matter with him he had not discussed it with other interested persons in the British Government. I feel that if Katsi's report is confirmed, we will be able to get a commitment from the British Government to take parallel action to that outlined in board's telegram. I shall report developments learned through British Foreign Office.

GALLMAN

JMS

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Assurance to
Swiss Govt.

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: November 7, 1944
NUMBER: 3786

To Minister Harrison and McClelland, Bern.

Reference your 7269 of November 1.

Please transmit to Swiss Government this Government's appreciation of Swiss action reported therein. You may assure Swiss officials that this Government will do everything possible to assist them in every way in connection with the reception and evacuation of the contemplated refugees from Hungary.

In this connection, please ascertain and advise the Board of total number of refugees now in Switzerland, and of the numbers holding (1) Palestine certificates, (2) valid visas to any other countries, or (3) valid passports of countries to which they can safely return.

This is MRB Bern cable No. 264.

STETTINIUS
ACTING

Miss C. uncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Ackermann, Akzin, Cohn, Drury, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Lesser, Marks, Mannon, McCormack, Pehle, Files.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

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November 3, 1944

Midnight

AMEMB,SSY

LONDON

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The cable below for Mann is WRB 19

The following message under date of October 30 has been received from Katzki.

QUOTE The Jewish Agency Istanbul is in receipt of a telegram via Geneva dated October 25 from the Jewish Agency representative Krausz in Budapest stating that exit permits for the first group of 2,000 Palestine certificate holders in Hungary will be secured. Krausz states that the projected route of travel is through Switzerland and Portugal. He requests the aid of the WRB in obtaining the necessary transit visas. We suggest that you verify Krausz's report with McClelland in Switzerland. Information received in Istanbul concerning the Jews in Hungary is meager and general, but unconfirmed Turkish newspaper reports that evacuation of Hungary may be in contemplation. Future developments may make advisable renewed inquiry at this time regarding possibilities for emigration from Hungary.

According to Jewish Agency the 2,000 certificate holders are still in Budapest and they are in possession of passports. UNQUOTE

The substance of the message has been cabled to Harrison and McClelland with the following instruction:

QUOTE Please verify above information and, if correct, please take all necessary steps to ensure speedy Swiss action to enable the certificate holders from Hungary to reach Switzerland without delay. You may assure Swiss authorities that this Government will use its best efforts to secure the unimpeded progress of the certificate holders to Palestine. UNQUOTE

Please represent to British authorities the Board's view that this unexpected chance to rescue some of the doomed Jews in Budapest, if verified, confronts Great Britain and United States with an opportunity that may not be allowed to end in failure by reason of any hesitation or delay on the part of either of our two governments. This Government is determined to spare no effort in interceding with Swiss, French, Spanish, and Portuguese officials in the interest of securing speedy transportation of the certificate holders in accordance with the suggested routing and is prepared to recommend to the Allied military and shipping authorities to make possible their speedy transportation by rail and by boat.

Miss Chauncy (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Ackermann, Akzin, Cohn, Drury, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Lesser, Marks, Mannon, McCormack, Pohl, Files.

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- 2 -

It is earnestly hoped that British authorities will view the situation in an identical light and will take similar steps to make possible the early departure of the certificate holders for Palestine.

Please advise Department and Board of British reaction.

STETTINUS
(ACTING)
(GLW)

WRB:LLV:KG
11/2/44

BC

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2 War Ref Bd
(P. 411)

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: November 1, 1944
NUMBER: 7269

CONTROL COPY

The following message from McClelland for WRB is transmitted.

The Swiss received a message from their Legation in Budapest on the 27th of October which stated that an agreement had been arrived at between the Governments of Germany and Hungary according to which the emigration of about 8,000 Jews from Hungary would soon be authorized and that by the 15th of November this would have to be carried out. Means of transportation to the frontier of Switzerland would be furnished by the Germans and the Hungarians.

The Swiss Political Department on the 31st of October instructed its Legation at Budapest that these refugees would be received in Switzerland, this instruction following approval by Federal Council and in order to offset any possible use by the Germans or the Hungarians of lack of readiness on the part of the Swiss as an excuse not to allow these people to depart. The decision was in line with assurances which in August were given to us (see message dated August 12 from the Legation, Number 5248).

All pertinent information with regard to documentation, composition, and ultimate destination of the group

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972 was

000397

-2-#7269, November 1, from Bern

was requested urgently by wire of the Swiss Legation in Budapest on the 28th of October and again on the 1st of November, since it is not clear whether all of the 8,000 are holders of Palestine certificates, or whether only a part of them hold such certificates.

November 1 conversations with Chief of Federal Police and with representative for relief and refugee affairs of the Political Department reveal that the Swiss are concerned seriously regarding the practical difficulties which are involved in receiving and housing a group of this size, even temporarily, at such short notice. Switzerland has received more than 25,000 new refugees during the past six weeks, they pointed out, (chiefly women and children from Valdosola in Italy and from the combat zones in France) while, on the other hand, only 8,000 people have departed: 2000 French civilians and 6000 military escapees. It would be difficult to solve the problem of fuel, blankets, and housing sufficient to properly take care of 8,000 people in winter; in addition, many of the refugees may be clothed inadequately. Accordingly, the Swiss are anxious that steps be taken as soon as possible for the evacuation of such Hungarian refugees. The practicability of furnishing Swiss trains for the transportation at once to Marseilles or to some other French seaport of all those who are eligible for emigration to Palestine is being looked into by the Swiss. Therefore, it would be wise if the board at once could study the problem of obtaining one or more ships for Palestine; in addition, the Swiss would appreciate any efforts which

000398

-3-77269, November 1, from Bern

which could be made toward evacuation to North Africa or some other territory of Allied choice of all or a part of those who are not destined for Palestine.

Radio Budapest, evidently reversing the decision which was reported in Paragraph 1 of October 24 telegram from the Legation, Number 7049, repeated several times during the evening of the 29th of October and the morning of the 30th of October, instructions addressed to all Hungarian authorities, the army, and the police, to the effect that protective documents or foreign passports should be respected and that future Jewish holders of such documents should not be sent to compulsory labor service; and, in addition, that rights of extraterritoriality should be enjoyed by foreign Consulates, Legations, and premises of ICRC.

Now it seems probable that the majority of the 50,000 male Jews reported as being deported as labor (see message from the Legation dated October 25, Number 7088) are being sent to western Hungary for work along the Austro-Hungarian border, on fortifications there.

It is very difficult to believe that the release of 8,000 Jews has suddenly been decided upon in view of the recent intensified anti-Jewish stand taken by the Szalassy regime as well as the consistent refusal of the Germans to allow the departure of even the initial group of 2,000 holders of Palestine certificates.

We will keep you informed with reference to this matter.

11-3-44 DCR:LCW:CR

HARRISON

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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: August 23, 1944
NUMBER: 5517

MCLELLAND SENDS THE FOLLOWING FOR WRB.

We refer herewith to Legation's telegram of August 11, 1944, No: 5197.

On August 21 there arrived in Switzerland 320 of 500 Hungarian Jews transferred to camp of Bergenbelsen who were to be unconditionally released by the Gestapo. On August 22 or 23, 200 more are due to arrive. These people appear to be principally from Budapest and Kolosvar and are mixed group of both sexes ranging from two to eighty-two in age. Among the 320 who have reached Switzerland are certain rabbis and other members of the original convoy of 1200 (see Department's cable of August 17, 1944, No. 2834) which actually turned out to be composed of 1690 persons.

HARRISON

DCR:IDB:FB - 8/24/44

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Drury, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Marks, Mannon, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Weinstein, Cable Control.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: August 11, 1944
NUMBER: 5197

McClelland sends the following for the War Refugee Board.

Reference is made herewith to Department's cable of August 2, no. 2656, and Legation's messages of August 3, nos. 4972 and 4974, and of August 5, no. 5043.

There has just reached Switzerland several reports dated the end of July from reliable Jewish sources in Budapest (Kasztner, Komoly and Percz) which shed additional light on the present situation of Jews in Hungary with regard especially to ransom and emigration aspects of the problem. In spite of the preliminary reassuring news of the agreement between the ICRC and the Hungarian Government to allow Jewish emigration to Palestine and elsewhere and relief to Jews remaining in Hungary it now seems that ranking Gestapo agents of so called "Sondereinsatz Kommand" specially sent to Budapest to direct the deportation of Jews have no intention of permitting them to emigrate freely, especially to Palestine, if they can prevent it. After the attack on Hitler and following the rapid worsening of the German military situation, the Gestapo in Budapest shifted their interest from the ideological aspect of Jewish extermination to the purely material benefits in goods, labor and money to be derived therefrom. The essence of their present attitude is contained in declaration of Gestapo Head to Kasztner to the effect that he wished to pump out the necessary labor from Hungary Jewry, and sell the balance of valueless human material against valuable goods.

On the other hand, the Hungarian Government led by Horthy apparently has been frightened not only into stopping deportation (July 9) but also into trying to make up for the unsavory role it has already played in the persecution and deportation of Jews by favoring their emigration and relief to them under the supervision of ICRC. Krausz of the Jewish Agency for Palestine accordingly has been permitted to set up an office in the Swiss Legation where they are actively preparing the emigration to Palestine of 8700 families previously mentioned.

HARRISON

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Akzin, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Weinstein, Files

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

TO: SECRETARY OF STATE, WASHINGTON
FROM: American Legation, Bern
DATE: August 1, 1941
NUMBER: 2605

FOR INFORMATION AND HARRISON.

Please express to appropriate officials of the Swiss Government the deep appreciation of this Government for the information contained in your 4606 of July 16 and your 4606 of July 20.

There are a number of persons in enemy controlled areas to whom American visas were issued on and after July 1, 1941, and who, when present, existing procedures and security checks were effective, who, by reason of transportation difficulties or the advent of war, were unable to make effective use of such visas. It is believed that a large proportion of such persons are among those groups subject to enemy persecution. In the belief as to the availability of new American visas for such persons may save their lives, please request appropriate officials of the Swiss Government to advise enemy governments that American consular officers in neutral countries have been authorized to issue an immigration visa to any person to whom an American immigration visa was issued or for whom a visa was authorized on or after July 1, 1941 and who has been in areas controlled by Germany or any of Germany's allies since December 8, 1941, provided that such person presents himself to an American consular officer in a neutral country and is found not to have become disqualified for the issuance of a visa.

Accordingly, American consular officers in Switzerland are hereby authorized to issue new American immigration visas to any such person to whom an American visa was issued or for whom such visa was authorized after July 1, 1941, provided that (a) such person other than a child under 16 years of age is found upon telegraphic reference to the Department for security check not to be the subject of an adverse report dated subsequent to the previous approval, (b) such person is not affirmatively found by the consul to be inadmissible into the United States under the law, or (c) the consul does not consider that the case is one which should be recommended for consideration under the committee procedure.

In advising Swiss officials of the foregoing please attempt to secure their prompt agreement to advise enemy governments of Switzerland's willingness to permit the entry into Switzerland, with or without transit visas, of all persons to whom American immigration visas were issued on or subsequent to July 1, 1941. You may assure such officials that any such persons so admitted will be adequately maintained and that any who may be found not (repeat not) to be qualified for the issuance of a visa will be evacuated.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-78 as promptly
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

000405

as promptly as possible. Detailed instructions in connection with the issuance of new American immigration visas pursuant to the above authority will follow promptly. The same request is being made of Sweden, Turkey, Spain, and Portugal.

The above follows the substance of the pertinent portion of the message received from the Embassy in London.

In further response to message from delegation, the substance of which is quoted above, this Government is prepared to advise the Hungarian and neutral governments that all Jews arriving in neutral countries from Hungary are to be afforded passage in United Nations territory just as long as military considerations permit. General governments are to be kept advised as to the maintenance of this policy. Please endeavor to ascertain from the Foreign Office whether the Government of the United Kingdom will permit the Government to make attempt to save lives. American consuls in neutral countries are being instructed to take similar action also. These lines in collaboration with British Embassy, if possible, alone if necessary. British Embassy presence, British consuls should be advised of this view promptly. URGENT

You are requested to consult with your British Ambassador whether in collaboration with him or alone, as the circumstances may develop, approach appropriate officials of the Swiss Government with the request that Switzerland advise the American Government that it is prepared to receive Jews released from Hungary and permitted to go to Switzerland. You may assure the Swiss officials that if Switzerland so advises the American Government, Jews arriving in Switzerland from Hungary are to be permitted to United Nations territory as promptly as possible and that in the meantime the United States will undertake to make arrangements for their maintenance and support in Switzerland. You should inform the Department and the Board promptly of the results of your consultation with your British Ambassador and your approach to the Swiss Government.

Refer Department's 891 of March 18 and Department's 1000 of July 3. The availability of the visas therein authorized for Jewish children should not be overlooked. All later date of these communications on this subject will follow.

In view of your 4267 of July 6 please consider the availability of requesting Rumania to admit Jews from Hungary and to afford them refuge in Southeastern Rumania until evacuation can be effected.

Turkey is being requested to admit all persons in enemy territory holding Palestine certificates and to advise enemy governments of its willingness to do so.

7. Please keep

Assurance to
Swiss Govt.

000406

1. Name, rank, position, and Army serial number of
individuals involved.

2. Date of occurrence.

3. Name, rank, position, and Army serial number of
individuals involved: (for the body) Abramson, Aklin, Eisenstein, John
D. Lee, Robinson, Gordon, Hadda, Laughlin, Leake, Mann, Menuch,
Meyer, Radzwick, Tahl, Targoy, Scandlish, Weinstein, Filler

000407