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 Romanians, 157 Czechs, 46 Poles, 11 Dutch and 101 stateless. 188 of total number were members of the youth Aliyah up to age 16 and 147 were Chalutzim (agricultural trainers) between 16 and 20 years old. In addition there were 30 young children accompanied by their parents.

All persons
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 APHQ takes over transport in Italy. Evacuation proceeded smoothly and Swiss authorities cooperated to fullest extent.

HARRISON

WFS
Reference WEB 544 August 8, arrangements have been made for overland movement from Switzerland to Tarento Italy about August 20 of 700 Palestine certificate holders on Bergen-Beisan 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 Reutlingen of 200,000 WEB food parcels (see Department's 2410 WEB 543 July 28 and Bern's 3733 July 30). We shall keep you advised of developments, meanwhile assume you are pursuing matter with UNRRA London.
In reference to VOG 497 (JUB-39866) the following additional information is submitted:

Request made by authorities in Switzerland to transport 700 Jews whose destination was Italy, has now been withdrawn.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 Taranto in Italy. This group is the last for which the United States has made commitments.

cc Glasser, Schmidt (4), Brooz (2), Ganber, Villee, Pohack, Sitterman, Miss Nodel
Dear General O'Dwyer:

I wish to refer to my wire of July 20, 1945 (Legation's 3652), 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

Brig. Gen. William O'Dwyer
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington, D.C.
DÉPARTEMENT FÉDÉRAL DE JUSTICE ET POLICE
DIVISION DE POLICE

BERNE, LE 16 JUILLET 1945

N 42/23
N 42/39 88

Monsieur Roswell McClayland
Assistant spécial au Ministre des États-Unis,
LÉGATION DES ÉTATS-UNIS

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 qu'un 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'abord 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 aussi beaucoup moins; nous nous sommes demandé si nous devions 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 trouvaient 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...
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.

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

LE CHEF DE LA DIVISION DE POLICE ad int.
Mr. Roswell McClelland  
Special Assistant to the Minister  
Legation of the United States  

Bern, July 16, 1945

Sir:

We wish to refer to the telephone conversation which you had a few days ago with Mr. Schlich 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, wonder 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
Division of Police
Federal Department of Justice and Police
Bundeshaus
Bern

Attention: Dr. Jester

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
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
RS-207
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement.

Born
Dated July 20, 1915
Rec'd 7:05 p.m.

SECRETARY OF STATE
Washington

U.S. URGENT
3356, July 20, 6 p.m.

FOR O'DwyER OF WIC FROM MCCLELLAND
Legation's 3360, 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 AFRQ 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 con-
cessions 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
To: R. H. Forbes, India, SEP 19 1972

0000273
With luck and perseverance I think we can get group documented by end this month. I accordingly suggested tentative departure date from Switzerland of August 6 to APHQ 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 them and inform you.

HARRISON

JT
Secretary of State,  
Washington,  

3550, July 14, 10 a.m.  

FOR O'LEARY OF TRB FROM MCLELLAND  

Situation in general regards evacuation and repatriation of refugees from Switzerland has changed considerably since arrival here of special groups from Bergen-Belsen and Theresienstadt whose removal board undertook to arrange. (Location's 3327, July 2)

Groups still to be evacuated from among those refugees have now shaken down to following:

A. 700 persons of various nationalities for whom Palestine certificates have been authorized. Although 6 weeks have elapsed since arrival authorization none of them is yet actually documented and ready leave.

B. About 450 of various nationalities desiring emigrate to Palestine but as yet without certificates.

C. Some
-S-3550, 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 message from SHAEP of June 28, APA 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 (Inter-Governmental Committee on Refugees).

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

In cooperation with SHAEP all preparations for their departure were made for June 4 and again July 2. In the first instance refugees refused to be moved to Italy. (Legation's 2992, June 1) since authorization for Palestine certificates had just arrived and
-3-[3560, July 14, 10 a.m. From Bern

arrived and they did not wish to leave until they could proceed directly there. On second occasion the Palestine people 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 EUWEP) 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 that 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 TEH will soon no longer exist and after end of July have no further representation in Switzerland I seriously recommend you consider turning
June 30, 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

HFP

(e) apparent omission repetition requested
INCOMING TELEGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES

TELEGRAPH SECTION

INSTRUCTIONS

MSS-453
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. [UR-1]

Dated July 16, 1948
Rec'd 6:03 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington,

Cable 3560, July 14, 10 p.m. From Bern, "FOR
DIARY OF WRB FROM MCCLELLAND, page three, line three,
delete "land (2)" and insert "candidates" making line
read "the Palestine candidates were not yet documented".
DIVISIONAL OF CENTRAL SERVICES

CONTROL COPY

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 10 1972

SECRET

State Dept. Letter 1-11-73

0000280
Distribution of this reading only by special arrangement.

**Secretary of State**

Washington

3327, June 27, 11 a.m.

LEHTI'S 2982, June 1 and telephone conversation

June 22 with Florence Hodel.

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

SHAEP hopes to able dispatch second group of 700 certificate holders directly to Palestine toward end of July.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 7-11-72
By R. H. Parks, Date SEP 19 1972
SECRETARY OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

US URGENT

2962, First

CENTER THIS PROCLAMATION

Legations 2874, July 24th

In view of the attitude of Zionist factions among refugees who were to be evacuated to southern Italy from Switzerland beginning with first convoy scheduled to leave Geneva June 4, Swiss authorities today informed me that they will not be able to go through with June 4 transport and requested that I ask accordingly. I have wired SHAPE 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.
June 1, from Bern

-2-52932, June 1, from Bern

threatening physical resistance and declaring they will only leave then can proceed directly to Palestine. It is however hoped Swiss can still organize and assemble group for second convoy consisting refugees not (report not) desiring to go to Palestine so that a departure can take place toward end June. Will keep you informed further developments this extremely trying situation.

HARRISON

MR
Text of cable, forwarded to George McCandless, U.S.S.R. for transmission to Major Frank Dale.

O.M.
This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Governmental Agency.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

2703, May 11, 11 A.M.

FOR L.R. FROM MCCLELLAND

PLEASE INFORM MAJOR FRANK GOLDBERG, WASHINGTON

"Your May 6 to American Legation Bern.

In keeping with guarantees given by United States and British Governments several months ago to the Swiss Government to evacuate from Switzerland special groups of deportees extricated from German occupied areas, Hilda Goldmann, Czechoslovak citizen from Theresienstadt, born Berlin, April 28, 1912, will be moved, probably toward end of May, along with over 2,000 other refugees to U.S.R.A. 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
CONTROL COPY


To: C. G. RUSSEL, U.S. ALBANY CONSULATE.
The Agency's confidential telegram of 1870, February 23, 12 p.m.

Here is quoted below the text of a letter dated January 5, 1945, received from Sir Herbert J. Alexander, Director of the Inter-Governmental Committee on Refugees, suggesting a thorough investigation of the wishes of the Jewish refugees from Nansen Borgen and Theresienstadt now in Switzerland who may wish to be repatriated.

"In continuation of our correspondence regarding refugees from Nansen Borgen and Theresienstadt you in Switzerland, I enclose a copy of a cable that I have received from Nansen who is now in Paris. I say only that onlyayer in the representative of the Joint Distribution Committee in Switzerland, who has done extremely good work in arranging for the rescue of Jews in Italy, who is now in this cable, in another Jewish banker in Switzerland who is fully in the confidence of onlyayer.

"2. You will see that according to this measure, 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

\textit{...concluded...}
composed of two distinct groups. First, those who wish to return to their own countries; and second, those who wish to go elsewhere. In regard to the first group, namely those who wish to return to their own countries, the government would seem to be for them to stay in Switzerland pending repatriation. If the Swiss government is willing to keep these German registration in Italy to be expelled by their temporary record elsewhere. For instance, I am cognizant that Hungarians who wish to return to Hungary may not be quicker via Stettin,ologna 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 Stettin,ologna, 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 otherwise 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 a thorough investigation of the wishes of the persons concerned, and, before repatriation, any decisions are reached regarding their transfer. 1st, the object being to try and get the agreement of the Swiss government so a policy which will allow these, at any rate, to stay in Switzerland who wish to be repatriated, and whose registration could not be expected by their transfer from this country.

3. I have not had first hand information about these particular groups of refugees because our representative does not take over his functions until the last week, 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 15, in which you conveyed a message from General O'Regan, since I hoped that the
letter could be greatly arriving in London. When his arrival has been arranged, perhaps you will be good enough to let him know that I am greatly looking forward to meeting him, and he accordingly. Let me know we are both interested. Indeed, you may wish perhaps to send a copy of this letter to the 'high这里的 Board.'

As following in the text of the telegraph from R.

Lausanne, returned in Sir Corbett's letter:

"Only lay informs me through all
Selma Morgen that Hungarian 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 arrange-
ment may be made for them to proceed there.

4. According to lay inside story of the
arrival of the Hungarian group is as follows:
May, a retired junior councillor, was attacked
in the press on account of the high prices he had
paid for obtaining the release of a few political
and cultural interests. In order to exonerate him-
self and at the suggestion of the Swiss and
by aChannel; instead of American, French; and
National, he was granted release of the Ham-
strong group, stating, without authorization,
that lay could make appears in such the
sale condition imposed by historian was that
the group should not include technologists, intellec-
tuals or prominent Jews. Lay of course refused
to take any payment and the arrival of further
you're seems unlikely.

"
London/230

"A. Ląd offers reports that Upper Silesian camps were occupied before Russian occupation and that substantial numbers of Russian 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 O'Dwyer's message since he expected to see him in London before this time.
The following has been received from Bern, March 5, 2 p.m.:  

KINDLY DELIVER FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO BRIGADER GENERAL CHARLES SPOFFORD, ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF,  

GERMAN APPEAL FROM HOCHLEITN OF WAR REFUGEES BOARD:  

Swiss Government would like to evacuate 1672 Hungarian Jewish refugees Zulus approximately 760 other Jews out of group of 1200 who recently reached Switzerland 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.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Caserta

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

Secretary of State

Washington

830, March 5, 11 ?

The following has been received from Bern, March 5, 2 p.m.:  

KINDLY DELIVER FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO BRIGADER GENERAL CHARLES SPOFFORD, ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF,  

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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 Pecho Date SEP 19 1972

000245
Afric a to Allied authorities.

Kindly advise therefore how shipping arrangements are working out and Swiss will adopt 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.

Report to ERB in Washington.

KIRK

ECC
The following telegram has been sent to Office 82, March 3, 1945:

Kindly deliver following message to Brigadier General Charles Spofford, Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5 APHQ from McClelland of War Refugee Board: "Swiss Government would like to evacuate 1872 Hungarian Jewish refugees plus approximately 760 other Jews out of group of 1200 who recently reached Switzerland from the Reichsfurt 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 2532 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. Harke Date SEP 10 1972 Kindly advise.
2-1376, March 3, 2 p.m., from Born.

Kindly advise, therefore, how shipping arrangements are working out and Swiss will adopt 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
SECRETARY OF STATE, Washington.

1870, February 23, 2 p.m.

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

Particulars have now been received from British Legation at Bern concerning the group of 1676 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 refugees who.

DECLASSIFIED State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

000301
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 10,000 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.
3. 1970, 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, APHQ 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. 59 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"
February 23, 1970, 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
Secretary of State,  
Washington.  

1194, February 23, 2 p.m.  
FOR RB PRG MCLELLAND.  

Grasst of SEAPF and Spofford of AFHQ Paris were  
sent following wire today.  (Department's 960, February  
20; RB's 416).  

"Whereas Swiss authorities would prefer evacuate  
1672 Jewish refugees destined for Philippsville 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 Philippsville where their claims to admissibility to  
Palstone can be properly investigated.  

HARRISON  
By R. H.Rights  
SEP 19 1972  

Delay due to original message being garbled.
With respect to movement of 1972 Hungarian refugees from Switzerland, Board is advised that under date of January 31, 1945, SHAEP cabled to you in Bern via Amstel and again under date of February 16, 1946, asking you whether movement was to be in one group or in increments. Board also understands that aforementioned SHAEP cables advised you of method of communication to SHAEP.
CABLE TO AMBASSADOR, BERN, FOR NEUENLAND 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 Anapolad 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.

Filed 2/19/45
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:

"Remik cables UNHRA has been requested by War Refugees Board to remove 1657 Hungarians in Switzerland now to UNHRA camps. (This is for your information) This is presumably the Bergen-Belsen group. It has been suggested by the UNHRA Italian mission that Palestine certificate holders should be sent directly to Palestine potential certificate holders to UNHRA 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 camps at Philippeville. Consideration is being given to the matter. This unaflecting 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,
Secretary of Staff
Washington.

343, 15th
"FOR LEAVITT FROM TROE

"Rosenk cable:" 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 AMHQ that whole group could be moved to camp at Philippville. Consideration is being given to the matter." This unafflicting our negotiations steamship LIMA since we concerned with different group... Have advised Joseph Schwartz."
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement.

Distribution

Bern

686

The following for Reddin and McClalland from Department and War Refugee Board refers to your 881, February 8 and 13, WIB 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-controlled 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 authorities are now in touch with you concerning details of evacuation of 1572 refugees from Bergenbelsen.

GREG
(acting)
(CJH)

2/13/45

Mire Chaumoey (for the Sec'y), Akzin, Cohn, Deady, DuBois, Gaston, Hedel, McCormack, O'Dwyer, Files

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept., Letter, 1-11-72
By H. H. Paken Date SEP 9 1972
February 10, 1945

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Harald Trohae was received through the American legation in Lisbon under date of February 9, 1945:

"JDC 162. Daily Hogan advises recent official evacuation from Bergen-Belsen consisted approximately 800 persons, most of whom Jewish. To hopeful obtain list near future American P.O.W. release here."

Very truly yours,

Florence Hovell
Assistant Executive Director

Mr. W. A. Leavitt, Secretary,
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee,
770 Madison Avenue,
Secretary of State,
Washington.
203, Undated.

URB 306. JDC 162. FOR LEAVITT PROL HAROLD TROEB.

Saly layer 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

RJF
SECRETARY OF STATE,
Washington.

1161, February 2, 7 p.m.

FOR MR. F.O. HANIN

We have again taken up with British matter mentioned JRE 33 and 37. Foreign Office cabled British minister in AGA for full report when matter first brought to its attention. AGA 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.

YESTERDAY

WEB
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 216, January 16, WBD'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 easing 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 spell themselves out of our offers of maintenance they took occasion in course of recent discussions relating 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 non refugees contrast rather unfavorably in their minds. It is worth noting in this report that Switzerland has recently received a new contingent of close to 10,000 French refugee children from the Muhlhouse region.

HUBBLE

cc: Miss Chauncey (For Sec'y), Ackermann, Akzin, Cohn, Drury, Dulkin, Gaston, Hodel, Marks, State Dept. Letter 1-31-45, McCormack, Pehle, Piles.
CORRECTION

January 26, 1945

Cable from Berlin numbered 531, dated January 26,
3 p.m. reading "FOR JHB FROM MACLELLAND" serial number
should be "530" instead of "531".

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES

JHB

Note: Correction from Legation at Berlin.
1945 JAN 25 AM 11 01

TO

PURCHASE

TELEGRAPH

STATE

OUTGOING

TELEGRAM

CENTRAL SERVICES

TELEGRAPH SECTION

1945 JAN 25 AM 11 01

AMLEGATION

BENIS

COMMUNICATIONS

AND RECORDS

(LIAISON)

325

The following for McClelland in URB 377.

Reference our No. 309 of January 22, 1945 (URB No. 374).

War Department advises that you should communicate
through American Embassy, Paris, with Lieutenant General
A. E. Goodwin, Assistant Chief of Staff, 0-5, SHAPE, and
Brigadier General Charles H. Spofford, Assistant Chief of
Staff, 0-5, ARP, 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 SHAPE or GCCS so recommends.

Please keep board advised of developments.

[Signature]

Acting (Acting)

RECEIVING

1/28/45

WE

SHAPE

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 1-11-72
SEP 19 1972

By H. H. Pares Duey

000324
CABLE TO AMBASSADOR, BERN, FOR McCLAIN AND FROM WAR REFUGEES BOARD

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

War Department advises that you should communicate through American Embassy, Paris, with Lieutent General A. E. Grasset, Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5, SHAEF, and Brigadier General Charles M. Spalding, 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.

THIS IS WBH BERN CABLE NO. 377.

2:45 P.M.
January 23, 1945.

Miss Chauncey (for the Secy) Akervall, Kaiser, Cohn, Drury, Easby, Gaston, Haidel, Marks, McCormack, Pilho, Pfeil.

Signed 1/23/45
WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
WASHINGTON

22 January 1945

Mr. J. J. 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 SHARP arrange transportation for 1672 refugees from Switzerland to Philippeville, Algeria, and asking the name of the SHARP official with whom Mr. McColland, your representative at Berne, should communicate on the arrangements.

Cables are being sent to SHARP and to SACS/UN, 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 SHARP or SACS/UN recommends.

It is believed that Mr. McColland should establish communication through diplomatic channels with Lieutenant Colonel A. K. Grunet, Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5, SHARP and Brigadier General Charles W. Shoford, Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5, SACS/UN. We are advising SHARP and SACS/UN of Mr. McColland's connection with the latter.

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

Sincerely yours,

/\ John J. McCloy

JOHN J. McCLOY
Assistant Secretary of War
The following forMcClelland is URB 374.

Please refer to your 613 of January 12 regarding the evacuation from Switzerland of 1672 refugees from Bergen, Hellen.

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. SHAPE will arrange for their transportation.

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

STETTINIUS

(S/128)

SWP
CABLE TO MIDDLE, HSLN, FOR MCCULLOCH 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. UNRRA has been requested to make arrangements for the reception of the entire group in Philippeville. SHAPE will arrange for their transportation.

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

THIS IS YOUR CABLE NO. 374.
January 16, 1945
4 p.m.

AMLEGATION

BERN

240

The following for McClelland in FRR 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.

G猩E (Acting) (GLW)
EKL-1207
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. (****)

London
Dated January 15, 1945
Rec'd 8:20 a.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

1963, January 16, 6 p.m.
FOR PERSONAL USE!

I refer to the Bergen-Belsen group evacuation
from Switzerland to Palestine as taken up with Mason,
Refugee Section, Foreign Office immediately upon
receipt RB 33. Contents of RB 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.

TD

For security reasons, this document must be
declassified.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Issuer: 11-11-72
By R. E. Parks Date SEP 15 1972
January 18, 1946
Midnight

LONDON
369

The following for Hann in MB 37.

Reference ear number 66 of January 3, 1946.

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 386 Hungarian Jews who arrived in Switzerland in August 1946, in addition to persons mentioned in Department's 66 of January 3. This brings total up to 1572 persons.

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

GREG (Acting)

For security reasons the text of this message must be closely guarded.
CHARLES LINCOLN, LONDON, FOR DRAFT FROM THE MINISTER-GENERAL

Reference our No. 66 of January 3, 1945.

We have just received another cable from Madrid indicating that the Swiss are pressing for the immediate evacuation of the Bergon-Delam group from Switzerland. Madrid advises that this group comprises a further 150 Hungarian Jews who arrived in Switzerland in August 1944 in addition to the persons mentioned in Department No. 66 of January 3. This brings total up to 1,072 persons.

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

THIS IS THE MEDITATION CABLE NO. 27.
EAX-35
Dated January 15, 1945
Rec'd 11:14 a.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

215, January 15, 9 a.m.
FOR 'MB FROM MOCELLAND."

Substanor your 49 communicated to Swiss
authorities. (Department's 49, January 3 'MB 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 testify oversight in their
recent communication concerning size group stating
they wish include first Hungarian convoy from

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

Bergen-Belsen

000338
-2- #213, January 12, 9 a.m., from Bern

Bergen-Belten (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.

HODDLE

RB

(*) Apparent omission
The following for McClelland is FRB 345.

Please refer to your 2379 and 2380 of December 29 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 AFRA and UHRA have agreed to hold the Philippville 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 Philippville. 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
Date: 949, January 5, 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

in Switzerland.

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

Mann.

GOTTINIUS
(GLW)

1/3/45
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 ARHQ and WRAA 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 Home in London, requesting him to seek the consent of the British Government to the admission of this group to Palestine. If Home 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 Home.

THIS IS YOUR NEED CABLE NO. 343.
LONDON

66.
The following for Mem as CRS:

The Far Refugee Board was recently advised by McClelland in Bern that approximately 3,000 refugees from Bergen-Belsen arrived in Switzerland on December 7 and are temporarily being housed in Coex 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:

...all these refugees intended to go to Palestine soon as young workers others as veteran Zionists or prominent members of Jewish organizations, still others to join relatives already there. None 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...
-2-855, January 3, Midnight to London

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. UN NOTE

Although it is not certain that this is the same group referred to in our VRA-19 of November 3 and your 9726 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 refugees Jews arriving in Switzerland from Hungary, particularly since the Swiss have indicated their willingness to permit 5,000 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
-3/#66, January 3, Midnight, to London
admitted to Palestine rather than to Phillippeville.

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.

SYETINUS
(OLM)

WRB:KHF:KG
1/3/45
CABLE TO ALHART, LONDON, AND HANNA FROM WAR REFUGE BOARD

The War Refuge Board was recently advised by McClelland in Bern that approximately 1332 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:

"NOTE: 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 relations already there. Most of them had been assured that they would be admitted although none of them actually possessed Palestine certificates or equivalent documents. On the other hand they all hold documents issued by Hungarian and Trans on 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 India 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."

Although it is not certain that this is the same group referred to in our cable of November 30 and your 9796 of November 30, 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 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 permitting to find temporary havens for all refugees arriving in Switzerland from Hungary, particularly since the Swiss have indicated their willingness to permit 5,000 more Hungarian Jews to enter Switzerland on a temporary basis.

AHQ and HHMA 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
to Palestine rather than to Phillipsville.

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 transport.

This is the London cable No. 39.

2:00 p.m.
January 2, 1945

Miss Channey (for the Sec'y) Ackermann, Akzin, Cohen, Drye, Dubois, Gaston,
Hodel, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Files
The following message is from McClelland for WAB:

See Legation's 72397 of the seventh of December and 72399 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 6200 of the twenty eighth of December, with regard to group of 1392 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 in London consult with British officials to determine whether the group can actually be admitted to Palestine.
SECRETARY OF STATE, Washington

SSCO, Twenty-eighth

With reference to our conversation of December 14 I recently dispatched one of my assistants to Beux where these refugees are temporarily housed in order to determine composition of group. All age 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 Romanian 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.
equivalent document. On other hand they all hold
documents issued by Hungarian Red Cross or an inter-
national 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 Hungarians
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 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
whether the Zionist organizations have taken any steps
to assure their emigration. I believe that this infor-
mation 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
Please refer to message from this Legation dated December 16th.

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

Just time ago the Legation of Switzerland in Berlin was instructed to make a 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.
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 oftelegram from thelegation 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 these people above referred to either individually or collectively for other States. Exitation 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 would view with approval the idea of Division of Foreign Affairs that declaring these people exchangeable would probably afford to the Swiss a better possibility of securing 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.

Yours,

[Signature]

[Date: 12-30-44]
Secretary of State
Washington

ALL, December 16, 1944 (SECTION ONE)
Department's 3844, November 11 (WRB 269)

All lists mentioned have been received and transmitted to Swiss with exception number 222 which not yet received. However, list bearing number 260 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.
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 2018, August 24 and to first and second groups of lists mentioned Department's 5844, 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 6 which includes wives and children of alien residents of United States or of other American Republics.
INCOMING
TELEGRAM

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

JEN-1099

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

Secretary of State
Washington

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

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

Owing foregoing Foreign Office inquires whether persons 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 after transmission lists to Germans until negotiations for forthcoming exchange are completed.

Question of authorizing Swiss entry visas individually or collectively is still under consideration by federal police. In preliminary discussion chief of police expressed grave doubt as to protective value of authorizing Swiss visas to large number of persons whose present whereabouts 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. Peck Date SEP 19 1972
him to believe that they would take very little action on the basis of lists in question and in view of Jewish rest 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 exchangeable would afford a better possibility of according protection than authorization of Swiss entry visas.

Legation wishes also confirm receipt WBB lists Nos. 265, 266, 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)

HUMBLE

533

Large portion at beginning undecipherable and serviced.
SECRET

Distribution of true

密码 only be special

arrangement.

Dated December 7, 1946.

Read 12:55 p.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

US URGENT

7997, December 7, 4 p.m.

FROM HOLLAND

Location's 7464, November 10.

I am happy to be able to report that approximately

355 persons, balance of the Hungarian Jews in camp

Coxe, Balkan arrived in Switzerland during night of

December 6 to 7 having crossed frontier at St. Iljartenan.

They are at present temporarily housed near St. Gall under

control of Swiss Army.

HUDDLE

CONTROL COPY
Announcement

BARN

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 Kalmanovitz 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 1394 from Bergenbelsen already reached Switzerland and 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 3750 of November 3, 3766 of November 7, and 3768 of November 7.

STEPHANUS
(Arming)
(Acting)

WRB:11/20/44

STATE DEPT., 1.11.72

By M. B. Parks Date: SEP 19 1972
CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON, BELGIUM, FOR MCCLELLAND, FROM WAR REFUGEES BOARD

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

"QUOTE (1) Urga 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 1,374 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 3780 of November 3, 3786 of November 7, and 3788 of November 7.

---

THIS IS WRB A embarrass cable No.

---

1:45 p.m.
November 24, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Stsy) Abrahamsen, Ackermann, Cohn, Durose, Friedman, Hodel, Lesser, Mannon, McCormack, Files

RRwry: BAKISTAN 11-23-44 At REST - Cleared with

800367
November 20, 1944

War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D.C.

Attn: 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

Rabbi Abraham Kalonowskis

To rescue, rear and preserve from war destruction the Torah values (Yeshivot, Rabbinical Scholars and Command Leaders)

To utilize the possibilities for rescue of European Jewry where the VAAD HAHATZALA program is especially needed.
Message to Isaac Sternbuch
at Gelsen, Switzerland
through the AMERICAN LICITATION, 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 Gelsen already reached Switzerland Send names outstanding persons in group.

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE
Rabbi Aaron Kotler
Abraham Kalmanowitz

To rescue, save and preserve from war destruction the Torah nation (Yeshiva, Rabbis, Scholars and Community Leaders)
To utilize the possibilities for rescue of European Jewry where the Vaad Hahatzala program is especially needed.
V. H. E. C.
139 Nassau Street
Suite 819-820
New York 7, N. Y.

War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Att. Mrs. J. Hodel
Room 2410

000370
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 L.88 Bern cable No. 264.
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 important 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 value 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 USB Bern cable No. 259.

STETTINIUS

ACTING

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamsen, Ackerman, Akzin, Cohn, Drury, Dubois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Lesser, Marks, Hannan, McCormack, Pehle, Files.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Perle Date SEP 19 1972
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 UNR 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 in Switzerland without delay of certificate holders from Hungary. Swiss authorities may be assured that this Government will use its best efforts.
best efforts to procure unimpeded progress to Palestine of these certificate holders.

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

Stettinius
(Acting)
GIN

November 3, 10 p.m. to E.A.

11/3/44
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement. (Handwritten)

Bern

Dated November 24, 1914

Ree'd 10:41 a.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

7716, November 24, 9 a.m.

FOR WRG FROM MCCLELLAND.

Legation's 7561, 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. Simultaneously 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.

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

Huddle By R. H. Perks Date SEP 19 1972
The cable below is from the War Refugee Board:

The following is the substance of a message that has been received from McClelland, WRA 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 3,000 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 the 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."
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 12,000 new refugees during the past six weeks, they pointed out, (chiefly women and children from Valdosta 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 escapes. 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 Marseille 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 taking
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 28th 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 IOIC.

Now it seems probable that the majority of the 60,000 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 Szalasy regime as well as the consistent refusal of the Germans to allow the departure of even the initial
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.

TT T.119

ACTING

(Stf)
The following is the substance of a message that has been received from McClellan, W.I.S representative at Bern:

The Swiss received a message from their Legation in Budapest on the 17th 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 30,000 new refugees during the past six weeks: they pointed out, (chiefly women and children from Valtosilla 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 could be made toward evacuation to North Africa or some other territory of Allied choice of all or 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 19th 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 Cochran UHRA and to G-3 Section AFR for their information and preliminary informal consideration since it may be desirable to use Phillipeville should the rescue of these refugees be affected. Any comments which they may have will be appreciated. McClelland's message also being given to War Department and UHRA Washington.
US URGENT
7541, November 15, 2 p.m.

FROM 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 Palestinian certificate holders and 4500 holders of Swedish protective documents was being organized and should take place within about two weeks, military situation permitting.

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

Secretary of State,

Washington:

November 10, 9 p.m.

For WH from McCLELLAND

Expedite appreciation and assurances contained in paragraph two your 3786, November 7 have been conveyed to Mr. Pyle. Information requested in paragraph 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. Third wire requesting clarification was sent on November 7.

Situation in Budapest is most unsettled so that it is doubtful increasingly difficult for Swiss-Legation to supply precise information concerning possibility of departure those persons. Communications with Budapest are also becoming uncertain. It now seems most unlikely that operation can be affected 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, 11-72
SEP 19 1972

By H. H. Parker Date,
Secretory of State,  
Washington.  

9730, November 9, 5 p.m.  

FOR PEHLE FROM KANH  

Broome and I saw Mason, Chief Refugee Section,  
Foreign Office, and informed him of contents of MIB 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 Katai are a part of that group. He has  
called 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 board's 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. Feakes Date SEP 19 1972
Nason, as you know, is very cautious and hesitates to commit himself on anything. Also when it discussed subject matter with him he had not discussed it with other interested persons in the British Government. I feel that if Katz'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.

GALLIAN

JUS
To Assistant Harrision and McColland, 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 country, or (3) valid passports of countries to which they can safely return.

This is H.B. Bern cable No. 264.

STETTINES

ACTING

オススメ (for the Secretary) Abrahamson, Ackermann, Ackin, Cohn, Dreyd, Dubois, Friedman, Gaston, Hedd, Lesser, Marks, Mann, McCorr, Pohle, Fidel.

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By H. H. Parke Date: SEP 19 1972
November 3, 1944
Midnight

AMBASSADY
LONDON
9220

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 McColland 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 McColland 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 go in failure by reason of any hesitation on the part of either of our two governments. This Government is determined to spare no effort in cooperating 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 Chauncey (for the Sec’y) Abrahamson, Ackermann, Adair, Coln, Brury, DeSouza, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Lossar, Marks, Bannon, McCormack, Pollo, Files.
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.

LOGGEOUS

(GM)

11/2/44
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 expulsion 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 12th from the Legation, Number 5248).

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

[Signature]

By \(\text{Redacted Date: SEP 19 1977}\)
The text appears to be a letter written in English. It discusses the evacuation of Hungarian refugees to Palestine and mentions the difficulties and concerns regarding their travel arrangements and living conditions. The letter also mentions the involvement of Federal Police and the Political Department in handling the refugees. The text includes a request for immediate action to facilitate the evacuation of these refugees.
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 I.C.R.C.

How 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 DGH 4CN 4KR MORRISON
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: August 23, 1944  
NUMBER: 5517

McClelland sends the following for DSS:

We refer herewith to Legation's telegram of August 21, 1944, No. 3137.

On August 21 there arrived in Switzerland 320 of 500 Hungarian Jews transferred from the Bergenbelsen camp 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. 2034) which actually turned out to be composed of 1600 persons.

Kirkison

DCR:IDB:FO  8/24/44

Miss Chauncey (for the Soc'y), Abrahamson, Ahrenin, Bormstein, Cohn, Dubois, Drury, Friedman, Godel, Lauglin, Lessner, Mann, Marks, Mannon, McCormack, Pichlo, Sargoy, Standish, Weinsten, Cable Control.
McClelland sends the following for the War Refugee Board.

Reference is made herewith to Department's cable of August 6, no. 2556, 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 (Kastner, Komoly and Peres) 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 Kommando" 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 thereof. The essence of their present attitude is contained in a declaration of Gestapo Head to Kastner to the effect that he wished to pump out the necessary labor from Hungarian 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. Krumov 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) Abrahamsen, Akzin, Berenstein, Cohn, DeBois, Friedman, Gieson, Handler, Hauflin, Lesser, Mann, Munson, Hark, McCormack, Pohle, Sergey, Standish, Weinstein, Files

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1972

By R. H. Parks Date
2. There are a number of persons in enemy controlled areas whose American visas were issued on or after July 1, 1941, who, whenever present, existing procedures and security checks have precluded their departure from those areas. In view of the impossibility of making attractive use of such visas, it is believed that a large proportion of such persons will be unable to make use of such visas in the future.

3. In the interest of the availability of new American visas for such persons, I have therefore been unable to make use of such visas. It is believed that a large proportion of such persons will be unable to make use of such visas in the future.

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

The Department of State, Washington, D.C.

August 1, 1944

[Signature]

[Name]

[Title]

[Date]

[Information]

[Subject]

[Comment]

[Reference]

[End]

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-71

By R. H. Burke Dept. SEP. 1972

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

000405
On the earliest possible. Detailed instructions in connection with
matters relating to American immigration visas pursuant to the
vessel will follow promptly. The vessel is expected to
arrive in Sweden, Turkey, Spain, and Portugal.

The mission to maintain the port with
portions of the necessary

in further response to requests from delegations
of which is stated above, this Department
respects to advise the American and neutral govern-
ments of all specialized in central countries from Hungary
representatives, because in United Nations territory such as
on its assumptions about, central governments
and agencies as to the maintenance of
integrity. Vessels to repair to ascertain from the Foreign
officials in the Department of the United Kingdom will
undertake in an attempt to save lives. American
Representatives are being instructed to take
the utmost care in the traffic with

the United Kingdom, if possible, when necessary.

Authority of the Swiss Ministry of Interior should be ex-
acted from the Swiss Government promptly. URGESTE

If your, you are requested to consult with your British
representative in collaboration with him or alone, on the
advice of your Department and to develop approach appropriate officials of the
Government with the request that Switzerland advise the

Government that it is prepared to receive and release
children and permit them to go to Switzerland. You may explain
the request for officials that if Switzerland will advise the

Switzerland Government. Vessels arriving in Switzerland from Hungary

expected to United Nations territory be actually at

possibility of the Governments to United Nations Government and reports to

The importance of the mission thrice authorized

children should not be overstated. An after date

communications on this subject will follow.

In view of your 4307 of July 6 please consider the

possibility of requesting children to adult Jews from Hungary and

to extend their range in southeastern Europe until evacuation can

be affected.

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

6. Please keep