

Programs with Respect to Relief and
Rescue of Refugees; Evacuation To & Through
Switzerland

Movement of Refugees from
Switzerland, Vol. 2 File 2

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

(1)

000408

MOVEMENT OF REFUGEES FROM SWITZERLAND
(Continued)

MATERIAL CONCERNING GROUP OF 1700

WAR REFUGEE BOARD RECORDS

3

CABLES A.

Cable #3605 to Bern (Copy)	Aug. 1, 1944	1.
Cable #5197 from Bern (Copy)	Aug. 11, 1944	2.
Cable #5517 from Bern (Copy)	Aug. 28, 1944	3.
Cable #7469 from Bern	Nov. 1, 1944	4.
Cable #9220 to London (WRB 19)	Nov. 5, 1944	5.
Cable #3786 to Bern (Copy)	Nov. 7, 1944	6.
Cable #3725 from London	Nov. 9, 1944	7.
Cable #7464 from Bern	Nov. 10, 1944	8.
Cable #7541 from Bern	Nov. 15, 1944	9.
Cable #885 to Caserta	Nov. 15, 1944	10.
Cable #7716 from Bern	Nov. 24, 1944	11.
Cable #4070 to Bern (WRB 392)	Nov. 29, 1944	12.
Cable #7897 from Bern	Dec. 7, 1944	13.
Cable #8177 from Bern	Dec. 16, 1944	14.
Cable #8272 from Bern	Dec. 21, 1944	15.
Cable #8390 from Bern	Dec. 28, 1944	16.
Cable #8379 from Bern	Dec. 28, 1944	17.
Cable #66 to London (WRB 33)	Jan. 3, 1945	18.
Cable #49 to Bern (WRB 343)	Jan. 3, 1945	19.
Cable #212 from Bern	Jan. 12, 1945	20.
Cable #308 to London (WRB 37)	Jan. 17, 1945	21.
Cable #552 from London	Jan. 16, 1945	22.
Cable #240 to Bern (WRB 364)	Jan. 16, 1945	23.
Cable #369 to Bern (WRB 374)	Jan. 22, 1945	24.
Cable #325 to Bern (WRB 377)	Jan. 23, 1945	25.
Cable #520 from Bern (Copy)	Jan. 26, 1945	26.
Cable #1151 from London	Feb. 2, 1945	27.
Cable #398 from Lisbon	(Undated)	28.
Cable #686 to Bern (WRB 400)	Feb. 13, 1945	29.
Cable #843 from Lisbon	Feb. 15, 1945	30.
Cable #769 to Bern (WRB 410)	Feb. 20, 1945	31.
Cable #1194 from Bern	Feb. 23, 1945	32.
Cable #1370 from London	Feb. 23, 1945	33.
Cable #1373 from Bern	Mar. 3, 1945	34.
Cable #320 from Caserta	Mar. 5, 1945	35.
A-230 from London	Mar. 7, 1945	36.
Cable #2703 from Bern	May 11, 1945	37.
Cable #2992 from Bern	June 1, 1945	38.
Cable #3327 from Bern (Copy)	June 27, 1945	39.
Cable #7560 from Bern	July 1, 1945	40.
Cable #3632 from Bern	July 30, 1945	41.
Letter, to Gen. O'Dwyer from Roswell D. McGlelland, with Enc.	July 31, 1945	42.
War Dept. Cable, VQ4 497, r.	Aug. 6, 1945	43.
Cable #3886 from Bern (Copy)	Aug. 15, 1945	44.
Cable #3939 from Bern	Aug. 20, 1945	45.

MEMORANDA B.

Memo to Gen. O'Dwyer from Miss Eastin	Feb. 9, 1945	1.
Memo from Miss Hotel to Files	Feb. 19, 1945	2.
Memo to Mr. Akkin	Feb. 21, 1945	3.

000409

MATERIAL CONCERNING GR UP OF 1700 (Continued)

CORRESPONDENCE WITH WAR DEPT.

Letter to War Dept. from WRB	Nov. 16, 1944	1.	D.
Letter from War. Dept. to WRB	Nov. 25, 1945	2.	
Letter from War Dept. enc. Cable FX 67014 MAT 485, 12/4/44, Italy	Dec. 5, 1944	3.	
Letter to War Dept. from WRB	Jan. 3, 1945	4.	
Letter, to War Dept. from WRB	Jan. 16, 1945	5.	
Letter from War Dept. to WRB	Jan. 22, 1945	6.	
Letter to War Dept. from WRB	Jan. 24, 1945	7.	
Letter to War Dept. from WRB enc. Memo from War Dept. enc. Cables S-72314, MAT 510, S-76728 S-77298, and GOV 306	Feb. 3, 1945	8.	
War Dept. Cable YOG 494 (FWD 23235)	Feb. 19, 1945	9.	
War Dept. Cable YOG 497 (FWD 23656)	June 6, 1945	10.	
	June 7, 1945	11.	

CORRESPONDENCE WITH UNRRA

Letter to UNRRA from WRB	Nov. 16, 1945	1.	D.
Letter from UNRRA, Signed, Roy F. Hendrickson	Nov. 21, 1945	2.	
Letter to UNRRA from WRB	Jan. 12, 1945	3.	
Letter to UNRRA from WRB	Jan. 16, 1945	4.	
Letter from UNRRA, Signed, Herbert H. Lehman	Jan. 30, 1945	5.	
Letter from UNRRA enc. Copy of Cable #66 from Caserta	March 3, 1945	6.	
Letter from UNRRA enc. Copy of Cable #197 to Rome 3/22/45	March 30, 1945	7.	
Letter to Gen. O'Dwyer from G. E. McCandlish (For) Thomas M. Cooley, II	May 4, 1945	8.	

MOVEMENT OF REFUGEES FROM SWITZERLAND

(CONTINUED)

EVACUATION OF 1672 and 760 to PHILIPPEVILLE

4

SACMED Cable	Feb. 24, 1945	1.
Memorandum to Miss Hodel from Mrs. Towler re: Phone Conversation with Mr. McCandlish - UNRRA	Mar. 2, 1945	2.
Memorandum to Miss Hodel from Mr. McCormack	Mar. 3, 1945	3.
Cable #1375 from Bern	Mar. 3, 1945	4.
Memorandum to Mr. McCormack from Miss Hodel	Mar. 5, 1945	5.
Cable #830 from Caserta	Mar. 5, 1945	6.
War Dept Cable #FX 39034	Mar. 8, 1945	7.
Memorandum to Miss Hodel from Mr. McCormack	Mar. 10, 1945	8.
Cable #693 from Rome	Mar. 13, 1945	9.
Cable #1072 to Bern (WRB 447)	Mar. 14, 1945	10.
Cable #2872 from London	Mar. 20, 1945	11.
Cable #1205 to Bern (WRB 476)	Mar. 24, 1945	12.
Cable #2452 to London (WRB 61)	Mar. 29, 1945	13.
Cable #2299 from Bern	Apr. 20, 1945	14.
Cable #2555 from Bern	May 1, 1945	15.
Cable #2874 from Bern	May 24, 1945	16.
Cable #1627 from Rome	June 15, 1945	17.

000411

MOVEMENT OF REFUGEES FROM SWITZERLAND
(CONTINUED)

GENERAL

5

Letter to Mr. Harry White from Mr.
Walter W. Ostrow
Newspaper clipping

Mar. 18, 1945

1
2

000412

GENERAL

5

000413



2

000414

The New York Times.

JUL 22 1945

JEWISH REFUGEES AIDED

**650 More to Go to Palestine by
Way of Spain**

By Wireless to The New York Times.
MADRID, July 21—Tentative plans for the transfer of some 650 Jewish war refugees, temporarily quartered near Geneva, Switzerland, to Palestine next month were announced here today.

This group will be in addition to the 350 who took passage from Barcelona last month. About 1,500 refugees, who have been quartered in Geneva for several months, are being taken overland to Barcelona and then are being sent to Palestine by boat.

All these transfers are being handled by the Jewish agencies of Palestine and the American joint distribution committee.

The remainder of the refugees in Geneva will be transferred direct from Switzerland by the War Refugee Board.

000415



1

K

000416

No. 3

American Consulate General,
Zurich, Switzerland,
March 18, 1945.

Dear Mr. White:

At the suggestion of the local representative of the United Press I was invited by the Swiss Army to take part in a tour of inspection by Anglo-American journalists of refugee camps in the Montreux area. While this is not strictly Treasury work, I gladly accepted the invitation in the belief that the Secretary and you may be interested in having a report from me on this trip.

The trip was arranged by the Press and Radio Division of the Swiss Army. No effort was spared to create the best possible impression on the Anglo-American correspondents who, as guests of the Army, were served first class food and fine drinks. On the evening preceding the tour of inspection army officers and the commissioner for refugees read reports on their work. It was pointed out that on February 1, 1945 Switzerland sheltered approximately 104,000 refugees distributed as follows:

Civilian internees	35,000
Military internees	25,000
Civilians who are not interned	44,000

The journalists were invited to ask questions and the Science Monitor referred to embarrassing reports in the press of the left to the effect that in the early part of the war refugees who entered Switzerland illegally were sent back at night into Germany and that Dr. Rothmund, Chief of the Federal Police in charge of aliens, had publicly admitted issuing orders to this effect.

I, personally, recall such incidents distinctly. A few months before my departure for Switzerland I gave Luxford an excerpt from one of my reports as Vice Consul calling attention to the fact that refugees had been sent back forcibly across the frontier. Dr. Rothmund contended at the time that Switzerland could not absorb these additional refugees. This was before the collapse of France when the total number of refugees in this country did not exceed 7,000 as compared with 104,000 refugees and internees at present. Dr. Rothmund has meanwhile resigned as Chief of the Federal Police and beginning April 1, 1945 will serve as the General representative of the Inter-Governmental Committee for Refugees in London, headed by Sir Herbert Emerson.

Curt Riess, author of the book "Sabotage", who represents here the Newspaper Enterprise Association, added another embarrassing moment when he pointed out that to his knowledge no Italian Fascists

000417

who entered Switzerland illegally were ever sent back. A spokesman for the Federal Police denied that Italian Fascists were coming in illegally. However, no serious effort was made to deny the charge that refugees from Germany had been sent back across the frontier.

The refugee camps in Montreux and Caux which we visited consisted of two large hotels which had been closed for many years owing to the decline in Swiss tourist trade. Usually two families occupied one room. In one of the rooms, no larger than the one I used for my office in the Treasury, were 2 beds and 2 mattresses (with blankets) on the floor. This room was occupied by 2 families comprising 8 persons. I was told that each family had 2 beds or mattresses on the floor and that 2 persons slept in each bed or on each mattress. In another, somewhat smaller room were 2 families comprising 7 persons. The refugees in these hotels, numbering 1670 persons, were Zionists who had been transported from the German camp Bergen Belsen near Hannover. They were mostly Hungarian Jews and all were agreed that the Hungarian Nazis, after Hitler took over, were more ruthless and brutal than even the Gestapo.

None of the refugees complained about conditions in these hotels. In fact some told me that by comparison with Germany and Hungary, Switzerland was for them like paradise. What worried them most was lack of news from relatives and members of immediate families from whom they had been separated forcibly. They were also greatly worried about rumors that they would soon be shipped to Algeria in order to make room in Switzerland for other refugees.

The wishes and hopes of the refugees were stressed in the address of their President who, while repeatedly expressing gratitude to the Swiss officials, made an impassioned plea for permission to remain here 2 or 3 more months in the hope that the war might then be over and they could either go to Palestine or their old country. The majority definitely preferred Palestine. He pointed out that some of the refugees, especially those from Yugoslavia, had been transported from place to place during four years; that they were physically and psychically exhausted.

Col. Munch, the officer in charge of refugee camps, expressed sympathy for the sad plight of the uprooted refugees, in particular the curtailment of personal freedom, separation of families, and uncertainty about the future. However, he declared, the refugees had been admitted into this country with the understanding that Switzerland could offer transit facilities only; that Switzerland could not accept more refugees unless those already here could be transported elsewhere.

One of the refugees, a young man, showed me a picture of himself with bullet wounds in the right shoulder. He was placed before a firing squad with other Jews in a cemetery in Poland

and buried there. However, the shots were not mortal and at night he managed to dig himself out and escape. This picture is enclosed.

A young Jewish physician from Belgrade, who was in charge of a hospital ward in the hotel, was especially bitter about the possibility of being shipped to North Africa. He kept shouting that he would never go to another internment camp, be it that the Swiss first put him in shackles. Before he became excited on this point he told me that at his insistence refugee patients were now getting the same food as regular hospital patients. Previously they had been given the same food as other refugees.

One old hotel at Montreux now shelters 125 refugees who were brought here recently from the notorious Theresienstadt Camp. The leader of this group of Jews showed me some specimens of so-called Ghetto money with which inmates of the camp were paid for their work. A specimen of this money is enclosed and a translation of the German text is attached as of possible interest.

An elderly man, who had been the President of the Jewish community in Breslau, told me that after leaving Theresienstadt he had made some notes which might interest me. He read to me the following from a small notebook:

About 120 inmates were kept there in rooms 12 x 15 feet. This went on for 20 months. The Rabbi at Theresienstadt had told him that on June 15, 1943 the inmates at that camp numbered 43,800. From July 1942 to September 1943 no less than 27,750 inmates died mostly from diarrhea. In October 1944, 11 trainloads comprising 18,300 persons were shipped in cattle cars to an unknown destination. Husbands were separated from wives, children from parents. Nothing more had been heard about these unfortunates.

Respectfully yours,

/s/ Walter W. Ostrow
U.S. Treasury Representative

The Honorable
Harry D. White
Assistant Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington, D.C.

no enclosure needed in files

EVACUATION OF 1672 and 760 to PHILIPPEVILLE

4

000420

17

000421

June 19, 1945

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Reuben Resnik was received through the United States Embassy in Rome under date of June 15, 1945, as your No. 39:

"Latest arrangements for former Bergen Belsen and former Theresienstadt refugees presently in Switzerland provide for first group of 740 to arrive Italian camps last week in June. Similar number in second lot will proceed directly to Palestine and will be accompanied by 180 certificate holders now in Switzerland after the group is sent to Italy. We are also preparing for the transfer of a small group of twenty Palestine subjects who have just come from camps in Central Europe to Italy."

Very truly yours,

((Signed)) Florence Hodel

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

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

RBH
RBHutchison: 6/19/45

000422

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

*War of the
Congress*

DRM-690
This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Government
Agency. (~~RESTRICTED~~)

Rome

Dated June 15, 1945

Rec'd 4:03 P.M.

CONTROL COPY

Secretary of State

Washington

1627, June 15, 5 p.m.

FOR MOSES LEAVITT AJDC FROM REUBEN RESNIK

39

Latest arrangements for exBergenBelson exTheresien-
stadt refugees now Switzerland provide for first group
of 750 to arrive Italian camps last week in June. Second
lot of similar number will go directly to Palestine and
will be accompanied by a group of 180 certificate holders
now in Switzerland after the group is sent to Italy. We
are also arranging for the transfer of a small group of
twenty Palestine subjects who have just come to Italy from
camps in Central Europe.

KIRK

WTD

000423

000424

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES

IES-574

Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement.

MAY 25 AM 9 20

Dated May 24, 1945

9 20

Rec'd. 1:20 p.m.

*Way Ref Ad.
(C. Reagen)*

Secretary of State,
Washington.

DC/L

CONTROL COPY

2874, May 24, noon

FOR CHIEF OF WREB FROM MCCLELLAND

Legation's 2555, May 1.

Date of movement from Switzerland of first convoy
approximately 1,000 refugees going to UHRR Camps in
southern Italy has now definitely been set by SHARP
G-4 and G-5 as June 4. Second convoy will follow two
weeks later. Both groups are to go via Marseille to
Taranto.

HARRISON*

RR

For security reasons the
text of this message must
be carefully controlled.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Order 1-11-72
R. R. H. Parks Date SEP 10 1972

000425



+

000426

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

RECEIVED
DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES

*War Ref. Bd.
(Chalmers)*

1945 MAY 2 PM 1 53

JP-1295

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

Born

Dated May 1, 1945

Rec'd 3:15 a.m., 2nd

Secretary of State,
Washington.

2555, May 1, 9 a.m.

FOR DRIVER OF WAB FROM HOGGELAND.

Locations 2389, April 20.

SHAEP G-4 and G-5 reported on April 25 that
destination of refugees to be evacuated from Switzerland
had been changed from Philippeville to southern Italy,
disembarkation to take place at ports of Bari, Brindisi
or Taranto.

We have had to abandon second target date for
departure first convoy from Switzerland of May 2 since
French authorities have not yet given their final agree-
ment to transit these refugees. First group will
probably not be able leave now much before May 8 or 9.
Preparations this end for movement are practically
completed so that first convoy of about 1100 can depart
as soon as word is received from SHAEP. Herbert is in
regular contact with them via Army phone from Annemasse.

HARRISON

THB

CONTROL COPY

000427

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
Bern

EE-1529

This telegram must be
transmitted before 1914Z
communicated to anyone
other than a Government
official. ~~(SECRET)~~ DC/L
MADON

April 20, 1945
Rec'd 11:10 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

2300, April 20, 5 p.m.

MR. WINS, MCCLELLAND

Department's 1908, MR'S 476, March 24.

Plans are shaping up satisfactorily now for
evacuation special groups of Jewish refugees from
France, Austria and the Resonstadt from Switzerland
to reception camps in North Africa and perhaps
Italy.

Swiss authorities are making all preliminary
arrangements including formation of convoys, supplying
railroad cars, medical personnel, etc. and move is being
coordinated with SLEP G-4, G-5 and UPRRA with whom this
question was thoroughly discussed in Paris at end of
March.

First group of approximately 1100 persons is
scheduled leave Geneva on or about May 2 for Marseille.
Second group of similar size should depart mid-May.
It may be necessary send a third, smaller group
later. Refugees of all nationalities represented within
these special

000428

-2-2299, April 20, 3 p.m., from Bern.

these special groups are being evacuated with exception
of Dutch nationals. They are mainly Hungarians,
Rumanians, Czechs, Yugoslavs, Poles and former Germans
from the Resienstadt.

Will keep you informed of progress this movement.

HARRISON

ED:

000429



+



000430

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

RECEIVED
DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
Bern

1955
Date: April 20, 1945

Rec'd 11:10 p.m.

DC/L

EMIRON

EM-1588

This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Government
agent. (SECRET)

Secretary of State,

Washington.

2299; April 20, 5 p.m.

MRB FROM MCCLELLAND

Department's 1205, MRB'S 476, March 24.

Plans are shaping up satisfactorily now for
evacuation special groups of Jewish refugees from
Gengen Belsen and the Resianstadt from Switzerland
to UNRRA reception camps in North Africa and perhaps
Italy.

Swiss authorities are making all preliminary
preparation including formation of convoys, supplying
railroad cars, medical personnel, etc. and move is being
coordinated with SILET G-4, G-5 and UNRRA with whom this
question was thoroughly discussed in Paris at end of
March.

First group of approximately 1100 persons is
scheduled leave Geneva on or about May 2 for Marseille.
Second group of similar size should depart mid-May.
It may be necessary send a third, smaller group
later. Refugees of all nationalities represented within
these special

CONTROL COPY

000431

-2-#2299, April 20, 3 p.m., from Bern.

these special groups are being evacuated with exception
of Dutch nationals. They are mainly Hungarians,
Rumanians, Czechs, Yugoslavs, Poles and former Germans
from the Resienstadt.

Will keep you informed of progress this movement.

HARRISON

EDA

000432

13.

000433

DEPARTMENT

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

OUTGOING

TELEGRAM
RECEIVED
DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES

March 29, 1945
DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

1945 MAR 31 PM 4 20

Mar Ref'd

O Dayer

EMBASSY

DC/L
LIAISON

CONTROL COPY

LONDON

2452

The following for Mann is WRB 61.

Reference your 2872 of March 20, 1945.

Following is text of instructions forwarded by UNRRA here
to their London mission, answering questions raised by you:

NOTE Movement responsibility of military. After
conversations with WRB we urge that UNRRA Versailles should
offer SHAEF against specific request supplementary medical
and welfare personnel for care refugees en route. If UNRRA
personnel not obtainable theater, we will request help
Italian mission. War Department informs us movement cannot
be arranged before April 15. Please instruct Paris:

Responsibility clearing eligibility of group of refugees
UNRRA care is function of Washington or its representative.
UNRRA representative point nearest departure responsible
notify you of movement and ascertain all individuals properly
belong to group cleared. Washington will appoint displaced
persons representative at Bern for this purpose earliest.
You not obliged nor authorized accept any groups of refugees
not cleared. UNQUOTE

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

Since

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

000434

-2- #2452, March 29, 8 p.m. to London

Since we assume you will soon be with McClelland, he will advise you of exact status of this evacuation as worked out between himself and the military.

GREW
(ACTING)
(GLW)

WRB:MMV:KG
3/29/45

BC

000435

CABLE TO AMBASSADOR WINANT, LONDON, FOR MANN, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Reference your 2872 of March 20, 1945.

Following is text of instructions forwarded by UNRRA here to their London mission, answering questions raised by you:

QUOTE Movement responsibility of military. After conversations with WRB we urge that UNRRA Versailles should offer SHAF against specific request supplementary medical and welfare personnel for care refugees en route. If UNRRA personnel not obtainable theater, we will request help Italian mission. War Department informs us movement cannot be arranged before April 15. Please instruct Paris.

QUOTE Responsibility clearing eligibility of group of refugees UNRRA care is function of Washington or its representative. UNRRA representative point nearest departure responsible notify you of movement and ascertain all individuals properly belong to group cleared. Washington will appoint displaced persons representative at Bern for this purpose earliest. You not obligated nor authorized accept any groups of refugees not cleared. UNQUOTE

Since we assume you will soon be with McClelland, he will advise you of exact status of this evacuation as worked out between himself and the military.

THIS IS WRB LONDON CABLE NO. 61

10:30 a.m.
March 29, 1945

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

FJM
FJM McCormack:ar

3/28/45 *JW*

000436

12.

000437

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

March 24, 1945

Classification of telegram reading only by special arrangement. [Redacted] SERVICES

1945 MAR 26 PM 4 37

Handwritten signature and initials

OPERATION

DC/L LIAISON

CONTROL COPY

SMH
1205

The following for Harrison and McClelland is WRD 476. Board has been advised that SHAF is of the opinion that April 15 is earliest possible date for movement of two groups of refugees from Switzerland to UNRRA camps.

GREW
(Acting)

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

RRB:mv:kg
3/24/45

TE

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

000438

CABLE TO HAN-IGON AND MCCLELLAND, BERN, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Board has been advised that SHAEF is of the opinion
that April 15 is earliest possible date for movement of
two groups of refugees from Switzerland to UNRRA camps.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 476

9:30 a.m.
March 24, 1945

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

261 - FH:hd 3/23/45

000439



K

111

000440

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

JMD-1315
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. ([redacted])

London
Dated March 20, 1945

Rec'd 9:45 p.m.

Wm. B. [unclear]
C. [unclear]

Secretary of State
Washington .

CONTROL COPY

2872, March 20, 7 p.m.

FOR ODYER FROM MANN

London office UNRRA has approached me concern-
ing refugees recently arrived in Switzerland from
the Resienstadt and Bergen-Belsen which are to be
evacuated to Phillippeville and southern Italy.
UNRRA points out that it has been unable to deter-
mine status of matter and accordingly would like to
know what arrangements are being made to obtain
transportation from Marseille to destination and
when it is planned for refugees to arrive in Mar-
seille and depart therefrom.

UNRRA states that it can provide doctors,
nurses and welfare workers for the journey from
Marseille to destination but asks whether board is
able to recruit such doctors, nurses and welfare workers
to accompany refugees Switzerland to Marseille and points
out that if possible such doctors, et cetera, should
accompany

Country records the
[redacted] must
[redacted]

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

000441

-2-2872, March 20, 7 p.m. from London

accompany refugees to final destination rather than to Marseille where they would be replaced by UNRRA personnel.

It is understood UNRRA Washington discussing matter with board. However, I would appreciate an answer at earliest possible date so that I can advise London office of UNRRA.

Repeated to Eern for McClelland and for such information as he can give on points raised.

WINANT

MJF

000442

000443

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

other than a Government Agency. (CENTRAL SERVICES)

195 MAR 15 AM 11 45

*War Ref BC
(Gen of)*

ALLEGATION

DC/L
LIAISON

CONTROL COPY

BERN
1079

The following for Harrison and McClelland is WRB 447.

With respect to the pending evacuation of the 1672 refugees from Bergenbelsen and 760 of the 1210 from Theresienstadt, UNRRA here has requested the Board to make available to them sufficiently in advance of actual evacuation information with respect to departure date together with data on the composition of the groups to be evacuated with respect to nationality (declared or otherwise), and if stateless, what their nationality was before; age, sex, physical condition, and any other information pertinent to documentation; this, so that the Board may be in a position to notify UNRRA here as far in advance of actual evacuation as possible.

SECRETINUS
G17

WRB:HEV:RG
3/14/46

WE

SUP

000444

ALGOMA TO MINISTER HARRISON AND MCCLELLAND, BERG, SWITZERLAND, FROM WAR
REFUGEE BOARD

With respect to the general evaluation of the 1672 refugees from Bergen
Belsen and 1210 from Imersienstadt, there is repeated for your general in-
formation a copy of an incoming telegram from the UNRRA representative at
Graz which was made available to the Board on March 31:

NOTE 1. He informed Philippville of Washington's LCC to Rome
and asked what essential preparations possible additional refugees.

2. Had recent experience outlined in paragraph three below, how-
ever, indicates clear need improvement exchange of information if Keeny
is to function effectively. Strongly recommends, therefore, action out-
lined in paragraph four below.

3. Less than 24 hours notice given of recent arrival of 150
Hungarian Jews at Philippville. 82 stretcher cases, remainder in bad
condition. SHALF landed across France and embarked them at Marseilles.

4. Have asked AFHQ communicate CGS and SHALF substance of follow-
ing for information. In order that proper liaison can follow through
with SHALF, this repeated EFD. Pannin then requested to get full under-
standing of this with CGS and War Refugee Board.

(a) Sending of refugees into this area from north not desirable, as a
general rule, but if other opportunities nonexistent Keeny, Rose in
coordination AFHQ and with their notice is ready to receive up to ceiling
indicated in (c) below.

(b) AFHQ and Keeny should be signalled as far in advance as possible
name, physical condition, sex, types of illness, family composition.
Also prospective embarkation and debarkation points, date of arrival in
order to allow Keeny to signal preferred destination in light of ability
to receive and handle in accordance with his limited resources.

(c) Where facilities present ceiling capacity; 7,000 southern Italy, 2,000
Philippville. Use of Italy only subject to approval of AFHQ. Keeny
will discuss AFHQ possibility raising ceilings with commitment military
supply stations, accommodation stores, additional people. He will notify
you of results.

All military should be requested not to initiate movement to UNRRA in-
stallations without first clearing eligibility refugees UNRRA care.

5. It is recommended that UNRRA, Washington fix responsibility for
clearance paragraph four (c) at point nearest departure. For instance,
UNRRA personnel at SHALF for movements originating SHALF theater.

000445

6. Regarding paragraph four (A) recommend effort keep refugees Switzerland offering supplies and expenses if necessary persuade Government of Switzerland.

7. Abery, Hendrickson, Matthews, Rimington, Kentucky agree with the foregoing. UN400.E

You will note under number 3 above the short notice given UNRRA with respect to the arrival of the 150 at Philippeville and also that 22 arrived in poor physical condition. UNRRA here, therefore, has requested the Board to make available to them sufficiently in advance of actual evacuation information with respect to departure date together with data on the composition of the groups to be evacuated with respect to nationality (declared or otherwise), and if stateless, what their nationality was before; age, sex, physical condition, and any other information pertinent to documentation; this, so that the Board may be in a position to notify UNRRA here in advance of actual evacuation.

This is W.R.B. Bern Cabl No. 487

9:20 a.m.

3-13-45

Mr. J.

BM
P6 McCormack:ar 3/10/45

JH

000446

C
O
P
Y

UNITED NATIONS
RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION
1344 Connecticut Avenue
Washington

March 3, 1945

General William O'Dwyer
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Room 2426, Treasury Department
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear General O'Dwyer:

The attached copy of Cable No. 66 from Caserta is believed self-explanatory. We have instructed our military liaison officers and our representative in Bern to attempt to improve the notification procedures in such cases.

It would be appreciated if you would similarly undertake to have your representatives work out procedures which will permit satisfactory advance notification and consideration of problems of this type both here and in the field.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Herbert H. Lehman

Herbert H. Lehman
Director General

000447

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Received in UNRRA
11:15 p.m., 27 February 1945
Code

FROM: Caserta (Repeated to London 26)

NUMBER: 66

DATE: 22 February 1945

1. We informed Philippeville of Washington's 106 to Rome and asked make essential preparations possible additional refugees.
 2. Bad recent experience outlined in paragraph three below, however, indicates clear need improvement exchange of information if Keeny is to function effectively. Strongly recommend, therefore, action outlined in paragraph four below.
 3. Less than 24 hours notice given of recent arrival of 150 Hungarian Jews at Philippeville. 22 stretcher cases, remainder in bad condition. SHAEF handled across France and embarked them at Marseilles.
 4. Have asked AFHQ communicate CCS and SHAEF substance of following for information. In order that proper liaison can follow through with SHAEF, this repeated ERO. Washington requested to get full understanding of this with CCAC and War Refugee Board.
 - (a) Sending of refugees into this area from north not desirable, as a general rule, but if other opportunities nonexistent Keeny, Rome in cooperation AFHQ and with air notice is ready to receive up to ceiling indicated in (C) below.
 - (b) AFHQ and Keeny should be signalled as far in advance as possible number, physical condition, sex, types of illness, family composition. Also prospective embarkation and debarkation points, date of arrival in order to allow Keeny to signal preferred destination in light of ability to receive and handle in accordance with his limited resources.
 - (c) There follows present ceiling capacity: 7,000 southern Italy, 2,000 Philippeville. Use of Italy camps subject to approval of AFHQ. Keeny will discuss AFHQ possibility raising ceilings with commitment military supply rations, accommodation stores, additional people. We will notify you of results.
- All military should be requested not to initiate movement to UNRRA installations without first clearing eligibility refugees UNRRA care.

000448

5. It is recommended that UNRRA, Washington fix responsibility for clearance paragraph four (d) at point nearest departure. For instance, UNRRA personnel at SRAEF for movements originating SRAEF theater.

6. Regarding paragraph four (A) recommend effort keep refugees Switzerland offering supplies and expenses if necessary persuade Government of Switzerland.

7. Keany, Hendrickson, Matthews, Rhatigan, Kenthaky agree with the foregoing.

DISTRIBUTION

Lehman
Feller*
Jackson
Menshikov**
Hendrickson
Corson
Heehler**

*To note the information or take necessary steps with respect thereto.

**Responsibility for initiating appropriate reply.

000449

9.

000450

March 17, 1945

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Dr. Schwartz was received through the United States Embassy in Rome under date of March 13, 1945:

"We have information that about 1672 Bergen Belsen internees now in Switzerland will be transferred to Philippeville but their transfer will take place before the middle of April. Of the 1200 from Theresienstadt, about 700 will undoubtedly be taken to Ferramonte which is now UNRRA camp in Italy. Approximately 500 Dutch nationals will be allowed to stay in Switzerland until their repatriation, which the Dutch Government has guaranteed, takes place. I have requested Linder to ask the Czechoslovak Government in London to give a like guarantee for their nationals which number over 90 in the Theresienstadt group."

Very truly yours,

(s) Florence Hodel

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

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

RSH
RBHutchison: 3/17/45

000451

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

DSE-962

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

Rome

Dated March 13, 1945

Rec'd 4:03 p.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

693, March 13, 4 p.m.

TO LEAVITT JDC FROM SCHWARTZ 9

We are informed that approximately 1672 internees
from Bergen Belsen now Switzerland will be moved to
Philippeville but their movement will take place before
mid April. Of the 1200 from Theresienstadt approxi-
mately 700 will probably be moved to Ferramenti which
is now UNRRA camp in Italy. Dutch nationals amounting
to approximately 500 will be permitted to remain in
Switzerland until their repatriation which is guaranteed
by Dutch Government takes place. Have asked Linder to
approach Czechoslovak Government London to give similar
guarantee for their nationals numbering over 90 in
Theresienstadt group.

KIRK

JHS

CONTROL COPY

000452

3/9/45

Miss Florence Hodel, Assistant Exec. Dir., War Refugee Board, Rm. 2410
Main Treasury Bldg.

FX 39034 - 2 copies paraphrase

000453

U. S. SECRET
BRITISH SECRET

PRIORITY

C O M B I N E D C I V I L A F F A I R S C O M M I T T E E

P A R A P H R A S E

The following message was
received 8 March 1945.

FX 39034, 7 March 1945

From: FHGEG
To: SHAEF Main
Repeated: AGWAR for CCAC
Subject: Transportation of Jews to Philippeville from Switzerland
Ref: MEL 510

1. We have been advised by Mr. McClelland, War Refugee Board representative in Geneva, that the Government of Switzerland is anxious that transportation be arranged at earliest possible moment for 1,672 Jews of Hungarian origin as well as approximately 760 additional Jews, part of a group of 1200 from Holland. The balance of the Dutch group, or approximately 440 persons, will stay for the time being in Swiss territory until the Government of Holland reaches a decision regarding their ultimate landing place.

2. The authorities in Switzerland prefer having the evacuation take place in as large groups as possible, if practicable in one or two units. However, if it is not possible to provide space to ship such large groups to Philippeville and other areas from French embarkation ports, it will be satisfactory to the Swiss government if the evacuation is arranged to take place in four or five smaller units.

3. If, as indicated in paragraph 1 of S 80652 dated March 1, this matter has previously been cleared with the Government of France, we should like to have information as soon as possible regarding anticipated dates of assembly at French Mediterranean port referred to in MEL 510, which it is asked that you review.

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of JCS

letter, 7-5-73

By RMP Date DEC 6 1972

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS NEITHER
RECOMMENDATIONS NOR CONCLUSIONS
OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
AND IS NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED
OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
UNLESS SO INDICATED

000454

000455

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE March 10, 1945

TO Miss Hodel
FROM Mr. McCormack

On Wednesday, March 7, I talked with Major Taylor of the War Department concerning the matter referred to in your memorandum to me of March 5.

Major Taylor informed me that when he raised the question with you as to who would bear the cost of the movement of the refugees across the Mediterranean together with food, medical assistance, and maintenance at any stopover, that he was merely raising an academic question. Since the theater commander who would be involved in this evacuation has not yet raised with War the question as to who is to bear the expense, Major Taylor felt inclined to believe that the War Department would do so. However, he pointed out that it was not inconceivable that when the Budget Officer in the War Department finally got around to approving this expenditure, the Budget Officer would look to reimbursement to War for this expense. Therefore, Major Taylor thought that it might be practical to clear informally this matter with UNRRA so that if reimbursement to War should become necessary, some arrangements would have been made, if only on an informal basis, for this reimbursement.

PJM
PJMccormack:ar 3/10/45

000456

File

March 10, 1945

Miss Model

Mr. McCormack

On Wednesday, March 7, I talked with Major Taylor, of the War Department concerning the matter referred to in your memorandum to me of March 5.

Major Taylor informed me that when he raised the question with you as to who would bear the cost of the movement of the refugees across the Mediterranean together with food, medical assistance, and maintenance at any stopover, that he was merely raising an academic question. Since the theater commander who would be involved in this evacuation has not yet raised with War the question as to who is to bear the expense, Major Taylor felt inclined to believe that the War Department would do so. However, he pointed out that it was not inconceivable that when the Budget Officer in the War Department finally got around to approving this expenditure, the Budget Officer would look to reimbursement to War for this expense. Therefore, Major Taylor thought that it might be practical to clear informally this matter with UNRRA so that if reimbursement to War should become necessary, some arrangements would have been made, if only on an informal basis, for this reimbursement.

FJ
FJ McCormack:ar 3/10/45

000457



+

7.

000458

U. S. SECRET
BRITISH SECRET

PRIORITY

C O M B I N E D C I V I L A F F A I R S C O M M I T T E E

P A R A P H R A S E

The following message was
received 8 March 1945.

FX 39034, 7 March 1945

From: FHGEG
To: SHAEF Main
Repeated: ACWAR for CCAC
Subject: Transportation of Jews to Philippeville from Switzerland
Ref: MEL 510

1. We have been advised by Mr. McClelland, War Refugee Board representative in Geneva, that the Government of Switzerland is anxious that transportation be arranged at earliest possible moment for 1,672 Jews of Hungarian origin as well as approximately 760 additional Jews, part of a group of 1200 from Holland. The balance of the Dutch group, or approximately 440 persons, will stay for the time being in Swiss territory until the Government of Holland reaches a decision regarding their ultimate landing place.

2. The authorities in Switzerland prefer having the evacuation take place in as large groups as possible, if practicable in one or two units. However, if it is not possible to provide space to ship such large groups to Philippeville and other areas from French embarkation ports, it will be satisfactory to the Swiss government if the evacuation is arranged to take place in four or five smaller units.

3. If, as indicated in paragraph 1 of S 80652 dated March 1, this matter has previously been cleared with the Government of France, we should like to have information as soon as possible regarding anticipated dates of assembly at French Mediterranean port referred to in MEL 510, which it is asked that you review.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/13/93 BY SP-6
J. J. H. / J. J. H.

000459

6.

000460

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

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

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

Secretary of State
Washington

830, March 5, 11 ?

The following has been received from Bern

82, March 3, 2 p.m.

KINDLY DELIVER FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO BRIGADIER

GENERAL CHARLES SPOFFORD, ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF,
CMJK--5 AFHQ FROM MCCLELLAND OF WAR REFUGEE BOARD:

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

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

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

Africa

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

000461

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

Africa to Allied authorities.

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

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

Repeat to ERB in Washington.

KIRK

EEC

000462



K

5.

000463

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE March 5, 1945

TO Mr. McCormack
FROM Miss Hodel

On February 26, Major Taylor (War Department extension 6432) telephoned concerning the two groups of refugees we are trying to evacuate from Switzerland. Major Taylor raised the question of who would bear the cost of the movement, including transportation across the Mediterranean and food, medical assistance and maintenance at any stop-over. He stated that it was very questionable whether the War Department could bear this expense.

The JDC has turned down our request to underwrite the expenses in these evacuations. They have suggested that UNRRA be requested to bear them.

Will you please call Major Taylor and obtain from him accurate information concerning the items of expense involved in these evacuations which the War Department probably will not assume. Will you also prepare a draft of a letter to Governor Lehman requesting that UNRRA assume the financial responsibility for these evacuations to the UNRRA camp at Philippeville.

JH

000464



+

4.

000465

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

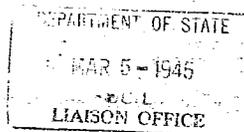
INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

MS-1872
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. (██████ W)

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

Secretary of State,
Washington.
1975, March 3, 2 p.m.



The following telegram has been sent to Caserta.
52, March 3, 2 p.m.

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

Whereas Swiss authorities would prefer evacuate
these 2672 refugees in as large units possible they
are willing move them in 4 or 5 smaller increments if
shipping space for 1 or 2 larger units is not available
from French port of embarkation to North Africa to
Allied authorities.

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

000466

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

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

000467



3.

K

000468

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

INTER OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE
March 3, 1945

TO : Miss Hodel
FROM : P. J. McCormack

I had an informal conversation with Mr. George McCandlish of UNRRA regarding his request for additional information on the two refugee groups of 1372 and 1210 that the UNRRA has been asked to provide facilities for upon their evacuation from Switzerland.

I gave him what general information appeared in our file with respect to nationality, age, sex, condition of health, etc., and indicated that we expect to receive more detailed information on these general subjects from our representative in Bern. He was informed that upon receipt of pertinent information, the Board would communicate this data to UNRRA.

000469



2.

K

000470

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE March 2, 1945

TO Miss Hodel

FROM Mrs. Towler

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION: Mr. George McCandlish - UNRRA
(Extension 95)

Mr. McCandlish called to ask if we could furnish them with more detailed information concerning the composition of the groups of refugees in Switzerland to be evacuated to UNRRA camps.

Concerning the groups of 1,672 and 1,210, he said it would be helpful if we could inform them as to:

- (1) Composition with respect to:
 - (a) Nationalities, declared or non-declared
 - (b) Ages
 - (c) Sex;
- (2) Present condition of health -- (In the case of the 150 exchangees, 22 persons arrived at Philippeville on stretchers);
- (3) Where the refugees came from and how they were brought;
- (4) How they are being billeted and who is maintaining them at present.

With particular reference to the 1,672, he asked if we could give them any late report as to what is being done with them. Their last information is that they are still in Switzerland, and they would like to know as far in advance as possible when to expect their arrival at Philippeville. While they of course had earlier general notice to expect the exchangees, they received from the Army only 24 hours actual notice of the time of their arrival. They would appreciate it if we would pass along to them any word we receive concerning the departure of this group from Switzerland.

Mr. McCandlish inquired if we had received lists of the names of these refugees and if we had sent them to Central Index. He said he had been informed that such lists were appearing in New York newspapers, naming PM.

000471

Note on composition and condition of 1672 refugees from BB

"Exchangees from BB were in state of acute undernourishment, three having died during their stay here. I have every reason to believe this situation is far from confined to BB but common to all German concentration camps and deportee work companies."

(744 from Bern)

"All ages and social classes are represented although percentage of intellectuals and professional men is relatively high. The majority are Hungarians including persons from Transylvania who acquired Rumanian nationality as a result of Vienna arbitration but there are also a few Poles, Slovaks and Yugoslavs."

"All these refugees intended to go to Palestine some as young workers others as veteran pioneers or prominent members of Jewish organizations, still others to join relatives already there. Most of them had been assured that they would be admitted although none of them actually possess Palestine certificates or equivalent document. On other hand they all hold documents issued by Hungarian Red Cross or an international Jewish organization stating that a Palestine certificate in their name is available at Istanbul." (3380 from Bern)

"On August 21 there arrived in Switzerland 320 of 500 Hungarian Jews transferred to camp of Bergenbelsen who were to be unconditionally released by the Gestapo... These people appear to be principally from Budapest and Kolesvar 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 convey of 1200 which actually turned out to be composed of 1690 persons." (5517 from Bern)

Ba

000472

000473

SACMED cable.

2/24

This is the substitute George Warren developed today for our longer draft sent over yesterday.

Warren thinks ours is too long since Sacmed cable was only 11 lines. This covers basically what we want.

Major Taylor will try and get it out today.

28 Feb
400

440

000474

IOCA and JIC representatives are not completely informed. Chief of Federal Police, Switzerland, requested representative was Bern to remove group of 1672 refugees on December 22 and renewed request January 12 stating Swiss Federal Railroads prepared to furnish transportation to French port of embarkation. British Foreign Office unable to date to determine admissibility of any of group to Palestine.

It is considered absolutely necessary to remove group of 1672 and 1210 from Switzerland immediately because of pressure from Swiss who in return are asked by British and U. S. Governments to receive additional refugees. 320 of group of 1672 arrived in Switzerland October 21, balance on December 6. Group has normal age and sex distribution and is in good physical condition. Group of 1210 consists of 58 children, balance elderly men and women in good physical condition. Composition of 1672 recently removed could only be determined at last moment at port of embarkation and were in bad physical condition on arrival in exchange from Germany a few days earlier. You will be advised of schedule as soon as received.

2/2/55 Hong Kong

more mail

days?

P

2

000475

DRAFT

CABLE TO SACMLD

Reference your _____ of _____, appreciate your points but must emphasize that speedy evacuation of both groups of 1670 and 1210 refugees recently arrived in Switzerland imperative in view of Swiss Government's insistence thereon. Failure to arrange such evacuation contrary to assurances repeatedly given to that effect by this Government to Switzerland, would put in jeopardy further admission of refugees by Swiss authorities.

Any JIC or IGC agents who informed you otherwise must be misinformed. Furthermore, it is to the interest of this Government to have such refugees under allied control, both for their possible intelligence value and in order to detect any German agents or escaping Nazis who conceivably might be among them.

Health of individual refugees will be examined before evacuation and those found too infirm to make the trip might be permitted to stay in Switzerland. However, Bern legation reports that physical condition of latest transport of 1210 refugees is fairly good, and previous group of 1670 has been in Switzerland long enough to have recuperated.

*must be used - possible way for...
even... (rehabilitate) ...
...
... - probably...
1670... of 78.*

30.
Bakzin:ar 2/22/45

000476

MATERIAL CONCERNING GROUP OF 1700

3

000477

CORRESPONDENCE WITH UNRRA

D.

000478



8

000479

UNITED NATIONS
RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

1344 CONNECTICUT AVENUE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

7 4 1945

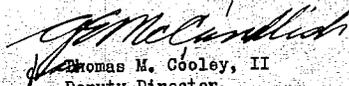
General O'Dwyer
War Refugee Board
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Paul McCormack

Dear Sir:

In accordance with our telephone conversation
26 April 1945, I am sending you the attached
copy of cable 273 from Rome, and our reply.

Sincerely yours,


Thomas M. Cooley, II
Deputy Director
Division on Displaced Persons

Enclosures:

000480

C O P Y

NUMBER: 273
FROM: Rome
REPEATED: London 83
DATED: 23 April 1945
RECEIVED: 23 April 1945 - 11:00 a.m.

Clear*

Re London 48.

We have requested and G-5 AFHQ concurs that all the 2000 refugees from Switzerland be sent to our Southern Italian camps where we have adequate staff, excellent medical and hospital facilities, closer supervision no problems with local authorities less expense and proximity. Destination point prefer use Philippeville little as possible hoping eventually close it unless end of war conditions require its use. We have 2 convoy teams of 4 each or more if necessary ready report Marseilles on notice to accompany refugees to Italian camps. Notify immediately if needed and when and to whom to report. Preferable refugees be brought Taranto Bari or Brindisi.

000481

C O P Y

NUMBER: 290
TO: Rome
DATED 28 April 1945

Agree your 273 use Italian camps preferable Philippeville.

Will notify at once any data received here.

000482

ATTN: Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20535
DATED: 58 JUL 11 1962
TO: Home
FROM: SDO

COB X

McCandless gave me this
cable over the phone.

000483

MITT NOTED 84 ONCE 501 0548
2228 100 210 0548

RE:

ACTION TAKEN:

Cable from Rome to London dated April 23. (UNHRA)

We have requested, and G-5, AFHQ concurs that all the 2,000 refugees from Switzerland be sent to our southern Italian camp where we have adequate staff, excellent medical and hospital facilities. Closer supervision no problem with local authorities less expense and proximity. Destination point prefer use Philippeville little as possible, hoping eventually close it unless end of war conditions require its use. We have two-convoy team of 4 each or more. If necessary, ready report Marseille on notice to accompany refugees to Italian camp. Notify immediately if needed and when and to whom to report. Preferable refugees be brought Taranto, Bari, or Brindisi.

000484



7.

000485

UNITED NATIONS
RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

1344 CONNECTICUT AVENUE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

30 March 1945

War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Paul J. McCormack

My dear Mr. McCormack:

I am enclosing a copy of a recent cable to Rome which deals with movements of refugee groups.

I believe that you have already learned from this office the contents of cable 65 from Caserta. Paragraph 5 reads:

It is recommended that UNRRA, Washington, fix responsibility for clearance paragraph four (d) at point nearest departure. For instance, UNRRA personnel at SHAEF for movements originating SHAEF theater.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas M. Cooley II
Thomas M. Cooley II
Deputy Director
Division on Displaced Persons

000486

C O P Y

22 March 1945

UNRRA

TO: Rome

NUMBER: 197

DATED: 22 March 1945

1. Responsibility clearing eligibility group of refugees UNRRA care, re Caserta 66 paragraph five, is function of Washington or its representative. UNRRA representative point nearest departure responsible notify you of movement and ascertain all individuals properly belong to group cleared. Washington will appoint Displaced Persons representative at Bern for this purpose earliest. You not obligated nor authorized accept any groups of refugees not cleared.

2. War Refugee Board, Intergovernmental Committee, Army authorities notified above statement.

3. Please report to Caserta.

000487



6.

000488

UNITED NATIONS
RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

1344 CONNECTICUT AVENUE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

March 3, 1945

General William O'Dwyer
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Room 2426, Treasury Department
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear General O'Dwyer:

The attached copy of Cable No. 66 from Caserta is believed self-explanatory. We have instructed our military liaison officers and our representative in Bern to attempt to improve the notification procedures in such cases.

It would be appreciated if you would similarly undertake to have your representatives work out procedures which will permit satisfactory advance notification and consideration of problems of this type both here and in the field.

Sincerely yours,

Herbert H. Lehman
Herbert H. Lehman
Director General

000489

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Received in UNRRA
11:15 p.m., 27 February 1945
Code

FROM: Caserta (Repeated to London 26)

NUMBER: 66

DATED: 22 February 1945

1. We informed Philippeville of Washington's 106 to Rome and asked make essential preparations possible additional refugees.
 2. Bad recent experience outlined in paragraph three below, however, indicates clear need improvement exchange of information if Keeny is to function effectively. Strongly recommend, therefore, action outlined in paragraph four below.
 3. Less than 24 hours notice given of recent arrival of 150 Hungarian Jews at Philippeville. 22 stretcher cases, remainder in bad condition. SHAEF handled across France and embarked them at Marseilles.
 4. Have asked AFHQ communicate CCS and SHAEF substance of following for information. In order that proper liaison can follow through with SHAEF, this repeated ERO. Washington requested to get full understanding of this with CCAC and War Refugee Board.
 - (A) Sending of refugees into this area from north not desirable, as a general rule, but if other opportunities nonexistent Kenny, Rome in cooperation AFHQ and with fair notice is ready to receive up to ceiling indicated in (C) below.
 - (B) AFHQ and Keeny should be signalled as far in advance as possible number, physical condition, sex, types of illness, family composition. Also prospective embarkation and debarkation points, date of arrival in order to allow Keeny to signal preferred destination in light of ability to receive and handle in accordance with his limited resources.
 - (C) There follows present ceiling capacity: 7,000 southern Italy, 2,000 Philippeville. Use Italy camps subject to approval of AFHQ. Keeny will discuss AFHQ possibility raising ceilings with commitment military supply rations, accommodation stores, additional people. We will notify you of results.
- All military should be requested not to initiate movement to UNRRA installations without first clearing eligibility refugees UNRRA care.

000490

5. It is recommended that UNRRA, Washington fix responsibility for clearance paragraph four (d) at point nearest departure. For instance, UNRRA personnel at SHAEF for movements originating SHAEF theater.
6. Regarding paragraph four (A) recommend effort keep refugees Switzerland offering supplies and expenses if necessary persuade Government of Switzerland.
7. Keeny, Hendrickson, Matthews, Rhatigan, Xanthaky agree with the foregoing.

DISTRIBUTION

- Lehman
- Feller *
- Jackson
- Menshikov **
- Hendrickson
- Corson
- Hohler **

*To note the information or take necessary steps with respect thereto.

**Responsibility for initiating appropriate reply.



5.

000492

UNITED NATIONS
RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

1344 CONNECTICUT AVENUE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

30 January 1945

Mr. J. W. Pehle
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

Reference is made to your letter of January 16th requesting admittance to UNRRA's Refugee Camp at Philippeville, Algeria, of 1672 refugees, mostly Hungarian Jews from Bergen Belsen.

We have sent the following cable to the Chief of the UNRRA Mission in Italy:

"Advised by War Refugee Board that Swiss authorities request immediate evacuation from Swiss territory approximately one thousand six hundred and seventy-two refugees, mostly Hungarian, recently arrived in Switzerland via Germany. Pending reply from Foreign Office regarding permission for majority to enter Palestine War Refugee Board urges refugees be sent to Philippeville, has advised War Department, and requested it to furnish necessary transportation.

"Also, fifty to seventy-five refugees, holding ad hoc Latin American passports which do not authorize holders to enter countries in Western Hemisphere, will arrive in Marseille from Switzerland circa January twenty-seventh. War Refugee Board has advised War Department and requested transportation to Philippeville. War Department has advised SHAEF and SACMED to provide transport to Philippeville or alternate camp to be determined in consultation with UNRRA representatives in the field.

"We are asking London to check with SHAEF on screening, composition, arrangements for transportation, health and welfare provisions enroute, approximate dates of arrival, and to advise Keeny.

"Advise soonest whether facilities, personnel, food, etc. are adequate to accommodate these additional refugees. If not, can you arrange locally on an emergency basis; if so, over what period? See our 38 re supplies we now programming for Philippeville. Do you recommend Italian camp in preference to Philippeville."

000493

-2-

We shall be glad to inform you of whatever further action there may be in this matter.

Sincerely yours,


Herbert H. Lehman
Director General

000494



4.

000495

JAN 16 1945

Dear Governor Lehman:

Reference is made to my letter of January 12, 1945, advising you that approximately 1352 Jewish refugees from Bergen Belsen may have to be moved from Switzerland to Philippeville pursuant to the agreement of AFHQ and UNRRA, referred to in MAT 435, to hold the Philippeville Camp in reserve for emergencies that may arise as a result of the arrival of large numbers of refugees in Switzerland.

The following cable has just been received by the War Refugee Board from Roswell D. McLelland, its representative in Bern:

"Reference is made to Department's cable No. 49 of January 3, WRB 34.

"The substance of this cable was communicated to the Swiss authorities. Appreciation was expressed by the Swiss for the Board's prompt efforts to organize the evacuation of the Bergen Belsen group from Switzerland. The hope was expressed by them that, pending a reply from London regarding permission for the majority of these refugees to enter Palestine, arrangements could be initiated for the movement of this group to France, inasmuch as they will have to proceed there in any case, regardless whether Palestine or North Africa is their destination. If necessary, the Swiss Federal Railways are prepared to furnish trains for transportation to the French port of embarkation.

"The federal police desire to correct an omission in their recent communication with regard to the number of the refugees comprising the group. They now desire to include the first Hungarian Bergen Belsen convoy comprising approximately 320 persons. In this connection see Legation's cable No. 5517 of August 23. If this group is included, the total would be 1672 instead of 1352."

000496

In view of the fact that it will probably take some time before it can be determined whether the members of this group of 1672 refugees referred to in McClelland's cable will be admitted to Palestine, ~~the Board has~~ ^{it has} decided to take advantage of UNRRA's offer to hold open Philippeville for emergencies that may arise. Accordingly, pending a final decision regarding the ultimate destination of these refugees, it has been decided to move them to Philippeville. The War Department has been advised of the foregoing and has been requested to arrange for the necessary transportation.

It will, therefore, be appreciated if appropriate instructions were sent by UNRRA for the reception of this group at Philippeville.

In view of the necessity that this group of refugees be evacuated from Switzerland as soon as possible, I would appreciate being advised of the action taken in this matter.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Honorable Herbert H. Lehman,
Director General,
United Nations Relief & Rehabilitation
Administration,
Washington, D. C.

my
1/15/45 *JA* Cleared with Mr. Pehle

000497

000498

JAN 12 1945

Dear Governor Lehman:

Reference is made to my letter to you of November 16, 1944, describing a possible movement of 8,000 refugees through Switzerland. Reference is also made to MAT 435 of December 4, 1944, indicating that AFHQ and UNRRA have agreed to hold the Philippeville Camp in reserve for emergencies that may arise as a result of the arrival of this group of refugees in Switzerland.

The War Refugee Board has been advised by its representative in Bern that approximately 1352 Jewish refugees from Bergen-Belsen, the majority of whom are Hungarian, recently arrived in Switzerland and that the Swiss authorities are requesting that they be evacuated from Swiss territory as soon as possible. Inasmuch as it has been reported to the Board that the majority of these refugees may have been promised admission to Palestine, the Board is endeavoring through its representative in London to ascertain the accuracy of this report. If it proves impossible to obtain their admission to Palestine, it will be necessary to have them moved elsewhere, probably to Philippeville, pursuant to the agreement referred to in MAT 435.

You will be advised as soon as any further information is received in regard to this group of refugees.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Honorable Herbert H. Lehman,
Director General,
United Nations Relief & Rehabilitation
Administration,
Washington, D. C.

MJMarks:nlf 1-11-45.

000499



k

2.

000500

UNITED NATIONS
RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

1344 CONNECTICUT AVENUE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

21 November 1944

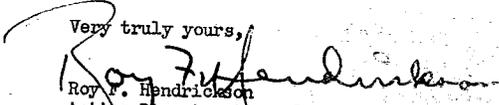
Mr. J. W. Pehle
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington 25,
D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I have your letter of November 16th relating to the prospective emigration of 8,000 Hungarian Jews and to the possibility of a request that they be housed at Philippeville.

Thank you very much for advising me of this situation. I am having an inquiry undertaken into the situation which will arise if such a request is made.

Very truly yours,


Roy P. Hendrickson
Acting Director General

000501

1.

000502

Nov. 16, 1944

Dear Governor Lehman:

The following is the substance of a message received from McClelland, War-Refugee representative in Bern, Switzerland.

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

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

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

"November 1 conversations with Chief of Federal Police and with representative for relief and refugee affairs of the Political Department reveal that the Swiss are concerned seriously regarding the practical difficulties which are involved in receiving and housing a group of this size, even temporarily, at such short notice. Switzerland has received more than 25,000 new refugees during the past six weeks, they pointed out, (chiefly women and children from Valdossola in Italy and from the combat zones in France) while, on

000503

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 a part of those who are not destined for Palestine.

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

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

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

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

Should the rescue of these refugees be effected, it may be desirable to use Phillippeville as a temporary haven. I deem it wise, therefore, to give you advance notice of this possible need. Any

000504

comments which you may have thereon will be appreciated. A copy of McClelland's message has also been sent to the War Department and to Ambassador Kirk in Italy for delivery to Governor Cochrane and AFHQ.

Very truly yours,



J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Honorable Herbert H. Lehman,
Director General,
United Nations Relief & Rehabilitation
Administration,
Washington, D. C.

LA:hd 11/8/44

Lehman — 2.9.2. *Jed* — *Classed with Pehle*

000505

CORRESPONDENCE WITH WAR DEPT.

C.

000506



11

000507

U. S. CONFIDENTIAL
BRITISH CONFIDENTIAL

PRIORITY

COORDINATE CIVIL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM

The following message was received 7 June 1945

400 497 (C 3365), 5 June 1945

From: SWITZERLAND
To: CPAL
Subject: Jews Admitted to Switzerland
Ref: 400 494

This is in addition to information given in 700 23235, 700 494 dated June 7 on this subject. We have divided into four groups Jews who were given permission to enter Switzerland before being moved to other destinations in accordance with plan of the State Department.

1. 750 cleared for admission into Palestine. The origin of this group varies.
2. 350 from Czechoslovakia. Negotiations are now being carried on between Government of Switzerland and Government of Czechoslovakia regarding this group.
3. About 750 persons whose origin varies, and whose final destination has not been decided. This group does not wish to enter Palestine.
4. 350 whose origin is Holland. Negotiations are now being carried on between Government of Switzerland and Netherlands Government regarding this group.

The authorities in Switzerland would like to move the third group to an UPRCA camp in the south of Italy at the end of this month.

cc: 6/9/45 Messrs. Glasser-Gold, Delaney, Bronz (3), Hoffman (2), Miss O'Brien, Mr. Hebbard, Miss Hodel

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of JCS

Regarding Memo 28-71

By RHP Date DEC 6 1972

000508

000509

Miss Haxel
Sp. for Smith

TOP

U.S. CONFIDENTIAL
BRITISH CONFIDENTIAL

DEFERRED CIVIL AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE PARAPHRASE

The following message was received 4 June 1945

VOM 494 (ESP 23235), 2 June 1945

From: SHAF-Forward

To: SAC

Subject: Transportation of Jews to Palestine

Ref: VOM 455

1. Permission was received in June this date from Great Britain for entrance of Jews into Palestine. However, authorities in Switzerland now state that until transportation to Palestine is guaranteed they cannot ask that this group leave the country. Therefore, cancellation is being made of present transportation arrangements to Italy. We do not know exactly the number of persons involved, since permission has been granted by the Swiss to persons over the age of 70 to remain in Switzerland together with their families.
2. We should like to have you issue new instructions, in the light of these changed circumstances.

cc: Messrs. Glasser-Mrs. Gold, Bronz (3), Schmidt (3), Hunter, Delaney, Pollack, Miss Haxel, K. Hebbard.

DECLASSIFIED
By Authority of JCS
Regarding Memo 28-71
By RHP Date DEC 6 1972

000510



9.

000511

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Combined Civil Affairs Committee
Washington, D. C.

1073
Date 2/19/45

From Combined Civil Affairs Committee

To Miss Florence Hodel, Rm. 2410, Main Treasury Bldg.

Enclosed are communications and attachments for your information.

S-79319 copy No. 30

MAT 510 32

S 76728 30

S 77298 paraphrase

GOV 206 36

Please indicate receipt of the above communications by endorsement in the space provided below and return to Combined Civil Affairs Committee, Room, 3B-836, Pentagon Building, Washington, 25, D. C.

Officer

Title

000512

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
INCOMING CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

~~SECRET~~ TOP

PRIORITY

From: Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Forces
Main, Versailles, France

To: War Department

No. S 79319

16 February 1945

S 79319 ~~SECRET~~ to For action AFHQ, War Ministry
Bern, via Rowell D. McClelland War pass. To For information
AMSO for BCS, COM ZONE ETOUSA, SHAEP Mission France, SHAEP
Team for G5, CCAC/L from SHAEP Main signed Eisenhower or site
SHKBS

Answer requested to our S 77298 31 Jan reading as
follows: MAT 510 concerning projected movement of Jewish
refugees Switzerland to Phillipville is subject McClelland
please advise if Swiss desire this movement in increments or
in small increments, if latter, indicate size. Request
same information preceding paragraph.

77298 is CM-IN-557 (1 Feb 45) CCAC
Reduced from TOPSECRET to SECRET by WDCMC.

End

ACTION: CCAC

INFO : CC/S
ASF
OPD
G-2
Adm King
Mr. McCloy

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of JCS

letter 7-5-72

By SUR MAR 6 1973

CM-IN-16642

(16 Feb 45)

DTG 161600A

~~SECRET~~

COPY No. 30

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN

793194

000513

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
INCOMING CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

~~SECRET~~ TOT

PRIORITY

From: Allied Force Headquarters, Cassino, Italy.

To: War Department

Re: FX 16419 MAT 510 27 January 1945

FX 16419 AGWAR for CCS for CCAC info AMSSO for
British Chiefs of Staff, HQ COMZONE Main ETOUSA, SHAEF, Main
and SHAEF Rear 101 G5 and CCAC/L signed Alexander cite
FX 26728 Rear WX 26728, January 25th this is MAT 510

Transportation of Jews from Switzerland.

1. Answer to Paragraph 2.
 - A. Transportation can be arranged move to take place 10-15 days after concentration French Mediterranean Port but not before 10th February.
 - B. Phillippeville accommodation will be used. UNRRA concurs.
 - C. Not our answer.
 - D. Communication channels McClelland to US Minister Rear to J3 POLAD to G-5 and UNRRA AFHQ and reverse.
2. For SHAEF Main. This answers your S-76728 January 26th. Request you repeat all signals to McClelland to this headquarters we reciprocating.

ACTION: CCAC
INFO: CC/S; ASF; OPD; G-2; Adm King; Mr McCloy

End.

CM-IN-27198

(28 Jan 45)

DTG 272106A

ek:k

DECLASSIFIED

J.C.S. Regrading Memo

27-71

~~SECRET~~

By SLR

MAR 6 1973

COPY NO.

32

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN

510

000514

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
INCOMING CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

~~SECRET~~ TOP

From: Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Forces,
Main Versailles, France.

To: War Department

Fr: ~~3 76726~~

26 January 1945

3 76728. The reference is WX 26726 dated 25 January 1945. AFHQ for Alexander for PHGEG repeat for information to AGWAR for Combined Chiefs of Staff; UK Base Section; SHAEF Rear for G5 and CCAC/L; AMMSO for British Chiefs of Staff signed Eisenhower cite SHGE.

No Continental location for Hungarian Jews. Please say if Phillipeville accommodation is now available and UNRRA willing to accept responsibility. Transportation problem involved is now under consideration at this Headquarters.

End

ACTION: CCAC

INFO: CC/S
ASF
OPD
G-2

Adm King
Mr McGloy

CM-IN-26648

(27 Jan 45)

DTG: 261845A

pa.

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of JCS

letter, 7-5-72

By SLR Date MAR 6 1973

~~SECRET~~

COPY NO. 576778
30

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN

000515

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT, U.S.C. 50, 31 and 32. THE TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW.

~~U.S. SECRET~~
~~BRITISH SECRET~~

COMBINED CIVIL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

PARAPHRASE

The following message was received 1 February 1945

(S 77298), 31 January 1945

From: SHDE
To: AFHQ and U.S. Minister, Switzerland
Repeated: CCAC for information
Subject: Plan for Transferring to Phillipville from Switzerland
1672 Refugees.
Refer: MAT 510

Please have Mr. Mc Clelland notify us if the government of Switzerland wishes to have these Jewish refugees transported in small sized groups or altogether. If the former is the case, advise us regarding the number in each unit, as well as Allied Force Headquarters who have asked also to be advised on the matter.

DECLASSIFIED
By Authority of JCS
letter, 7-5-72
By SLR Date MAR 6-1973

57709

000516

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
OUTGOING CLASSIFIED MESSAGE
CCAC DISTRIBUTION

~~SECRET~~

Combined Chiefs of Staff
Combined Civil Affairs
Committee 4567

25 January 1945

Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces
Main Echelon, Versailles, France

Commanding General, Allied Force Headquarters, Caserta, Italy

Commanding General, United Kingdom Base Section,
London, England

Headquarters, Communications Zone
European Theater of Operations, Paris, France

British Joint Staff Mission, Washington, D. C.

Number MATL 26726

COV206 to SHAEF Main for SHGE and TAM 439 to Alexander for
FHGE from CCS cite CCAC repeated information CCAC/L,
Communication Zone EPCUSA, and UK Base Section pass to
SHAEF Rear, and BUSH pass to BCS; has been repeated to
all addressees. Refer TAM 362, MAT 435.

Transportation of Jews from Switzerland.

1. War Refugee Board now advises urgency of arranging transportation for 1,672 refugees from Switzerland. These are understood to consist mainly of Hungarian Jews from Bergen Belsen, the majority of whom will probably apply eventually for admission to Palestine. War Refugee Board suggests that they be moved to Philippeville, Algeria, refugee camp under UNRRA operation, but would doubtless consider continental location upon recommendation of SCAEF or SACMED. Of first importance is their evacuation from Switzerland. Swiss Federal railways are prepared to furnish trains for transportation to French Port of Embarkation if necessary. War Refugee Board

CM-OUT-26726 (Jan 45)

DECLASSIFIED

J.C.S. Regrading Memo 28-71

By SLR Date MAR 6 1973

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN

~~SECRET~~
INITIALS *me*
DATE *Feb 2 1945*

COPY NO. 2016

000517

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
OUTGOING CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

Number WAR 26726 25 January 1945 Page 2

- representative at Bern is Roswell D. McClelland and he may establish communication with you through diplomatic channels on details of arrangements.
- Coordination should be effected between SCALF, SACMED and JHRA and advice provided on following points:
- (a) can transportation be arranged and if so approximate date
 - (b) will Philadelphia be the destination
 - (c) will the offer of the Swiss Federal Railways be accepted and
 - (d) have you or McClelland arranged a channel of communication between yourselves?

End

ORIGINATOR: CCAO
INFORMATION: ASF
CC/S
OPD
G-2
Adm. King
Mr. McCloy

CM-OUT-26726 (Jan 45) ITG 252238Z RMV

DECLASSIFIED
J.C.S. Regrading Memo 28-71
By SLR Date MAR 6 1973

~~SECRET~~

COPY NO.

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN

000518



83

K

8.

000519

FEB 3

Attention: Colonel Geerhardt

Dear Mr. McCloy:

There is forwarded to you herewith a copy of a cable which has just been received from the War Refugee Board representative in Bern, Switzerland, containing information which he has requested be drawn to the attention of the appropriate military authorities.

In connection with the last paragraph of the enclosed cable, it will be appreciated if you will advise the Board of the views of the War Department concerning the proposed reply to Bern's NO. 455 of January 22, 1945, a copy of which was sent to Colonel Geerhardt for War Department clearance on January 25, 1945.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) William O'Dwyer

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

Honorable John J. McCloy,

Assistant Secretary of War.

Enclosure.

FH:hd 2/3/45

000520



7.

000521

JAN 24

Dear Mr. McCloy,

I wish to thank you for your letter of January 22, 1945, concerning the evacuation of 1672 refugees from Switzerland.

Mr. McClelland has been advised to communicate with Lieutenant General A. E. Grasset and Brigadier General Charles M. Spofford in the manner suggested by you.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Honorable John J. McCloy,
Assistant Secretary of War.

Mhd 1/24/45 Jd

000522



6.

000523

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

22 January 1945

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

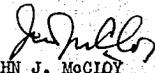
I have your letter of 16 January requesting that SHAEF arrange transportation for 1672 refugees from Switzerland to Philippeville, Algeria, and asking the name of the SHAEF official with whom Mr. McClelland, your representative at Bern, should communicate on the arrangements.

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

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

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

Sincerely yours,


JOHN J. McCLOY
Assistant Secretary of War

000524



5.

000525

JAN 16 1945

Dear Mr. McCloy:

Reference is made to my letter of January 3, 1945, advising you that approximately 1352 Jewish refugees from Bergen Belsen may have to be moved from Switzerland to Philippeville pursuant to the agreement of AFHQ and UNRRA, referred to in MAT 435, to hold the Philippeville Camp in reserve for emergencies that may arise as a result of the arrival of large numbers of refugees in Switzerland.

The following cable has just been received by the War Refugee Board from Roswell D. McClelland, its representative in Bern:

"Reference is made to Department's cable No. 49 of January 3, WRB 34.

"The substance of this cable was communicated to the Swiss authorities. Appreciation was expressed by the Swiss for the Board's prompt efforts to organize the evacuation of the Bergen Belsen group from Switzerland. The hope was expressed by them that, pending a reply from London regarding permission for the majority of these refugees to enter Palestine, arrangements could be initiated for the movement of this group to France, inasmuch as they will have to proceed there in any case, regardless whether Palestine or North Africa is their destination. If necessary, the Swiss Federal Railways are prepared to furnish trains for transportation to the French port of embarkation.

"The federal police desire to correct an omission in their recent communication with regard to the number of the refugees comprising the group. They now desire to include the first Hungarian Bergen Belsen convoy comprising approximately 320 persons. In this connection see Legation's cable No. 5517 of August 23. If this group is included, the total would be 1672 instead of 1352."

In view of the fact that it will probably take some time before it can be determined whether the members of this group of 1672 refugees referred to in McClelland's cable will be admitted to Palestine, it:

000526

been
Board has decided that the entire group should be moved to Philippeville pending a final decision regarding their ultimate destination. Accordingly, it will be appreciated if SCHAEF would arrange for the transportation of this group to Philippeville pursuant to the agreement referred to in General Hildring's letter to me of December 5, 1944. In this connection, your attention is directed to the offer of the Swiss Federal Railways to furnish trains for this purpose.

To facilitate the actual movement of the refugees from Switzerland, it would be appreciated if you would advise us of the name of the SCHAEF representative with whom Mr. McClelland should communicate regarding the details of this evacuation.

Governor Lehman is also being advised of the contents of McClelland's cable in order that arrangements may be made to receive the group at Philippeville.

In view of the necessity that this group of refugees be evacuated from Switzerland as soon as possible, I would appreciate an early reply to this letter.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Honorable John J. McCloy,
Assistant Secretary of War.

JW
M:hd 1/25/45

PPM Re JH Cleared with Mr. Pehle

000527

4.

000528

JAN 3 1945

My dear Mr. McCloy:

Reference is made to my letter to you of November 16, 1944, describing a possible movement of 8,000 refugees through Switzerland. Reference is also made to MAT 435 of December 4, 1944, and to Major General Hill King's letter to me of December 5, 1944, indicating that AFHQ and UNRRA have agreed to hold the Philippeville Camp in Algeria in reserve for emergencies that may arise as a result of the arrival of this group of refugees in Switzerland and also that SHAEF will cooperate in arranging for their transportation across France and into Algeria.

The War Refugee Board has been advised by its representative in Bern that approximately 1352 Jewish refugees from Bergen-Belsen, the majority of whom are Hungarian, recently arrived in Switzerland and that the Swiss authorities are requesting that they be evacuated from Swiss territory as soon as possible. Inasmuch as it has been reported to the Board that the majority of these refugees may have been promised admission to Palestine, the Board is endeavoring through its representative in London to ascertain the accuracy of this report. If it proves impossible to obtain their admission to Palestine, it will be necessary to have them moved elsewhere, probably to Philippeville, pursuant to the agreement referred to in MAT 435.

You will be advised as soon as any further information is received in regard to this group of refugees.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Honorable John J. McCloy,

Assistant Secretary of War.

Handwritten: Closed with
JW:PH:agr 1/3/45

000529

SECRETARY OF STATE, WASHINGTON
December 28, 1944
8378

Reference is made to the communication from the Swiss Legation in Washington dated December 28, 1944, and the communication from the Swiss Legation in Bern dated December 28, 1944.

I have received communication from the Chief of Federal Police dated the twenty second of December, substance of which is transmitted in my 8380 of the twenty eighth of December, with regard to group of 1352 Jewish refugees originally from Hungary and lately admitted 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 7389. 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 men in London consult with British officials to determine whether the group can actually be admitted to Palestine.

RC:RMB
12/9/44

HUBBLE

Mrs. Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Ackermann, Akzin, Cohn, Drury, Dubois, Ganton, Hodel, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Files.

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

000530

JM-91
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. (S)

Bern

Dated December 7, 1944

Rec'd 12:55 p.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

US AIRMAIL

7997, December 7, 4 p.m.

FOR MRB FROM CLEVELAND

Legation's 7464, November 10.

I am happy to be able to report that approximately
1355 persons balance of the Hungarian Jews in camp
Axergetolson arrived in Switzerland during night of
December 6 to 7 having crossed frontier at St. Margarethen.
They are at present temporarily housed near St. Gall under
control of Swiss Army.

HODDLE

RR

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Order 131-52
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 10 1978

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Ackermann, Aksin, Gohn,
Drury, Dubois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodol, Marks, Mannon, McCormack,
Pohlo, Files

000531



3.

000532

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
CIVIL AFFAIRS DIVISION
WASHINGTON 25

~~SECRET~~

5 December 1944

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

With further reference to your letter of November 16, 1944, to Mr. McCloy, concerning possible movement of 8000 Hungarian Jews through Switzerland, I now enclose a copy of MAT 435, dated 4 December 1944. This indicates that AFHQ and UNKRA representatives in Italy have agreed to hold the Philippeville camp in Algeria in reserve for emergencies such as may be presented by this group of Hungarian refugees.

The last paragraph of the message refers to co-ordination with SHAEF regarding transportation across France and into Algeria.

Sincerely,

J. H. HILLERIK,
Major General,
Director, Civil Affairs Division.

1 Incl: MAT 435

"THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT, U. S. C. 50: 31 and 32. THE TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW."

~~SECRET~~

Ray J. Laux
RAY J. LAUX
Colonel, GSC,
Executive

000533

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
INCOMING CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

TOP
PRIORITY

From: Allied Force Headquarters, Caserta, Italy

To: War Department

Nr: FX 63014 MAT 435 4 Dec 1944

To AGWAR for CCS for CCAC repeated for information to Central District UK Base Section London for British Chief's of Staff and HQ COMZONE Main ETOUSA signed Wilson FX 63014 cite FHGEG this is MAT 435 reur WX 66772, TAM 362.

1. It has been agreed by UNRRA Liaison representative and by Hugh Jackson, special representative UNRRA now here, that Philippeville Camp be used to meet emergency needs such as that created by possible movement of Hungarian Jews.
2. UNRRA has not yet taken responsibility for any Italian camps, which cannot, in any case hold additional 8,000 displaced persons unless all present Yugoslav and other occupants evacuated.
3. Further study required of practicability of bringing large groups of displaced persons into Italy in view of present commitments respecting repatriation of Italians from Greece and other countries, as well as care of displaced persons coming to Italy as a result of military operations and evacuations.
4. Remainder of Fedhala population, numbering 234 now at Philippeville and contemplate that such persons would in future be sent Philippeville except when expediency or necessity dictate use of Fedhala. It has been urged that Fedhala camp also be held in reserve and understand that

CM-IN-4238 (5 Dec 44)

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

DECLASSIFIED

DOD DIR. 5200.1-7 (9/27/85) OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN

W
COPY NO. 61
435

000534

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
ENCLOSING CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

[REDACTED] TOP
PRIORITY

Page -2-

FROM: Allied Force Headquarters, Caserta, Italy

NR: FX 63014 MAT 435 4 Dec 1944

UNRRA will do so.

5. SHAEF has been advised and he will coordinate plans with them.

End

RECEIVED
REGULATIONS
NOV 27 1944
NOV 27 1944

ACTION: CCAC

INFO : CC/S, ASF, OPD, G-2, Admiral King, Mr McCloy

CM-IN-4238 (5 Dec 44) 0052Z m/m

[REDACTED]
COPY No. 61

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN

000535

WAR DEPARTMENT

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300
16-30301-1

TO:

000536

RETURN THIS RECEIPT IMMEDIATELY TO:

WAR AFFAIRS DIVISION
WAR DEPARTMENT
3700 ARMY BLDG
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

POSTAL
Registry No.

Date **6 Dec 1944**

Serial No. | **0 5085**
File No. |
or Subject |

with: inclosure(s)
..... indorsement(s)

Addressee:
**Mr. John W. Pehle, Exec Dir., War Refugee
Board, Rm. 288 1/2 Main Treasury
Exec Office of President**

Note.—Sheet 2 (addressee's copy) to be retained by
addressee.

(DUPLICATE)

W. D., A. G. O. Form No. 996, 16 July 1943 (Sec A R 380-3).

CLASSIFIED DOCUMENT RECEIPT

16-36304-1

000537



2.

000538

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

25 November 1944

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I have your letter of November 16, 1944, quoting a message from Mr. McClelland at Bern concerning possible movement of Hungarian Jews through Switzerland and requesting that the appropriate military authorities be advised.

The Theater is being advised by cable that the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration has agreed in principle to the reception and care of this group at an appropriate UNRRA camp and that arrangements consistent with military exigencies, should be made by the military authorities in the Theater to provide transit to the group through France and across water to bring them to their destination. When reply is received from the Theater shall of course be glad to notify you.

Sincerely yours,



JOHN J. McCLOY,
Assistant Secretary of War.

000534



1.

K

000540

NOV 16 1944

Dear Mr. McCloy:

The following is the substance of a message received from McClelland, War Refugee representative at Bern, Switzerland:

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

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

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

"November 1 conversations with Chief of Federal Police and with representative for relief and refugee affairs of the Political Department reveal that the Swiss are concerned seriously regarding the practical difficulties which are involved in receiving and housing a group of this size, even temporarily, at such short notice. Switzerland has received more than 25,000 new refugees during the past six weeks, they pointed out, (chiefly women and children from Valdosola in Italy and from the combat zones in France) while, on the other hand, only 8,000 people have departed:- 2000 French civilians and 6000 military escapees. It would be difficult to solve the problem of fuel, blankets, and housing sufficient to properly

000541

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 a part of those who are not destined for Palestine.

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

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

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

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

If the refugees mentioned herein should reach Switzerland, it may be necessary that they be removed therefrom promptly. I think it wise that the appropriate divisions of the War Department and Army be advised of this possible need for transportation and accommodation. A copy of McClelland's message has also been sent to Ambassador Kirk, the United States Political Adviser in Italy. It has been suggested to Ambassador Kirk that the UNRRA representatives and G-5 sections might wish to give informal preliminary consideration to this matter.

000542

-3-

Any comments that you may wish to make on this matter will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. John J. McCloy,
Assistant Secretary of War,
Washington, D. C.

LA:hd 11/3/44 *J. Eslickens* *R.A.L.* *Feb - cleared with Pehle*

000543

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

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

The following message from McClelland for WRS is transmitted.

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

The Swiss Political Department on the 31st of October instructed its legation 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 (see message dated August 12 from the Legation, number 5248).

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 25,000 new refugees during the past six weeks, they pointed out, (chiefly women and children from Valdosola in Italy and from the combat zones in France) while, on the other hand, only 8,000

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

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

000544

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 a part of those who are not destined for Palestine.

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

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

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

We will keep you informed with reference to this matter.

11-3-44

DCR:LC:CR

HARRISON

000545

MEMORANDA

B.

000546

000547

Files

Note on composition and condition of 1672 refugees from BB

"Exchangees from BB were in state of acute undernourishment, three having died during their stay here. I have every reason to believe this situation is far from confined to BB but common to all German concentration camps and deportee work companies."

(744 from Bern)

"All ages and social classes are represented although percentage of intellectuals and professional men is relatively high. The majority are Hungarians including persons from Transylvania who acquired Rumanian nationality as a result of Vienna arbitration but there are also a few Poles, Slovaks and Yugoslavs."

"All these refugees intended to go to Palestine some as young workers others as veteran Zionists or prominent members of Jewish organizations, still others to join relatives already there. Most of them had been assured that they would be admitted although none of them actually possess Palestine certificates or equivalent 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." (338 from Bern)

"On August 21 there arrived in Switzerland 320 of 500 Hungarian Jews transferred to camp of Bergenbelsen who were to be unconditionally released by the Gestapo. 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 which actually turned out to be composed of 1690 persons." (5517 from Bern)

Beginner 4/21/43

Ba.

000548



2

000549

February 19, 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

Major Thomas R. Taylor, Civil Affairs (War Ext. 6432) telephoned today to advise me that under date of January 31, 1945, SHAEF had wired to McClelland asking him whether the group of 1672 Hungarian refugees were to be moved out of Switzerland in one group or in increments. McClelland also was advised that the channel of communication was from SHAEF to G-5, to Ampolad, to Bern.

CCAC has been advised that SHAEF sent a follow-up to McClelland under date of February 16, 1945, not having had a reply to the message of January 31st.

Major Taylor suggested that the Board cable McClelland advising him of the foregoing.


F. Hodel

See cable # 769 to Bern
2/20/45

000550

000551

General O'Dwyer,

Miss Hodel asked that
I prepare this memo for your
information.

V. Eastin
3/9/45

000552

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

WAR REFUGEE BOARD

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

February 9, 1945



OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM

To: General O'Dwyer

From: Virginia Eastin

Subject: Summary of events leading up to movement of 1672 Hungarian Jews through Switzerland to North Africa

November 1, the War Refugee Board was advised by Mr. McClelland in Bern that Hungary and Germany had agreed to the emigration of about 8,000 Jews from Hungary. Until this time, the Germans had denied departure of an initial group of 2,000 even though holding Palestine certificates. The Board learned from its representative in Ankara that through the Jewish Agency representative in Budapest exit permits for the 2,000 Palestine certificate holders would be secured. This information was cabled McClelland asking for verification and if correct to inform the Swiss Government that the United States would do everything possible to secure the progress of this group to Palestine.

November 10, McClelland advised the Board that the Swiss government had no news from their Legation in Budapest regarding the departure of the 8,000 but it did appear that the balance of the Hungarian Jewish group from Bergen-Belsen would soon be sent to Switzerland. This group consisted of approximately 1300 persons.

November 15, the Board cabled Caserta of the possibility of the movement of this group of refugees and asked that Governor Cochrane of UNRRA and G-5 Section, AFHQ be advised for their preliminary, informal consideration since it might later prove necessary to use the Philippeville camp in Algeria for these refugees until their entrance into Palestine or other Allied countries could be arranged.

November 16, Mr. Pehle wrote Mr. McCloy of the War Department with reference to the above information and asked that appropriate military authorities be advised.

November 25, Mr. McCloy replied stating that the Theater was being advised that UNRRA had agreed in principle to the reception

000553

and care of this group at an appropriate UNRRA camp and that arrangements should be made by the military to provide transit to the group through France and across water to bring them to their destination.

December 5, General Hildring wrote Mr. Pehle that UNRRA representatives and AFHQ in Italy had agreed to hold the Philippeville camp in Algeria in reserve for this group.

December 7, Mr. McClelland advised the Board that 1355 Hungarian Jews from Camp Ouxergensbelsen arrived in Switzerland on December 6 and 7 - crossing frontier at St. Margarethen - and that they were housed temporarily at St. Gall. (Board cabled McClelland asking if this part of 2,000 group referred to early - no confirmation.)

December 28, Mr. McClelland called that delegate of the Chief of Federal Police had visited place where these refugees are housed. It was learned that all these refugees intend to go to Palestine. Most of them had been assured of admittance though none actually possessed Palestine certificates or equivalent documents. However, they all possessed documents stating that a Palestine certificate in their name is available at Istanbul.

January 3, the Board cabled Mann in London that in view of the report of the Swiss Federal Police efforts should be made to have this group admitted to Palestine rather than to Philippeville and asked that this matter be taken up with the British immediately.

January 3, Mr. Pehle again wrote Mr. McCloy indicating that the Swiss authorities were pressing for immediate evacuation of this group and that the Philippeville camp might have to be used while endeavoring to obtain the accuracy of a report that they had been promised admission to Palestine.

January 12, McClelland reported the Swiss had expressed hope that pending reply from London regarding permission of this group to enter Palestine that arrangements might be started for transit to France - this trip being necessary regardless of their ultimate destination, Palestine or North Africa. Also informed the Board there was an omission by the Swiss officials with regard to the number comprising the group. They now desire to include the first Hungarian Bergen-Belsen convoy which consisted of approximately 320 persons - making the total 1672 rather than 1352 as first reported. If necessary the Swiss offered to furnish trains for transportation to the Frency port of embarkation.

January 16, Mr. Pehle wrote Mr. McCloy, including the above information and stated that, in view of necessity to evacuate this group from Switzerland as soon as possible, a decision had been reached to move the entire group to Philippeville pending final decision regarding their destination. Mr. Pehle asked that SCHAFF be advised and asked to make necessary arrangements for transportation. Gov. Lehman was also advised of this decision and asked that arrangements be made to receive the group at Philippeville.

000554

February 9, the Board was advised by State that arrangements for the movement had been made - only detail to be decided was whether the entire group should be moved at one time. Both UNRRA and the War Department are in agreement that the group will be moved to Philippeville and transportation will be available for them 10 to 15 days after arrival at Marseilles. JDC will be consulted concerning cost of maintenance while in Marseilles.

000555

CABLES

A.

000556