Programs with Respect to Military
Rescue of Refugees: Evacuation to or Through
Switzerland

Movement of Refugees From
Switzerland, Vol. 2

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and kept intact.
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War Dept. Cable V00494 (FWD 230556)
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War Dept. Cable V003497 (FWD 230556)
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CORRESPONDENCE WITH UNRRA

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MOVEMENT OF REFUGEES FROM SWITZERLAND
(CONTINUED)

GENERAL

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

May 14, 1939
JEWSIH REFUGEES AIDED

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 W.H. Refugee Board.
American Consulate General,
Zurich, Switzerland,
March 16, 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. 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 International Committee for Refugees in London, headed by Sir Herbert Abraham.

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
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 Hanover. They were mostly Hungarian Jews and all were agreed that the Hungarian Jews, after Hitler took over, were more ruthless and brutal than even the Gestapo.

Some 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 impassionate 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. Hunz, 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 all internment refugees 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 us 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 Breina, 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 43,600. 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 unfortunate.

Respectfully yours,

[a] Walter W. Ostrow
U.S. Treasury Representative

The Honorable
Harry D. White
Assistant Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington, D.C.
EVACUATION OF 1672 and 760 to PHILIPPEVILLE
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,

[Signature]

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

Mr. W. A. Leavitt, Secretary,
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,
This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government Agency.

Secretary of State
Washington

1627, June 15, 5 p.m.

FOR ROSES LEAVITT LJJC FROM REUBEN RÉSINK

30

Latest arrangements for ex-BergenBelsen exterminationststadt refugees new 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

WD
SECRETARY OF STATE,

Washington, D.C., May 24, noon

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING

TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF

CENTRAL SERVICES

TELEGRAPH SECTION

125-574

Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement.

DC/L

SECRETARY OF STATE

Washington

2876, May 24, noon

FOR OFFICER OF LEGS FROM NCOLELAND

Legation's 2556, May 1.

Date of movement from Switzerland of first convoy
approximately 1,000 refugees going to UNRRA camps in
southern Italy has now definitively been set by SHAPE
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
reason for this message must
remain classified.

DECLASSIFIED

State Dep't Decs. 1-31-72

File: N. H. Files Inc.

SEP 17 1972
SECRETARY OF STATE,
Washington.

2558, May 1, 9 a.m.

FOR OFFICE OF WAR FROM HOLLAND.

Legations 2558, April 20.

SHAEF D-4 and D-5 reported on April 25 that

estimation of refugees to be evacuated from Switzerland

and been changed from Philippeville to southern Italy,

cessation 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 on for movement are practically
completed so that first convoy of about 1100 can depart
as soon as word is received from SHAPE. Herbert is in
regular contact with them via Army phone from Amsterdam.

HARRISON

000427
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM
DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES

T S 186

Date: 20 April 1945

From: M. B. McCLELLAND

To: Secretary of State,

Washington,

RE: April 20, 5 p.m.

Subject: Departure of special groups of Jewish refugees from Munich, Zurich, and the Stutthof camp in Switzerland, and possible reception camps in North Africa and perhaps Italy.

Starting authorities are making all preliminary preparations including formation of convoys, supplying medical and dental personnel, etc., and move is being made to secure 100,000 Swiss francs, 50-50 and U.N.R.R. with whom this matter has been thoroughly discussed in Paris at end of May.

First group of approximately 1,100 persons is scheduled to leave Geneva on or about May 5 for Marseilles. Second group of similar size should depart mid-May. It may be necessary to send a third, smaller group later. Refugees of all nationalities represented within these special
1945, April 20, 3 p.m., from Bern.

These special groups are being evacuated with exception of Dutch nationals. They are mainly Hungarians, Romanians, Czechs, Yugoslavs, Poles and former Germans from the Besianstadt.

Will keep you informed of progress this movement.

HARRISON

ERI
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

SECRETARY OF STATE,

Washington,

2200, April 20, 5 p.m.

Your reference:

Department's 1906, LN/5 478, March 24.

Plans are shaping up satisfactorily now for evacuation special groups of Jewish refugees from

Stettin, Berlin, and the Rhineland from Switzerland

to Vichy reception camps in North Africa and perhaps

Italy.

Rhine authorities are making all preliminary

preparations, including formation of convoys, supplying

railroad cars, medical personnel, etc., and move is being

cordoned with 3327 O-1, O-5 and URRR with whom this

operation was thoroughly discussed in Paris at end of

March.

First group of approximately 1100 persons is

scheduled leave Geneva or about May 2 for Marseille.

Second group of similar size should depart mid-July.

It may be necessary send a third, smaller group

later. Refugees of all nationalities represented within

these special
MAY 29, 1940, April 20, 3 p.m., from Bern.

These special groups are being evacuated with exception of Dutch nationals. They are mainly Hungarians, Russians, Czechs, Yugoslavs, Poles and former Germans from the Reichsstadt.

I will keep you informed of progress of this movement.

HARRISON
AMBASSADOR
LONDON

2452

The following for conn in WBB 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 WBB we urge that UNRRA Vercelli should
offer 3365F against specific request supplementary medical
and welfare personnel for core refugees en route. If UNRRA
personnel not obtainable theater, we will request help
itself 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.

3365F representative point nearest departure responsible
notify you of movement and ascertain all individuals properly
being to group cleared. Washington will appoint displaced
persons representative at Warn for this purpose earliest.

You not obliged nor authorized accept any groups of refugees
not cleared. UNQUOTE

Since
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.

WILLIAM B. DRUGAN
(Acting)
3/29/46
CABLE TO AMBASSADOR HERMAN, LONDON, FOR MANN, FROM WAR REFUGE BOARD

Reference your 2874 of March 20, 1945.

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

"QUO". Movement responsibility of military. After conversations with RRO we urge that UNRRA Versailles should offer SHAP against specific request supplementary medical and welfare personnel for care of 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.

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

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 OUR LONDON CABLE NO. 62

10:30 a.m.
March 29, 1945

Miss Chanuncay (for the Sec'y), Cohn, Dubois, Gaston, Hodel, Hutchison, McCormack, O'Day, Files.
The following for Resolution and McCollough is U90 476.

Draft has been revised andshore this is of the opinion
that will 18 further be possible date for movement of
the groups of refugees from Switzerland to WABIA camps.

ORRIN
(Acting)
CABLE TO HAN, ICHON AND KOGELLUND, BERL, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Board has been advised that SHAEP is of the opinion that April 16 is earliest possible date for movement of two groups of refugees from Switzerland to UNRRA camps.

THIS IS WAR CABLE NO. 476

9:30 a.m.
March 24, 1945

Miss Clemencey (for the Sec'y), Cohn, DuBois, Gaston, Hodel, Hutchison, LeCornack, O'Dwyer, Piles.
Department of State

Incoming Telegram

JMD-1315

Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement.

Secretary of State

Washington, 2072, March 20, 7 p.m.

FOR INFORMATION FROM MHNN

London office UNRRA has approached me concerning refugees recently arrived in Switzerland from the Resienstadt and Bergen-Belsen which are to be evacuated to Philippeville and southern Italy. UNRRA points out that it has been unable to determine 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 Marseille 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 from Switzerland to Marseille and points out that if possible such doctors, or others, should accompany them.
-2-m-2572, 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 Bern for McClelland and for such information as he can give on points raised.

UNHCR

MFP
the following for Harrison and McCullough is 1903/46:

With respect to the pending evacuation of the 1672
refugees from Bergenbelsen and 780 of the 1200 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 possible, that their nationality be 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 so far in advance of actual evacuation
as possible.
1. In view of recent developments outlined in paragraphs three below, however, indicates further an improvement exchange of information if Kenya can function effectively, strongly recommends, therefore, action outlined in paragraph four below.

2. Less than a more noticed given at recent arrival of 150 men from israeli village of Washington's LOG to Rome and asked for additional working possible additional refugees.

3. have asked for a.c. communicate to c.g. and u.s.t.f.s. substance of following in order that proper division can follow through with c.g. You requested 1200. You are now requested to get full understanding of this with u.s.t.f.s. and war refugee group.

(a) Coordination at refugee into area from native not desirable, as a transfer, noting, but if it is needed the western bavarian kerry, being in cooperation AMF, and with this notice is ready to receive u. by calling inclusion in (b) below.

(b) AMF and kerry should be signalled as far in advance as possible in order to give priority to possible evacuation, other situations, etc., 42 types of lines, finally a cooperation, and respective notification and debarkation points, date of arrival in order to allow kerry to signal preferred destination in light of ability to receive and act in accordance with its limited resources.

(c) sites include current ceiling capacity: 7000 southern Italy, 5000 hilly, valley, etc. Of likely candidates, subject to approval of AMF, kerry in liaison AMF, possibility places, calling with competent military supply routes accommodation stores, additional, e.g. Hill will notify you of results.

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

4. It is recommended that U.S.A. Washington 1.1. responsibility for clearance p. a. up to point nearest departure. For instance, U.S.A. used at ban at u.s.t.f.s. for movement originating u.s.t.f.s. theater.
6. Regarding paragraph four (a) recommend effort keep refugees
suitable clothing supplies and expenses if necessary pursue Gover-
ment of Switzerland.

7. A bag, necessaries, mattress, question, formerly agree with
for foregoing, UNRRA.

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 has, therefore, requested the Board
to take advantage to these sufficiently in advance of actual evacuation
information with respect to departure date together with data on the componen-
tion of the groups to be evacuated with respect to nationality (declared or
otherwise), and its number, what their nationality was before; age, sex,
physical condition, 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 WPB CABLE No. 447

9:36 a.m.

J. A. YS

[Signature]

P. McCormack 3/10/45

000446
March 3, 1945

General William O'Dwyer
Executive Director
War Refugees Board
Room 2126, 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
INCORRProduct INFORMATION

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

From: Caserta (Repeated to London 26)
Number: 66
Date: 22 February 1945

1. We informed Phillippeville of Massin ton'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 Kemmy 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 Phillippeville. 22 stretcher cases, remainder in bad condition. SHAF handled across France and embarked them at Marseilles.

4. Have asked APFK communicate CSS and SHAF substance of following for information. In order that proper liaison can follow through with SHAF, this repeated BEO. Washington requested to get full understanding of this with CSS and air Refugee Board.

(a) Sending of refugees into this area from north not desirable, as a general rule, but if other opportunities nonexistant Kemmy, Rome in cooperation APFK and with air notice is ready to receive up ceilling indicated in (C) below.

(b) APFK and Kemmy should be signalled as far as possible number, physical condition, sex, type of illness, family composition. Also prospective embarkation and debarkation points, date of arrival in order to allow Kemmy 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 Phillippeville. Use of Italy camps subject to approval of APFK. Kemmy will discuss APFK possibility raising ceilings with commitment military supply rations, accommodation stores, additional people. We will notify you of results.

All should be requested not to initiate movement to UNRRA installations without first clearing eligibility refugees UNRRA care.
5. It is recommended that UHRA, Washington fix responsibility for clearance paragraph four (d) at point nearest departure. For instance, UHRA personnel at SHAF for movements originating SHAF theater.

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

7. Kenny, Hendrickson, Matthews, Hustian, Kethisky agree with the foregoing.

DISTRIBUTION
Lehman
Fellers
Jackson
Mansikova
Hendrickson
Corson
Kemblar

*To note the information or take necessary steps with respect thereto.
Responsibility for initiating appropriate reply.
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,

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

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

Note: RH Hutchison: 3/17/45
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DSE-962
This telegram must be
communicated before being
forwarded to anyone
other than a Government
Agency.

Dated March 13, 1945
Rec'd 4:03 p.m.

Rome

Secretary of State

Washington

623, March 15, 4 p.m.

10 LEX/31 NO. 1101 SCHRAG 9

We are informed that approximately 1,072 internees
from Bergen-Belsen now Switzerland will be moved to
Philippoville but their movement will take place before
mid-April. Of the 1200 from Theresienstadt approxi-
mately 700 will probably be moved to Ferramonti which
is a new 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 action. Have asked Linder to
approach Czechoslovak Government London to give similar
guarantees for their nationals numbering over 50 in
Theresienstadt group.

KIRK

JJS
3/9/45

Miss Florence Model, Assistant Exec Dir., War Refugees Board, Rm. 241Q
Main Treasury Bldg.

FX 39014 - 2 copies paraphrase
The following message was received 8 March 1945.

FROM: MIOSU

TO: SHARP Main

Repeated: AIRFR for CGAC

SUBJECT: Transportation of Jews to Philippeville from Switzerland

REF: WSL 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 1,072 Jews of Hungarian origin as well as approximately 760 additional Jews, part of a group of 1,800 from Holland. The balance of the Dutch group, or approximately 640 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 5 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 WSL 510, which it is asked that you review.
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 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.
March 10, 1945

Miss [Redacted]

Mr. McCormack

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

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.
The following message was received 8 March 1945.

PARAGRAPHER

FZ 3060, 7 March 1945

From: FG680

To: SHAPE Main

Repeated: ARAAB for COAG

Subject: Transportation of Jews to Philippeville from Switzerland

Ref: WEL 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 1,200 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 3 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 WEL 510, which it is asked that you review.
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, CINCE-5 AFHQ FROM HOOPELLAND 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 Switzerland from Theresienstadt, as soon as possible.

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

Whereas Swiss authorities would prefer evacuate these 2222 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, 1-11-73
By R. H. Parks Declassified SEP 19 1972
Africa to Allied authorities.

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

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

Report to ERS in Washington.

KIRK

520
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 his 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.
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

BE1-1072
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. ( □□□□□□□□□□□□)

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.
58, March 3, 2 p.m.

Kindly deliver following message to Brigadier
General Charles Spofford, Assistant Chief of Staff,
G-5 GHQ, from Head of Land of War Refugee Board: "Swiss
Government would like to evacuate 1072 Hungarian Jewish
refugees plus approximately 750 other Jews out of group
of 1200 who recently reached Switzerland from the
Reichseatl as soon as possible. Remainder of 1200, that
is some 400 Jews of Dutch nationality, will stay tempo-
arily in Switzerland pending a decision of Dutch Gov-
ernment regarding their ultimate destination.

Swiss authorities would prefer evacuate
these 20 4 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, 11-1, 72
By R. H. Parks
Kindly advise,
-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.

Report to WRA in Washington.

HARRISON

JKS
I had an informal conversation with Mr. George Woodward of UHRA regarding his request for additional information on the two refugee groups of 1938 and 1939 that the UHRA 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 date to UHRA.
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.
note on composition and condition of 1672 refugees from 83

"Exchanged from 83 were in state of acute undernutrition. Three having died during their stay here. I have every reason to believe this situation is far from unusual to 89 but common to all Jewish concentration camps. In deported work camps..." (744 from Bern)

"All ages and social classes are represented although percentage of intellectuals and professionals are relatively high. The majority are Hungarian including persons from Transylvania who had been summoned personally by a report of Vienna arbitration that such were also a few days ago here..."

"All those refugees intend to go to Palestine some of them acting fast of being permitted to leave Hungary while some have been afraid that they would be admitted although none of them actually possess Palestinian certificates or equivalent documents. In other words they all hold documents issued by Hungarian Red Cross or an international relief organization stating that a refugee certificate in their name is available at Tel Aviv." (750 from Bern)

"In August 2, have arrived in Bern 22 or 50 Hungarian Jews transferred to each of Breslau with the rest to be unconditionally released by the Gestapo. These people appear to be principally from Breslau and smaller and are almost all of both sexes ranging from two to eighty-two in age. Among the 250 who have reached Switzerland are certain rubies and other members of the original convoy of 1000 which actually turned out to be composed of 1090 persons." (7517 from Bern)
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.
LCG and JAC representatives are not completely informed. Chief of General Police, Switzerland, requested representative UNHCR to remove group of 200 refugees on December 22 and receive request January 12. Swiss Federal Railways prepared to furnish transportation to France, part of evacuation. British Foreign Office unable to date to determine availability of any of group to leave.

It is concluded absolutely necessary to remove group of 10% and 1% refugees immediately because of pressure from Swiss who in groups are asked by British and U. S. Governments to receive additional refugees. 30% of group of 10% arrived in Switzerland October 21, balance on December 8. Group has normal age and sex distribution and is in good physical condition. Group M 1:10 consists of 3% children, balance elderly men and women in good physical condition. Composition of 107 recently removed could only be examined at last moment at port of embarkation and work in U. S. Physical condition of arrival in exchange from convoy a few days earlier. You will be advised of schedule as soon as received.
Reference your ________ of _________, I appreciate your points but must emphasize that speedy evacuation of both groups of 1970 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 120 or 100 agents also informed you otherwise must be misinformed. Furthermore, it is in 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 subversive basis 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, Warlegion reports that physical condition of latest transport of 1210 refugees is fairly good, and previous group of 1970 has been in Switzerland long enough to have recuperated.
UNITED NATIONS
RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION
1344 CONNECTICUT AVENUE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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,

[Signature]

[Signature]
Deputy Director
Division on Displaced Persons

Enclosures:
We have requested and G-5 AFHQ concurs that all the 2001 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 until as possible, hoping to eventually close it unless end of war conditions require its use. We have 2 convey 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.
NUMBER: 293
TO: Rome
DATED 28 April 1945

Agree your 273 use Italian camps preferable Philippeville.
Will notify at once any data received here.
McCandless gave me these cables over the phone.
Cable from Rome to London dated April 23. (UNRRA)

We have requested, and G-5, AFRQ 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 Arzaccia 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.
UNITED NATIONS
RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION
1344 CONNECTICUT AVENUE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

20 March 1945

Mr. Deputy Director
Temporary Building
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Paul J. Brodrick

Dear Mr. Brodrick:

I am encasing a copy of a recent cable to Szosa which deals with movements of refugee groups.

I believe that you have already learned from this office the contents of cable 677 from Desarco.
Paragraph 6 (a) recommends that UNRRA, Washington, fix responsibility for clearance paragraph four (d) at joint harvest departure. For instance, United personnel at UNRRA for movements originating SMCP western.

Sincerely yours,

Theresa M. Cooley
Deputy Director
Division on Displaced Persons
COPY
23 March 1946

UNRRA

To: Rome

Subject: 127

Date: 23 March 1946

1. Responsibility clearing eligibility group of refugees UNRRA case, to Caserta. Paragraph five, in 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 still appoints Displaced Persons representative at Rome for this purpose earlier. You not obligated nor authorized accept any group of refugees not cleared.

2. For Refugee Board, Inter governmental Committee, Army authorities notified above statement.

3. Please report to Caserta.
March 3, 1945

General William O'Dwyer  
Executive Director  
War Refugee Board  
Room 2226, 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 Rome 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  
Director-General
INCOMING TELEGRAM

Received in UNRRA
11:13 p.m., 27 February 1945

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. SHAPE
handled across France and embarked them at Marseilles.

4. Have asked AFHQ communicate CCS and SHAPE substance of following for
information. In order that proper liaison can follow through with SHAPE,
this reported ERU. Washington requested to get full understanding of this
with CGAC and her Refugee Board.

(a) Sending of refugees into this area from not desirable, as a general
rule, but if other opportunities nonexistent Keeny, 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 disembarkation 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. He will notify you of results.

All military should be requested not to initiate movement to UNRRA installations
without first clearing eligibility refugees UNRRA care.
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, Rathigan, Xanthaky agree with the foregoing.

DISTRIBUTION
Lehman
Faller
Jackson
Menakhov
Hendrickson
Corson
Boehler

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

**Responsibility for initiating appropriate reply.
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
1,672 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 Philippe-
ville. War Department has advised SHAPE and SAC 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 SHAPE 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."
We shall be glad to inform you of whatever further action there may be in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Herbert H. Lehman
Director General
Dear Governor Lehmann:

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 AFRQ 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 Rosewell B. McDonald, 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 connec-
tion see Legation’s cable No. 5517 of August 33. 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 McClean's cable will be admitted to Palestine, UNRRA 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. Pebble

J. W. Pebble
Executive Director

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

Reference is made to my letter to you of November 16, 1944, describing a possible movement of 10,000 refugees through Switzerland. Reference is also made to NAT 43$ of December 1944, indicating that AAA 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 Refugees Board has been advised by its representative in Bern that approximately 1,000 Jewish refugees from Bergen-Belsen, the majority of whom are Hungarians, 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 NAT 43$.

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.
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,

[Signature]
Roy F. Handrich
Acting Director General
Dear Governor Lehman:

The following is the substance of a message received from McDouall, the Refugees 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 5,000 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 matters 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
On the other hand, only 8,000 people have departed—2,000 French civilians and 6,000 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 affected, it may be desirable to use Phillipsville as a temporary haven. I deem it wise, therefore, to give you advance notice of this possible need. Any
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 Cochran and AFRQ.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

J. W. Peble
Executive Director

Honorable Herbert H. Lehman,
Director General,
United Nations Relief & Rehabilitation
Administration,
Washington, D.C.
CORRESPONDENCE WITH WAR DEPT.
The following message was received on June 1, 1945:

From: FDR

Subject: New arrivals to Württemberg

This is in addition to information given in 71937, 30613 dated June 7 on the subject. It was advised that four groups of Jews who were given permission to enter Württemberg before being moved to other destinations in accordance with plans of the State Department:

1. 750 cleared for admission into Palestine. The origin of this group varies.

2. 350 from Czechoslovakia. Approvals are now being carried out between Government of Württemberg 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. Approvals are now being carried out between Government of Württemberg and Netherlands Government regarding this group.

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

6/9/45: Nevers, Glasser-Gold, Nebelung, Sapiro (1), Hoffman (2), McCard, O'Brien, and Hobbl, Miss Bodel.

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of JCS

Regrading Memo. 28-71

By: P45

Date: Dec. 6, 1972
The following message was received 4 June 1963:

TL 620 (CV 24039), 2 June 1963

From: SHAH Postcard

To: CAP

Subject: Transportation of Jews to Palestine

Ref: VM 455

1. Permission was received in some 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 in 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: Herrara, Khaleer, Einb, Froom (3), Schmidt (3), Benner, Nolan, Pollack, Rice (6), S. Beckard.

DECLASSIFIED
By Authority of JCS

Regarding Memo 28-71
By RAE, Post. DEC. 6, 1972
WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
INCOMING CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

TO: HC

FROM: Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Forces

SUBJECT: Projected Movement of Belgian Refugees to Phillipville

Answer requested to your 8 T7203 31 Jan 45

The movement of Belgian refugees to Phillipville is subject to the
JCS letter 7-5-45. AUR.

ACTION: CCAC

INFO: C/S ASP OPD OIC Hq. STIC

CH-III-355 (16 Feb 45) D10 161600A

DECLASSIFIED by Authority of JCS

letter 7-5-45

SLR

MAR 6, 1973

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN

COPY NO. 793194
WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
INCOMING CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

TOP SECRET

From: Allied Force Headquarters, Caserta, Italy
To: Department

FX 16710 1705 27 January 1945

Fl 16719 AGWAR for CCB for CCB AGWAR for
Air Instr. Orders NS Staff, SS CORZON Raimondo STOUSA, SHAPE, Main
and SHAPE Rear for CCB and CCB/L signed Alexander other
397739 Rear MX 26728, January 26th this is MAT 510

Transportation of crew 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.
   USA will concur.
   C. Not our answer.

   D. Communications channels McClellan to US Minister
   B GEN 0-1 G-1 to G-2 and USRE M-1 and reverse.

   2. For SHAPE Main. This answers your 3-76728
   January 26th. Request you repeat all signals to McClellan
   to this headquarters we reciprocating.

   End.

ACTION: CCB
INFO: CCB; ASF; OPD; 0-2; Adm King; Dr. McCoy

DD-27196 (28 Jan 45) DFG 272106A

DECLASSIFIED
S.G.S. Roderick Winch 57-71
by SLR 16 March 1973

COPY NO. 510

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN
WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
INCOMING CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

TO:

From: Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Forces

To: War Department

No:

Date: 26 January 1945

Subject: The reference is WX 26/26 dated 25 January 1945. AFHQ for Alexander for PHQ/23 repeat for information to ADMAR for Combined Chiefs of Staff; UK Base Section; SHAEF H/Q for UK and CCAC/I; AMUSO for British Chiefs of Staff signed Eisenhower the 39th.

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

End

ACTION: CCAC
INFO: CC/3 Adm King
       ARB Mr. McCloy
       OPD G-2

ON-III-26646 (27 Jan 45) DIG: 261845 PA

DECLASSIFIED
By Authority of JCS

letter 7-5-72

By SL2 Date MAR 6 1973

COPY NO 767718

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN
The following message was received 1 February 1945

(8 77530), 31 January 1945

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

Please have Mr. 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
WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
OUTGOING CLASSIFIED MESSAGE
CCAC DISTRIBUTION

Combined Chiefs of Staff
Combined Civil Affairs
Committee 4567

25 January 1945

Subject: Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces

CEDES, Montbéliard, France

Communications, Headquarters, United Kingdom Forces

Communication, Headquarters, United Kingdom Forces

Commanding General, United Kingdom Base Section, London, England

Headquarters, Communications Zone

European Theater of Operations, Paris, France

Brigade Joint Army Mission, Washington, D.C.

Reader Unit 26780

COPY 266 to SICAP Main for SICAP and TAN 359 to Alexander for

FROM 26 SITE CCAC reported information CCAC/2

Communication Zone STCUSA and UK Base Section prior to

SICAP here, and SICAP pass to CCAC, has been reported to

all addressees. Ref for TAN 355, 26780.

Transportation of Jews from Switzerland.

1. War Refugee Board now advises urgency of arranging

transportation for 1,672 refugees from Switzerland.

There are understood to consist entirely of Hungarian

Jews from Bergen-Belsen, the majority of whom will

probably apply eventually for admission to Palestine.

The Refugee Board suggests that they be moved to

Philadelphia, Algeria, refugee camp under UNRRA

operation, but would doubtless consider continental

location upon recommendation of SICAP or SICPS.

Of first importance is their evacuation from

Switzerland. Swiss Federal railways are prepared to

furnish train for transportation to French Port

of embarkation if necessary. War Refugee Board

CE-OUR-26786 (Jan 35)

DECLASSIFIED
J.G.R. Regrading Memo 88-71

By SLR Date MAR 6 1973

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN
WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
OUTGOING CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

HEAD OFFICE 26726 28 January 1945 Page 2

representative at Bern in Youell B. McClelland and
we may establish communication with you through
diplomatic channels or details of arrangements.

Communication should be affected between SCAAE, SACRED
and UNRIA and advice will be provided on following points:
(a) Can transportation be arranged and if so approximate
date.
(b) Will Pulaski be the destination?
(c) Will the orbits of the Allied Federal Railways be
accepted and
(d) Have you or McClelland arranged a channel of
communication between yourselves?

End

COORDINATOR: OCCAS
INFORMATION: ABF
CO/S
ORD
O-2
Adm. King
Sr. McCloy

01-01-26726 (Jan 26) 276 2582382

DECLASSIFIED
J.G.B. Reporting Memo 23-7L

By SLR Date MAR 6/19/34 COPY NO.
THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN

0000518
Attention: Colonel Gearhardt

Dear Mr. McCoy:

There is forwarded to you herewith a copy of a cable which has just been received from the War Refugees 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 War's No. 455 of January 22, 1945, a copy of which was sent to Colonel Gearhardt for War Department clearance on January 25, 1945.

Very truly yours,

(Handwritten) William O'Dwyer

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

Honorable John J. McCoy,
Assistant Secretary of War.

Enclosure.

Phild 2/3/45
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. N. Griswell and Brigadier General Charles W. Spofford in the manner suggested by you.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

[Executive Director]

Honorable John J. McCloy,
Assistant Secretary of War.
Mr. J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director  
War Refugees Board  
Executive Office of the President  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I have your letter of 16 January requesting that SHAPE arrange transportation for 1672 refugees from Switzerland to Philippeville, Algeria, and asking the name of the SHAPE 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. Griswold, Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5, SHAPE and Brigadier General Charles M. Sprott, Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5, AFRICOM. 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,

[Signature]

JOHN J. McCLOY  
Assistant Secretary of War
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 APHQ and UNRRA, referred to in NOT 439, 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 Refugees Board from Roszel D. McGladdiland, its representative in Bern:

"Reference is made to Department's cable No. 49 of January 3, WHB 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 organise 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. 727 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 McGladdiland's cable will be admitted to Palestine, it:
been

HEADQUARTERS, 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.

McKidd 1/15/45
by dear Mr. McCloy:

Reference is made to my letter to you of November 16, 1944, describing a possible movement of 6,000 refugees through Switzerland. Reference is also made to WAC 455 of December 4, 1944, and to Major General Billings' letter to me of December 5, 1944, indicating that UNRRA and UNRHA 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 SHAPE 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 1,500 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 WAC 455.

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

Very truly yours,

[Signature]
J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Honorable John J. McCloy,
Assistant Secretary of War.

[Signature]
Assistant Secretary of War
To Mr. Moscow: If from Hill, this for:

An effective TPR at the earliest of opportunity and

I have received communication from the Chief of General

office, which I am sending, instead of facsimile of message, of which

is transmitted in this matter, as of December, 1944, with regard to group of US Jewish refugees originally from Hungary

and later settled in Switzerland from German-occupied.

It is imperative that utmost consideration be given

at once to the practical task of evacuating these refugees from

with territory in view of this communication and with reference

do reorganization of our forces. Accordingly I should appreciate

data as to the plans of the Board in connection to this matter and

naturally stand ready to aid in any way possible on this side.

With regard to the evacuation of evacuating of

this group we might be able to have Board's representative

men in London consult with British officials to determine whether

the group may actually be admitted in Palestine.

HURLING

1/9/44

Miss Shumway (for the City) Ackermann, Albin, Cohn, Drury, Jacobs, Gerson, Hodel, Horne, Huggenoth, Pfeib, Filer.

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Date: 1/1/44

By R.H. Shumway

SEP 19, 1972
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. (italics)

Secretary of State

Washington

November 17

December 7, 1944

Red Cross Office

Legation's 7464, November 10.

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

HOOVER

P.S. Miss Chownsey (for the Society) Abrahamson, Ackerman, Akstin, Bohn, Drury, Dobbs, Friedmann, Gaston, Hodel, Larsen, Hamon, McDermoch, Pohl, Pilew

Dated December 7, 1944

Received 12:15 p.m.
5 December 1944

Mr. John X. Pehle,
Executive Director,
War Refugee Board,
Executive Office of the President, + Pana. 9, 95
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

With further reference to your letter of November 16, 1944, to Mr. Motley, concerning possible movement of 6000 Hungarian Jews through Switzerland, I now enclose a copy of RAY 435, dated 4 December 1944. This indicates that ADR and UNRRA 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 coordination with SHAEF regarding transportation across France and into Algeria.

Sincerely,

J. H. WYLLIE,
Major General,
Director, Civil Affairs Division.
WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
INCOMING CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

From: Allied Force Headquarters, Caserta, Italy
To: War Department

Br: PX 63014 MAT 435  8 Dec 1944

To AGWAR for CSS for CAA repeated for information to Central District UK Base Section London For British Chief's of Staff and HQ CONZONE Main RTVUSA signed Wilson PX 63014 cite PHEDIL this is MAT 435 rear WX 66772 TAN 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)
FROM: Allied Force Headquarters, Caserta, Italy

To: 220111  MAP 355  4 Dec 44

DHARMA will do so.

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

ACTION: CCAC

INFO: CC/8, ASP, OPD, G-2, Admiral King, Mr McCloy

CN-IN-4238 (5 Dec 44)  0052Z w/s
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Serial No.</th>
<th>0 5085</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td>Mr. John W. Pohle, Exec Dir., War Refugees Board, Em. 250, Main Treasury Exec Office of President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>6 Jan 1944</td>
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<td>with:</td>
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<td>enclosure(s)</td>
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<td>endorsement(s)</td>
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</tbody>
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Address: Sheet 2 (addressee's copy) to be retained by addressee.

(W.D., A. G. O. Form No. 24, 14 July 1941; for use 1941.)

CLASSIFIED DOCUMENT RECEIPT
46-045491

0000537
WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

25 November 1944

Mr. John A. Romé,
Executive Director,
For Chief of Staff,
Executive Office of the President,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Romé:

I have your letter of November 15, 1944, quoting a message from Mr. McDowell at Rome concerning possible movement of American troops through Switzerland and requesting that the appropriate military authorities be advised.

The situation 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 hospital camp and that arrangements consistent with military security 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 sent to notify you.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Assistant Secretary of War.
Dear Mr. McCloy:

The following is the substance of a message received from
McClelland, War Refugees 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 excuse 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 Valdésola in Italy and from the combat zones in France) while, on the other hand, only 8,000 people have departed—2000 French civilians and 6000 military escapes. It would be difficult to solve the problem of fuel, blankets, and housing sufficient to properly
take care of 8,000 people in winter; in addition, many of the refugees may be clothed inadequately. Accordingly, the Swiss are anxious that steps be taken as soon as possible for the evacuation of such Hungarian refugees. The practicability of furnishing Swiss trains for the transportation at once to Marssilles 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 UNESCO.

It seems probable that the majority of the 60,000 males 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 McIglland'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 UNRA representatives and G-5 sections might wish to give informal preliminary consideration to this matter.
Any comments that you may wish to make on this matter will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

petworth

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. John J. McCloy,
Assistant Secretary of War,
Washington, D. C.
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

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

The following message from McCullough for UNR in 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 Hungary and Germany regarding to which the emigration of about 4,000 Jews from Hungary would soon be authorized and that by the 15th of November 10,000 would have to be escorted to 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 5240).

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 26th of October and again on the 1st of November, since it is not clear whether all of the 4,000 are holders of Palestine certificates, or whether only a part of them hold such certificates.

November 1 conversations with Chief of Federal Police and with representative for relief and refugee affairs of the Political Department reveal that the Swiss are concerned seriously regarding the practical difficulties which are involved in receiving and housing a group of this size, even temporarily, at such short notice, Switzerland has received more than 35,000 new refugees during the past six weeks, they pointed out, (elderly women and children from Valdossola in Italy and from the combat zones in France) while on the other hand, only 6,000

Miss Charnay (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Ackermann, Akin, Cohn, Drury, Dubois, Friedman, Gaston, Heidel, Lessel, Harris, Hannon, McConnell, Vehle, Files.
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 4,000 people in winter; in addition, many of the refugees may be clothed inadequately. Accordingly, the sides are anxious that steps be taken as soon as possible for the evacuation of each Hungarian refugee. The practicability of furnishing special 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 sides. 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 Swans 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, reported 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 1900.

Now it seems probable that the majority of the 30,000 male Jews reported as being deported as labor (see message from the legation dated October 25, Number 7088) are being sent to eastern Hungary for work along the Austro-Hungarian border, or 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 Szalontay regime as well as the consistent refusal of the Germans to allow the departure of any or the initial group of 5,000 holders of Palestine certificates.

We will keep you informed with reference to this matter.

11-5-44

DEHLING

HARRISON
Note on composition and condition of 1672 refugees from BB

"Exchanges 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 camps." (7/4 from Bern)

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

All four refugees intended to go to Palestine some of young workers others as members, or prominent members of Jewish organizations, while others to join relatives already there. Most of them had been assured that they would be admitted although none of them actually possessed 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." (8/30 from Bern)

"On August 21 there arrived in Switzerland 300 of 500 Hungarian Jews transferred to camp of Bergen-Belsen who were to be unconditionally released by the Gestapo...These people appear to be principally from Budapest and Kolozvar and are mixed group of both ages ranging from two to eighty-two in age. Among the 300 we have reached Switzerland are certain rabbis and other members of the original convoy of 1200 which actually turned out to be composed of 1000 persons." (9/27 from Bern)
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 Amphil, 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 write McClelland advising him of the foregoing.

[Signature]

P. Hodel
General O'Dwyer,

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

Y. Justin
3/9/45.
MEMORANDUM

To: General O'Dwyer
From: Virginia Eastin

Subject: Summary of events leading up to movement of 8,728 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 1,300 persons.

November 15, the Board cabled Consul of the possibility of the movement of this group of refugees and asked that Governor Cochran 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. Fehle 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
December 5, General Hilldring wrote Mr. Fehle that UNRRA representatives and AFRIC 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 Ouegenerbelsen 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 26, Mr. McClelland cabled that delegates 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 there should be an 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 admittance 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 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 transports for transportation to the French port of embarkation.

January 16, Mr. Fehle 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. Fehle asked that SCHAEF 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.
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.