Programs with respect to relief and rescue of refugees: evacuation to Switzerland (Evacuation of Abandoned Children from France)

A. General (Letters and Memo)

B. Cases to and from Switzerland

C. Cases to and from London

D. Cases to and from Australia

E. Private Organizations

- American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee
- American Committee for Relief
- World Jewish Congress
- Jewish Labor Committee
- American Friends Service Committee

F. Cooperation with Latin American Countries

- Brazil
- Chile
- Costa Rica
- Cuba
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- El Salvador
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Mexico
- Nicaragua
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Uruguay

G. Circular Cases

War Refugee Board Records
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTRY</th>
<th>NO. OF CHILDREN</th>
<th>CONDITIONS</th>
<th>REFERENCE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dominican</td>
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<td>Republic</td>
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<tr>
<td>El Salvador</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Provided all cost borne by Refugee Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guatemala</td>
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<td>Prefer French and Belgian nationality.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honduras</td>
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<td>Polish and French nationality.</td>
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<td>Nicaragua</td>
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<td>Paraguay</td>
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<td>Peru</td>
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<td>Portugal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>500</td>
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</table>

Total 5,859 children plus 100 families.

Airgram #6 - 2/24/44
Airgram #320 - 5/15/44
Airgram #6 - 4/13/44
Despatch #1533 - 5/1/44
Despatch #1106 - 5/15/44
Airgram 165 - 4/27/44
Cable #271 - 5/5/44
Despatch #2093 - 5/13/44
Cable #666 - 6/28/44
Despatch #494 - 5/10/44
Cable #2479 - 7/15/44
Swiss To Admit Refugee Children

The Swiss government today opened its borders to the children of war-torn countries and announced that any child under 14 will be admitted without passports or permits, according to a Berne radio broadcast heard here by NBC.

The young refugees, the announcement said, may remain in Switzerland until it is safe for them to return home, and may enter from France, Italy or Germany. They will be cared for by the Help for Children section of the International Red Cross. Additional funds are now being raised by public subscription.

Previously the Swiss provided three-month "vacations" from war to thousands of refugee children, but this practice was suspended suddenly on Aug. 6 of this year without explanation. At the present time, however, the Swiss are caring for many French children evacuated from war zones.

Exempt Distinguished Jews

At the same time the puppet Hungarian government, which was vigorously attacked by the U. S. and Great Britain for adopting Nazi racial policies, today exempted from certain anti-Jewish laws Jews who had "distinguished themselves" in the fields of science, art or economics.

A wireless message to the controlled Hungarian Press from MTI, official Hungarian news agency, and reported here by the FCC, said that all cases of "exemptees" would be submitted to Regent Horthy for decision.

A group of 200 Jewish men, women and children who were the first permitted to leave Hungary when that government relaxed ban against the evacuation of certain categories of Jews has reached Basel, Switzerland, the Swiss Telegraph Agency reported today, for inclusion in a refugee camp in Basel.
SWITZERLAND OPEN TO YOUNG CHILDREN

Welcome is Extended to Those Under 14 Fleeing War in France and Germany

Children under 14 years old in France, Italy and Germany whose lives are "threatened by military developments" are being admitted freely to Switzerland, according to a Swiss radio announcement heard yesterday by National Broadcasting Company monitors.

In a French language broadcast from Switzerland heard by United States Government monitors, it was reported further that 2,000 refugee children from Paris and Lyon and 150 from Marseille had arrived "safe and well" in Haute-Savoie, France.

"The Swiss Government has let down immigration bars for the children of the war," NBC quoted the broadcast, as declaring. "Any child under 14 can cross the Swiss border from France, Italy or Germany at will if his life is threatened. The period of refuge will last until return is safe."

Expenses for care of the children will be borne by the "Help the Children" section of the International Red Cross, supplemented by public subscription, the announcement declared. Previously the Swiss Red Cross has been able to bring about 10,000 children a year into the country for stays of six weeks to three months. These children, who cost 1,000 at a time, were natives of France, the Netherlands, Belgium and Yugoslavia, although passage for many children from the last three countries has been almost impossible to arrange, it was reported.

Chosen either by Swiss doctors or by mothers in their own countries, the children hereafter admitted to Switzerland had been between 8 and 12.
Jewish Orphans in Switzerland Invited to Return to France

Paris, Nov. 28 (ONNA) — The French government has notified Jewish organizations that Jewish children of foreign nationality, who were sent to Switzerland to escape the Nazis, will be readmitted to France regardless of their citizenship. Many of these children have been orphaned and will have no immediate relatives to whom to return.
MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. George L. Warren

From: Mr. J. B. Friedman

Pursuant to our recent conversation, I am submitting to you a concrete suggestion as to how Cuba can most effectively assist in the refugee program.

On May 22nd Secretary Hall informed the American Ambassador in Cuba that "the War Refugee Board has just been informed by the Joint Distribution Committee that it is prepared to guarantee the maintenance of 1,000 children who may be admitted to Cuba." Mr. Braden was also informed that this guarantee would be made effective through a welfare program, under the auspices of the Habana Joint Relief Committee.

Under date of July 17th Braden addressed the Secretary of State as follows:

"Please give me detailed information as to the procedure which would be followed by the War Refugee Board in making funds available for the support of some 1000 refugee children if the Cuban Government should agree to their entry. I need this information in connection with my discussions of the matter with Cabinet officials and the President. Despite continuing efforts I have not yet been able to get a definite acceptance of the proposal."

It seems to me that the essential guarantees are present for the care of 1,000 children and that the most effective step Braden can take is to see the Cuban authorities and inform them of the situation. If they wish to be helpful, they should give a prompt affirmative answer to the proposal.

(Handwritten) J. B. Friedman

Copy to: Ambassador
Reference is made to cable No. 891, dated March 10, 1944, to the American Legation at Bern, which provided for the issuance of 4,000 immigration visas to refugee children who entered Switzerland on or after January 1, 1944.

The Legation stated in its cable No. 3107, dated May 16, 1944, that of a, approximately 2,500 refugee and displaced children, under 16 years of age, who entered Switzerland prior to January 1, 1944, only between 700 and 1,000 could be considered eligible for visas as authorized by the Department's No. 891. The recommendation was made that the restriction regarding the date of entry be removed and that visas be made available to all qualified children under sixteen years of age.

The Board questioned the advisability of such action and informed the representative in the Department's cable No. 2053, dated June 13, 1944, to Bern. The Legation's cable No. 2291, dated July 9, 1944, replied, however, in part, that, "The belief that assurance a group of refugee children would not stay in Switzerland when the war is over would encourage the Swiss to admit additional adult refugees motivated our suggestion, contained in Legation's message of May 16, Number 3107, to the effect that our United States immigration visas be made accessible to all eligible refugee children in Switzerland at this time, rather than limiting visas to those who have entered country since January 1."

In the light of this information, and of the statement contained in the Legation's cable No. 4293, dated July 15, 1944, that the total number of visas issued under the present authorization will probably not exceed five hundred, the Board recommends that the Department authorize the consul officers in Switzerland to issue immigration visas to all eligible refugee children without regard to the date of their entry into that country. It is also recommended that a similar amendment be made to the instructions to consul officers in Spain and Portugal who are presently authorized to issue up to 1,000 visas to qualified children in those countries.

W. Standish 7/19/44
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WARRFR EE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: July 30, 1944

TO:
Mr. London

FROM:
Wm. G. Doolittle

Subject: Need for Urgent Action

From the last paragraph, first page, of the attached 240L of May 10, it will be seen that removing the date limitation will permit the issuance of an estimated maximum of 1,000 visas to "abandoned children." No authority exists prior to January 3, 1944.

[Signature]

Wm. G. Doolittle
It will be appreciated if you will arrange for the immediate inspection of the attached paper, on the occasion mentioned, with the object of obtaining the required information.

Attachment
Replies to Department of State by Attorney General.

The Department of State is requesting that the Attorney General authorize the issuance of special visas to all eligible refugee children without regard to date of entry into the United States. No other change in conditions set forth in Department’s 892, March 16, is contemplated.
CABLE TO AMERICAN LEGATION, BERN, FOR MCCLELLAND

Replying Legation's 4297, July 6, Board is requesting Department of State to authorize consular officers Switzerland to issue immigration visas to all eligible refugee children without regard date of entry into that country. No other change in conditions set forth in Department's 891, March 16, is contemplated.
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

J. Franklin Scott, Jr.

The President has directed that a classification be made of all laborers of the United States residing abroad who are of Chinese origin or descent, and the form of the order and the manner of carrying out the provisions thereof are to be determined by the Secretary of Labor, subject to the approval of the President.
TO: Mr. Warren

FROM: J. W. Fuchs

Your attention is called to the fact that the special authorizations sent to American consular officers in Switzerland, Spain, and Portugal to issue immigration visas to refugee children who have entered those countries from France since January 1, 1944, will expire on June 30. In this connection, reference is made to the Department's telegrams No. 391 of March 15 to Bern, No. 1035 of April 12 to Madrid, and 1017 of April 12 to Lisbon.

The Board recommends that the above-mentioned authorizations be extended to June 30, 1945, and that appropriate consular officers be so informed promptly.

(Signed) J. W. Fuchs

MILITARY 6/21/44
TO:  Mr. Terren

FROM: J. V. Pohle

Your attention is called to the fact that the special authorizations sent to American consular officers in Switzerland, Spain, and Portugal to issue immigration visas to refugee children who have entered those countries from France since January 3, 1944, will expire on June 30. In this connection, reference is made to the Department's telegrams No. 651 of March 18 to Bern, No. 1008 of April 12 to Madrid, and 1017 of April 12 to Lisbon.

The Board recommends that the above-mentioned authorizations be extended to June 30, 1945, and that appropriate consular officers be so informed promptly.

It is further recommended that the instructions be amended so as to cover children who shall be under eighteen years of age at the time of issuance of the visas. The guarantee of the United States Committee for the Care of European Children, Inc., given to, and approved by the Attorney General, provides in part as follows:

"That arrangements have been or will be made satisfactory to the Committee for the support and care of each said child during its stay in the United States until it reaches the age of eighteen, and for such further period as the Attorney General may require."

The Board would appreciate being informed if this proposal is not feasible because of law or regulation to the contrary.

Netunahalem 6-21-44
June 26, 1944

TO: Mr. Warren
FROM: J. K. Wolfe

The attention of the Department of State is invited to the fact that the special authorizations sent to American consular officers in Switzerland, Spain, and Portugal to issue immigration visas to refugee children who have entered those countries from France since January 1, 1944, will expire on June 30. In this connection, reference is made to the Department's telegrams No. 891 of March 18 to Bern, No. 1008 of April 12 to Madrid, and 1017 of April 12 to Lisbon.

The Board wishes to recommend that the above-mentioned authorizations be extended to June 30, 1945, and the appropriate consular officers so informed.
June 9, 1944

TO: Mr. Lesser

FROM: Blyle Wendish

With reference to the question of the Dominicans accepting refugee children, it appears from the Embassy's attached dispatch, No. 1766 of May 9, 1944, that the next move is up to us.

I suggest, therefore, that Wellerock take up with Derren the question of the Department of State authorising American consular officers in Switzerland to issue visas in behalf of the Dominicans and that of informing the Dominicans of our willingness to perform this function for them.

[Handwritten note:]

Windleishlou 6-9-44
TO: Mr. Lesser
FROM: Myles Standish

Following is a brief summary of the general situation regarding the children's project:

HONDURAS

Will take 50 children but has no representation in Switzerland, hence visas cannot be issued. Embassy requests clarification whether children expect to remain in Honduras permanently or to return their countries after the termination of war. I suggest we request Honduran representative in Portugal be instructed to issue the visas to children there.

CUBA

Ambassador has not approached Cuban Government and is awaiting confirmation that JDC will underwrite welfare program through Joint Relief Committee, Habana. We have written to Leavitt requesting statement that JDC will underwrite, reply not yet received.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Dominican Government will accept minimum of 1,000 children up to 16 years of age and a maximum of 2,000. Dominican Government will underwrite all costs. Telegram going to Ciudad Trujillo requesting confirmation that Dominican representatives, Switzerland, were instructed necessary visas.

NICARAGUA

Nicaraguan Consul, Bern, instructed to issue visas for 100 children in same manner American visas are being issued. Telegram being sent expressing appreciation.
URUGUAY

Report received states Uruguayan Under Secretary for
Foreign Affairs reacted favorably Embassy’s approach and
promised expedite consideration of matter.

EL SALVADOR

Embassy reports that Salvadoran Government “views with
sympathy and in principal is in agreement with suggestion” But
“wishes to know whether the cost of the building, the feeding,
and education, etc., of the children would be borne by the WB
and finally all the expenses which the Board would be willing
to meet for more or less 100 children.” Ambassador further
states that Foreign Minister made no mention that the Salvadoran
Government expects us to defray cost of building.

My recommendation is that we let the matter die as far
as El Salvador is concerned.
Secretary Morgenthau        April 11, 1944

J. W. Folke

We first heard of the March 2 cable on Saturday, March 11 or Monday, March 13 when George Warren suggested to lesser that we might reconsider our proposed cable to Bern (sent over to State for transmittal on February 21) in the light of the Intergovernmental Committee's report and recommendations that it embodied. Warren said that it had only reached his desk the day before. We had not seen any such cable and after making a thorough check, Warren was advised that no such cable had been sent over to the Board. Warren thereupon undertook to have a copy sent over to us, but when none was forthcoming, we sent a special messenger to State's code room to get a copy of it. Warren's attention has been forcibly called to this situation.

Lesser's:als 4/11/44
It is intended that children to whom visas were issued in accordance with this instruction, except children who are under 16 years of age, will continue to hold visas until transportation is available to the United States. Furthermore, the Department reserves the right not to grant entry to the United States of children who have not yet reached their sixteenth birthday in the interim period to obtain new visas.
You will be interested in a cable that was dispatched to the Mission in Switzerland authorizing the issuance of four thousand visas for immigration to the United States of refugee children arriving in Switzerland from France during the first six months of 1944.

The purpose of this authorization is to give Switzerland some concrete guarantee that the refugees she receives will not be left on her hands after the war, and thus to encourage her to receive additional refugees. In view of the present absence of any means of transportation between Switzerland and the United States, it is of the utmost significance that the Department of State has agreed (and has so advised the Mission) that these visas are to be renewed and replaced, subject to the quota law, as they expire until at least six months after the termination of hostilities.

The Department of State has agreed, and has issued the necessary instructions, that the issuance of these visas (and their renewal and replacement) is not to be subject to the "advisory opinion" procedure which more often than not results in interminable delay, or the much-criticized security test which frequently results in the denial of visas solely because the would-be immigrant has close relatives in enemy-controlled areas.

Guarantees for the maintenance of the children have been approved by the Attorney General as adequate to authorize the issuance of the visas. The only problem in this connection will be children who reach their sixteenth birthday.
before transportation facilities are available. Guarantees for the support of such children will have to be arranged individually before renewal or replacement visas can be issued.

Arrangements to provide visas for a thousand refugee children received in Spain are now going forward.

(Signed) J.W. Fohle

L.S. 3/30/44
In reply please refer to 323

Dear Mr. Spiegler:

This is to acknowledge receipt of, and thank you for, your letter of March 13, 1944, quoting for our information the text of a cable to HIAS-LICA from its New York office.

Very truly yours,

J. J. Feible
Acting Executive Director

Mr. Louis H. Spiegler,
Counsel,
Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society,
1317 17th Street, N.W.,
Washington, D. C.
March 13, 1944

Mrs. Florence Hodel
Refugee Board
Treasuary Department
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mrs. Hodel:

The following is the text of a cable which the HIAS-ICAN received from its affiliate in Rio de Janeiro:

"LIBERATION COUNCIL AUTHORIZED FOR URGENTLY EXPEDITIOUS ENTRY INTO BRAZIL FIVE JEWISH REFUGEES CHILDREN FROM FRANCE

JEWISH COLONIZATION ASSOCIATION"

I thought this information might be of interest to the Refugee Board.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

LOUIS E. SPIEGLER
Assistant Counsel

NATIONAL OFFICE
425 Lafayette Street
New York, N.Y.
To: Mr. J. W. Pehle
From: Mr. G. L. Warren

DATE: March 23, 1944.

SUBJECT:

Telegram no. 1851, September 18, 1942 to Marseille, France, a copy of which is attached, was repeated to Lisbon as no. A-221, December 26, 1942 with the following additional paragraph:

"Although the developments in France have altered the situation there with respect to the children, the foregoing information regarding the arrangements made for the children and the procedure to be followed, will serve as a guidance in the issuance of visas to the children at Lisbon. Telegraph request for quota numbers and subsequently telegraph brief report of visas issued."
1851, Eighteenth.

The Attorney General has approved arrangements made by the United States Committee for the Care of European Children, Incorporated, to bring to the United States from France one thousand European children.

The children will have assurances of support satisfactory to the Attorney General and as the corporation mentioned is not one operated for profit the Attorney General has held that the children will not be subject to exclusion on account of any payment of their passage by such corporation.

Although none of the children will be sixteen years of age or over, they will not be subject to exclusion as unaccompanied children not coming to join their parents, as the Attorney General has prescribed and approved the conditions of their entry in accordance with the statutory authority vested in him.

The children will be of German, Austrian, Czechoslovakian, Polish, Russian, Belgian and Netherlands nationality, and some of them may be stateless. Those who are not in possession of valid passports and can not reasonably procure valid passports, may travel on affidavits of identity and nationality executed by their parents or by their guardians or custodians, who may also execute their visa applications. As the law requires the presentation of birth certificates only if they are available it
September 18, to Marseille.

It is not believed that those children who are not in possession of birth certificates should be refused visas on that ground. However, some available evidence regarding the date and place of the birth of each child should be required in order that you may have a basis for determining the proper quota nationality.

The Department is prepared to assign block allotments of quota numbers to you so far as the quotas permit, for use in issuing quota immigration visas to the children, upon receipt of requests from you giving the number of the children under each quota nationality whose visa applications shall have been approved.

The advisory opinion procedure is hereby waived in the cases of the one thousand children concerned. As all of those who are of enemy nationality will be under fourteen years of age they will not be classifiable as alien enemies. Paragraph 58.47(i) of the war-time visa regulations therefore will not be applicable to them.

Those children who are under fourteen years of age need not repeat not be registered or fingerprinted when visas are issued. Those who are fourteen years of age or over must be registered and fingerprinted in the usual manner before visas are issued to them.

Representatives of the Committee will furnish you the names of the children to be included in the one thousand concerned.
concerned and must present suitable medical certificates in support of the visa applications. Physical defects will not necessarily preclude the issuance of visas, but no visa should be issued to any child who is mentally defective or has a loathsome or dangerous contagious disease, or is afflicted with idiocy or imbecility.

The children will probably sail on special ships in groups of approximately five hundred each. Notify Department regarding your needs for possible additional temporary clerical personnel.

The requests for quota numbers and reports of visas issued should be submitted by Lyon and Nice through Marseille as central office to insure keeping the requests for numbers within the prescribed total.

Repeat by mail to Lyon and Nice.

HULL
To: Mr. Stettinius  
From: J. W. Pehle  

FEB 26 1944

Attached is the text of a cable which I strongly urge be sent to Minister Harriman at Bern with all possible dispatch.

It has been reliably reported that there are many thousands of Jewish children, stateless and of a variety of nationalities, hiding in France who are subject to deportation to Poland. The parents of these children have already been deported or are being detained pending deportation. This Government has already assured the Swiss Government, through the Intergovernmental Committee, that it is prepared to receive five thousand of these children if the Swiss Government can arrange with Vichy for their release from France. (Airgram 813285 from London, January 14, 1944, and enclosures). It would seem, however, that the Intergovernmental Committee considers the question of asylum in Switzerland for these children as "complementary to the main issue," i.e., an approach by the Swiss to Vichy. It would further appear that no action is contemplated pending a determination by the Swiss whether to make such an approach, and if such an approach should be made, its outcome. Past experience with approaches of this kind would indicate the probability of interminable delays while Vichy consults with Berlin.

In the meantime, a number of these children are arriving in Switzerland by their own efforts and without the aid of Vichy exit-permits. It is our understanding that although the Swiss are not turning back any refugee children that reach their borders, no organized effort to bring these children into Switzerland in large numbers is feasible unless the Swiss have some assurance that the children will be evacuated after the war. The intention of the attached cable is to extend such an assurance, at least with respect to not more than five thousand children entering Switzerland from France between January 1, 1944 and four months after the cable is sent.

As matters now stand, visas may be issued to children arriving in Switzerland from France (No. 107 to London, January 5, 1944) but in view of Switzerland's geographical position, the issuance of such visas would not constitute the assurance that Switzerland requires, unless
there is also some commitment to renew or replace such visas as they expire until at least such time as egress from Switzerland is possible and practicable. Of course, the commitment contained in the attached cable is subject to the applicable immigration laws of the United States and any amendments thereto that the Congress may enact. I have no doubt that the Senate will so understand, and I am nevertheless confident that this will not detract from its adequacy.

The attached cable would make the advisory opinion procedure unnecessary in connection with the issuance of these visas. It is our view that this would go a long way toward expediting their issuance and consequently toward saving the lives of a large number of children.

In view of the imminence of the forthcoming economic negotiations with the view at which the reception of child-refugees by Switzerland will be discussed (No. 37 from London, January 13, 1944), I urge that the annexed cable be transmitted immediately.

(Signed) J.W. Fehle

LWLserials 2/24/44
PROPOSED CABLE TO MINISTERS HARRISON AT BERN

The following special instructions are issued pursuant to Part 58.55(16) of the Regulations of November 19, 1941, as amended, regarding aliens entering, and shall remain in full force and effect unless specifically revoked: You and all other permit-issuing authorities in Switzerland are hereby instructed to issue in the aggregate, without regard to the availability of means of transportation to the United States, up to five thousand immigration visas to refugee children from France who have arrived in Switzerland since January 1, 1944 or who shall arrive in Switzerland within four months after the date of these instructions. Such children may be of any nationality or stateless, but no such child shall have reached his or her seventeenth birthday. You are further instructed at appropriate times to renew each immigration visa issued pursuant to these instructions and to issue new immigration visas to all aliens to whom immigration visas have been issued pursuant to these instructions, it being the intention of these instructions that such visas be issued without regard to the age of the alien at the time of such renewal or the issuance of the new visa.

Please advise the appropriate Swiss authorities of the contents of these instructions and inform them that it is this Government's earnest hope that the Swiss government will promptly take such action, direct and indirect, as will facilitate and expedite the movement of children from France to Switzerland. You may also inform the Swiss government that the War Refugee Board will undertake to arrange for any financing that may be necessary to provide maintenance for refugees from enemy oppression arriving in Switzerland. Please report Swiss reaction and any developments that may be of interest.

L.loserental 2/25/44
TO
Mr. Falle

FROM
L. C. Louner

DATE
February 22, 1944

ATTACHDE摺ät is a redraft of the proposed cables to Bern with
respect to the instance of five thousand immigration visas to Refuge
Children from France.

In connection with the attached proposed cable, our attention
caused by directed to a letter, dated January 13, 1944, from the
Inter-Eovernmental Committee to the Swiss Charge d'Affaires at London,
in enclosure 811213 from London, dated January 14, 1944.
In its letter, the Inter-Governmental Committee stated:

"The Committee has received assurances from the
Government of the United States of America that it would
be prepared to receive 5,000 children, the age limit being
fourteen years for children having the nationality of a
country with which the United States of America is now at
war, and sixteen years for other children. The Committee
further hopes that some other Governments will renew the
offers of asylum which were made in the summer and autumn
of 1943. If, therefore, the French authorities were prepared
to grant the necessary facilities, arrangements could be put
in hand for transporting a considerable number of children
to places of asylum by way of Portugal or otherwise. It is,
however, possible that the French authorities might be more
willing to give the necessary facilities if your Government
were prepared to give asylum to some, or any, of the
children, or if it were difficult at once to find other places
of asylum for children between the ages of fourteen and
sixteen, or again, transport to Switzerland any present less
difficulties. Still, therefore, the efforts of the Inter-
governmental Committee will be directed towards taking full
advantage of places of asylum other than Switzerland. I am
desired to ask - first, whether your Government is willing to
afford asylum to some of these children and, if so, to how
many, and second, what assistance would the Swiss Government
require for this purpose?"
"Since the question of asylum in Switzerland is complementary to the main issue, namely, an approach to the French authorities with the object of getting exit facilities, and the latter is one of great urgency, I shall be grateful if your Government can make the approach as soon as convenient, independently of the complementary question."

It will be noted that while the attached proposal cable in effect urges asylum in Switzerland, the Intergovernmental Committee's approach is primarily to secure the assistance of the Allied Government in getting children into Spain or Portugal, hence they can actually be transported to the United States.

It will also be noted that in the Intergovernmental Committee's letter the age limit of children who are nationals of countries with which the United States is not at war is fourteen, whereas the proposal cable makes no differentiation between nationalities in fixing the age limit at sixteen. I discussed the fourteen year old age limit on children of enemy nationality with Mr. Travers of the State Department. He said that it derived from a cable from his Department to London, but he admitted that, as far as he knew, there was no requirement in any treaty, executive order, or formal regulation for this distinction between children of enemy and non-enemy nationality. He stated, however, that the distinction was made in some agreement between State and Justice relating to this matter which, he said, was not reduced to writing. He also pointed out that a distinction is made in Title 50 U.S. Code, Section 21, which authorizes the President to intern enemy aliens "of the age of fourteen years and upward." Mr. Travers also told me that he believed that the American authorities in Spain had been instructed not to discriminate against children of enemy nationality between the ages of fourteen and sixteen, provided they were fingerprinted and and the other stipule of the Alien Registration Act was complied with, and the port-issuing authority had no reason to believe that such children were dangerous to the national safety.
The following special instructions are issued pursuant to Part 106.35(3) of the Regulations of November 19, 1961, as amended, regarding immigration, and shall remain in full force and effect unless explicitly withdrawn. The U.S. and all other visa-issuing authorities in the United States, are hereby instructed to issue in the aggregate, without regard to the voluntariness of means of transportation to the United States, up to three hundred immigration visas to refugees admitted since January 1 of the alien at the time of alien who has arrived in Switzerland since January 1, 1964 and are to be issued as herein provided, within forty-eight days after the date of these instructions. They shall be issued in the United States without regard to the alien's country of entry or otherwise, and such visas shall be valid for five years from the date of issue. You are further instructed at appropriate times to renew such visas upon request and to issue new visas to all aliens to whom instruction have been issued pursuant to these instructions. It being the intention of these instructions that such instruction to be issued in the United States, shall be valid for five years from the date of issue.

Please advise the appropriate Swiss authorities of the contents of these instructions, and inform them that it is this Government's intent that the Swiss government shall promptly take such action, current and previously issued, including the movement of aliens from France to Switzerland. You may also inform the Swiss government that the U.S. has been asked to arrange for the accommodation of the refugees for any alien arriving in Switzerland. Please forward any additional information that may be of interest.
February 17, 1942.

Be: Children from France to the United States and Other Countries.

Various attempts were made, commencing in 1941 or 1942 to aid a roughly estimated 6,000 to 10,000 refugee children in France. About 3,000 children were with Christian families, and it was hoped that they could be able to escape detection. The rest were said to be in great danger. The general procedure followed with respect to getting them into the United States was for the United States Committee for the Care of European Children, Incorporated, USCCEC, 215 Fourth Avenue, New York, New York, to make commitments to the Department of Justice that the children would be cared for when they arrived in the United States, and for applications for Immigration visas to be filed with the appropriate American Consul in France. In this way, for example, arrangements were made in March and April 1942 whereby 50 refugee children under 16 years of age, or in the case of children of strange nationality, under the age of 12 years, were granted such visas.

In the Fall of 1942, the Attorney General approved arrangements made by the USCCEC to bring to the United States from France, 1000 European children. At this time, it was indicated that the children would be of German, Austrian, Czechoslovakian, Polish, Russian, Belgeian and Latvian nationality. Some of them would be stateless. All those of enemy nationality will be under 16 years of age. Instructions to issue visas were called to the appropriate consuls on 16 September 1942.

Later intelligence reports received indicated that there were at least 5000 children under threat of deportation, with or without their parents. The USCCEC indicated that it would raise $500,000 to cover costs and serve as guarantees for the immigration of these children to the United States, and requested the Department to make the necessary arrangements, including the issuance of a public announcement of its decision to grant asylum to children in unoccupied France. In this connection, it was pointed out that the letter of reply from the Assistant Secretary of State to the Secretary of State, letter of reply from Assistant Secretary of State Long to the Attorney General (not dated); cable no. 219 of 3 March 1942 from Department to American Consul, Marseille, France; memorandum of 3 March 1942, of a conference between Mr. Harrington of the State Department and Mr. Robert Long of the USCCEC; letter of 3 March 1942, from A. M. Warren, Chief, Visa Division to USCCEC 219 4 3 March 1942 from Department to Lisbon.

/1/ Letter of 7 February 1942 from the Attorney General to the Secretary of State; letter of reply from Assistant Secretary of State Long to the Attorney General (not dated); cable no. 219 of 3 March 1942 from Department to American Consul, Marseille, France; memorandum of 3 March 1942, of a conference between Mr. Harrington of the State Department and Mr. Robert Long of the USCCEC; letter of 3 March 1942, from A. M. Warren, Chief, Visa Division to USCCEC; cable no. 118 of 13 April 1942 from Department to Lisbon.

/2/ Contact with the Department of State.
out that Polish children escaping through Soviet Russia could be given sanctuary in Russia; that 5000 Greek refugee children were in the Belgian Congo; and that Canada had offered transportation and asylum to 2500 children from France; and that Canada was considering asylum for several hundred. The letter, signed by James S. McDonald and George L. Warren, concluded as follows:

"The announcement of asylum granted by the United States should add to the list of these humanitarian projects and might render constructive results in the situation in France. It could give notice to the American public that every effort to rescue children was being made within the limits of the immigration law."

The process was taken up by Under Secretary Welles with the President, and the following is Assistant Secretary Breckinridge Long's memorandums of what Mr. Welles informed him had transpired at this conference:

"Mr. Welles advised me today that the President had given his consent to receive up to 5000 children but desired that there be no publicity in connection therewith."  

The following is the text of a telegram sent on 7 October 1942 to Mr. James S. McDonald from Mr. Sumner Welles, Acting Secretary of State:

"The President authorizes me to inform you that he approves the decision to grant visas to 5000 instead of 1000 destitute children now in France. He does not believe it desirable, however, that any public statement be made concerning this decision on the part of this Government. I should appreciate an opportunity of discussing with you and Mr. Warren at your early convenience certain details concerning this question and the question mentioned in your telegram to me of September 30."

The telegraph of 30 September 1942, if genuine, was not included in the files examined.

On 3 October 1942, Assistant Secretary Long wrote to the Attorney General, stating, for assurances that satisfactory arrangements would be made for the admission of the 5000 children for whom the visas were to be issued at their port of entry and for their care and support in the United States. The Attorney General, on 22 October 1942, advised that such assurances had been given. The appropriate Consulates were advised of these arrangements on, or about, 25 October 1942, although all cables of advice and particularly...

7 Letter of 21 September 1942 from USCSEC to Under Secretary Welles.  
8 Memorandum of 5 October 1942, by Assistant Secretary Breckinridge Long.
those to France, were not contained in the files examined. It was indicated
that Pierre Laval had advised the Embassy at Vichy that the children would
be allowed to depart from France, and that a first group of 500 would be
able to leave in the near future. It might be noted, parenthetically,
however, that when the JDC at Lisbon had requested the Spanish Embassy to
assist in obtaining transit visas through Spain for 1000 children then in
France, the latter found it necessary to cable for further (or initial)
instructions.

At this point, however, the whole matter of the refugee children was
invigorously spiced, largely because of the invasion of Vichy by the Nazis.
It was indicated that representatives of the American Child Welfare Committee
had arrived in Lisbon on 21 November 1942 to aid in the removal of refugee
children in France, and were then trying to find some neutral or French
refugee organization to get the children across the Spanish border. The
representatives also wished to enlist the aid of the Swiss Legation at Vichy
to arrange for the release of these children to Spain. The disposition of
this matter is, perhaps, best indicated by the following quotation:

"...They would also like to enlist the aid of the Swiss
Legation at Vichy in arranging for the release of these children
to Spain. They have been advised that if their committee at home
wishes to have the assistance of the Swiss authorities it should
discuss the matter with the Department.

Since some time will probably elapse even in the best of
circumstances before the release of any children from France could
now be arranged, the members of the group are interested in endeavoring
to get certain refugee children out of Spain. They state that they
have telegraphed the Department asking that these children be included
in the blanket visa assurance if the answer is favorable they hope to
send representatives to Spain to discuss the matter further with our
Embassy and the Spanish Government. [So in the original.]"

5/ Cable no. 1397, 21 October 1942, 5 p.m., from Department to American Embassy,
Madrid.
6/ See cable no. 1598, 22 October 1942, 3 p.m., from Madrid to Department.
7/ This assumption is based on the absence of any substantial material between
December 1, 1942 and 3 December 1943 in the files examined. It was confirmed
by a statement of Mrs. Green, of the Visa Division, Department of State.
8/ Cable no. 1674, 25 November 1942, 8 p.m., from Lisbon, to the
Secretary of State.
The members of the newly arrived American group who are
naturally anxious not to remain idle in Lisbon for any length
of time and the Legation is doing all in its power to assist
them in finding some worthwhile work to which they can turn
their energies.

On 1 December 1942, the President’s Advisory Committee on Political
Refugees, 122 East 22nd Street, New York, New York, raised the question with
Mr. Larrer. It was pointed out that the Vichy Government had restricted
the granting of exit visas in the first instance to an original group of 500
children whose parents had already been deported from France. 22 exit visas
had been issued prior to 7 November 1942, but no children had actually left
France prior to the occupation of southern France and the exit visas had
been withdrawn. The State Department was asked to ascertain through the
French if the French would permit any children to leave, and if the situation
was sufficiently hopeful to warrant having escorts at Lisbon. A marginal
note on this letter indicates that one of its writers, Mr. George L. Warren,
called on Mr. Towers of the Visa Division to discuss the matter. That was
told was not indicated, nor is there any evidence that anything further
was done.

On 25 November 1942, Mr. George L. Warren called Mr. Elliot B. Coulter,
of the Visa Division of the State Department, on the phone. He said he had
received a report indicating that 200 refugee children had reached Spain
in France in prisons, the conditions in which were very bad. In many cases
there were parents with them. The following are, perhaps, the more interest-
ing excerpts from a memorandum of this conference, prepared by Coulter and
addressed to Assistant Secretary Long:

"Mr. Warren had told Mr. Warren that the arrangements relating
to children covered only those whose parents had been deported from
France. Mr. Warren said that he had not previously understood that
this restriction existed - that there had never been 2000 cases of
children of deported parents, although in practically all cases the
parents were subject to deportation." [transcription]

Mr. Long penciled the following note in the margin, alongside this paragraph:

"Usually deported or about to be deported - to save the children
as far as possible - but not to break up families unless they were to be
deported. If any children can be got out of France they may be admitted
here." [transcription]
A cable was dispatched to Madrid on 1 December 1942 asking for details of the 200 refugees reported to have reached Spain, and a follow-up was sent on 24 December 1942. No further communications appeared in the file on this subject.

On 12 November 1942, the Attorney General wrote to the Secretary of State referring generally to the problems of refugee children, and the proposal which had been made by the President. Evidently, a request had been referred to the Attorney General that children from the following named countries, in addition to France, be accepted: Spain, Portugal, Switzerland, Spain, and French Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Turkey, Iraq, Palestine, Syria, and Egypt. The Attorney General asked whether a modification of the status would be agreeable. This letter was never answered. A draft letter had been prepared which stated "The Department has no objection to receiving the refugees children from the countries mentioned in those cases where the parents have been or are about to be deported to enemy occupied territories." This was killed by a memorandum from Assistant Secretary Long, the gist of which was that the only countries from which we were interested in evacuating refugees were those from which there was danger of the refugees being deported.

Before embarking upon the second phase of this picture, which occurred after nearly one year's delay, it might be well to note that during 1942 approaches had been made to various governments to give asylum to child refugees. The following had offered haven, variously conditioned: Argentina, up to 1000 visas for children under 18 years of age; Brazil, 1000 visas to be valid until end of 1943; Guatemala, 150 Jewish refugee children from Vichy France between 7 and 11 years of age; Canada, admission of 500 children under 18 years of age, non-immigrant status, for the duration of the war; Chile, admission of a small number, possible to be extended to 1000; Palestine, 1000 certificates for unaccompanied children under 16; South Africa, temporary stay to 200 Youth Aliyah certificate holders, if no transport available to Palestine; United Kingdom, unlimited number having near relatives (meaning mother, father, grandmother, uncle, aunt, brother, or sister) in the United Kingdom; and the United States, 1000-2000 visas for refugees children from Vichy France, up to 16 years of age for all except enemy aliens, where 8.5 limit in 16 years. This was reported as having been extended to those escaping to Spain and Portugal.

On 3 December 1943, the British approached the State Department with respect to 1000 children in France. Mr. Leavitt, of the JDC, evidently desired to remove them to Switzerland, which imposed the condition that they be moved after the war. Mr. Travers, of the Visa Division, in a memorandum to Mr. Long wrote "I mentioned that we could not agree to accept them here after the war as we could not answer for the future especially as there might be a change in the immigration laws." The possibility of having the British

11/See Exhibit "A".
12/See Exhibits "B", "C".
13/See Exhibit "D".
14/See next page.
assign numbers, in the Palestine quota for post war entry was also discussed. On 29 December 1943 the British advised that they could not assign post war quota members for Palestine because they could not tell if it would be a mandate at that time. Furthermore, the British stated that they could not tie up those numbers when login; was no certainty of the children availing themselves of them after the war. 

Meanwhile, the Executive Committee of the IGC met on 1 January 1944, in London. This problem was one of the matters on its agenda. The approaches suggested were: (1) to canvass the possibilities of getting the children into the countries which had at one time agreed to accept them, in connection with which it was noted that Zira may be prepared to approach the German and Swiss Governments with an offer to take 500 children; (2) to get them to other countries of asylum, through Spain and Portugal; (3) to get the children to Switzerland, which would be conditioned on getting the consent of one of the asylum countries to take the children after the war; (4) except in the case of Else, to have the Swiss Government approach the Vichy or German Government or the granting of exit permits.

Meanwhile, the financial guarantees necessary for the entry of the 5000 refugees children into the United States had been given, and State had advised London that this Government was prepared to affix its original offer and extend it to include: (1) the issuance of 5000 immigration visas to German, Austrian, Czechoslovak, Polish, Russian, Belgian, Netherlands or stateless children, who were to come from Occupied France; (2) the age limits were 16 for children of non-enemy origin and 14 for children of enemy origin; (3) the offer covered children coming from anywhere in France, and not merely from Vichy France; (4) age limits were to apply at the time of the issuance of the visas, regardless of whether visas were issued in Switzerland, Spain or Portugal. The cable concluded:

"The question of receiving children from Switzerland after the war would depend on the future status of the various quotas and we do not feel we can make any post war commitments. However, every effort will be made and it is believed that a considerable number of children could be accommodated unless there should be some change in the law."

17 Anonth underlinlent nlonorandum entitled “Refugee Children in France - Memorandum 12/13/11/17th December 1943" in Agenda for meeting of Executive Committee of the Intergovernmental Committee, 1 January 1944.
18 See memorandum of 3 December 1943 from Mr. Travers to Mr. Long.
19 Memorandum of 29 December 1943 from Mr. Travers to Mr. Long.
20 Agenda of meeting of Executive Committee of the IGC, 4 January 1944.
21 Letter of 30 December 1943 from United States Committee for Care of European Children to the Attorney General; memorandum of 30 December 1943 from Mr. Travers to Mr. Long, letter of confirmation from the Attorney General to Secretary of State, 17 January 1944.
22 Cable No. 177 of January 1944 from Department to London. Exhibit #9.

000600
Shortly thereafter the following cable was sent to London:

"Information received from the Joint Distribution Committee indicates that the plight of Jewish children in France is growing worse continually. In Department's telegram December 30 you will note we are willing to do everything possible to accept children in this country and hope IJC will make every effort to arrange satisfactory guarantees to Switzerland which will enable them to accept additional children in Switzerland."

On a January 1944 meeting of the Executive Committee of the IJC was attended by representatives of the United States, the United Kingdom, Argentina, Brazil, Netherlands, and the French Committee for National Liberation. While Dr. Ahlem did not have the cable under reference above, he did make the following statement:

"The United States Government is of the opinion that everything possible should be done to arrange for the transfer of refugees children from France, where their condition is becoming progressively worse. With regard to such children, I am instructed to state that if they can be moved in the near future and if the Joint Distribution Committee or other organizations are willing to finance their journey to the United States, the United States is prepared to accept 5000 children."

No other offers of assistance were forthcoming, although the Argentine ambassador indicated he had asked his Government whether it was prepared to renew its offer of 1750 to receive 1000 children.22assignment had, at that time, been forthcoming.

The British and American Governments had agreed to place the matter of the refugee children in France into the hands of the IJC, and it was authorized to take the following steps: 

1) to move the Swiss Government to approach the Vichy and German authorities for the grant of exit permits; 
2) to negotiate with the Swiss Government for the grant of temporary asylum to some of the children; 
3) to carry on negotiations with the Portuguese Government if, and when, there is a definite prospect of getting the children into Portugal; 
4) to carry on negotiations with the IJC or other organizations in regard to the maintenance and transport of the children; 
5) to make other arrangements for the cost of maintenance and transport, to submit proposals to the Executive Committee. The proposal made to the Committee had contained two other objectives - to continue the discussions with the Governments of the Argentine, the Dominion of Canada, 

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22/ Cable no. 1105, 7 January 1944, 3 p.m. to London from the Department.
23/ Draft Minutes of IJC Executive Committee, 4 January 1944, section 3, p.3.
24/ Ibid.
and the United States of America, and also with the Jewish Agency for
Palestine, with the object of arranging for the asylum of the children.
At the request of the British government this was intended to have the
ECB conduct the discussions with the British government, which will have its
Foreign Office discuss the matter with the Colonial Office and the Jewish
agency. 25

When Ambassador Winant received the cable of 7 January 1944, quoted
above, he transmitted its substance to the Director of the ECB, who on
19 January 1944 asked the Swiss government to approach the French authorities
with a view to obtaining the necessary facilities for the children to leave
France territory. They were limited to children under 16 years of age who
were in danger of deportation or whose parents had been deported or were in
France themselves. The ECB also asked the Swiss if they were prepared to give
asylum to some of these children; if so, how many, and under what conditions.
It was suggested that the approach to the French should be made at once. 26
No answer to this letter has yet appeared in the files examined.

On 26 January 1944, London was advised by the Department that the British
Foreign Office would not find it possible to assign numbers to children in
Palestine to permit them to enter Palestine after the war. The cable contains
the following sentences:

"...the representative of the British embassy stated that no one
knows whether Palestine would continue to be a British mandate or the
attitude which would be taken concerning migration after the war.
...he considered that it was our understanding that the unused numbers
would be made available even after the expiration of the white paper.
The reply was that this was true, but the British do not desire to
use their numbers when the children might not even wish to proceed
to Palestine after the war." 27

The ambassador was requested to attempt to obtain a reconsideration of this
position and have the British authorize numbers to be allocated permitting
children to enter Palestine within the total allowable under the white paper.

It might be noted that the objections referred to above were presented
on 25 December 1943 by Mr. Hayter of the British Embassy to Mr. Travers, of
the Visa Division. At this time Mr. Travers had prepared a cable to Winant.

25/ Exhibit No. 312, 14 January 1944, from London to the Department; Dispatch
No. 1390/ 14 January 1944, from London to the Department - Exhibit "F".
26/ Airgram No. A-87, 19 January 1944, 7:30 p.m. from the Department to London.
eventually sent out on 7 January 1944,28 which contained the following as the last sentence:

"We are sorry to learn the British Government is not authorising children to enter Palestine and hope you may cause them to reconsider."

In the transcript from Stevens describing the conference and attaching a draft of the cable containing this sentence, Assistant Secretary Long pencilled the following note: "Correct elimination from present cable [with lines drawn through]"

"I am in your view as a matter of course giving account of your

28/ The originals and draft cable are contained in Exhibit "G".
EXHIBIT 4

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Assistant Secretary
of State

VIA: DIVISION

Dr. Lang

November 25, 1942

Dr. Lang,

Mr. Harris has telephoned from New York to say that he has received a report indicating that there are 200 refugee children who have reached crisis. They are understood to be in prison, probably in many cases with a parent. The conditions in the prisons are said to be very bad.

Mr. Harris had told Dr. Warren that the arrangement relating to children covered only those whose parents had been deported from France. Dr. Warren said that he had not previously understood that this restriction existed. That there had never been 200 cases of children of deported parents, although in practically all of the cases the parents were subject to deportation.

Drs. Warren stated that with a restriction limiting the cases which can be considered to those of children whose parents have been deported from France, there is nothing to do regarding the children in Britain if no one there can be found possible before December 1st. It will be necessary to have the parents who are at Lisbon to assist the children, return to the United States.

Dr. Warren said that he had applied for a priority for Dr. Schwarz, the representative in Lisbon, as he can explain the situation better if he can come here in person.

I understand from Mr. Hill of III that it is doubtful whether a priority will be available for Dr. Schwarz.

I told Dr. Warren that if he can obtain for us the names of the persons in Spain who are there with their children we will be glad to expedite action in their cases, in the usual manner, though not under the special arrangement for children.
To avoid criticism which might result if the interested organizations shall discontinue their efforts on behalf of the children, and in order to show that the Department wishes to be as helpful as possible, it is suggested that an urgent check made of the cases in which applications have already been received and in other cases upon receipt of information from the Social at Lisbon and that arrangements be made to have the cases considered urgently by the committees and the Board. A substantial number of the cases may be placed and a considerable number of parents and children admitted to come to the United States.

We are awaiting a report from Lisbon regarding the refugees in Spain. It would be advisable to send a further cable to advise the Department to telegraph the names of individuals to the Department.

November 27, 1942

Dr. George Warren telephoned this morning to say that cables just received from Lisbon indicate a hope that something may still be accomplished in France through the assistance of the wild Red Cross. He said that the Wilder representatives in Lisbon are still functioning and have not been interned. They are trying to determine whether the Swiss Government might be disposed to intercept the transport of the children to the Spanish border at the French and Swiss Red Cross organizations.

Dr. Warren said that Mr. Ogden had indicated several days ago that it might be time to inquire whether the Swiss Government was disposed to take the latter up with the Vichy Government and Mr. Warren asked whether the Department had already or would be disposed to approach the Swiss Government on the subject.

/s/ Eliot N. Coulter

Eliot N. Coulter
EXHIBIT 146

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
Washington, D.C.

November 19, 1942

Let to attorney general:
12-7-42
Sun. 62.

The Honorable
[Signature]

The Secretary of State
[Signature]

By dear sir: Secretary:

This will refer to your file WD 611.111 Refugees Children 76
and 95, regarding the question of issuing visas to refugees children
in France. I refer in particular to my letter to you of September 16,
1942 and October 4, 1942, which recite the nationalities of the children
whom the United States Committee for the Care of European Children, Inc.
desires to bring to the United States. In your letter of October 5,
1942 you informed me that the President had approved a proposal that the
number of such children be increased to a total of five thousand.

It was contemplated, I believe, at the outset of these negotiations
that all of the children in question would come from France.

Although the children are to be of the nationalities referred to
in my above-mentioned letters, and are to be limited in number to five
thousand, it is now desired to accept children from the following listed
countries in addition to France:

Spain
Portugal
Switzerland
Spanish Morocco
French Morocco
Algeria
Tunisia
Turkey
Iraq
Palestine
Syria
Egypt

Will you kindly inform me whether this modification of our previous
arrangements and understandings is agreeable to you?

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Francis Biddle
Attorney General
In reply refer to,
To 531.311 refugee Children/112


Sincerely yours,
For the Secretary of State

Breckinridge Long
Assistant Secretary

The Honorable
Francis Biddle,
Attorney General.

5OA E3 35 RL 2A 13
December 22, 1943

To Mr. Travers:

This draft does not seem to comport with our views of political, neutrality.

The countries mentioned in the Attorney General's letter are Spain, Portugal, Switzerland, Spanish Morocco, French Morocco, Algeria, Ecuador, Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Palestine, Syria, and Egypt.

In the first two of these countries there is danger, and particularly in Spain it is there danger that persons may be sent back into France so that they may not have hold of them and send them to hard labor in the east or west. It was because of this situation that unprecedented northern France and in Spain and Portugal that the occasion arose for our taking the step to try and save the children whose parents would be sent east and would then themselves be left to a terrible fate without guardians or protectors.

In Switzerland that situation does not exist. The Swiss have received quite a number of refugees from France but have not returned them to France and do not threaten to return them.

In the other territories mentioned, and entirely different situation exists with the possible exception of Spanish Morocco which I am willing to include in the same general category as Spain and Portugal, but in all the rest of the African countries mentioned the persons there are either behind the American lines or behind the British lines. They are not subject to deportation. They are not subject to persecution. They are not in danger. As a matter of fact, the American Army has taken particular pains to provide itself with the provisions to relieve the situation of those in need, and according to the American standards and as far as the military authority permits, those people will be given entire protection. In other words, they are not in danger and their children are not in danger.
In the countries of Asia - Turkey, Iraq, Syria, Palestine, and Yemen - they are subjected to the people in these countries of Africa. They are in territory protected by or occupied by the United Nations forces and are under the protection of the military authorities, in each of which area the American military and political authorities are in close association with the government. Consequently, the people there are not in danger and are not subject to persecution.

They may be, however, in those areas, in some degree of discomfort, and in some localities of their country of origin, and the people who normally live there, contrariwise, is provided with sufficient supplies of food are not only under no penalty but the food is actually in Iran and being distributed. Palestinians and Syrians are not reported to be short of food like areas of Iraq and Iran.

Union these circumstances, and if it is necessary at this date to reply to the letter of the Attorney General, I think it should be made clear that the reason for our desire to return the children from Yemen and Seboua, and even to separate them from their families, was because of the desire that the United Nations, in line with their policies should be returned to Yemen to control and guide the government, but that only those circumstances justify the separation of children from their families and that the children with their families are being protected in all of the North African countries mentioned and are under the same treatment. The natives of the other territories are being afforded, and the usual development that their living conditions are being ameliorated.

(1) E. L.

(2) E. L.

Three hours from the balcony.

M. A.
February 20th 1943

From Department to London.

Concerning letter from you relative to refugee children referred to in your C.P. 470, twenty-seventh, this Government authorizes issuance of a total of three thousand temporary visas to children of age of fourteen years and under, irrespective of nationalities, of Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Belgium, Holland, Switzerland, France, and Italy. The age limit being sixteen years and above for children of non-enemy origin, and fourteen years of age for those of enemy origin. The Government is prepared to renew and extend this offer to children of above nationalities residing anywhere in France and not solely Vichy, France, as long as the future interests are not endangered. The age limits apply to the issuance of temporary visas regardless whether such visas are issued in Switzerland, Spain, or Portugal.

It is possible for the children to arrive in the United States in the comparatively near future, the status of the quotas would permit us to receive the entire number.

The question of receiving children from Switzerland after the war would depend on the future status of the various quotas and as do not feel that we can make any post-war commitments, however, every effort will be made and it is believed that a considerable number of children could be accommodated unless there should be some change in the law.

Mr. 46 Refugees/1/30/43

Westins 12/30/43
EXHIBIT 7TH
THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AMERICAN EMBASSY
London, January 14, 1944.

SUBJECT: Inter-governmental Committee on refugees approached
by Swiss Government.

To: The Honorable
The Secretary of State
Washington.

Sir:

Under date of January 10, 1944, the Embassy conveyed to the Director of
the Inter-governmental Committee on refugees the Department's re-statement
of the urgency of the removal of Jewish children from France, as set forth
in the Department's telegram no. 925, January 7, 8:45 a.m. The Embassy has
not received from the Director his reply in the matter, together with its
enclosure, copies of which are enclosed herewith. The Department will
note that the Director has asked the Swiss Government to make an approach
to the French authorities and has also asked whether the Swiss Government
is prepared to take some children and what assistance it would require therefor.

At the same time the Honorary Deputy Director of the Inter-governmental Committee,
Dr. Fallmann (who is Swiss), has just left London for Switzerland, and will
discuss the question more fully with the Swiss authorities.

The letter enclosed with this despatch was briefly referred to in the
Embassy's telegram no. J52 of January 14, addressed to the Department.

Respectfully yours,
For the Ambassador
J. Gallman

Enclosures:
Counselor of Embassy

1. Copy of letter (10/216/96) of January 12,
1944 from the Director, intergovernmental
Committee on refugees, to the American Embassy, London.

2. Copy of letter (10/216/96) of January 12, 1944 from the
Director, intergovernmental Committee on refugees, to the Swiss
Charge d'Affaires at London.
Dear Mr. Macmillan,

I am pleased to receive your letter of the 10th January regarding refugee children in France.

I enclose a copy of a letter which I issued today to the Charge d'Affaires of the Swiss legation in the absence of the Minister. You will see that I have asked the Swiss Government, first, to make an approach to the French authorities, and second, whether they are prepared to take some children, and if so, what assistance they will require. I have further asked that the first step shall be taken at once, without waiting for the result of negotiations regarding the second request. My object was to avoid as much delay as possible.

Mr. Macmillan is leaving for Switzerland tomorrow, and on his arrival will at once take the matter up with the Swiss Government.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

[Address]

Dr. Howard Macmillan, Jr.,
Ambassador of the United States of America,
1 Grosvenor Square,
London.
3/22/36

12th January, 1944

SIR,

The authorities of the United Kingdom and the United States of America have referred to the Intergovernmental Committee on the question of children in France who are threatened with deportation, or whose parents have been deported or are threatened with deportation. We have reached the agreement that the Committee be kept in order for the course authorized to be taken for all such children, and in particular that this may be a preliminary to deportation.

We are privy to the fact that previous attempts have been made on behalf of some of the children in question. During the summer and autumn of 1943 measures were taken by the French authorities against foreign refugees and, in particular, those of Russian and Austrian origin in their territory. Many of the able-bodied men and women were deported to unknown places, and there were increasing reports of maltreatment of the children. Efforts were accordingly made, both officially and by private organizations, to persuade the authorities to give permission enabling the children to leave French occupied territory. At the same time, approaches were made to various Governments and private organizations to give assistance to a large number of such children. Ultimately, the French authorities agreed to the issue of 50 exit permits, and preparations were made to fly the children out of France and transport them by air to the United States of America, via Spain and Portugal to the United States of America, via Spain and Portugal. In consequence of the events following the Allied invasion of North Africa, the exit permits were withdrawn. Subsequent efforts to obtain a renewal of the permits – in which your Government participated – were unsuccessful.

2. In view of the great danger to which the children are again exposed, the Governmental Committee considers it an urgent humanitarian duty to renew the efforts to save these innocent victims of the war. The Committee has authorized the Executive Committee in its session of the 11th January, 1944, to take measures to invoke the good offices of your Government in this respect. The first direction in which its attention is directed is an appeal to the French authorities with a view to obtaining the necessary facilities for the children to leave French territory. For the present purpose, the Intergovernmental Committee has in mind children under sixteen years of age who are in danger of deportation, or whose parents have been deported or are in similar danger. The great majority of those are probably Jews, but there are certainly some non-Jewish children in the same plight. The efforts of the Intergovernmental Committee relate to such children in whatever part of France they may be.

The Charge d’Affaires,
Santo Domingo,
12, Montagu Place, W.I.
The Committee has received assurances from the Government of the United States of America that it would be prepared to receive 5,000 children, the age limit being fourteen years, for children having the nationality of a country with which the United States of America is now at war, and sixteen years for other children. The Committee, therefore, hopes that the other Governments will renew the offers of asylum which were made in the summer and autumn of 1944. If, however, the French authorities were prepared to send the necessary facilities, arrangements could be put in hand for transporting a considerable number of children to places of asylum by way of Portugal or otherwise. It is, however, possible that the French authorities might be more willing to give the necessary facilities if your Government were prepared to give asylum to some, at any rate, of the children, or in any other place of asylum for children which the Governments of countries and nations, or again, transport to Switzerland may present less difficulties. Well, therefore, the offers of the two Governments will be directed towards taking full advantage of places of asylum other than Switzerland. I am asked to ask first, whether your Government is willing to afford asylum to some of these children and, if so, to how many, and second, what assistance would the Swiss Government require for this purpose.

Since the question of asylum in Switzerland is complimentary to the main issue, namely, an approach to the French authorities with the object of getting out facilities, and the matter is one of great urgency, I shall be grateful if your Government can make the approach as soon as convenient, independently of the supplementary question.

I am, sir,
Your obedient servant,
(Sgd.) H.W. BLOCH.

Director.
Mr. Hayter called upon me today and stated that he had received information from the British Foreign Office to the effect that it would be impossible to assign numbers to children in Switzerland to permit them to enter Palestine after the war.

He stated that no one knew whether Palestine would continue to be a British mandate or did he know the attitude which would be taken concerning immigration after the war.

I mentioned that it was my understanding that the unused numbers would be made available even after the expiration of the White Paper. He stated that that was so but they did not desire to tie up these numbers when the children might not even desire to proceed to Palestine after the war.

I have drafted the attached telegram but am not quite certain as to the desirability of the last sentence. Would you give me your reaction.
Information received from the Joint Distribution Committee indicates that the plight of Jewish children in Europe is growing continually worse. You will note in Department's telegram December 30 we are willing to do everything possible to accept children in this country and hope EU will make every effort to arrange satisfactory guarantees to Switzerland which will enable them to accept additional children in Switzerland.
FRANKFURT

February 22, 1944

Jewish Children in France

It is reported that there are ten thousand or more Jewish children, stateless and of a variety of nationalities, in hiding in France who are subject to deportation upon discovery. The parents of these children have already been deported or are being detained pending deportation. The position of these children is precarious and their only salvation lies in Europe or Switzerland. Many children in this category have already been received in that country, but the Swiss economy is such that large-scale migration of these children cannot be tolerated by Switzerland before it receives assurance that they will not become public charges and, further, that they will be evacuated after the war. Private agencies are ready and willing to give the Swiss (if they have not done so already) but assurances of evacuation after the war can only be given by a sovereign government.

It is recommended that immediate steps be taken to secure the consent by the State Department to the Exclusion of Such of these children as are deemed desirable by the United States. Further, the thought of the above draft of State Department objections, voiced in the past, that it cannot bind future administrations, are irreconcilable. Such considerations, if valid, would frustrate governmental action in every field. In any event, it would appear that the Swiss government will accept moral, as distinguished from legal, assurances in this matter.
The following special instructions are issued to you pursuant to Art. 24-25(16) of the Regulations of November 15, 1911, as amended, regarding alien entry, and shall remain in full force and effect unless specifically revoked. You are hereby instructed to issue, without regard to the availability of means of transportation to the United States, to all engraved immigration visas to French infants (infants born on the soil of the French Republic) within three months after the date of these instructions. Each child must be of any nationality or citizenship, but no such child shall have reached his or her seventh birthday. You are further instructed at appropriate times to issue such immigration visas issued pursuant to these instructions and to issue new immigration visas to French infants in accordance to these instructions. It is the intention of these instructions that each alien to whom an immigration visa is issued pursuant to these instructions shall hold an invalid immigration visa at all times until at least six months after the termination of the present hostilities between the United States and Germany. No immigration visas shall be issued to aliens to whom immigration visas have been issued pursuant to these instructions and immigration visas issued pursuant to these instructions shall be revoked without regard to the age of the alien at the time of such renewal or the issuance of the new visa.

You are further authorized and instructed to inform the Swiss government of the contents of these instructions, and to express to the Swiss government the earnest hope of this Government that the Swiss government will relax its border controls and take such other action as will further the entry of refugee children into Switzerland from France.
We ought to push ahead now on the French children matter.

JW

J. W. PHILE
DIRECTOR, FOREIGN FUNDS CONTROL
The following special instructions are issued to you pursuant to Part 53.55(16) of the Regulations of November 19, 1941, as amended, regarding aliens entering, and shall remain in full force and effect unless specifically revoked. You are hereby instructed to issue, without regard to the availability of means of transportation to the United States, up to five thousand immigration visas to refugee children now in Switzerland who shall arrive in Switzerland within three months after the date of these instructions. Such children may be of any nationality or stateless, but no such child shall have reached his or her seventeenth birthday. You are further instructed at appropriate times to renew each immigration visa issued pursuant to these instructions, and to issue new immigration visas to all aliens to whom immigration visas have been issued pursuant to these instructions, it being the intention of these instructions that each alien to whom an immigration visa is issued pursuant to these instructions shall hold an unexpired immigration visa at all times until at least six months
after the termination of the present hostilities between the United States and Germany. New immigration visas shall be issued to aliens to whom immigration visas have been issued pursuant to these instructions and immigration visas issued pursuant to these instructions shall be renewed without regard to the age of the alien at the time of the issuance of the new visa.

You are further authorized and instructed to inform the Swiss Government of the contents of these instructions, and to express to the Swiss Government the earnest hope of this Government that the Swiss Government will relax its border controls and take such other action as will further and facilitate the entry of refugee children into Switzerland from France. You should also state to the Swiss Government that the Government of the United States has been informed of the action taken by the Swiss Government in this matter and hopes that the Swiss Government will take such further action as will further and facilitate the entry of refugees into Switzerland.

18Jun24 - 1/19/44
A.

It is the Department's intention to assign numbers from next year's quota to every visa issued pursuant to this instruction under this year's quota to repatriate this process each year until at least six months after the cessation of the present hostilities between the United States and Germany. Thus it is intended that refugees to whom visas are issued pursuant to this instruction will continue to hold visas until transportation to the United States is available.

A. ne7.t year's qutta is to be

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The process of repatriation is to

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next year's quota to every visa issued pursuant to this instruction under this year's quota to repatriate this process each year until at least six months after the cessation of the present hostilities between the United States and Germany. Thus it is intended that refugees to whom visas are issued pursuant to this instruction will continue to hold visas until transportation to the United States is available.

The process of repatriation is to
B.

The existence of a relationship described in Section 58.48 of the Regulations of November 19, 1944, as amended, regarding aliens entering the United States, shall not be determined in the

sense of any of the cases which are subject to this instruction.
It has been reported that:

(1) When non-Jewish Jews were deported from France, beginning in July or August 1943, they were given the option of taking their children with them or leaving them behind with child care organizations.

(2) Many of the deportees exercised the latter option, and several thousand children were left in the custody of JDC, a medical and child care agency which has been subcontracted by the Jewish Joint Distribution Committee for many years.

(3) Thousands of additional children, however, were secreted in non-Jewish facilities as were willing to give them refuge, or were left to fend for themselves. These children have been, and are being relentlessly sought by the police and their agents.

(4) Arrangements to bring a large number of the deportees' children to Switzerland were made in the wake of the armistice between the Allies and Vichy-France in November 1943.

(5) A number of these children have reached Switzerland by clandestine means.

(6) The JDC is now asked to evacuate large numbers of the deportees' children to Switzerland, but the Swiss government is unwilling to receive additional children unless adequate authorities are given that the children will not be left in a situation after the war.

(7) Unless these children are evacuated many of them face extermination by the wind of war.

(8) The Swiss government will accept them as an adequate assurance that such children as it will admit will be evacuated after the war, the instance by this government of visas to children of this class has in Switzerland or elsewhere arrived.

It is recommended that the Board take the following action at once:

(1) Request the Secretary of State to issue special instructions to the Mission at Bern, pursuant to Part 54.15(16) of the Regulations of November 13, 1943, and other applicable provisions thereof and of law, to issue, without regard to the availability of
as up of transportation to the United States, up to five thousand immigration visas to refugee children, of any nationality or stateless, not in Switzerland, or who shall arrive in Switzerland within three months. The mission should be further instructed to issue at a period of time after visas to replace those that expire, so that the children to whom visas are issued may be all time to six months after the visa terminates. In the first instance, visas should not be issued to children who have reached their seventeenth birthday, but every child to whom a visa is issued should receive a new one in its expiration, without regard to the child's age at the date.

The Secretary of State should further be instructed to instruct the mission to advise the Swiss government of the instructions contained in this note, so that the Swiss government may take the proper action in relation to the entry of refugee children into Switzerland.

Funds to support this operation, as well as the appropriate guarantees for the support of the children (both in Switzerland and the United States), are available from private organizations. Consequently, it will not be necessary for the Board to allocate any funds for this project at this time.

L. Lessorsals 1-25-44
I believe you will be interested in the connection with your various operations the following children out of Ireland. Only we get from these countries children from other countries. Including Ireland, also of other countries.

From: [Signature]

[Date]
ANNEXURE I

Regarding offers of visas for refugee children

Argentina. Up to one thousand visas for children under 14 years of age, visas valid until the end of 1943.

Australia. 150 Jewish refugee children from Vichy France between 7 and 17 years of age.

Canada. Admission of 500 children under 15 years of age under non-immigrant status for the duration of the war, and does not constitute a basis for the admission of parents or other relatives at a later date. Number possibly to be extended to one thousand.

Chile. Admission of a small number of children. No indications as to age, etc., available.

Ceylon. 14,000 certificates for unaccompanied children under 25.

Children can also qualify under certificates granted to their fathers aged 18 to 35.

A restriction as to country of residence, i.e., certificates available to escapees children from Occupied countries into neutral territory of Western Europe.

South Africa. Temporary stay in the Union granted to 500 Youth Aliyah certificate holders if no transport were available from Lourenco Marques to Ceylon.

Information available as to rant of 250 visas of non-transit character.

United Kingdom. Limited number having near relatives in the United Kingdom (alike, or refugees from Nazi oppression of enemy aliens, etc.). Near relative being defined as meaning mother, father, grand-parent, uncle, aunt, brother or sister. Jews or non-Jews.

Concessions subsequently extended to Spain, Portugal and Sweden.
All U.S. (Continued)

United States of America. One thousand - 5,000 visas for refugee children from Occupied France. Age limit: 16 years of age for non-enemy aliens, 14 years of age for enemy aliens.

Subsequently concession extended to refugee children having managed to escape into Spain and Portugal.

Consent of parents necessary.
Evacuation of Abandoned Children from France to Switzerland.

It has been reported that:

(1) There are thousands of Jewish children in France who were abandoned by their parents when the deportation of non-French Jews from France was ordered. Some of these children are being surreptitiously cared for by French families, some are receiving some organizational care and still others are foraging for themselves.

(2) These children are now being relentlessly sought by the Gestapo and face deportation and death unless they can be evacuated to Switzerland immediately.

(3) A number of such children have reached Switzerland, but the Swiss government wants adequate assurance that such children, whether now in Switzerland or hereafter admitted, will be evacuated after the war, before it will agree to admit any additional children.

It is recommended that the board take the following action at once:

(1) Request the Secretary of State to issue special instructions to the mission at Bern to issue, without regard to the availability of means of transportation to the United States, up to five thousand immigration visas to refugee children, of any nationality or stateless, now in Switzerland, or who shall arrive in Switzerland within three months. The mission should be further instructed to issue at appropriate times new visas to replace those that expire, so that the children to whom visas are issued will at all times to six months after the war be terminated hold unexpired visas.

(2) The Secretary of State should further be requested to instruct the mission to advise the Swiss government of his instructions and to express the earnest hope of this
Government that, in the light thereof, the Swiss government will find it possible to relax its border controls and to take such other action as will further and facilitate the entry of refugee children into Switzerland.

Funds to support this operation, as well as the appropriate guarantees for the support of the children (both in Switzerland and the United States), are available from private organizations. Consequently, it will not be necessary for the Board to allocate any funds for this project at this time.
Secretary of State

Washington

3054, June 5, 10 a.m.

DEPT AND WRB FROM HARRISON AND MCCLELLAND

Dept's 1947 WRB 529, June 2.

No (repeat no) US visas have been granted refugee children admitted Switzerland since no children were over presented to receive such visas.

HARRISON

RDA

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

CENTRAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES

TELEGRAPH SECTION

ALH-853

Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement.

Dated June 5, 1945

00/77

LIAISON

Rec'd 10:25 a.m.

For security reason the text of this report must be clearly guarded.

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

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

DC 11

1971

The following, for Harrison and McClellan from

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of July 23 and 31, 1971

of the Swiss government, are not authorized in the documents:
and, if so, the numbers.

SECRET

Cable

6/5/71

[Redacted]

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

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 11/11/71
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

000633
CABLE TO RARRICH AND SCHLLAND, WAR, FROM DEPARTMENT AND WAR
REFUGEE BOARD

Reference Department's 391 of March 18, 2605 of August 1,
and 3194 of September 18, 1944.

Department and Board are desirous of knowing whether any refugee
children admitted to Switzerland were beneficiaries of visas in
foregoing cases and, if so, the numbers.

June 1, 1946

Lies Hipple (for the Secy), Conn, Molog, Hutchison, McCormack, Files.

PJMCl:iFHiid 6/1/46
The following for McClelland is 4RB 299.

Reference your 7589 of November 17.

The authorization to which you refer was given for the purpose of encouraging Swiss willingness to receive refugee children by concrete U.S. action assuring their evacuation. Accordingly, the authorization will remain in effect as long as necessary to influence Swiss action with respect to refugee children seeking admission to Switzerland to escape enemy persecution. Whether in order to accomplish this purpose it will be desirable to continue the authorization for a period beyond the time when flight from enemy persecution is necessary, is a matter on which the Board would appreciate your views.

Of course, visas issued pursuant to this authorization are subject to the assurances with respect to replacement contained in Department's 991 of March 18.
Reference your 7086 of November 17.

The authorization to which you refer was given for the purpose of encouraging Swiss willingness to receive refugee children by concrete U.S. action assuring their evacuation. Accordingly, the authorization will remain in effect as long as necessary to influence Swiss action with respect to refugee children seeking admission to Switzerland to escape enemy persecution. Whether in order to accomplish this purpose it will be desirable to continue the authorization for a period beyond the time when flight from enemy persecution is necessary, is a matter on which the Board would appreciate your views.

Of course, visas issued pursuant to this authorization are subject to the assurances with respect to replacement contained in Department's 891 of March 18.

2:30 p.m.
December 4, 1943

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

S. L. F. jeff
Reznika! Lesser, Klag."
SECRETARY OF STATE
Washington

7500, Seventeenth
FOR MR. FROM MOCELLAND
Department's 861, March 18

I have recently been approached by organizations responsible in Switzerland for care of refugee children which are anxious to know whether 4,000 United States
visas authorized in Department's wire under reference will still be available after this war.

Any information you could secure concerning this question would be appreciated.

HARRISON

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
INCOMING TELEGRAM
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

DU-330

For security reasons the text of this message must be destroyed.

Secretary of State

PIAN
Bern

Dated November 17, 1944

Received 8:37 a.m., 30th

CONTROL COPY

HARRISON

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. 1994, 4-11-72
By R. H. Douth, Dec. 77
FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: September 21, 1944
NUMBER: 6248

McClelland sends the following for the War Refugee Board:

The question of bringing 5000 Jewish children to Switzerland from Hungary appears to be a matter on which Mrs. Sternbuch has been working personally and which she transmitted to the United States for the attention of the Union of Rabbis. On the 20th of September I discussed the matter with her. Mrs. Sternbuch says that a diplomat who came to Switzerland recently from Hungary (whose name she was not at liberty to reveal) told her that according to information he had received from "competent German quarters", if convincing and concrete assurances were given by either the United States or British Governments that these children would be admitted to the United States and to the British Isles, the Germans would certainly permit 5000 children to leave Hungary by way of Switzerland. According to Mrs. Sternbuch's explanation of the matter the question of the Swiss Government considering as insufficient the guarantees given and sponsored by Great Britain and the United States that such children could be evacuated from Swiss territory did not therefore arise. The fact that the Swiss Government has been given appropriate guarantees is fully understood by Mrs. Sternbuch.

Reference is made in the above to the Department's September 15 cable No. 3194.

HARRISON

DeCreston (For the Sec'y) Abrahanso; Biskin, Cohn, Drury, DuBois, Friedmann, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Marks, McCorkam, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Cable Control Files.
Cable to McClelland.

Strenuous is reported to endeavor to bring 3000 children from Hungary to Switzerland. German authorities allegedly ready to permit departure underintercessions auspices, and

Strenuous doubtful whether Swiss government has received sufficient guarantee regarding subsequent evacuation of said children to countries other than Palestine.

It is expected that such guarantees have been offered to Swiss government pursuant to Department's 501 of March 16, 1944, of July 3, and 1947 of August 21, as well as pursuant to information regarding agreement by Ireland and Honduras (Department's 8978 of August 28), Nicaragua (Department's 809 of Sept. 9, White 155), Portugal, Venezuela, Brazil, Uruguay, (Department's 1150 of Sept. 14, White 164) and Cuba (Department's 1418 of August 14), to admit children from Hungary.

In addition, the assurances contained in paragraph three of Department's 8608 of July 28 likely apply, of course, to children from Hungary.

You may inform Strenuous of the existence of those guarantees and assist him in any promising program of evacuating children from Hungary to Switzerland.

THIS IS WIRTO CABLE NO. 172.

HULL

Miss Channey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Aksia, Olsen, Hasler, Dold, Friedmann, Geston, Haedle, Kappelm, Lesser, Mannen, Marks, Middelma, Nash, Sargoy, Stedman, Weinsteir, Pikes

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. letter 1-16-72
By H. H. Poole Date

SEP 19 1972

000639
American Legation, Bern
Secretary of State, Washington
July 16, 1944
4833

McClelland sends the following for WNB and Visa Division.
Legation's message of July 6, Number 4297 and Department's
message of July 1, Number 2238, are the subject of reference in Legation's
message of July 16, Number 4833.

HARRISON
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

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

Secretary of State,
Washington,

4530, July 15, noon.

Census of refugee children at present in Switzerland for whom overseas migration is desirable after the war including those who have arrived before and since January 1, 1944 now complete. Organizations entrusted with children are beginning second stage involving careful selection children based on various countries of destination. Understandable opposition is being encountered however among older children many of whom do not wish to leave Europe until in possession more precise information reste their deported parents. Expected that within two months organizations will start presenting children to our Consulates for special United States immigration visas. Total number will probably not exceed 500. Unfortunately availability these visas has been able influence only slightly arrival more children from France for reasons previously outlined.

HARRISON
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: July 11, 1944
NUMBER: 4401

Reference is made herewith to your June 18 telegram no. 2072, BBC 50, last paragraph.

I was told by Minister Stucki, who was here for a few days, that he had presented the matter to Hochat and Leval repeatedly; and he promised me that he would press further for a reply of a favorable nature. The Minister returned to Vichy on the sixth of July.

HARRISON

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 4-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972
FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Legation, Bern  
DATED: June 13, 1944  
NUMBER: 2082

FOLLOWING IS FOR CHL-ELAND

References last paragraph your 3107, May 16.

Board feels that the issuance of visas to children who entered Switzerland prior to January 1, 1944, would not accomplish the purposes for which visas were made available since principal motivating force behind the authorization to issue these visas was the encouragement such authorization might give to the Swiss Government to permit acceleration of the entry of additional children. While revising the January 1 date backward might assure the Swiss that some refugee children now in Switzerland would not remain there after the war, it would not focus the attention of the Swiss to the relationship between the availability of American visas and the admission of additional children.

For your information, action parallel to that taken in this matter by the United States is being contemplated by a number of the governments in Latin America. Board hopes in the near future to furnish you with the details of offers from these governments to the Swiss which, it is believed, may provide for children who entered Switzerland prior to January 1.

If, after consultation with the Minister and appropriate Swiss authorities, it appears with some clarity that the movement of children into Switzerland would be accelerated by issuance of visas to children who entered prior to January 1, please so inform the Board.

Reference Legation's 1061, May 9. Please report if Minister Benn has received any additional information from Charles at Vichy regarding his efforts there.

THIS IS WEB CASE TO BERN NO. 39.

HULL

cc: Secretary, Abrahamson, Akzin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Fried,  
   Gaster, Hoesl, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Mann, Mark  
   McFarland, Sargent, Smith, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, R. E. White,  
   Pohle, Pagel.
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
FROM: American Legation, Bern
DATE: July 6, 1944
NUMBER: 4207

Subject: Refugees

The following is a summary of the situation regarding refugees in Switzerland:

Despite the availability of visas, the Swiss authorities have not allowed the entry of refugees, with the exception of those under 16 years of age. This decision was made in accordance with the principles governing the issuance of visas.

The Swiss authorities have also not allowed the entry of children under 16 years of age from France without parental consent. This decision was made in line with the Swiss immigration laws.

Around 500 refugees have entered Switzerland since January 1 and June 7. The conditions along the Franco-Swiss border have made it difficult to bring children up to the border. However, these conditions are expected to continue.

The rate at which children arrive is primarily decided by these factors.

HARRISON

By R. H. Bassett, SEP 19 1972
This is to inform you that provisions concerning issuance of immigration visas to refugee children which was mentioned in reference cable has been extended to 1945, July 1 of that year. For issuance July through October the nonpreference quota immigration numbers given below were allotted to Zurich:

- German 609 to 3008;
- Belgian 31 to 200;
- French 65 to 382;
- Polish 162 to 761;
- Dutch 81 to 360; and
- Czechoslovak 63 to 312.

This is 25% monthly. Additional allotment will be made then. It is requested that you inform consuls and current information as to developments would be appreciated by the Department.
ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: June 13, 1944
NUMBER: 2023

FOLLOWING IS FOR MCCLELLAND

Reference last paragraph your 7127, May 16.

Board feels that the issuance of visas to children who entered Switzerland prior to January 1, 1944, would not accomplish the purpose for which visas were made available since principal motivating force behind the authorization to issue these visas was the encouragement such authorization might give to the Swiss Government to permit acceleration of the entry of additional children. While revising the January 1 date backward might assure the Swiss that some refugee children now in Switzerland would not remain there after the war, it would not focus the attention of the Swiss to the relationship between the availability of American visas and the admission of additional children.

For your information, action paralleling that taken in this letter by the United States is being contemplated by a number of the governments in Latin America. Board hopes in the near future to furnish you with the details of offers from those governments to the Swiss which, it is believed, may provide for children who entered Switzerland prior to January 1.

If, after consultation with the Minister and appropriate
Swiss
Swiss authorities, it appears with some clarity that the movement of children into Switzerland would be accelerated by issuance of visas to children who entered prior to January 1, please so inform the Board.

Reference Legation's 2810, May 3. Please report if Minister Bonna has received any additional information from Stucki at Vichy regarding his efforts there.

THIS ISCABLETOBERN NO. 39.

MULL
Reference last paragraph your 3367, May 16.

Said facts that the issuance of visas to children who entered Switzerland prior to January 1, 1944, would not accomplish the purpose for which visas were made available since principal motivating force behind the authorization to issue these visas was the encouragement such authorization might give to the Swiss Government to effect acceleration of the entry of additional children. While review of the January 1 date announced might ensure the finding that some refugees children now in Switzerland would not remain there after the war, it would not impact the relationship between the availability of American visas and the admission of additional children.

For your information, action parallelizing that taken in this letter by the United States is being contemplated by a number of the governments in Latin America. Board hopes in the near future to furnish you with the details of actions from these governments to the value which, it is believed, may provide for children who entered Switzerland prior to January 1.

If, after consultation with the minister and appropriate Swiss authorities, it seems with some clarity that the movement of children into Switzerland would be accelerated by issuance of visas to children who entered prior to January 1, please so inform the Board.

Reference 1st, June 11, 1944. In case the United States has received any additional information from Latin American Governments, please report.

THIS IS SUBMITTED TO BOARD NO. 39.

June 10, 1944
3:00 p.m.

[Signature]

[Handwritten notes]

June 10, 1944
3100 p.m.
Dear Mr. Feld:

The following confidential message for you from Mr. Tschlapoff was received under date of June 8, 1944, through the American Legation at Bern:

"In connection with your $10,000 appropriation, we have been advised by our New York Committee of the misunderstanding. These funds have been used for removal of several hundred children from especially dangerous areas, which is of vital importance. The use of your grant for any purpose other than rescue activities has never been considered."

Very truly yours,

(J. W. Pehle)

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Kr. Adolph Feld,
Chairman,
Jewish Labor Committee,
175 East Broadway,
New York 2, New York.

PH:lab 6/13/44
American Legation, Bern

To: Secretary of State, Washington

Date: June 8, 1944

Re: 3657

Yachhapoff and colleagues made the following for Jewish Labor Committee, New York and URI.

In connection with your $10,000 appropriation, we have been advised by our New York Committee of the misunderstanding. These funds have been used for removal of several hundred children from especially dangerous areas, which is of vital importance. The use of your grant for any purpose other than rescue activities has never been considered.
The following for attention of the 3/a Division and FBI.

Reference is made herein to the Legation's cable of April 6, No. 2123.

To date no visas have been issued to refugee children and the following reasons are submitted as the explanation.

In order to determine the eligibility of a child for overseas emigration the organizations officially responsible for all refugee and emigrant children now in Switzerland desire first to conduct a thorough investigation in each case. This was started early in April and it is aimed at securing as accurate information as possible to the whereabouts of the child's near relatives. Also the organizations are concerned as to the advisability of emigrating children whose parents have been deported to the east, but who cannot at the same time be considered deceased. In some cases the question therefore arises whether it will not be advisable to plan for a waiting period after cessation of hostilities or until it can be determined by various channels whether parents are still in Europe and whether they are alive. No doubt such unknown waiting

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By B. H. Parks Date, SEP 19 1972
Waiting would be in Switzerland in which case assurance of
material assistance from overseas for children here would
be desirable. All children, unequivocally eligible for
emigration to the United States can begin receiving their
visas, as soon an investigation individual cases this angle
is completed.

Approximately 3,500 refugee and displaced children
under 15 years, who arrived prior to January 1, 1944 are
in present in Switzerland due to death, deportation or
discouragement of parents, of these 7,500 between 700 and
1,000 only can be considered as abandoned and consequently
in the first instance eligible for part of the 4,000 visas
of the United States. Not only relief organizations but
other authorities desire postwar emigration possibilities
especially for this group; the paramount concern of rules
in whole refugee problem being assurances that there be
reduced to a minimum the number of refugees liable to remain
on their hands after the war. From their point of view this
question is vital and their whole policy regarding admission
of additional refugees has an important bearing.

About 600 parentless Jewish children under 16 entered
Switzerland clandestinely from France between January 1 and
May 4, 1944. Along with parents or relatives approximately
125 more have entered. Although border control measures
on the German-occupied side particularly in Haute Savoie
are becoming increasingly stringent, they continue to arrive irregularly in small groups. Because all movement of persons are strictly controlled it is progressively more difficult for organizations effecting rescue, primarily the Jewish "Œuvre de secours aux enfants", to bring children within striking distance of the border on the French side. At present, the area is now "zone-interdite". Considered as a safer route, children who recently arrived in Geneva were brought through Department of Fin and Bellegarde. Naturally, with coming military operations, this rescue work will become more difficult than now if not impossible, a factor in general which will operate more against the arrival of refugees in Switzerland than limited measures of "refoulement" of the Swiss. It is doubtful for this reason that a number of children eligible for visas to reach Switzerland from France by July 1, 1944 will reach six hundred.

Would it not be possible, in view of the small overall number of refugee and emigrant children at present in Switzerland eligible for United States immigration visas (including arrivals up to May 4, 1944 a maximum would be 1,500) to consider our visas as available to all of them, provided this would be in harmony with our immigration laws, rather than just to those who have entered the country since January 1. The number eligible will further be reduced by the fact that at least 10% of these children will have passed
their 16th year by December 31, 1944 toward alleviation of Switzerland's refugee problem after the war such a possibility would constitute valuable if small concrete gesture by our Government and any other steps which we might desire to take in order to persuade the Swiss to admit additional refugees would thus be facilitated.
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: The American Minister, Bern
TO: The Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: May 3, 1944

IN ORDER TO CLARIFY THE SITUATION THE POSSIBILITY WAS DISCUSSED BY ME WITH MINISTER BONNA OF OBTAINING PERMISSION FOR CHILDREN TO COME TO SWITZERLAND. (REFERS TO YOUR NUMBER 1859, WTS NUMBER 5, DATED APRIL 27.) ACCORDING TO MINISTER BONNA, HE WAS UNDERSTANDING THAT IN APPROACHING THE FRENCH MINISTER STUCKI HAD ATTEMPTED TO SECURE GENERAL PERMISSION FOR CHILDREN TO DEPART FROM FRANCE AND HAD NOT RESTRICTED THE REQUEST TO EXIT PERMITS FOR SPAIN ONLY. PERMISSION TO COME TO SWITZERLAND WOULD HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IF THIS WERE TRUE.

Nevertheless, in order to be sure, Minister Bonna said he would inquire of Stucki who last week departed for Vichy. Children have been denied permission to come to Switzerland for a temporary sojourn (rehabilitation) for some time now, according to Minister Bonna.

Developments will be reported.

HANCOCK

DORRIPPL
5/5/44
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: AMBANATION, Bern
DATED: April 27, 1944
NUMBER: 1459

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE MINISTER AND MOCLARM:

First paragraph of your telegram of April 12, 1944, no. 3215, is referred to herewith.

We desire clarification as to whether the Swiss Government's second approach to Levalle will consist of formal requests for children's request that the children be allowed to go to Switzerland temporarily. In view of the non-objection of Pilat Goulas, the War Refugee Board is planning to request Swiss and Portuguese Governments for parallel action and the above information is needed. The Swiss Government's proposed second approach obviously is within the framework of the original Intergovernmental Committee request for such action and therefore this Government desires it.

The War Refugee Board will welcome any additional suggestions you may have for expediting immigration from France of orphaned and abandoned children subject to enemy persecution.

For

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date, SEP 15, 1972
For your information consular officers in Spain and Portugal have received instructions similar to those transmitted in the Department's no. 891 for issuance of 1,000 immigration visas. Governments of Canada and Australia and appropriate other American Republics are being approached with the suggestion that they make similar offers to Indian Government regarding children.

INFORTING-ISS BERN CABLE NO. 5.

HULL
April 20, 1944
12:20 p.m.

To: Mr. Warren  
From: J. W. Peble

There is attached for appropriate clearance and prompt dispatch a cable to the American Legation at Bern, Switzerland.

S. L.  
McIntosh 4-21-44
MISSING AND REFUGEE

Please request Pilot Golea to issue the instructions to Swiss legation at Vienna as suggested in first paragraph your 2012 of April 12. In view non-objection pilot Golea are approaching Portuguese and Greek Governments with request for parallel action. For refugees Board would welcome any additional suggestions you may have for expediting emigration from France of orphaned and abandoned children subject to enemy persecution.

For your information consul officers in Spain and Portugal have received instructions similar those transmitted Department's 392 for issuance 1,000 immigration visas. Governments of Canada and Australia and appropriate other American republics are being approached with suggestion that they make similar offers to Swiss Government regarding children.
Reference to 2326, dated April 11.  
(1) In compliance with the request of Mr. Pilet, I called on him April 12 and he explained to me that exit permits for children in question was the specific request made of Laval by Minister Stucki. Therefore, if you should so desire, Pilet feels it ready to instruct the Swiss Legation at Vichy to endeavor to obtain permission for children in question to come to Switzerland, but he could only expect an equally negative answer in view of the flat refusal given by Minister Stucki.

(2) In reference to your 1090, March 31, while he saw no objection, Pilet frankly did not believe that Laval's position would be modified by the eventual support of Portuguese and French Governments.

HARRISON
With reference to the request of the Inter-Governmental Committee for Refugees for children which section one of my number 1826 dated March 24 mentioned, the Political Department advises me that unfortunately they have just been informed that Laval's decision was negative in spite of the efforts of Minister Stucki. They were not able to give me any reasons for such refusal because no explanation was given.

The Inter-Governmental Committee will be advised by the Political Department and the Governments of Britain and the United States will be informed by the Inter-Governmental Committee. The Political Department in doing so will recommend that steps taken to reply, in the very interest of the continuation of the contributions of Switzerland in trying to alleviate the sufferings engendered by war, shall be strictly preserved from any publicity both in England and in America.

HARRISON

DEC: 4/20/44

State Dept. Library, 11-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972
The following message is from Zurich:

On April 3 there was held here a conference of visa officers from the Consulates at Basel, Geneva and Bern. Upon production of the following evidence it is proposed to facilitate the issuing of immigration visas to the refugee children referred to in Department's number 891 dated March 18 to the Legation at Bern, provided the Department has no objection.

1. Date and place of entry into Switzerland which could be contained in a statement from the Swiss Federal police.

2. There should also be produced a birth certificate, but if this is not available the above statement of Federal police should include date and place of birth as given on entry into Switzerland (the Swiss Federal police will readily give such statements since they are very cooperative).

3. Also a medical certificate from a doctor approved by the Consulate.

4. Photographs - three.

5. If available, passport or other travel document; however, if not available visa should not be denied because of this.

6. Ten dollar fee.

Upon reissuance only fees and photographs will be necessary. It is the expectation that almost all children will be presented by refugee organizations to the Consulates.

It is
It is reported by Dr. Donald Lowrie of the YMCA who is on the committee of refugee organizations in Switzerland, that since January 1, 1944, approximately 120 refugee children under sixteen have entered Switzerland from France, and that the most optimistic estimate is that before June 30 less than 1,000 additional may enter. It is reported by Dr. Lowrie also that the authorities of Switzerland have been most cooperative and that last November they confidentially agreed to accept fifteen hundred unaccompanied children but that there has been a great increase in difficulties on the French side of the border. Because of the strictness of the German border control it is most unlikely that any children will cross in from Germany. According to Dr. Lowrie it was also confidentially agreed by the Swiss in February to allow "passage" with children to stay for twenty-four hours in Switzerland and that it is not yet certain that American immigration visas for these children will be required by the Swiss. Up to the present time none have applied.

ED HOLZEN

4/7/44

Mailing Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Bernstein, Cohn, Debus, Friedmann, Garton, Hodel, Laughlin, Lasser, Luxford, Mann, Rosen, Marks, McCormack, Murphy, Paull, Paul, Paplik, Raina, Sargoy, Smith, Sandil, Stewart, Weinstein, H. D. White, Files
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: The American Minister, Bern
TO: The Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: April 3, 1944
RNSBER: 2046

Loury, Seigner, and organizations interested in the
movement from France of refugee children have already been
notified informally and consultation is suggested with the
Consuls. Today at Zurich the Consul General is convening
the Consuls to simplify and organize the routine of the
visa issue which naturally will be worked out with the
welfare groups' assistance and cooperation. This refers
to your number 1089 dated March 31, 1944. It would be of
assistance to all of us here and enable us to better corre-
your late our efforts if action on my number 1754 dated March 22
could be expedited.

HARRISON

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept Date: SEP 19, 1972
By: R. H. Parks Date: 1/6/44
SPECIAL DELIVERY, WASHINGTON
To: Ambassador, USSR
Date: June 1, 1944

The following message was sent by Mrs. E. A. Hearst of the American Women's
Joint Military Committee:

Please convey the following message to Mrs. Livingstone, Mrs. E. A. Hearst of the American Women's
Joint Military Committee:

I hereby relay to Miss Catherine Sanger the following request for more information and other
materials. Your personal assistance and that of the American Women's Joint Military
Committee would be greatly appreciated.

A number have been received from the United States Government that

...
FROM: SECRETARY OF STATE, WASHINGTON
TO: AMBASSADOR BERNE
DATED: MARCH 31, 1944
NUMBER: 1089

FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD FOR MINISTER HARRISON.

With reference to Department's Cable No. 891 of March 16
please immediately inform Reigner, Sternbuch, Saly Meyer and
other representatives in Switzerland of American welfare
agencies of availability of American visas for 4000 refugee
children. They should be advised that this information must
be treated as extremely confidential.
March 29, 1944
11:30 A.M.

To:  Mr. Warren
From:  J. W. Peble

It will be appreciated if you will have the attached cable to Bern despatched at once.

J.W.P.

Bakzin:jp 3/29/44
March 29, 1944
11:30 A.M.

Draft of cable to Bern for Minister Harrison

From War Refugee Board

With reference to Department's Cable No. 631 of March 18 please immediately inform Reigner, Sternbuch, Saly Meyer and other representatives in Switzerland of American welfare agencies of availability of American visas for 4000 refugee children. They should be advised that this information must be treated as extremely confidential.
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT
FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legion, Bern
DATER: March 11, 1944
NUMBER: 1090

Following is from the Refugee Board for Harrison:

To request you to inquire of appropriate Swiss authorities whether they feel that their present negotiations with regard to the immigration, for refuge in Switzerland, of Jewish and other children from France, would be helped by similar approaches by the Sire and Portuguese Governments. If it is believed by the Swiss Government that such approaches by the Sire and Portuguese Governments would aid and not embarrass their own efforts, the wisdom of this Government requesting the Governments of Portugal and Sire to associate themselves with the Swiss approach will be considered by the Board.

Please cable results of your inquiry.

HULL
March 28, 1944
5:15 p.m.

To: Mr. Stettinius
From: J.W. Fehle

Attention: George Warren

I would appreciate it if the annexed cable were transmitted to Minister Harriss, Bern, as promptly as possible.

(signed) J.W. Fehle

Delivered 3/27/44

Personally delivered by Mr. Mann
Referring to previous cables exchanged concerning the issuance by Vichy of exit permits to Jewish and other children for refuge in Switzerland, you are requested to inquire immediately of appropriate Swiss authorities whether they feel that their negotiations with Vichy would be aided by approaches of governments of Eire and Portugal. If the Swiss consider that such approaches on humanitarian grounds would not embarrass their own efforts and might exercise some beneficial influence either on Berlin or on Vichy, this Government will undertake to approach the governments of Eire and Portugal accordingly.

Please cable results of inquiry.

LSLesser en 3/27/44
1. A note was handed by me to Mr. Pilet-Golat informing him of the substance of your telegram of March 18, 1944, no. 891 which has also been communicated to Zurich Consulate-General and other Consulates in accordance with directions.

   It was pointed out by Mr. Pilet, after reading my note and stating that he would make reply, that entry into Switzerland was allowed for refugee children. Mr. Pilet also recalled the Swiss continuing desire to receive children for purposes of rehabilitation. Reference was made by him to the proposal of Dinglefoot that an asylum be given to 100,000 children as well as International Government Committee for Refugees' request on behalf of British and United States Governments that attempts be made by the Swiss to obtain from Vichy permission for exit permits for 5000 children and/or for permission for them to come to Switzerland. This matter had been taken up by Minister Tucki and upon his return here in a few days he would report the results of his efforts. It was indicated by past experience that German opposition has to be expected. With respect to financial aid, Mr. Pilet believed that there would be no need for this. There might be a need for wool, cotton, etcetera, for clothing except shoes.

2. It is
2. It is stated by a reliable authority in welfare organization familiar with general problem of child refugees in Switzerland that he estimates that less than 100 refugee children have arrived in Switzerland from France from January 1 to date. This is subject to confirmation.

Furthermore, there is some doubt whether there will be a possibility of filling more than a percentage of quota allotted for present quota year unless facilities for clandestine movements in France can be improved.

HARRISON
TO: The Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: March 22, 1944
NUMBER: 36

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED
FROM: The American Consul, Zurich

The American Consul, Zurich to the Secretary of State, Washington, March 22, 1944:

With reference to immigration visas for refugee children from France, the Consulate General has been provided by the Legation with a copy of Department's message number 891 dated March 18, 1944. The necessary steps are being taken by this office to have all consulates in Switzerland issue such visas and further developments will be reported.

Woods

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 09 1972
FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: March 18, 1944
NUMBER: 891

Pursuant to Part 58.55(a) (16) of the Regulations of November 19, 1941 as amended concerning aliens entering the United States, the following special instructions relating to the issuance of visas to refugee children are issued in an attempt to cause the Government of Sweden to give refuge to additional refugee children from France:

Authorization is given to Consular officers in Switzerland to issue during the present quota year in the aggregate up to 4000 immigration visas to refugee children who shall have arrived in Switzerland from France on or after January 1 of this year and before July 1 of this year. Specific instructions from the Department may extend this latter date. The visas are to be issued without regard to religious, nationality or stateless status and without regard to the question of availability to means of transportation to the United States. The children which this instruction covers shall be under 16 years of age at the time the visas are issued and of course are subject to the statutory immigration requirements of Section 3 of the Act of February 5, 1917 except that they may be considered to meet the public charge requirements since the Attorney General has found that satisfactory arrangements for their support have been made.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 13 1972
have been made.

With respect to the determination of questions under Section 58.47 of the Regulations of November 19, 1941 as amended, concerning aliens entering the United States, no consideration shall be given to the existence of the relationships described in Section 58.48 thereof. During the same quote year replace visas may be issued to those children who are still qualified therefor under this instruction and who are still under 16 years of age at the date when such replace visas are issued. It is the intention of the Department, subject to the quota laws, to assign numbers from the quota for next year to cover visas issued pursuant to this instruction under the quota for this year and to repeat this process each year until at least 6 months after the present hostilities between Germany and the United States have ceased. Thus it is intended that children to whom visas are issued in accordance with this instruction, except children who in the interim reach 16 years of age, will continue to hold visas until transportation is available to the United States. Furthermore, the foregoing assumes no pertinent adverse change in the present quota laws. You should report to the Department for further instructions the cases of children who have passed their sixteenth birthday in the interim desiring to obtain new visas or replace old ones. There is no need to register and fingerprint children under 14 years of age.

The Zurich Consulate General will be the supervisory and control
control office for the assignment of quota numbers to offices in Switzerland equipped for issuing immigration visas or to which Zurich can furnish equipment. The following inclusive non-preference quota numbers are allotted to Zurich for this purpose: 65 to 234 Belgian; 265 to 514 Czechoslovak; 145 to 444 French; 1031 to 3430 German; 157 to 466 Netherland; and 1084 to 1883 Polish quotas.

These visas may be issued at the rate of 25% of each allotment monthly. At the end of each month Zurich should submit by cable consolidated quota reports, returning any unused numbers and giving name of child, quota number, and date and place of issuance. A request should be made by cable if additional quota numbers of the countries mentioned or of any other country are desired. An estimate of quota numbers needed for the fiscal year 1944-1945 should be submitted by cable before June 1. Consular officers in Switzerland should be informed. You should advise the appropriate Swiss authorities concerning this instruction and state that this Government earnestly hopes that the Government of Switzerland will promptly take such action, direct or indirect, as will facilitate and expedite the movement of children to Switzerland from France. Furthermore, you may advise the Government of Switzerland that the War Refugee Board will undertake to arrange for any financing that may be needed to provide maintenance for refugees from enemy oppression arriving in that country.

It is requested that you report the reaction of the Swiss
Swiss and that developments in this matter which may be of interest be sent to the Department.

HULL
attached is the text of a cable which I strongly urge be sent to Anglo-American authorities at once, and all possible dispatch.

It has been reliably reported that there are many thousands of Jewish children, stateless and of various nationalities, in hiding in France who are subject to deportation to Poland. The parents of these children have already been deported or are being detained pending deportation. This government has already secured the Swiss government, through the Inter-governmental Committee, that it is prepared to receive five thousand of these children if the Swiss Government can arrange with Vancy for their release from France. (Signature A.B. from London, January 15, 1944, and enclosures). It would seem, however, that the Inter-governmental Committee considers the question of visas in Switzerland for these children an "administrative" to the main issue. In other words, they believe that the Swiss Government is determined, pending a determination of the Swiss authorities on the question of such an approach, and if such an approach should be made, it is "administrative.

Undoubtedly, any experience with approaches of this kind would indicate the necessity of interminable delays while Vancy consults with Berlin.

In the meantime, a number of these children are arriving in Switzerland by their own efforts and without the aid of Vancy's will-permits. It is in our understanding that through the Swiss are not turning back any refugees children that reach their borders, an organized effort to bring these children into Switzerland in large numbers is feasible unless the Swiss have some assurance that the children will be evacuated after the war. The intention of the attached cable is to extend such an assurance, at least with respect to not more than five thousand children entering Switzerland from France between January 1, 1944 and four months after the cable is sent.

In matters of this kind, visas may be issued to children arriving in Switzerland from France (Per. 107 to London, January 6, 1944) but in view of Switzerland's geographical position, the issuance of such visas would not constitute the assurance that Switzerland requires, unless...
there is also some commitment to rescue or replace such visas as they expire until at least such time as an agreement between the United States and Switzerland is possible and acceptable. Of course, the commitment contained in the attached cable is subject to the applicable immigration laws of the United States and any amendments thereto that the Congress may enact. I have no doubt that the visa will be understood and, I am nevertheless confident that this will not detract from its adequacy.

The attached cable would make the advisory opinion procedure unnecessary in connection with the issuance of those visas. It is our view that this would go a long way toward expediting their issuance and consequently toward saving the lives of a large number of children.

In view of the impending of the forthcoming economic negotiations with the Swiss at which the reception of child-refugees by Switzerland will be discussed (No. 817 from London, January 12, 1944), I urge that the attached cable be transmitted immediately.

(Signed) J. K. Kennedy

10:00 11/20/44
The following special instructions are issued pursuant to Part 28.20(b) of the Regulations of November 19, 1961, as amended, regarding aliens entering, and shall remain in full force and effect unless specifically revoked. You and all other visa-issuing authorities in Switzerland are hereby instructed to issue in the aggregate, without regard to the availability of means of transportation in the United States, up to five thousand immigration visas to refugee children from Europe who have arrived in Switzerland since January 1, 1944, or who shall arrive in Switzerland within four months after the date of these instructions. No children may be of any nationality or citizenship, but no such child shall have reached six or her sixteenth birthday. You are further instructed at appropriate times to renew such immigration visas issued pursuant to these instructions and to issue new immigration visas to all aliens who seek immigration visas and have been issued pursuant to these instructions, it being the intention of these instructions that such aliens to whom an immigration visa is issued pursuant to these instructions shall hold an unexpired immigration visa at all times until at least six months after the termination of the present facilities between the United States and Germany. New immigration visas shall be issued to aliens to whom immigration visas have been issued pursuant to these instructions and immigration visas issued pursuant to these instructions shall be renewed without regard to the age of the alien at the time of such renewal or the issuance of the new visa.

Please advise the appropriate Swiss authorities of the contents of these instructions and inform them that it is this Government's earnest hope that the Swiss government will promptly take such action, direct and immediate, as will facilitate and expedite the movement of children from Europe to Switzerland. You may also inform the Swiss government that the War Refugee Board will undertake to arrange for any financial aid necessary to provide maintenance for refugees from enemy occupation arriving in Switzerland. Please report any developments that may be of interest.
Given below is the substance of a message received in reply to representations in Legation's note to Political Department, February 9:

As His Majesty's Legation was informed by the Political Department, if Switzerland does not relieve children war victims on a larger scale, it is not because it hesitates to sacrifice part of its resources; but because on one hand convoys of children no longer arrive in Switzerland, on other hand because of limited effect and complications of local distribution of relief, Switzerland could take tens of thousands of children at a time using supplies from its own stocks. Switzerland would gladly do so. As it is known, the Swiss people are again impatient to receive children. Federal authorities having the same desire have unceasingly tried to overcome difficulties which prevented convoys of children from coming to Switzerland for more than a year.

The Political Department is happy to note that...
British and American Governments would be disposed to grant facilities for additional imports of clothing and foodstuffs and thus ease part of the burden if Switzerland were in a position to take more children than its means afford.

The Political Department also hastens to add that the Swiss delegation which has just arrived for economic negotiations in London will not fail to probe with competent British authorities into different aspects of question dealt with in Legation's note of February 9 in order to take up under conditions most favorable to success the high humanitarian endeavor which everyone wishes to bring to a good end.

(The foregoing message has also been repeated by British Legation which has telegraphed summary to London for their information.)

HARRISON
Secretary of State,
Washington.

14:39, Twenty-first.

Reference last sentence Department's telegram 626, January 25.

Foreign Office has replied to our letter in the matter as follows:

"His Majesty's Government welcome the proposal that a representative of the Inter-Governmental Committee should be attached to UNRRA and if the latter is merged in UNRRA then it would appear that there would be scope for cooperation between the latter and the Inter-Governmental Committee to be extended to that territory in accordance with the general agreement recently reached regarding the relations between UNRRA and the Inter-Governmental Committee. If you agree we can jointly inform Emerson accordingly so that he can proceed with necessary arrangements in Cairo."

Please inform us when Cairo is instructed.

WINANT
2/15/44

Copies to:

Secretary (Miss Chalmey)
Mr. Paul
Mr. Gaston
Mr. White
Mr. Pehle
Mr. Luxford
Mr. Dubois
Mr. E. R. Bernstein
Mr. Stewart
Mr. Lesser
Mr. Friedman
Mr. Pollak
Miss Hodel
DH - 132

London

Dated February 7, 1944
Rte'd 3:45 p.m.

SECRETARY OF STATE,

Washington,

1044, Seventy.

Reference Department's 868, February 3.

Bern informed, February 4.

MOTT

In reference to children in Switzerland
WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

"Swiss Government regrets to inform us that despite repeated interventions with Vichy Government, negative reply was received regarding exit facilities for children threatened with deportation. Bern makes formal request that no publicity whatsoever be given here or in United States concerning intervention itself or Vichy refusal. It is emphasized that discretion is more than ever essential if Swiss Government are to pursue effort on our behalf."

WINANT

REPUBLICAN

RECLUSION:
No. 14393

London, March 11, 1944

Subject: Palestine Immigration Numbers

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

Upon receipt of the Department's airgram A-63, 7:20 p.m., January 19, 1944, the Embassy immediately discussed with the appropriate British officials the matter of immigration into Palestine and expressed the hope of the United States Government that the British authorities might reconsider their position and authorize numbers to be allocated permitting children to enter Palestine within the total allowable under the White Paper.

The view expressed by the Foreign Office was that, although there is no intention on the part of the British Government to close immigration into Palestine after March 31, 1944, (the time limit originally expressed in the 1939 White Paper for the immigration quota established therein) it is nevertheless undesirable to freeze any substantial number of certificates for cases that may never arise. By way of confirming the views expressed in that discussion the Foreign Office addressed to us a letter dated February 18, 1944. A copy is enclosed.

It will be observed that the Foreign Office assumed that the aspect of the matter which gives concern to the Department is the effect upon Switzerland of British refusal to issue to refugee children to whom Switzerland may be considering giving temporary asylum quota numbers assumed to be valid for immigration into Palestine after the war. To that premise of the Department's inquiry the Foreign Office addresses its answer, pointing out that, as far as it is aware, the Swiss Government has made no representations either to the Intergovernmental Committee or to the British Government regarding conditions on which Switzerland would be willing to receive refugee children. It should particularly be noted that the Foreign Office holds open appropriate consideration of the matter if and when the Swiss Government approaches the Intergovernmental Committee for concrete assurances. The position stated is that the British Government does not wish, on a hypothetical basis, to complicate its administering of the immigration quota into Palestine.

The Embassy has taken the occasion, by way of obtaining expressions of view of possible use to the Department.
in weighing the tenability of the British reply as above, to consult representatives here of several concerned organizations with regard to present practice in issuing quota numbers for immigration into Palestine. There is general agreement among them that, for reasons of political equilibrium in Palestine and the Arab area, while the war continues, the British Government is seeking to keep the total of immigration into Palestine well within the number previously announced, in spite of lengthening the period of time to which it is to apply. On the other hand there is also general agreement that difficulties of travel and exit from enemy-occupied territory are the actual determining limitations under present conditions rather than lack of availability of numbers.

The 1939 White Paper (Cmd. 6019, May 1939, entitled PALESTINE, Statement of Policy; enclosed with despatch 3979, May 19, 1939) laid down certain conditions (page 10 and 11), including Palestine's economic absorptive capacity, to govern the admission of some 75,000 Jewish immigrants into Palestine in the five year period from April 1, 1939 to March 31, 1944. In the House of Commons on November 10, 1943 (Parliamentary Debates, Vol. 393, No. 120, column 1132; enclosed with despatch 12278, November 17, 1943) the Secretary of State for the Colonies reported that up to the end of September 1943 the number of Jews who entered Palestine against the total of 75,000 to be admitted under the existing quota system was 43,922, leaving a balance of 31,078 concerning which he made the following carefully-worded statement:

"...There are thus 31,078 who, it may be fairly assumed, would have reached it before 31st March, 1944, but for the exigencies of the war. His Majesty's Government have been considering this situation, and have reached the conclusion that it would be inequitable to close the doors of Palestine to these persons on account of the time factor. No effort will be lacking on the part of His Majesty's Government to facilitate their arrival, subject to the criterion of economic absorptive capacity.

The unused balance of 31,078 as of the end of September 1943 has been reduced at the present to approximately 26,000 according to statements informally made to us at the Foreign Office.

Respectfully yours,
For the Ambassador:

W. J. Gallman
Counselor of Embassy


GC/12/PB
Dear Bucknell,

Your letter of 29th January about the Swiss application to Germany at the request of the Inter-governmental Committee to allow Jewish children to leave France.

Before replying, I thought it best to explain our position in greater length to Coville, and I should now like to confirm this as follows:

Our understanding is that the Swiss Government has been requested to try to obtain exit permits for Jewish children from France. If these are given the children will receive hospitality in the United States (5,000), in Canada and elsewhere, and there will be negotiations with the Spanish and Portuguese Governments to get the children in question through those countries in order that they may proceed overseas. The Swiss Government will be asked to grant temporary asylum to some of the children, but it seems more practicable, in view of the number of visas offered elsewhere, that the children should be directed through Spain and Portugal.

So far the Swiss Government has not obtained any promise of exit permits. They have also made, so far as I am aware, no representations to the Inter-governmental Committee or to us regarding conditions on which they would receive children in their own territory. The question of the children going eventually to Palestine is therefore entirely hypothetical, and the feeling of our authorities is that in these circumstances it would be undesirable to freeze any substantial number of certificates for cases which may never arise, as this would reduce the stock available for the regular allocations which are made in agreement with the Jewish Agency. Of course, if the German Government agreed to give exit permits and if asylum offered in countries other than Switzerland proved insufficient or if proved impracticable to transport the children to those

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countries, and if the Swiss Government then agreed to take a certain number of children themselves only on the condition that the children in question were received elsewhere at the end of the war, it would be open to the Swiss Government then to go to the Intergovernmental Committee, which would have the duty of seeing how far the Swiss Government’s condition could be met. In this concrete case, the British Government could be approached in respect of Palestine or other territories for which it is responsible in exactly the same way as other members of the Committee could be approached. The mere existence of the Intergovernmental Committee and the fact that Switzerland is a member of it would appear to be a sufficient assurance to the Swiss Government that they will not have to shoulder the present or future burden of refugees in Swiss territory with no prospect of international assistance, but the assurances your Government and mine have given the Swiss Government of sympathetic consideration over any obstacles to a continuance of the Swiss Government’s humanitarian action surely makes all apprehensions rather unreal.

In the light of the above, I hope you will agree that our reluctance to freeze Palestine permits in a purely hypothetical case where no concrete action or objection has been raised by the Swiss Government should, if properly understood, prove no hindrance to the efforts which are now being made by the Intergovernmental Committee and the Swiss Government to persuade the German Authorities to allow children to depart, and I should be grateful if this explanation could be conveyed to the State Department. We are very anxious that the balance of immigration permissible into Palestine should be used as far as possible for refugees from Nazi terror; our concern is to secure that it is used to the best advantage and that permits should not be frozen for people who may not be able to use them.

Yours sincerely,

A.W.O. Randall

P.S. Since writing the above I have heard that the Swiss Government have undertaken to receive 1500 children from France if they can reach the frontier, and no conditions so far as I know have been attached to this offer.
MEMORANDUM

REFUGEE CHILDREN IN FRANCE

December 30, 1943,

from London.

The Governments of the United Kingdom and United States of America have referred to the Intergovernmental Committee the question of Jewish refugee children in France. The reference has arisen out of representations by the Joint Distribution Committee of New York to the effect that an order has been given by the German authorities to register all such children, and it is feared that this is preliminary to deportation to Poland. Some 3,000 children are with Christian families, and it is hoped that they may escape detection. The rest are in great danger. The Joint Distribution Committee has already made representations to the Swiss Government which is reported to have asked, first, for a guarantee of maintenance of any children they may take, and second, for an assurance that all the children will be removed after the war. The Joint Distribution Committee is prepared to give a guarantee of maintenance, but cannot give any assurance about re-emigration.

2. Previous attempts have been made on behalf of some of these children. During the summer and autumn of 1942 measures were taken by the Vichy authorities against refugees of German and Austrian origin in their territory. Many of the adults, both men and women, were deported to Germany, and there were harassing accounts of what was happening to the children. Efforts were made to persuade the Vichy authorities to give permits enabling the children to leave France. At the same time, approaches were made to various Governments to give asylum to them, and the statement attached (Annexure!) gives particulars of the offers then made. Ultimately the Vichy authorities agreed to the issue of 500 exit permits, and preparations were in train to get them out of France and transported via Portugal to the United States of America when, as a consequence of the allied invasion of North Africa, the Germans marched into Vichy France, the exit permits were then withdrawn. Since then several approaches have been made to the Vichy authorities, but none directly by the Intergovernmental Committee. These have, so far, proved unsuccessful.

3. Within the past few weeks the Intergovernmental Committee has had information which indicates that the Eire Government may be prepared to approach the Vichy and German authorities on its own behalf, and to give asylum to a group of 500 children, among whom, it is hoped, will be included some of the Jewish refugee children now in danger. The Intergovernmental Committee is being kept informed of these developments, of which the chances of success will probably be greater if the action of the Eire Government is kept independent of the efforts of the Intergovernmental Committee, the latter giving such advice and assistance as the Eire Government may wish.
4. It will be seen from the above account that a preliminary to success is an approach to the German and Vichy authorities to grant exit permits to the children in question. An approach to both is necessary since some of the children are outside Vichy France.

5. If the grant of exit permits is authorized, there will then remain the finding of asylum for the children. This can be pursued along two lines, first, getting the children out of France into Portugal and thence to the countries of asylum, and second, persuading the Swiss Government to give asylum to some of the children. There seems to be no reason why both lines should not be pursued simultaneously. With regard to the first method, preliminary steps have been taken by the Director to ascertain from the Governments of the Argentine, the Dominion of Canada and the United States of America:

(a) Whether the previous offers still hold good, and

(b) whether they will include children in the whole of France and not merely children in Vichy France, to which several of them primarily related.

These three Governments have also been asked whether they would extend the offers to children to whom the Swiss Government was willing to give asylum if, before the end of the hostilities, it was possible, and necessary, to remove them from Switzerland, and if so, whether the appropriate age limits would have effect from the time of their removal from France or from Switzerland. Enquiry is also being made from the Jewish Agency in Palestine regarding the certificates that might be available for that country and the conditions attaching to them.

6. It is, therefore, suggested that the Executive Committee should give the following authority to the Director:

(a) To move the Swiss Government to approach the Vichy and German authorities for the grant of exit permits.

(b) To negotiate with the Swiss Government for the grant of temporary asylum to some of the children.

(c) To continue the discussions with the Governments of the Argentine, the Dominion of Canada and the United States of America, and also with the Jewish Agency for Palestine, with the object of arranging for the asylum of the children.
(d) To carry on negotiations with the Portuguese Government if, and when, there is a definite prospect of getting the children into Portugal; also with the Spanish Government in regard to transit facilities.

(e) To carry on negotiations with the Joint Distribution Committee or other organizations in regard to the maintenance and transport of the children.

(f) Palling other arrangements for the cost of maintenance and transport, to submit proposals to the Executive Committee.

H. W. EMERSON

Director.
A principal means of assisting in the rescue of victims of enemy oppression and persecution is to offer the neutral nations contiguous to enemy-controlled territory effective and concrete guarantees that such refugees will not in large numbers remain after the war. By this means such neutrals may be induced to receive at this crucial time increased numbers of refugees. Thus, the Governments of the United States, United Kingdom, Soviet Union, Luxembourg, Yugoslavia, Norway, Greece, Belgium, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and The Netherlands and the French Committee have already agreed in principle that each of them will receive after the war its nationals who have fled to asylum in other countries and to assure such conditions in enemy countries as will permit the return thereof of all persons who have fled therefrom to refuge elsewhere. Obviously, however, it is probable that a number of refugees will not as a practical matter be able or willing for a variety of reasons to return to their former homes. Just how large this number will be is uncertain, but the neutral countries above referred to are aware of this probability and for this reason hesitate freely to admit refugees seeking asylum.

In an effort partially at least to solve this problem the Department has authorized American consular officers in Switzerland to issue up to 4,000 visas to refugees of any nationality and regardless of stateless status arriving in Switzerland from France during the first six months of 1944. The Department has further stated its intention, within the limits of the quota law, to replace such visas as they expire until at least six months after the war. Similar provision is about to be made for the issuance of an additional 1,000 visas to refugee children escaping from France to Spain.

You are requested to advise appropriate officials of the Australian government of the foregoing and to inquire whether the Australian government will take action parallel to our own. In this connection, you may wish to advise such officials that the War Refugees Board is gratified by the recent increase to an aggregate of 300, the number of refugee children that it has been announced Australia will receive.

In this connection, however, it is of interest that it was authoritatively reported here in December 1938 that the Australian government announced that it would receive 15,000 European refugees over a three-year period.
The War Refugee Board has been approached in connection with a project to colonize European Jews in Northeastern Australia known as the Kimberley Project. We are advised that on March 31, 1943, E. J. Holloway, Australian Minister for Social Services and Health wrote in respect to this project: "QUOTE The West Australian government had agreed and the Federal Government were giving favorable consideration to the project when the war put all projects, other than war, on one side. UNQUOTE The project was also, from letters made available to the War Refugee Board, to have had the support as recently as a year ago of the Anglican Archbishop of Perth, the Presbyterian Moderator General, the Methodist President General, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne, and the Australian Council of Trades Unions. Please make appropriate inquiries to determine whether anything is being done at the present time to further or to ascertain the feasibility of this project."

On October 28, 1943, the War Refugee Board is informed, Prime Minister Curtin wrote concerning it: "QUOTE The whole question of immigration into Australia, particularly having regard to the conditions that will exist at the conclusion of hostilities is one that requires to be fully explored from all aspects. Plans are at present in progress to set up a Committee to study the various phases of the general problem and, until recommendations are made by that body, the Government is not in a position to formulate a definite policy. UNQUOTE Please ascertain and advise the Department whether such a Committee has been constituted and, if so, whether it has made any study of the Kimberley project and its practicability.

The War Refugee Board is of the view that the mere knowledge that a concrete proposal such as the Kimberley project is receiving serious study by an Australian governmental committee on immigration matters might be some aid in further opening neutral borders to refugees from enemy-controlled territories and thus in saving the lives of many. It is with this thought in mind therefore that we suggest you make the inquiry above indicated. You may make this view of the War Refugee Board known in appropriate quarters if the occasion should arise and you deem it advisable to do so. Consideration is being given to the advisability of discussing the Kimberley project and other refugee problems with Prime Minister Curtin during his forthcoming visit to the United States. Please keep the Department advised.

You have
You have requested clarification of work contemplated by the War Refugee Board and clarification of its connection with UNRRA.

UNRRA and the War Refugee Board are both international in character, while the War Refugee Board is an organization of the United States set up to carry out the policies of the United States Government. The War Refugee Board has been created for speedy action and is dedicated to measures to secure withdrawal of victims of oppression from enemy or enemy-occupied territory and where that is not possible, to measures to alleviate their condition. The War Refugee Board is prepared to render every assistance to both UNRRA and the War Refugee Board in any projects they have undertaken or will undertake with the view to bring about the speedy rescue of victims of enemy oppression.

At the moment Sir Herbert Samuel and Patrick Melia are in the United States to discuss relationships.

cc: Miss Cheapsy (Forbes Scott), Mr. Abrahamson, Mr. Aknin, Mr. Bernstein, Mrs. Cohn, Mr. Embir, Mr. Friedman, Mr. Gaston, Miss Hidal, Miss Laughin Mr. Lesser, Mr. Laxford, Mr. Mann, Mrs. Mann, Mr. Norga, Mr. McDermott Mr. Paul, Mr. Pfeil, Mr. Pollock, Mr. Remus, Mr. Remy, Mr. Smith, Mr. Stanleia, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Streem, Mr. Weinsten, Mr. R. B. White, Mr. Hull.

4/8/44