

Problems with Respect to Relief and Rescue
of Refugees: Evacuation to Switzerland

Evacuation of Abandoned
Children from France

Folder 2
E-F-10

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DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

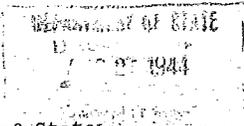
INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

MS-579

PLAIN
London

Dated August 24, 1944
Rec'd 9:12 p.m.



Secretary of State
Washington.

6858, Twenty-fourth

FOLLOWING FOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD FROM JOSEPH
SCHWARTZ FOR MOSES LEAVITT JDC:

"Saly Mayer continuing do everything possible
for group 1200 Rabbis and other Hungarian Jewish
religious leaders. Reference cables you have been
receiving from Mizrachi representative Switzerland
wish point out we are not in position to set up and
maintain children's homes in Switzerland on a politi-
cal or party basis and have consistently refused to
encourage either the Mizrachi or Aguda or any other
party organization from organizing separate homes.
Should we become involved in practices of this kind
we shall be called upon to support any number of
similar projects organized by the various groups in
the country. Swiss Government too has requested that
child care programme should be largely under
supervision Swiss

000704

-2- #6858, August 24, from London.

supervision Swiss Red Cross and on non-sectarian basis since Swiss participating financial maintenance these children. Saly Mayer has been contributing from our funds and from funds received from South Africa to Swiss Red Cross for children and has also been subsidizing those which engaged in child care programme on broad non-sectarian basis. Despite any pressure you may be subjected to would urge we adhere to this policy since any other would lead to chaos and would encourage other groups to adopt similar tactics. For your information 320 Hungarian Jews arrived in Switzerland on August 18th".

WINANT

RR

000705

CABLES: "JOINTDISCO" NEW YORK

TELEPHONE: LEXington 2-5200

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June 19, 1944.

Mr. Miles Standish
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Standish:

I regret that through some misunderstanding the copies of the guarantees sent by the U.S. Committee for the Care of European Children, Inc., to the Attorney General of the U.S. were not sent to you previously. I am enclosing two copies for your information.

Sincerely yours,

Moses A. Leavitt
Moses A. Leavitt

MAL:JO

Jim Jersco's Gals

000706

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000707

December 30, 1948

Mr. Howard K. Travers
Visa Division
Department of State
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find copy of the letter which we have today
sent to the Attorney General of the United States.

Very truly yours,

UNITED STATES COMMITTEE FOR THE CARE OF
EUROPEAN CHILDREN, INC.

By _____
President.

000708

December 30, 1945.

The Attorney General of the United States
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the letter dated September 10, 1942 addressed to you by this Committee, under and pursuant to which assurances were given to you, as required by the provisions of the order of the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization and the Attorney General dated July 18, 1940, with respect to one thousand children who, it was then contemplated, might come to the United States under the auspices of this Committee.

Reference is likewise made to the letter dated October 26, 1942 addressed to you by this Committee, under and pursuant to which assurances were given to you, as required by the provisions of the order hereinbefore mentioned, with respect to four thousand children who, it was then contemplated, might come to the United States under the auspices of this Committee.

Please be advised that the assurances contained in the letters aforesaid are still deemed by this Committee to be in full force and effect.

We are sending a copy of this letter to the Department of State, attention Mr. Howard K. Travers, Visa Division.

Very truly yours,

UNITED STATES COMMITTEE FOR THE CARE OF
EUROPEAN CHILDREN, INC.

By _____
President

000709

October 26, 1942

The Attorney General of the United States
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the letter of the United States Committee for the Care of European Children, Inc., to the Attorney General, dated July 20, 1940, requesting the Attorney General's approval of this Committee as a corporation not for profit authorized to act under the provisions of the order of the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization and the Attorney General, dated July 13, 1940, as well as the letter of the Attorney General to the Committee dated July 20, 1940, giving such approval and authority, as well as the Committee's affidavit, executed July 19, 1940, wherein is contained its general undertaking to the Attorney General with respect to all refugee children who may come to the United States under its auspices.

Reference is also made to the letter of the United States Committee for the Care of European Children, Inc., addressed to the Attorney General dated January 23, 1941, as well as the letter of the Attorney General to the Committee dated January 25, 1941.

Pursuant to the foregoing, the Committee respectfully requests your acceptance of the following assurances, as required by said order of July 13, 1940 with respect to 4000 children for whom provision for identification will be made, seeking to come to the United States from unoccupied France, under the auspices of this Committee on immigration visas.

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The Committee assures the Attorney General that said children covered by these assurances shall be designated to the Department of State or to the consul issuing the visas, by Marshall Field, President of this Committee, acting by and through representatives of this committee in the United States or France, the names of which representatives, will, from time to time, be fully supplied to the Department of State by said President.

With respect to each child, the Committee, a corporation not for profit organized for the purpose of assuring the care and support of refugee children and approved by the Attorney General for such purposes, assures the Attorney General as follows:

1. That each said child for whom provision for identification will be made, will not become a public charge.
2. That arrangements have been or will be made for the reception, placement and care of each said child in accordance with the standards of the Children's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor; and
3. That upon initial placement of each said child the sum of \$50.00 for each said child will be deposited, pursuant to said order dated July 13, 1940, in the "United States Committee for the Care of European Children, Inc., Guarantee Fund for Guest Children," created under an agreement between the Committee and the Chase National Bank of New York City, dated January 23, 1941.

In support of the assurances above tendered, the Committee advises the Attorney General that:

1. It has a sum of \$5,000 on deposit in "Special Account No. 1 - Temporary Deposit Account for Unidentified Children" of which amount withdrawals will be made only for the purpose of depositing said withdrawals in the "United States Committee for the Care of European Children, Inc. Guarantee Fund for Guest Children,"

created under an agreement between the Committee and the Chase National Bank of New York City, dated January 22, 1941, pursuant to the order of the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization and the Attorney General, dated July 13, 1940.

2. It will deposit \$50.00 in the above-mentioned "Special Account No. 1" for each child who may be admitted to the United States in the future on a visa theretofore made available by the assurances contained in this letter. Upon initial placement of such child, such \$50.00 payment will be withdrawn from "Special Account No. 1" and deposited in the above-mentioned Guarantee Fund. The Committee further assures the Attorney General that the amount of money then on deposit in the aforesaid Guarantee Fund for Guest Children, plus the total amount of money theretofore deposited in "Special Account No. 1 - Temporary Deposit Account for Unidentified Children" will at all times equal at least \$50.00 for each child who has been admitted to the United States on a visa which has been cleared by the Federal Authorities at the request of this Committee.
3. That arrangements have been or will be made satisfactory to the Committee to meet all costs of each said child incident to reception, care and transportation to its destination in the United States from the port of entry and to meet the head tax and visa fees as required by the Federal Statutes and the credit investigating charges.
4. 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 Committee believes that responsible undertakings of individuals with respect to the support and care of unidentified children will be forthcoming in excess of the number hereinabove referred to.

If the assurances of this Committee hereinabove are satisfactory, it respectfully requests of the Attorney General; to notify the Department of State that such advices have been given, and such assurances tendered and that the Attorney General has found that each said child, for whom provision for identification has been or will be made,

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is not inadmissible under said order, dated July 13, 1940, nor under provisions of existing regulations not inconsistent therewith, and to request the Department of State to inform the proper consul abroad that such findings of the Attorney General have been made.

Yours very truly,

UNITED STATES COMMITTEE FOR THE
CARE OF EUROPEAN CHILDREN, INC.

President

Executive Director

000713

COPY

September 10, 1942

The Attorney General of the United States
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the letter of the United States Committee for the Care of European Children, Inc., to the Attorney General, dated July 20, 1940 requesting the Attorney General's approval of this Committee as a corporation not for profit authorized to act under the provisions of the order of the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization and the Attorney General, dated July 18, 1940, as well as the letter of the Attorney General to the Committee dated July 20, 1940, giving such approval and authority, as well as the Committee's affidavit, executed July 13, 1940, wherein is contained its general undertaking to the Attorney General with respect to all refugee children who may come to the United States under its auspices.

Reference is also made to the letter of the United States Committee for the Care of European Children, Inc., addressed to the Attorney General dated January 23, 1941, as well as the letter of the Attorney General to the Committee dated January 25, 1941.

Pursuant to the foregoing, the Committee respectfully requests your acceptance of the following assurances, as required by said order of July 18, 1940 with respect to 1000 children for whom provision for identification will be made, seeking to come to the United States from unoccupied France, under the auspices of this Committee on immigration visas.

The Committee assures the Attorney General that said children covered by these assurances shall be designated to the Department of State or to the consul issuing the visas, by Marshall Field, President of this Committee, acting

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by and through representatives of this Committee in the United States or France, the names of which representatives, will, from time to time, be fully supplied to the Department of State by said President.

With respect to each child, the Committee, a corporation not for profit organized for the purpose of assuring the care and support of refugee children and approved by the Attorney General for such purposes, assures the Attorney General as follows:

1. That each child for whom provision for identification will be made, will not become a public charge.
2. That arrangements have been or will be made for the reception, placement and care of each said child in accordance with the standards of the Children's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor; and
3. That upon initial placement of each said child the sum of \$50.00 for each said child will be deposited, pursuant to said order dated July 13, 1940, in the "United States Committee for the Care of European Children, Inc., Guarantee Fund for Guest Children," created under an agreement between the Committee and the Chase National Bank of New York City, dated January 23, 1941.

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2. It will deposit \$50.00 in the above-mentioned "Special Account No. 1" for each child who may be admitted to the United States in the future on a visa theretofore made available by the assurances contained in this letter. Upon initial placement of such child, such \$50.00 payment will be withdrawn from "Special Account No. 1" and deposited in the above-mentioned Guarantee Fund. The Committee further assures the Attorney General that the amount of money then on deposit in the aforesaid Guarantee Fund for Guest Children, plus the total amount of money theretofore deposited in "Special Account No. 1 - Temporary Deposit Account for Unidentified Children" will at all times equal at least \$50.00 for each child who has been admitted to the United States on a visa which has been cleared by the Federal Authorities at the request of this Committee.

3. That arrangements have been or will be made satisfactory to the Committee to meet all costs of each said child incident to reception, care and transportation to its destination in the United States from the port of entry and to meet the head tax and visa fees as required by the Federal Statutes and the credit investigation charge.

4. 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 Committee believes that responsible undertakings of individuals with respect to the support and care of unidentified children will be forthcoming in excess of the number hereinabove referred to.

If the assurances of this Committee hereinabove are satisfactory, it respectfully requests of the Attorney General; to notify the Department of State that

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that such advices have been given, and such assurances tendered and that the Attorney General has found that each said child, for whom provision for identification has been or will be made, is not inadmissible under said order, dated July 13, 1940, nor under provisions of existing regulations not inconsistent therewith, and to request the Department of State to inform the proper consul abroad that such findings of the Attorney General have been made.

Yours very truly,

UNITED STATES COMMITTEE FOR THE
CARE OF EUROPEAN CHILDREN, INC.

President

Executive Director

000717

CABLES: "JOINTDISCO" NEW YORK

TELEPHONE: LEXington 2-5200

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MOSES A. LEAVITT, *Secretary*

May 16, 1944

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I have for acknowledgment your letter of May 9th and note that the War Refugee Board has requested the American Ambassador in Havana to approach the Cuban Government to accept a fixed number of children in order that assurances can be given to the Swiss Government that such children as they may admit into their country will not remain their charges after the termination of hostilities.

Our organization has given consideration to the Ambassador's suggestion that the Joint Relief Committee in Havana assume responsibility to carry out a children's welfare program of this nature under a maintenance guarantee to be furnished by our Committee. I am pleased to advise you that the Joint Distribution Committee is prepared to guarantee the maintenance of 1,000 children who may be admitted to Havana under this arrangement, through a welfare program to be conducted by the Havana Joint Relief Committee.

Sincerely yours,



Moses A. Leavitt ✓
Secretary

MAL: BK

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100-100
4/10/51

cc Bob Y. Abrahamson, Akin, Gosselin, Cohe, Dufort, Friedman, Gassen, Hodel, Laughlin,
Lester, Maxwell, Mann, Hannon, Marko, McCormack, Paul, Pelek, Rains, Sargey, Smith,
Murdock, Stewart, Weinstein, E. D. White, Fahlis, Yilos.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 10 1972

000720

*See Ireland & K...
JDC*

...the following ...
...to ...

...to ...

...to be held for ...
...under ...
...total ...
...instructions ...
...frank discussion ...
...before ...
...authorized ...
...participate ...

...to SCHWARZ. Urge you go Madrid as soon as possible in connection with questions raised by Ambassador Hayes on special license ... Board considers it important that you work out satisfactory arrangements with ... progress of ... can be carried through ...

SAG:bbk - 3/28/44

- Miss Gandy (for the Sec'y): Abrahamson, Aknin, Bernstein, Gohn, Gollin, Lueders, Quisenberry, Reder, Rughlin, Sasser, Tuxford, Mann, McGowan, Paul, Pahl, Pollak, Quinn, Berger, Smith, Staudich, Stanger, White, Wilson

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P
Y

AMERICAN JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE
242 Rua Aurea
Lisbon, Portugal

January 19, 1944.

General Letter No. 759

To: AJDC NEW YORK

From: AJDC LISBON

Re: Situation in France and Switzerland

We enclose herewith copies of three letters received from Mr. Donald A. Lowrie, representative of the World's Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations in Switzerland.

These reports, as you will note, describe conditions in France and also speak of the situation in Switzerland, particularly with regard to the admission and care of children. One of these letters is addressed by the CSE of Switzerland to the CSE of England.

These reports will throw a great deal of light on recent events in France although most of the facts are already known to you through previous communications and cables. You will note, however, reference to a number of other leaders of the Jewish community who have since been interned and some of whom have now been deported. We already advised you that Raymond Raoul Lambert, former Director General of the French Relief Committee in Marseille, has been sent to Poland.

You will note again the emphasis which is placed on the desirability of giving some assurance to the Swiss Government that all children admitted into the country will be emigrated when the war is over. That matter I have discussed with you several times before and has also been taken up with the American and British authorities. If there are any concrete developments in this connection, I will appreciate hearing from you.

The only encouraging note is that despite all these terrible conditions the work somehow manages to go on and that there are people who are willing to expose themselves to all kinds of dangers in order to help those who may still be helped. We have had many evidences from various sources that the work is going on and that even additional contributions are being received.

/s/ Joseph J. Schwartz

Encls.
JJS/ML

Joseph J. Schwartz
Chairman

Don Lewis File

000722

December 18, 1943

Dr. Schwartz and Mr. H. Katski,
American Joint Distribution Committee,
242, Rua Aures,
Lisbon.

Dear Friends,

We take the occasion of giving you some details on the situation of our friends in France and their present activities.

(1) Beginning with September the position of the Jews in this country has been considerably aggravated as the Italian zone, affording at least some security, ceased to exist. The Government has issued a decree according to which all foreign Jews from 18 to 55 and French Jews from 20 to 30 should be immediately put at the disposal of the Gestapo organization. This decree is, however, largely exceeded by events. German police systematically arrest all Jews from one region to another, chasing and persecuting the Jews in a most inhuman fashion by special flying squads. The Cote d'Azur has lately been specially attacked, with Nice, where over 5000 persons have been seized and sent to Drancy. Even the Home for old people was not spared. In Marseille arrests are continuing. In Marseilles, Perpignan and Toulouse the Germans have made enormous seizures followed by massive arrests. In the second half of November came the turn of the middle France departments (Creuse, Haute Vienne, Dordogne) where the number of victims exceeds 2000. Particular attention is being given to camps and other places of Jewish concentration, (i.e. homes of the Social Service for Foreigners for women, children and old people, to which all those who had remained in (urs had been transferred). All such homes in Savoie and Haute Savoie have been emptied. The St. Louis Hospital in Perpignan containing seriously ill people was likewise emptied in a most brutal form.

(2) As concerns children, the occupants are now beginning to show particular interest for these. In Paris they have ordered complete lists made of children put into homes or private families. As most of the children had already disappeared from official control, only sixty have been arrested while over 600 have been conducted to safer places. In the south some children have been taken only together with their families and in concentration centers, but as lists have, likewise, been requested, it is to presume that further action here has merely been deferred. In Marseille however, thirty children of deported parents, placed in the Verdier Centre under the immediate control of the Gestapo, have been sent to Drancy together with the entire staff of the institution. In some cases when the parents did not wish to be separated from their children, these last were obliged to share their fate. The number of these is about a hundred.

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(3) Measures against Jewish organizations. In order to cut short all measures for helping the Jews in their distress, the Gestapo has begun to dissolve all institutions belonging to the UGIF by arresting all higher employees and at the same time deporting numerous social assistants and local workers. After Lambert, Maur, Stora, they have arrested Gaston Kahn, present Chairman of the UGIF, Dr. Zadoc-Kahn, Director of the Rothschild Hospital, Heilbronner, President of the Consistory, both with their wives and children. The Central UGIF organization in Marseille is practically in-existent. The Camp Commission in Sisteron has been taken in corpore to Drancy. Many OSE collaborators have likewise fallen victims of their duty. Nicole Weill-Galen and Huguette Wahl were arrested at the moment they were saving children in Nice. Dr. Hofstein, our representative in Toulouse, was arrested while visiting a patient. All these were deported eastwards on November 20th, together with other 1500 Jews.

(4) Necessary Measures. Already in January our friends, foreseeing the development of events, founded a parallel unofficial organization for the controlling and placing of children. This organization actually controls over 6500 children. As all children homes have to be closed, this number will certainly rise shortly to 8,000. The actual budget of our French organization exceeds four million French francs. Most of our old collaborators have joined this new organization. In Switzerland there are now about 3,500 children. We shall write you separately as to the problem of their emigration.

With kindest regards from Gurvitch and myself, I remain,

Yours truly

(signed)
ppa Donald A. Lowrie

CC - Mr. Fehle, Mr. Lamford, Mr. DuBois, Mr. Lesser, Mr. Friedman,
Miss Hedel, Mr. Pollak

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FRACY TRONG
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December 30, 1943

Dr. J. Schwartz
and/or Dr. Hubert Kotzki
American Joint Distribution Committee
NEW YORK CITY

Dear Friends,

As you know, the Committee we formed here last autumn has never ceased its efforts to assume the emigration overseas of abandoned children from France. I recently sent you a copy of a memorandum which gave a summary of the present situation, but shall restate briefly here.

The Germans are evidently now out to get all the Jewish children they can. They are demanding lists of names from homes and other institutions, often "blocking" a given group. This means that hostages are taken to emphasize the visitors demand that no children disappear from the group. Later, the children are deported. There are now 6,000 children in concealment so good that they are not in such danger. But there are about 1,000 whose lives are in real peril, and the only hope of saving them is getting them out of France, where already about half of the population is hiding the other half, and the possibilities of concealing further children are exhausted.

In view of this desperate situation, I finally appealed to the Swiss authorities. Children are constantly coming into this country clandestinely, and up to now the Swiss have practically not refused a single child. But the time is so short and the difficulties on the other side of the frontier constantly increasing. Thus it would be a real help if Switzerland would give its permission for the entry of a thousand or more children. After all the trials and anguish of clandestine travel through France and the escape through the frontier cordons, it would be a great relief if the passage into Switzerland could be legal and free from anxiety. The Berne authorities were quick to appreciate the situation and equally quick in their action. Within a few days they told us they would accept up to 1,500 children. This must not be known outside our own circle; if the Germans get wind of it, the whole project would be ruined.

At any rate, the plan is under way. We are only waiting now for the right person (who has been sent for) to come in from France to arrange all the

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final details. Most of us have no illusions about saving 1,500 children. In view of the almost superhuman difficulties involved, we can hope for only a few hundred, at best. But even that, in view of what will happen to the rest, is almost a miracle.

Naturally the Swiss authorities made some conditions. Part of them concerned the care of children after their arrival here. Another condition was that the organizations represented in our Committee should promise to continue their efforts to assure the emigration of these children after the war. All these conditions have been fulfilled. But it is now even more important than ever that somehow, somewhere, some visas be secured, valid until after the war. We knew you are working on this - but do not relax your efforts. If formal visas are not available, some sort of assurance to the Swiss Government that these children they are so generously taking in will not remain permanently on their hands, would be most valuable.

Another thing which might be done would be financial. If a fund could be guaranteed, as was done for the 1000 children we hoped to move from Marseille to the States, destined to assure the emigration of one to three thousand children from Switzerland, it would be a great strengthening of our position here. I submit this for your serious consideration, although Genr. and Dr. W. have probably already done so.

All of us here are full of admiration for the heroism of your people who still remain in France, risking their lives, and all too often sacrificing them, to help the children. We trust that those of you abroad are aware of their courage and devotion, and that no effort will be spared to help, from your side.

With warm good wishes to all, I am,

Yours faithfully,

/s/ Donald A. Lewis

pp Donald A. Lewis

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PERSONAL

Mr. John W. Pehle
Foreign Funds Control
Sloan Building -- 12th & G Streets
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I am enclosing for your information a copy of a Report on the Belgian Jews as well as copies of two cables we recently received with regard to the problem of the children in France.

Sincerely yours,

Moses A. Leavitt
Moses A. Leavitt
Secretary

HAL:JO
encls.

*Report not attached when
received in file 4/13/44
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000730

January 7th, 1944

Memorandum on the Evacuation of 5,000 Children
From France

In July and August, 1942, large scale deportations of refugee Jews from France took place. At that time parents were given the choice of either taking their children with them or leaving them in the custody of child care organizations. Many parents chose the latter alternative and as a result thousands of children became a charge upon an organization known as the OSE, a medical and child care agency which has been subventioned by the J.D.C. for many years. Efforts were started immediately, as a result of requests from France, that a 1,000 children be brought out of France to the U.S. The U.S. Committee for the Care of European Children was approached and agreed to sponsor the admission of these children, giving the requisite guarantees for their maintenance and care. The State Department agreed to authorize the issuance of quota visas for the children on the basis of a letter of guarantee sent to the Attorney General by the U.S. Committee. The J.D.C. agreed to underwrite 4/9ths of the cost of transportation and maintenance of the children.

As the deportations increased in volume there were many more children for whom it was deemed imperative that visas be secured. The matter was again discussed with the State Department and visas for an additional 4,000 children were promised by the State Department under the same conditions as before.

In the meantime, during the months of August, September and October, the problem of getting the first group of one thousand children ready for emigration, having them brought to the American Consulates for medical examination, and securing the personal data, was being carried on by representatives of the Quakers and JDC in France. Other organizations keenly interested in the evacuation of the children included the International Y.M.C.A. and the local French refugee bodies.

Although permission had been secured in principle from the Vichy authorities for exit visas for the children, this was renewed and revoked during the month of October. Finally, as a result of the strong pressure of the American Charge d'Affairs, Mr. Pinkney Tuck, the authorities agreed to let the first 500 children leave the country. The children were all assembled, baggage packed, train travel arranged for the said chartered for their passage. A group of 28 escorts consistin of pediatricians, child care workers and trained social workers was assembled to be sent to Lisbon to escort the children to this country. The boat on which the escorts left departed for Lisbon on November 7th, 1942. The American invasion of North Africa on November 7th closed the borders of France with the complete occupation of the so-called unoccupied section of France. Despite the efforts of the local French committees to secure exit visas for the children, they were not forthcoming.

Donald Lowrie, who was in charge of the International Y.M.C.A. working in France, went to Switzerland and from there undertook to secure the entrance of the children into Switzerland. The Swiss authorities took the position that they would have to have the guarantee of a responsible government that the children would be re-evacuated after the war. This request of the Swiss Government was taken up with the State Department and with the British government. The State Department pointed out that it was impossible for it to give such a guarantee to the Swiss

Don Lowrie

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government since it meant in effect binding a subsequent administration for the issuance of visas to children who might by the end of the war become adults. It is believed that this problem was discussed at the Bermuda Conference on Refugees. The suggestion that arose from the Bermuda Conference was that the Allied Nations join in a declaration to the neutral countries pledging that they would re-admit to their respective countries all refugees who were forced by reason of persecution to leave these countries. It took many months to secure the consent of all the governments concerned to subscribe to such a declaration. The text thereof has not yet been made public.

We believe that the Swiss government was persuaded to approach the Vichy authorities to permit the children to leave France by way of Spain. This request of the Swiss government, which was based entirely upon humanitarian grounds, was refused by the French. Nevertheless, Donald Lowrie and representatives of the JDC and other agencies in Switzerland have continued to press the Swiss government to make a second démarche to the effect that Switzerland herself would be prepared to give asylum to the children. Switzerland has continued to request the formal guarantee of re-evacuation.

On November 14th, 1947, the Colonial Secretary announced to the House of Commons that the unused portion of the Palestine certificates authorized under the White Paper, viz. 30,000 migration certificates, would remain available for use after March, 1948. The Colonial Secretary stated that due to the war, it was not possible to fill the quota under the White Paper and therefore the life of these certificates would be prolonged indefinitely.

On the basis of this announcement the JDC approached the State Department and asked whether there was any objection to our going to the British Embassy requesting that the British government set aside sufficient Palestine certificates to assure the evacuation from Switzerland of the children after the war. In this matter a requisite guarantee could be given to Switzerland. The State Department interposed no objection whatsoever to such a proposal and this was made to the British Embassy on November 23rd, 1947. Mr. Hayer of the British Embassy agreed to transmit this suggestion to the Foreign Office in London. Subsequently, we were advised that the State Department had associated itself with this request and had likewise communicated with the Foreign Office to have such certificates set aside for these children. On January 3rd, 1948 (letter dated Dec. 31, 1947) the JDC received a letter from Mr. Hayer, copy attached hereto, pointing out that the Palestine government would find difficulty in reserving such certificates until after the war and expressing the hope that the general assurance given to the neutral states about the eventual repatriation of refugees might be sufficient to meet the requirement of the Swiss government. The JDC replied as per copy attached.

On December 28th, 1947, the JDC was asked by the State Department whether the guarantee which had been given by the U.S. Committee for the maintenance of 5,000 children in this country was still valid and whether reaffirmation of this guarantee would be given. Such a reaffirmation was agreed to by the U.S. Committee and a letter sent to the Attorney General confirming the readiness of the Committee to provide for 5,000 children in the event they were admitted to the U.S. The JDC agreed to underwrite approximately \$2,000,000 of the estimated cost of some 4-1/2 million dollars which the guarantee entailed. On the basis of this reaffirmation, the State Department notified the British government that it stood ready and renewed

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is offer to take 5,000 children under the original plan which it had approved in October, 1942. The whole question of the guarantee and of the children was to have been discussed at the meeting of the Inter-governmental Committee on January 14th, 1944, but the outcome of that meeting is not yet known to us.

We have recently been receiving urgent cables from Switzerland requesting that the necessary guarantee be given to the Swiss government. Such a guarantee can only be given by a responsible government since no private agency would be in a position to assure the Swiss authorities that it would be able to move the children out of Switzerland when the war is over.

It is of interest to record that during the period when the plight of these children was first known in the Fall of 1942 other countries came forward to guarantee asylum to the children. For example, Canada stated it would take 1,000; Argentina agreed to take 1,000; several other South American countries agreed to take smaller numbers. The President of the Dominican Republic offered to take 3,500. At one time, counting on facilities available to the Madassan, that there were 20,000 visas available for the children, although the top number of children who could be evacuated was probably not more than half that number.

It should finally be recorded that about 120 children from Spain and Portugal were brought to the U.S. under the guarantee of the U.S. Committee.

Restrictions as to the children were set up: children of enemy nationality had to be less than 14 years of age; children of allied nationalities had to be less than 16 years of age. There was no minimum limit on the age of the children.

As of the date that this memorandum is being dictated, it is unknown whether the requisite guarantees have been or will be given to Switzerland so that she could make the necessary approach to the French authorities to permit the children to leave either via Spain, from which they could emigrate to the U.S., or to enter Switzerland for the duration.

At the present time, children are being deported from France and there is a relentless hunt being conducted by the Gestapo to locate the children hidden in private homes in order to intern them into concentration camps in preparation for their deportation eastward.

Moses A. Leavitt

ML:JC

CC - Messrs. Paul, White, Penle, Luxford, DuBois, Fox, Schmidt, Miss Model

000733

Translation from French

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

enclosure Gen. Letter #706,
Lisbon, Dec. 22, 1943.

Jewish Children in France

In September, 1939, the number of children from 3 to 14 years of age living in France was about 20,000. Beginning with August, 1942, the anti-Jewish persecution carried on by the troops occupying the country started a special campaign against the children. As a result of the enormous raids organized in Paris at this time, more than 4,000 children were completely abandoned. Abandoned in apartments, wandering about the streets, crying in front of the closed doors of their homes, they were seized by the police before charitable neighbors had the chance to take them in. They were placed without care and food in the school rooms of these highschools and a few days later they were placed in cattle cars, 60 to the car, without straw, without water, without supervision. Their identifying documents were destroyed. The cars were sealed, all openings closed, and the trains started with desperate cries from the children about whom nothing had been heard.

During the same period, the Jewish children arrested in the region of Lyon and reunited at Venissieux were taken from their parents at night to be sent to an unknown destination in their turn. Thanks to the collaboration of private organizations and personalities in the church, it was possible to save these children from their fate.

During the incessant waves of arrests between September 1942 and September, 1943, throughout the country, in the occupied as well as in the formerly unoccupied zone, a considerable number of children were arrested and deported eastwards, in winter and in summer, reunited at their departure with their families.

The number of adolescents from 15 to 18 years of age assigned to the Todt organization and obliged to carry on very hard work, ~~sixty~~ in the forests of Lublin, in the salt mines, in the coastal fortifications, continued to increase during the same period.

In Holland and in Belgium analogous deportation measures were applied affecting hundreds and hundreds of children.

Beginning with January 1943, the occupation authorities introduced a new system of controlling the children around Paris in order to prevent all attempts of saving them. The two Jewish childrens' homes and families where children were placed officially were "blocked" (this was the terminology used by the administration. All these children were placed under the strict surveillance of the police, and they were deprived of all liberty of movement. Since the end of January, 1943, 800 of these children were deported under the same conditions as those sent off in September, 1942. In July and August, 1943, the "blocked" children of the Seine-et-Oise and of l'Oise were deported in groups of 50. The arrests in these regions continued.

In July, 1943, the reign of terror in the concentration camp of Drancy was reinforced considerably. An increasing number of children were sent there, to be deported gradually. During the enormous raids in Nice, September, 1943, a considerable number of children were picked up. As in the case of the adults, the children and adolescents were subjected to a physical examination and all circumcised were sent to Drancy.

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

000734

Since June 1943, a "blocked" home was established at Verdier (Marseille) where about 30 children whose parents had been deported, were placed under the direct surveillance of the German police. Toward the 20th of October they were deported along with their director and their supervisor. 60 hostages were taken during this time to avoid all attempts of escape.

According to the latest news, the measures of "blocking" have been constantly expanded to include all homes and childrens' colonies in the formerly unoccupied zone. Thus, almost 2,000 children will be menaced within the coming weeks with being deported. These are abandoned children whose parents have already been expelled eastwards, and whose fate is already very pitiful.

Jewish

Thus, the child population of France has been decimated through persecution and deportation. If in spite of the police measures, only 6-7,000 children have disappeared, it is because of the rescue measures undertaken by the private organizations ~~in collaboration~~ of all confessions, by outstanding personalities, by the churches and by large sections of the population itself, working in close collaboration. It appears, nevertheless, that the saturation point has been reached by families who have taken children into their homes to prevent their deportation and it is feared that the new measures of "blocking" will surpass the limitations of ~~private~~ assistance of the various groups. Thus, thousands of children will be in danger of being deported.

A certain number of these children succeeded in getting into Spain and some into Switzerland. There are, however about 1,500 children whose possibility of survival will be if they are enabled to leave France within a few weeks. Their only hope is if they are permitted to get to Switzerland since their departure to Spain is not possible at the moment. Up to the present the Swiss authorities have not refused admission to any child, but it is understandable that Switzerland will be reluctant to admit an unlimited number of foreign children.

The Committee in Geneva, which last year obtained 5,000 emigration visas for these children - visas which the German occupation ~~authorities~~ did not let them use - is trying to obtain again the validation of a certain number of these visas, once the war is ended. It is most desirable that a well-founded guarantee be given to the Swiss authorities that these children will be able to leave Switzerland immediately after the war. In the meantime, the Committee in collaboration with the large Jewish international groups can only offer a moral guarantee that the children in question will not remain in Switzerland.

Should

The immediate problem is therefore as follows: ~~Can~~ the Swiss authorities give formal authority to allow the entry into that country of 1,000 to 1,500 children who can still be saved, or should a new demarche be made and leave things remain as they are, that is, that a certain number of children enter Switzerland clandestinely while risking expulsion.

000735



2.

000736

Dr. L. Fulman, Secretary
American Committee of OSE
24 West 40th Street
New York 18, New York

Dear Dr. Fulman:

Reference is made to your letter of April 27, 1944
addressed to Mr. Lesser. The unavoidable delay in reply-
ing thereto is sincerely regretted.

I am pleased to inform you that the Board is endeavoring
to have the age limit for special children's visas raised to
eighteen years of age from the present limit of sixteen years
of age at the time of the issuance of the visas. When a
definite reply is received from the appropriate authorities,
I shall be glad to inform you accordingly.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

WStandish:lem 6-21-44

000737

CABLE ADDRESS: "AMEROSE"

THE AMERICAN COMMITTEE OF OSE

(ASSOCIATED WITH TOZI)

Devoted to Safeguarding the Health of Jews

24 WEST 40TH STREET, NEW YORK CITY 18

TELEPHONE: LONGACRE 5-3905

*File
EST*

June 14, 1944

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PROF. ALBERT EINSTEIN
DR. EMANUEL LIBMAN
DR. MILTON J. ROSENAU
DR. JULIUS BRUTZKUS

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DR. L. LAJZEROWICZ
DR. N. RATNOFF
DR. L. ROSENTHAL
DR. I. S. WECHSLER

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

We are most grateful to you for your
kindness in transmitting to us the confidential
message received from Dr. Tohlenoff from Bern,
Switzerland.

Very truly yours,

L. Wulman
L. Wulman, M.D.
Secretary

sj

000738

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

CONTROL COPY

HM-455
This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Government
Agency. (~~SECRET~~)

Bern
Dated June 8, 1944

Rec'd. 3:41 P.M.

Secretary of State

Washington

3652, June 8, noon.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUN 10 1944
DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS & RECORDS

*6/13/44
Winn
sent to
Ulmann
JH*

FROM McCLELLAND FOR WRB. FOR LEO W. ULMANN
AMERICAN OSE, 24 WEST 40th STREET, NEW YORK FROM
TSCHLENOFF.

Activities France developing notwithstanding
numerous arrests among experienced staff. Official
organizations dissolved but continue working
unofficially and are now maintaining 3700 abandoned
children and 2000 more together with families. These
numbers are permanently increasing although 450 have
lately arrived Switzerland and 50 Spain. Are likewise
helping sick and distressed in hospitals. Remain
close contact similar organizations Belgium maintaining
2500 children and Holland maintaining 550. Are in
contact with old OSE workers Rumania helping 2000
children evacuated from Transnistria several thousands
in old Rumania. Hungary over 170,000 children

greatest

000734

-2- #3652, June 8, Noon, from Bern.

greatest danger we are trying create relief organization there on French lines. Budget France over 70,000 Swiss francs monthly covered by Joint which also contributes money for Belgium and Holland. Urgently necessary obtain sums for moving children and staff saving activities. For France alone this comes to monthly total of 20,000 Swiss francs of which but a part is advanced by Joint. In Switzerland have enlarged children's home up to 100 children giving much attention staff preparation. Are also participating in social assistants' vocational school Zurich opening summer monitors course Geneva and epidemiological courses for interned physicians Zurich. Are paying maintenance fees for 80 refugee physicians sent for practice to Swiss hospitals. Our social assistants received permission visit adolescent camps. We distributing medicines tonics to interned children. Organizing dental technical school and workshop Geneva working for internees. Yearly budget over 200,000 Swiss francs only three-quarters covered by Joint.

Much annoyed misunderstanding with labor committee appropriation. Have never thought using this money for administrative expenses or postwar activities but for supplementary emergencies such as displacing children and rescue purposes. Greetings 98.00.

HARRISON

NFL
REP

000740

JUN 13 1944

Dear Mr. Ulmann:

The following confidential message from Mr. Tschleppoff for you was received from Bern under date of June 8, 1944:

"Activities France developing notwithstanding numerous arrests among experienced staff. Official organizations dissolved but continue working unofficially and are now maintaining 3700 abandoned children and 2000 more together with families. These numbers are permanently increasing although 450 have lately arrived Switzerland and 50 Spain. Are likewise helping sick and distressed in hospitals. Remain close contact similar organizations Belgium maintaining 2500 children and Holland maintaining 550. Are in contact with old OSE workers Rumania helping 2000 children evacuated from Transnistria several thousands in old Rumania. Hungary over 170,000 children greatest danger we are trying create relief organization there on French lines. Budget France over 70,000 Swiss francs monthly covered by Joint which also contributes money for Belgium and Holland. Urgently necessary obtain sums for moving children and staff saving activities. For France alone this comes to monthly total of 20,000 Swiss francs of which but a part is advanced by Joint. In Switzerland have enlarged children's home up to 100 children giving much attention staff preparation. Are also participating in social assistants' vocational school Zurich opening summer monitors course Geneva and epidemiological courses for interned physicians Zurich. Are paying maintenance fees for 80 refugee physicians sent for practice to Swiss hospitals. Our social assistants received permission visit adolescent camps. We distributing medicines tonics to interned children. Organizing dental technical school and workshop Geneva working for internees. Yearly budget over 200,000 Swiss francs only three-quarters covered by Joint.

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- 2 -

"Much annoyed misunderstanding with labor committee appropriation. Have never thought using this money for administrative expenses or postwar activities but for supplementary emergencies such as displacing children and rescue purposes. Greetings 98.00."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Leo W. Ulmann,
American Committee for OSE,
24 West 40th Street,
New York, New York.

PH:lab 6/13/44 *JW*

000742

CABLE ADDRESS: "AMEROSE"

THE AMERICAN COMMITTEE OF OSE

(ASSOCIATED WITH TOZI)

Devoted to Safeguarding the Health of Jews

24 WEST 40TH STREET, NEW YORK CITY 18

TELEPHONE: LONGACRE 5-3905

April 27, 1944

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DR. MILTON J. ROSENAU
DR. JULIUS BRUTZKUS

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DR. I. S. WECHSLER

War Refugee Board
Executive Office of the President
Washington 25, D. C.

Attention of Mr. Lesser

Dear Mr. Lesser:

The contents of your conversation with my secretary on Friday, April 21st were transmitted to me, and I wish to thank you for your kindness in clarifying the matter so promptly. I regret that I was unable to speak with you personally in the matter which is of such vital interest to us, and wish therefore to make a few remarks here.

Concerning the age limit provided by the special children's visas, we have been aware of the fact that the Presidential instructions specify the age limit of children up to 16 years of age but our remarks referred to the practise of the U.S. consulates in France in 1942 which limited the visas to children up to 14 years of age. We have in our files numerous letters and cables from our office in Montpellier, France between October - November 1942 wherein our office informed us of the age limitation imposed which proved such an obstacle to the transfer of children. In a letter dated November 5, 1942, the French OSE states explicitly:

"the age limit imposed by the United States compels us to exclude really urgent cases and often a child who will reach 14 years in December has to be left behind as well as his brothers or sisters who do not wish to be separated!"

Furthermore, we have numerous cables where our office requested us to seek individual visas for children over 14 due to the fact that children of that age could not be included into children's groups to be transferred to the U.S.A. under the Presidential instructions. At least such was the practise of the American Friends' Service Committee and the U.S. Committee for the Care of European

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THE AMERICAN COMMITTEE OF OSE

(ASSOCIATED WITH TOZ)

War Refugee Board

-2-

April 27, 1944

Children in selecting children and making up children's groups for transfer.

We are glad to learn that this obstacle is now removed and we are especially happy to hear that the War Refugee Board would be agreeable to the extension of the age limit to 18 years if not for the matter of maintenance guarantees given by the various child aid organizations. We are sure, however, that in view of the great importance of the matter to the work of rescue also this obstacle could be removed. As we mentioned in our previous letter, the OSE in Switzerland has urged us to seek extension of the age limit to 18 years because the greater part of the children within this age limit are on the "blocked" children's lists in France and are in mortal danger. We have learned here that the children's aid groups would be willing to extend their maintenance guarantees to 18 years. We hope therefore that the War Refugee Board known for its energy and devotion to the work of rescue will do its utmost to include the children from 16 to 18 under the provision of the special visas which may be assured to them now or after the war.

Your suggestion that the American Consul in Switzerland be contacted with regard to children who will have in the meantime reached the age of over 16 will be transmitted to our Swiss office. But you will readily understand that this cannot solve the problem of children who are outside of the Swiss borders and stand in imminent danger.

We would be most grateful to you for any indication or information on this matter which is the foremost problem before our Swiss office which has been taking care of the refugee children, has raised and educated them and is still taking care of those who remain in France. Our Swiss office feels itself responsible for the safety and well being of these children before the unfortunate parents, who in their plight had entrusted them with the children, until the children are snatched from the clutches of their oppressors.

Sincerely yours,



L. Wulman, M.D.
Secretary

lw:sj

000744

THE AMERICAN COMMITTEE OF OSE
(ASSOCIATED WITH TOZ)

Mr. J. W. Pehle
War Refugee Board

April 19, 1944
Page 2.

Our co-workers in Europe, standing close to the actual scene, witnessing its anguish and bearing the brunt of work, appeal to us to do all we can to help extend the child rescue work, to remove that formidable obstacle - the age limitation - which stands in the way of saving so many of the unfortunate youngsters, to extent the age limit to 18 years of age. We urgently transmit their request to you for attention and action.

We trust that we may hear from you in this matter so that we can inform our Swiss office accordingly.

Sincerely yours,

L. Wulman

L. Wulman, M.D.
Secretary

lw:sj

000746

In reply please
refer to: 351

Dear Dr. Wulman:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of March 17, 1944, outlining further information and suggestions to assist the War Refugee Board in planning its rescue and relief programs.

Your interest and cooperation in the task of the Board are greatly appreciated, and your views and proposals are being carefully considered.

We shall be pleased to receive such further suggestions as you may wish to offer as our work progresses.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Fehle
Acting Executive Director

Dr. L. Wulman,
Secretary,
The American Committee of Ose,
24 West 40th Street,
New York 18, New York.

EBW EBTowler:agr 3-22-44 JWA -

000747

CABLE ADDRESS: "AMEROSE"

THE AMERICAN COMMITTEE OF OSE

(ASSOCIATED WITH TOZ)

Devoted to Safeguarding the Health of Jews

24 WEST 40TH STREET, NEW YORK CITY 18

TELEPHONE: LONGACRE 5-3905

Authority
3/20/44
E. Egan

March 17, 1944

HONORARY COMMITTEE

PROF. ALBERT EINSTEIN
DR. EMANUEL LIBMAN
DR. MILTON J. ROSENAU
DR. JULIUS BRUTZKUS

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DR. L. WULMAN, Secretary

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DR. N. RATNOFF
DR. J. ROSENTHAL
DR. I. S. WECHSLER

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

My dear Mr. Pehle:

A partial reply to your kind communication of February 8th was made in our letter of February 26th. Now, in answer to your request, we wish to indicate at greater length the kind of relief and rescue activities which, in our judgment, the Board should effectuate and the assistance which we are able to render in this matter.

We feel certain that the Board is informed of the aims and achievements of our organization and of the extent of its activities in Europe. We wish to recapitulate here briefly that the OSE is a world-wide Jewish organization which concerns itself with health and child care problems among the Jewish people. Before the war the organization functioned in nine European countries, it had 110 local branches and maintained 472 medical and child care institutions. The OSE continued its activities under war conditions and in occupied countries for so long as the least possibility to carry on work remained. Information on OSE work in France, Poland, Roumania, Yugoslavia had continued to reach our Swiss office almost up to the end of 1943, and we are reasonably sure that where the least opportunity exists and where persecutions may be somewhat less severe at the moment, some form of relief activity is pursued.

While we are confronted with a complex of relief problems in our activities, we wish to single out and to bring to your attention just two phases of relief and rescue work. One, dealing with the rescue of children from France, Roumania and Hungary. The other, with the supply of medical aid to Jews in concentration camps, labor batallions, ghettos and other places where large congregations of Jews exist (Poland, Roumania, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia (Theresienstadt).

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THE AMERICAN COMMITTEE OF OSE

(ASSOCIATED WITH TOZ)

-2-

1. Rescue of children from France. According to a report which reached us in December of last year, of the 22,000 Jewish refugee children registered in France in October 1942, more than 7,000 were seized by the Germans and deported to unknown destination, somewhere in Eastern Europe. Of the 6,300 who were direct wards of the French OSE, 800 were forcibly seized from our homes and deported, while some 1,500 are on German police lists, the remainder are hidden with private families and face daily the danger of arrests and deportations. During the summer and fall of 1943 four hundred Jewish children succeeded in crossing the border illegally and found refuge in Switzerland. Other, much smaller, children's groups made their way over the Pyrenees into Spain.

Our organization has done its utmost to obtain for the children entrance visas to different countries. But the blank refusal of the Nazi authorities and the Vichy government to issue the necessary exit permits made evacuation of children impossible. Unfortunately also, children who had somehow succeeded in obtaining the necessary exit permits could not be rescued because of the refusal of the neutral neighboring countries to admit them for temporary refuge out of fear that they would be burdened with the refugee children indefinitely since the visas issued to the children did not specify that they would remain valid after the cessation of hostilities. These two factors were the chief obstacle to the rescue of children when rescue work could still have been carried on. The governments in question have persistently refused to grant visas bearing the provision that the visas would remain valid after the cessation of hostilities, and the Australian government's action mentioned in our previous communication is the only one of its kind to date.

The stumbling block to the rescue of children remains therefore, as before, the absence of exit visas. To overcome this, efforts must be made in two directions. Diplomatic pressure should be applied both on the Vichy government and the German authorities to make them release the unfortunate children and to allow them to cross the border into the neighboring lands (Switzerland, Spain), or/and generous aid should be given to the work of illegal transfer of children which has already started and which could assume much larger scope and result in the rescue of thousands of children.

The precedent set by the Australian government in its action granting visas valid also after the cessation of

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THE AMERICAN COMMITTEE OF OSE
(ASSOCIATED WITH TOZ)

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hostilities, should be used as a pattern by other governments. This would go a long way to facilitate obtaining temporary refuge for the children in neighboring neutral countries by allaying their fears that they would remain burdened with the children indefinitely. Our organization in Switzerland (Swiss OSE, 15 rue Montblanc, Geneva; Dr. Boris Tschlenoff - Chairman) has maintained regular contact with our staff in France, has the children's addresses, assures the children's maintenance, and is fully informed of all the existing rescue arrangements through their collaborators and confidential people. Our Swiss organization is daily engaged in the rescue work and carries the complete financial burden of this work so that whatever is done to lighten its financial burden would help directly the rescue work itself. Direct contact by the War Refugee Board with our Geneva office should be of incalculable aid in obtaining concrete detailed information on the ways and means employed in this difficult and hazardous undertaking.

The rescue of children from Roumania and Hungary is primarily a question of evacuation and emigration to places of safe refuge. But the Jewish children there are in such a deplorable state of health, especially those recently evacuated from Transnistria, that moving these children would present peculiar difficulties. Medical aid must be brought to them first and complete medical supervision assured during the transfer so as to reduce the number of fatalities which may occur under way. Our organization in Bucharest, Budapest and some smaller centers in Hungary and Roumania would be able to organize the necessary medical aid on the spot if the necessary funds were available to them in the currency of the country and if some sort of personal safety could be assured. The central office of the OSE in Switzerland is in a position to indicate the organizational details of the medical work, who is to be contacted and where, etc. The Swiss OSE could be instrumental in bringing aid from Switzerland in the way of medical supplies, vitamins, vaccines, condensed milk and clothing if they be assisted in obtaining the necessary permits for such work and if the international Red Cross take over the supervision of such shipments to their ultimate destination.

Now to the second point - first-aid to Jews in occupied countries. For some time already the Swiss OSE has been sending regular shipments of drugs, medical supplies, vaccines and vitamins and some essential foodstuffs to Poland, Roumania, Theresienstadt (Czechoslovakia) and to some places in Yugoslavia. These transports proceeded under the control of the International Red Cross. The shipments made during the years 1942 and 1943 amounted to over a quarter of a million dollars. The necessary funds made available to the Swiss OSE came mostly from contributions of the American Joint Distribution Committee and OSE branches in different countries. Except

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THE AMERICAN COMMITTEE OF OSE

(ASSOCIATED WITH TOZ)

- 4 -

for the material aid rendered by underground methods and through individual packages, these shipments were the chief form of aid and may be credited with saving thousands of people from death and destruction. In view of the complete liquidation of all forms of Jewish medical institutions in the occupied countries, the shipment of medicaments partly replaced the aid ordinarily given by such institutions and to some extent alleviated the sufferings due to the extreme lack of medical aid and supplies resulting from the Nazi withdrawal of all such aid from the Jews. This form of aid continued to be urgently needed. It can be increased both in scope and extent with the International Red Cross taking over the supervision for the shipments and the proper distribution in the various countries and with the necessary funds made available for this purpose.

The latter depends to a great extent on the practical possibilities for carrying on this work. Here again, negotiations between representatives of the War Refugee Board and our Geneva office, which has been in the very midst of this work for years and knows all the points of rescue and is acquainted with the technique and routine of the work, are indispensable to organize and direct this form of aid to the various countries in the shortest possible time.

To summarize: We consider the two above-mentioned forms of relief most urgent and indispensable. We propose the following: 1) Pressure should be applied both on the Vichy government and the Nazi authorities to grant exit visas to Jewish refugee children in France. We estimate that there are from 6,000 to 10,000 such children.

2) Efforts must be made immediately that the countries which at one time expressed the willingness to admit a fixed number of children (The United States, Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, Canada) accept the procedure adopted by the Australian government and issue long-term group visas valid also after the cessation of hostilities. This would apply also to countries which so far have not expressed themselves at all on the matter of admitting children but with more energetic action on the part of other countries, would no doubt follow their example.

3) While no other possibilities for the evacuation of children from France exist, ways of illegal transfer of children from France to Switzerland and Spain should be utilized on a large scale and ample financial means made available to the groups engaged in this rescue work.

4) The U.S. Treasury should be prevailed upon to adopt a more favorable attitude to the granting of licenses for the transfer of funds to Switzerland without the restriction that the funds

000751

THE AMERICAN COMMITTEE OF OSE

(ASSOCIATED WITH TOZ)

- 5 -

must be spent exclusively within Switzerland, and enabling receipt of payment in Swiss currency at the official rate of exchange.

5) The activities of the International Red Cross in the supervision of shipments and delivery of medical supplies, vitamins, vaccines and foodstuffs should be increased both in scope and extent and all funds granted for this purpose to be considerably augmented. Our central office in Geneva may be called upon to help arrange the shipments and OSE representatives in different countries to help in the distribution upon arrival to destination.

6) Our Geneva office is in the center of our rescue work both as relating to children and to adults. Our office has a large highly competent staff, intimately acquainted with conditions prevailing in the different countries and the needs for urgent relief. It is our considered judgment that direct contact with our Geneva office is absolutely necessary to organize immediate rescue action.

Our organization has behind it thirty-four years of active relief work with actual experience in most of the now-occupied countries. Everywhere we have institutions, organizations and devoted personnel that can be re-activated over night. They could form the supporting points for the rescue and relief action. The apparatus of our organization, its entire staff is at the service of the War Refugee Board, eager to help and collaborate in the great humanitarian endeavor.

Sincerely yours,



L. Wulman, M.D.
Secretary

wl:sj

000752

MAR 9 1944

Dear Mr. Wulman:

Thank you for your letter of February 26, 1944, in response to my request for suggestions and information for the aid of the War Refugee Board in formulating its rescue programs.

Your views and suggestions will be given prompt and careful consideration.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director

Mr. L. Wulman,
Secretary,
The American Committee of Ose,
24 West 40th Street,
New York 18, N. Y.

JW ✓
FH:hd 3/9/44

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273 ✓
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THE AMERICAN COMMITTEE OF OSE
(ASSOCIATED WITH TOZ)
Devoted to Safeguarding the Health of Jews.
24 WEST 40TH STREET, NEW YORK CITY 18
TELEPHONE: LONGACRE 5-3905

February 26, 1944

HONORARY COMMITTEE
PROF. ALBERT EINSTEIN
DR. EMANUEL LIBMAN
DR. MILTON J. ROSENAU
DR. JULIUS BRUTZKUS

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DR. L. ROSENTHAL
DR. I. S. WECHSLER

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

My dear Mr. Pehle:

We appreciate deeply your communication of February 8th. While this letter is not intended as in any sense a complete reply to your request, we make so bold here to bring to your attention a specific problem concerning the rescue of a group of Jewish children which has come before our organization.

On February 23rd we received a cable from the Australian Jewish Welfare Society informing us that the Australian government has granted a permit to admit either during or after the cessation of hostilities 150 Jewish refugee children. The Commonwealth government has made its decision known to the Swiss authorities thus officially obligating itself to evacuate the concerned children to Australia as soon as this becomes feasible.

This decision, in our opinion, may be regarded as a significant precedent. For, while in the past some other governments expressed their willingness to admit certain numbers of refugee children, the permits were of short duration and none of them specified that the visas would remain valid after the war. It was on the suggestion of our organization that the Australian Jewish Welfare Society appealed to the Australian government and the Australian government granted a permit valid also after the cessation of hostilities.

If other governments were willing to extend such assurances to neutral governments bordering on Nazi occupied lands, we feel sure that more of them could be induced to give a temporary haven to larger numbers of Jewish children who would otherwise perish.

You are no doubt aware of the fact that the OSE at one time maintained 14 children's homes in

000754

THE AMERICAN COMMITTEE OF OSE
(ASSOCIATED WITH TOZ)

Page 2.

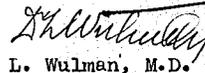
France and cared for as many as 6,000 children. With the occupation of the whole of France and the deportations that followed, some of the OSE homes were forced to close. Some of the children were hidden with private families; some were smuggled across the border to Switzerland but the remaining children may be considered in imminent mortal danger.

You will understand, therefore, why we seize even on the prospect of saving a small group of 150 children. The problem before us is how to get the children out of France, or from other Nazi-occupied countries, to bring them to neutral countries. Our office in Geneva, Switzerland, located at 15 Rue Mont Blanc, maintains contact with our children's homes in France. Direct consultation and negotiations with them may be arranged by your representatives to bring about the immediate rescue of children in imminent danger. We turn to you to bring some pressure to bear either through diplomatic channels, or through the International Red Cross to obtain the release of Jewish children from Nazi dominated countries, since this was and remains the greatest stumbling block to the rescue of children.

And last and most important, to use the precedent set by the Australian government to induce other friendly governments to make similar commitments to neutral countries (Spain, Turkey, Switzerland) which would dispose them to give temporary refuge to the unfortunate children.

The proposals made above, while not exhausting by far the question of rescue and relief, are, we believe, well within the scope of the Board's interests and authorities, and if effectuated would serve as an encouraging demonstration in behalf of the unfortunates.

Yours very truly,



L. Wulman, M.D.
Secretary

lw:sj

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Examination of children to Swiss

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL . . CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

330 WEST 42nd STREET

NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

Lesser

CABLES: CONGRESS, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: LONGACRE 5-2600

LONDON
55 New Cavendish St., W 1

GENEVA
37 Quai Wilson

BUENOS AIRES
Corrientes 2024-9c

JERUSALEM
Vaad Leumi, P. O. B. 471

MONTREAL
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY
Sonora 174-4

April 21, 1944

Mr. Lawrence S. Lesser
War Refugee Board
Executive Office of the President
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Lesser:

May I refer to our today's telephone conversation, concerning the rescue of the registered Jewish children from France.

It appears from information I received from Mr. Zollinger that one of the reasons which influenced Germany's decision not to permit the sending of children from occupied countries to Switzerland for a temporary stay was Germany's demand that German children should benefit from a similar arrangement, a demand which couldn't be granted because of Switzerland's precarious food conditions.

I wonder whether the War Refugee Board should not take into consideration the following suggestion: The Swiss Government would be requested to approach the Vichy Government and inform it that if the 3,000 registered Jewish children in France were released, Switzerland would be ready to admit a similar number of German children. The United Nations would supply Switzerland with the food supplies necessary for feeding these special guests.

This is of course but a rough outline of the suggestion, which could undergo important modifications in detail.

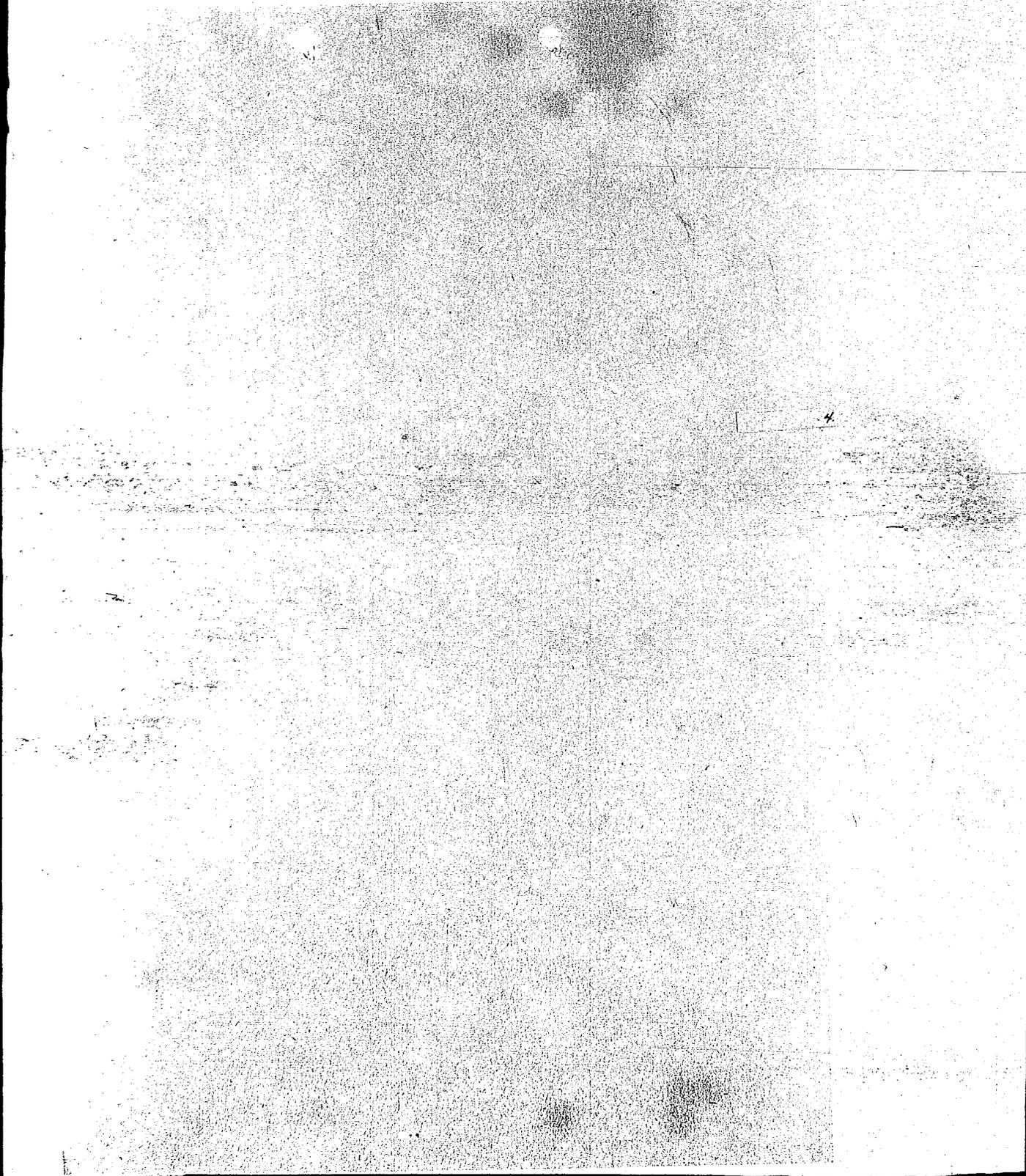
Sincerely yours,

Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki
Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki, Head
Rescue Department

ALK:bg

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E 4 gen & labor Comm. E 1

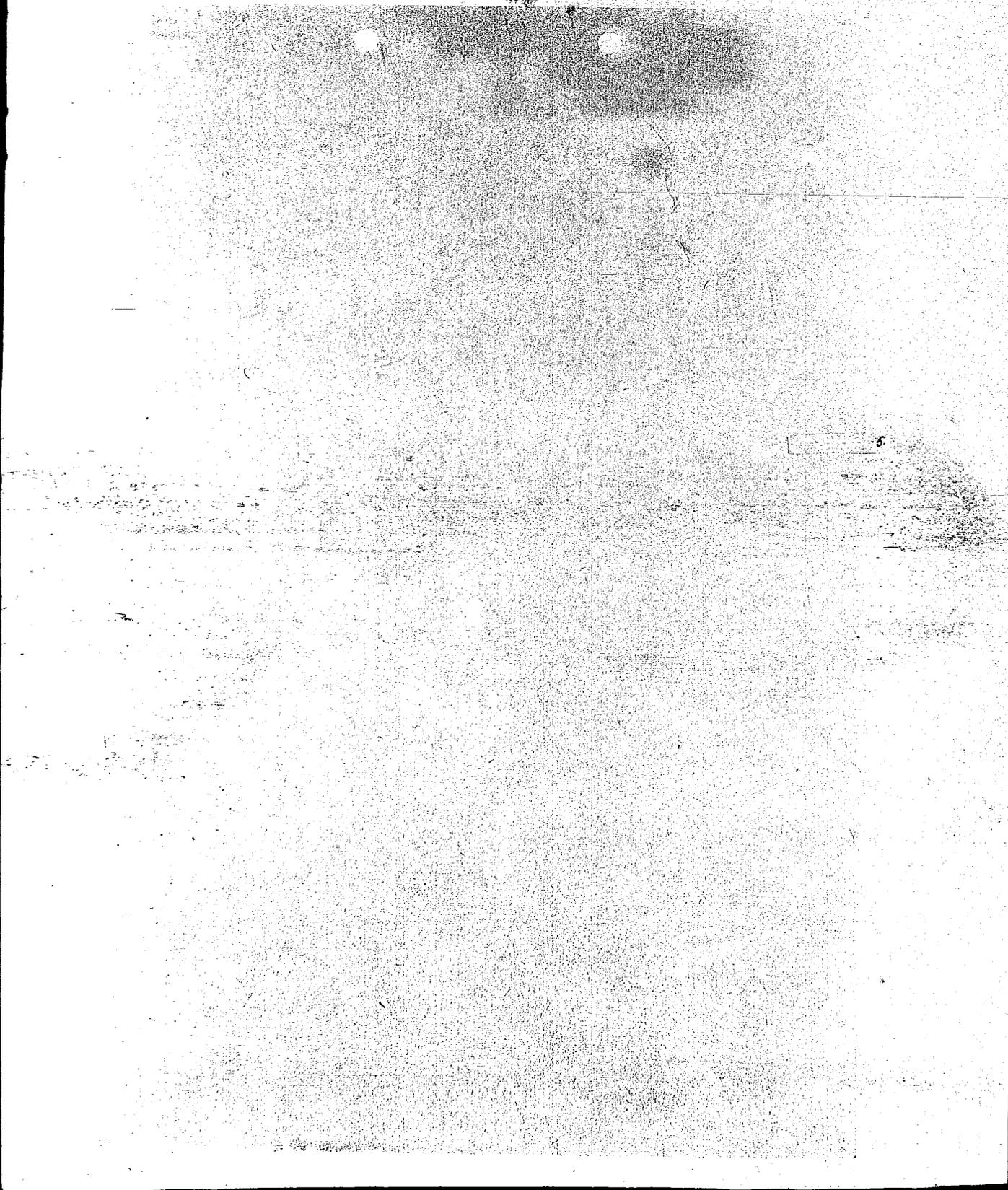
to see
sub

X



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

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E 5 (American Service French Committee)

A PROGRAM FOR EUROPEAN CHILDREN

A few thousand of Europe's hungry children are finding sanctuary in Switzerland. Additional thousands living in the lands in occupation can be saved with the help of the United States and Great Britain.

Appendix A attached tells the story of what is happening to the children of the nations who are America's allies, demonstrates that conditions in Europe today are comparable to those which characterized the continent at the close of World War I.

Concerned people everywhere have sought a program to relieve distress of innocent victims under methods of control which would insure the safety of supplies from donor to recipient.

Switzerland, proponent of an active neutrality, has shown the way. The Swiss have been opening their homes, sharing family rations with children from France and Belgium. Already 7,000 children have enjoyed three month holidays. Only 10% of the Belgian and French children who have come have had to have their living provided by the relief organization sponsoring them, the Swiss Joint Relief Committee for Child Victims of War. In this latter group of children are many who have needed special protective care to restore them to health. This Swiss plan is described in detail in Appendix B attached.

Switzerland now offers to expand this service, to bring 100,000 children, not only from Belgium and France but from Holland, Poland and Greece and other occupied countries. It can do this if the United States and Great Britain will help. Food and clothing will be needed. It is likely that an additional boat should be put under charter to carry necessary supplies.

From Swiss Files

000761

The food and clothing can be protected in transit, since goods consigned to Switzerland have continued to clear without interference since the outbreak of the war. For their greater protection, such consignments might be addressed to the International Red Cross, which is already receiving large shipments for prisoners-of-war. This would be the more reasonable, since the service for children is under the direct supervision of the Swiss Red Cross and the American Friends Service Committee would be cooperating with this organization.

Distribution in Switzerland under the joint supervision of either the International or Swiss Red Cross and the American Friends Service Committee would necessitate the establishment of warehouses for distribution under American supervision in the various communities in which the children are housed.

Famine is a bad advisor. It breaks young bodies, leaves in its wake the corrosive bitterness of the human spirit. Switzerland's hospitality offers respite from famines, proof to the hard-pressed peoples of Europe that their friends care--care enough to save this generation of the young for leadership in a post-war world.

###

American Friends Service Committee
20 South Twelfth Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

May 15, 1942

000762

APPENDIX B

SWITZERLAND'S HOSPITALITY

Switzerland has always played an important part in European child relief work. After the first world war 150,000 undernourished children from Germany, Austria and Hungary were received in Switzerland where they were fed and cared for.

At present the need for child relief in Europe is much greater than it was at that time. Large parts of Europe are suffering from acute famine and the health of millions of children is seriously endangered. Yet these children belong to the generation who will be called upon to play an essential part in the rebuilding of Europe.

Switzerland stands ready to help and is prepared to receive and feed children who otherwise might be doomed to starvation.

A promising start has been made through the efforts of the Swiss Joint Relief Committee for the Child Victims of War, a Swiss organization, formed since January 1st, 1942, a branch of the Swiss Red Cross.

With the approval and cooperation of the Swiss Federal Authorities this organization has brought approximately seven thousand children into Switzerland from occupied and unoccupied France, and Belgium for three month vacations.

The neediest children are selected. In France they are chosen by Swiss representatives of the Committee, in Belgium by the Belgian Red Cross. They are victims of war, refugees, or with fathers who have been prisoner or killed in the war, or whose homes have been destroyed. Boys range in age from 5 to 12 years, girls from 5 to 13 years.

Ninety percent of the young visitors have been placed with Swiss families who have volunteered to receive a child free of charge. Ten percent of the children, representing those whose health has been most seriously undermined, have been lodged in nurseries. In these cases the Joint Relief Committee has been responsible for the expense.

SUPPLIES AND FUNDS ARE NEEDED

In view of the increasing need among the children of Europe, the Swiss government has approved in principle plans for the extension of this program to 100,000 children. This would permit young people from Belgium, France, Holland, Greece and other occupied countries to benefit by these holidays.

Such a large-scale service can, however, be carried out only with the cooperation of the British, American and allied governments associated with them. Supplies of food and clothing in Switzerland are limited. Permissions and funds to import food and clothing for the young visitors will be necessary. Government and private funds will also be needed to pay for essential services. An additional boat to carry supplies would undoubtedly be required. Imports will, of course, be in direct relation to the number of children drawn into Switzerland.

000763

The American Friends Service Committee, with a staff of experienced American relief workers, has been invited to participate in this program. Two members of the Quaker relief staff in unoccupied France have already been released to work in Switzerland. Additional staff members from the French service can be made available if this program of child care can be developed. The Swiss government and officers of the Swiss Joint Relief Committee for Child Victims of War have already indicated the importance which they attach to supervision of the entire program by American and British representatives.

Thousands of undernourished children in the countries under German occupation can be saved. Other thousands can be restored to health through the hospitality of Switzerland and the cooperation of the governments concerned with the real peace of Europe.

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War Refugee Bd
M. K. Kehl

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: AMERICAN EMBASSY, RIO DE JANEIRO
DATED: April 14, 1944
NUMBER: 1215

CONTROL COPY

FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD TO AMERICAN EMBASSY, RIO DE JANEIRO.

With reference to the Department's circular airgram of January 26, 7 p.m. and to your despatch no. 14890 of March 11, 1944, you are informed that the Department has now authorized the American consular officers in Switzerland to issue up to four thousand quota-immigration visas to refugee children under sixteen years of age without regard to religion, nationality or stateless status; to close relatives residing in enemy, enemy-occupied or controlled territory, or to the availability of means of transportation to the United States. The purpose of this authorization is to facilitate the escape to Switzerland of orphans or abandoned children by giving assurances to the Swiss Government that these children will not remain its charge after the termination of hostilities in Europe. The authorization contains provisions for the continued renewal of the visas until such time as adequate transportation facilities to the United States become available. Private sources have posted bond with the Attorney General to assure this Government that the immigrating children are not likely to become public charges.

If, in addition to those children mentioned in your despatch no. 14890, there are private agencies in Brazil willing and able to undertake a program for the care of refugee children, regardless of religion, the War Refugee Board is confident that it can make arrangements to provide those agencies with adequate funds for the maintenance, education and welfare of as many children as the Brazilian Government would be willing to grant entry. Should they prove necessary, funds would undoubtedly be available to meet transportation expenses from Switzerland to Brazil. In view of Senhora Vargas' known interest in charitable undertakings, the War Refugee Board hopes that you will be able to approach her regarding this program with a view to obtaining such cooperation and leadership in Brazil as she may care to give.

Would you approach appropriate officials of the Brazilian Government informing them of the foregoing and requesting them to give assurances to the Swiss Government through their diplomatic mission in Bern of Brazil's willingness to accept the five hundred Jewish children and as many more refugee children as may be possible in a manner similar to this Government's offer. For the information of the Brazilian Government, it is conservatively estimated

that

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

000767

that there are in France alone approximately eight to ten thousand abandoned or orphaned refugee children. Should the Brazilian Government be willing to make this further humanitarian offer, please request the Minister of Foreign Affairs to authorize its Chief of Mission in Bern to issue the appropriate number of immigration visas and to maintain their validity until suitable transportation facilities from Switzerland to Brazil become available. The Brazilian Government may be informed that the special representative of the War Refugee Board attached to the American Legation in Bern will be glad to cooperate with the Brazilian diplomatic and consular officers in this as well as the all other refugee matters.

Please report by telegraph whether this suggestion has been received favorably by the Brazilian Government, and if so, the number of additional children it is prepared to admit.

A report has been received by the War Refugee Board that Senhor Juan Alberto, Minister of Economic Coordination, recently stated in a private interview that he believes that Brazil could reasonably undertake a progressive five-year program for the settlement of Jewish and other European refugees beginning with one hundred thousand during the first year. The state of Goiaz was suggested by Senhor Alberto as having climatic conditions and natural resources suitable for colonization by Europeans. It is understood that the Ministry is preparing a plan for transmission to the War Refugee Board. Any further information concerning the plan that the Embassy can submit, together with its comments thereon, will be appreciated by the Board.

HULL

000768

92. 10/11/44
MAR 11 1944
WASH DC

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAR 11 1944
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
FOR REFUGEE AFFAIRS
ROOM 5000
WASHINGTON, D. C.

PROPOSED AIRGRAM TO AMERICAN EMBASSY, RIO DE JANEIRO

With reference to the Department's circular airgram of January 26, 7 p.m. and to your despatch No. 14890 of March 11, 1944, you are informed that the Department has now authorized the American consular officers in Switzerland to issue up to four thousand quota-immigration visas to refugee children without regard to religion, nationality or stateless status, to close relatives residing in enemy, enemy-occupied or controlled territory, or to the availability of means of transportation to the United States. The purpose of this authorization is to facilitate the escape to Switzerland of orphaned or abandoned children by giving assurances to the Swiss Government that these children will not remain its charge after the termination of hostilities in Europe. The authorization contains provisions for the continued renewal of the visas until such time as adequate transportation facilities to the United States become available. Private sources have posted bond with the Attorney General to assure this Government that the immigrating children are not likely to become public charges.

If, in addition to those children mentioned in your despatch No. 14890, there are private agencies in Brazil willing and able to undertake a program for the care of refugee children, regardless of religion, the War Refugee Board is confident that it can make arrangements to provide those agencies with adequate funds for the maintenance, education and welfare of as many children as the Brazilian Government would be willing to grant entry. Should they prove necessary, funds would undoubtedly be available to meet transportation expenses from Switzerland to Brazil. In view of Senhora Vargas' known interest in charitable undertakings, the War Refugee Board hopes that you will be able to approach her regarding this program with a view to obtaining such cooperation and leadership in Brazil as she may care to give.

Would you approach appropriate officials of the Brazilian Government informing them of the foregoing and requesting them to give assurances to the Swiss Government through their diplomatic mission in Bern of Brazil's willingness to accept the five hundred Jewish children and as many more refugee children as may be possible in a manner similar to this Government's offer. For the information of the Brazilian Government, it is conservatively estimated that there are in France alone approximately eight to ten thousand abandoned or orphaned refugee children. Should the Brazilian Government be willing to make this further humanitarian offer, please request the Minister for Foreign Affairs to authorize its Chief of Mission in Bern to issue the appropriate number of immigration visas and to maintain their validity until suitable transportation facilities from Switzerland to Brazil

000769

become available. The Brazilian Government may be informed that the special representative of the War Refugee Board attached to the American Legation in Bern will be glad to cooperate with the Brazilian diplomatic and consular officers in this as well as all other refugee matters.

Please report by telegraph whether this suggestion has been received favorably by the Brazilian Government, and if so, the number of additional children it is prepared to admit.

A report has been received by the War Refugee Board that Senhor Juan Alberto, Minister of Economic Coordination, recently stated in a private interview that he believes that Brazil could reasonably undertake a progressive five-year program for the settlement of Jewish and other European refugees beginning with one hundred thousand during the first year. The state of Goiaz was suggested by Senhor Alberto as having climatic conditions and natural resources suitable for colonization by Europeans. It is understood that the Ministry is preparing a plan for transmission to the War Refugee Board. Any further information concerning the plan that the Embassy can submit, together with its comments thereon, will be appreciated by the Board.

April 8, 1944

2:30 p.m.

cc: Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y.), Abrahamson, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Pehle, Stewart, Central Files, Cable Control Files.

S.P.C.

MStandish:cm
4-8-44

000770

No. 14890

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Rio de Janeiro, March 11, 1944

SUBJECT: Refugees in Brazil

SPECIAL ADVISER ON SUPPLY AND RESOURCES
MAR 22 1944
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WEA
DCR/K
BA
EH
SWP

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

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's circular airgram of February 29, 1944 (7:30 p.m.) in which, referring to previous correspondence concerning the President's executive order establishing the War Refugee Board and declaring the policy of the United States Government on this question, the Embassy was directed to discuss this matter with the Brazilian Foreign Office and to make it clear that the establishment of the War Refugee Board represents the United States Government's determination effectively to carry out without delay a policy of taking all possible measures for the speedy rescue and relief of the refugees of Europe.

As was indicated in the Embassy's despatch 14561/ of February 12th on this subject, this matter has been taken up with the Secretary General of the Foreign Office and the question has been brought urgently to his attention on several occasions since that time, and has been further discussed in detail with Minister Oswaldo Correia, Chief of the Passport Division of the Foreign Office. The Embassy has been assured by these two officials that this whole question, in the form presented by the Embassy, is now under active discussion both by the Minister of Justice and by the National Immigration Council, and that an effort is being made to come to certain definite conclusions as to the fundamental policy which Brazil should adopt in regard to this important question. There are undoubtedly many and conflicting currents and cross-currents of public opinion in regard to the general admission of European refugees into Brazil, and the policy in the past has been in general a liberal one towards this question. It is particularly true in Brazil that racial animosities and anti-Semitism have never played an active role in determining questions of general policy of immigration and this fact should have a definite bearing on the present studies of the Brazilian Government, although it must be remembered that a certain amount of commercial rivalry has appeared recently by merchants in the larger Brazilian cities in connection

840.48 REFUGEES/S333

PS/MC

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with developing competition on the part of refugee merchants who have established themselves in this country.

The only definite action which the Brazilian Government has taken since the sending of the Embassy's despatch under reference, has been that of the National Immigration Council which, in its most recent meeting, held last week, passed a resolution concerning the admission into Brazil of 500 Jewish refugee children now in France and threatened with deportation by the German occupational forces. The resolution in question provides that the Brazilian Government:

- "a) Consents to receive, in principle, a group of these children who will remain under governmental protection until the world situation shall have become normal. There is placed in the hands of the respective government organizations the framing of the necessary orders to permit the sending of these children to Brazil;
- "b) Limits to 500 the number of children benefiting by these conditions;
- "c) Requests that the choice shall be made among minors, from 10 to 14 years of age, for educational reasons."

At the Embassy's request, the Foreign Office has undertaken to endeavor to obtain definite action on the part of the Brazilian Government at as early a date as feasible in regard to this question. This will naturally include its submission for approval to President Vargas, in its final form.

Respectfully yours,
For the Ambassador:

John F. Simmons
John F. Simmons
Counselor of Embassy

File No. 800
JFS:mp

000772

000773

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

KEM-381

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

Santiago

Dated May 16, 1944

Rec'd 6:41 p.m.

CONTROL COPY

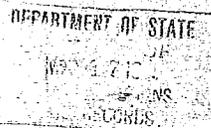
Secretary of State,
Washington.

851, May 16, 5 p.m.

Foreign Office has just advised that consideration
is being given to the suggestion that the Chilean Govern-
ment admit a specific number of refugees, as referred
to in the Department's confidential circular airgram
of April 15, 7 p.m., and will submit a definite reply
as soon as the necessary study can be made. Department
will be informed as soon as a definite reply is received.

BOWERS

HTM



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000775

AMERICAN EMBASSY

SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA

JULY 22, 1944

REC'D July 25, 1944
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUL 25 1944
AND RECEIVED

SECRET

WASHINGTON

750 July 22, 1944

Reference Embassy's Airgram #390, June 16, 1944 concerning the possibility of Costa Rica's receiving refugee children.

The Embassy and the Costa Rican Government have received several requests for information as to whether or not children would be coming to Costa Rica and it would be appreciated if an answer to the airgram under reference could be expedited.

TRUEBLOOD

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LD./vw

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

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1971.

Wangley Bd

AIRGRAM

SAO JOSE, COSTA RICA

Dated: June 16, 1944
Time: 10:00am

CONTROL COPY

SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS

390 of June 16, 1944 101

The Embassy has discussed the question reported in my confidential Airgram no. 375 of June 14, of Costa Rica's receiving refugee children with Senor MENDEZ, head of the Patronato Nacional de la Infancia, a semi-official agency charged with the care of orphaned children.

Senor Mendez stated that his organization would be able, under certain conditions, to place one thousand children in private homes in Costa Rica and might itself be able to take a smaller quota. He wished to know, however, before the Costa Rican Government makes a formal commitment, whether assurances could be given that the children would remain permanently in Costa Rica, for he said that many private families would be reluctant to accept children who might be returned to Europe after the war.

He stated that the expenses of any children so accepted would be taken care of by the families concerned, but that the War Refugee Board would have to undertake transportation

expenses.

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

000777

390, June 10, 1944
FROM SAN JOSÉ.

- 2 -

expenses. Should the Patronato take some children,
all expenses would have to be paid, for the budget is
not large.

If the Department can assure the children's perma-
nency in Costa Rica, it is believed that the Costa Rican
Government will be agreeable to receiving as many children
as Señor Lendez recommends.

D. L. LORTIS

848

LDL:MM

000778

CONTROL COPY

FROM

EMBASSY, COSTA RICA
S.A. ESCOBAR, COSTA RICA
Date: June 10, 1944

Rec'd: June 15 6am

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
JUN 16 1944
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

SECRETARY OF STATE

A-375 of June 10, 1944

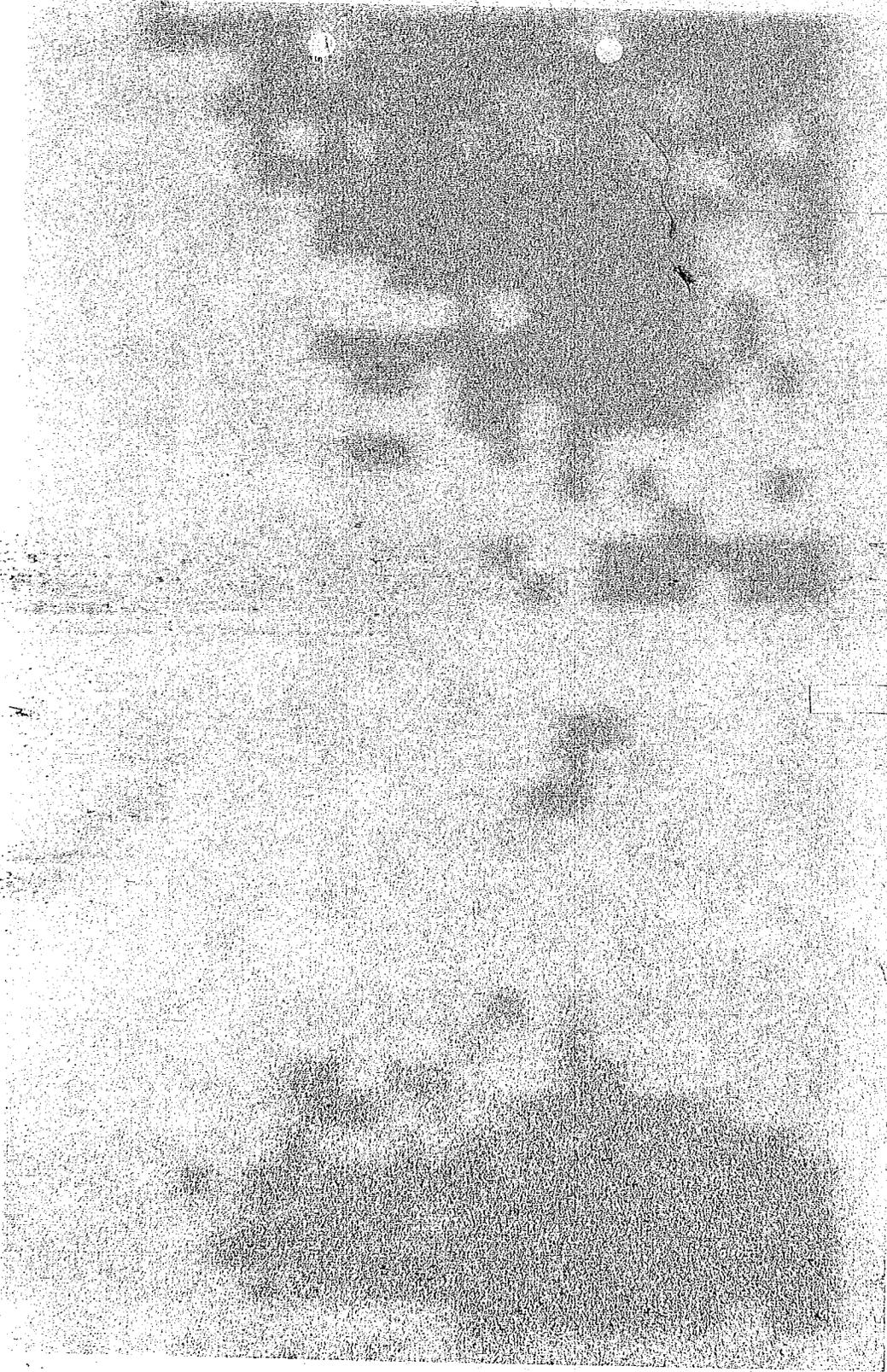
Referring to the Department's confidential circular
airgram of April 20, 1944, 7:35 p.m., concerning immigra-
tion visas to refugee children by consular officers in
Switzerland and particularly the inquiry as to whether
there are private agencies in Costa Rica willing and able
to undertake a program for the care of refugee children,
Foreign Minister Acosta has just informed the Embassy, in
reply to its note on the subject, that this question has
been referred to and is receiving the consideration of the
Ministry of Social Welfare.

The Foreign Minister promises to keep the Embassy
informed of the Social Welfare Department's decision.

DES FORNLES

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 4-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

000779



000780

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

X
No. 7845

Habana, September 7, 1944

AIR MAIL

Subject: (Cuba agrees to accept 1000
refugee children)

~~RESTRICTED~~

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

Sir:

In amplification of my telegram No. 798 of September 5, 7 p.m., I have the honor to enclose copy and translation of note No. 2219 from the Ministry of State wherein the Government of Cuba agrees to accept 1000 refugee children in France and Hungary.

I have not been apprised of the manner in which Cuba proposes to handle this matter, but I shall advise the Department immediately of further developments.

Respectfully yours,

For the Charge d'Affaires a. i.:

Garret G. Ackerson, Jr.
First Secretary of Embassy

Enclosures:

1. Copy of Foreign Office note No. 2219
2. Translation thereof

File No. 711
HEM/hmf

cc: Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Cohn, Drury, DuBois, Freidman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Weinstein

000781

Enclosure No. 2 to despatch No. 7845 of September 7, 1944,
from the Embassy at Habana

TRANSLATION

The Ministry of State presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United States of America and in connection with the memorandum from the Embassy dated August 17 regarding the admission into Cuba of 1000 refugee children who are at present in France and Hungary, is pleased to advise that the Government of Cuba agrees to offer lodging on our soil to the indicated minors and that it is disposed to offer all facilities to carry out this humanitarian proposal.

The Ministry of State avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of the United States of America the assurances of its highest consideration.

Habana, September 5, 1944

HEM/hmf

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DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

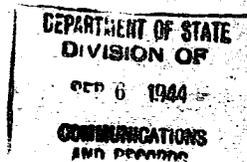
GEK-179
This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Government
Agency. ~~(RESTRICTED)~~

Habana

Dated September 5, 1944

Rec'd 8:30 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.



US URGENT

798, September 5, 7 p.m.

Note which has been received from Ministry of State
(reference Department's A-1412, August 14) says that
the Cuban Government agrees to offer lodging in Cuba to
1,000 refugee children now in France and Hungary and
that it is disposed to offer all facilities in order
to carry out this humanitarian proposal.

MUFER

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000783

A-1412

X
5:05pm

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF

1944 AUG 16 AM 9 57

August 14, 1944

EMBASSY,
HABANA.

COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS
(LIAISON)

FOR THE [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED] INFORMATION OF THE
AMBASSADOR.

Refer to your A-1861 July 17 and previous communications
regarding refugee children.

The American Joint Distribution Committee would make
all required funds for maintenance of 1,000 children avail-
able to Habana Joint Relief Committee with the approval and
authorization of the Treasury Department. The transfer would
be effected through established commercial banking facilities.

In view of the Hungarian situation and the recent state-
ment by Admiral Horthy that his government would grant exit
permits to, and suspend deportations of, all Jewish children
for whom havens may be provided outside Hungary, would you
in your conversations with appropriate Cuban officials
endeavor to obtain the acceptance in principle by the Cuban
Government of 1000 refugee children from either France or
Hungary.

You may assure those officials that no detailed plans
have as yet been developed for actual immigration of refugee
children

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

000784

A-1412 HABANA - 2 -

children into Cuba. Should such plans become necessary
at a later date, they will not (repeat not) be developed
without previous consultation with the Cuban Government.

~~SECRET~~

Hml
glm

WRB:MBV:KG
8/14/44

GCA

000785

I was Ref. Ed. Pella

HABER
DATE: **CONTROL COPY**

REC'D July 19, 8 am

Secretary of State,
Washington.

A-1551, July 17, 2:55 p.m.

Reference Department's circular airmail, April 15, 7 p.m.

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.

BRADEN

711.5

E. /ju

000784

CONTROL COPY

~~BY COUNTER~~

10:25

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAY 23 1944
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS

May 22, 1944

EMBASSY,

HABANA.

FOR THE PERSONAL AND ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ INFORMATION OF THE AMBASSADOR.

Pursuant to the information contained in your no. 892 of April 25, 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, in accordance with the suggestions contained in the Department's circular dated April 15, may be admitted to Cuba. The guarantee would be made effective through a welfare program, ~~WIC~~ under the auspices of the Habana Joint Relief Committee.

HULL
DWT

PHS:HEW:RG
5/30/44

CGA

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

000787

PROCEED AIRGRAM TO AMERICAN EMBASSY, HABANA, CUBA

Your 892, April 25, Joint Distribution Committee has just informed War Refugee Board that it is prepared to guarantee the maintenance of 1,000 children who may be admitted to Cuba in accordance with suggestions contained Department's circular airgram April 15. The guarantee would be effected through a welfare program to be conducted by Habana Joint Relief Committee.

May 19, 1944
2:05 P.M.

D. L. S. L.

Matandish:cm 5-18-44

000788

CONTROL COPY

AIRGRAM

From: American Embassy, Habana

Date: April 22, 1944

Rec'd: Apr 27 10 a
D.V.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

A-892
April 22, 12:30 p.m., 1944.

Department's confidential circular airgram, April
15, 7 p.m.

The Joint Relief Committee in Habana, local branch of the Joint Distribution Committee in the United States, is the private agency here most qualified and reliable to carry out such work. Its local representative states that he is ready to cooperate but that would have to obtain authorization from his head office. At the Embassy's request, he has taken no action on the matter.

I feel that if the choice of a private agency were left to the Cuban authorities, local irregularities would probably occur, particularly in the distribution of funds. In this connection the Department will recall the disgraceful record of the Cuban authorities with reference to the refugee situation (see despatch No. 6149 of March 1); also the inclusion of Dr. Gustavo GUTIERREZ and Manuel PEREZ Benito on the recently created Cuban War Refugee Board is not encouraging. A recent example of the Cuban Government's attitude was its unsuccessful attempt to swindle refugees out of \$700,000 by freezing the deposits required of immigrants entering Cuba.

I therefore suggest that, before I inform the Cuban Government of the contents of the airgram under reference, the Department ascertain whether the Joint Distribution Committee would be willing to undertake such a program in Cuba. My approach to the Cuban Government might then be (1) to request it to assure the Swiss Government that it will be willing to accept a fixed number of refugee children and (2) to state that I am informed that the Joint Distribution Committee would be prepared to care for the children, through the Joint Relief Committee in Habana, and to make arrangements to provide the latter with the necessary funds.

711
E.H./jm-dsc

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

BRADEN

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 14 1972

000789



5

000790

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Ciudad Trujillo, D. R., September 5, 1944

No. 294 x

Subject: Reply of Dominican Government to
Proposal to Accept Refugee Children

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

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's circular telegram of August 12, 1944, 8 p.m. and to previous correspondence regarding orphaned or abandoned children and to my airgram no. A-401 of August 21, 1944, 10:30 a.m. stating that the Dominican Foreign Minister had informed the Embassy that the Dominican Government had no objection in principle to including refugee children from Hungary as well as from France. I am enclosing a translation of a note of August 31, 1944 from the Foreign Minister, Lic. M. A. Pena Batlle confirming his oral communication of August 18, 1944 stating that the Dominican Government would also accept children from Hungary.

Respectfully yours,
For the Ambassador

Andrew E. Donovan, II
Second Secretary of Embassy

Enclosure:
Note of August 31, 1944
File no. 848
AED:mrh
Ozolid to Department

cc: Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'), Abrahamson, Akzin, Cohn, Drury,
DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Losser, Mannon, Marks,
McCormack, Pohle, Sargoy, Standish, Weinstein

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

000791

Enclosure no. 1 to accompany despatch no. 294 of September 5, 1944
from the American Embassy, Ciudad Trujillo, D. R.

Mr. Ambassador:

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your attentive note no. 89 dated August 14 of the present year regarding the efforts to care for orphan children abandoned in Europe by which Your Excellency informed my chancery that the Department of State had informed you that in view of the situation in Hungary and the recent declaration of Admiral Horthy that his government would suspend the deportation of and grant exit permits to all Jewish children offered asylum outside Hungary and would appreciate it if you could be advised if the Dominican Government would desire to extend its offer in principle to children from Hungary as well as to the children from France.

Your Excellency adds in the note referred to that detailed plans on the immigration of refugee children to the Dominican Republic have not yet been developed and that in the event it should later be necessary to develop such plans it would not be done without previously consulting my government.

I am honored to inform Your Excellency that as the Dominican Government did not make a distinction in the nationality of the children which it would receive there is not inconvenience that they should also proceed from Hungary.

I take this opportunity to reiterate to Your Excellency assurance of my highest and most distinguished consideration.

(signed)

M. Pena Batlle

(translation: AED)

000792

Ward L. ...
...

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Embassy, Ciudad Trujillo
DATED: May 17, 1944
NUMBER: 200
x

CONTROL COPY

If Foreign Office has not instructed its Mission, Bern, to notify Swiss Government of Dominican willingness accept children as reported your 219, May 4, please request it to do so. Inform Department.
Please express this Government's sincere appreciation Dominican Government's generous offer.

HULL

RECEIVED
MAY 20 1944

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

000794

PROPOSED CABLE TO AMERICAN EMBASSY, CIUDAD TRUJILLO

If Foreign Office has not instructed its Mission,
Bern, to notify Swiss Government of Dominican willing-
ness accept children as reported your 219, May 4, please
request it to do so. Inform Department.

Please express this Government's sincere appre-
ciation Dominican Government's generous offer.

May 16, 1944
2:55 P.M.

J. R. S.
Mitendishilen 5-12-44

000795

Centre

3 War refugees (P. 8)
(P. 10)

EMBASSY
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Ciudad Trujillo, D. R., May 9, 1944

No. 1760.

Subject: Willingness of Dominican Government
to accept Refugee Children.

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

*3 War Refugees
Class
1 War in Bond*

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's confidential circular telegram of April 15, 7 p.m., the Embassy's telegram no. 219, May 4, 12 noon and my despatch no. 1743 of May 4, 1944, with regard to the suggestion that the Dominican Government agree to accept a number of refugee children under sixteen years of age.

In the Department's telegram under reference, it was suggested that the Dominican Foreign Office authorize its chief of mission in Bern to issue the appropriate number of immigration visas and maintain their validity until such time as transportation facilities from Switzerland to the Dominican Republic might become available. As the Department is aware, the Dominican Republic maintains no diplomatic or consular officer in Switzerland at this time and representation of its interests is in charge of the Colombian representative.

In an informal conversation with the Minister for Foreign Affairs yesterday, I inquired as to whether the Dominican Foreign Office contemplated authorizing the Colombian representative to issue the visas for the minimum of one thousand or maximum of two thousand children whom the Dominican Republic is prepared to receive. In reply he informed me that the matter had not yet come up for discussion but that it was his personal opinion that it would be inadvisable to grant such authorization to the Colombian representative and that he would be inclined, should it be feasible, to authorize the appropriate American representative to perform this function. He said that American Foreign Service Officers had had more experience along those lines and he considered them more competent to handle such a complicated matter. Pona Batlle emphasized that he was speaking entirely

unofficially

/GCIC
PS/CH

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 10 1972

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AIR MAIL

-2-

unofficially since no decision had been taken in this regard.

In my opinion the Dominican Government is unlikely to take any action in this matter (other than the undertaking which it has already made to receive a number of the refugee children) in the absence of further suggestions from the American Government. I should accordingly appreciate an expression of the Department's views.

Respectfully yours,

Robert Newbigin
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

Ozalia sent to Department.
348
RN:ong

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*War Rpt Bel
Am (Belle)*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: American Embassy, Ciudad Trujillo
To: Secretary of State, Washington
Date: May 4, 1944
Number: 219

CONTROL COPY

With reference to Department's April 15 circular
airgram Foreign Office informed Embassy this morning
that Dominican Government would receive a minimum of
1000 refugee children up to 16 years of age, and a
maximum of 2000. Upon their arrival in this country,
he stated that private institutions subsidized by the
state would take care of them.

NEWBEGIN

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

000798

CONTROL COPY

EMBASSY
LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Cluded Trujillo, D. R., May 4, 1944

No. 1748

X Subject: Reply of Dominican Government to
Proposal to accept Refugee Children.

M.R. 10
W. A. [unclear]
Max [unclear]
41

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

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Embassy's
telegram no. 219 of May 4, 1944, reporting that
the Dominican Government, in response to the De-
partment's suggestion that it accept a number of
refugee children, is disposed to receive a minimum
of one thousand and a maximum of two thousand.

In a conversation with the Minister for Foreign
Affairs this morning, prior to the receipt of the
Dominican Government's reply, he informed me that
apart from the humanitarian aspect of the problem,
the Dominican Government would welcome the refugee
children as constituting the best type of immigra-
tion. He stated that in his opinion the children
were preferable to adults in that they would be
more easily assimilated. The ready response of the
Dominican Government to the Department's proposal
is in line with the Dominican policy of encouraging
white immigration to this country, which also may
account for its establishing of a minimum number of
children to be received.

- 1/ There are enclosed for the Department's records
- 2/ copies of my note no. 218 of April 24, 1944 and the
- 3/ Foreign Office's reply dated May 2, 1944 together
with a translation of the latter.

Respectfully yours,

Robert Newbegin
Chargé d'affaires ad interim

Enclosures:

- 1. Copy of Embassy note
no. 218 to Foreign Office.
- 2. Copy of Foreign Office
note to Embassy.
- 3. Translation of no. 2

Ozolid sent to Department.
843
RN:eng

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

PS/EMS

000799

AIR MAIL

Enclosure as per despatch No. 1748 dated May 4, 1944 from the American Embassy, Ciudad Trujillo, D. R.

Ciudad Trujillo, D. R., April 24, 1944

No. 213

Excellency:

I have the honor under instructions from my Government to inform Your Excellency that the Department of State at Washington has now authorized the American consular officers in Switzerland to issue up to four thousand quota immigration visas to refugee children up to sixteen years of age without regard to religion, nationality or stateless status, to close relatives residing in enemy, enemy-occupied or occupied territory, or to the availability of means of transportation to the United States. The purpose of this authorization is to facilitate the escape to Switzerland of orphaned children abandoned by giving assurances to the Swiss Government that such children will not remain in Switzerland after the termination of hostilities in Europe. The authorization contains provisions for the continued renewal of the visas until such time as adequate transportation facilities to the United States become available. Private agencies have stated that with the Attorney General of the United States to assure this Government that the abandoned children will not become public charges.

If there are private agencies in the Dominican Republic willing and able to undertake a program for the care of refugee children, the War Refugee Board is confident that it can make arrangements to provide these agencies with adequate funds for the maintenance, education and welfare of as many children as the Government of the Dominican Republic would be willing to admit. Should it prove necessary, funds would undoubtedly be available to meet transportation expenses from Switzerland to the Dominican Republic.

Should the above proposal be acceptable to the Dominican Government, it is requested that it be good enough to give assurance to the Swiss Government through appropriate channels at Bern that it will accept up to a fixed number of refugee children in a manner similar to that of the Government of the United States of America.

For the information of Your Excellency's Government, it may be stated that it is conservatively estimated that in France alone there are eight to ten thousand abandoned or orphaned refugee children. Should the Dominican Government be willing to make

this-~~transmittion~~

Am. Mail

-2-

This humanitarian offer, it is requested that the Department of State for Foreign Affairs authorize an appropriate official at Bern to issue the actual number of immigration visas and to maintain the validity of such visas until suitable transportation facilities from Switzerland to the Dominican Republic become available.

The Special Representative of the United States War Relocation Board attached to the American Legation at Bern will be glad to cooperate with consular and consulate offices of other American Republics in this as well as in all other refugee matters.

Should the proposal be agreeable to the Dominican Government, it would be most grateful if your excellency would be so kind as to inform me of the number of refugees and their names which the Dominican authorities had proposed to admit.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest and most distinguished consideration.

Robert L. Brown,
Charge d'Affaires ad interim

Mr. Secretary,
Mr. E. A. Tamm,
Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs,
Circuit Building, D. C.

000001

AIR MAIL

Enclosure no. 2 to despatch no. 1748, dated May 4, 1944, from the American Embassy, Ciudad Trujillo, D. R.

Republica Dominicana
Secretaria de Estado
de Relaciones Exteriores

Ciudad Trujillo, DSD
2 de mayo de 1944

10726

Señor Eusebio de Heredia:

Yo le informo a usted avisar recibo de la patente
número 213, de fecha 14 de abril próximo pasado,
por la cual Vuestra Señoría se dio a conocer a los
funcionarios de consular de Instrucciones de los
Estados Unidos, el Departamento de Estado en Washing-
ton, autorizando a los funcionarios consulares en
Suiza a expedir una cantidad de hasta cuatro mil
visas de inmigración a favor de niños refugiados de
Suiza, quienes están en espera de ser trasladados a
los Estados Unidos, de conformidad con las disposiciones
de la Ley de Inmigración y Naturalización de los Estados
Unidos, y de facilitar el transporte a los niños los
necesarios, que el propósito de esta autorización
es el de facilitar la entrada a Suiza a niños huérfanos
o abandonados, garantizando al Gobierno Suizo que esos
niños no permanecerán en aquel país después que ter-
minen las hostilidades en Europa, y que dicha autori-
zación confiere disposiciones para el continuo reembar-
que de las visas hasta el momento en que haya
suficientes facilidades de transporte hacia los Estados
Unidos.

Agradezco Vuestra Señoría en la citada nota que
Instituciones privadas han prestado fianza al
Ministro de Justicia de los Estados Unidos para gar-
antizar al Gobierno Americano que los niños im-
igrantes se convertirán en una carga pública.

Agradezco Vuestra Señoría que si en la República
Dominicana hay alguna agencia privada que quiera y
pueda hacerse cargo de un programa para la custodia
de los niños en cuestión, la Junta de Refugiados de
Guerra considera que puede hacer arreglos para sumin-
istrar a dicha agencia los fondos necesarios para el
sostenimiento, la educación y demás atenciones de
todos los niños que el Gobierno Dominicano está dis-
puesto a admitir y que, en caso necesario, también se
podrían a la disposición los fondos para cubrir los
gastos de viaje de Suiza hasta este país.

Finalmente expresa Vuestra Señoría en la prelu-
dida nota que el Representante Especial de la Junta
de Refugiados de Guerra, adscrito a la Legación
Americana en Berna, prestará su cooperación a las
oficinas diplomáticas y consulares de otras repúbli-
cas americanas, en este o en cualquier otro asunto

relativa

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MAH

-2-

relativo a refugiados, y que en caso de que el Gobierno Dominicano tomara bien o mejor la proposición arriba indicada, desea Vuestra Señoría que se le comunique la cantidad de niños refugiados que las autoridades dominicanas están dispuestas a admitir.

Honroso asimismo es llevar al conocimiento de Vuestra Señoría que el Gobierno Dominicano, en consecuencia con sus obligaciones humanitarias, presta en sus oficinas en otras ocasiones, a cargo de un número de dos mil o un número de mil de niños refugiados de hasta 16 años, sin tener en cuenta religión, nacionalidad, etc., los casos de su llegada al país serían atendidos por instituciones privadas subvencionadas por el Estado.

Me fero de esta oportunidad para recomendar a Vuestra Señoría las seguridades de mi alta estima y afecto.

/s/ Roberto Batlle

A Su Señoría Roberto Lechuga,
Embajador de Honor en EE.UU. de
Estados Unidos de América,
SU EMBAJADA.

000803

AIR MAIL

Enclosure no. 3 to despatch no. 1748 dated May 4, 1944 from
the American Embassy, Ciudad Trujillo, D. R.

Dominican Republic
Department of State
for Foreign Affairs

10726

Ciudad Trujillo, D.S.D.
May 2, 1944

Mr. Chercó / Affaires:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your courteous note no. 113 dated April 24, last by which you inform my Embassy in accordance with instructions from your Government that the Department of State at Washington has authorized the American consular officers in Switzerland to issue a quantity of four to seven month visas for refugee children up to sixteen years of age who are registered in the "List of Nationality of Refugees" also relatives residing in enemy or enemy-controlled territory, or the availability of means of transportation to the United States, that the purpose of this authorization is to facilitate the entrance into Switzerland of orphaned or orphaned children, guaranteeing the Swiss Government that these children will not remain in that country after the termination of hostilities in Europe and that the authorization under reference contains provisions for the continued renewal of the visas until such time as adequate transportation facilities to the United States are available.

You continue in the note under reference that private institutions have assisted and with the American Government to assure that the immigrating children will not become a public charge.

You add that if there is in the Dominican Republic any private agency which would be willing to accept the children in question, the War Refugee Board believes that it can make arrangements to provide such agency with the necessary funds for the maintenance, education and other needs of all the children, and the Dominican Government is disposed to admit and that if necessary funds would be available to cover the expenses of the trip from Switzerland to this country.

Finally, you state in the above-mentioned note that the special representative of the War Refugee Board attached to the American Legation at Bern will lend his cooperation to the diplomatic and consular offices of the other American republics in this or in any other matter relating to refugees

and that in

000804

AIR MAIL

-2-

and that in case the Dominican Government is
unable to pay the debt, the Government of the
United States will be obliged to assume the
responsibility for the payment of the same.

It is further stated that the
Dominican Government is aware of its
obligations and is making every effort
to meet them. It is also stated that the
Government of the United States is
willing to assist the Dominican Government
in the payment of the debt.

Very truly yours,
[Signature]

Very truly yours,
[Signature]

000805



000801

Enclosure No. 2 to despatch No. 1893 of July 29, 1944,
from American Embassy, Quito, Ecuador.

TRANSLATION

AIDE MEMOIRE

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs, in reply to the confidential inquiry made by the Embassy of the United States of America on May 8 last about the possibility of Ecuador's receiving a group of orphaned or abandoned European children without regard to their religion or nationality, takes pleasure in stating that the Ministry of Social Welfare, having been advised of the matter, accepts in principle receiving refugee children from European nations provided that the country can count on sufficient funds, for which the necessary assistance from private charitable institutions is being sought.

TR:GGR:mt

000808

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

FBM-597
This telegram must be
paraphrased before be
communicated to anyone
other than a Government
Agency. ~~(RESTRICTED)~~

Quito ✓ *W. W. Ref.*

Dated July 28, 1944 *P. J.*

Rec'd 1:35 p.m. *(m)*

Secretary of State,
Washington.

CONTROL COPY *W. W. Ref.*

762, July 28, noon

Ecuadoran Government has accepted in principle
proposal regarding refugee children (Embassy's telegram
471 of May 13, 5 p.m.). Further details concerning
practical application of plan will be necessary before
Embassy can obtain indication of number of children
Ecuador is prepared to accept. Copy of aide-memoire
received being sent by air mail pouch.

SCOTTEN

RR

000809

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

SFG-746

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

Quito ✓

Dated May 13, 1944

Rec'd. 9:23 p.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

471, May 13, 5 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MAY 16 1944

RECORDS

Proposal regarding refugee children (Department's
circular airgram April 20) has been referred by
Foreign Minister to the President and is under con-
sideration by the latter. Embassy expects decision
soon and will cable promptly.

GANTENBEIN

NPL
REP

000810