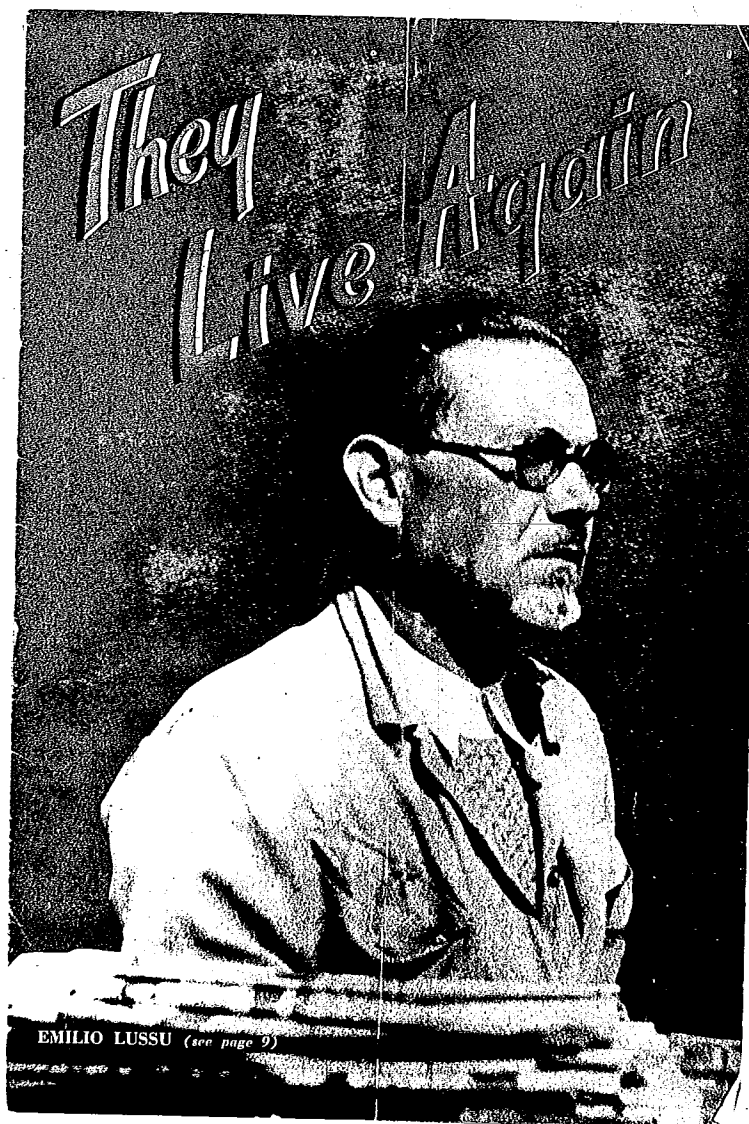


Programs with respect to Relief and
Rescue of Refugees: Evacuation To
Switzerland

Rescue of Refugees from France
and Italy (IRRC- International
Rescue and Relief Committee)

000929



BEST AVAILABLE COPY

000930

International Rescue and Relief Committee, Inc.

Combining: Emergency Rescue Committee, Inc.
International Relief Association, Inc.
2 West 43rd Street
New York, N. Y.

CHARLES A. BEARD

FRANK KINGDON

FREDA KIRCHWEY

STERLING D. SPERO

INGRID WARBURG

L. HOLLINGSWORTH WOOD

DAVID F. SEIFERHOLD

SILVIA STRULSKY

Honorary Chairman

Chairman

Vice-Chairmen

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Executive Secretary

National Committee

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ABBA HILLEL SILVER

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DOROTHY THOMPSON

OSWALD G. VILLARD

WILLIAM ALLEN WHITE



Participating in the NATIONAL WAR FUND

The National War Fund is a fund-raising, philanthropic federation operating throughout the country, which has endorsed the work, and assumed responsibility for the budgets, of seventeen agencies designed to relieve various forms of human need and distress arising out of the war.

The International Rescue and Relief Committee is a member agency of the National War Fund, through its affiliation with Refugee Relief Trustees, Inc., a committee to coordinate the work of three cooperating agencies in the field of refugee relief.

FOREWORD



It is not often given to people who invest their gifts in human beings rather than in financial securities to see so quick and ample a return as we have been allowed to collect on the work of the International Rescue and Relief Committee. We put out our money and our strength to aid the proved enemies of Hitler in a Europe that seemed to be crumbling into slavery before our eyes. We refused to believe that the forces of liberty could be beaten, or that the power of free men had to be lost to the world. We believed with all our hearts that ultimately it is the dreamers—the dreamers of the high and inspiring dreams of the spirit—who are the masters of the earth. Today, when the forces of the democratic powers are on the march to victory, we have a double joy—the satisfaction of seeing our nation sharing in a victory for all the ideals on which its life was founded, and the satisfaction of seeing the men we rescued from the terror now enlisted in the ranks that are banishing tyranny from the earth.

Their lot was cast in a dark place. For long months the little flames that still lighted their world flickered and threatened to go out. They walked with Death at their elbows. But now *they live again*. The flickering lights are rising to the glory of beacons. And they know—these men who have suffered really know—for what they fight.

Here is the story of some of them. It is told not that we may boast of what we have done, but that we may be grateful together that we have had a little part in the keeping of genius and great talent alive. Keep this booklet. You will return to it many times in later years, and find a glow for your heart in it as it reminds you of the time when we refused to deny the democratic faith or to leave undone the one thing we still could do in a paralysing world.

I greet you once more as a fellow-soldier in the fight against the fascists and the Nazis. I shall welcome you if you will join us in the membership of the Committee which we must keep alive until all the threats are gone and the freedom of all peoples is assured.

Frank Kingdon

THE WORK OF THE INTERNATIONAL

THE STORY OF OUR WORK is the story of a determined effort begun ten years ago, to help by all means in our power the democratic forces of active opposition to the Nazi regime. From 1933 on, the International Relief Association sent funds to groups of political refugees in Antwerp, Prague, Stockholm and Paris, to support them in their underground fight against the growing Nazi menace. The scope of the work grew as more democratic leaders were compelled to leave Germany and establish centers of opposition in neighboring countries. By the outbreak of the war in 1939, hundreds of front-line fighters against fascism were established in France, ready to cooperate to their utmost in open or underground activity against the Nazi enemy.

After the Franco-German Armistice in June 1940, the plight of the anti-Nazi refugees became desperate. Under the terms of the Armistice the Vichy Government agreed to surrender on demand to the Germans any anti-Nazi German, Czech or Austrian national that Hitler might designate. Among those directly menaced by this shameful agreement were leaders of European culture, distinguished figures in the world of science and scholarship, internationally respected labor leaders, hundreds of men and women with unassailable records of service in the democratic cause.

To Americans who had respected their work for years the plight of these menaced men and women was gravely disturbing. It became essential to know more of their present position and probable fate than could be learned from brief and often conflicting news dispatches. Many were clearly in desperate danger, and must be helped immediately, but who, and where, and how, remained unanswered.

Entrance to the concentration camp at Le Vernet, reserved for political prisoners under the Vichy regime.



Accordingly in July 1940, the Emergency Rescue Committee was formed under the leadership of Dr. Frank Kingdon for the express purpose of rescuing proven anti-Nazis in serious danger. Funds were immediately subscribed, and a representative was dispatched by plane to Lisbon, with instructions to go immediately to France, get in touch as quickly as possible with those men and women believed to be in special danger through their past activities, and establish some means or route whereby they might be brought to safety.

four

RESCUE AND RELIEF COMMITTEE

With the opening of a small office in Marseilles in August, 1940 began a long and unrelenting struggle between a few determined workers representing the American people, and the forces of the Gestapo. The men whom both sides sought were often in hiding or in concentration camps, sometimes under assumed names, separated from their friends, without any papers, passports, visas or money. By a triumph of ingenuity and courage, again and again these hunted men and women were literally snatched from the pursuing Gestapo, and brought to freedom and safety in America. In a few cases, each one a bitter tragedy, the Gestapo won. But from the beginning of our work until the present, nearly 2,500 of the most valuable and determined fighters for democracy have been saved.

Shortly before the total occupation of France by the German forces in November 1942, our Marseilles office was officially closed and our workers driven underground. Some of them were in such extreme danger that they had no alternative save to make their way immediately across the border into a neutral country. From there they continued to work—in Switzerland, Spain and Portugal—and to help in countless ways the many endangered men and women who have fled France illegally in the past year. Other of our agents were able to remain in France by going into hiding. They are still able to direct the work by underground channels.

Among those who escaped across the border in the early part of this year was one of our most endangered and devoted workers, an experienced organizer against Hitler, who had been in three different concentration camps since 1940, had twice escaped and been recaptured, and finally managed to break out of prison a day ahead of the Gestapo and get across the Swiss border. From his new headquarters, he is able at last to communicate with us and with his family and to receive funds for his comrades.

We helped these men and women on the basis of their present danger and past record. They have amply justified both themselves and us by their work since they came to safety and liberty. Their struggle for democracy and freedom goes on without cessation; their rescue has been but a stage in their long battle against the totalitarian forces of repression.

The Office in Marseilles. L. to R.: André Breton; André Masson; Mme. Breton; Max Ernst; Varian Fry, European director, I.R.R.C.



five

000932



THESE WE

MARC CHAGALL, born in Russia, and long a naturalized Frenchman, is recognized as one of the greatest painters of the modern school. He has paintings in all important European collections of modern art except those under the influence of the Nazi philosophy; and in many American museums. Chagall left Paris in the summer of 1940, went to the unoccupied zone, and was evacuated to the United States by

the International Rescue and Relief Committee in May 1941. Since his arrival in this country he has worked with even increased originality and vigor. Among the important projects he has completed since his arrival are the costumes and scenery for Massine's ballet, *Aleko*, produced by the Ballet Theatre in New York in October 1942. Recent exhibitions of his work have been held in New York and Washington, and paintings of his have lately been acquired by museums in Buffalo, Chicago, and St. Louis.

ANDRE MASSON, recognized as one of France's most distinguished contemporary painters, has also long been known as an ardent anti-fascist. He was in Spain during the Civil War, and in 1940 when the Germans entered France he was obliged to abandon his studio with all his paintings and flee with his family to southern France. There they established contact with a representative of the International Rescue and Relief Committee, who arranged for the visas, passage, and passports necessary for their evacuation to the United States. Since it would have been extremely dangerous for the Massons to pass through Spain, they had to wait until a ship left direct from Marseilles for Martinique.

In the two years that he has been in this country, Masson's art has greatly evolved. He has had exhibitions in Baltimore, Boston, Chicago and New York, and has been invited to send a collection of his paintings to London this winter.



MA

SAVED

WANDA LANDOWSKA is generally accepted as the world's greatest harpsichordist, a musician of genius, and an authority on pre-Bach music. Virgil Thompson, critic of the New York Herald-Tribune, said of her: "She plays the harpsichord better than anybody else ever plays anything."

She was obliged by the Nazi occupation of France to abandon her renowned school and concert hall in Saint-Leu-la-Forêt near Paris and to seek refuge in unoccupied territory. Severely hampered by the pressures of the Vichy regime, she sought freedom in America and reached New York in the winter of 1941 through the help of the International Rescue and Relief Committee. Almost immediately after her arrival she played for a crowded audience in New York and has since then given concerts in many other cities, and made an extensive tour of Canada. She will tour the United States this winter.



JACQUES LIPCHITZ is generally considered one of the three greatest sculptors of his generation. A citizen of France, his work has long been highly esteemed in America. He had to leave his studio and his life work when the Germans entered Paris, and to make his way to Toulouse in southern France. Throughout the winter of 1940-41 his talents were stifled and his works censored by the Vichy Government. He was approached by a representative of the International Rescue and Relief Committee who arranged for passage to America.

In this country he has been able to work again with great vigor and freedom. Museums in Chicago, New York and Worcester have bought his sculpture as well as many private collectors. The Brazilian Government has recently commissioned him to prepare sculptured decorations for a new Federal building in Rio de Janeiro.



seven

000933



FIGHTERS FOR A DEMOCRATIC WORLD

HANS HABE, Hungarian journalist and writer, active in France before the war. In September 1939, he joined the French Army as a volunteer, fought through the Battle of France, and was taken prisoner by the Germans in June 1940. Having managed with great danger to escape, he made his way through Southern France to Spain, and was one of the first men brought to this country by the International Rescue and Relief Committee in September 1940.

Since his arrival in America he has been one of the most active and impassioned accusers of the fascist enemy. His analysis of the collapse of the French Army, *A Thousand*

Shall Fall, (Harcourt Brace, 1941), was a best-seller. He lectured at West Point on army morale in the summer of 1941, and after Pearl Harbor was sent by United States Army officials to over three hundred camps to speak to our soldiers on *The Nature of the Enemy*. Subsequently he entered the American Army, and is at present a First Lieutenant on active duty in North Africa.

Hans Habe's experience in the French Army, and in the subsequent civilian demoralization under the Vichy regime, have given him a passionate conviction of the necessity for an honest appraisal of the enemy and an understanding of the problems of army morale. Summing up his experiences on the Maginot Line and in Flanders in 1940, he wrote, "The favorite phrase of the French Army was: 'Il ne faut pas chercher à comprendre.'—It's no good trying to understand. We tried to understand, and we *did* understand. Thus we were able to prove, with outmoded 1891 rifles, that tanks and bombing planes are not all-powerful and that there is something stronger than both: human beings."

EMILIO LUSSU (See Cover) is the leader of the most important Italian democratic group in exile, the *Giustizia e Libertà* (Justice and Liberty) movement. When Mussolini first seized power Lussu was a representative in the Italian Chamber of Deputies of his native town in Sardinia. He refused to bow to Mussolini's leadership and was eventually imprisoned on the island of Lipari. After a number of unsuccessful attempts, he and two other distinguished Italian anti-fascists, Carlo Rosselli and Fausto Nitti, escaped in a small boat to France. There they established the *Giustizia e Libertà* group, publishing a weekly newspaper of that name in which Lussu contributed regular articles.

When the Rosselli brothers were murdered by French fascists in Paris in 1937, Lussu succeeded to leadership of the group. He was in Paris when the Germans entered in June 1940, but escaped to southern France. A representative of the International Rescue and Relief Committee met him there; and together they succeeded in getting nearly all the members of the *Giustizia e Libertà* group safely out of France. The last to be sent out was Lussu himself. Traveling on false papers prepared for him by an agent of the Committee, he reached Lisbon in the summer of 1941 and there established new headquarters for his followers. Since then he has been actively engaged in organizing underground work in Italy, culminating in the establishment a short time ago of the Action Party, which has become the leading Italian Republican party today.

Other members of the *Giustizia e Libertà* group, who were evacuated from France with the help of the International Rescue and Relief Committee, have returned to Italy since the invasion of Sicily to engage in underground democratic activity. Lussu's followers have taken the leadership in the mass sabotage movement of the Italian people against the German occupying forces; this group is the most effective force for active democratic leadership in Italy today.

FROM A FAMOUS LEADER OF THE FRENCH UNDERGROUND

November 15, 1942

The work accomplished by the International Rescue and Relief Committee during the past two and a half years will stand among the great feats of generosity by the American people. Started immediately upon the conclusion of the French armistice, your Committee, although faced with very grave difficulties, succeeded in bringing to America scores of intellectuals and democratic leaders, who found among you those four freedoms without which intellectual pursuits are impossible and life hardly worthwhile.

I for one will ever be grateful for having had my name placed on your first list of intellectuals to be brought here from France, although I could not accept the generous offer made to me then. The reasons for my refusal have since become clear.

As its work became known in France, your Committee achieved a second and equally important aim: it brought to a people deprived of most means of communication with the outside world, positive proof that democratic America was, as ever, to be found by the side of democratic France, ready to share in the united front against the forces that sought to overthrow the ideal of liberty, equality, fraternity.

ANDRE PHILIP

Now Commissioner of the Interior,
French Committee of National Liberation

eight

nine



000934



THEY BRING

ERNESTINE FREUD, daughter-in-law of the great Sigmund Freud, is a famous speech therapist. Formerly a Professor of Speech Therapy at the University of Vienna, the Nazi invasion of Austria in 1938 caused her to emigrate to Paris where she continued her valuable work. Again in danger after the fall of France she moved southward and was finally helped through the efforts of the International Rescue

and Relief Committee to come to this country with her daughter. Her husband was already at this time fighting with the British Army.

Immediately after her arrival in New York, Mrs. Freud took up her work for the treatment of deaf and stuttering children, and adults suffering from aphasia. Since the beginning of 1943 she has been attached to one of New York's great hospitals, where she restores speech to people who through operation or accident have lost their larynxes.

ALFREDO MENDIZABAL, distinguished Spanish philosopher and lawyer, was a Professor at the University of Oviedo. A Catholic and a democrat, his sympathies were strongly on the side of the Spanish workers and peasants, and opposed to their clerical and fascist oppressors. Deprived of his post, he sought asylum in France in 1937 where he organized the Spanish Committee for Civil Peace, working for reconciliation among

Spaniards on the basis of withdrawal from that country of all foreign armies.

After the fall of France his democratic principles placed him in open opposition to the Vichy regime. Our Committee, trying to arrange for his evacuation, faced the impossibility of his safe transit through Spain since he had been condemned to fifteen years of exile by Franco. A long and difficult voyage via North Africa was finally completed in the Autumn of 1942.

ten



GREAT GIFTS

FRANZ WERFEL, the greatest of Czech writers; novelist, poet and dramatist. Though long established in Europe, he won world fame in 1934 with his novel *The Forty Days of Musa Dagh*. This book was suppressed in Germany, owing to the bitter opposition of the Nazi regime to its spirit of freedom and resistance to tyranny. In June 1940 Franz Werfel was in France and the German invasion placed him in great danger. Dispatches reaching this country in July 1940 mistakenly reported his capture and death at the hands of the Gestapo. Among the first acts of the representative of the International Rescue and Relief Committee on reaching France was to seek out Werfel, keep him in hiding, and arrange for his safe departure to America. Since his arrival he has published two best-sellers, *Embezzled Heaven* and *Song of Bernadette*, the incompleting manuscript of which he brought with him from France.

FRITZ KAHN, a former Berlin physician, is a distinguished interpreter of medicine to the layman. His treatise on the *Life of Man*, a study of the structure and functions of the human body, published in 1930, was widely read. After Hitler came to power, the Nazis burned all available copies of this book and subsequently re-issued it in a pirated edition under a false name, with a spurious additional chapter on the physiological and mental superiority of the Nordic race. Dr. Kahn had meanwhile gone into exile in France. After Germany's conquest of France and the active anti-semitic campaign of the Vichy Government, Dr. Kahn sought the assistance of the International Rescue and Relief Committee to come to this country.

Here he has published a definitive work, *Man In Structure and Function* (Knopf, 1943), and has prepared a scientific history of Palestine to be published shortly by MacMillan.

eleven



000935



FOUR MEN WHO

NICOLAI CHIAROMONTE, an Italian writer, was active in the underground opposition to Mussolini. Eventually compelled to leave Italy, he went to Spain during the Civil War and fought in the Loyalist forces until their final defeat. After the outbreak of the second World War he broadcast from France to the democratic people of Italy. During the winter of 1940-41 he lived in hiding near Marseilles,

sought by the Italian government and the collaborating Vichy secret police.

With the help of the International Rescue and Relief Committee, he escaped to North Africa where he was again interned. Once more freed, he succeeded in reaching Lisbon, and eventually took ship for the United States. He has been active here as an interpreter of the democratic spirit of the Italian masses, and has written most recently of the Italian political situation in the pages of *The New Republic*.

KONRAD HEIDEN has been the leading biographer and critic of Hitler and his method, and of the entire Nazi philosophy, since the days of the Munich Beer Hall Putsch in 1923. After Hitler's seizure of power, Heiden was compelled to leave Germany. He was a leader in the underground activities in the Saar and later emigrated to France. In 1939 he enlisted in the French Army and took part in the retreat to the South. He was diligently sought by the Germans and the cooperating Vichy authorities under the terms of the Armistice. A representative of the International Rescue and Relief Committee arranged for his clandestine departure from France and safe passage to America.

In the last three years Heiden has prepared and completed what will undoubtedly prove to be the definitive study of Hitler, which Houghton Mifflin is now preparing for publication.

twelve



DEFIED HITLER

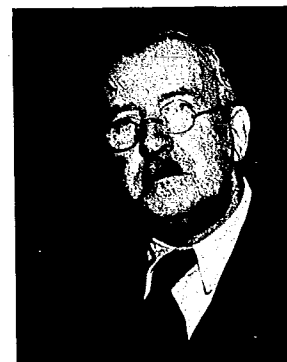
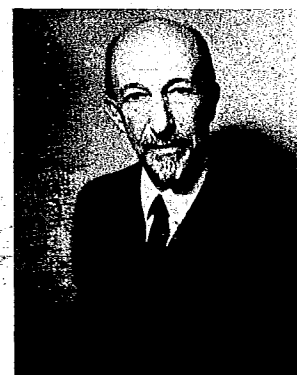
JACQUES HADAMARD, generally considered the world's leading mathematician, has long been a distinguished figure in the world of science. Before the present war he had accepted four successive invitations to lecture at leading universities in America including Yale, the University of Chicago, the Rice Institute of Houston, Leland Stanford University and the University of Toronto. He was Professor at the *Ecole Polytechnique* of Paris and the *College de France*; and a member of the *Academie des Sciences* in Paris. These posts he relinquished after the Nazi invasion. He made his way to the south of France where the International Rescue and Relief Committee was fortunately able to arrange for his passage to America.

Upon his arrival in this country, Dr. Hadamard was appointed Vice President of the *Ecole Libre des Hautes Etudes* in New York. He also holds the position of visiting professor at Columbia University and has lectured in the past year at various universities including Harvard, Princeton and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

HEINRICH MANN, novelist, playwright and essayist, is one of the most important German literary figures of our day. Even more than his brother, Thomas Mann, he has spoken as an active internationalist and democrat for the last thirty years through his literary works and public declarations. By his political satire, which struck at the most sacred beliefs of Nazism, and by his agitation for a United States of Europe, he early incurred the bitter hatred of the National Socialists. After Hitler seized power, Heinrich Mann sought asylum in France where he was trapped at the moment of the fall of the French Republic. In the autumn of 1940 he was smuggled across the French frontier by an agent of the International Rescue and Relief Committee and evacuated to the United States.

Among his better known works which have been translated into English are *The Royal Woman*, *The Patrioteer*, and *Henry of Navarre*.

thirteen



000936

A WORLD OF FREE MEN

This booklet can give only an indication of the variety of gifts which the refugees from Nazi-fascist oppression have brought to the service of world democracy. From distinguished artists and writers, through the ranks of less-known workers in every field, those whom we rescued have continued active in the fight of free men opposed to the totalitarian conception of life. Many men whom we saved are carrying on this fight in the most direct terms possible, in the armies of the United Nations. Of those enrolled in the United States Army, the majority were quickly selected for some branch of the service where their special knowledge of the enemy—his method, his language, or his terrain—will be of value. Others have placed their knowledge at the service of this country by giving technical aid in their own fields to the Office of War Information, the Office of Strategic Services, and other war agencies. These men must all remain anonymous until the final victory of democracy is won.

Some who are aiding our war effort in other ways can be named, such as Hans Calmann, a German chemist, now doing essential research in pharmaceuticals; Helmut Wagner, former underground worker, now a skilled instrument maker in a war plant; Erwin Ackerknecht, a German physician engaged in medical research at Johns Hopkins; Marcel Verziano, a Rumanian physician working on the cure of shock in a great New York hospital; and Mara Lowenstein, the widow of a famous German Social-Democrat, now a chemist in a defense factory.

Many are serving the community with distinction in other ways. Charles Sterling, ex-curator of painting at the Louvre, deprived of his post at the Musée d'Ingres by Vichy's anti-semitic laws, is now curator at the Metropolitan Museum in New York. Hermann Kesten, German writer who worked indefatigably after his own rescue to facilitate the escape of others, has recently completed a *Study of Heine*; Walter Mehring has published *The Life of Timoshenko*; Leo Lania has written two books dealing with the political disintegration and collapse of pre-war Europe, *The Darkest Hour* and *All Men Are Brothers*; Josef Wittlin, Polish poet and winner of the Nobel Prize for literature, has written *Salt of the Earth*, a novel analysing the conflicting racial and social groups in the old Austro-Hungarian Empire.

All these men have done service for years to the ideal that America is now fighting for—a free world for free men. In their hour of great danger they were saved from destruction by the help of those who shared their faith in freedom. Now, in the struggle for world democracy, they live again.

fourteen

TO THOSE WHO STAND WITH US

YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT in the past has helped directly to strengthen the spirit of world democracy by saving the lives of its best leaders and defenders. For the next twelve months, the financial responsibility for our work has been guaranteed by the *National War Fund*. They have voted us a grant of \$300,000 for the current year, which will enable us to carry on our mission of rescue uninterruptedly and to keep in constant touch with our friends in the European democratic underground movement.

I want to feel that I can continue to count on your sympathy and cooperation. Together we have begun a great work and accomplished much; I should like to let you know from time to time what is still being done. Will you show your continued interest by becoming a sustaining member of the International Rescue and Relief Committee and thus assuming a permanent place in this work of which you were one of the founders?

FRANK KINGDON

DR. FRANK KINGDON, *Chairman*
International Rescue and Relief Committee, Inc.
2 West 43rd Street, New York, N. Y.

Count on me as a Sustaining Member of the International Rescue and Relief Committee. Please keep me informed as to the progress of this work.

I enclose \$..... as my Sustaining Membership subscription.
(Membership fee, \$1 to \$5.)

Name

Address

City..... State

fifteen

000937

TEARS FOR A BRONZE STATUE

Early one Sunday morning, about three years ago, I went down to the Battery to take the cutter that was going out to meet a boat that had just arrived from Europe. It was a little Portuguese ship named "The Nyassa", but it had suddenly become an important ship, for it was one of the few that could sail from Europe to bring to this country the men and women of art and letters and culture whom the Nazis had put on their black lists to be killed. On the Nyassa that morning were Franz Werfel and Heinrich Mann. The United States was giving these and other men refuge from tyranny and death.

Below decks, as we were pulling alongside the Statue of Liberty, the passengers were lined up along the rail looking at the statue. As they stood there, the tears were streaming down their cheeks, and they were lifting their fingers to their lips and throwing kisses—kisses to a bronze statue. And parents lifted their little children so that they could throw their kisses, too.

Does this sound melodramatic? It was one of the most genuinely human moments that I have ever known. It was real. These men and women had walked for years with the shadow of tyranny pursuing them. They had not dared to talk out loud to each other lest some one hearing might report some word that could be twisted into a charge of treason. They had not even dared to speak freely before their own children lest some innocently repeated word condemn them. These were parents who had not dared to smile at each other, and these were children who had never heard their parents laugh. And now—now they could shout and laugh, and speak and not be afraid—for this was America, these were American waters and American skies, and there was the Statue of Liberty to prove it.

These people had learned the sweetness of liberty because they had known the bitterness of tyranny. They had kisses for the Lady lifting her lamp because they had lived in black darkness.

This liberty is our country's noblest prize, and we can bring it tribute more substantial than the kisses of the refugees. TEARS FOR A BRONZE STATUE cannot maintain liberty—but War Bonds can. We must buy the bonds—bonds for Liberty, bonds for the love of America.

From a radio address by DR. FRANK KINGDON

FEB 11 1944

WAR REFUGEE BOARD RECORDS

000938

LICENSES ISSUED RE THIS FILE

- A. BASIC LICENSE W-2138
Remit. License NY 608161
- B. AMENDMENT TO W-2138
Remit. Lic. NY 643665
- C. BASIC LICENSE W-2138
REMIT. LIC. NY 673833

WAR REFUGEE BOARD RECORDS

000939

AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, INC. - LIS 3

Basic Lic. W-2138
Remit. Lic. NY 673833

000940

MEMORANDUM

For attachment to:

FFC Letter No:

Date: January 17, 1945

TO: Liaison Officer, Foreign Funds Control
FROM: War Refugee Board
Subject: rescue and relief operations in enemy territory

There is transmitted herewith a copy of a letter dated January 15, 1945, from the International Rescue and Relief Committee dealing with remittance of \$10,000 over a six-month period to Hans Hart Giet, Munich, Germany, pursuant to basic license No. W-138.

The War Refugee Board recommends that appropriate Treasury licenses and other necessary documents be issued permitting the execution of the project contemplated in the letter described above.

Remarks:

(1) Issue of remittance license.

(2) Extension for 6 months of basic license No. W-2138; issued January 11, 1945.

F. Model
For the War Refugee Board

Action:

Basic license No. W- issued
Remittance license No. NY 673833 issued Jan. 19, 1945
Other: X

R. B. Parks
Liaison Officer
Foreign Funds Control

Date:

000941

JAN 19 1945

NY 673833

Pursuant to application filed directly with this Department, you are hereby authorized to issue license to International Rescue and Relief Committee, Inc., 103 Park Avenue, New York City, permitting it, notwithstanding General Ruling No. 11, to remit the Swiss franc equivalent of \$30,000 over a period of six months to Rene Bartholet, Zurich, Switzerland, for disbursement in accordance with the provisions of license No. W-2138, as amended. The licensee, or its bank of account, is authorized (a) to pay the dollar amount involved to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York for credit to the Banque Nationale Suisse, Zurich, for payment of the Swiss franc equivalent to the payee designated herein or (b) to purchase the Swiss francs involved from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York as Fiscal Agent of the United States, as shall be prescribed by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Please send signed copy of license to Mr. Rushmore, Federal Reserve Bank of New York, and advise him remittance is for humanitarian purposes

[Initialed] C.A.S.
XXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Orvis A. Schmidt
Director

401

8Church:jfh 1-18-45

000942

International Rescue and Relief Committee
Incorporated

103 PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

LExington 2-7916

January 15, 1945

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Charles A. Board

Chairman
Frank Kingdon

Vice-Chairmen
Freda Kirchway
Sterling D. Spero
Ingrid Warburg
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John Dewey

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Harry Gideonse

James G. Heller

John Haynes Holmes

William H. Kilpatrick

Wesley C. Mitchell

Reinhold Niebuhr

William Allen Neilson

John Dos Passos

Cecilia Rozovsky

Abba Hillel Silver

Upton Sinclair

Dorothy Thompson

Oswald G. Villard

Miss Florence Model
Special Assistant to the Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Miss Model:

We received a letter from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York dated November 27, 1944, informing us that our license NY 643666-R and NY 643665-R had been revoked. Unfortunately this letter was not brought to my attention until last week so that we did not attempt to do anything about it before this.

We were willing to have revoked the license issued for payments to Switzerland on behalf of Spanish refugees in France, since we are now making those remittances directly to France. We would very much like to retain, however, the other license for payments to Switzerland for rescue work behind Axis lines. We would like this license to be for the amount of \$20,000 to be spent over a period of 6 months.

Would you be so kind as to expedite this matter for us.

The luncheon with Mr. Olsen was exceedingly interesting and I now feel a great deal happier and better informed about the work in Sweden.

Very sincerely,

Sheba Strunsky
Sheba Strunsky
Executive Secretary

NY643666-R for Spanish Refugees
NY643665-R for Behind Axis lines

SS/ir



Registered with President's War Relief Control Board
Member Agency of the National War Fund through affiliation with Refugee Relief Trustees

000943

INTERNATIONAL RESCUE & RELIEF COMMITTEE, INC

LICENSES

B

Basic Lic. W-2138
Remit. Lic. NY 643665

000944

CROSS-REFERENCE

.....ML 643 665.....
(Name of Applicant)

.....
(Application Number)

FOR CORRESPONDENCE RELATIVE TO THIS LICENSE

SEE: PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES: RELIEF PROJECTS
(SPANISH REPUBLICAN REFUGEES IN FRANCE (IRRC))

MF-4

000945

(COPY)

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

November 20, 1944

Subject: Revocation of NY 643665 and NY 643666 issued to International Rescue and Relief Committee, Inc., New York City.

NY 643665 issued September 9, 1944, permits the International Rescue and Relief Committee, Inc. to remit the Swiss franc equivalent of \$60,000 over a period of six months to a representative in Zurich, Switzerland, to finance a rescue and relief program in France and Northern Italy.

NY 643666 issued August 14, 1944, permits the International Rescue and Relief Committee, Inc. to remit the Swiss franc equivalent of \$5,000 for a period of six months to its representative in Zurich, Switzerland, for the relief of Spanish republicans interned in France.

In view of the lifting of France from "enemy territory" with the amendment on November 4 to General Ruling No. 11, the International Rescue and Relief Committee, Inc. was informed through the War Refugee Board that funds to finance the activities of the International Rescue and Relief Committee, Inc. in France should be remitted directly to that country rather than through Switzerland. It was suggested, therefore, that the Committee file an application for a license to effect remittances directly to France whereupon the subject licenses would be revoked.

As license No. NY 643665 was issued in conjunction with license No. W-2138, which governs the financing of the Committee's rescue operations in enemy or enemy occupied territory, Miss Strunsky, the Executive Secretary of the International Rescue and Relief Committee was asked whether the Committee intended to remit funds to Switzerland for the continuation of its rescue operations in Northern Italy. Miss Strunsky stated that at this time the Committee's activities in Italy were being carried out only in the liberated areas of Italy. While agreeing that NY 643665 might be revoked at this time, Miss Strunsky requested that the Committee's "basic" license (W-2138) be left to remain in effect as the Committee might wish to continue its activities in Northern Italy at a later date.

In the meantime, the Committee will remit funds directly to France to finance its activities there under the new license for which application was made under NY 660476.

R. B. Parke

cc: Miss Hodel

RBParke;emj 11/20/44

000946

*2 War Ref Bd
Mrs. Edle*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: August 12, 1944
NUMBER: 2775

CONTROL COPY

Please advise Mr. Rene Bertholet, 14 Wasserstrasse, Zurich, Switzerland, representative in Switzerland of the International Rescue and Relief Committee, Inc., New York City, that the Treasury Department has amended Section 2 of license No. W-2138, described in the Department's telegram No. 839 of March 14, 1944, to read as follows: "The total amount of funds paid out or set up in blocked accounts or otherwise obligated under the terms of this license shall not exceed the amount of dollars (or the foreign currency equivalent thereof) authorized by specific Treasury license to be used under this license."

This amendment is in connection with a specific Treasury license issued to the International Rescue and Relief Committee to remit to Mr. Bertholet the Swiss franc equivalent of \$60,000 to be used under license No. W-2138, in addition to remittances previously licensed. It has the approval of the Department, the War Refugee Board and Treasury.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 118.

STETTINIUS
Acting

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 10 1972

000947

RECEIVED
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.
1944 AUG 18 PM 3 43

DEPT. OF TREASURY

Please advise Mr. Rene Bertholet, 14 Messerstrasse, Zurich, Switzerland, representative in Switzerland of the International Rescue and Relief Committee, Inc., New York City, that the Treasury Department has amended section 2 of license No. W-2133, described in the Department's telegram No. 839 of March 14, 1944, to read as follows: "The total amount of funds paid out or set up in bloc of accounts or otherwise obligated under the terms of this license shall not exceed the amount of dollars (or the foreign currency equivalent thereof) authorized by specific Treasury license to be used under this license."

This amendment is in connection with a specific Treasury license issued to the International Rescue and Relief Committee to remit to Mr. Bertholet the Swiss Franc equivalent of \$60,000 to be used under license No. W-2133, in addition to remittances previously licensed. It has the approval of the Department, the War Refugee Board and Treasury.

THU. 1. RE CABLE TO BERN NO. 118

3:30 p.m.
August 10, 1944

Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Model, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Man or, McCormack, Cable Control Files

RM/erke:jfh 8-9-44
mhh

000948

MEMORANDUM

For attachment to:

FFC Letter No:

Date:

TO: Liaison Officer, Foreign Funds Control

FROM: War Refugee Board

Subject: Relief of Spanish refugees in France

There is transmitted herewith a copy of a letter dated July 26, 1944 from the International Rescue & Relief Committee, Inc. dealing with remittance of \$80,000 over a period of six months to Rene Bertholet, Zurich, for disbursement in accordance with W-2133,

The War Refugee Board recommends that appropriate Treasury licenses and other necessary documents be issued permitting the execution of the project contemplated in the letter described above.

Remarks: License No. W-2133 ^{to be} amended to expire on January 31, 1945. Section 2 ^{to be} amended in regard to funds authorized.

F. Model

For the War Refugee Board


Action:

Basic license No. W-2133, ^x amended ~~August 11, 1944~~

Remittance license No. ~~NY 645036~~ issued August 10, 1944

Other: Letter No. 74503 dated August 11, 1944

Letter No. 74503 dated August 11, 1944, amending license


Liaison Officer
Foreign Funds Control

Date: August 11, 1944

000949

NY 643865

Pursuant to application filed directly with this Department, you are hereby authorized to issue license to International Rescue and Relief Committee, Inc., 103 Park Avenue, New York City, permitting it, notwithstanding General Ruling No. 11, to remit the Swiss franc equivalent of \$80,000 over a period of six months to Rene Bertholet, Zurich, Switzerland, for disbursement in accordance with the provisions of license No. W-2138, as amended. The licensee, or its bank of account, is authorized (a) to pay the dollar amount involved to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York for credit to the Banque Nationale Suisse, Zurich, for payment of the Swiss franc equivalent to the payee designated herein or (b) to purchase the Swiss francs involved from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York as Fiscal Agent of the United States, as shall be prescribed by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Please send signed copy of license to Mr. Rushmore, Federal Reserve Bank of New York, and advise him remittance is for humanitarian purposes

(initialed) O.A.S.

Orvis A. Schmidt
Acting Director

402

EBParke:jfk 8-9-44

000950

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

INTER OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE

TO : Miss Hodel

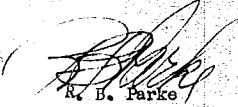
August 9, 1944

FROM : R. B. Parke

Subject: Draft of cable to Bern relative to amendment of license No. W-2138, issued under date of February 16, 1944 to International Rescue and Relief Committee, Inc., New York City.

In accordance with your request, there is transmitted herewith a draft of a cable to our Mission in Bern, relative to the subject amendment, which you wish to dispatch through official channels.

You will receive conformed copies of this Department's letter amending the subject license and copies of this Department's wires authorizing the issuance of a license to remit \$60,000 to Mr. Rene Bertholet, Zurich, Switzerland, for disbursement in accordance with the provisions of W-2138.


R. B. Parke

000951

: Miss Hodel

August 9, 1944

: R. B. Parke

Subject: Draft of cable to Bern relative to amendment of license No. W-2138, issued under date of February 16, 1944 to International Rescue and Relief Committee, Inc., New York City.

In accordance with your request, there is transmitted herewith a draft of a cable to our Mission in Bern, relative to the subject amendment, which you wish to despatch through official channels.

You will receive conformed copies of this Department's letter amending the subject license and copies of this Department's wires authorizing the issuance of a license to remit \$60,000 to Mr. Rene Bertholet, Zurich, Switzerland, for disbursement in accordance with the provisions of W-2138.

R. B. Parke

RBParke:jfh 8-9-44

000952

INTERNATIONAL RESCUE AND RELIEF COMMITTEE, INC. - LICENSES

A

Basic License W-2138
Remittance License NY 608161

000953

*War Refugee Bd
Mr. Pell*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

copy only

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington,

TO: AMLEGATION, Bern,

DATED: April 27, 1944.

NUMBER: 1461.

FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD TO HARRISON

Please deliver the following message to

Rene Bertholet, Wasserstrasse 14, Zurich, from
Frank Kingdom of the International Rescue and
Relief Committee:

Sending you \$10,000 on License W-2138
according details communicated to you by American
Legation, Bern. Report back immediately through
Legation on activities and whether you have diffi-
culties financial or otherwise."

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 7

HULL

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

000954

CABLE TO BERN

From War Refugee Board to Harrison

Please deliver the following message to Rene Bertholet, Wasserstrasse 14, Zurich, from Frank Kingdon of the International Rescue and Relief Committee:

"Sending you \$10,000 on License W-2138 according details communicated to you by American Legation Bern. Stop. Report back immediately through Legation on activities and whether you have difficulties financial or otherwise"

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 7

April 24, 1944
3:00 P.M.

FH:lab 4/24/44

000955

International Rescue and Relief Committee
Incorporated

Combining: Emergency Rescue Committee, Inc.
International Relief Association, Inc.

20 WEST 43RD STREET, NEW YORK 36, N.Y.
103 Park Avenue, NY 17, NY

Longphone 5-4228

Lexington 2 7916

April 21, 1944

Honorary Chairman
Charles A. Board

Chairman
Frank Kingdon

Vice-Chairmen
Frede Kirchway
Sterling D. Spero
Ingrid Warburg
L. Hollingsworth Wood

Treasurer
David F. Seiferheld

Executive Secretary
Sheba Strunsky

National Committee
Roger Baldwin
Paul F. Brissenden
Stuart Chase
George S. Counts
Frank Crowninshield
Margaret De Silver
John Dewey
Lewis Gannett
Harry Gideonse
James G. Heller
John Haynes Holmes
William H. Kilpatrick
Wesley C. Mitchell
Reinhold Niebuhr
William Allen Neilson
John Dos Passos
Cecilia Rezkovsky
Abba Hillel Silver
Upton Sinclair
Dorothy Thompson
Oswald G. Villard
William Allen White

Mr. John W. Pehle
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Main Treasury Building
Washington 25, DC

Dear Mr. Pehle:

In accordance with my
conversation with Miss Hodel yesterday I
am writing to ask whether you would kindly
transmit the enclosed message to Mr. Bertholet
through the channels of the War Refugee Board.

Thanking you very much
for your cooperation, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

Sheba Strunsky

Sheba Strunsky
Executive Secretary

SS/ir

000956

FAST				RCA	DIRECT																						
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: left; padding: 2px;">CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 2px;">FOREIGN</td> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 2px;">DOMESTIC</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">FULL RATE</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">FULL RATE</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">CODE</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">DAY LETTER</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">DEFERRED</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">SERIAL SERVICE</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">RADIO LETTER</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">NIGHT MESSAGE</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">PRESS</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">NIGHT LETTER</td> </tr> </table>				CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED		FOREIGN	DOMESTIC	FULL RATE	FULL RATE	CODE	DAY LETTER	DEFERRED	SERIAL SERVICE	RADIO LETTER	NIGHT MESSAGE	PRESS	NIGHT LETTER	<div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; margin-bottom: 5px;">RADIOGRAM</div> <div style="font-weight: bold; margin-bottom: 5px;">R.C.A. COMMUNICATIONS, INC.</div> <div style="font-size: 0.8em; margin-bottom: 5px;">A RADIO CORPORATION OF AMERICA SERVICE</div>			<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 2px;">NO.</td> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 2px;">CASH OR CHG.</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="padding: 2px;">NUMBER OF WORDS</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="padding: 2px;">TIME FILED</td> </tr> </table>	NO.	CASH OR CHG.	NUMBER OF WORDS		TIME FILED	
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PRESS	NIGHT LETTER																										
NO.	CASH OR CHG.																										
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TIME FILED																											
TO ALL THE WORLD — BETWEEN IMPORTANT U.S. CITIES — TO SHIPS AT SE																											

Send the following Radiogram *"Via RCA"* subject to the conditions, regulations and rates as set forth in the applicable tariff of R.C.A. Communications, Inc., and on file with the regulatory authorities.

April 21, 1944

Rene Bertholet
Waserstrasse 14
Zurich
Switzerland

SENDING YOU \$10,000 ON LICENSE W2138
ACCORDING DETAILS COMMUNICATED TO YOU
BY AMERICAN LEGATION BERN STOP REPORT
BACK IMMEDIATELY TO JOHN W. FEHLER THROUGH
LEGATION ON ACTIVITIES AND WHETHER YOU HAVE
DIFFICULTIES FINANCIAL OR OTHERWISE

Main Office: 66 Broad Street, New York, N. Y. (Always Open)

FRANK KINGDON

Phone: HANover 1

FULL-RATE MESSAGE UNLESS MARKED OTHERWISE

Sender's Name and Address
(Not to be transmitted)

International Rescue and Relief Committee
103 Park Avenue, NY 17, NY

Form 100-25-TA

000957

R.C.A. Communications, Inc., normally provides Direct Radiotelegraph Service with the countries listed below. Under wartime conditions, however, communication companies in the United States are prohibited from accepting messages for transmission to enemy countries or to enemy occupied territories.

Argentina	Dutch East Indies	Holland	Poland
Australia	Dutch Guiana	Iceland	Portugal
Belgian Congo	Egypt	Iran	Puerto Rico
Belgium	Finland	Italy	St. Pierre-Miquelon
Bermuda	France	Japan	Spain
Brazil	French Equatorial Africa	Liberia	Sweden
Chile	French Indo-China	Martinique	Switzerland
China	Germany	Mexico	Syria
Colombia	Great Britain	New Caledonia	Tahiti
Cuba	Greenland	New Zealand	Turkey
Curacao	Guatemala	Norway	U.S.S.R.
Czechoslovakia	Haiti	Panama	Venezuela
Dominican Republic	Hawaii	Philippines	

To countries where no direct route is available, "Via RCA" offers superior service, since messages are subject to fewer relays.

000958

War Refugee Bd

Mr. Pelt

FROM: American Legion, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: April 6, 1944
SUBJECT: 2127

CONTROL COPY *file*

On April 3, 1944, were delivered to Bern the
the Paris Consulate one of the numbers contained in
Department's of 1944, March 14, 1944, and April 24,
no. 930.

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

000959

*War Refugee Bd.
JMS Pella*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: March 14, 1944
NUMBER: 839

CONTROL COPY

License No. W 2138 has been issued by Treasury to the International Rescue and Relief Committee, New York City, for the purpose of effecting relief and evacuation operations in enemy ^{territory} and territory occupied by the enemy. It is requested that information regarding this license be given to Rene Bertholet, 14 Waserstrasse, Zurich. The text of this license is exactly the same as those issued to the World Jewish Congress, the Union of Orthodox Rabbis, and the American Joint Distribution Committee (please see our cable of February 21 No. 584) except that it is specified in paragraph (b) of the license to the International Rescue and Relief Committee that the total amount authorized for the half year period beginning February 15, 1944 shall not exceed Swiss francs 255,000 or the dollar equivalent.

The operations which this license covers are approved by Treasury, the War Refugee Board, and the Department.

HULL

APR 17 1944

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-78
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

000960

MEMORANDUM

Date: 2-12-44

Project No.:

TO: Liaison Officer, Foreign Funds Control

FROM: War Refugee Board

Subject: International Business and Finance Corporation, Inc., 3 West 43rd Street, New York, N.Y., New York

There is transmitted herewith a copy of a letter dated February 10, 1944 from the [redacted] dealing with [redacted]

The War Refugee Board recommends that appropriate Treasury licenses and other necessary documents be issued permitting the execution of the project contemplated in the letter described above.

Remarks:

Basic License - Remittance License
[redacted] through New York Federal


(Signed) Florence Model

For the War Refugee Board

Discussed with J.M.F.
2/12/44

Action:

Basic license No. W-2138 issued 2/16/44
Remittance License No. issued 2/26/44
Other: Cable to Bern, through State. (letter No. 59198)
Letter No. 59197
Letter No. 58982


Liaison Officer
Foreign Funds Control

Date: 2/18/44

000961

International Rescue and Relief Committee
Incorporated

Combining: Emergency Rescue Committee, Inc.
International Relief Association, Inc.

2 WEST 43rd STREET, NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

LOngacre 5-4229

Honorary Chairman
Charles A. Beard

Chairman
Frank Kingdon

Vice-Chairman
Freda Kirchwey
Sterling D. Spero
Ingrid Warburg
L. Hollingsworth Wood

Treasurer
David F. Seiferheld

Executive Secretary
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National Committee
Roger Baldwin
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Reinhold Niebuhr
William Allen Neilson
John Dos Passos
Cecilia Razovsky
Abba Hillel Silver
Upton Sinclair
Dorothy Thompson
Oswald G. Villard
William Allen White

February 10, 1944

Miss Florence Model
Assistant to the Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Room 190
Main Treasury Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Miss Model:

It was a great pleasure to have met you yesterday and to have encountered so warm and sympathetic an interest in our work. I have reported the content of our conversation to Dr. Kingdon and our Executive Committee and am requested by them to make a formal application for a licence which would enable us to rescue anti-Nazi refugees from France and Northern Italy.

We herewith wish to request permission to send \$60,000 over a period of 6 months to our representative in Switzerland, Mr. René Bertholet, 14 Wasserstrasse, Zurich, to enable him to effectuate the rescue and temporary relief of Jewish and non-Jewish refugees trapped in France and Northern Italy.

Mr. Bertholet, a Swiss citizen, would personally handle the work in France with the assistance of members of our French staff who remained in France after the total occupation of that country. Mr. Bertholet has represented our organization for 5 years, is thoroughly acquainted with the refugees whom we wish to rescue and enjoys the complete confidence of our committee.

The rescue of endangered anti-Fascists trapped in Northern Italy would be handled by Mr. Giuseppe Modigliani, Chemin Krieg, Geneva, a very outstanding Italian labor leader who is well-known in this

000962

International Rescue and Relief Committee
Incorporated

Combining: Emergency Rescue Committee, Inc.
International Relief Association, Inc.

2 WEST 43rd STREET, NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

Longacre 5-4229

Honorary Chairman
Charles A. Beard

Chairman
Frank Kingdon

Vice-Chairmen
Freda Kirchwey
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William Allan Neilson
John Dos Passos
Cecilia Razovsky
Abba Hillel Silver
Upton Sinclair
Dorothy Thompson
Oswald G. Villard
William Allan White

-2-

country and to whom funds would be transmitted
for this purpose by Mr. Bernholet.

Anything you can do to facilitate the granting
of this licence would be very much appreciated
by us. Thanking you once more for your kind
interest, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

Sheba Strunsky

Sheba Strunsky
Executive Secretary

SS:ir

Enclosed is our memorandum
on the Spanish refugees in
France.

000963