

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

World Jewish Congress Operations

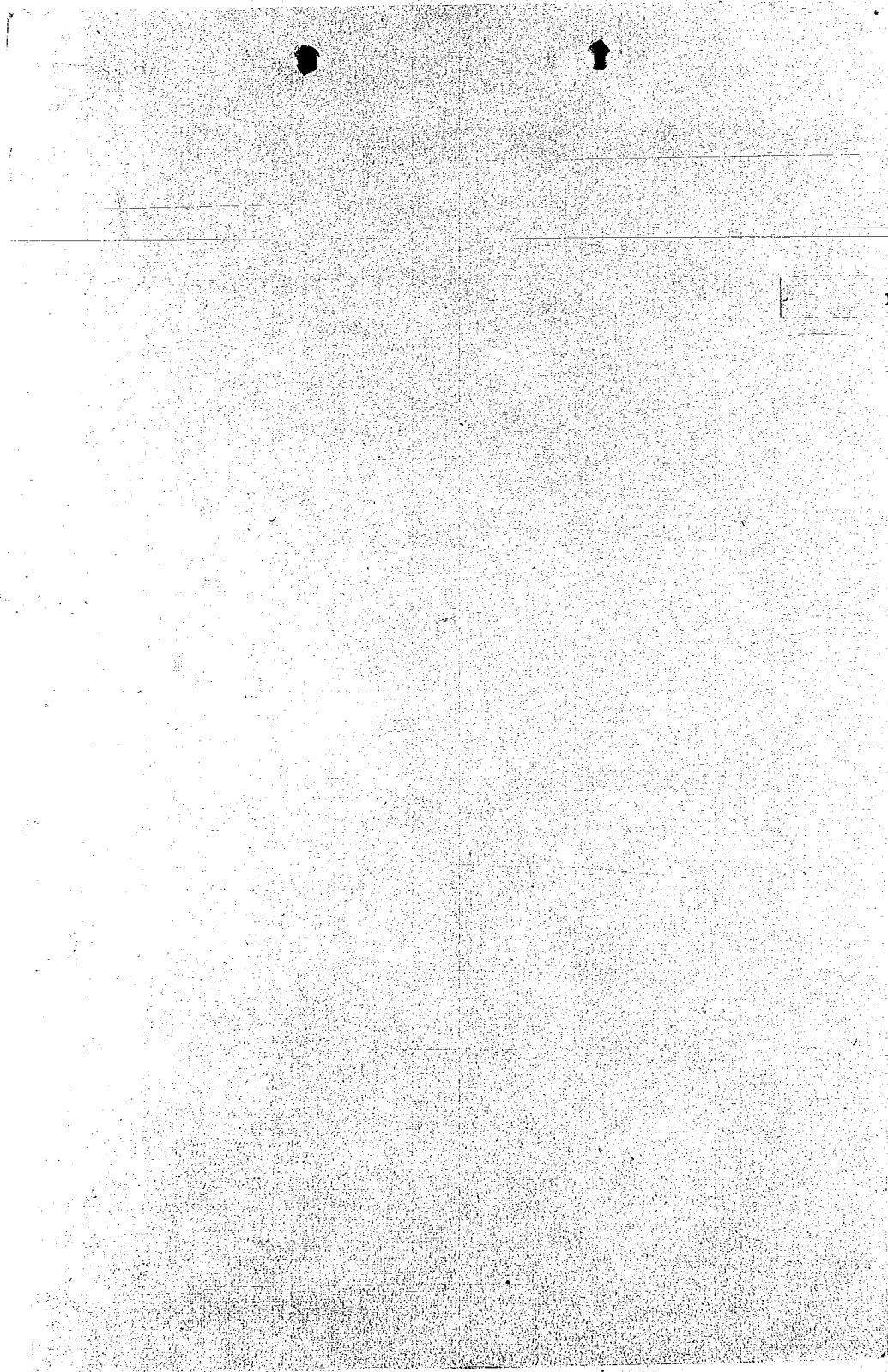
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1. WJC OPERATIONS

2. LICENSES ISSUED TO WJC RE WJC OPERATIONS

- a. Basic License # W-2155 (As amended)
Remit License # NY 625189
- b. Basic License # W-2115
Remit License # NY 618129
- c. Basic License # W-2115
Remit License # NY 679984

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was Riegner Ed
7m Edler
Copy only

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: March 26, 1944
NUMBER: 1861

CONTROL COPY

Given below is the substance of a message for trans-
mission to World Jewish Congress at Department's discre-
tion from Gerhart Riegner (see my cable no. 1160).

Have transmitted so far 4,000,000 French
francs to France against the counter value of
71,800 Swiss francs. In order to include Belgian
Jews in evacuation action and place at their dis-
posal through France sums for evacuation from
Belgium to France, working arrangements have been
established with the National Committee for Defense
of Jews in Belgium affiliated to Belgian Front
of Independence. Correspondents in Holland
authorized to raise local currency up to 12,000
Swiss francs for evacuation of Dutch Jews to France
from where evacuation may be financed by French
center. Similar measures are being negotiated for
evacuation from Northern Italy and 15,000 francs
are being reserved for this purpose. Several
hundreds of persons have been hiding until now in

Nice

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

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Nice region provided with Aryan identity papers and ration cards. Similar measures have been taken in Paris whence several hundreds have been transferred to less dangerous regions and are awaiting evacuation. Last weeks first contingent of fifty persons have been sent to Spain by our evacuation center in Southern France; all arrived. Further groups active Spanish frontier are helping others cross and when relieved are ready to cross themselves. A certain number of children have been placed with non-Jews. Last week approximately 120 children passed the Swiss frontier. A certain number of persons, especially compromised in resistance movement, have been hidden and their arrest prevented. Prospects of further action are encouraging especially since Spring will facilitate the crossing of the Spanish frontier. The transfer of an additional \$50,000 is urgently requested for enlarging and continuation of rescue activities. In no way should the above information be disclosed, especially that concerning Switzerland, which is strictly confidential.

HARRISON

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MAR 31 1944

Dear Rabbi Miller:

The following message for you from Gerhart Riegner was received from Bern under date of March 25, 1944:

"Have transmitted so far 4,000,000 French francs to France against the counter value of 71,600 Swiss francs. In order to include Belgian Jews in evacuation action and place at their disposal through France sums for evacuation from Belgium to France, working arrangements have been established with the National Committee for Defense of Jews in Belgium affiliated to Belgian Front of Independence. Correspondents in Holland authorized to raise local currency up to 12,000 Swiss francs for evacuation of Dutch Jews to France from where evacuation may be financed by French center. Similar measures are being negotiated for evacuation from Northern Italy and 15,000 francs are being reserved for this purpose. Several hundreds of persons have been hiding until now in Nice region provided with Aryan identity papers and ration cards. Similar measures have been taken in Paris whence several hundreds have been transferred to less dangerous regions and are awaiting evacuation. Last weeks first contingent of fifty persons have been sent to Spain by our evacuation center in Southern France; all arrived. Further groups active Spanish frontier are helping others cross and when relieved are ready to cross themselves. A certain number of children have been placed with non-Jews. Last week approximately 120 children passed the Swiss frontier. A certain number of persons, especially compromised in

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resistance movement, have been hidden and their arrest prevented. Prospects of further action are encouraging especially since Spring will facilitate the crossing of the Spanish frontier. The transfer of an additional \$50,000 is urgently requested for enlarging and continuation of rescue activities. In no way should the above information be disclosed, especially that concerning Switzerland, which is strictly confidential."

I am sure you will appreciate the extremely confidential nature of this message.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Rabbi Irving Miller,
World Jewish Congress,
330 West 42nd Street,
New York 18, New York.

PH:lab 3/30/44

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CONTROL COPY

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: February 26, 1944
NUMBER: 1150^X

File
JIT

Reference is made herewith to Department's telegram of January 20, 1944, No. 197. - not in file

It is reported by Dr. Riegner that arrangements have been completed for turning over to WJC representative in France one million French francs which were purchased from a wealthy French Jew refugee, who has been in Switzerland since total occupation of France, at 1.75 Swiss francs per one hundred French francs. The documents shown to Dr. Riegner attest that this person was formerly an owner of textile factories in France and it is stated by Riegner that he is favorably known to several Swiss who were believed to be reliable by Riegner. It is stated by Riegner that he was reasonably sure from the documents presented that this money was either acquired in a way not benefiting the enemy or belonged to the seller before the fall of France.

HARRISON

cc: Miss Chauncey, Messrs. Paul, Gaston, H.D. White, Pehle, Luxford, DuBois (2 copies), E.M. Bernstein, Stewart, Lesser, Friedman, Miss Hodel, Mr. Pollak, Mr. Abrahamson, Miss Laughlin.

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

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February 18, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

Re: Jewish Refugees in France (WJC and JDC, Sponsors).^{1/}

Analysis of the scanty material contained in this file indicates either that very little, if anything, has yet been done by way of accumulating the information necessary for an appreciation of the problems involved or the way they are or should be handled, or, that if done, the results of any such efforts repose elsewhere. It is quite evident that many documents are missing. It is likewise evident that, to date, no efforts have been made to have our representative in either Switzerland or London collate and report the facts.

It seems incredible that the first State Department cognizance of the general problem of the plight of the Jews, and particularly Jewish children, in France and the necessity of aiding them there vis a vis evacuating them elsewhere should have occurred in early August, 1943. However, the first cable in the file bearing on this subject was one dated 2 August 1943.^{2/} This message, dated June 9, 1943, in France, and evidently intended for a relief society, recites that the plight of the Jews in France is constantly worsening. The Germans were greatly increasing the severity of their treatment, deportations were widespread, little assistance was permitted, hospitals were a mockery, and, generally speaking, the situation was intolerable.^{3/}

While it would seem to serve no useful purpose further to detail the plight of the Jews in France, these two reports do indicate certain lines of internal operations which are apparently being followed in an effort to ameliorate these conditions:

(1) It appears that treatment of the Jews by the Italian Fascists is considerably better than that by the Nazis. Thus a measure of organized assistance was permitted by the Italians in the areas under their jurisdiction. Since the withdrawal of the Italians from the zones in France which they occupied, the possibility of transporting Jews to zones of Italian domination has, of course, become more remote. However, it would seem that, to the extent it exists, it should be pressed.

^{1/} Unless otherwise indicated, all material under the above title was obtained from the file "Refugee Groups - Jewish Refugees in France (sponsored by American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee).

^{2/} Cable No. 4643, 2 August 1943, 10 a.m. from Bern to the Department.
^{3/} Cable No. 5657, 11 September 1943, 1 p.m.

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By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

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(2) Various types of medical and social aid are given by the various groups operating within France, within the limits permitted.

The most pressing need of the groups was for funds for the financing of aid and movement within France as well as the possible evacuation of refugees from France. The situation with respect to children was particularly acute in all of these regards. Some children are presently being assembled at Drancy and registration of all there in the Paris area appears in the offing. These measures were regarded as preliminary to deportation and the only way they could be avoided was by movement. Various estimates indicate that there are about 1300 children in immediate danger in and about Paris; about 3000 children are hidden in the provinces; an estimated 1200 in homes in the provinces; 1000 are with Jewish families in the provinces; and about 400 in forced residence.

After receipt of the cables indicating the drastic plight of these persons in France, the Treasury Department prepared a cable outlining an arrangement whereby some relief could be accorded to the refugee groups. Generally speaking, and subject to safeguards with respect to the character of the relief organization and the necessity for preventing the enemy from realizing financial advantage, the following were authorized: the borrowing in France, against a blocked account in the United States of up to 100,000 dollars a month for a period of 6 months or, if all or a part of the funds could not be obtained through this channel, by the purchase of French francs from persons in Switzerland.^{4/} Although this proposed cable had been sent to State on 4 September 1943, it was not transmitted until 17 September 1943, and then only after Secretary Morgenthau had called Secretary Hull's office to expedite its transmission.^{5/}

The J.D.C. representative in Bern cabled on 30 September 1943 that \$100,000 a month would be sufficient for children but not for general purposes and that it would be necessary to resort to both proposed methods to obtain the francs.^{6/} On about 14 October 1943 the contents of this message were communicated to Mr. Moses A. Leavitt of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.^{7/}

^{4/} Draft cable transmitted to State in a memorandum of 4 September 1943 from Mr. Orvis A. Schmidt to Mr. Bernard Meltzer.

^{5/} See memorandum of telephone conversation of 17 September 1943, between Secretary Morgenthau and Mr. John Stone of Secretary Hull's office. The cable went out as Cable No. 2288, 17 September 1943, 4 p.m. from the Department to Bern, Switzerland.

^{6/} Cable No. 6102, 30 September 1943, 5 p.m. from Bern to the Department.

^{7/} Letter of 14 October 1943 from Mr. H. R. Travers, Chief, Visa Division, to Mr. Leavitt.

Subsequent to this the J.D.C. advised its Bern representative that, under the Treasury Department license, he was authorized to purchase francs, under the conditions stipulated up to a total of \$600,000 and, in this regard, he was not limited to \$100,000 a month. It was indicated that, should this credit be exhausted prior to the expiration of six months, the J.D.C. should be so advised.^{8/} This advice was repeated on 17 November 1943.^{2/}

Meanwhile, the problem of evacuating the refugees from the Italian occupied zone in France, which was about to be taken over by the Germans, was causing concern on the part of the J.D.C. It cabled its Bern representative to this effect on 15 September 1943, requesting advice as to the procedure which could be worked out.^{10/} No report on ways and means was in the file. However, Leavitt advised Mr. H. R. Travers of the Visa Division, on 7 October 1943, that he had received a report from Dr. Joseph F. Schwartz, of the J.D.C., Lisbon, that 1200 of the Jewish refugees, of an estimated 20,000 in Southern France, had made their way from Nice to Italy.^{11/} The manner in which this was done was not revealed.

The last development evidenced by the files examined was the transmission of a cable to London, on 3 January 1944, that the Treasury Department license described above had been revoked and new licenses issued. Both the WJC and the JDC were granted similar licenses, except that the former was authorized to operate in Rumania as well as France. The conditions on the purchase of lei and French francs were relaxed. It was indicated that the ceiling on WJC purchases was 428,000 Swiss francs, while that of the JDC was 2,500,000 Swiss francs. The Treasury, however, appeared disposed to grant licenses for further funds should the need arise. While the amendment had the effect of bringing the WJC and the JDC together as far as terms of the licenses were concerned, the main object was to facilitate the acquisition of French currency in Switzerland, it having been found that a substantial premium had to be paid when the Swiss francs had to be blocked.^{12/}

Joseph H. Murphy
Joseph H. Murphy

- ^{8/} Cable of 1 November 1943 from Department from Leavitt to Bern for S. Mayer, Zurich; see also letter of 25 October 1943 from Leavitt to Travers, Visa Division and latter's reply of 1 November 1943.
- ^{2/} Cable No. 2836, 17 November 1943, from Department from Leavitt for Bern for S. Mayer, Zurich.
- ^{10/} Cable No. 2271, 15 September 1943, 5 p.m., from Department from Leavitt to Bern for Mayer.
- ^{11/} Letter of 7 October 1943 from Mr. Leavitt to Mr. H.R. Travers, enclosing a copy of a 7 October 1943 cable from Dr. Schwartz.
- ^{12/} Airgram No. 139, 31 January 1944, from Department to London.

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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

APR 6 1944
MR

HODEL

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: AMEMBASSY, London
DATED: January 10, 1944, 6 p.m.
NUMBER: 242
X

The following is for your information:

With respect to the license which was issued to the World Jewish Congress recently to transmit funds to Switzerland for arranging the evacuation of refugees in France and Rumania, referred to in your telegram of December 15, 1943 No. 8717, and with particular reference to the second sentence of our telegram dated December 18, 1943 No. 7969, this situation differs in the following respects from those relating to the prevention of the enemy from obtaining foreign exchange:

1. Rumanian Aspects of the Plan:

Persons in Rumania are to make available the funds actually to be used to finance the evacuation and the funds are to be in local currency. Claims against a blocked account in Switzerland will be received by persons furnishing funds in this way, which claims

See here

are

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By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

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are not assignable for the duration of the war and are only to be honored upon certification by a World Jewish Congress representative that funds or services have actually been provided in connection with the plan by the claimant.

2. French Aspects of the Plan:

The French francs are to be bought either in France or in Switzerland under substantially identical conditions, except that if the seller of such French francs is in Switzerland and is not an enemy national, his claim against the blocked account may be assigned if the French francs have been held by such seller since before France's fall or, if acquired subsequent to the fall of France, the French francs have accrued to the seller from investments or dividends in France or similar transactions which were not beneficial to the enemy.

The representative of the World Jewish Congress, Dr. Riegner, is further directed to insure the possibility of foreign exchange being made available to persons in enemy occupied territory or to persons who have furnished neither funds nor services in connection with the plan, is reduced to a minimum,

and

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and furthermore he is required to insure to the best of his ability that the suppliers of the local currency are persons satisfactory to the United States Legation. Also he is required to give to the Legation periodic reports concerning the operations carried on pursuant to the license.

We believe the foregoing safeguards will effectively prevent the enemy from acquiring any foreign exchange as a result of these operations and therefore it is our view that the Germans will not be encouraged by these operations to further persecution for the sole purpose of extracting foreign exchange.

You are informed that a substantially identical operation on the part of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee has been approved by us. The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee operation is confined to France but allows the financing of arrangements designed solely for the purposes of relief in addition to arrangements looking toward the evacuation of persons in imminent danger of their lives. Similar safeguards against the enemy acquiring foreign exchange are provided and in this case the above comments with respect to the program of the World Jewish Congress are also applicable. We have
received

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received your telegram of January 7, 1944 No. 139
and it is presumed that in the near future discussions
regarding the subject will take place.

HULL

NAVIGATION SECTION

NAVIGATION SECTION

RECEIVED
NAVIGATION SECTION
JAN 10 1944

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DVM

PLAIN
London ✓

Dated December 15, 1943

Rec'd 7:44 p.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

US URGENT

X8717, Fifteenth

██████████ FOR LIMITED DISTRIBUTION ONLY

Reference your 7506, November 27 for Winant.

MEW has addressed following letter to Embassy dated December 15 respecting plan for evacuation of Jews from France and Rumania: "We have now received the views of the Foreign Office on the proposal of the United States Treasury to license the remittance to Switzerland of \$25,000 as a preliminary installment to be expended on the rescue of Jews from France and Rumania. The Foreign Office are concerned with the difficulties of disposing of any considerable number of Jews should they be rescued from enemy occupied territory. Certain schemes with a similar object in which both the Foreign Office and the State Department are interested are greatly hampered by the difficulties of transportation, particularly shipping, and of finding accommodation in the countries of the Near East for any but a very

small number

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

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-2- #8717, Fifteenth from London

small number of Jewish refugees. They foresee that it is likely to prove almost if not quite impossible to deal with anything like the number of 70,000 refugees whose rescue is envisaged by the Riegner plan. For this reason they are reluctant to agree to any approval being expressed even of the preliminary financial arrangements. We understand that they are telegraphing to this effect to Washington, asking them to place these considerations before the State Department.

As a result of this expression of views by the Foreign Office we have telegraphed to Washington stating the terms on which we should have been prepared to agree to the license proposed, i.e., (A) for the time being the currency to be procured only by purchase from unobjectionable Swiss owners of French francs or Rumanian lei acquired in an unobjectionable manner, (B) both Legations in Bern to be responsible for checking the Swiss owners and the origin of the currency they proposed to sell, (C) no further transfer to be licensed until a report is received which should include information as to the amounts procurable on these terms and as to the general progress of the scheme. But we have added that the Foreign Office see grave objections in general and are telegraphing separately about these."

PLEASE INFORM TREASURY.

WINANT

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

To: *Memo for Files*
(1) (Room) (Bldg.)
(2) (Room) (Bldg.)
(3) (Room) (Bldg.)

This material was rec'd with
Miss Hodels route slip attached
3/27/44. Files on this subject
are in F.F.C. but this has been
retained in W.R.B. for reference.
Saw inserting a note in F.F.C.
files. C. Alexander

From: *C.* (Date)
..... (Room) (Bldg.)

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

To: *Mrs. Alexander* 194
(1) (Room) (Bldg.)
(2) (Room) (Bldg.)
(3) (Room) (Bldg.)

For official file

From: *F. Hodel* 3/27
..... (Date)
..... (Room) (Bldg.)

000018

TO:

Mrs. Chatfield

11/26/43

MR. J. E. DUBOIS

000019

NOV 24 1943

My dear Cordell,

In late June the State Department received cables from Bern, Switzerland, relating to a proposal of the World Jewish Congress to evacuate thousands of Jews from Rumania. The necessary funds would be paid to Rumanian officials in local currency by well-to-do Rumanian merchants who would be reimbursed at black market rates either in dollars or Swiss francs either to be blocked or held in trust for them until after the war. The entire operation was to be directed from Switzerland by an agent of the World Jewish Congress who would work through underground channels with prominent members of the Jewish Congress in Rumania. Later information received indicated that the program would also be applicable to the evacuation of Jews from France.

On July 16 your Department was advised that the Treasury was prepared to license subject to your approval the necessary transactions on the following conditions: A blocked account would be established in the United States by the American Jewish Congress for reimbursement of those persons who advanced funds in connection with the evacuation of the Jewish refugees from Rumania and France. No funds would be paid from such account until the end of the war but portions of it would be earmarked from time to time in the name of the individuals who had actually advanced funds under the proposal. Under the plan no foreign exchange would be made available to the enemy.

On August 7, 1943 you advised me that the Treasury itself was entirely free to act on this matter and to grant the necessary licenses if it should so desire. Accordingly, a cable was despatched to Bern stating that the Treasury was prepared to issue an appropriate license and setting forth the conditions of such license.

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- 2 -

Several inquiries were received from Bern relating to the details of the proposed plan. Although these inquiries were promptly answered the exchange of cables consumed seven more weeks. Finally, on September 28 a cable was despatched to Bern in which the Treasury authorized the Minister to issue an appropriate license to the World Jewish Congress and its agents to undertake the transactions necessary for the evacuation program under specified safeguards designed to prevent any benefit to the enemy. In reply a cable dated October 6 was received from Minister Harrison at Bern requesting specific instructions from State before acting on the authority granted by the Treasury, and pointing out that, in accordance with standing instructions concerning trading with the enemy problems, the matter had been discussed with the British who opposed the issuance of the license. Two weeks later this cable was received by the Treasury (October 20) and a proposed reply was sent to State on October 23, instructing Bern to issue the license in question to the World Jewish Congress and its agents, and pointing out that the considerations mentioned by Bern, including those referred to by the British, were all carefully considered in Washington before the cable of September 28 had been sent. Assistant Secretary of State Long, after having discussed with Treasury the British interest in this cable, authorized the despatch of the cable on October 26 without clearance with the British.

Despite the instructions contained in this cable to issue a license to the World Jewish Congress, Minister Harrison again came back three weeks later (November 14) and advised that the British Commercial Secretary had stated that the British Ministry of Economic Warfare objected to the proposed licensing and was taking the matter up with Washington. Minister Harrison again requested specific instructions on this matter.

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- 3 -

I find the three and one-half months delay which has ensued since Treasury first indicated its approval, and you concurred, most difficult to understand. I fully appreciate that some delays are inherent in handling these problems by cable. However, it is hard to ~~understand~~ to understand the delays that have occurred in this case over the relatively simple matter of getting our Minister in Switzerland to issue a license at my direction and with your concurrence. Since programs of this character can be just as effectively vitiated by delay as they can by denial of the necessary licenses, your assistance is badly needed in order to expedite this matter.

Sincerely,

(Signed) Henry Morgenthau, Jr.

The Honorable,

The Secretary of State.

LED:APL:JWP:nrd - 11/24/43.

OK JWP JES

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OFFICE
THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Secretary Hull:

It is suggested that a cable to Ambassador Winant along the lines of the attached draft would be helpful. We are also explaining the details of the requisite financial transactions to the British Embassy here.

H.M., Jr.

Attach.

JED:JWP:nrd - 11/24/43.

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DRAFT

CABLE TO AMBASSADOR WINANT FROM SECRETARY MORGENTHAU

It is urgent that you take prompt action on the following matter which has already been subject to substantial delays. Many months ago Riegner, the representative in Switzerland of the World Jewish Congress, approached this Government with a proposed plan for the evacuation of Jews from Rumania and France. The United States Treasury Department was consulted with regard to the licensing of the financial transactions involved. After carefully considering the matter, our Minister in Berne was authorized and requested to issue a license to the World Jewish Congress covering the requisite financial transactions. The proposed arrangements and the license authorized by the Treasury required that the requisite local currency be acquired either in occupied or enemy areas against blocked accounts established in the United States or Switzerland to be held until the end of the war, or in the alternative local currency might be purchased from persons in Switzerland provided the American Legation in Berne, or some other responsible agency, checked the sellers to insure that the local currency had not been acquired from objectionable sources. In general, the proposed arrangements and the Treasury license would insure that the transactions would not give benefit to the enemy. Harrison, in his cable No. 7141, November 14, which was repeated to you, refers to the objections of M.E.W. to the proposed arrangements. The British Embassy here has approached the Treasury on the matter and the Treasury is explaining the transactions and safeguards to the British Embassy. To avoid further delay please take appropriate action to obtain from M.E.W. the withdrawal of its objections to the issuance of the license and the transmittal of appropriate advice to its representative in Bern.

W. M. J. 1

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TO: Mrs. Chatfield 11/23/43

MR. J. E. DUBOIS

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NOV 22 1943

Secretary Morgenthau

Mr. O'Connell

There is attached a cable, dated November 14, 1943, from the American Legation in Bern relating to the proposal of the World Jewish Congress and the American Jewish Congress for the relief and evacuation of thousands of Jewish refugees from France and Rumania. There is also attached a letter from the British Embassy here, addressed to Mr. Pehle, relating to this same matter.

We would like to discuss this with you as soon as possible. I suggest that White and Pehle, and the men who are most familiar with this matter in the legal division, Luxford and DuBois, be present at the conference.

(Signed) Joseph J. O'Connell, Jr

JED
JEDuBois:ecr
11/22/43

cleared with JWP
JED

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Mr. J. A. Pehle,
U.S. Treasury Department,
Foreign Funds Control,
Washington, D. C.

Mr. J. A. Pehle,
U.S. Treasury Department,
Foreign Funds Control,
Washington, D. C.

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BRITISH EMBASSY

WASHINGTON, D.C.

November 13th, 1943.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

For Personal Attention of Mr. Pehle

The Ministry of Economic Warfare have received a telegram from H. M. Minister at Berne calling attention to his U.S. colleague's telegram No. 334 of October 6th (it is not clear whether this was addressed to Washington and repeated to the U.S. Embassy, London, or vice versa), regarding the Treasury Department's proposal to licence certain exchange transactions for the purpose of facilitating the evacuation of a number of Jewish refugees from France and Roumania.

The Ministry have not heard of this proposal previously, and are unable to judge its merits until they have received details. Would you let me know whether you have already referred the matter to the U. S. Embassy in London for consultation with the Ministry of Economic Warfare under the Joint Licencing Advisory Committee procedure? If not, I should be grateful to have details of the proposal which I can transmit myself in response to this request for information.

Yours sincerely,

/s/ Guy Thorold

G. F. Thorold

Mr. J. A. Pehle,
U.S. Treasury Department,
Foreign Funds Control,
Washington, D. C.

CC - Messrs. Pehle, Schmidt, Fox, Luxford, DuBois, E. M. Bernstein,
and Miss Hodel.

000027

TO:

The Secretary
Mr. D. W. Bell
Mr. Gaston

Mr. Paul
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Thompson

Miss Alger
Mr. Bartelt
Mr. Chas. Bell
Mr. E. M. Bernstein
Mr. Broughton
Mr. Cairns
Miss Chatfield
Mr. Walter Day
Mr. Dietrich
Document Room
Mrs. Farrell
Mr. Feidler
Mr. I. Friedman
Mr. A. U. Fox
Mr. Heffelfinger
Mr. Hoffman
Mr. Elmer Ireby
Mr. W. R. Johnson
Mrs. Kern
Mr. Klaus
Mr. Kuhn
Law Library
Mr. Manning
Mr. O'Connell
Mr. Pehle
Mrs. Ross
Mr. Schmidt
Mr. Schwarz
Mr. Shea
Mr. Stewart
Mr. Tietjens
Mr. Wenchel
Mr. White

Mr. Aarons
Mr. Ackermann
Mr. Alk
Mr. Arnold
Mr. Brenner
Mr. Carolan
Mr. Cassoday
Mr. Cook
Mr. Daum
Mrs. DeLacy
Mr. DuBois
Mr. Golding
Miss Hodel
Mr. Johnston
Mr. Kehl
Miss Klein
Mr. Kutash
Mr. Lawler
Mr. Lesser
Mr. Linville
Mr. Locker
Miss Mayer
Mr. Minskoff
Mr. Moore
Mr. Moskovitz
Mr. J. Murphy
Mr. Parker
Mr. Proctor
Mr. Rains
Mr. W.H. Reeves
Mrs. Rogan
Mr. R. Schwartz
Mr. Seay
Mr. Sommerfield
Mr. Stasse
Mr. Warner

FROM: MR. LUXFORD - Room 174

000029

<u>Confidential</u> (19) Memo to the Secretary from Mr. Pauls	
name	8/12/43 date
"Evacuation of Jewish refugees from Romania"	
subject	Mrs. de Sany 1/13/44
type	131
class	
group	

A- Form 41 - Aug. 1941

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The Secretary

AUG 12 1943

Mr. Paul

Mr. Luxford mentioned to me your request for a memorandum regarding some of the background on the proposal for the evacuation of Jewish refugees from Rumania.

In the latter part of June, the State Department forwarded to us certain cables received from Bern, Switzerland relating to this matter. In substance, the World Jewish Congress in Switzerland is attempting to work out a way to evacuate up to 70,000 Jews from Rumania at a cost of approximately \$170,000. These funds would be paid to the Rumanian officials in local currency by well-to-do Rumanian Jewish merchants who would be reimbursed at black market rates either in dollars or Swiss francs to be blocked and held in trust for them until after the war. The entire operation would be directed from Switzerland by an agent of the World Jewish Congress, who, in turn, would work through underground channels with prominent members of the Jewish Congress in Rumania.

Shortly thereafter Dr. Mahun Goldmann and James Wise of the American Jewish Congress called to discuss this matter in a preliminary way with us. On July 15 a conference was held with Messrs. Reams, Meltzer and Kuppinger of the State Department concerning this proposal. Mr. Reams, Foreign Service Officer, presently assigned to the European Division, and also assigned as State Department's refugee expert, threw cold water on the proposal on the grounds that it would be probably impossible to work out as a practical matter satisfactory arrangements with the Rumanian authorities and that the transportation of any persons evacuated could only be arranged with German consent which would not be forthcoming. He further pointed out the fact that under the provisions of the British White Paper, only about 30,000 Jews can be admitted to Palestine and he said he did not know of any other areas to which the remaining Jews could be evacuated since the Turkish Government has refused entry to Jewish refugees and so far as the North Africa area is concerned, the military authorities have, for military reasons, been unwilling to permit their entry into Africa. As a matter of fact, it was indicated that the United States Chiefs of Staff had decided that refugees could not be admitted even in Dakar for military reasons, but

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that it was believed that the President was about to overrule this decision.

Mr. Meltzer, on the other hand, stressed the point of view that this proposal was not based on a government to government arrangement with Rumania but rather on underground methods and that it was difficult to say at this point that such methods might not be successful in at least getting some Jews out of Rumania. Reams stated that within a very few days they expected to get a complete report from the American Ambassador in Turkey which might throw some light on the problem and it was agreed that as soon as this report was received we would discuss the matter again.

This matter was again discussed here in the Treasury with Mr. White and myself and it was agreed that we would license the transaction on the basis of the facts before us and on July 16 we advised Meltzer of State, informally, that the Treasury was prepared to approve the transaction. Shortly thereafter Meltzer of State sent a draft of a proposed cable to our Mission in Bern over to us for approval. We approved this cable in substance, making a few suggestions as to language. The proposal submitted to Bern in the cable was in effect the following:

A blocked account would be established in the United States by the American Jewish Congress for reimbursement of those persons who advanced funds in connection with the evacuation of the Jewish refugees from Rumania and from France. No funds would be paid from such account until the end of the war but portions of it would be earmarked from time to time in the name of the individuals who had actually advanced funds under the proposal. Under the plan no foreign exchange would be made available to the enemy.

On July 23 we received a letter from Dr. Stephen S. Wise of the American Jewish Congress with which he enclosed a letter which he had sent to the President urging approval of the proposal. On July 31 we advised the American Jewish Congress that we were prepared to take the necessary action to implement the proposal. Shortly thereafter the President transmitted to us the letter which he had received from Dr. Wise for a suggested reply. It was our feeling that the President speaking as the head of this Government should be able to give Wise an authoritative statement on this matter. With this in mind we got in touch with Meltzer of the State Department to obtain State's approval for telling Wise that both State and Treasury were sympathetic to the proposal and that Treasury was prepared to license it and that the details were being worked out

000032

between Bern and Washington at this time. We told Meltzer that we were anxious to get an immediate reply. Meltzer was sympathetic but pointed out that the matter was one which was meeting with considerable opposition within the State Department and that Dr. Feis was carrying the ball on the matter. After several unsuccessful efforts to obtain a definite statement from Mr. Meltzer we called Dr. Feis. Dr. Feis said he was going to raise the question with Secretary Hull and would call us back the next day. Next day Dr. Feis advised us that the matter was still on Secretary Hull's desk and made it clear that he had done his best to get the proposal approved.

We told Dr. Feis that unless we could get an immediate reply from State we would have to so advise the President. He suggested that the best way to get the result we wanted would be for you to call Secretary Hull about the matter. You decided to send Hull a letter instead. Before receiving Hull's reply, Meltzer called DuBois and told him that he had been instructed by the State Department to say that State Department had no comments to make on the proposal but that State would raise no objection to the Treasury Department issuing a license in respect to the transaction. Meltzer made it clear that he felt that the State Department's method of handling the matter made no sense and further indicated his bitter resentment of the way the matter was being handled. He told DuBois that he would like to discuss the matter in detail with him after he, Meltzer, "was in the Army".

It is perfectly apparent to us from our dealings with the State Department on this issue that there is a very bitter fight going on in the State Department regarding the whole refugee question. While it is difficult to pierce the veil of secrecy surrounding the issue in State, there is reason to believe that the Foreign Service Officer group are the ones resisting proposals for assistance to the refugees. In this connection, Drew Pearson had an article in his column in the Washington Post on August 9 discussing the fight going on in the State Department regarding the Jewish refugee problem. In such column he indicated that Major General Pat Hurley had agreed with Ibn Saud, the powerful Arab leader that the Jews should be driven from all Arab lands, including Palestine. The article goes on to state that upon Hurley's return to this country the State Department prepared a new policy for the approval of the White House

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- 4 -

and the British Government and that this policy would bar any further discussion of Palestine and the Jews until after the war. He said that the parties pushing this in the State Department were Wallace Murray, Hull's political adviser on the Near East, Adolf Berle and Harold Hoskins, who formerly worked for Berle, although he is now in the Army. Pearson indicated that London had turned down the proposed policy but that following pressure from Washington they had yielded; that meanwhile news of the maneuver had leaked out and some of the President's advisers including Judge Rosenman and Baruch emphatically opposed closing the door to any discussion of the question at this time and that Wise came to see the President regarding the matter. The article goes on to say that Wise persuaded Roosevelt to postpone decision for a while. Meanwhile, the State Department has been trying to get Secretary Stimson to go along with Hull but that Stimson has indicated that he favors a frank discussion of the problem and so far has not yielded. A copy of Pearson's article is attached.

From the opposition with which the instant proposal has been met by some factions within the State Department it is possible to tie Pearson's article into the State Department attitude on the Rumanian refugee proposal.

Of course the line adopted by the Foreign Service Officers in North Africa is certainly consistent with the theory that they are the ones opposing assistance to the Jewish refugees. In this connection you may be interested in the attached memorandum prepared by Mr. DuBois while he was in North Africa, after having discussed with Consul General Wiley the question of releasing Jewish refugees from the concentration camps in North Africa. On January 18, 1943, Wiley stated his strong opposition to the immediate removal of the Jews from the camps. You can get the full flavor of that conference only by reading DuBois' memorandum.

There is also attached a copy of the cable sent by State to Bern which you requested Luxford to obtain for you.

(Initialed) R.E.P.

✓ED/AFLuxford:JWPehle:owh 8-12-43
JWP JWP JWP JWP

000034

(Dictated over the telephone by Mr. Keltzer 8/11/43, 6:15 p.m.)

No. 1889, August 6, 1943, 5 p.m.

Reference: Your telegram 2461, 8/20/43; Department's telegram 1249, May 25; your telegram 3657, June 14.

Treasury is prepared to issue a license required for the following arrangements. These arrangements are in connection with proposals made by representatives of the American Jewish Congress for evacuation and relief of Jewish refugees in France and Rumania:

(a) There would be established in a bank in the United States (not Switzerland) a blocked account by deposit of funds by private groups in the United States for reimbursement of persons in occupied and other areas who would furnish local currency or services necessary in relation to the evacuation of Jewish refugees (a) from France to Spain or North Africa and (b) from Rumania. There would be allocated in favor of the persons furnishing such currency or services certified by an agent of the World Jewish Congress acceptable to this Government the funds in such blocked account. It would be stipulated by Treasury:

(1) Until the end of the war and in no event without the approval of said agent of the World Jewish Congress no funds would be paid from such account for any purpose.

(2) It would be only in connection with the evacuation expenses that this arrangement would be available. The establishment of such account or the employment of funds under such arrangement for relief in contradistinction to evacuation would not be permitted by Treasury.

(3) A prohibition of assignments of interest or expectancies in such account would be imposed.

(b) Treasury requests your opinion and that of Dr. Riegner as to whether such a program would permit the acquisition of the required francs and lei. According to Treasury the following should be borne in mind:

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(1) During the war there must not be made available any foreign exchange in enemy or enemy-occupied territory.

(2) There must be reduced to an absolute minimum the possibility of funds ultimately reaching persons who have neither furnished local currency or services. You should also indicate the amount of funds which it is believed by Dr. Riegner would be necessary for initial operations which should be deposited to the United States account referred to in paragraph (a).

(c) If this program in your opinion and that of Dr. Riegner will not permit acquisition of the required local currency it is requested by Treasury that you submit your suggestions as to alternative means which would make such acquisition possible and which would not conflict with the conditions listed above.

January 18, 1943

Conference with Consul General Wiley
re Jewish Refugees.

I conferred with Consul General Wiley today with respect to the telegram from the Treasury relating to the remittance of 2,000,000 francs by the J.R.C. for the initial expenses of the release of 1,500 refugees.

He stated that it was not true that the refugees would be released upon the receipt of the "initial expenses" of their release; that a Joint Commission had been established to deal with the whole problem of the release of prisoners, including the Jewish refugees referred to, "Red" Spanish refugees, Polish refugees, Belgian refugees, Czech refugees, Russians, etc.; that this Commission was composed of the British Consul General, American Consul General, one representative of each, a psychological warfare representative and Dr. Strode (owned by Rockefeller Foundation to Red Cross); that the whole problem was a very difficult one and had to be carefully studied; that in general the prisoners would only be released after it was decided what should be done with the groups involved (as groups); that plans would have to be made for taking care of the refugees after they had been released before their release; that Elia Golan referred to in Treasury cable was a Frenchman (Jewish) heading up the organization referred to; that Golan had misunderstood the arrangements contemplated; that he did not believe that Golan was fully trustworthy; that Schwartz, European head of the J.R.C., had been requested to come to Algiers and was expected soon; that it would be better to deal with Schwartz rather than with Golan.

When I asked Wiley how long he thought it would take before the refugees would be released he replied three or four months; that a considerable study of the problems involved would have to be made.

I expressed to Mr. Wiley my failure to understand why it was taking so long to solve a problem which it seemed so important to solve as rapidly as possible; that he knew probably better than I the great amount of criticism which had been leveled at our position in this matter; that this type of criticism tended to hurt the war effort; and that it would seem to me that it would pay solely from

000037

the standpoint of the war effort for the Allies to spend a certain amount of time, effort and money to solve the problem without delay. Wiley agreed that considerable criticism had been leveled and that the problem should be solved as soon as possible but claimed the solution was difficult and would take time.

I questioned him about the possibility of having the Army hire these refugees as they were hiring the Arabs. Wiley stated that the possibility of placing them in labor battalions had been discussed but the British had finally turned it down. I explained that I was not speaking of regimentation but of voluntary employment. Wiley indicated that there should not be such concern over regimentation; that Americans were being conscripted every day. I explained why I thought the democratic method of selective service was different from telling a group of prisoners that their "choice" was to remain in prison or go in the Army. Wiley then stated that the voluntary employment of the refugees differed from the employment of Arabs in that if the Army no longer needed the Arabs they could go back to their former way of life; and that there was also the problem of finding a place for the refugees to live. I voiced the view that it would be worth the effort and expense to hire the refugees even if they did not put in a full day's work "earning their money" and to supply them with living quarters; that even if they slept in pup tents they would probably enjoy life more and from our selfish point of view we would at least avoid the harmful criticism.

Wiley stated that there had been so much criticism of things done that "they" (he and others) were becoming "hard skinned" about it and that "the only guide was whether or not their conscience was clear as to this and similar matters". I expressed the view that the test should not be one's conscience in issues such as this but what was best in the interests of the war effort.

J. E. DuBois, Jr.
U. S. Treasury Department.

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LICENSES ISSUED TO WJC RE WJC OPERATIONS

000040

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS - LICENSES

Basic Lic. W-2115 (amended)
Remittance License NY 625189

THE MATERIAL IN THIS FOLDER
MUST NOT BE REMOVED

PLEASE RETURN TO
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
ROOM _____

000041

FFC-76
(11-42)

CROSS REFERENCE ON

FOR:

Amendment to this License ☐
Extension of this License ☐
Renewal of this License ☐
Correspondence concerning this application . ☐
Other (Specify)

For letter of 4/23/44 from World Jewish Congress requesting
this licenses -

SEE: WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS - LICENSES
NY 626339

000042

10-11

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: June 3, 1944
NUMBER: 1905
x

CONTROL COPY

Payment of 16,867 francs to Seiligmann by Riegner, suggested in the Legation's telegram of May 11, 1944 No. 2991 and payments to Worms and Levy, upon their arrival in Switzerland, of the Swiss franc equivalent of the amounts purchased from them are authorized by the Treasury Department. The authorization given above is subject to both Riegner and you being satisfied that these individuals are bonafide refugees and intend to remain in Switzerland for other neutral territory or territory which the Allies control and other than in Switzerland no such payments should be made.

STETTINIUS
(Acting)

DCR:IOB:HL 6/7/44

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

000043

DRAFT OF CABLE TO BERN

Reference Legation's 2991 dated May 11, 1944. Treasury Department authorizes Riegner to pay Swiss francs 16,667 to Andre Seiligmann in Switzerland and to Monas and Levy, upon their arrival in Switzerland, the Swiss franc equivalent of amounts purchased from them, provided the Legation and Riegner are satisfied that such persons are bona fide refugees and intend to remain in Switzerland or other neutral territory or territory under allied control.

RBP:arke:jfh 5-23-44

000044

In reply please
refer to: 72202

To : Chief, W. T. I. Division,
Department of State.

From : Orvis A. Schmidt

Attention: Mr. William I. Riegman

Reference is made to telegram No. 2991 of May 11, 1944, from the American Legation, Bern, Switzerland, to the Secretary of State, in which inquiry is made on behalf of Mr. Riegner, representative in Switzerland of the World Jewish Congress, whether payment for French francs acquired by him from certain individuals in France under provisions of license No. W-2115 may be made to such persons in Swiss francs upon their arrival in Switzerland.

It will be appreciated if the attached cable, in reply to the inquiry made in the telegram under reference, may be despatched promptly to the American Legation, Bern, Switzerland, through the facilities available to the Department of State.

Please inform Mr. R. B. Parke, the Foreign Funds Control Liaison Officer with the War Refugee Board when such cable is despatched.

Attachment.

REParker:jfh 5-23-44

000045

W.D. Riegner Co
Mr. Rills
copy only

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern

TO: Secretary of State, Washington

DATE: May 11, 1944

NUMBER: 2991

CONTROL ROOM

Reference is made herewith to Legation's May 2 telegram No. 2794.

Six additional financial transactions are reported by Riegner. Three million French francs were purchased for Swiss francs 49,500 from Stitelman in transaction five. Agents in France negotiated transactions six to nine inclusive with Jews in France as follows: Andre Seiligmann French francs one million for Swiss francs 16,667; Rene Worms same total; George Sarm and Levy French francs 1,600,000 for Swiss 26,667; Alice Worms French francs 500,000 for Swiss francs 8,333. Bicket supplied French francs three million for Swiss 54,000 in transaction ten. In accordance with license Y 2115, clause A2, Riegner states proceeding to establish in Union Bank of Switzerland, Swiss francs blocked accounts for beneficiaries transactions six through nine. According to Riegner, Seiligmann has now escaped to Switzerland and former inquires whether instead of being held in blocked account, Swiss francs can be paid to Seiligmann. It is also expected that Worms and

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

Levy

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Levy will arrive in Switzerland and he requests permission to pay them Swiss francs when they arrive in that country.

HARRISON

1774 12 11 IV

RECEIVED

DCR:EBH
5/13/44

000047

MAY 10 1944

Dear Dr. Wise:

The following confidential message for you from Dr. Riegner has been received through the American Legation in Bern:

"I submit herewith report of further activities.

"Having countervalue of 134,834 Swiss francs, have transmitted during last month a further 8,100,000 Swiss francs for evacuation. Including groups from Holland and Belgium, during the last months an average of sixty per month crossed the frontier. During the first half of April 46 young Jews evacuated to Spain, while during the second half, an additional fifty are to cross and have probably reached the frontier already. During the coming weeks this number will be increased as it is the most favorable time since spring. We are constantly receiving news from persons who arrived in Spain safely. In assisting Jewish children to cross the Spanish frontier, the Jewish resistance is equally active. Recently the first group of 25 children were brought to Spain. Jewish resistance is largely responsible for their rescue. Hidden persons, especially those in particular political danger, are also being assisted by Jewish resistance. Having denounced and sold Jews to Germany, several special groups of four to five young Jews are charged with punishment and elimination of traitors. Including reports of American Jewish Congress, the resistance has published an illegal newspaper containing instructions to French Jews and news of Jewish life throughout the world. Arrest of the printer has temporarily suspended publication.

"Request transfer of maximum funds possible in view of very satisfactory reports. In the western countries the coming weeks may be the last chance for rescuing Jews.

000048

"This report contains confidential information and should
in no way be disclosed."

Very truly yours, .

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Dr. Stephen S. Wise,
World Jewish Congress,
1834 Broadway,
New York 23, New York.

FH:lab 5/9/44

000049

*War Refugee Board
Mr. Lohr*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATE: May 11, 1944
NUMBER: 1640

1 copy only

Department's cables of January 20, No. 197 and of February 8, No. 411, are referred to herewith.

Section (B) of license No. W-2115, issued to the World Jewish Congress, has been amended by Treasury. The following is the substance of Section (B) as amended:

Individual licenses authorizing the use of specific quantities pursuant to this license will be issued by the Treasury, and the total sums represented by claims against any blocked account pursuant to this license, plus the sums paid out or otherwise obligated pursuant hereto, shall not exceed the total amount in dollars (or the foreign currency equivalent thereof) which the Treasury so specifically authorizes.

A license to the World Jewish Congress to remit to Dr. Riegner the Swiss franc equivalent of \$100,000 has now been issued by Treasury, in addition to remittances which Treasury has previously licensed for use pursuant to license No. W-2115. Dr. Riegner is to be advised of the foregoing.

These operations have been ^{fully} ~~completely~~ approved by the Treasury, War Refugee Board and Department.

HULL

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

000050

May 8, 1944

Subject: Cable to Bern relative to amendment to license No. W-2115
issued to the World Jewish Congress, New York City.

The subject license, it will be recalled, was amended by letter (No. 59319) on May 5, 1944, to provide that "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" and to provide for its expiration on October 31, 1944.

Mr. Riegelman, of the A.T.I. Division of the Department of State, to whom a draft of the subject cable to the American Legation in Bern was directed, called this office this morning and suggested that the reference to the expiration date of the subject license be omitted so that the Legation would be relieved of the responsibility of determining whether the license had been renewed or not, pointing out that it would be simpler to merely advise it that the license had expired in the event it were not renewed.

Mr. O'Flaherty, Miss Model, and I were agreed that it would be simpler to advise the Legation that the license had expired by its terms and not been renewed, if that were the case, than to advise it of each renewal of such license. This procedure would also place this license, so far as the Legation in Bern is concerned, on the same basis as all the other licenses issued in connection with evacuation operations in enemy territory.

Mr. Riegelman was advised, therefore, that the reference to the expiration date of license No. W-2115 might be omitted from the text of the cable transmitted to him under cover of our letter dated May 5, 1944 (No. 59320). Mr. Riegelman stated that he would confirm in writing that this change in the cable had been made.

R. B. Parke

cc: Miss Model, Mr. O'Flaherty

RBP:rfh 5-8-44

000051

MEMORANDUM

For attachment to:

FFC Letter No:

Date:

Project No.:

TO: Liaison Officer, Foreign Funds Control

FROM: War Refugee Board

Subject: Relief and evacuation operations in enemy or enemy-occupied territory.

There is transmitted herewith a copy of a letter dated April 28, 1944

from the World Jewish Congress dealing with remittance of equivalent of \$100,000 to representative in Switzerland for evacuation to places of safety of persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory whose lives are in imminent danger.

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:

F. Hodel
For the War Refugee Board

Action:

Basic license No. W- 2115 issued: loaded 2-4-44 and 5-5-44
Remittance License No. issued: NY 405139 issued May 4, 1944
Other: Letter No. 50222 dated May 5, 1944
Letter No. 50222 dated May 5, 1944 (copy)
Letter No. 50222 dated May 5, 1944

[Signature]
Liaison Officer
Foreign Funds Control

Date: MAY 9 1944

000052

In reply please
refer to: 59319

Sirs:

The War Refugee Board has transmitted to this Department a copy of your letter dated April 28, 1944, in which you request it to recommend the issuance of a license permitting you to remit the Swiss franc equivalent of \$100,000 to your representative in Geneva, Switzerland, Dr. Riegner, to be used by him in connection with the activities contemplated in license No. W-2115, as amended February 4, 1944.

Pursuant to the recommendation made to this Department by the War Refugee Board, section 2 and section 6 of license No. W-2115 are hereby amended to read, respectively, as follows:

Section 2 "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 licenses to be used under this license."

Section 6 "This license shall expire on October 31, 1944; it is subject to the provisions of Executive Order No. 8389 of April 10, 1940, as amended, and the regulations issued thereunder, and may be revoked, modified, or declared void at any time at the discretion of the Secretary of the Treasury acting directly or through the agency through which the license was issued, or by any other agency designated by the Secretary of the Treasury."

You are informed that in the event the activities contemplated in license No. W-2115 are to be continued after the date on which such license expires, this Department will be pleased to con-

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- 2 -

sider renewing the license for a further period of six months.

The American Legation at Bern, Switzerland, is being notified of the foregoing amendment and requested to inform Dr. Klagner. The Federal Reserve Bank of New York has been authorized to issue to you a license to effect the transfer of the Swiss franc equivalent of \$100,000 to your representative in Switzerland through the facilities available to this Government.

Very truly yours,

Orvis A. Schmidt
Acting Director

World Jewish Congress,
330 West 42nd Street,
New York 18, New York.

RBParker:jfh 5-2-44

000054

In reply please
refer to: 59320

To : Chief, N. T. I. Division
Department of State

From: Orvis A. Schmidt

Attention: Mr. William I. Riegelman

It will be appreciated if the attached cable, relative to an additional amendment to license No. 4-2115 issued to the World Jewish Congress, New York, New York, may be despatched immediately to the American Legation, Bern, Switzerland, through the facilities available to the Department of State.

Please advise Mr. R. B. Parke, the Foreign Funds Control Liaison Officer with the War Refugee Board when such cable is despatched.

Attachment.

REParke:jfh 5-2-44

000055

DRAFT OF CABLE TO BERN

Please advise Dr. Gerhart Riegner, representative in Switzerland of the World Jewish Congress, New York City, that the Treasury Department has amended Section 2 of license No. W-2115, as amended February 4, 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 licenses to be used under this license."

This license is further amended to provide for its expiration on October 31, 1944. The Treasury Department has informed the licensee, however, that it is prepared to consider the renewal of this license at its expiration in the event the activities licensed therein have not been completed. This amendment is in connection with a Treasury license issued to the World Jewish Congress to remit to Dr. Riegner the Swiss franc equivalent of \$100,000 in addition to the remittances previously licensed. It has the approval of the Department, the War Refugee Board and the Treasury.

RBPar:ejfh 5-2-44

000056

In reply please
refer to: 59321

25

Dear Mr. Davis:

For your information and the completion of your files, there is enclosed herewith a copy of a letter addressed under even date, to the World Jewish Congress, 33 West 42nd Street, New York, New York, amending license No. W-2115, as amended February 4, 1944.

Sincerely yours,

Orvis A. Schmidt
Acting Director

Mr. Norman P. Davis,
Manager,
Foreign Funds Control Department,
Federal Reserve Bank of New York,
New York, New York.

Enclosure.

REParke:jfh 5-2-44

000057

MAY 4 1944

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
BUREAU OF FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

NY 625189

Pursuant to application filed directly with this Department, you are hereby authorized to issue license to the World Jewish Congress, 390 West 42nd Street, New York City, admitting it notwithstanding General Ruling No. 11, to remit the Swiss franc equivalent of an amount up to \$100,000 to Dr. Gerhart Riegner, Geneva, Switzerland, for disbursement in accordance with license No. B-2115, as amended. The licensee, or its bank of account, is authorized to pay the dollar amount involved to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York for credit to the Banque Nationale Suisse, Zurich, for payment to the payee designated herein, or to purchase the Swiss francs involved from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York as fiscal agent of the United States. License expires October 31, 1944. Please send a true and copy of license to Mr. Rushmore, Federal Reserve Bank of New York, and advise him that remittance is for humanitarian purposes.

(Initialed) C.A.S.

RBP:Jfh 5-2-44
Unit 402

000052

*1 an Refugee Bd
Munich*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: May 2, 1944
NUMBER: 2794
X

CONTROL COPY

Reference my 2591, dated twenty-second of April.

It is requested by Riegner that there be forwarded to the World Jewish Congress the following message:

I submit herewith report of further activities, which is in sequence to my March 23 report, transmitted by the Legation's no. 1851, of March 25.

Having countervalue of 134,834 Swiss francs, have transmitted during last month a further 8,100,000 Swiss francs for evacuation. Including groups from Holland and Belgium, during the last months an average of sixty per month crossed the frontier. During the first half of April 46 young Jews evacuated to Spain, while during the second half, an additional fifty are to cross and have probably reached the frontier already. During the coming weeks this number will be increased as it is the most favorable time since spring. We are constantly receiving news from persons who arrived

in

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

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-2-

in Spain safely. In assisting Jewish children to cross the Spanish frontier, the Jewish resistance is equally active. Recently the first group of 25 children were brought to Spain. Jewish resistance is largely responsible for their rescue. Hidden persons, especially those in particular political danger, are also being assisted by Jewish resistance. Having denounced and sold Jews to Germany, several special groups of four to five young Jews are charged with punishment and elimination of traitors. Including reports of American Jewish Congress, the resistance has published an illegal newspaper containing instructions to French Jews and news of Jewish life throughout the world. Arrest of the printer has temporarily suspended publication.

Request transfer of maximum funds possible in view of very satisfactory reports. In the western countries the coming weeks may be the last chance for rescuing Jews.

This report contains confidential information and should in no way be disclosed.

The name Reigner appears as the signer of the foregoing message.

HARRISON

000060

C O P Y

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Division of World Trade Intelligence

June 1, 1944

WRB - Mr. Parke

Your reference 72202, May 25. (Rc W-2115)

Please be advised that the telegram enclosed in the
above reference has been prepared for dispatch to Bern. You
will receive a paraphrase in due course through the normal
channels.

(Signed W.I.R.)

William I. Riegelman

WT:WIR:AMN

000061

Ward Riegner
Ward Riegner
Riegner

PARAGRAPH OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: April 22, 1944
SUBJECT: 2591
X

CONTROL COPY

Reference is made herewith to my cable of March 25,
no. 1852.

It is reported by Riegner that in fourth transaction
he has purchased further million French francs from Stitel-
mann at rate of Swiss francs 1.70 per hundred French francs.

It is stated by Riegner that he is receiving satis-
factory reports on continuation of rescue action in France
and evacuation of Jewish groups to Spain from Belgium,
Holland, and France continues without interruption. A de-
tailed report on these operations is promised by him.

HARRISON

APR 22 11 08 AM '44

WASHINGTON D.C.
RECEIVED
MAY 1 1944

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

000062

FORM TFEI-1 (Special)
TREASURY DEPARTMENT
Foreign Funds Control

St. Louis, Mo. + Bern
License No. 2115 as amended #1

Date: FEB 4 - 1944

L I C E N S E
(GRANTED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF EXECUTIVE
ORDER NO. 8389, OF APRIL 10, 1940, AS AMENDED,
AND THE REGULATIONS ISSUED THEREUNDER)

To World Jewish Congress
(Name of licensee)

330 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y.
(Address of licensee)

Sirs:

1. In order to arrange for the evacuation to places of safety or relative safety as shall be selected by your representative of persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory whose lives are in imminent danger and, pending possible evacuation, to sustain and safeguard the lives of such persons, your representative in Switzerland (including such agents as he may appoint) is hereby licensed notwithstanding the provisions of General Ruling No. 11 to communicate with persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory in any manner he deems necessary or expedient and to take all other appropriate action, including the acquisition of necessary funds, goods or services from persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory against payment in accordance with the terms of this license. The necessary funds to finance such operations may be obtained by any of the following methods:

- (a) The first method is the purchase of currency or exchange of the country in which the operations are to be effected from persons in Switzerland who your representative, after consulting with the United States Legation in Bern when feasible, is reasonably certain have held such currency or exchange since prior to the freezing of such country by the United States, or have since acquired such currency or exchange in such manner as has not benefited the enemy. The sellers of such currency or exchange may be reimbursed therefor in Swiss francs at the prevailing unofficial rates of exchange in Switzerland.
- (b) The second method is the acquisition of local currencies or exchange from persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territories for which reimbursement will not be made until after the war. In order to insure reimbursement after the war to the persons supplying such currencies or exchange, blocked accounts may be established on your books in the United States, or in a bank in the United States or a bank in Switzerland. No payments may be made from any such blocked account without the specific approval of the Treasury Department and no assignments may be made of any interest in such blocked account without such approval.
- (c) The third method should not be used if it is feasible to obtain the local funds by either of the first two methods. The third method is the acquisition of the necessary local funds, goods or services from persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory against payment in free exchange or free currency notes. Your representative should take reasonable steps to avoid such foreign exchange or free currency notes being paid to persons who will make it available to the enemy.

000063

- 2 -

2. The total amount of dollars or Swiss francs paid out or set up in blocked accounts or otherwise obligated under the terms of this license shall not exceed 428,000 Swiss francs, or the dollar equivalent thereof, during the six months' period beginning January 1, 1944.

3. Your representative should keep the American Legation in Switzerland fully informed with respect to the financial transactions effected under this license. In so far as feasible your representative should make certain that the persons from whom the local currencies or exchange are purchased are acceptable to the Legation. Your representative should satisfy himself that payments to such persons will not benefit the enemy.

4. Periodic reports with regard to any operations engaged in under this license should be filed with the Treasury Department by your representative through the United States Legation in Bern.

5. This license is granted upon the statements and representations filed with the Treasury Department, and is subject to the condition, among others, that you will comply in all respects with Executive Order No. 8389 of April 10, 1940, as amended, and the regulations issued thereunder and the terms of this license.

6. This license is not transferable, is subject to the provisions of Executive Order No. 8389, of April 10, 1940, as amended, and the regulations issued thereunder and may be revoked, modified, or declared void at any time at the discretion of the Secretary of the Treasury acting directly or through the agency through which the license was issued, or any other agency designated by the Secretary of the Treasury.

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Assistant to the Secretary

000064

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS - LICENSES

**THE MATERIAL IN THIS FOLDER
MUST NOT BE REMOVED**

W-2115
Remittance License NY 618129

**PLEASE RETURN TO
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
ROOM** 194

000065

APR 4 1944

Dear Rabbi Miller:

The following confidential message for you from Gerhart Riegner was received from Bern through the American Legation under date of March 30, 1944:

"To answer your message of March 2 concerning rescue action for Bulgarian Jews the following is sent.

"Notably in the following small towns the Bulgarian Jews are concentrated according to information obtained mainly by Nissim Conforti who is now in Geneva: Lom, Vidin, Rousse, Vratza, Polvdiv, Razgrade, Kustundl, Pleve, Haskovo, Jambti and Doupnitza. These Jews are living in private buildings and have the right to leave only two hours each day. Almost all of them are very miserable. Jewish public kitchens organized by themselves feed about seventy percent. With trustworthy persons in all localities Conforti is in contact. For local help and especially for evacuation to Turkey, all financial assistance is greatly needed. By methods one and two of license Y-2115 we still have possibilities for transfer. We are also enquiring possibilities Red Cross despatches Bulgaria awaiting results.

"Evacuation to Turkey which should be promoted by all means possible is a most urgent matter. It is requested that you intervene urgently and firmly with the Turkish Government for unconditional issuance of entry visas for Bulgarian Jews and admit on Turkish frontiers even all those who illegally present themselves. Absolutely inefficient are the present rules which admit the entry of small groups of fifty only when the preceding fifty have departed from Turkey for Palestine. The keystone of any real evacuation program is the intervention of the War Refugee Board and the United States Government with the authorities of Turkey to change their attitude.

000066

- 2 -

"Angelo Koujd Mdjiske is in Turkey with the United States Mission at present, according to our information. His support should be sought for your efforts regarding the entry to Turkey of Bulgarian Jews and for the granting of facilities to leave Bulgaria, please intervene with Balabanoff in Ankara. Kindly send by cable your intentions for assistance and the results of your demarches. If the Bulgarian Jews are to be spared the fate of the Hungarian Jews immediate action is necessary.

"Concerning the large relief scheme being discussed by the Intergovernmental Committee for refugees in London, please be advised that Intercross in all probability is unable to buy food, supplies, etc., because of political developments in the Balkans. For despatch to Intercross at Geneva which could distribute from here, I suggest you put fifty to a hundred thousand American prepared food parcels at the disposal of the War Refugee Board. In shipment to Europe Intercross can probably be helpful. Also most urgent is this action.

"Intercross dispatches including medicaments, food, linen and clothing to Cracow are again officially authorized according to official news from the Jewish Relief Center at Cracow and the German Red Cross dated March 12. This information should be sent to the War Refugee Board. Number 11500."

I am sure you will appreciate the extremely confidential nature of this message.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Rabbi Irving Miller,
World Jewish Congress,
330 West 42nd Street,
New York 18, New York.

Handwritten: AH Cleared
WJEC
RM:lab 4/3/44

000067

PANAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: The American Minister, Bern
 TO: The Secretary of State, Washington
 DATE: March 30, 1944
 NUMBER: 1946 (SECTION ONE)
 X

CONTROL COPY

There follows in substance a message from Riegner for the World Jewish Congress - refers to Legation's cable dated March 26, number 1852.

To answer your message of March 2 concerning rescue action for Bulgarian Jews the following is sent.

Notably in the following small towns the Bulgarian Jews are concentrated according to information obtained mainly by Nicolo Conforti who is now in Geneva: Lom, Vidin, Rousse, Vratsa, Plovdiv, Razgrad, Kustundil, Pleve, Haskovo, Jambli and Dupnitsa. These Jews are living in private buildings and have the right to leave only two hours each day. Almost all of them are very miserable. Jewish public kitchens organized by themselves feed about seventy percent. With trustworthy persons in all localities Conforti is in contact. For local help and especially for evacuation to Turkey, all financial assistance is greatly needed. By methods one and two of license Y-2113 we still have possibilities for transfer. We are also enquiring possibilities Red Cross despatches Bulgaria awaiting results.

Evacuation to Turkey which should be promoted by all means possible is a most urgent matter. It is requested that you

intervene

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

000068

2- #1946 from BERN (Section One)

intervene urgently and firmly with the Turkish Government for unconditional issuance of entry visas for Bulgarian Jews and admit on Turkish frontiers even all those who illegally present themselves. Absolutely inefficient are the present rules which admit the entry of small groups of fifty only when the preceding fifty have departed from Turkey for Palestine. The keynote of any real evacuation program is the intervention of the War Refugee Board and the United States Government with the authorities of Turkey to change their attitude.

HANKINS

DCR:MPL
4/1/44

000069

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: The American Minister, Bern
TO: The Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: March 30, 1944
NUMBER: 1946 (SECTION TWO)

Angelo Kouja Mjiske is in Turkey with the United States Mission at present, according to our information. His support should be sought for your efforts regarding the entry to Turkey of Bulgarian Jews and for the granting of facilities to leave Bulgaria, please intervene with Balabanoff in Ankara. Kindly send by cable your intentions for assistance and the results of your démarches. If the Bulgarian Jews are to be spared the fate of the Hungarian Jews immediate action is necessary.

Concerning the large relief scheme being discussed by the Intergovernmental Committee for refugees in London, please be advised that Interoross in all probability is unable to buy food, supplies, etc., because of political developments in the Balkans. For despatch to Interoross at Geneva which could distribute from here, I suggest you put fifty to a hundred thousand American prepared food parcels at the disposal of the War Refugee Board. In shipment to Europe Interoross can probably be helpful. Also most urgent is this action.

Interoross dispatches including medicaments, food, linen and clothing to Cracow are again officially authorized according to official news

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

000070

2- #1946 from Bern (Section Two)

to official news from the Jewish Relief Center at Cracow and
the German Red Cross dated March 12. This information should
be sent to the War Refugee Board. The foregoing is signed by
Gerhart Riegner. Number 11600.

END OF MESSAGE

HARRISON

DDRMPL
4/1/44

000071

MEMORANDUM

For attachment to:

FFC Letter No:

Date: MAR 31 1944

Project No.:

TO: Liaison Officer, Foreign Funds Control

FROM: War Refugee Board

Subject: Evacuation of refugees.

There is transmitted herewith a copy of a letter dated March 27, 1944 from the World Jewish Congress dealing with remittance to Dr. Riegner in Geneva the sum of \$30,000 on basis of License W-2115, as amended, for the evacuation to places of safety of persons whose lives are in imminent danger.

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: *Increase remittance to \$75,000 (see Hiss/Hodel's memo 3/31/44)*
Special facilities re Swiss francs

F. Hodel
For the War Refugee Board

Action:

Basic license No. W- issued
Remittance License No. issued NY 618129 issued 4-3-44
Other: Letter No. 59312 dated 4-3-44 X

[Signature]
Liaison Officer
Foreign Funds Control

Date: APR 3 1944

000072

In reply please
refer to: 59312

25 1044

Sirs:

The War Refugee Board has transmitted to this Department a copy of your letter dated March 27, 1944, in which you request the Board's assistance in securing licenses to remit to Dr. Riegner in Geneva, Switzerland, the sum of \$30,000 for disbursement in accordance with the provisions of license No. W-2115 as amended on February 4, 1944, and the sum of \$8,010 received from the Italian Community in Rio de Janeiro for relief to Italian refugees in Switzerland.

Pursuant to the recommendation made to this Department by the War Refugee Board, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York has been authorized to issue to you licenses permitting you to effect the remittances described above through the facilities of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

With respect to the license permitting you to transfer funds to Dr. Riegner for disbursement in accordance with the provisions of license No. W-2115, cited above, you will note that such license provides for the remittance of \$75,000. This figure represents the difference between the amount authorized under license No. W-2115 and the sum of \$25,000 which you remitted in connection therewith under a previous license. As such license is valid through June 30, 1944, it will enable you to remit the balance of the amount authorized under license No. W-2115 without the necessity for securing a specific license each time you are prepared to transfer funds for the purposes contemplated therein.

Very truly yours,

Orvis A. Schmidt
Acting Director

World Jewish Congress,
330 West 42nd Street,
New York, New York.

DRP:kyt:jfh 4-1-44

000073

1944

Pursuant to application filed directly with this Department, you are hereby authorized to issue license to the World Jewish Congress, 330 West 42nd Street, New York City, permitting it, notwithstanding General Ruling No. 11 to remit during the period ending June 30, 1944 up to the Swiss franc equivalent of \$75,000 to Gerhart Riegner, Geneva, Switzerland, for disbursement in accordance with the provisions of license No. 4-2115 as amended. The licensee, or its bank of account, is authorized to pay the dollar amount involved to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York for credit to the Banque Nationale Suisse, which, for payment of the Swiss franc equivalent to the payee designated herein, or to purchase the Swiss francs involved from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York as fiscal agent of the United States. License expires June 30, 1944. Please send signed copy of license to Mr. Rushmore, Federal Reserve Bank of New York

(Initialed) O.A.S.

Unit 402 RBParker:jfh 3-21-44

000074

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL . . CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

330 WEST 42nd STREET

NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

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 1744

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

March 27th, 1944

Mr. John W. Pehle
War Refugee Board
Main Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Pehle:

I have been advised by Miss Hodel with whom I spoke on the telephone to refer the following matters to your attention.

The World Jewish Congress wishes to remit immediately to Dr. Riegner in Geneva the sum of \$50,000.00 on the basis of lionese #W 2115 as amended on February 4th, 1944. In addition, the World Jewish Congress has received from the Italian Community in Rio de Janeiro the sum of \$8010.00 which this community wishes to transmit to Geneva for the specific purpose of relief to Italian refugees in Switzerland.

Will you be good enough to advise us both as to the procedure to secure the necessary license for these two remittances as well as the rate of exchange which may be available for us in the light of the specific purposes for which the money is to be used.

Very sincerely yours,

Irving Miller
Rabbi Irving Miller L.

IM:BL

000075

*War X Riegner BH
(7th Feb 44)*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: March 25, 1944
NUMBER: 1862

CONTROL COPY

Reference is made herewith to my cable of March 25,
no. 1861.

The summary report from Riegner regarding the third
financial transaction undertaken in accordance with
license Y-2115 as amended.

Arrangements have been made by Riegner to purchase
2,000,000 ^{NAF} French francs from Rene Bickert, stated by
R to be a Swiss citizen and a prominent member of the
Geneva Jewish community. The rate is 1.78 Swiss francs
per 100 French francs. Until presentation of receipt
signed by R's representative in France, the Swiss francs
counter value deposited with Armand Brunshvig former
President Geneva Jewish community. It is stated by R
that Bickert has produced convincing evidence of owner-
ship of several millions French francs in investments in
France dating from before the war. In view of the neces-
sity to take advantage of the possibility of communications
with France, he states that he is unable to consult
Legation before arranging the transaction. R states that
the above names are not to be divulged under any
circumstances.

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

HARRISON

000076

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS - LICENSES

W-2115
Renewance License NY 679984

000077

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

RECEIVED
DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

PLATT

April 5, 1945

1945 APR 6 AM 10 46

DC/L
LIAISON

AMLEGATION

BERN
1351, Fifth

Please request McClelland deliver the following
message (WRB 483) to Gerhard Riegner, 37 Quai Wilson,
Geneva, from Kurt Grossmann of World Jewish Congress:

QUOTE Try rescue Annetta Oswald Hochberg,
Theresienstadt for which we remitted \$1,000; Blume Gross-
meyer and daughter Ruth and Lothar James Skop both
Bergenbelsen for which \$800 remitted for each. Instruc-
tions for distribution of balance of \$5800 from the
\$6400 we recently transmitted will follow later. UNQUOTE

ACHESON
ACTING
(GHW)

WRB:MMV:RG
4/5/45

WE

000078

CABLE TO AMERICAN LEGATION, BERN, FOR MCCLELLAND, FROM THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Please deliver the following message to Gerhard Riegner, 37 Quai Wilson,
Geneva, from Kurt Grossman of World Jewish Congress:

QUOTE TRY RESCUE ANNETTA OSWALD MOHBERG, THERESIA STANT FOR WHICH
WE REMITTED \$1,000; HEUME GROSS-LIESERMAN AND DAUGHTER RUTH AND
LOTHAR JAMES SKOP BOTH BERGHEISEN FOR WHICH \$800 REMITTED FOR EACH.
INSTRUCTIONS FOR DISTRIBUTION OF BALANCE OF \$5600 FROM THE \$8400 WE
RECENTLY TRANSMITTED WILL FOLLOW LATER. UNQUOTE

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO.483

11:30 a.m.
March 30, 1945

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

RBH: 3/29/45

000079

che

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL • CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

1834 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, 23, N. Y.

LONDON
55 New Cavendish St., W 1

GENEVA
37 Quai Wilson

BUENOS AIRES
Corrientes 1979 2024-9C

JERUSALEM
Vaad Leumi P. O. B. 471

MONTREAL
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY
Sonora 1744

In reply refer to:
No. 377

March 26, 1945

CABLES: CONGRESS, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 6-1900

Brig. Gen. William O'Dwyer, Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear General O'Dwyer:

I acknowledge the receipt of your letter of March 21st which refers to my letter of March 16th requesting the assistance of the War Refugee Board in transmitting a message to Gerhard Riegner in Geneva.

May I assure you that we had no intention of violating the authorization granted to us under license #NY 679984, especially since the disbursement of funds under this license is subject to the approval of the American Embassy in Bern.

However, we want to draw your attention to the case of the Hungarian Jews and the Comité International des Intellectuels Réfugiés, for which latter case an amount of \$2,000 was allocated. In both these cases we cannot ascertain whether the beneficiaries are endeavoring to proceed to Switzerland or whether they have already found haven in that country, thereby making the case a relief matter. As you know, under present conditions in Europe rescue and relief activities are so closely related that we here can only give general instructions to our representative in Geneva, merely adding that the money has to be disbursed with the approval of the American Embassy in Bern.

Since the total amount of \$8,400 has already been transmitted to our representative - although you authorized the disposal of only \$2,600 - we would greatly appreciate your dispatching the following cable about this matter:

"To: Gerhard Riegner, 37 Quai Wilson, Geneva
From: Kurt Grossman

Try rescue Annetta Oswald Hochberg, Theresienstadt for which we remitted \$1000; Blume Gross-Liebermann and daughter Ruth and Lothar James Skop both Bergenbelsen for which \$800 remitted for each.

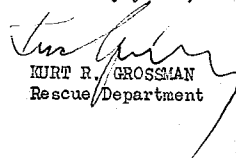
Please be good enough to add to this cable that the balance of \$5,800 is to be distributed by our Geneva office as soon as they will be permitted to use these funds under another license for which we are making application as per attached copy.

General William O'Dwyer

- 2 -

I am sorry that because of our endeavors to help the persecuted Jews, this inconvenience has arisen. I am sure, however, that we can count upon your cooperation and that no damage will be done to the cause we have to serve.

Sincerely yours,


KURT R. GROSSMAN
Rescue Department

KRG:dm
Enc.

000081

March 26, 1945

United States Treasury Dept.
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Mr. Parke

Gentlemen:

We herewith apply for a license permitting us to remit
U.S. \$5,800
at the countervalue in Swiss francs
if possible at the official rate of 23.33
to our Geneva office,

Le Comité Pour L'Assistance à La Population
Juive Frappée Par La Guerre (Committee for the
Relief of the War Stricken Jewish Population)
37 Quai Wilson, Geneva, Switzerland,
to be used in favor of the following persons:

- a) Hungarian Jews, refugees from Hungary having arrived
in Switzerland \$3,000.-
- b) Italian Jews, refugees from Italy having arrived in
Switzerland 450.-
- c) Mr. Nissou Kahan, a Hungarian Jewish refugee, now
working in the above-mentioned office in Geneva . . . 100.-
- d) Miss Lisa Levy, a German refugee, having arrived in
Switzerland four years ago and related to Mr. Gerhard
Riegner the director of our Geneva office 250.-
- e) Comité International des Intellectuels Réfugiés, for
refugee scholars 2,000.-

The sources of these funds are the following:

- ad a) Misc. Hungarian Jewish Organizations in Chicago, Detroit, New York.
- ad b) Italian Jewish Representative Committee affiliated with the New
York office of the World Jewish Congress.
- ad c) Mr. Nicolas M. Munk, 6 Poplarplains Crescent, Toronto, Canada
- ad d) Mr. Frederick Freund, 101 W. 78th St., New York City.
- ad e) Contribution from various individuals in the United States for
transmission to the Comité International des Intellectuels Réfugiés.

Enclosed you will find copy of a letter we wrote to General O'Dwyer of
the War Refugee Board about this matter.

Sincerely yours,

MP:bm
Enc.

Rabbi Irving Miller
Secretary General

000082

CABLE TO AMERICAN LEGATION, BERN, FOR MCCLELLAND, FROM THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Please deliver the following message to Gerhard Riegner, 37 Quai Wilson,
Geneva from Kurt Grossman of World Jewish Congress:

QUOTE: TRANSMITTED YOU UNDER LICENSE #NY679984 \$8,500 TO BE
USED AS FOLLOWS: \$2,000 FOR COMITE INTERNATIONAL POUR LES
INTELLECTUELS REFUGIES, GENEVA; \$100 MR. NISSON KAHN ON BEHALF
OF MUNK; \$250 LISA LEVY, GENEVA ON BEHALF FRED FREUND; \$3,000
RELIEF OF HUNGARIAN JEWS; \$450 FOR ITALIAN JEWS ON BEHALF ITALIAN
JRC; FOR RESCUE PURPOSES: \$1,000 ANNETTA OSWALD HOCHBERG,
THERESIENSTADT; \$800 BLUME GROSS-LIEBERMANN AND DAUGHTER RUTH
BERGENBELSEN; \$800 LOTHAR JAMES SKOP BERGENBELSEN. UNQUOTE

RRH: 3/19/45

000083

MAR 21 1945

Dear Mr. Grossman:

Reference is made to your letter of March 16, 1945, requesting the assistance of the War Refugee Board in transmitting a message to Gerhard Riegner in Geneva.

Inasmuch as license No. NY 679984 only authorizes remittances for operations permitted by license No. W-2115, your proposed use of some part of the \$8,500 under NY 679984 is in violation of this license. Specifically, the following items are not permitted by the aforementioned license: \$2,000 for Comité International pour les Intellectuels Réfugiés, Geneva; \$100 Mr. Nissan Kahan on behalf of Munk; \$250 Lisa Levy, Geneva on behalf Fred. Freund; \$3,000 relief of Hungarian Jews; \$450 for Italian Jews on behalf Italian JRC.

In view of the foregoing, it is suggested that you obtain a special license from the Treasury Department for the remittances which are not permitted under license No. NY 679984. The War Refugee Board will be pleased to transmit the following message for you which will be in accordance with the terms of the license:

"Transmitted you \$8500 for disbursement under license No. W-2115. Try to rescue Annetta Oswald Hochberg, Theresienstadt, Blume Gross-Liebermann and daughter Ruth, Bergenbelsen and Lothar James Skop, Bergenbelsen."

Please advise the Board whether you desire to have the above-quoted message transmitted for you.

Very truly yours,

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

Mr. Kurt R. Grossman,
Rescue Department,
World Jewish Congress,
1834 Broadway,
New York 23, N. Y.

FH:hd 3/21/45

JH

R. B. F. C.

000084

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL • CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

1834 BROADWAY

NEW YORK, 23, N. Y.

LONDON
55 New Cavendish St., W 1

GENEVA
37 Quai Wilson

BUENOS AIRES
Corrientes 1979

JERUSALEM
Vaad Leumi P. O. B. 471

MONTREAL
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY
Sonora 174

In reply refer to:
No. 359

March 16, 1945

CABLES: CONGRESS, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 6-1900

Brig. Gen. William O'Dwyer, Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear General O'Dwyer:

Please be good enough to have the following message transmitted through the facilities of the Department of State:


"To: Gerhard Riegner, 37 Quai Wilson, Geneva
From: Kurt Grossman

Transmitted you under license #NY 679984 \$8,500 to be used as follows: \$2,000 for Comité International pour les Intellectuels Réfugiés, Geneva; \$100 Mr. Nissou Kahan on behalf of Munk; \$250 Lisa Levy, Geneva on behalf of Fred. Freund; \$3,000 relief of Hungarian Jews; \$450 for Italian Jews on behalf Italian JRC; For rescue purposes: \$1,000 Annetta Oswald Hochberg, Theresienstadt; \$800 Blume Gross-Liebermann and daughter Ruth Bergenselsen; \$800 Lothar James Skop Bergenselsen."

not
permitted
to the
Clausen

Thank you for giving this matter your kind attention.

Sincerely yours,


KURT R. GROSSMAN
Rescue Department

KRG:bm

Transmitted you \$8500 for disbursement under license No. W-3115. Try to rescue Annetta Oswald Hochberg, Theresienstadt, Blume Gross-Liebermann and daughter Ruth Bergenselsen and Lothar James Skop Bergenselsen.

000085

MEMORANDUM

For attachment to:

FFC Letter No:

Date: March 9, 1945

TO: Liaison Officer, Foreign Funds Control

FROM: War Refugee Board

Subject: World Jewish Congress - W-2115

There is transmitted herewith ^{/application No. NY 679984} ~~a copy of a letter dated~~
from the World Jewish Congress dealing with the
remittance of \$25,000 to Mr. Gerhart Riegner, Geneva, Switzerland, to
finance operations contemplated in License No. W-2115, as amended.

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:
Special facilities with respect to Swiss francs.

F. Hodel
Cleared by telephone with
F. Hodel
For the War Refugee Board

Action:

Basic license No. W- 2115 ~~issued~~ amended on March 12, 1945, to expire Sept. 30/45
Remittance license No. NY 679984 issued March 12, 1945
Other:

Date: March 13, 1945

[Signature]
Liaison Officer
Foreign Funds Control

000086

In reply please
refer to: 82013

Dear Sirs:

Reference is made to application No. NY 679984 filed by the Sterling National Bank and Trust Company of New York on your behalf for a license to remit \$25,000 to Mr. Gerhart Riegner, Geneva, Switzerland, for disbursement in accordance with the provisions of license No. W-2115, as amended.

Since license No. W-2115, as amended, has expired, such license is hereby reinstated and amended to expire September 30, 1945, in order to permit your representative in Switzerland to continue the operations contemplated therein.

The application under reference has been approved by this Department and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York has been authorized to issue license No. NY 679984 to the Sterling National Bank and Trust Company of New York permitting it to remit on your behalf the sum of \$25,000 to Mr. Gerhart Riegner, Geneva, Switzerland, through the facilities available to this Government with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

Sincerely yours,

L. C. Arons
Acting Director

World Jewish Congress,
390 West 42nd Street,
New York 18, New York.

SOchurch:emj 3-9945

000087

MAR 12 1945

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF NEW YORK
FOREIGN FUNDS CONTROL DEPARTMENT

NY 679984 Approved, notwithstanding General Ruling No. 11, provided funds are disbursed in accordance with license No. W-2115, as amended. The licensee 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. License to expire September 30, 1945. Please send signed copy of license to Mr. Rushmore, Federal Reserve Bank of New York, and advise him this remittance is for humanitarian purposes

L.C.A.

L. C. AARONS
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