

Programs with Respect to Relief and  
Political Rehabilitation Excavation To and  
from Switzerland

Switzerland - New Program

Folds 1

This section's original order is reverse format  
and kept intact

(3)

000089

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATES

OUTGOING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. (b)(7)

March 21, 1946

midnight

MAR 22 12 4 36

*Just Ref Rd,  
O. Slager*

AMEMBASSY

LONDON

2182 x  
FOR WINANT AND MANN. WRB 88.

**CONTROL COPY**

Katzki departing for London tomorrow by plane.

Your urgent cooperation requested to facilitate onward  
passage to Paris. If priority is arranged please notify  
ATC both in London and Prestwick.

GREW  
(Acting)  
(Grew)

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

WRB:MMV:KG  
3/21/46

BC

FA

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

000090

CABLE TO WINANT AND MANN, LONDON, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Katzki departing for London tomorrow by plane. Your urgent cooperation requested to facilitate onward passage to Paris. If priority is arranged have AFO both London and Prestwick notified.

This is WRB London Cable No. 58

4:00 p.m.  
March 21, 1945

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

*JH*  
FH:hd 3.21/45

000091

24

000092

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

OUTGOING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement.

March 21, 1945  
Midnight

*War Ref Board  
O. Sawyer*

US URGENT

AMEMBASSY

LONDON  
2185

**CONTROL COPY**

The following for Mann from Secretary of the Treasury and  
C'Dwyer, War Refugee Board is WRB 59.

Reference Department's no. 1935 of March 13 (WRB no. 58).

You are hereby directed to proceed to Paris at once (repeat  
at once) for consultation with G-4 to work out details on  
acquisition of 50 tons of trucking capacity with 8,000 gallons  
of gasoline per week and necessary lubricating oil for delivery

to Intercross in Switzerland and earmarked for WRB operations.  
War Department has advised G-4 Paris to expect you.

Because of extreme urgency, Katzki is proceeding to Paris  
from Washington to work on same problem.

Transportation equipment must be obtained immediately for  
most urgent War Refugee Board program to get under way. Important  
that this job be done in big way. The more trucks going in with  
food and the more people evacuated the closer WRB comes to at-  
taining its objective. The big job is the procurement of trans-  
portation equipment and supplies and getting them moving. Paris  
arrangements for obtaining such equipment are crucial.

At conclusion

REGRADED  
UNCLASSIFIED SEP 19 1972

000093

-2-#2185, March 21, midnight, to London.

At conclusion of arrangements in Paris, you are to proceed to Bern, as Special Representative of the Board, to use every effort to get additional trucks from private or Swiss Government sources for development of WRB program.

GREW  
(Acting)  
(GRG)

WRB:MEV:KG  
3/21/48

BC

WE

000094

SECRET BY MESSAGE TO REGR.

**US URGENT**

**CABLE TO WINANT, LONDON, FOR MANN FROM SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY AND GENERAL O'DWYER, WAR REFUGEE BOARD**

Reference Department's No. 1935 of March 13 (WRB No. 58).

You are hereby directed to proceed to Paris at once (repeat at once) for consultation with G-4 to work out details on acquisition of 50 tons of trucking capacity with 2,000 gallons of gasoline per week and necessary lubricating oil for delivery to Interross in Switzerland and earmarked for WRB operations. War Department has advised G-4 Paris to expect you.

Because of extreme urgency, Katzki is proceeding to Paris from Washington to work on same problem.

Transportation equipment must be obtained immediately for most urgent War Refugee Board program to get under way. Important that this job be done in big way. The more trucks going in with food and the more people evacuated the closer WRB comes to attaining its objective. The big job is the procurement of transportation equipment and supplies and getting them moving. Paris arrangements for obtaining such equipment are crucial.

At conclusion of arrangements in Paris, you are to proceed to Bern, as Special Representative of the Board, to use every effort to get additional trucks from private or Swiss Government sources for development of WRB program.

THIS IS WRB LONDON CABLE NO. 59

3:40 p.m.  
March 21, 1945

*WJA* *Wesley* *H-3*  
FILED 3/21/45

000095



000096

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

PAH-1447  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. (██████ W)

Bern *War Ref 132*  
Dated March 21, 1945 *(019)*  
Rec'd 10:40 a.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington:

1687, March 21, 11 a.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
**CONTROL COPY**  
DC 1  
LIAISON OFFICE

Glad to say McClelland is about recovered from  
influenza (Your 1121, March 19 WRB 465). He has not  
been in Paris.

Answering your questions:

One. Trucks for delivery WRB food parcels in  
enemy territory have not yet been acquired. However,  
negotiations by CICR still proceeding for twelve YMCA  
trucks in Germany not yet located also efforts  
continuing to obtain trucks here.

Two. I understand that Germans have agreed in  
principle to permit detainees to evacuate to Switzerland  
but as yet details are not clear as to what people are  
envisaged and from what places they may be evacuated.

Three. Am informed that SHAEF has no objection  
to use of returning relief trucks for evacuation of  
detainees. CICR is endeavoring to make necessary  
arrangements. For details regarding convoys, see

Geneva's

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

000097

-2- #1687, March 21, 11 a.m., from Bern.

Geneva's telegram No. 104 of March 16 transmitting  
message for Amcross from James.

HARRISON

JMB

000098

22

000099

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

OUTGOING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
approval. ( )

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES

March 19, 1945  
1945 MAR 20 PM 1 49

*Wm. R. F. Tolson*  
*O. Senger*

US URGENT

DC/L  
LIAISON

AMLEGATION

BERN  
1121  
FOR HARRISON

**CONTROL COPY**

As no word has been received from McClelland since  
March 9 it is assumed that he has gone to Paris.

In order to enable the Board to be prepared for the  
situation which may develop in Switzerland, it is requested  
that you reply at once to the following questions:

- (1) Have any trucks been acquired for delivery of War  
Refugee Board food parcels in enemy territory?
- (2) What are the prospects of evacuating detainees  
from enemy territory to Switzerland?
- (3) Will Intercross use returning POW relief trucks  
for evacuation of detainees to Switzerland?

The above is WRB 485.

For security reasons the  
text of this message must  
be closely guarded.  
ACHESON  
(Acting)  
(HEW)

WRB:MMV:KQ  
3/19/45

WE

SWP

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

*Proposed copy not  
retained in files  
M.W.*

*157*

000100



000101

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

OUTGOING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

PER [redacted] March 16 1945  
received only by special arrangement. [redacted] DIVISION OF 10 p.m.  
CENTRAL SERVICES

*Wm. P. [redacted]*  
*O. Sluysen*

1945 MAR 19 PM 2 43

DC/L  
LIAISON

CONTROL COPY

AMEMBASSY

BERN  
1090

The following for McClelland from O'Dwyer is WRB 455.

Reference Department's No. 998 of March 9, 1945. I have been advised that G- in Paris is expecting you for consultation and I hope it will be possible for you to go at once.

Please advise soonest concerning any transportation equipment which you are able to obtain for War Refugee Board operations.

STETTINIUS  
(GIW)

STETTINIUS

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

WHD:NAV:RG  
3/16/45

WE

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

000102

CABLE TO MCCLELLAND, BERN, FROM WILLIAM O'DWYER, WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Reference Department's No. 998 of March 9, 1945. I have been advised that G-4 in Paris is expecting you for consultation and I hope it will be possible for you to go at once.

Please advise soonest concerning any transportation equipment which you are able to obtain for War Refugee Board operations.

THIS IS WRR BERN CABLE NO. 455

3:30 p.m.  
March 15, 1945

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

*2/*  
FH:nd 3/15/45 *has request of Gen O Dwyer -*

000103

20

000104

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement.

OUTGOING March 1945

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

TELEGRAM

CENTRAL SERVICES

1945 MAR 19 PM 2 44

*Amr Red Ed.  
O Sawyer*

AMLEGATION

DC/L  
LIAISON

BEMH  
1092

**CONTROL COPY**

The following for McClelland is WRB 456.

Reference your No. 1481 of March 8, 1945.

Please advise at once whether it would be possible  
for trucks available to Intercross for delivery of POW  
relief to be used on return trips to Switzerland for  
evacuation of physically unfit detainees from Germany.

STETTINERS  
(GHW)

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

WRB:NAV:KG  
3/16/45

WE

BWP

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

000105

CABLE TO MCCLELLAND, BERN, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Reference your No. 1481 of March 8, 1945.

Please advise at once whether it would be possible for trucks available to Intercross for delivery of POW relief to be used on return trips to Switzerland for evacuation of physically unfit detainees from Germany.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 456

3:30 p.m.  
March 15, 1945

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Akzin, Cohn, DuBois, Gaston, H<sub>0</sub>del,  
Hutchison, McCormack, O'Dwyer, Files.

JH. O'D.  
FH:hd 3/15/45

000106



19

000107

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

ASB-684

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

PLAIN

Geneva

Dated March 16, 1945

Rec'd 11:30 a.m.

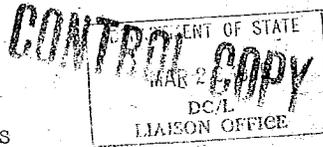
DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

Secretary of State,

Washington

104 Sixteenth

FOR ACROSS FROM JAMES



"780 preliminary reports first lorry convoys and first blocked train indicate operation completely successful. All lorries northern convoy reached destination without incident. 1 lorry full medicines delivered Stalag 3A. 4 lorries are remaining Lubeck area to effect distribution from Lubeck while two lorries returned from that are bringing empty jerrycans. On southern convoy one lorry broke down enroute and its supplies were left at Stalag 7 B. All other lorries proceeded to region Eger Carlsbad Prag Pilsen where distribution was made to estimated 18000 AEPOWS and BRITPOWS also some Belgian and French on march. Blocked train left Buchs March 6 arrived Moosburg March 8, 6 AM, began unloading immediately left Moosburg March 10 3:45 AM, returned Buchs March 11 9:30 AM. While at Moosburg.

000108

-2- #104 Sixteenth, from Geneva.

Moosburg trains placed under double guard German sentries and allied NCO unloading operations proceeded three shifts French, British AMPOWS. Delegate reports AMPOWS showed little willingness work and pilfered considerably so that their use had to be discontinued. At present practically no storage space remaining Moosburg as barracks not occupied by POWS have been taken over for German troops on march and bombed out German civilians. Eight lorries remained Moosburg to effect distribution from reserves carried by blocked train.

Second blocked train fifty cars was supposed return Moosburg this week esut difficulties have arisen with German authorities concerning reserves at that camp. Train is loaded similarly to first and now at Buchs awaiting departure which depends on negotiations being conducted in Germany this weekend by Rigg. If Moosburg unavailable Intercross hopes secure authorization establish reserve depot central southern Germany either in available local warehouse space or by forwarding from Switzerland transportable wooden barracks. Two barracks capacity 200 tons each would leave Switzerland within three days

000109

-3- #104 Sixteenth, from Geneva.

days but estimated 10 additional required which will take four to six weeks to forward and erect.

Second convoy lorries going forward in four columns, twelve lorries each departing March 17, 18, 19 BWP. Experience first column has shown that each convoy should consist small groups as moving columns of prisoners are generally found on secondary roads. Intercross-delegate preceding first column by one day in order to ascertain movement prisoners who are at times difficult to locate. Each Amcross lorry carrying approximately six tons food, medical supplies, soap, and boot repair material while Cancross lorries carrying approximately three tons similar articles. Experience first convoy shows inadvisable utilize trailers because of heavy load in lorry as well as hindering manoeuvrability which highly necessary owing state of roads. Second blocked train will carry one tank car gasoline if storage space available at destination. Excluding blocked train and lorries during February 430 freight cars of supplies went forward to camps from Switzerland plus 164 freight cars also lorries totalling 2273 tons from Lubeck plus 5 freight cars totalling 78 tons from Goteborg. March 1st to March 12th,

000110

-4- #104 Sixteenth, from Geneva.

12th, 44 freight cars forwarded from Switzerland to camps plus until March 10th, 74 freight cars totalling 1208 tons plus 7 tons by lorry from Lubeck. As at March 10 stock Lubeck 4480 tons Goteborg 21600 tons not including saivo. Intercross received yesterday following telegram from Marti concerning supplies northern area lorries will supply all camps Wehrkreises II, III, IV, X, VI, XI from Lubeck. Can we execute equal distribution parcels to all nationalities except Italians, Russians. Pool is ideal. Repeated Dunning".

SQUIRE

RLO

000111



MAR 15 1945

Dear Mr. Feller:

I wish at this time to express to UNRRA the appreciation of the War Refugee Board for agreeing, as you stated to me on the telephone yesterday, to make food supplies available, at the request of the War Refugee Board, to the International Red Cross for the maintenance in Switzerland of refugees evacuated from Germany and who are in transit to UNRRA-controlled camps.

A representative of the War Refugee Board is about to leave for Switzerland where he will discuss this matter with the Board's representative in Switzerland, Roswell D. McClelland. The Board will advise UNRRA as to the types and quantities of food needed after detailed advice has been received from Switzerland.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) William O'Dwyer

William O'Dwyer  
Executive Director

Mr. A. H. Feller,  
General Counsel,  
United Nations Relief and  
Rehabilitation Administration,  
Washington, D. C.

*JH*  
FH:hd 3/15/45

000113

17

000114

March 15, 1945

Secretary Morgenthau

Miss Hodel

There is attached for your information a copy of the reply which the War Department has received to the cable Mr. McCloy sent on March 8 to General Eisenhower.

FH:hd 3/15/45

*Initial copy and  
received in file*

000115

**SECRET**

P A R A P H R A S E

I N C O M I N G

WAR DEPARTMENT MESSAGE

FROM: Headquarters, Communications Zone, European Theater of  
Operations, U S Army, Paris, France

TO: War Department  
Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces, Main,  
Versailles, France

NUMBER: EX 19500  
DATE: 11 March 1945

This is EX 19500 from HQS COMZONE APO 887 signed Eisenhower  
action to AGWAR information to SHAEF Main.

Subject is provision of food parcels for inmates of con-  
centration camps in Germany through War Refugee Board operations.

Your WAR 49934 of 8 March 1945 is referred to. Consulta-  
tion with McClelland will be made and information as to what  
facilities can be made available will be forwarded.

ACTION: OAS/W

INFORMATION: ASF, OPD, G-2 (War Refugee Bd), OUS/W, C of S

CM-IN-12549 (12 Mar 46)

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of JCS

letter, 7-5-72

By RHP DEC 6 1972

~~DECLASSIFIED~~

000116

16

000117

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

OUTGOING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

MARCH 13, 1945

Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement. (U)

11 P.M.  
1945 MAR 14 PM 45

*Amor P. Red,  
Gen. O. Dwyer*

AMBASSY

CC/L  
LIAISON

LONDON  
1935

**CONTROL COPY**

The cable below for Bonn is WRD 58.

Reference your 2402 of March 8, 1945.

For your information following are texts of two recent cables

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

sent to McClelland:

1. Cable No. 819 of February 23:

SUCOM The cable below to Harrison and McClelland from Department and War Refugee Board is WRD 416.

The following is text of memorandum of Executive Director of War Refugee Board which was unanimously approved at Board meeting February 20th:

MEMORANDUM to: Secretary Stettinius  
Secretary Morgenthau  
Secretary Stimson

Our best information indicates that, while the enemy has abandoned wholesale extermination of detainees, large numbers of the physically unfit are now in imminent danger of death due to starvation, exposure and deliberate neglect. The actual numbers are unknown and are believed to be changing daily.

Food, medicines and clothing must be distributed to such detainees at once if their lives are to be saved. They should

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

000118

-2- 1935, March 13, 11 p.m. to London

be removed, if possible, to safety in Switzerland without unnecessary delay.

The International Red Cross is our only means of direct contact with the camps. Operations can best be conducted from Switzerland.

The War Refugee Board is requested to authorize its representative to obtain the necessary cooperation of the International Red Cross and the Swiss Government.

The War Refugee Board is further requested to approve that the necessary food, medicines and transportation equipment be made available to the International Red Cross by the Swiss Government against our promise of repayment or replenishment after the war. It is understood that private funds are available for the necessary financing.

(Signed) William C. Dwyer  
Executive Director

APPROVED: (Signed) Joseph C. Grew  
Acting Secretary of State

(Signed) H. Morgenthau, Jr.,  
Secretary of the Treasury

(Signed) Henry L. Stimson  
Secretary of War END INTERJUCE.

You will note that the program approved envisages (1) furnishing food and other relief through the International Red Cross to  
physically

000119

-5- 1935, March 13, 11 p.m. to London

physically unfit unassimilated detainees who are within enemy-controlled territory, and (2) their removal by the International Red Cross to safety in Switzerland as soon as possible.

The Executive Director of the Board plans to go to Switzerland in the near future in connection with the foregoing program. In the meantime, you are requested to do the following immediately:

1. Explore the availability in Switzerland of food and <sup>other</sup> relief supplies as well as transportation equipment. Please advise the Board and Department at once whether relief trucks are permitted to move from Switzerland to German-controlled areas and return to Switzerland for reloading of supplies;
2. Approach Intercross with a view to obtaining their consent to deliver the relief supplies in enemy territory and to organize and effectuate the removal of detainees to Switzerland;
3. If Currie mission concurs please approach the Swiss Government for the purpose of obtaining its consent (a) to make available to Intercross now the necessary supplies and equipment for the foregoing relief and evacuation program and (b) to admit all detainees who reach Swiss borders and house and maintain them under guard until we are able to arrange to arrange

000120

-4- 1955, March 13, 11:00 a.m. to London

to arrange for their evacuation to Allied territory.  
You may assure the Swiss that this Government will arrange  
for the replenishment from the outside of all supplies  
made available by the Swiss for this purpose and compensa-  
tion for use of equipment.

Please report all developments to Department and Board. U.S. NOTE

2. Cable No. 998 of March 9, 1945:

NOTE Reference your No. 1217 of February 24, and  
No. 1345 of March 2, 1945, and Department's 818 of February 25,  
1945.

1. The Board regards as most urgent that all possible  
steps be taken at once for the delivery of War Refugee Board  
food parcels to intended beneficiaries in enemy territory.  
Accordingly, you are hereby authorized to procure the neces-  
sary transportation, including trucking facilities, gasoline,  
tires, oil, etc., from any source to be made available to the  
International Red Cross for (a) the delivery of War Refugee  
Board food packages and (b) for the evacuation of physically  
unfit detainees from enemy territory to Switzerland. The  
Board urges haste in this program.

2. The War Department today has cabled General Eisenhower  
recommending the release of 50 tons of air trucking capacity

with

000121

-5- 1935, March 13, 11 p.m. to London

with 1500 to 2000 gallons of gasoline per week and necessary lubricating oil for delivery to the International Red Cross in Switzerland earmarked for War Refugee Board operations. C-4 at Paris has been instructed by the War Department to expect your arrival in Paris and you are hereby directed to proceed to Paris at once to work out necessary details.

3. You should, of course, continue to make every effort to obtain transportation equipment from other sources including Swiss Government and private sources in Switzerland, since ultimate transportation needs may require more than 50 tons of trucking capacity.

For your information, the Swiss Minister in Washington has advised me that he has recommended to his government that adequate trucking facilities be released by the Swiss for this urgent War Refugee Board work.

Use your best judgment in handling complications which may arise. Please keep Board advised of all developments.

UNQUOTE

WFB:REV:AG  
3/13/46

UC

STETTINIUS  
(GLW)  
WB

000122

CABLE TO WINANT, LONDON, FOR MANN FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Reference your 2402 of March 8, 1945.

For your information following are texts of two recent cables sent to McClelland:

1. Cable No. 819 of February 23:

"The cable below to Harrison and McClelland from Department and War Refugee Board is WRB 416.

"The following is text of memorandum of Executive Director of War Refugee Board which was unanimously approved at Board meeting February 20th:

Memorandum to: Secretary Stettinius  
Secretary Morgenthau  
Secretary Stimson

Our best information indicates that, while the enemy has abandoned wholesale extermination of detainees, large numbers of the physically unfit are now in imminent danger of death due to starvation, exposure and deliberate neglect. The actual numbers are unknown and are believed to be changing daily.

Food, medicines and clothing must be distributed to such detainees at once if their lives are to be saved. They should be removed, if possible, to safety in Switzerland without unnecessary delay.

The International Red Cross is our only means of direct contact with the camps. Operations can best be conducted from Switzerland.

The War Refugee Board is requested to authorize its representative to obtain the necessary cooperation of the International Red Cross and the Swiss Government.

The War Refugee Board is further requested to approve that the necessary food, medicines and transportation equipment be made available to the International Red Cross by the Swiss Government against our promise of repayment or replenishment after the

000123

war. It is understood that private funds are available for the necessary financing.

(Signed) William O'Dwyer  
Executive Director

APPROVED: (Signed) Joseph C. Grew  
Acting Secretary of State

(Signed) H. Morgenthau, Jr.,  
Secretary of the Treasury

(Signed) Henry L. Stimson  
Secretary of War

"You will note that the program approved envisages (1) furnishing food and other relief through the International Red Cross to physically unfit unassimilated detainees who are within enemy-controlled territory, and (2) their removal by the International Red Cross to safety in Switzerland as soon as possible.

"The Executive Director of the Board plans to go to Switzerland in the near future in connection with the foregoing program. In the meantime, you are requested to do the following immediately:

1. Explore the availability in Switzerland of food and other relief supplies as well as transportation equipment. Please advise the Board and Department at once whether relief trucks are permitted to move from Switzerland to German-controlled areas and return to Switzerland for reloading of supplies;
2. Approach Intercross with a view to obtaining their consent to deliver the relief supplies in enemy territory and to organize and effectuate the removal of detainees to Switzerland;
3. If Currie mission concurs please approach the Swiss Government for the purpose of obtaining its consent (a) to make available to Intercross now the necessary supplies and equipment for the foregoing relief and evacuation program and (b) to admit all detainees who reach Swiss borders and house and maintain them under guard until we are able to arrange for their evacuation to Allied territory. You may assure the Swiss that this Government will arrange for the replenishment from the outside of all supplies made available by the Swiss for this purpose and compensation for use of equipment.

"Please report all developments to Department and Board."

000124

2. Cable No. 998 of March 9, 1945:

"Reference your No. 1217 of February 24, and No. 1345 of March 2, 1945, and Department's 819 of February 23, 1945.

"1. The Board regards as most urgent that all possible steps be taken at once for the delivery of War Refugee Board food parcels to intended beneficiaries in enemy territory. Accordingly, you are hereby authorized to procure the necessary transportation, including trucking facilities, gasoline, tires, oil, etc., from any source to be made available to the International Red Cross for (a) the delivery of War Refugee Board food packages and (b) for the evacuation of physically unfit detainees from enemy territory to Switzerland. The Board urges haste in this program.

"2. The War Department today has cabled General Eisenhower recommending the release of 50 tons of trucking capacity with 1500 to 2000 gallons of gasoline per week and necessary lubricating oil for delivery to the International Red Cross in Switzerland earmarked for War Refugee Board operations. G-4 at Paris has been instructed by the War Department to expect your arrival in Paris and you are hereby directed to proceed to Paris at once to work out necessary details.

"3. You should, of course, continue to make every effort to obtain transportation equipment from other sources including Swiss Government and private sources in Switzerland, since ultimate transportation needs may require more than 50 tons of trucking capacity.

"For your information, the Swiss Minister in Washington has advised me that he has recommended to his government that adequate trucking facilities be released by the Swiss for this urgent War Refugee Board work.

"Use your best judgment in handling complications which may arise. Please keep Board advised of all developments."

THIS IS WRB LONDON CABLE NO. 58

9:45 a.m.  
March 13, 1945

Mess Chauncey (for the Secty), Akzin, Cohn, DuPois, Gaston, Hadel, Hutchison, McCormack, O'Dwyer, Files

FH:hd 3/12/45 *JW*

000125

000126

**SECRET**  
PARAPHRASE

INCOMING

WAR DEPARTMENT MESSAGE

FROM: Headquarters, Communications Zone, European Theater of Operations,  
U S Army, Paris, France

TO: War Department  
Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces, Main, Versailles,  
France

NUMBER: EX 19500  
DATE: 11 March 1945

This is EX 19500 from HQS COMZONE APO 887 signed Eisenhower action to  
AGWAR information to SHAEP Main.

Subject is provision of food parcels for inmates of concentration camps  
in Germany through War Refugee Board operations.

Your WAR 49934 of 8 March 1945 is referred to. Consultation with  
McClellan will be made and information as to what facilities can be made available  
will be forwarded.

From: [illegible]  
Date: [illegible]  
WAR [illegible] (12 Mar 45)

Date- 9-30-65

Signature- Carl S. Spear

ACTION: OAS/W

INFORMATION: ASF, OPD, G-2 (War Refugee Bd), OUS/W, C of S

CM-IN-12549 (12 Mar 45)

**SECRET**

1. 2. 21

000127

SECRET

PARAPHRASE

INGOMING

WAR DEPARTMENT MESSAGE

FROM: Headquarters, Communications Zone, European Theater of Operations,  
U S Army, Paris, France

TO: War Department  
Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces, Main, Versailles,  
France

NUMBER: EX 19500  
DATE: 11 March 1945

This is EX 19500 from HQS COMZONE APO 887 signed Eisenhower action to  
AGWAR information to SHAEF Main.

Subject is provision of food parcels for inmates of concentration camps  
in Germany through War Refugee Board operations.

Your WAR 49934 of 8 March 1945 is referred to. Consultation with  
McClellan will be made and information as to what facilities can be made available  
will be forwarded.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

DECLASSIFIED

EX-100 DIR. 5200.9 (9/27/58)

Date- 9-30-65

Signature- Carl D. Spicer

ACTION: OAS/W

INFORMATION: ASF, OPD, G-2 (War Refugee Bd), OUS/W, C of S

CM-IN-12549 (12 Mar 45)

SECRET

000128

RECEIVED  
MAR 14 1945  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF WAR

RETURN THIS RECEIPT IMMEDIATELY TO:		POSTAL
Chief, Domestic Liaison Section		Registry No.
Washington Liaison Branch		
Rm. 2B724, Pentagon Bldg.		
Washington 25, D. C.		
		Date: 14 March 1945
Serial No.	CM-IN-12549 (12 Mar 45) fm France	with: _____ inclosure(s)
File No. or Subject		_____ indorsement(s)
Address: War Refugee Board		Note—Sheet 2 (addressee's copy) to be retained by addressee.
Rm. 2410, Treasury Building		
Washington, D. C.		
		(DUPLICATE)
W. D. U. G. O. Form No. 398, 10 July 1943 (Rev. A. R. 330-5)		16-38804-1

U.S. DEPARTMENT  
OF WAR

**BEST AVAILABLE COPY**

000129

WAR DEPARTMENT  
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE  
WASHINGTON  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO A  
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300.

REGISTERED

1113014

War Refugee Board  
Rm. 2410, Treasury Building  
Washington, D. C.

000130



[Faint, illegible text or markings]

14

000131

March 10, 1945

Secretary Morgenthau

Miss Hodel

General O'Dwyer has asked me to advise you concerning his conference with Governor Lehman yesterday with respect to the care in Switzerland of refugees who are able to reach Switzerland from enemy territory.

The UNRRA representatives (who, in addition to Governor Lehman, included Abe Feller, General Counsel, and Fred Hoehler, Director of Displaced Persons) agreed that these refugees may be regarded as wards of UNRRA and that UNRRA could therefore assume responsibility for their care while temporarily in Switzerland.

However, because of political implications involved in an offer by UNRRA to the Swiss Government, Governor Lehman decided that the matter would have to be raised at least informally with the British and Russian members of the UNRRA Political Committee. This will be done immediately and the Board may expect to be advised within a few days. If the Political Committee agrees, UNRRA's offer will be to provide food and other relief supplies for 10,000 refugees in Switzerland by any of the following methods: (a) payment for supplies acquired in Switzerland, (b) shipment of supplies to Switzerland, or (c) a guaranty to replace supplies made available by the Swiss.

In addition to the foregoing, UNRRA has agreed to canvass at once the possibility of setting up a small reception center in France for refugees who might have to be evacuated quickly from Switzerland.

(Signed) Florence Hodel

*FH*  
FH:hd 3/10/45

000132

000133

March 9, 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

General O'Dwyer and Miss Hodel met with Mr. McCloy and Colonel Gearhart in Mr. McCloy's office on March 8th at 2 p.m. to discuss the problem of transportation facilities for the delivery of War Refugee Board food parcels.

General O'Dwyer explained the urgent need for transportation facilities and stated that, while it might be possible to obtain trucking equipment from private sources in Switzerland, it was absolutely necessary to obtain gasoline, tires and oil from other sources. He also explained that the procurement of private trucks was confronted with many problems such as adequate guarantees for replacement.

Mr. McCloy, recognizing the urgent necessity for transportation equipment, instructed Colonel Gearhart to prepare an appropriate cable from the War Department to General Eisenhower recommending that 50 tons of trucking capacity plus 1500 to 2000 gallons of gasoline per week and the necessary lubricating oil be made available from army stocks to the International Red Cross in Switzerland for War Refugee Board purposes. He advised Colonel Gearhart that the matter was approved by Mr. Patterson as well as himself. It was suggested that the War Refugee Board arrange to have McClelland proceed to Paris to discuss the details and General O'Dwyer agreed that he would authorize McClelland to do so. It was stated that McClelland should contact G-4 at Paris on this matter.

Colonel Gearhart advised Miss Hodel at 9 a.m. March 9th that the War Department cable had gone out the night before and that the cable ended with the following: "advise soonest whether feasible for you to make these facilities available."

  
F. Hodel

000134

000135

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

SG  
Distribution of Division of  
reading only CENTRAL SERVICES  
arrangement. ( )

OUTGOING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

1945 MAR 10 PM 4 28

U. S. P. M.

*Wm. R. ...*  
*O. ...*

DC/L  
LIAISON

RELATION

000

CONTROL COPY

The following for McClelland from O'Dwyer is WRB 438.  
Reference your No. 1217 of February 24, and No. 1345  
of March 2, 1945, and Department's No. 819 of February 23,  
1945.

1. The War Department regards as most urgent that all possible  
steps be taken at once for the delivery of War Refugee Board  
food parcels to intended beneficiaries in enemy territory.  
Accordingly, you are hereby authorized to procure the neces-  
sary transportation, including trucking facilities, gasoline,  
tires, oil, etc., from any source to be made available to the  
International Red Cross for (a) the delivery of War Refugee  
Board food packages and (b) for the evacuation of physically  
unfit detainees from enemy territory to Switzerland. The  
Board urges haste in this program.

2. The War Department today has cabled General  
Eisenhower recommending the release of 50 tons of trucking  
capacity with 1500 to 2000 gallons of gasoline per week and  
necessary lubricating oil for delivery to the International

Red Cross

For routing purposes the  
level of this message must  
be marked "WRB".

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

000136

-2- #996, March 9, 1945, 3 p.m. to Bern

Red Cross in Switzerland earmarked for War Refugee Board operations. G-4 at Paris has been instructed by the War Department to expect your arrival in Paris and you are hereby directed to proceed to Paris at once to work out necessary details.

3. You should, of course, continue to make every effort to obtain transportation equipment from other sources including Swiss Government and private sources in Switzerland, since ultimate transportation needs may require more than 50 tons of trucking capacity.

For your information, the Swiss Minister in Washington has advised me that he has recommended to his government that adequate trucking facilities be released by the Swiss for this urgent War Refugee Board work.

Use your best judgment in handling complications which may arise. Please keep Board advised of all developments.

GREM  
(NOTING)  
(GREM)

WV:K  
3/9/45

ME

SNP

PD

000137

CABLE TO MCCLELLAND, BERN FROM WILLIAM O'DWYER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WAR REFUGEE BOARD

A / Reference your No. 1217 of February 24, and No. 1345 of March 2, 1945, and Department's No. 819 of February 23, 1945.

1. The Board regards as most urgent that all possible steps be taken at once for the delivery of War Refugee Board food parcels to intended beneficiaries in enemy territory. Accordingly, you are hereby authorized to procure the necessary transportation, including trucking facilities, gasoline, tires, oil, etc., from any source to be made available to the International Red Cross for (a) the delivery of War Refugee Board food packages and (b) for the evacuation of physically unfit detainees from enemy territory to Switzerland. The Board urges haste in this program.

2. The War Department today has cabled General Eisenhower recommending the release of 50 tons of trucking capacity with 1500 to 2000 gallons of gasoline per week and necessary lubricating oil for delivery to the International Red Cross in Switzerland earmarked for War Refugee Board operations. G-4 at Paris has been instructed by the War Department to expect your arrival in Paris and you are hereby directed to proceed to Paris at once to work out necessary details.

3. You should, of course, continue to make every effort to obtain transportation equipment from other sources including Swiss Government and private sources in Switzerland, since ultimate transportation needs may require more than 50 tons of trucking capacity.

For your information, the Swiss Minister in Washington has advised me that he has recommended to his government that adequate trucking facilities be released by the Swiss for this urgent War Refugee Board work.

Use your best judgment in handling complications which may arise. Please keep Board advised of all developments. I.B.

This is WRB Bern 438

761. G.S.  
Cable signed by O'Dwyer  
FH:hd 3/9/45

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SECRET  
PARAPHRASE

OUTGOING

WAR DEPARTMENT MESSAGE

FROM: War Department  
TO: Headquarters, Communications Zone, European Theater of Operations,  
Paris, France  
NUMBER: WAR 49934  
DATE: 8 March 1945

From McCloy to Eisenhower.

Lack of transportation has brought to virtual standstill War Refugee Board operations which supplied food parcels to inmates of concentration camps in Germany. Subject to availability in light of requirements for operation, provision from U.S. Army stocks trucking, fuel, etc. has been authorized by Secretary of War for this purpose in view of critical condition.

A requirement of 50 tons of trucking, preferably 10 5-ton trucks, and between 1,500 and 2,000 gallons of gasoline weekly plus lubricating oils needed is estimated by War Refugee Board. It is proposed to turn this trucking over to International Red Cross for operation inside Germany by them. Switzerland would probably be effective place of transfer.

For the purpose of discussing arrangements in detail with you, Mr. Roswell McClellan, War Refugee Board representative in Bern, is being directed by War Refugee Board to proceed to Paris. Your consultation with McClellan is requested, and as soon as you know whether it is feasible for you to make these facilities available, inform us.

Library

RECORDED

U.S. WAR. 5200.9 (9/27/58)

Date 9-30-65

Signature - Carl S. Spicer

ORIGINATOR: OAS/H

INFORMATION: OPD, G-2 (War Refugee Bd), OUS/H, C of S

CM-OUT-49934 (War 45)

SECRET

3-27

000140

RETURN THIS RECEIPT IMMEDIATELY TO:

Chief, Domestic Liaison Section  
Washington Liaison Branch  
Rm. 2B724, Pentagon Bldg.  
Washington 25, D. C.

POSTAL  
Registry No.

Date 9 March 1945

Serial No.  
File No.  
or Subject

CM-OUT-49934 (Mar 45) to France

with: \_\_\_\_\_ inclosure(s)

\_\_\_\_\_ indorsement(s)

Addressee: War Refugee Board  
Washington, D. C.

NOTE—Sheet 2 (addressee's copy) to be retained by  
addressee.

(DUPLICATE)

W. D. A. G. O. Form No. 995, 16 July 1943 (See A. R. 380-5)

CLASSIFIED DOCUMENT RECEIPT

16-30341

000141

000142

*never referred.  
O. Sluizer*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED  
FROM: American Legation, Bern  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATE: March 3, 1945  
NUMBER: 1481

**CONTROL COPY**

The following message from McClelland for WRB and the Department is transmitted.

Please refer to cable from the Department dated February 23 No. 819 and cable from the Legation dated March 2 No. 1345.

It was revealed by a conversation on March 6 with Burckhardt of ICRC that Himmler has now made known his willingness to meet on March 10, 11 or 12 with Burckhardt. Therefore, accompanied by Bachmann, his personal secretary, Burckhardt will definitely leave on March 8th or 9th for Germany. These conversations will be with the SS exclusively, chiefly Kaltenbrunner and Himmler himself. Statement was made by the intermediary who extended the SS invitation that he had been directed to inform Burckhardt that Hitler himself might be present at a part of the discussions, the Fuhrer's health permitting.

The foregoing paragraph is for the strictly confidential information of WRB and the Department.

It is the plan of Burckhardt to raise the entire question of relief to all categories of Schutzhaftlinge and to prisoners of war, regardless of their religion, race or nationality.

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

Especially

000143

Especially there was brought up the release and removal of physically unfit people.

4/ On March 3 ICRC was officially informed in this connection by the Government of Germany that that Government now agreed to the exit from Germany of elderly people, women and children, of Nordic extraction or nationalities, and of French nationality, who were unsuited as laborers. It is not clear whether the Nazis include Jews among the people of French nationality. A promise was made me by Burckhardt that he will try to secure the release of Jews as well within any national group if the Germans desire to limit the evacuees to certain nationalities, for reasons which are not clear. /B

Twenty-five trucks with fuel and prisoners of war parcels left Switzerland for Germany on the 7th of March according to the plan reported in our message No. 1345. Permission for the entry of as many trucks as ICRC wishes for prisoners of war relief has now been granted by the Germans OKW. Whether this authorization includes trucks carrying relief to Schutzhaeftlinge, is not clear. On this point Burckhardt will make an effort to obtain favorable decision.

At the present time the number of trucks potentially available in Switzerland to ICRC <sup>one army truck</sup> (\*) program for POWS, not to mention Schutzhaeftlinge, and also would be insufficient if the Nazis agreed to allow the removal of any considerable number of Schutzhaeftlinge from Germany. ICRC has, in all, 50 Canadian trucks, of only three tons capacity, and 43 United States trucks of from seven to eight tons capacity.

I understand

000144

I understand that SELF has now agreed to furnish fuel, not for transport relief to unassimilated groups but only for transporting relief to prisoners of war; you might desire to take up with the War Department this matter.

There is a possibility that we may be confronted suddenly with a major technical and transport problem if the Germans agree to release a large number of Schutzhaeftlinge (who might conceivably amount to several tens of thousands) following the negotiations of Bueckhardt. Under present conditions it is most unlikely that the Swiss will be able or willing to send railway trains to Germany to get such evacuees, or that the Germans will be able or willing to transport them to the Swiss border.

At the present time I am working on the problem of transporting our 60,000 WRB parcels to unassimilated groups in Germany through the ICRC Division of Special Assistance and through private Swiss trucking concerns. If tires can be furnished from the outside, or at the very least, their replacement within a short and definite time limit can be guaranteed, there is a slight possibility of securing five to eight wood-burning trucks, an average of ten heavy duty tires and two spares per truck must be estimated.

With reference to the entry of new and larger groups of refugees ICRC was assured by von Steiger, President of Confederation that to the limit of its possibilities Switzerland, in principle, would admit such groups.

HARRISON  
(\*) Apparent omission-verification requested. (MAED)  
DC/L:LC:HEP 3/10/45  
ZCW

000145

*More Ref. Red.  
O. Slinger*

CORRECTED PAGE 2

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: March 8, 1945  
NUMBER: 1481

**CONTROL COPY**

In second line of last paragraph page 2 of the above message after the word ICRC add the following, "are very inadequate to any extraordinary relief". The final paragraph will then read:

At the present time the number of trucks potentially available in Switzerland to ICRC are very inadequate to any extraordinary relief program for POWS, not to mention Schutzhaeftlinge, and also would be insufficient if the Nazis agree to allow the removal of any considerable number of Schutzhaeftlinge from Germany. ICRC has, in all, 50 Canadian trucks, of only three tons capacity, and 48 United States trucks of from seven to eight tons capacity.

HARRISON

*LCW*  
DC/L:LCW:MEM  
3/12/45

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

000146

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000147

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

MF-1590  
Distribution of true  
reading-only by special  
arrangement. [redacted]

London *Quon Ref 31*  
Dated March 8, 1945 *Ken. O-1*  
Rec'd 11:40 p.m.

Secretary of State  
Washington

**CONTROL COPY**

2402, March 8, 7 p.m.

MAR 9 - 1945

FOR O'DWYER WRB FROM MANN.

LIAISON OFFICE

World Jewish Congress here feels some possibility

German policy of extermination may soon be changing to one of evacuation of Jews. They recognize transport difficulties of saving any large number should Germans be willing to permit exit. They point out Intercross negotiating with SHAEF for trucks to carry parcels to prisoner war camps in Germany from German Swiss border in south and Lubeck in north. Number trucks to be furnished Intercross undetermined but WJC informed agreement reached on principle. Such trucks they point out will be returning empty from prisoner war camps to German border and could be utilized to carry Jews out. WJC approaching Intercross through delegate here and have asked that Intercross be urged by board's representative in Bern to approach Germans with view to working out arrangement along lines indicated above for evacuating

refugees

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

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

000148

-2- #2402, March 8, 7 p.m., from London

refugees from Germany. If board perceives no objection  
please give appropriate instructions to McClelland.

WINANT

BB

000149

8

000150

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE March 5, 1945

TO General O'Dwyer

FROM Miss Hodel

Re: Status of Program Approved at Board Meeting on February 20, 1945.

- I. A cable was dispatch to McClelland on February 23 requesting a report as to available supplies in Switzerland and that approaches be made to the International Red Cross and the Swiss Government with a view to putting into operation the proposals approved by the Board. With respect to the approaches to be made to the Swiss Government, the cable, as dispatched by the State Department, instructed McClelland "only if the Gurrie Mission concurred." No reply has been received to date.
- II. With respect to the availability of supplies which might be used for replenishment to the Swiss, we have lined up the following:
  - (1) Food
    - a. 300,000 thousand three-kilo food packages are now being purchased by Treasury Procurement for the War Refugee Board for shipment to the International Red Cross. These packages are being paid for by an allocation from the President's Emergency Fund.
    - b. We have requested Blockade clearance for the extension of the foregoing program by an additional 300,000 food packages.
    - c. Seven million prisoner of war packages now stocked in Switzerland.
    - d. American Red Cross food stocks in Spain.
    - e. Food supplies in Portugal and the Azores.
  - (2) Medical supplies

Supplies now in Ireland to be used by the Irish Red Cross for foreign refugees in agreement with the American Red Cross.
  - (3) Trucks, tires and gasoline
    - a. Spain

Ambassador Hayes has advised that there are adequate trucks, tires and gasoline in Spain available for the transportation of supplies

000151

from Spain to Switzerland. These trucks could be made available to the Spanish Red Cross and could be used for the transportation of the stocks of the American Red Cross now in Spain which have not been used for over two years.

b. Switzerland

The Swiss Minister has indicated to General O'Dwyer that trucks, tires and gasoline are available in Switzerland for the War Refugee Board program. Replenishment of these Swiss supplies would have to be made from army stocks in Europe after the war in Europe ceases. It is assumed that it would be impossible to obtain an allocation of either the supplies or the shipping space for the replenishment from the United States prior to the cessation of hostilities.

III. Problems Relating to the Evacuation of Refugees from Switzerland to UNRRA-controlled camps.

(1) UNRRA

General O'Dwyer has advised Governor Lehman that, in addition to the groups of 1672 and 1210 whose evacuation is now being arranged for, it may be expected that large numbers of refugees who arrive in Switzerland from enemy territory may have to be evacuated to Allied territory. Governor Lehman has indicated his interest in this matter and has requested that UNRRA be advised as soon as possible so that appropriate arrangements may be made at Philippeville and other UNRRA camps. It would appear that the problem of obtaining adequate supplies and personnel to run the UNRRA camps for large numbers of refugees is solely an UNRRA matter. However, the War Refugee Board should be in a position to give all possible support to any UNRRA request on these matters.

(2) War Department

The War Department is now working out the arrangements for the transportation of the two groups of refugees from Switzerland to Philippeville. Thus far, we have received full cooperation from the War Department. However, SACMED appears to be raising stumbling blocks and will have to be watched carefully if any large-scale movement is to be arranged for.

7

000153

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

MES-1519  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. [REDACTED]

BERN

Dated March 2, 1945

Rec'd. 9:13 a.m.

*W. K. K.*

*Dawson*

MAR 5 1945

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

**CONTROL COPY**

1345, March 2, 11 a.m.

FOR DEPARTMENT AND WRB FROM MCCLELLAND

Department's 819, February 23 and Legation's 1217,  
February 24.

Following is preliminary answer to your 819.

From recent conversations with ICRC it can be definitively stated that it is not now necessary to ask Swiss Government to make food supplies for relief shipment to Germany available to ICRC.

60,000 - 2 1/2 kilo WRB parcels have just reached Geneva from Toulon. This makes 150 tons of relief parcels.

ICRC's Division of Special Assistance which specializes in relief to unassimilated groups has adequate supplies on hand for all French and Belgian "Schutzhaeftlinge" in Germany.

ICRC has at least 80,000 tons of POW relief supplies warehoused in Switzerland at present moment, an amount considerably in excess of what can actually be shipped into Germany during coming months under prevailing transport conditions unless several hundred trucks become available.

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

A few By R. H. Parks Date **SEP 19 1972**

000154

-2- #1345, March 2, 11 a.m., from Bern

A few days ago ICRA discussed exhaustively with competent Swiss authorities particularly from Swiss Army availability of motor trucks in Switzerland for ICRC shipments into Germany. These conversations revealed that total number trucks available to Swiss Army is only about 1,500, of which some 357 are already laid up for lack of suitable tires. Swiss Army has accordingly already been forced requisition private vehicle. As further example Swiss experienced greatest difficulty in equipping with tires twelve heavy duty trucks and trailer which were used some months ago to move Swiss food stuffs from Spanish border across France.

There is therefore very little prospect of Swiss being able furnish ICRC with trucks and certainly not unless tires are first supplied from outside.

For prisoners of war ICRC plan to send across Swiss border into Germany two initial convoys of ten trucks each. One convoy will go to Luebeck carrying mainly gas and oil to supply six trucks placed at disposal ICRC Berlin delegation by German authorities. These six trucks are now performing invaluable service delivering parcels to Allied POWs on roads and in assembly center that region. Second convoy will proceed to Munich area loaded with POW parcels.

It is not

000155

-3- #1345, March 2, 11 a.m., from Bern

It is not anticipated that Germans will make any difficulties for entry these two convoys which will leave on or about March 2.

I understand that if these first two convoys get off successfully SHAEF in France will agree to supply ICRA with further stocks of fuel to be brought up from Marseille in tank cars. If therefore adequate supply of fuel is available to ICRC it is assumed that truck delivery of POW parcels into Germany will be rapidly stepped up until majority of 100 Amcross and Canadian Red Cross trucks available to ICRC in Switzerland are in use. In this event Amcross Washington might find it possible to release four or five of these trucks to ICRC for carrying parcels to unassimilated groups in Germany.

Should sufficient trucks become available to move 150 tons of WRB Toulon parcels into Germany within next few weeks question of further supplies can arise. You might, therefore, also discuss with Amcross question of their releasing from unused POW stocks in Switzerland 60 to 80 thousand parcels for WRB program. At this point it is not anticipated that Germans will object to use of five kilo parcels for unassimilated persons since there is no longer any question of using German postal service.

Limited

000156

-4- #1345, March 2, 11 a.m., from Bern

Limited amounts of certain essential medicines are available for purchase in Switzerland; and larger amounts could probably be secured against guarantees of replacements.

There is no (repeat no) clothing worth mentioning obtainable in Switzerland unless it be from Amerscross or other POW supplies concerning volume of which I am not informed. Any clothing parcels shipped into Germany will therefore have to come from outside.

ICRC is in principle quite willing undertake delivery relief supplies to any category of accessible "Schutzhae-  
tlinge" provided committee is supplied with necessary transport equipment.

I have taken up question of ICRC organizing and effectuating removal of physically unfit detainees from Germany to Switzerland. I entertain, however, some doubt concerning feasibility this program. Outside of busy affair, Nazis have displayed no willingness to release civil detainees unsuited for labor in general although such an eventuality is not excluded. I have asked Burkhardt of ICRC to bear this important request in mind in course of negotiations with Himmler and other German authorities which is hoped he will be able undertake in near future. I will inform board as soon as possible concerning this point.

Regarding

000157

-5- #1345, March 2, 11 a.m., from Bern

Regarding Switzerland's acceptance of such additional groups of refugees as might be extricated by ICRC under this program this will be made subject of special conversations with Swiss authorities. It is my feeling that such discussions will have to be supported by concrete assurances of evacuation within a given time as well as granting of rapid import facilities to Switzerland for necessary supplemental food stuffs. Latter point will be discussed with Currie Mission.

HARRISON

BB

000158

000159

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: February 24, 1945  
NUMBER: 1217

The following message is from McClelland for WRB.

The nineteenth of February, I had occasion to discuss with Dr. Marti, Chief ICRC Delegate from Berlin the current situation in Germany of "Schutzhaeftlinge" and Jewish deportees.

See Legation's 455 of the twenty second of January, 744 of the second of February and 1159 of the twenty second of February.

It seems that the Nazis are evacuating concentration camp inmates and regrouping them in two general areas: Between Hamburg and Luebeck (with headquarters located at concentration camp of Neuengamme near Hamburg) and Munich, with headquarters at Dachau camp. It is reported by Marti that conditions of frightful crowding already existing in Neuengamme and Dachau where concentrates, who are almost all in very poor physical condition from prolonged undernourishment and mistreatment, after days on foot arrive in state of utter exhaustion. As a result of evacuation measures a great many have already died. A most convincing case for urgent need of transportation equipment was given by Marti, stating that invaluable aid could be rendered to at least some thousands if a few trucks were on hand. Marti foresees no difficulty as regards permission to distribute relief parcels on spot in such assembly camps, in view of general willingness of SS officials to cooperate with ICRC repeatedly demonstrated since January and of general state of confusion.

For Hamburg region, parcels could come from WRB stocks at Goteborg where some 220 odd thousand of our parcels are stocked still. For Munich area, parcels could be trucked from Switzerland over this comparatively short distance. At this time we have 60,000 WRB parcels in Toulon unloaded from CARITIS II during January against which arrangement to borrow pending arrival these parcels in Switzerland could doubtless be made with ICRC.

As regards

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

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

000160

- 2 -

As regards reception parcels, situation all Allied POWS is essentially same as that of civil detainees due to impossibility for ICRC secure adequate rail transport, although POWS are in better physical condition in general and less liable to die of starvation.

I take liberty of renewing my request that WRB either arrange place my disposal four or five trucks for ICRC or, if this is not practical, authorize me attempt secure them in Switzerland, in light of urgency of this critical situation. Before they would permit vehicles to leave Switzerland for utilization in Germany, the Swiss Army would doubtless request guarantee of replacement within reasonable time of at least tires, if not trucks themselves. From amounts granted ICRC for POW trucks, small supply of fuel and oil could be made available.

Recommend serious and prompt consideration of this request as there are only few weeks or at most months remaining in which to take effective measures. We are positive action of this nature would serve to implement activities by Swiss officials and ICRC requested in your late messages.

HARRISON

DC/L:KLG  
2-26-45

000161



8

000162

WRB  
DEPARTMENT  
LOF  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement.

OUTGOING  
TELEGRAM  
February  
Midnight

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

*Mark R. [unclear]*  
*O. Slinger*

AMLEGATION

BERN

819

The cable below to Harrison and McClelland from Department  
and War Refugee Board is WRB 416.

**CONTROL COPY**

The following is text of memorandum of Executive Director of  
War Refugee Board which was unanimously approved at Board meeting  
February 20th:

QUOTE: Memorandum to: Secretary Stettinius  
Secretary Morgenthau  
Secretary Stimson

Our best information indicates that, while the enemy  
abandoned wholesale extermination of detainees, large numbers  
of the physically unfit are now in imminent danger of death due  
to starvation, exposure and deliberate neglect. The actual numbers  
are unknown and are believed to be changing daily.

Food, medicines and clothing must be distributed to such  
detainees at once if their lives are to be saved. They should be  
removed, if possible, to safety in Switzerland without unnecessary  
delay.

The International Red Cross is our only means of direct  
contact with the camps. Operations can best be conducted from  
Switzerland.

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

000163

-2-#819, February 23, 1945, Midnight, to Bern

The War Refugee Board is requested to authorize its representative to obtain the necessary cooperation of the International Red Cross and the Swiss Government.

The War Refugee Board is further requested to approve that the necessary food, medicine and transportation equipment be made available to the International Red Cross by the Swiss Government against our promise of repayment or replenishment after the war. It is understood that private funds are available for the necessary financing.

(Signed) William C. Dwyer  
Executive Director

APPROVED: (Signed) Joseph C. Grew  
Acting Secretary of State

(Signed) H. Morgenthau, Jr.  
Secretary of the Treasury

(Signed) Henry L. Stimson  
Secretary of War. UNRUOTE

You will note that the program approved envisages (1) furnishing food and other relief through the International Red Cross to physically unfit unassimilated detainees who are within enemy-controlled territory, and (2) their removal by the International Red Cross to safety in Switzerland as soon as possible.

The Executive Director of the Board plans to go to Switzerland in the near future in connection with the foregoing program

In

000164

-3-#819, February 23, 1945, Midnight, to Bern

In the meantime, you are requested to do the following immediately:

1. Explore the availability in Switzerland of food and other relief supplies as well as transportation equipment.

Please advise the Board and Department at once whether relief trucks are permitted to move from Switzerland to German-controlled areas and return to Switzerland for reloading of supplies;

2. Approach Intercross with a view to obtaining their consent to deliver the relief supplies in enemy territory and to organize and effectuate the removal of detainees to Switzerland.

If a written offer can be obtained from the Swiss Government for the purpose of obtaining its consent (a) to make available to Intercross now the necessary supplies and equipment for the foregoing relief and evacuation program and (b) to admit all detainees who reach Swiss borders and house and maintain them under guard until we are able to arrange for their evacuation to allied territory. You may assure the Swiss that this Government will arrange for the replenishment from the outside of all supplies made available by the Swiss for this purpose and compensation for use of equipment.

Please report all developments to Department and Board.

GREW  
(Acting)  
(GLW)

WRB:MMV:KG

ME S/P

000165

CABLE TO HARRISON AND MCCLELLAND, BERN, FROM DEPARTMENT AND WAR REFUGEE BOARD

The following is text of memorandum of Executive Director of War Refugee Board which was unanimously approved at Board meeting February 20th:

Memorandum to: Secretary Stettinius  
Secretary Morgenthau  
Secretary Stimson

Our best information indicates that, while the enemy has abandoned wholesale extermination of detainees, large numbers of the physically unfit are now in imminent danger of death due to starvation, exposure and deliberate neglect. The actual numbers are unknown and are believed to be changing daily.

"Food, medicines and clothing must be distributed to such detainees at once if their lives are to be saved. They should be removed, if possible, to safety in Switzerland without unnecessary delay.

"The International Red Cross is our only means of direct contact with the camps. Operations can best be conducted from Switzerland.

"The War Refugee Board is requested to authorize its representative to obtain the necessary cooperation of the International Red Cross and of the Swiss Government.

"The War Refugee Board is further requested to approve that the necessary food, medicines and transportation equipment be made available to the International Red Cross by the Swiss Government against our promise of repayment or replenishment after the war. It is understood that private funds are available for the necessary financing.

(Signed) William O'Dwyer  
Executive Director

APPROVED: (Signed) Joseph C. Grew  
Acting Secretary of State

(Signed) H. Morgenthau, Jr.  
Secretary of the Treasury

(Signed) Henry L. Stimson  
Secretary of War."

You will note that the program approved envisages (1) furnishing food and other relief through the International Red Cross to physically unfit unassimilated detainees who are within enemy-controlled territory, and

000166

(2) their removal by the International Red Cross to safety in Switzerland as soon as possible.

The Executive Director of the Board plans to go to Switzerland in the near future in connection with the foregoing program. In the meantime, you are requested to do the following immediately:

1. Explore the availability in Switzerland of food and other relief supplies as well as transportation equipment. Please advise the Board and Department at once whether relief trucks are permitted to move from Switzerland to German-controlled areas and return to Switzerland for reloading of supplies;
2. Approach Intercross with a view to obtaining their consent to deliver the relief supplies in enemy territory and to organize and effectuate the removal of detainees to Switzerland;
3. Approach the Swiss Government for the purpose of obtaining their consent (a) to make available to Intercross now the necessary supplies and equipment for the foregoing relief and evacuation program and (b) to admit all detainees who reach her borders and house and maintain them under guard until we are able to arrange for their evacuation to Allied territory. You may assure the Swiss that this Government will arrange for the replenishment from the outside of all supplies made available by the Swiss for this purpose and compensation for use of equipment.

Please report all developments to Department and Board.

THIS IS WIRB BERN CABLE NO. 416.

10:00 a.m.  
February 22, 1945

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

*Handwritten:*  
2/21/45  
2/21/45

000167

000168

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE  
February 21, 1945

TO : The Executive Director  
FROM : Mr. McCormack  
Re : Sources of food, medicaments, and clothing.

By way of implementing your efforts to secure for ICRC adequate supplies for distribution to the unassimilated, there is pointed up herein possible sources.

I. FOOD

1. Food supplies in bulk or parcel form indigenous to Switzerland.
2. Food supplies in bulk or parcel form indigenous to other neutrals.
3. Food supplies in bulk or parcel form from either FEA or UNRRA stockpiles abroad.
4. Food supplies in bulk or parcel form from the U.S.A.  
(NOTE: Eight wholesale food companies in U.S.A. have manifested interest in the current WRB parcel program. Seven of these companies have a parcel-packing capacity of 100,000 parcels per month; the eighth company has a 300,000 parcel-packing capacity).
5. Amcross POW parcel stockpile current consigned to ICRC.  
(NOTE: Present Amcross stockpile of POW parcels in Europe is 7,000,000. The monthly distribution rate is 253,000 parcels. Therefore, it will take 27 months to exhaust this existing stockpile. In addition thereto 362,250 parcels go forward from this country each month, 150 per cent of the monthly distribution rate.)

II. MEDICAMENTS

1. Pharmaceuticals indigenous to Switzerland.
2. Pharmaceuticals indigenous to other neutrals.  
(See my memo re stockpile in Eire 2/21/45).
3. Pharmaceuticals from FEA or UNRRA stockpiles abroad.
4. Pharmaceuticals from the U.S.A.
5. Amcross POW stockpiles of medical supplies already abroad and being implemented on monthly basis. While not as large reserve as standard POW parcels, at least proportionately great.

III. CLOTHING

1. Clothing indigenous to Switzerland.
2. Clothing indigenous to other neutrals.
3. Clothing from FEA or UNRRA stockpiles.
4. Clothing (new or used) from the U.S.A.
5. Amcross POW stockpiles in limited amounts.

*JPM*

000169

000170

February 21, 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

Acting Secretary of State Grew telephoned General O'Dwyer today and advised him that Mr. Fenninger of the Swiss National Bank had informed Mr. Grew that plenty of trucks were available in Switzerland but that tires and gasoline are very short. Mr. Grew also advised that food and other supplies are very scarce in Switzerland. He pointed out, however, that the Swiss have a fleet of ships plying between the United States and Portugal which might be available for the shipment of any supplies from this country.

F. Hodel

000171

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000172

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE February 21, 1945

TO The Executive Director  
FROM Mr. McCormack  
Re: Medical Stockpile

On July 24, 1942, under Requisition G-301, handled by the Procurement Branch of the Surgeon General's Office, the American National Red Cross began the acquisition and shipment of miscellaneous medical supplies, ranging from test tubes to mobile X-ray apparatus, for consignment to the newly established Irish Red Cross Society.

The estimated value of this requisition is \$500,000, and supplies amounting to \$361,862.15 have been shipped to date as of January 31, 1945. By agreement between the participating Red Cross Societies, Irish Cross has the usufruct of these supplies only after authorization has been received from Amcross.

Irish Cross has manifested throughout this war its desire to participate in the humanitarian field of war relief, but without great success. Since there is reason to believe that such is still the case, I offer the suggestion below as part of your plan to secure Swiss supplies subject to replacement:

PLAN

Within next week or two, it is suggested that you visit Basil O'Connor with a view to the release of these medical supplies to the Swiss by way of replacing supplies made available in Switzerland for WRB purposes. I am certain that Irish Cross will not refuse to participate in this very worthy undertaking. If it is your wish, I shall be happy to arrange an appointment with Mr. O'Connor.

*J. M.*

000173



000174

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



FEB 20 1945

OFFICE OF THE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM TO: Secretary Stettinius  
Secretary Morgenthau  
Secretary Stimson

Our best information indicates that, while the enemy has abandoned wholesale extermination of detainees, large numbers of physically unfit are now in imminent danger of death due to starvation, exposure and deliberate neglect. The actual numbers are unknown and are believed to be changing daily.

Food, medicines and clothing must be distributed to such detainees at once if their lives are to be saved. They should be removed, if possible, to safety in Switzerland without unnecessary delay.

The International Red Cross is our only means of direct contact with the camps. Operations can best be conducted from Switzerland.

The War Refugee Board is requested to authorize its representative to obtain the necessary cooperation of the International Red Cross and of the Swiss Government.

The War Refugee Board is further requested to approve that the necessary food, medicines and transportation equipment be made available to the International Red Cross by the Swiss Government against our promise of repayment or replenishment after the war, ~~if this is possible, by this Government from existing stocks.~~ It is understood that private funds are available for the necessary financing.

*William O'Dwyer*  
William O'Dwyer  
Executive Director

APPROVED: *George S. Jones*  
acting Secretary of State

*Alfred M. Southwick*  
Secretary of the Treasury

*Henry L. Stimson*  
Secretary of War

000175

FEB 20 1945

MEMORANDUM TO: Secretary Stettinius  
Secretary Morgenthau  
Secretary Stimson

Our best information indicates that, while the enemy has abandoned wholesale extermination of detainees, large numbers of the physically unfit are now in imminent danger of death due to starvation, exposure and deliberate neglect. The actual numbers are unknown and are believed to be changing daily.

Food, medicines and clothing must be distributed to such detainees at once if their lives are to be saved. They should be removed, if possible, to safety in Switzerland without unnecessary delay.

The International Red Cross is our only means of direct contact with the camps. Operations can best be conducted from Switzerland.

The War Refugee Board is requested to authorize its representative to obtain the necessary cooperation of the International Red Cross and of the Swiss Government.

The War Refugee Board is further requested to approve that the necessary food, medicines and transportation equipment be made available to the International Red Cross by the Swiss Government against our promise of repayment or replenishment after the war, and, if this is impossible, by this Government from existing stocks. It is understood that private funds are available for the necessary financing.

(Signed) William O'Dwyer

William O'Dwyer  
Executive Director

APPROVED:

(S) Joseph C. Grew  
Acting Secretary of State

(S) H. Morgenthau Jr.  
Secretary of the Treasury

(S) Henry L. Stimson  
Secretary of War

W.O.D. 2/20/45

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



FEB 20 1945

OFFICE OF THE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

[Faint, mostly illegible typed text, possibly a letter or report]

*William J. ...*

Approved: *Joseph B. ...*  
acting  
*William ...*  
*Henry ...*

000177

FEB 20 1945

MEMORANDUM TO: Secretary Stettinius  
Secretary Morgenthau  
Secretary Stimson

Our best information indicates that, while the enemy has abandoned wholesale extermination of detainees, large numbers of the physically unfit are now in imminent danger of death due to starvation, exposure, and deliberate neglect. The actual numbers are unknown and are believed to be changing daily.

Food, medicines, and clothing must be distributed to such detainees at once if their lives are to be saved. They should be removed, if possible, to safety in Switzerland without unnecessary delay.

The International Red Cross is our only means of direct contact with the enemy. Operations can best be conducted from Switzerland.

The War Refugee Board is requested to authorize its representative to obtain the necessary cooperation of the International Red Cross and of the Swiss Government.

The War Refugee Board is further requested to approve that the necessary food, medicines and transportation equipment be made available to the International Red Cross by the Swiss Government against our promise of repayment or replenishment after the war, and, ~~if this is impossible, by this Government from existing stocks.~~ It is understood that private funds are available for the necessary financing.

William O'Dwyer  
Executive Director

APPROVED: /s/ Joseph C. Grew  
Acting Secretary of State

/s/ H. Morgenthau, Jr.  
Secretary of the Treasury

/s/ Henry L. Stimson  
Secretary of War

WO'D:hd 2/20/45

000178

DRAFT

①

MEMORANDUM TO: Secretary of State  
Secretary of the Treasury  
Secretary of War

Our best information indicates that, while the enemy has abandoned wholesale extermination of detainees, large numbers of the physically unfit are now in imminent danger of death due to starvation, exposure and deliberate neglect. The actual numbers are unknown ~~but~~ and are believed to be ~~increasing~~ changing daily.

Food, medicines and clothing must be distributed to such detainees at once if their lives are to be saved. They should be removed, if possible, to <sup>safe</sup> safety without unnecessary delay. The International Red Cross is our only means of direct contact with these camps. Operations can best be conducted from Switzerland.

The War Refugee Board is requested to authorize its representative to <sup>obtain</sup> seek the necessary cooperation of the International Red Cross and of the Swiss Government.

To carry out this program the approval and consent of the Swiss Government must be obtained and the necessary food, medicines and transportation must be made available to the International Red Cross.

This Government must <sup>be prepared to</sup> furnish the necessary supplies and equipment to the International Red Cross either through Switzerland against our promise to <sup>replenish</sup> replenish ~~after the war~~ in kind, <sup>or in money</sup> or from ~~available~~ stocks ~~now in Europe~~. Adequate private funds are available <sup>for this purpose</sup>.

The authority for this program should embrace

000179



Rough Draft - 2/19/45

Gentlemen:

Our best information from the field indicates that the Enemy is no longer ~~actually~~ exterminating the ~~physically unfit among the interned~~. It is reasonable to suppose, however, that large numbers of the interned, due to ~~illness~~, overwork and ~~generally bad conditions~~, slow starvation and other causes, are daily being set aside as useless to the Enemy war effort. ~~The narrowing space between the Allied lines undoubtedly has created a housing, food, and medicine shortage.~~ It is reasonable to suppose that these cast-offs will be left to die from either exposure or hunger or both. The actual number of these ~~people~~ changes with each batch exterminated and at the end of each working day, so that we are unable to state what the accurate number to be cared for is or will be or where they are to be found.

We ask the Board for authority to use the services of the Intercross to trace them and, having found them, to make it possible for the Intercross to aid them within and if possible to remove them to a place of safety. ~~This will require~~ <sup>will be required to</sup> this Government's providing the Red Cross with food, medicine, and means of transportation and arranging with the Swiss Government for their maintenance upon delivery in Switzerland. This again will call for an assurance to the Swiss Government that any outlay of food, equipment, or housing will be paid for or replaced in kind.

The important thing at this time is for this Board to agree on:

(a) ~~The necessity for immediate action to save these lives,~~ ✓

(b) Authorizing its representative to carry out in the field

<sup>make</sup> the necessary agreements with the International Red Cross and the Swiss Government, <sup>for these purposes</sup>

000181

(c) This authority should embrace all similar cases discovered within the Enemy lines by the International Red Cross not already known.

The Swiss Government will undoubtedly require performance of exercising agreements to remove two batches of people now in Switzerland. Should the Swiss Government refuse to care for new refugees of this type until after hostilities cease, all government and inter-governmental agencies must immediately provide transportation, food, and housing for them pending final disposition in Allied territory.

The question of food supply from the nature of the emergency will require an allocation from Allied stockpiles without delay. The cost -- up to 20 million Swiss franc -- of replenishing these allocations has been guaranteed by the JDC in a communication presented herewith. It is believed that additional funds will be made available by private agencies if and when necessary.

*approval requested of the*  
*Stansin*  
*Council*  
*Council*  
To carry out this program *The Swiss Govt must*  
*to the* and the necessary food *minimum & transportation*  
must be ~~for~~ made available to the IC.  
This Govt -

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE February 20, 1945

TO The Executive Director

FROM Mr. McCormack

SUBJECT: Food stockpiles

In connection with a more general memorandum on this subject made available to your office February 19, it has been informally brought to my attention by Mr. Maurice Pate, Director, Prisoners of War Relief, American National Red Cross, that his organization has on the continent a total of 7,000,000 standard prisoner of war food parcels (11 pounds each vis-a-vis WRB's 3-kilo parcels). For purposes of location, these stockpiles are maintained in the following places:

Switzerland proper (several warehouses)  
Gothenburg, Sweden  
Lubeck, Germany  
Lisbon, Portugal  
Barcelona, Spain (9,000 tons or approximately  
1,727,272 parcels)

In connection with this latter stockpile, Mr. Pate indicated that current demands for assimilated persons were being met for the most part from stockpiles other than this source. He informally indicated that if you had a plan with a view to making greater amounts of food available to the unassimilated, and at the same time had the necessary transportation to move supplies from Barcelona to Switzerland for distribution by ICRC, he thought it likely that the American National Red Cross would be receptive to the idea of making these supplies available to War Refugee Board, subject to either outright sale or replacement through import.

*PJM*

000183

MEMORANDUM

Subject: How ICRC can effectively and speedily bring food, medicaments and clothing to the unassimilated in enemy-Europe.

Problem: As obtained in April 1944, there existed and exists scarcity of food for export as opposed to scarcity of dollars. No appreciable imports these items to neutrals since April 1944 has occurred.

Currently in addition to foregoing there exists:

- (1) general breakdown German transportation system at least to degree that transport is unavailable to haul supplies for the unassimilated (POW transport responsibility Germans as required Geneva Convention 1929);
- (2) lack this transport has seriously interfered with delivery our initial and vitally small stockpile 300,000 parcels (15002 parcels sidetracked railway for approximately 3 months);
- (3) lack this transport prevents ICRC from reaching certain camps where large numbers detained and Berle-Foote distribution guarantees could be observed;
- (4) provision of transport enables wider and more satisfactory and speedier distribution plus added advantages ICRC personnel on-the-spot, safeguarding lives and furnishes available transport for escaping unassimilated.

Time is of the essence if we are to provide both opportunities of relief and rescue to these groups who have long suffered and with least amount allied comfort.

Proposed Action:

I. Transport

Trucks, tires, fuel in Switzerland (request by WRB's McClelland for ICRC in Bern 455, 1/22/45). No positive action on this request to date.

Sources:

1. Authorize immediately the securing 5 trucks (tires and fuel) in Switzerland to at least begin both movement of current but small WRB stockpile and provide limited opportunity for some physical rescue no matter how small and/or late.

000184

2. Authorize securement as many trucks and transports (tires and fuel) in Switzerland to increase both delivery and rescue opportunities.
3. Authorize sheaf to provide 5 trucks (tires and fuel) to perform after the manner of 1 above.
4. Authorize sheaf to provide 5 trucks (tires and fuel) to perform after the manner of 2 above.

Note A: Precedent already established by War Department in the release of trucks to Amcross Northern Italy for delivery of POW parcels notwithstanding Geneva Convention requiring Mussolini and Hitler governments performance upon deliveries.

Note B: Along with scarcity food opposed scarcity dollars in neutrals, review of record reveals abundance of promises opposed scarcity of performance.

## II Food

### Sources:

1. Undistributed WRB stockpile already in ICRC hands. ✓
2. Additional 300,000 now on procurement USA. ✓
3. Amcross POW stockpile now in Switzerland (7,000,000 according to recent press release O'Connor Amcross Chairman). Borrow against subsequent replacement from here. ✓
4. Amcross POW stockpiles Barcelona. ✓
5. Army stockpiles bulk for either packing or delivery in bulk to camps. ✓
6. Increased shipments parcels and/or bulk from U.S. (8 known packing performers U.S.A. with production 100,000 per month) provided ship be added ICRC fleet for exclusive WRB haul (ship possibly from neutral). ✓
7. Very remote possibility some export foods neutrals. ✓
8. Possible UNRRA and/or FEA stockpiles abroad. ✓
9. Food indigenous Switzerland and other neutrals. ✓

## III. Medicaments

### Sources:

1. Amcross Switzerland stockpile and elsewhere Europe.
2. U. S., British or United Nations army stockpiles.
3. All or part of Amcross-Irish Cross \$900,000 stockpile in Eire (Eire would welcome making gift—some reservation Amcross welcome).
4. Shipments from USA either on ICRC or WRB ship.
5. Medicaments indigenous Switzerland and neutrals.

000185

IV. Clothing

Sources:

1. Amcross reserves Switzerland and elsewhere Europe.
2. Army stockpiles.
3. Shipments from USA (blockade authorization available to WRB for shipments from here 25 tons (?) never utilized).

Note: (Applies to performance on Items II, III and IV)

All this presupposes, after Board clearance, authorizations from Joint Relief Committee on all materials extra-blockade secured from other than neutral sources. On materials extra-blockade indigenous USA and shipped from USA also requires emergency allocations FEA (Food, idem WPB, medicaments and clothing--except used), OPA (rationed items), FEA (Export License); Treasury (Customs declaration) plus performance by a government procurement agency.

V. Financing

Sources:

1. U. S. Government (Foreign War Relief Appropriation).
2. Joint U. S. & British (IGC--\$2,000,000 balance).
3. United Nations Government Pool (previously suggested by Dutch and French and currently employed Amcross POW for Allies).
4. U. S. Private Relief Agencies (except for JDC, others must clear programs and expenditures through President's War Relief Control Board and National War Fund).

VI. Evacuation from Switzerland:

Evacuation from Switzerland simply calls for an expansion of the anticipated performance of both the War Department and UNRRA with respect to the movement from Switzerland of the two groups currently residing there and on whose behalf WRB has indicated that it will so perform, i.e. the 1672 former Belsen-Bergen internees and the 1210 former Theresienstadt internees.

  
PJM:DC

2/19/45

000185

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

*Delivered*



OFFICE OF THE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FEB 15 1945

MEMORANDUM TO: Secretary Stettinius  
Secretary Morgenthau  
Secretary Stimson

I wish to call your personal attention to the following urgent and new phase of activity with which the War Refugee Board is faced today and I submit to you for your approval, as the members of the Board and in your respective capacities as Secretaries of State, Treasury and War, a plan of action which I believe is absolutely necessary if the Board is to fulfill the task for which it was created. The failure of this Government to act as recommended below would, in my opinion, amount to outright bad faith on our part in the light of the assurances heretofore given and publicized to the world (including the people under Nazi control) that this Government will do everything in its power to rescue the victims of enemy oppression in imminent danger of death and otherwise to afford such victims all possible relief and assistance. We have emphasized to the world that we want these innocent human beings to live, we have urged the neutral countries to accept all those who may reach their borders and we have stated time and again that we would arrange for the maintenance of those refugees who escaped from German-held territory and that we would find havens of temporary refuge for them.

Today we face the following situation:

1. The rapid advance on Germany by the Allied Armies from the West and the East has resulted in a concentration in the ever smaller area still held by Germany of German refugees from the Eastern and Western provinces and from Berlin, of prisoners of war, of civilian internees, of foreign slave-labor, and of Jewish and other deportees. Reserves of food, fuel, medicaments and clothing in this diminishing area are small and growing less. Housing has become extremely critical. Even concentration camps now used for Jews and other deportees may soon be needed to house German refugees. Means of communication are rapidly deteriorating. Whatever care the Germans can now give to the human mass within the

000187

RECEIVED  
MAY 19 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR THE  
SECRETARY OF WAR  
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT  
SECRETARY OF WAR

-2-

area under their control is therefore necessarily directed in the first place toward the needs of their fellow-Germans; in the second place, toward prisoners of war and civilian internees protected by international law, and, in the third place, toward foreign slave-labor drawn from the populations of neighboring countries whose friendship Germany is trying to gain at this late hour.

2. In the circumstances, no care can or will be given to the Jews under German control. With the military crisis at hand, the value of Jews as industrial manpower for long-range production is quickly vanishing, and there are no other reasons, from a German point of view, to take care of Jews.

3. Recent reports to the Board from Switzerland, Sweden and Ireland indicate that German officials in many places are stopping the mass-extermination of Jews not needed for labor. Instead, a growing attitude of indifference to the fate of the Jews is appearing and certain German officials now seem to be willing to let these Jews die, survive, or get out of Germany, as long as these courses do not place a burden on German economy.

4. This means that the surviving remnant of 300,000 to 500,000 Jews estimated to be in German-held territory is condemned to certain death from starvation and exposure unless prompt measures are taken to supply these people within enemy territory with food and other necessities or unless they are able to reach safety in Switzerland.

In view of the foregoing tragic and urgent situation, I respectfully recommend for your approval that this Government take the following steps now. Time is very short.

1. Request and authorize the International Red Cross to organize, by whatever means at its disposal, the distribution of food and other necessities to Jewish and other unassimilated internees throughout German territory.

2. Place at the disposal of the International Red Cross food, medical and other relief supplies, as well as trucks, tires and fuel needed for their distribution, from available stocks now in Europe (military or otherwise); these stocks to be replenished by supplies shipped at a later date from the United States and paid for by private American funds.

000188

3. Request and authorize the International Red Cross to permit and encourage the evacuation of internees from enemy territory to Switzerland on the return trips of the relief delivery trucks.

4. Assure the Swiss Government, in order to induce the acceptance into Switzerland of all refugees who reach her border, that (a) additional food and other supplies will be sent to Switzerland for refugee needs and (b) speedy measures will be taken to evacuate such refugees from Switzerland to Allied territory where they will be subjected to thorough security screening. The need for these speedy measures is pointed up by the urgent requests we have received from the Swiss Government for the evacuation from Switzerland of the two recently arrived groups of 1672 and 1210 refugees, and for the additional groups expected to arrive weekly in the near future.

To ensure against the infiltration of spies and war criminals, the Swiss should be requested to intern all newly arriving refugees pending their evacuation to Allied territory.

5. Issue appropriate instructions to SMAEF and AFNA to arrange for the speedy evacuation from Switzerland to Marseilles of all refugees who cannot be cared for in Switzerland and for their onward transportation to Philippeville or some other UNRRA camp.

6. Make available to UNRRA adequate supplies for the maintenance of large numbers of refugees in these camps.

7. Request UNRRA to prepare the camps with necessary personnel, etc., for the reception and maintenance of large numbers of refugees.

*William O. Dwyer*  
William O. Dwyer  
Executive Director

APPROVED:

Secretary of State

Secretary of the Treasury

Secretary of War

000189

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE February 10, 1945

TO The Executive Director

FROM E. Akzin and Paul J. McCormack

RE: Trucks for Intercross

1. The War Department letter does not dispute the fact that 5 - 7 trucks are needed to ensure distribution of food supplies to "unassimilated" detainees, nor does it advance the argument that the requested use of a few trucks must be opposed on military grounds. It objects to the program merely on the ground that it might set a precedent affecting the shipment of supplies to POWs.

It should be noted, therefore, that a request of the American Red Cross to permit the use of trucks to ship supplies to POWs in Northern Italy has been cleared by the War Department. The Department has therefore agreed to set the very precedent the prevention of which it alleges to be the reason for its opposition to our program.

2. Even were a similar program rejected for POWs and "assimilated" civilian internees, this would not be a sufficient reason to reject our program in favor of "unassimilated" detainees. Indeed, POWs and civilian internees are protected by the Geneva Convention which ensures a minimum standard of their treatment, with supplies merely aiming at supplementing these standards; whereas the detainees lack any such protection and are known to receive far worse treatment at German hands.

But the very fact that the use of trucks was authorized by the War Department in the case of POWs makes it imperative that it withdraw its objections to a similar use of trucks in supplying persons known to fare much less well.

3. According to the reports of WRB representative in Bern, there is progressive disinclination of German authorities to make rolling stock available to Intercross. On the basis of the Geneva Convention and of reciprocity, the U.S. Government can apply pressure to secure continuance of Red Cross parcel service to POWs and civilian internees. It lacks, however, any such leverage to obtain similar facilities for the tolerated Red Cross program for detainees. Therefore, failure to provide the requested trucks threatens to stop completely this program, the one WRB program which promises to benefit the largest group of enemy victims.

4. Use of trucks in Northern Italy is justified by the disintegration of normal traffic in that area, where military operations are limited in scope.

000190

Traffic conditions have also disintegrated in Germany, where military operations are on an exceedingly large scale.

5. Large stockpiles of POW food available in Switzerland, so that occasional rail tie-ups don't seriously endanger their distribution. Since WFB lacks large stockpile, loss of a single shipment by rail threatens our entire program.

6. An added consideration is the well-known German policy of mass-extermination of unassimilated, especially of Jewish, detainees when unchecked by the presence of foreign observers. The use of Swiss trucks manned by Intercross personnel is therefore an important means of ensuring that these detainees are kept alive.

7. Should chaos in Germany increase, such trucks manned by Intercross personnel can become the means of physically rescuing many detainees.

*Ra N/A*



WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

5 February 1945

Brigadier General William O'Dwyer  
Executive Director  
War Refugee Board  
Treasury Department (Room 2426)  
Washington, D. C.

Dear General:

I understand that it has been proposed that four or five 5 to 7 ton trucks be procured in Switzerland for loan to the International Red Cross for the delivery of War Refugee Board food parcels to persons in German concentration camps. The War Department is opposed to this action.

Although the amount of trucks is small, it is not believed wise that this entering wedge should be made for the assumption of the burden of transporting internally supplies sent in for relief purposes.

This action might serve as a precedent, having a serious effect on the shipment of relief supplies in general, and more particularly on the supplies sent to the prisoners of war.

Very truly yours,

ROBERT P. PATTERSON  
Under Secretary of War

000192

FEB 3 1945

Attention: Colonel Gearhardt

Dear Mr. McCloy:

There is forwarded to you herewith a copy of a cable which has just been received from the War Refugee Board representative in Bern, Switzerland, containing information which he has requested be drawn to the attention of the appropriate military authorities.

No. 744  
from Bern,  
Feb 2, 1945

In connection with the last paragraph of the enclosed cable, it will be appreciated if you will advise the Board of the views of the War Department concerning the proposed reply to Bern's No. 455 of January 22, 1945, a copy of which was sent to Colonel Gearhardt for War Department clearance on January 25, 1945.

Very truly yours,

WILLIAM O'DWYER

William O'Dwyer  
Executive Director

Honorable John J. McCloy,  
Assistant Secretary of War.

Enclosure.

JH -

FH:hd 2/3/45

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February 1, 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

Mr. Neff in the office of Under Secretary of War Patterson telephoned today to advise me that the War Department does not approve of the proposed cable to McClelland in reply to No. 455 from Bern of January 22, 1945. The War Department objects to the proposed approval of McClelland's proposition because it views such action as a possible entering wedge and precedent which would have an adverse effect on the whole question of the transportation of prisoner of war packages. This Government has taken the firm view that the Germans should provide transportation for the distribution of these packages and that trucks will not be supplied to the Germans for their distribution. Because of the possible effect on this program, the War Department refuses to give clearance to our proposed cable.

After discussion with Mr. Pehle, I telephoned Colonel Gearhardt and requested that he obtain the views of the War Department in writing. He advised me that the matter is primarily one falling within the office of the Under Secretary but he stated that he would attempt to obtain the letter which the Board requested.

  
F. Hodel

000194

MEMO TO HEDDLE AND KOCHELLAND, BERN, FROM DEPARTMENT AND WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Reference your 455 January 22nd.

You are authorized to rent, buy or otherwise acquire four or five five to seven ton trucks in Switzerland for loan to Intercross for the delivery of War Refugee Board food parcels to persons in German concentration camps, provided that the trucks will be operated by Intercross personnel. Since the supplying of fuel and tires from outside Switzerland would be very difficult, you are urged to make every effort to procure, with the assistance of Intercross, the required fuel and tires within Switzerland itself.

The above proposal is particularly welcomed by us, in view of its advantage of improved distribution control as pointed out in your 455 and of the added protection to camp inmates afforded by the presence on the spot of Intercross personnel, in line with Department's 127 of January 9.

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