

Programs with Respect to Relief and  
Rescue of Persons Evacuated from  
and through Switzerland

Switzerland - New Program  
(50-86)

Folder 3

This section's original order was in reverse  
format and kept intact

①

000289

SWITZERLAND (NEW PROGRAM)

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SWITZERLAND - NEW PROGRAM  
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000291



86

000292

DEPARTMENT  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

EDW-1309  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. ( ) 9 05

Bern  
Dated June 6, 1945  
Rec'd 11:36 a.m.

*War Dept*  
*9 50*

Secretary of State  
Washington

**CONTROL COPY**

3063, June 6, 9 a.m.  
O'DWYER, WRB, FROM MCCLELLAND.

DEPT'S 1839, WRB'S 525, May 18, and Legt's 2987,

June 17

Representatives of ICRC DSA visited several libera-  
ted concentration camps and displaced persons centers in  
Bavaria during last week in May, including Dachau Landsberg  
and DPCS at Mittenwald, Garmisch-unter-Greinau and Ulm.  
They report general need of relief foodstuffs and warm  
local appreciation of goods DSA is regularly shipping in.  
According to their estimate of needs during coming several  
weeks, balance our WRB parcels at present rhythm of ship-  
ment will soon be exhausted. ICRC DSA has, therefore,  
asked me whether it will be possible to use some of the  
206,000 former POW parcels for this special relief program.  
DSA will undertake to repackage all parcels released to  
them.

For Security Purposes Only  
This Copy is for Security Purposes Only

More critical than need of foodstuffs is DAS'S  
lack of fuel to run these emergency truck convoys. If

at all

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

000293

-2- #3063, June 6, 9 a.m., from Bern.

at all feasible and material not otherwise disposed of;  
I would recommend (A) releasing 50,000 parcels to them  
and (B) single grant of 20,000 gallons of gasoline  
(plus lubricants) from same source as previous grants.  
Total fuel now available to DSA comes from French  
sources and represents barely 30% their monthly needs.

Please instruct.

HARRISON

JT

000294

85

000295

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

GEM-1666 DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement. (SECRET W)

Bern

Dated June 1, 1945

Rec'd 6:12 p.m.

*Mr. Keefe*  
*O'Dwyer*

Secretary of State, Washington.

CONTROL COPY

2987, June 1, 4 p.m.

O'DWYER FROM MCCLELLAND

*not rec'd in files 6/2/45*

Department's 1829, May 18 and Legt's 2797,

May 18.

ICRC'S DSA is continuing to do splendid work distributing food relief including WRB parcels to liberated detainees in southern Germany and Austria.

4 trucks were despatched to Linz on May 28 with 40 tons food including 2650 WRB parcels for relief detainees liberated from Mauthausen. Some 27,000 of latter are reported leading most precarious existence in Linz area with 300 to 400 dying daily from disease and starvation. In light of these reports I requested ICRC'S DSA to prepare second truck convoy for Linz to leave about June 4. Hope to be in this area myself at that time as part of camp visits you authorized and will accordingly be able determine where our remaining WRB stocks can do most good.

*to ensure the persons the text of this message must be closely guarded.*

Convoy consisting

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

000296

-2-#2987, June 1, 4 p.m., from Bern.

Convoy consisting of 28 trucks left Switzerland May 29 for Pilsen with Theresienstadt as final destination carrying along with relief goods from other organizations both confessional and natl 3600 WRB parcels. Two Czech officials accompanied convoy to attempt to arrange Czech and Russian clearance so that relief goods may proceed to Theresienstadt.

DSA is sending out third convoy on June one carrying 80 tons supplies including about 5000 WRB parcels for released civil detainees in Salzburg area.

HARRISON

EEC

000297

84

000298

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

RECEIVED  
DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

*Mar Ref 23  
O'Dwyer*

MAY 2 AM 8 54

MS-1750 LC/L  
LIAISON

PLAIN

Bern

Dated June 1, 1945

Rec'd 9:30 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

**CONTROL COPY**

2980, First

WRB AND DEPT FROM McCLELLAND

Legation's 2471, April 27.

Following report has been received from Dunand,  
ICRC delegate, who was in Theresienstadt in early May:

As of April 6 there were 17,556 Jewish deportees  
in Theresienstadt between that date and May 5; 12,863  
new deportees arrived from camps all over Germany such  
as Bergen Belsen, Buchenwald; Dachau and Mauthausen.  
Of these 12,863 88 arrived dead and 221 died shortly after  
arrival; total survivors there as of May 5 was therefore  
30,110. Theresienstadt is now reported to be under  
Czech control.

HARRISON

JT

000299

88

000300

DIVISION OF  
PRESS INTELLIGENCE  
O.W.I.

1194 - Soc. Sec. Bldg.

PH. \_\_\_\_\_

SY. *v m*

Evening Post (I)  
New York City

DATE *MAY 23* 1945  
p.

## The Lyons Den

By Leonard Lyons



**CREDIT:** Donald M. Nelson was in the Barberry Room last night and listened to some of the diners giving the former Chairman of the War Production Board the credit for having mobilized America's industrial power which won the war in Europe. Then he heard others assert that Roosevelt had won the war, that Gen. Marshall had won the war, that Eisenhower had won the war, etc., etc. . . . "There was a discussion like this after the last war in Europe," said Nelson, "and someone asked Marshal Foch: 'Did you win the war?' Foch answered: 'Well, I don't know. But I do know that if we had lost, I'd have been blamed.'"

**SOLUTION:** Gen. Bill O'Dwyer, head of the War Refugee Board, arranged for some trucks and food to be used in administering relief to war refugees who were brought out of the battle areas to safety in Switzerland. Then came word that the job was being complicated by the rule that war-relief could not be administered on neutral soil. "If they want to become technical about it, we'll feed and clothe each refugee," O'Dwyer warned, "if I myself have to lift each one, individually, off the neutral soil of Switzerland."

**END:** A veteran political reporter who has known Fiorello LaGuardia for many years was told by his editor to prepare the Mayor's political obituary. This was after the Mayor had twice announced that he is retiring at the end of this year. . . . "LaGuardia's political obituary will be his actual obituary," said the reporter. "He'll be running until he dies."

**PROBLEM:** Attorney General Francis Biddle, soon to be succeeded by Tom Clark, was the fall guy at the Circus Saints & Sinners yesterday. Biddle was asked whether he had seen LaGuardia lately. "Yes, and I found him in deep meditation," said the Attorney General. "Fiorello can't make up his mind whether God made him or he made God."

**FASHION:** Sidney Hillman, head of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, has been feuding for many years with David Dubinsky, head of the Intl. Ladies Garment Workers Union. Hillman's friends aren't sure whether Mrs. Hillman's latest stunt is a clothes-conservation measure or whether it's for the purpose of avoiding the output of Dubinsky's union. In any event, Mrs. Sidney Hillman now is having her husband's old tuxedo re-made into a suit for her.

**CHATTER:** Frank Sinatra, about to go overseas, has introduced a new kind of hair-cut for the youngsters who ape him. He has a crew hair-cut, except for the curl in front which still remains. . . . Harry and Jennie Grossinger have sold their Miami Beach hotel and purchased the famed Pancoast Hotel in the same city. . . . Paul Small's family has acquired the world's rights to the slay. "Trio."

000301

## The Lyons Den

By Leonard Lyons



**CREDIT:** Donald M. Nelson was in the Barbary Room last night and listened to some of the diners giving the former Chairman of the War Production Board the credit for having mobilized America's industrial power which won the war in Europe. Then he heard others assert that Roosevelt had won the war, that Gen. Marshall had won the war, that Eisenhower had won the war, etc., etc. . . . "There was a discussion like this after the last war in Europe," said Nelson, "and someone asked Marshal Foch: 'Did you win the war?' Foch answered: 'Well, I don't know. But I do know that if we had lost, I'd have been blamed.'"

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**BEAUTY:** In Jacques Duval's new play, "Oh, Brother," Arleen Whelan and two other girls will appear in bathing suits. Their form-display will have but little relation to the plot. Duval always has preferred to feature pretty girls, in all their glory, in his shows. . . . Once, in Paris, Duval had a play in which there was a maid's role. He promised this role to three different girls. He kept his promise to each by rewriting the play and finally presenting a script in which there was a different maid in each of the three acts.

**TRICK:** When an important customer at the Stork Club isn't accorded the super-service which Sherman Billingsley insists he shall receive, the proprietor has two enlargements made of the customer's photo. These enlargements then are displayed on the walls of the room where the Stork Club captains dine each night, as a reminder that this is a face to be remembered. . . . And whenever there are additions or replacements among his staff of 250 employees, Billingsley carries with him the photo of the new employee—a photo with the employee's name written clearly across it. "When I call him by his first name, especially after he's here only a short time," Billingsley explains, "he likes it. It flatters him. And so he doesn't join a union."

**REVENGE:** Michael Foote, former editor of Beaverbrook's London Standard and now columnist for the Daily Herald, will return to England next week to stand for Parliament. His father and two brothers also will stand for Parliament. . . . At the last election Foote's father, a member of the Liberal Party, was opposed by a Conservative, and lost. During this campaign his opponent was helped by a surprising letter of support from Leslie Hore-Belisha, who at that time also was a member of the Liberal Party. . . . In the July 5 election, Michael Foote will run against Hore-Belisha.

**RECOVERY:** When Keenan Wynn was taken to the hospital, after a smashup in the motorcycle accident, he was unconscious for a long time. When he lifted his head and opened his eyes he saw a battered man whose features were almost unrecognizable. "At least I can't be as bad as that guy," Keenan said. Each time he looked up, in his semi-consciousness, and saw that battered man, he later confessed that his morale improved—just by seeing some one who seemed worse than he could possibly be. One week later Wynn discovered that he merely had been looking into a mirror.

**APPEARANCE:** Lt. Col. Robert Henriques, author of "No Arms, No Armour," who became liaison officer between Gen. Patton and Marshal Montgomery, now is in America to help the War Bond Drive. A group of American authors studied the swarthy writer in his British uniform and asked: "How do you manage to write such typically British books and yet retain your Spanish appearance?" . . . "That's quite natural," replied Col. Henriques, "My family didn't get to England until only 400 years ago."

82

000303

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

RECEIVED  
DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES

*W. R. ...*  
*J. ...*

DSH-1447

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

Bern

Dated May 20, 1945

Rec'd 3:30 p.m.

Secretary of State  
Washington

**CONTROL COPY**

2826, May 20, 9 a.m.

~~SECRET~~ WRB FROM L. CLELLAND

With reference to our telephone conversation of  
May 14 interrupted direct communications between  
Switzerland and Lubek (L) and apparently between Sweden  
and L have thus far made difficult an exact determination  
of status of WRB parcels in L. Information obtained by  
ICRC indicates that 140,000 parcels shipped from Goteborg  
on SS MAGDALENA April 16 arrived in L. As ICRC delegate  
in L had previously distributed an unknown number of  
parcels under his control from other sources to civil  
detainees in northern Germany particularly in Ravensbruck  
WRB stocks have been diminished to extent that these  
advances have had to be replaced.

We are led to believe that limited communications  
between Goteborg and L now exist and are accordingly  
cabling Olsen in Stockholm as follows:

"Amcross

000304

-2-, #2826, May 20, 9 a.m., from Bern.

"Amcross delegates in Switzerland state that their representative Wisler in Stockholm has been able secure through channels available to him information regarding status Amcross POW stocks and supplies in L. I would appreciate your attempting obtain data for us regarding 140,000 "RB" parcels shipped to L on SS HAGDALENA on April 16 particularly how many remain undistributed. Any verification you can obtain on aggregate number of our parcels shipped to L how many distributed where when and through what agencies would be indispensable for Board's records and in connection with final disposition of remain "RB parcels".

In addition to this attempt secure information through Olsen it may be advisable for Board investigate possibility obtaining report through SHAEF or other appropriate channel.

HARRISON

DU

000305

81

000306

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

DB-1205

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

Bern

Dated May 19, 1945

Rec'd 4:55 p.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

2823, May 19, 7 p.m.

O'DWYER WRB FROM McCLELLAND

D PT'S 1763 WRB 521, May 10.

DC/L  
LIAISON

1945 MAY 19 AM 10 56

CENTRAL SERVICES

With reference to second paragraph your 521 there  
are approximately 28,792 undistributed WRB parcels, exclusive  
of 206,000 still in Switzerland. They are located in  
ILC warehouses at Geneva.

Out of original 60,000 WRB parcels shipped to  
Switzerland, some 31,208 were shipped into  
German occupied territory for relief of  
civil detainees or otherwise used for this  
same category of beneficiaries, through ICRC'S Div. of  
Social Assistance, as follows: 16 March 1170 to Theresien-  
stadt 16 March 4902 to Vienna area 19 March 492 to  
Theresienstadt 16 April 900 to Mauthausen 17 Apr. 4230  
to Theresienstadt 19 Apr. 3660 to concentration camps in  
Bavaria and Bavaria principally Dachau 23 Apr. 8550 to  
Landsberg-am-Lech 1st May 1500 to temporary ICRC deportee  
camp at Hochst

000307

86

000308

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

VTW-772  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. (SECRET W)

Bern  
Dated May 18, 1945  
Rec'd 6:55 p.m.

*W. R. ...*  
*O. Sawyer*

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

CONTROL COPY

RECEIVED  
DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
MAY 19 1945

2797, May 18, 1 p.m.

OWNER OF WRB FROM KATZKE AND MCCELLAND

Re our telephone conversation of May 14. ICRC  
SDSA has reported that their representatives recently  
returned from Germany, Austria and Northern Italy  
have stated that although every effort is being made  
by Allied military authorities to assure adequate  
relief to liberated civil detainees, deportees, etc,  
magnitude and complexity of this task coupled with  
difficulties of transport and distribution have re-  
sulted in unavoidable time-lag in reaching many  
persons previously aided through ICRC SDSA by WRB.  
Committees field workers have been sending in emer-  
gency calls for aid daily for such liberated de-  
tainees and deportees in temporary agglomerations  
and on roads. A large number of sick remaining in  
concentration camps are also reported in need. Local  
Allied commanders have to deal with such displaced  
persons welcome those shipments which ICRC has been  
able

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

000309

-2- #2797, May 18, 1 p.m., from Bern

able to get through to them. It cannot be determined at this time how long this period of emergency need will last. ICRC SDSA is technically able to continue relief shipments to meet this situation and their truck convoys are still departing periodically from Switzerland.

In view of foregoing supplemented by information that has come to us from other sources we strongly recommend that the approximately 28792 undistributed WRB parcels remaining in Switzerland again be made available to ICRC SDSA to permit it to meet this temporary urgent demand until situation becomes clearer.

Your early advice this question would be appreciated.

HARRISON

RR

000310

79

000311

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

RECEIVED  
DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
**OUTGOING  
TELEGRAM**

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

1945 MAY 17 PM 4 30

May 17, 1945  
5 p.m.

RS  
DISPATCHED BY CC/6  
arrangement. (LIAISON W)

**CONTROL COPY**

ALLEGATION

BERN  
1032  
X

The following for McClelland is WRB 524.

Reference paragraph 5 of your no. 2688, May 10.

Board authorizes you to visit as soon as possible some  
of the liberated concentration camps, particularly  
Dachau. Arrangements for necessary permission and travel  
facilities should be made by you with SHAEF G-5.

GRANT  
(ACCOM)  
(GIM)

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

WRB:MMV:kg  
5/17/45

WE

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

000312

CABLE TO AMLEGATION, BERN, FOR MCCLELLAND FROM IAB REFUGEE BOARD

Reference paragraph 5 of your No. 2688, May 10. Board authorizes you to visit as soon as possible some of the liberated concentration camps, particularly Dachau. Arrangements for necessary permission and travel facilities should be made by you with Sheef G-5.

10:50 a.m.  
May 17, 1945

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

FH:hd 5/16/45

*What is to be done to the unit  
with no files*

000313

78

000314

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM  
DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

RS-146

Distribution 1945 MAY 11 PM 1 22  
True reading only by  
special arrangement.

Bern

Dated May 10, 1945

(S. W)

DC/L  
LIAISON

Rec'd 6:50 p.m.

*Handwritten signatures and initials*

Secretary of State

Washington

2688, May 10, 4 p.m.

**CONTROL COPY**

O'DWYER OF WRB FROM MCCLELLAND

Legation's 2550, May 1

For further action the  
text of this message must  
be located.

There is as yet no practical indication of extent to which SHAEF desires or will permit ICRC to continue relief shipments to Germany in general and in particular for concentration camp survivors and other categories of deportee who have been special interest of board and for whom ICRC'S division of special assistance has done such excellent work during past many months when those detainees were still under Nazi control. We have also received no expression of board opinion as to extent we should plan here continue shipments of WRB parcels to their former beneficiaries through ICRC'S DSA or other competent channel or agency.

We still have about 35,000 WRB packages in Switzerland (exclusive of 206,000 recently acquired) and there

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

000315

-2-#2688, May 10, 4 p.m. from Bern

and there ought to be in excess of 100,000 at Lucbeck (Legation's 2271, April 19) although ICRC has not yet been able obtain report state their stocks there.

I fear that every day's delay in forwarding such available food relief to concentration camps may be causing deaths which could be avoided and therefore again raise this question of continued shipments from our stocks concerning which your opinion would be most appreciated.

In interest of securing reliable and recent information as to needs in such camps (Dachau for instance regarding which there has been practically no news available in Switzerland) and of contacting SHAEF to determine whether they desire food aid from outside from unused WRB stocks I think it would be advisable for either Herbert Katzki or myself to go to Paris for consultation with competent G-5 authorities. Success of such a mission would naturally depend on Board's approval and backing.

For above reasons and out of sincere personal interest in this problem of concentration camp relief on which I have worked at a distance for so many months I would very much appreciate opportunity of being able to visit some of liberated camps particularly Dachau.

If Board

000316

-3-#2688, May 10, 4 p.m. from Bern

If Board approves I should be grateful for any assistance you could give me in securing necessary permission and facilities for such a visit if it can be at all practicably arranged through SHAEF G-5.

While on this subject I feel it worth while to mention following matter to Board in hope that you may be able to draw it to attention of responsible organs. Preponderance of newspaper reports available to date in Switzerland concerning liberated concentration camps in Germany have dwelt almost exclusively and at length on degradingly brutal aspects of Nazi treatment meted out in them a fact of which organization dealing with these questions have unfortunately been too well aware for several years. With exception of one agency dispatch reporting British relief measures for Bergen-Belsen survivors there has been no news released here regarding aid being given these survivors or reliable figures on size of national groups freed. This lack is creating unfavorable repercussions among allied national groups relief and confessional bodies in Switzerland whose understandable anxiety for welfare their country men and coreligionaries who have suffered years of this treatment is intense and impatient and should be satisfied if at all possible by more reassuring news or at least considerably more detailed information.

HARRISON

EDA

000317

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000318

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

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CENTRAL SERVICES

*Wm. K. ...*

1945 MAY 6 AM 10 09

EOC-821

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paraphrased before being  
communicated to ~~any~~  
other than a Government  
Agency. (~~RESTRICTED~~)

Bern

Dated May 5, 1945

*O. Geiger*

Rec'd 9:21 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

**CONTROL COPY**

2642, May 5, 6 p.m.

OUTDYER TRB FROM MCCLELLAND

Hans Bachmann, confidential secretary to Burckhardt  
President of ICRC, reported to us that Kaltenbrunn of  
SS with whom Bachmann was negotiating week ago in Innsbruck  
gave assurance that Theresienstadt's status quo would be  
maintained up to last and that no last minute extermina-  
tion of inmates would take place.

Let up hope that this proves to be the case as  
Theresienstadt is the last "camp" of its size in German  
hands. (Legation's 2562, May 2.).

HARRISON

JH

000319

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000320

DEPARTMENT  
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DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES

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*Am B. F. C.*  
*O. J. Meyer*

1945 MAY 5 AM 9 32

DSH-367  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. (SECRET) **LAISON**

Bern  
Dated May 4, 1945  
Rec'd 7:08 p.m.

Secretary of State  
Washington

2620, May 4, noon

FOR WRE FROM MCCLELLAND

Legation's 2468, April 27.

**CONTROL COPY**

A fourth convoy consisting of 13 POW trucks reached Switzerland on April 30 coming from Mauthausen bringing about 300 persons mostly French women. Convoy crossed Swiss border at Martinsbruck in Engadine region and its passengers are at present in Suss. There are reported to be few Jewish women among them. Trip was long and difficult, 10 persons died en route.

This will undoubtedly be last group out of Mauthausen although there are still 7 trucks of this convoy which originally consisted of 20 which have not yet turned up.

HARRISON

WAB

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

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

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EK-1337  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
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Bern  
Dated May 2, 1945  
Rec'd 9:40 a.m.

*War Dept*  
*W. J. [unclear]*

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

2562, May 2, 9 a.m.

FOR O'DRYER OF WRB FROM MCCLELLAND.

Legation's 2471, April 27.

**CONTROL**  
RECEIVED  
DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
MAY 2 2 PM 4 39  
LIMSON

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

ICRC delegate Dunand visited the Resienstadt again  
on April 21 and reports conditions there good (repeat  
good) in every respect. 4000 new Jewish internees have  
arrived apparently mostly from "protectorate" since his  
previous visit on April 7. Dunand advised ICRC that he  
considered it unnecessary send further food shipments to  
the Resienstadt. Ultimate fate of Ghetto is still un-  
certain although Dunand seems very optimistic.

On other hand, deportees recently rescued from con-  
centration camp of Mauthausen Beilinz (Legation's 2468,  
April 27) reports frightful conditions prevailing there.  
Most brutal type of extermination is in progress.

It is most doubtful that ICRC will be able to evac-  
uate further inmates camp since Russians were reported  
to have crossed Enns river south of Mauthausen about two  
days ago.

Ironically enough at last minute (April 30) Swiss

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

000323

-2-#2562, May 2, 9 a.m., from Bern.

Army placed 60 postal buses with capacity of 25 to 30 persons each at disposal ICRC for such evacuation work. If these buses had been available a month ago several hundred more detainees could have been rescued. I fear, however, that it is too late.

HARRISON

ED.

000324

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JP-1298

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Bern

Dated May 1, 1945

Rec'd 4:03 a.m., 2nd

War Ref. Bd.  
(C. Meyer)

Secretary of State,  
Washington,

2550, May 1, 6 P.M.

FOR ODHYER OF WRB FROM MCCLELLAND.

ICRC DSA informed us on April 30 that convoy of 10 Renault trucks which left Switzerland April 25 carrying among other relief goods, 3660 WRB parcels for concentration camp of Dachau are now stalled at Uffing outside Munich, ICRC Southern Delegation Headquarters. Allied military authorities will not permit this convoy proceed to Dachau. While we hope this situation is only temporary and based on military operational requirements we should appreciate any steps board could undertake in competent quarters to insure continued flow of relief supplies to Dachau and similar camps at least during immediate post liberation, when food will doubtless be even more necessary than before.

In absence here of adequate information as to scope food relief which liberating Allied forces are able undertake for such concentration camp inmates it is difficult

for us

CONTROL COPY

000326

-2- #2550, May 1, 6 p.m., from Born.

for us to judge extent to which we should stand ready to continue shipments of WRB parcels through ICRC. We understand basic question of continued ICRC relief activity this sort in zones now occupied by United States forces is at present being examined by SHAEF. Meanwhile, however, all shipments are held up at a particularly critical moment.

It would seem logical extension WRB ICRC program to continue shipping parcels at least temporarily to concentration camps until, for instance, unused backlog approximately 35,000 WRB packages still in Switzerland out of 60,000 originally sent here (not counting 206,000 recently acquired by board from War Department) is exhausted, provided SHAEF does not object or is able send adequate supplies directly through Army channels.

We would welcome expression your opinion.

HARRISON

MMB

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DEPARTMENT  
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TELEGRAPH SECTION

SG-1253

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other than a Government  
Agency. (RESTRICTED)

Bern

Dated May 1, 1945

Rec'd 11:50 p.m.

*War Ref Be  
C. Myers*

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

2552, May 1, 7 p.m.

FOR DIRECTOR OF WRB FROM MCCLELLAND

We are making plans send WRB parcels with emergency  
TORG truck convoy to Bolzano region in northern Italy  
for relief several thousands badly undernourished Italian  
deportees who have been escaping across Brenner into  
Italy during past 2 weeks under conditions of frightful  
physical hardship. Concentration camp of Gries near  
Bolzano reported to still contain several hundred Jewish  
deportees will also be included this relief action.

Will inform you if and when this convoy can get  
off.

HARRISON

JMS

**CONTROL COPY**

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DEPARTMENT  
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*Wm Prof B.S.  
(C. Sawyer)*

EX-1294  
This telegram must be  
paraphrased before being  
communicated to anyone  
other than a Government  
Agency. (REDACTED)

Bern

Dated May 1, 1945

Rec'd 3:28 a.m., 2nd.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

CONTROL COPY

2555, May 1, 9 p.m.

FOR COMMER OF WRB FROM KITZKI AND MCCLELLAND.

Legation's 2465, April 27.

Four Swiss commercial trucks destined to re-  
patriate Swiss citizens from Austria left Switzerland  
April 25. In agreement with ICRC DS. they carried  
6550 WRB parcels, among other relief goods, for off-  
loading at concentration camp of Landsberg Am Lech.  
These trucks were routed via Buchs, Feldkirch, Landeck  
in Arlberg and were then to cut north to Landsberg.  
As yet we have no news whether they reached their des-  
tination safely. Landsberg was reported occupied on  
April 27.

HARRISON

WEB

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EX-301  
This telegram must be  
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other than a Government  
Agency. (Restricted)

Bern  
Dated April 27, 1945  
Rec'd 1:37 p.m., 28th

Secretary of State  
Washington

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APR 29 11 00 AM '45  
LIAISON  
DOCUMENTS  
CONTROL COPY

2471, April 27, 5 p.m.

FOR O'LEWYER OF NRE FROM KATZKI AND MCCLELLAN  
Legation's 2290, April 19.

Propositions made by Becher relative to surrender  
of remaining unliberated concentration camps intact through  
Kasztner with whom Saly Mayer, Herbert and I conferred  
at length will not, we are afraid, yield any practical  
results. We have some doubt as to the reliability and  
sincerity of the proposals and as to Becher's ability  
to carry them out. Daily changing military situation  
has rendered successful rescue action of this nature  
conducted by Becher most unlikely. We are, however,  
attempting to maintain contact with Becher in hope of  
possible future assistance to detainees taken into the  
Nazi "reduit".

Kasztner visited Theresienstadt on April 16 while  
two ICRC delegates, Lunand and Lehner, were there on  
April 7. From these two independent sources we have  
received

000333

*use Ref No  
(100000)*

CORRECTED PAGE TWO

MF-301

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

**CONTROL COPY**

-2- #2471, April 27, 5 p.m., from Bern

received following information concerning this ghetto:

As of mid-April there were still somewhat over 20,000 Jewish detainees in Theresienstadt: 8,000 former Germans, 8,000 Czechs from the "protectorate", 1,900 Hungarians, 1,000 Slovaks, 800 Dutch and about 300 Danes who, according to Kaszner (unconfirmed), were removed from the ghetto on April 15 by Swedish Red Cross trucks.

Roughly 40% of these 20,000 detainees seem to have been transferred to Theresienstadt in the course of the past two or three months, particularly the Czechs and Hungarians, latter from Austria. Most of the holders of Latin American documentation and Palestine certificates who remained in Bergen Belsen have also been apparently transferred to Theresienstadt where they now are.

Four truck loads of relief goods shipped to the ghetto (last paragraph, Legation's 2045, April 7) under ICRC control were satisfactorily received and distributed according to both Kaszner and ICRC men.

As of beginning

000334

CORRECTED PAGE 2 1/2

-2 1/2- #2471, April 27, 5 p.m., from Born

As of beginning of April, Kasztner reported that there were close to 30,000 Hungarian Jews on former Austrian territory, two-thirds of them being Hungarian army forced labor battalions sent to Austria to construct fortifications, one-third being persons deserted there in June 1944. He estimates that about 80% of these Jews were left behind by Germans when they withdrew.

With reference to your 505 (Department's 1501, April 18,) Kasztner also reported that he was in the concentration camp of Hamburg Neuengamme, which he described as a relatively good one, on about April 12. At that time there were some 9 to 10,000 inmates half of whom were Danes and Norwegians, remainder being Russians and Poles. The Danes and Norwegians enjoyed fairly good treatment and were actively assisted by the Swedish Red Cross.

HARRISON

LHS

000335

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EK-1186  
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arrangement. [REDACTED]

APR 19 45  
Stockholm

Dated April 19, 1945

Rec'd 10:17 a.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

1447, April 19, 1 P.M.

FOR DEPARTMENT AND ERB.

Approximately 5,000 Danish and Norwegian Jews  
arrived in Malmo yesterday from Germany and are being  
sent to an especially arranged Swedish internment camp.  
So far as is known this group comprises virtually all  
Danish and Norwegian Jews in German concentration camps  
and their release is a consequence of certain special  
negotiations conducted by Count Bernadotte during the  
past several weeks.

The Swedish Foreign Office is endeavoring to secure  
the release of Norwegian Jews in Grini, under the same  
guarantees of special internment in Sweden.

JOHNSON

RR

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

*See List 21221 in Bern*  
DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

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TELEGRAPH SECTION

MFD-90

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES Bern

*War Ref Bk*  
*C. Sawyer*

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Dated April 27, 1945

4 30  
Rec'd 11:02 p.m.

DC/L  
Secretary of State,  
Washington.

CONTROL COPY

2473, April 27, 6 p.m.

FOR COUNSELOR OF WRE FROM KATZKI AND MCCLELLAND

WE WERE INFORMED BY ICRC ON APRIL 26 (LEGATION'S  
2421, APRIL 25) THAT PROSPECTS FOR GETTING FURTHER  
TRUCK CONVOYS OF RELIEF SUPPLIES FOR DETAINEES IN  
GERMANY OUT OF SWITZERLAND LOOKED MORE FAVORABLE THAN  
TWO DAYS AGO. ATTEMPT WILL BE MADE DISPATCH AT LEAST  
ONE MORE CONVOY TO CAMP OF MAUTHAUSEN NEAR LINZ WHICH  
HAS NOT YET BEEN OVERRUN BY RUSSIANS AND POSSIBLY OTHER  
SMALLER CONVOYS TO THE RESIENSTADT AND LANDSBERG.

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

WE WILL KEEP YOU POSTED ALL DEVELOPMENTS THIS  
SITUATION.

HARRISON

LJ  
JM

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

000338



000339

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MFD-40

Distribution of true

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Dated April 27, 1945

PM 2 02  
Rec'd 8:15 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

2468, April 27, 4 p.m.

FOR COUNCILYER OF WRE FROM KATZKI AND MCCLELLAND

Third truck convoy bringing detainees from  
Mauthausen reached Switzerland April 25. (Legation's  
2425 April 25) It is now officially reported that  
these 3 convoys evacuated 781 detainees almost all  
women of French, Belgian and Dutch nationalities.  
Group is at present being cared for at St. Gall where  
it will remain some days prior to repatriation (with  
probable exception of Dutch).

Germans permitted release these people on basis  
"exchange" agreement reported in Legation's 2175  
April 13 negotiated by ICRC which applied only to  
French and Belgians. We do not yet know on what grounds  
Dutch were extricated although Burckhardt stated during  
April 12 meeting that he "hoped be able do something  
about evacuating Dutch schutzhaeftlinge".

We have

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

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For security reasons the  
content of this message must  
be kept secret.

000340

-2-#2468, April 27, 4 p.m., from Bern

We have urged ICRC attempt bring back detainees  
of other nationalities in future evacuations if at all  
possible.

HARRISON

JIS

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DEPARTMENT  
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DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

MS-1191 1945 APR 26 AM 10 29rn

Distribution of true  
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arrangement. ( )

*W. R. J. 21*  
Dated April 25, 1945

Rec'd 1:40 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

CONTROL COPY

2426, April 25, 1 p.m.

FOR ODMYER OF WRB FROM KATZKI AND MCCLELLAND.

ICRC informed us that the 6 Renault trucks dispatched to Luebeck where it was planned they would remain for distribution of WRB parcels (Legation's 2271, April 19) will now unfortunately have to return to Switzerland due to developments in military situation.

ICRC plans request permission from French military authorities now controlling German territory along Swiss border to allow Luebeck and other trucks pass northward through their zone to resume food deliveries in Germany to still accessible camps.

HARRISON

JM

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

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

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TELEGRAPH SECTION

MB-1155 1945 APR 26 AM 10:11  
This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government agency. (RESTRICTED)  
Dated April 25, 1945  
Rec'd 1 p.m.  
DC/L  
LIAISON

Secretary of State,

Washington.

PRIORITY

2721, April 25 11 a.m.

FOR O'DWYER OF WRB FROM KATZKI AND MCCLELLAND

At meeting held April 23, ICRC made preliminary decision discontinue all shipments of food parcels from Switzerland to Germany. German territory NE of Swiss border has now become military operations zone which from technical point of view makes it impossible for moment to send either trucks or block trains via this route. Principal ICRC dispatching point for German bound shipments is at Kreuzlingen, now definitely excluded as point of departure. ICRC's present decision was also motivated by danger to life and limb incurred by personnel travelling through such zones of military operations as well as danger of plundering for which committee felt it could no longer assume responsibility certain of their personnel already having been injured through bombardment and aerial attack. As a result of this decision several convoys transporting WRB parcels and other supplies destined

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000345

-2- 2421, April 25, 11 a.m., from Bern

destined for concentration camps have been held at Kreuzlingen and Geneva pending developments in the transport situation.

We urged ICRC to explore all possibilities for dispatching trucks by other routes than those heretofore used but now inaccessible. At a conference with Burckhardt on April 24 he informed us that single other possible route through Buchs-Feckkirch-Landect and from thence northward is under consideration. As this road runs directly through Reduit and in addition may be impassible due to snow at Arlberg Pass this possibility requires further exploration. We are meanwhile actively pursuing matter of WRB parcel shipments with ICRC in order take advantage of any opportunity relief supplies to civil detainees which may remain.

With reference to Department's 1493, WRB's 503 April 18, Amcross representative in Geneva has now received instructions from Washington to release to WRB in Switzerland 206,000 POW parcels purchased by board from War Department for our programs. Should developments make it impossible for ICRC to continue controlled deliveries of parcels to civil detainees in Germany it may be necessary to reconsider use to which these new WRB parcels

000346

-3- 2421, April 25, 11 a.m., from Bern

WRB parcels will be put.

ICRC has informed us that because of limited facilities and backlog of other repackaging requirements they will not be able to begin repackaging these WRB parcels for at least three weeks. This will prove period to observe developments. Meanwhile we would welcome any suggestions you might wish to make.

Since March 23, ICRC has shipped from WRB stocks in Switzerland approximately 16,790 parcels destined for Theresenstadt, Vienna area and camp of Landsberg Am Lech. In addition substantial relief supplies furnished ICRC's DSA by JDC, union OSE and Sternbuch's organization have been shipped also largely as a result of fuel obtained through board's efforts.

In view of confused transport situation in Germany ICRC has not yet been able inform us how much of this will arrive at its destination.

HARRISON

BB

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*Mar 25/26*  
*9-22*

SEB-1190 1945 APR 26 AM 10 21 Bern  
Distribution of true  
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arrangement (██████████)

Dated April 25, 1945

Rec'd 2:48 p.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

2425, April 25, noon.

FOR O'DWYER OF WRE FROM KATZKI AND MCCLELLAND

Two columns of trucks comprising 28 vehicles arrived in Switzerland on April 23 and 24 bringing French, Belgian and Dutch women and an unspecified number of men from concentration camp of Mauthausen Beilinz. A third column transporting similar groups also consisting of 14 trucks is awaited. Total number of persons involved this movement is between 800 and 900. We do not as yet have any details regarding number of our proteges who might be included but shall inform you as soon as further details are known.

HARRISON

JH

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DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
Date: SEP 19 1972

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DEPARTMENT  
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15 APR 1945 AM 9 43

*Mar Koffel  
O. Dwyer*

EAS-1386

Bern

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

20/L  
11/1001

Dated April 19, 1945

Rec'd 7:57 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

**CONTROL COPY**

US URGENT

2271, April 19, 1945 p.m.

FOR O'DWYER OF WRB FROM MCCLELLAND

(Legation's 2131, April 11)

ICRC reports that the six Renault trucks carrying food parcels which left Swiss border at Kreuzlingen on April 13 for Luebeck ran into and were stopped by Allied advance at unspecified point in Germany. Pradervand, ICRC delegate from Paris is now attempting to extricate them, and was reportedly flown to spot by our military authorities. It is not known whether he has been successful in redispersing trucks to Luebeck. This may be militarily impossible since they would have to cross fighting line although trucks were under ICRC colors and insignia.

It would be most desirable for these trucks to be able proceed to Luebeck as they are only ones available for distributing WRB parcels to civil detainees in that area.

Any assistance

000351

-2- #2271, April 19, 4 p.m., from Bern

Any assistance board might lend in this matter through whatever channels you deem appropriate would be of great value.

ICRC reported that 140,000 WRB parcels were shipped from Goteborg for Luebeck April 16 on SS ALGDALENA so that stocks will be available this region.

HARRISON

LMS

000352

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000353

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ASB-1449

This telegram must be  
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other than a Government  
Agency. (~~CONFIDENTIAL~~)

DC/L  
LIAISON

Born *Wm. P. J. ...*  
Dated April 19, 1946 *9:32 AM*  
Rec'd 9:30 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington

PRIORITY

2290, April 19, 7 p.m.

FOR MRB FROM MCCLELLAND

Kasztner, Sternbuch, Musy and Swiss police all informed me that small group of 69 Jewish refugees apparently mainly from Bratislava reached Konstanz yesterday and would be admitted to Switzerland today. It is not clear due to whose efforts these people reached Switzerland although Musy is already claiming credit.

Sternbuch has undoubtedly reported this matter by wire to Vaad Hahatzala.

Kasztner arrived in Switzerland yesterday and according to report from Nathan Schwalb of Hechaluz, after an extended trip with Kurt Becher of SS which reportedly included Theresienstadt (April 10) and Bergen-Belsen (day or so before liberation). Kasztner apparently

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000354

-2- #3290, April 19, 7 p.m., from Bern

apparently has considerable interesting information on Jewish survivors in Austria, Slovakia and Theresienstadt where he stated there were 20,000 Jews including many new arrivals from Austria and Slovakia. According to Kasztner, Becher "organized" capitulation of camp of Bergen-Belsen with all inmates remaining on spot. Kasztner further reports to be bearing important proposals concerning possible rescue of Jewish deportees in camps still under German control.

As soon as Kasztner is released from temporary Swiss custody, I shall secure all details possible and report to you.

HARRISON

LMS

000355



63

000356

April 17, 1945

Secretary Morgenthau

Miss Hodel

The attached cable from Mr. McClelland contains a discouraging report on the possibilities of evacuating internees from German concentration camps.

(Signed) Florence Hodel

FH:hd 4/17/45

000357

MRK-1382  
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reading only by special  
arrangement. (W)

Bern

Dated April 13, 1945

Rec'd 6 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

2175 April 13, 2 p.m.

Burckhardt of ICRC called special meeting afternoon of April 12 concerning current possibilities evacuate "schutzhaeftlinge" from German concentration camps. (FROM McCLELLAND LEGATION'S 2130 April 11) practically speaking after several weeks of ICRC negotiations with the Germans appear to be willing to permit exit from Germany of only (only) civil detainees of French and Belgian nationality in exchange for similar groups of German civilians now held by French and Belgians. Germans, however, do not insist that exchanges be on a head for head basis. These exchanges are to be limited as previously reported to women, children and elderly people (over 65) of both sexes. Within these national groups Germans do not seem to be discriminating against Jews since convoy of 300 French women (there were no children although this was originally announced), included 7 Jewish women.

Kaltenbrunner of SS informed Dr. Meyer, ICRC delegate who accompanied trucks which brought women from Ravensbrueck, that ICRC could evacuate all remaining French women from this camp as soon as committee wanted. There seemed, however, to be only 300 more French women actually still in Ravensbrueck, whereas last fall (October) there were at least 3000. Apart from those who have died (certainly 50%) this leaves many hundreds unaccounted for who are probably in work companies detached from camp. There is no (repeat no) evidence although ICRC continues to negotiate for this that Germans will be willing allow evacuation of women who are being used as labor. In case not only of these French women but of civil detainees in general this probably constitutes majority still alive.

According to sober reports from these French women who passed through here from Ravensbrueck Nazis are pursuing in that camp (and one has every reason to believe this is true of other similar groups of "schutzhaeftlinge") a policy of simply working detainees to death. When they are no longer able to work this human material is literally discarded.

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

000358

In light of this information ICRC is now making special effort to obtain immediately a few buses from Swiss army to supplement limited number of POW parcel trucks available for such evacuations. ICRC is also examining possibility of using blocked POW parcel train now at Moosburg for similar purpose. Committee has hopes that outside of French and Belgian detainees they may be able to get some of other nationalities on an "ad hoc" basis depending on attitude of individual camp commanders.

Will keep you informed.

HARRISON

JMS

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DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

CENTRAL SERVICES

115 Bern 06

NCB-614  
This telegram must be  
paraphrased before being  
communicated to anyone  
other than a Government  
Agency. (~~RESTRICTED~~)

Dated April 17, 1945.  
LIAISON Rec'd 7:15 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

US URGENT

2237, April 17, 8 p.m.

FOR O'DWYER OF WRB FROM MCCLELLAND

Legation's 2131, April 11.

Special convoy of ten Renault trucks running on fuel  
obtained by WRB and carrying 42,000 kilos relief supplies  
including 900 WRB parcels left Geneva 5 a.m., April 17  
for concentration camp of Mauthausen, 25 kilometers east  
of Linz, in former Austrian territory. In view rapid  
approach Easter fighting fronts to this large and very  
bad camp ICRC felt extraordinary, last minute effort  
send in parcels should be made. Presence of extra ICRC  
personnel there at this critical moment might also afford  
opportunity protective action. Combined camp and  
penitentiary of Mauthausen, which have always been among  
worst in Nazi system, house a great many Poles, French,  
Italians and lesser numbers inmates other nationalities.

Four more Renaults also left Geneva April 17 traveling

with

CONTROL COPY

000361

-2-#2237, April 17, 8 p.m., from Bern.

with Mauthausen convoy but destined for Dachau area. They carried 16,000 liters gasoline only. This fuel will be placed ICRC's depot and used operate trucks distributing relief during coming weeks to camps that region. Parcels, including WRB's will be shipped in by train according to present plan. Ten more Renaults will be assigned to ICRC's DSA during next ten days for carrying relief to unassimilated persons all categories.

We now have more trucks available through ICRC than fuel to operate them. As per our telephone conversation from Paris, could you therefore examine with War Department possibility release additional gasoline to ICRC for WRB programs during this final emergency period? Our present quota is 2,000 gallons weekly. Could this be increased to 3,000 or more? This fuel for WRB in Switzerland comes up from Delta Base section, communications zone along with that supplied ICRC for POW relief.

Please let us know about this fuel question as soon as possible.

END OF MESSAGE

HARRISON

LMS

000362

000363

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
Bern

MF-1659

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

1945 APR 16 Dated April 14, 1945

Rec'd 12:12 p.m.

DC/L  
LIAISON

Secretary of State

Washington

2189, April 14, 11 a.m.

FOR WRB FROM MCCLELLAN

**CONTROL COPY**

Regarding number of WRB parcels still at Goteborg and number already shipped either to concentration camps or to Luebeck for later delivery to camps, ICRC supplied me on April 11 with following details: (Legation's 1765, March 24).

On March 5, 10800 parcels went to Hamburg-Neuengamme; March 16 ditto; March 17, 9600 parcels to Ravensbrueck; March 17, 13,200 parcels to ICRC depot at Luebeck. Total 44,400.

Original number of parcels at Goteborg was 224,328. 39324 WRB "K" parcels were released to WJO in Sweden. ICRC informs me WJO entrusted these parcels to the "Kopertiva Foer Bundet" in Goteborg for shipping.

This leaves some 140,604 WRB parcels still in Goteborg. ICRC has instructed its delegate there to ship these as rapidly as possible to Luebeck for further

distribution

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

000364

-2- #2189, April 14, 11 a.m., from Bern

distribution by Renault trucks now en route.

Repeated to Stockholm for Olsen of WRB.

HARRISON

LMS

000365

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DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

MRK-1382

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

Bern

Dated April 13, 1945

Rec'd 6 p.m.

*Mar 13 1945*  
*O. G. Meyer*

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

**CONTROL COPY**

2175, April 13, 2 p.m.

Burkhardt of ICRC called special meeting afternoon  
of April 12 concerning current possibilities evacuate  
"schutzhaeftlinge" from German concentration camps. (FROM  
DUBLIN LEGATION'S 2130 April 11) practically speaking  
after several weeks of ICRC negotiations with the Germans  
appear to be willing permit exit from Germany of only  
(only) civil detainees of French and Belgian nationality  
in exchange for similar groups of German civilians now  
held by French and Belgians. Germans, however, do not  
insist that exchanges be on a head for head basis. These  
exchanges are to be limited as previously reported to  
women, children and elderly people (over 65) of both sexes.  
Within these national groups Germans do not seem to be  
discriminating against Jews since convoy of 300 French  
women (there were no children although this was originally  
announced) included 7 Jewish women.

Kaltenbrunner of SS informed Dr. Meyer, ICRC delegate  
who accompanied trucks which brought women from Ravenbrueck

that

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

For security reasons the  
text of this message must  
be closely safeguarded

000367

-2-#2175, April 13, 2 p.m., from Bern

that ICRC could evacuate all remaining French women from this camp as soon as committee wanted. There seemed, however, to be only 300 more French women actually still in Ravensbrueck, whereas last fall (October) there were at least 3000. Apart from those who have died (certainly 50%) this leaves many hundreds unaccounted for who are probably in work companies detached from camp. There is no (repeat no) evidence although ICRC continues to negotiate for this that Germans will be willing allow evacuation of women who are being used as labor. In case not only of these French women but of civil detainees in general this probably constitutes majority still alive.

According to sober reports from these French women who passed through here from Ravensbrueck Nazis are pursuing in that camp (and one has every reason to believe this is true of other similar groups of "schutzhaeftlinge") a policy of simply working detainees to death. When they are no longer able to work this human material is literally discarded.

In light of this information ICRC is now making special effort to obtain immediately a few buses from Swiss army to supplement limited number of POW parcel trucks available for such evacuations. ICRC is also examining possibility of using blocked POW parcel train now at

Hoosburg

000368

-3-#2175, April 13, 2 p.m., from Bern.

Hoosburg for similar purpose. Committee has hopes that outside of French and Belgian detainees they may be able to get some of other nationalities on an "ad hoc" basis depending on attitude of individual camp commanders.

Will keep you informed.

HARRISON

JMS

000369

59

000370

Switzerland - new program

APR 18 1945

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Harold Trobe was received through the United States Embassy in Lisbon under date of April 12, 1945, as your number 214:

"The information which follows was received from Gory. 'Intercross trucks with parcels for camps near Switzerland. A convoy from Ravensbruck brought back 365 Jewish women living in Belgium and France'."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Florence Hodel

Florence Hodel  
Assistant Executive Director

Mr. Moses A. Leavitt,  
Secretary,  
American Jewish Joint Distribution  
Committee,  
270 Madison Avenue,  
New York 16, New York.

RBH

RBH:inp 4/16/45

000371

MENT  
STATE

**INCOMING  
TELEGRAM**

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

MFD-795

Lisbon

*Wm. R. ...*

Distribution of TEF.  
Reading only by special arrangement. [redacted] AM 9 2 Dated April 12, 1945

Rec'd 10:04 a.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

**CENTRAL COPY**

767, April 12, 10 a.m.

WRB 379, JLC/214 FOR LEAVITT FROM TROBE

Following information received from Gory.  
Intercross trucks with parcels for camps near Switzerland.  
365 Jewish women living Belgium France brought back  
from Ravensbruck by one convoy.

CROCKER

REP

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

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By [redacted] Date SEP 19 1972

000372

000373

FACTORIES  
WOODBINE, LONG ISLAND  
SAG HARBOR, LONG ISLAND  
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND  
BIENNE, SWITZERLAND



CABLE ADDRESS  
"BULOJEWEL, NEW YORK"

## BULOVA WATCH COMPANY

EXECUTIVE OFFICES

630 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 20, N. Y.

April 12, 1945

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

Dear Sir:

I have been informed by Mr. Joseph Susman, of my organization, that the War Refugee Board is desirous of receiving co-operation in Switzerland in its work of furnishing food to internees within enemy lines. Mr. Susman informs me that the Board's representative in Berne, Switzerland, is Mr. Roswell McClelland, United States Legation, Switzerland.

As I understand it, your main problem in this program, the packaging of food for delivery to International Red Cross, requires

- (1) Additional warehouse space in Geneva.
- (2) Containers.
- (3) Manpower.
- (4) Additional trucks.

I hope to be in France in the near future in connection with a United States Army Air Forces contract. My plant is located at Lac ou Willers, France. I am very interested in the work you are doing and would like to be of every possible service. I believe that through my organization and business friends I can be of great help to Mr. McClelland in the solution of this problem. I shall inform you of my departure so that you may direct Mr. McClelland to contact me in France should he need any assistance.

Very sincerely yours,

BULOVA WATCH COMPANY

*A. Bulova*  
Chairman of the Board

A. BULOVA  
SH

000374



GULLIVER WATCH COMPANY  
510 FIFTH AVENUE - NEW YORK 101 - N. Y.



AIR MAIL, SPECIAL DELIVERY

Dir. Gen. William O'Dwyer,  
Executive Director,  
War Refugee Board,  
Room 2410, Main Treasury Building,  
Washington,  
D.C.

AMERICA'S BIGGEST SELLING  
FINE WRIST WATCH

AIR MAIL, SPEC. DEL.

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DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

OUTGOING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

EK  
Distribution of (true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. (W)

1945 APR 14 AM 9 29

APR 14 1945  
Quintanilla  
O. S. S.

EMBASSY

DC/L  
LIAISON

LONDON  
2849

CONTROL COPY

The cable below for Mann is WRB 66.

For your information following is text of cable No. 2045  
dated April 7, received from McClelland:

NOTE: Additional to Legation's 1988, April 6 regarding  
ICRC's Division of Special Assistance's plan for trucking  
relief to civil detainees in Germany.

For security reasons the  
text of this message must  
be kept secret and  
not be disseminated

Five Renault trucks instead of six now scheduled leave  
Switzerland April 9 for Luebeck carrying 16 tons relief goods  
and gasoline. This convoy if feasible will offload supplies  
at Bergen Belsen en route. ICRC plans have these trucks  
remain and work out of Luebeck distributing WRB parcels,  
shipped over from Goteborg, to concentrations of detainees  
at Ravensbrueck and Hamburg-Neuengamme. ICRC is now checking  
with Goteborg on number of WRB parcels already at Luebeck all  
of which committee hopes be able distribute area in question  
within coming three weeks.

Present stress of Luebeck Hamburg area is motivated by  
ICRC fear that this region may soon be cut off and by fact  
that no trucks are at present available in that zone for civil  
detainee relief. Committee is accordingly anxious send in

more

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

000377

...49, April 12, 2 p.m., to London.

more relief and means of transport to distribute it before it is too late.

Four more Renaults with capacity of 3200 kilos each scheduled depart April 12 or 13 for Dachau. They will also remain this area to distribute parcels to large number smaller camps administered from Dachau.

ICRC further counts on being able ship within next ten days by rail to new ICRC depot at Ravensburg between Swiss border and Munich, balance of approximately 50,000 WRB parcels remaining in Switzerland. Plan is then to move these parcels on by trucks as rapidly as possible to accessible camps near Munich and to east and northeast thereof mentioned my 1980. This trucking will be done with 11 more Renaults which ICRC's DSA is due to receive week after next total agreed being 20. They will be operated by gasoline released to ICRC by SHAWF for WRB programs first tank carload of which is already en route from Marseille to Geneva.

Our thirty tires and tubes have arrived and first advance of Diesel oil (Legation's 1981, April 5) will be made to ICRC today. Herbert Katzki is now in Geneva accelerating arrangements with ICRC to make at least four more trucks available for WRB shipments on basis tires and oil.

ICRC

000378

-3-2849, April 12, 4 P.M., to London.

ICRC informs me that in addition to above mentioned trucks a small convoy of five wood burning Swiss trucks belonging to commercial transport concern of Braendli in Basel will leave Switzerland next week in effort to get through to Denmark to repatriate Swiss citizens there. Braendli has agreed transport ten tons of relief goods to women's concentration camp of Ravensbrueck for ICRC.

The four trucks which Sternbuch was fortunately able to rent (Legation's 1740, March 25) left Switzerland on March 25 with ICRC assistance but headed for Theresienstadt rather than Bergenbelsen as previously reported. UNACCTE

STETTINIUS  
(GRK)

WRL:MLV:EG  
4/12/45

BC

WE

SM

000379

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

For your information following is text of cable No. 2045 dated April 7, received from McClelland:

"Additional to Legation's 1988, April 6 regarding ICRC's Division of Special Assistance's plan for trucking relief to civil detainees in Germany.

"Five Renault trucks instead of six now scheduled leave Switzerland April 9 for Luebeck carrying 16 tons relief goods and gasoline. This convoy if feasible will offload supplies at Bergen Belsen en route. ICRC plans have these trucks remain and work out of Luebeck distributing WRB parcels, shipped over from Goteborg, to concentrations of detainees at Ravensbrueck and Hamburg-Neuengamme. ICRC is now checking with Goteborg on number of WRB parcels already at Luebeck all of which committee hopes be able distribute area in question within coming three weeks.

"Present stress of Luebeck Hamburg area is motivated by ICRC fear that this region may soon be cut off and by fact that no trucks are at present available in that zone for civil detainee relief. Committee is accordingly anxious send in more relief and means of transport to distribute it before it is too late.

"Four more Renaults with capacity of 3200 kilos each scheduled depart April 12 or 13 for Dachau. They will also remain this area to distribute parcels to large number smaller camps administered from Dachau.

"ICRC further counts on being able ship within next ten days by rail to new ICRC depot at Ravensburg between Swiss border and Munich, balance of approximately 50,000 WRB parcels remaining in Switzerland. Plan is then to move these parcels on by trucks as rapidly as possible to accessible camps near Munich and to east and northeast thereof mentioned by 1988. This trucking will be done with 11 more Renaults which ICRC's DSA is due to receive

000380

- 2 -

week after next total agreed being 20. They will be operated by gasolins released to ICRC by SHAEF for WRB programs first tank carload of which is already en route from Marseille to Geneva.

"Our thirty tires and tubes have arrived and first advance of Diesel oil (Legation's 1981, April 5) will be made to ICRC today. Herbert Katzki is now in Geneva accelerating arrangements with ICRC to make at least four more trucks available for WRB shipments on basis tires and oil.

"ICRC informs me that in addition to above mentioned trucks a small convoy of five wood burning Swiss trucks belonging to commercial transport concern of Braendli in Basel will leave Switzerland next week in effort to get through to Denmark to repatriate Swiss citizens there. Braendli has agreed transport ten tons of relief goods to women's concentration camp of Ravensbrueck for ICRC.

"The four trucks which Sternbuch was fortunately able to rent (Legation's 1740, March 23) left Switzerland on March 29 with ICRC assistance but headed for Theresienstadt rather than Bergen Belsen as previously reported."

THIS IS WRB LONDON CABLE NO. 66

11:30 a.m.  
April 12, 1945

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

PH:rh 4/11/45 JCH -

000381

000382

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

Distribution of true reading only by special

RECEIVED DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES

April 11, 1945 7 p.m.

1945 APR 14 AM 9 30

*Mar Rep 21  
O. Sample*

**CONTROL COPY**

EMBASSY

LONDON

2827

The following for Genl from O'Dwyer is HRB 64.

For your information, following is text of cable received from McClelland under date of April 6th:

NOTE arrangements with ICRC for securing trucks to transport HRB food parcels into Germany for civil

detainees are shaping up as follows: Six Renault trucks will be available for loading morning April 9 and should depart on April 10. ICRC's Division of Special Assistance still hopes send them to Berlin - Luebeck - Hamburg to relieve rapidly worsening condition of detainees concentration camps of Cronenberg, Ravensbrueck and Hamburg Neuengamme. If it proves impossible to dispatch trucks this area they will be sent Munich region and east. Prospects are good getting four to six more Renaults moving by April 13.

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

These French trucks, although new, all required light overhauling, painting with ICRC insignia, et cetera, which has delayed their use. With tires and diesel oil procured for ICRC by Board's efforts committee hopes make at least four trucks available also next week for our

program.

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

000383

-2-#2827, April 11, 7:30 a.m., to London

program.

Since it is quite possible that only areas of Munich and to east and northeast thereof will be accessible in future it is planned to direct relief shipments by truck mainly to these regions taking in camps of Dachau, Landsberg, Miesbach, Flossenbürg and Dachau near Linz, including emergency relief to evacuated deportees on roads. These shipments would be apart from any that might go to Lubbeck area.

Recent news from Germany indicates that almost all internal telephone and telegraph communications are disrupted so that individual camp commanders are progressively more isolated. Little or no centralized control, therefore, appears to exist which may tend to preclude any general last minute extermination of large groups of civil detainees.

ICG reports this afternoon that truck convoy carrying 300 French women and small children, presumably civil detainees, is expected to arrive Kreuzlingen tomorrow.

Exact area or area from which these persons come is still unknown.

Herbert Katzki arrived this afternoon, April 8 from Paris and will actively work with me on these ICG programs.

All

000384

2827, April 11, 7 . . . to London

All further significant developments in situation  
will be reported to Board. UNQUOTE

For your further information, Board has agreed to purchase  
from War Department 206,000 United States prisoner of war parcels  
now in Switzerland for distribution by Intercross to refugees  
in German concentration camps only. Details of transfer now  
being worked out between War Department and Board.

STETTINIUS  
(GHW)

WHD:MLV:KO  
4/9/45

BC

WE

SMT

000385

CABLE TO WINANT, LONDON, FOR HANN FROM WILLIAM O'DWYER, WAR  
REFUGEE BOARD

For your information, following is text of cable received  
from McClelland under date of April 6th:

"Arrangements with ICRC for securing trucks to  
transport WRB food parcels into Germany for civil  
detainees are shaping up as follows: Six Renault  
trucks will be available for loading morning April 9  
and should depart on April 10. ICRC's Division of  
Special Assistance still hopes send them to Berlin -  
Luebeck - Hamburg area to relieve rapidly worsening  
condition of detainees in concentration camps of Oran-  
ienburg, Ravensbrueck and Hamburg Neuengamme. If it  
proves impossible to dispatch trucks this area they  
will be sent Munich region and east.

"Prospects are good getting four to six more  
Renaults moving by April 15.

"These French trucks, although new, all re-  
quired light overhauling, painting with ICRC insignia,  
et cetera, which has delayed their use. With tires  
and diesel oil procured for ICRC by Board's efforts  
committee hopes make at least four trucks available  
also next week for our program.

"Since it is quite possible that only areas of  
Munich and to east and northeast thereof will be  
accessible in future it is planned to direct relief  
shipments by truck mainly to these regions taking in  
camps of Dachau, Landsberg Amlech, Flossenburg and  
Mauthausen near Linz, including emergency relief to  
evacuated deportees on roads. These shipments would  
be apart from any that might go to Luebeck area.

"Recent news from Germany indicates that almost  
all internal telephone and telegraph communications  
are disrupted so that individual camp commanders are  
progressively more isolated. Little or no centralized  
SS control, therefore, appears to exist which may tend  
to preclude any general last minute extermination of  
large group of civil detainees.

"ICRC reported this afternoon that truck convoy  
carrying 300 French women and small children, presum-  
ably civil detainees, is expected to arrive Kreuzlingen  
tomorrow.

000386

"Exact area or camp from which these persons come is still unknown.

"Herbert Katzki arrived this afternoon, April 5 from Paris and will actively work with me on these WRB programs.

"All further significant developments in situation will be reported to Board."

For your further information, Board has agreed to purchase from War Department 236,000 United States prisoner of war parcels now in Switzerland for distribution by Intercross to refugees in German concentration camps. Details of transfer now being worked out between War Department and Board.

THIS IS WRB LONDON CABLE NO. 64

1:15 p.m.  
April 9, 1945

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

FH:hd 4/9/45

JJA -

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DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES

*W. R. K. B.*

EOC-533  
Distribution of true 1945 APR 12 AM 11 21  
reading only by special Dated April 11, 1945  
arrangement. (██████ W)

Born  
Dated April 11, 1945  
Rec'd 4:51 p.m.  
LIAISON

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

**CONTROL COPY**

2131, April 11, 4 p.m.

DRIVER OF WRB FROM CLEVELAND

10 Renault trucks left Geneva at 5 a.m. today  
(Legations 1988, April 6) and will proceed via  
Kreuzlingen with Luebeck as final destination. 6 of  
them were loaded with 19 tons food parcels, 2 with  
gasoline and 2 with repair parts, tools, et cetera and  
team of mechanics. Food will probably be off loaded  
at concentration camps of Oranienburg and Ravensbrueck  
and trucks will go on to Luebeck to remain and work  
in this area.

There are excellent prospects that 5 more Renaults  
will be ready depart end this week for Dachau.

Will keep you currently informed.

HARRISON

JMS

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

000389



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000390

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES

*Mr. Ref. [initials]*

1945 APR 12 AM 11 26

MS-534  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. ( [redacted] W)

Bern  
Dated April 11, 1945  
Rec'd 4:50 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

2130, April 11, 3 p.m.  
WRB FROM MCCLELLAND.

**CONTROL COPY**

Truck-convoy carrying French women and children  
(Legation's 1988 April 6) from concentration camp of  
Ravensbrueck referred to in our 1988 finally arrived in  
Kreuzlingen Switzerland night of April 10 with 299  
persons after having been delayed about 3 days in Hof  
for lack of gasoline which had to be sent by IGRC from  
Switzerland.

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

Approximately 490 German civilians taken, I  
understand in Alsace, and largely women, children and  
old people were exchanged for the French. German group  
which had been in Annemasse since Saturday, April 7,  
also passed through Switzerland yesterday. Actual ex-  
change has therefore taken place.

Liberation these French detainees accordingly did not  
constitute much of a concession on part of Germans. Ac-  
cording to Musy, after Hitler's veto of any such release  
and exit

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

000391

-2-#2130, April 11, 3 p.m., from Bern.

and exit from Germany of civil detainees, SS had merely permitted this exit of women from Ravensbrueck in order to save face of ICRC and preserve working relationship.

Bachmann of ICRC (Burckhardt's assistant) was negotiating again with "Auswaertigsamt" people in Konstanz on April 10 with view to working out details of continued release or exchange of similar groups.

HARRISON

JMS

000392

000393

STORIES IN YIDDISH PRESS OF AID SENT TO INTERNEES IN NAZI CONCENTRATION CAMPS

1 - Jewish Morning Journal

Joint Sends Food, Clothes for Jews in Nazi Camps

Joint aid in the form of food, clothes and medicine is now flowing regularly to all the concentration camps in the sections as yet not liberated. This statement was made yesterday by Moses A. Leavitt, Secretary of the Joint, at the first monthly press conference of that organization.

Mr. Leavitt gave high praise to General O'Dwyer, head of the War Refugee Board, and the entire apparatus of that agency, created by President Roosevelt a year ago to help save from the claws of Hitler as many Jews as possible.

"The major problem," said Mr. Leavitt, "is transportation. It is necessary to have trucks for carrying this aid -- food, clothes, medicines -- into the concentration camps. General O'Dwyer took it upon himself to obtain five trucks, the needed tires and gasoline. So today the five trucks started from Switzerland with 60 tons of food, medicine and clothing, which will be turned over to the International Red Cross to be distributed among the internees. Two weeks ago, the 23rd of March, there were sent, also from Switzerland, several wagonloads of food and other products," Mr. Leavitt told the conference.

Part of these products were bought by the Joint and part by the War Refugee Board. The Vaad Hanatzalah also sent a quantity of matzoth. "Now there will be trucks, and General O'Dwyer has plenty of provisions to make the aid flow regularly," Mr. Leavitt said. There is enough to send approximately three million pounds of food and clothing every three or four months.

How great the need is, may be seen from the fact that the Joint already appropriated, during the first four months of this year, \$10,000,000 for all forms of aid, stated Joseph C. Hyman, Executive Vice-Chairman of the Joint. Mr. Hyman, who presided at the conference, pointed out further that this year the Joint has already spent more money on relief and rescue than it did for all of 1943.

Talking about relief for the Jews of Poland, Mr. Leavitt emphasized that transports of 50 tons each are now leaving weekly from Teheran for Lublin. Aside from this, the Joint forwards monthly 10,000 packages of food and clothing to individuals -- Polish-Jewish refugees now in Asiatic Russia. Each package is enough to maintain a family for about two or three months and they get these packages on the average of one every three months. For this operation alone the Joint spends \$1,200,000 a year.

The Joint is also about to send to Poland several fully equipped 100-bed field hospitals.

According to the latest reports received by the Joint, stated Mr. Leavitt, there were registered in Budapest alone 150,000 Jews, and thousands of others are now emerging from the woods and concentration camps, and it is expected that many thousands more will come forth.

There are reports that in and about Vienna there are 140,000 Jews who, it is hoped, will soon be liberated by the Red Army. To aid the Hungarian Jews, the Joint has appropriated 10,500,000 Swiss francs.

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The Joint is endeavoring to raise this year \$46,570,000 for its work.

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3 - The Day

### Joint Sends Relief to Nazi Concentration Camps

With the aid of the War Refugee Board, the Joint succeeded recently in sending transports of food, clothes and medication to the Nazi concentration camps in Germany and Austria, where the condition of Jewish internees is particularly bad, since the Nazis do not consider Jews internees and therefore not to be given the protection of international law in accordance with the Geneva Convention. Two weeks ago, five trucks left for Theresienstadt and Lubeck and during the coming months it is planned to send a transport of three million pounds to the internees. In the Vienna area alone there are about 50,000 Jews subjected to slave labor.

These facts were made known yesterday at a press conference of the Joint presided over by Joseph Hyman, Executive Vice-President. Moses Leavitt, Secretary, imparted the information. He emphasized the important part played by the War Refugee Board and its Director, General O'Dwyer, in making possible these shipments to the internees in the Nazi camps, and he expressed to both his profound gratitude.

Mr. Leavitt also told of \$2,500,000 having been sent through Switzerland to Bucharest, to Dr. William Fillerman, for relief work in Rumania, Hungary and Bulgaria. He told of 30 to 50 tons of food, clothing and medication being sent each week to the Jews in Poland. This is being sent in addition to the 1,200 packages, transmitted to individual Polish-Jewish families in Lithuania, Galicia, the Ukraine and White Russia. The Joint bought \$300,000 worth of food and other goods in America and Canada for the Jews in Poland, consisting of soap, powdered eggs, powdered milk, shoes, etc. The Joint has already spent \$1,250,000 on relief for the Jews in Poland. Aside from its purchases in the United States and Canada, food and other items are being bought in Sweden, Switzerland, Iran, as well as in South America. The most difficult problem is transportation.

All in all, the Joint will have spent \$10,000,000 for its relief work for the first four months of 1945. This is a much greater amount than was spent for the same period last year. But the need is much more acute and Jewish lives are at stake. It is the hope of the Joint leaders to send as soon as possible machinery and tools in order to start the work of rehabilitation. At that time it will be possible to reduce the vast sums now spent on relief. In the next few weeks there will be sent to Poland a transport of sewing machines and tools, which the Joint has already acquired, in the amount of \$50,000.

The speaker also praised the South African Jews who are cooperating with the Joint by giving substantial sums.

The Joint has appropriated \$10,000 for medicines for the Jews in Czechoslovakia; this amount will round out the sum of \$100,000 allotted to that community.

The Joint sends to Yugoslavia each month \$6,000, and the aid for Italy amounted to \$90,000 in the first three months of this year.

The Jews in France have obtained from the Joint \$800,000 in the form of food, clothing and cash during the last three months.

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000395

3 - Jewish Daily Forward

Joint Sends Help to Jews in German Prison Camps

About the extensive and multiform work of relief carried on by the Joint in Europe and the millions of dollars which the Joint now spends in order to save the surviving Jews from extermination, Mr. Moses A. Leavitt, Secretary of the Joint, reported yesterday at a press conference of the representatives of the Jewish Press, held at the office of the Joint. During the first four months of this year the Joint has already spent \$10,000,000 for relief.

Leavitt first reported on the aid now being given to Jews who are still to be found in the concentration camps of Germany. Until recently this sort of work was still impossible. The products -- food, clothes, medicines -- for this purpose were bought in Switzerland and are now being distributed through special agents of the International Red Cross. The products are being distributed in trucks specially ~~built~~ for this purpose to the various camps. This project would have been impossible without the aid of the War Refugee Board and particularly without the help of General O'Dwyer. The General is wholly devoted to this undertaking and only because of his efforts has this work now become possible.

It is not known exactly how many Jews are still to be found in the German concentration camps. In July of last year there were 35,000 Jews in Theresienstadt and approximately 10,000 Jews are still to be found in Bergen-Belsen. According to the reports received by the Joint, there are now 150,000 Jews in Budapest, the capital of Hungary; another 140,000 Hungarian Jews are now in the labor camps around Vienna.

Recently the Joint has been carrying on relief activities in Poland. Fifty tons of products are being sent there weekly. Preparations are being made to send tools to the surviving Jews of Poland to enable them to earn a living. Four hundred sewing machines will also be included. In Teheran, Persia, the Joint has now several 100-bed field hospitals and they will be sent to Poland at the first opportunity.

Aside from this, the Joint forwards 10,000 packages each month to the Polish refugees now in Russia.

For its work in Poland, the Joint appropriated \$1,500,000.

The Joint also sent to its representative in Rumania, Dr. Filderman, 10,500,000 Swiss francs, amounting to \$2,000,000, to carry on the work of relief in Rumania, Hungary and Bulgaria.

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4 - Freiheit

Joint Appropriated \$10,000,000 for Relief Work for the First Four Months of This Year

Aid in the form of food and medication is being sent through the Joint and through the War Refugee Board.

This fact and other important facts about the activity of the Joint for the Jewish victims of the war and the "saved remnant" of the Nazi murders in Europe, were disclosed yesterday by Mr. Moses A. Leavitt, Secretary of the Joint, at a press conference held at the office of the Joint. Mr. Leavitt expressed recognition and grati-

ude to General O'Dwyer and the War Refugee Board, with whom the Joint works in close cooperation.

Among other important facts given by Mr. Leavitt are the following: The Joint has appropriated some \$10,000,000 for its relief work during the first four months of this year. The Jewish communities in Europe have demanded of the Joint for this year a minimum of \$46,570,000.

Approximately 50 to 60 tons of food, clothing and medication are being sent by the Joint each week to the Jews in Poland through Soviet Russia. The transports are sent from Teheran. This is in addition to the 10,000 individual packages being sent each month from Teheran to the Jewish refugees in the Asiatic parts of Soviet Russia. Aside from this, 1,200 packages are being sent to individuals in 111 liberated cities in Lithuania, Galicia, the Ukraine and White Russia. The program of aid for the Jews in Poland amounts to more than \$1,250,000.

In Greece there are about 3,500 Jews left and they received from the Joint \$200,000 for loan rations. (Food is being supplied by the UNRRA).

In Hungary there are about 150,000 Jews left. Thousands of Jews are now emerging from the woods and are coming to Budapest. About 140,000 Hungarian Jews are in the area of Vienna. The Joint representative at Bucharest sent to Budapest 220,000 pounds of food, clothing and medication. A second transport of 200,000 pounds is now on its way. About \$100,000 is now being sent each month to Hungary through Switzerland.

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# JTA

## Daily News Bulletin

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Tuesday, April 10, 1945

### 2,000 BUDAPEST JEWS RETURN FROM OSWIECIM CAMP; 20,000 MORE SURVIVORS ARE EXPECTED

SOFIA, April 9. (JTA) -- About 2,000 Hungarian Jews from the Oswiecim death camp have already returned to Budapest it was reported here today by a Jewish leader who has just arrived from the liberated Hungarian capital.

Another 20,000 Jewish survivors are expected to be brought from Oswiecim to Budapest within the next few days, he said. He emphasized that there is unprecedented misery and starvation among the Jews in liberated Hungary because Jews were robbed of all their possessions by pro-Nazi Hungarians prior to the entrance of the Red Army.

"Especially precarious is the situation of scores of thousands of Jewish children whose parents have either been killed, or deported to Germany for forced labor, or sent to Oswiecim," he stated. "The number of deaths among these children is increasing daily, as a result of starvation. In addition to the great need of food, there is also an urgent need for clothes and shoes for these orphans."

The reconstituted Jewish community of Budapest has succeeded in establishing special institutions for Jewish children, but these institutions can shelter only about 1,000 children. There are about 1,500 Jewish children sheltered in private homes, but they are unaware of the fact that they are Jewish, the Budapest leader reported. Special efforts, he said, are being made to arrange that as many children as possible should go to Palestine.

Beginning with next week a Zionist weekly newspaper will be published in Budapest. It is also expected that a Zionist conference will take place there before the month is over. A Jewish school was opened there this week, but there is an acute shortage of Jewish teachers, because almost all of them were either massacred or deported. The Hachalutz organization in Budapest has resumed its activities and established agricultural training courses in the suburbs of the city, the Jewish leader declared.

### STATE DEPARTMENT MAY INVITE REPRESENTATIVES OF TWO JEWISH GROUPS TO SAN FRANCISCO

WASHINGTON, April 9. (JTA) -- The Jewish Telegraphic Agency was today informed by unofficial sources that the State Department is considering inviting the American Jewish Committee and the American Jewish Conference to send representatives to the United Nations' conference at San Francisco.

These representatives would form part of a cross-section of American organizations which the State Department plans to invite in response to a deluge of requests which have been pouring in, it was pointed out. Through a State Department liaison officer these organizations, including probably, four labor bodies, will be kept in touch with what goes on at the conference and will be enabled to present their views informally to the conference.

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JEWS AGENCY DOES NOT BELIEVE SAN FRANCISCO WILL DECIDE PALESTINE'S FATE

JERUSALEM, April 9. (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency has no reason to believe that the fate of Palestine will be decided at the Security Conference of the United Nations which opens at San Francisco at the end of this month, Dr. Bernard Joseph, the Agency's legal adviser, declared at a press conference today.

Although Dr. Chaim Weizmann and David Ben-Gurion may arrive in the United States shortly before the opening of the San Francisco Conference, it is not clear yet whether there will be any necessity for them to go to San Francisco, Dr. Joseph said. Despite this, the Jewish Agency will send several observers to San Francisco, who will, however, in no way officially represent the Agency, he added.

Dr. Joseph took issue with Lord Devonshire's statement in the House of Lords in which the Under-Secretary of the Colonial Office declared that the British Government has information that Jews from Europe do not want to go to Palestine. "This allegation," Dr. Joseph stated, "is absolutely untrue. We are being deluged by hundreds of thousands of demands for immigration certificates." He revealed that at present there are only 3,500 immigration certificates remaining under the terms of the White Paper, adding that Palestine can absorb "at least 100,000 new immigrants immediately."

SAN FRANCISCO CONFERENCE IS ASKED TO PROVIDE FOR OUTLAWING OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

LONDON, April 9. (JTA) -- A three-point program suggesting that the San Francisco Conference takes steps to outlaw racial and religious discrimination after the war was submitted today to Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden by the National Committee for the Rescue of People from Nazi Terror, headed by Marquess Crew and the Archbishops of Canterbury, Westminster and York. The program urges:

1. Establishment of a multi-lateral convention regarding an international standard of rights securing the protection of life and liberty of the inhabitants of all countries, regardless of their origin, nationality, race, faith or language.
2. Promulgation of national laws and creation of appropriate international legal instruments providing that anti-racial activities and incitement against racial and religious groups, as well as discrimination against them, are to be considered violations of criminal law.
3. Negotiation of an international agreement for the elimination of statelessness. While statelessness exists, however, persons affected should be under protective jurisdiction of an international organization. Suitable identity documents which will be issued to them should be recognized as valid by all nations. No stateless person should be compelled to resume his former nationality.

J. L. Brierly, Oxford professor of International Law, whose opinion presumably determined the official attitude of the British Government towards the question of war crimes, published an article today expressing the view that German crimes against their own nationals, Jews and others, are not war crimes in the strict sense, and therefore "dealing with them under the forms of law would be mockery."

GERMANS SET DANISH SYNAGOGUE AFIRE; DESTROY CENTURIES-OLD TORAHS

STOCKHOLM, April 9. (JTA) -- The Sydvenska Dagbladet today reports that German soldiers set afire the synagogue in Aalborg, Denmark, and completely destroyed the building with its centuries-old Torahs.

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JEWISH LOOT FROM ALL OVER EUROPE FOUND AT HEADQUARTERS OF ALFRED ROSENBERG

PARIS, April 9, (JTA) -- A cache of Jewish literary and art treasures stolen by the Germans from all over Europe was discovered yesterday at Hungen, Germany, by a unit of the Third Army led by a Jewish lieutenant who fled from Austria six years ago, it was reported here today.

In addition to art treasures, including manuscripts dating from the fourteenth century, there was found a complete file of clippings from foreign newspapers concerning Jewish questions. This had been used by Dr. Alfred Rosenberg, the Nazis' "expert" on racial theories, as a basis for his attacks on Jews.

The bulk of the collection, including 200 paintings, was found in an ancient castle, which had been the central collection point for Rosenberg's researchers. The lieutenant who found the cache was Robert Schoenfeld of Brooklyn, who had been an attorney in Austria.

PERSONS ACCUSED OF CRIMES AGAINST JEWS WILL BE FIRST RUMANIAN WAR CRIMINALS TO BE TRIED

BUCHAREST, April 9, (JTA) -- Rumanians charged with the persecution and murder of hundreds of thousands of Jews will be tried before any other war criminals, Minister of Justice Lucretiu Patrascanu told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today in an exclusive interview. The trials will begin as soon as preliminary examinations, before which survivors of Transnistrian camps are testifying, are completed.

At the same time, Mr. Patrascanu assured the JTA correspondent that houses and apartments from which Jews were ousted during the Antonescu regime will be returned to them on April 23, in accordance with the decree on restoration of property issued several months ago.

Referring to a recent decree which divided offenders into two categories, "war criminals" and those accused of being "responsible for the disaster of the country," the minister said persons charged with establishing ghettos and concentration camps for Jews, although falling into the latter category, for which milder punishments are usually provided, will be liable to the death sentence.

The trials will take place before the new Peoples' Tribunals, consisting of a magistrate and six civilians representing all sections of the population. Those charged with initiating and organizing the pogrom in Jassy, in 1941, during which thousands of Jews were murdered, will be tried in Bucharest, while those who carried out the orders will be sent to Jassy for trial in accordance with the desires of the city's population.

Mr. Patrascanu blamed the long delay in bringing these criminals to justice on sabotage by members of the National Peasant and National Liberal parties who were in the previous cabinets.

PALESTINE FLOATS NEW \$4,000,000 BOND ISSUE; EXPECTED TO BE OVER-SUBSCRIBED

JERUSALEM, April 9, (JTA) -- Public sale of the second issue of Palestine bearer bonds began today. Financial circles expect that the entire issue of one million pounds will be subscribed and over-subscribed before the end of the day.

000400

WAR REFUGEE BOARD STARTS SENDING FOOD TO JEWS IN GERMANY; J.D.C. COOPERATES

NEW YORK, April 9. (JTA) -- A huge program for feeding Jewish internees in labor and concentration camps in Germany has been initiated by the War Refugee Board, through the efforts of its executive director Brigadier-General William O'Dwyer, it was revealed here today at a press conference of the Joint Distribution Committee addressed by Moses A. Leavitt, secretary of the organization, and presided over by Joseph C. Hyman, executive vice-chairman.

The food will be brought into Germany from neutral countries on trucks by representatives of the International Red Cross. The J. D. C. has been sending food to Jewish internees in German camps, Mr. Leavitt revealed. He reported that according to the latest information received by the JDC, there are about 140,000 Jews, mostly Hungarian, being used by the Germans as slave laborers in the Vienna regime. There are also about 10,000 Jews in the Bergenbelzen camp, near Hanover, which is now about to be liberated by the advancing British Army. Many Jews are still interned in TheresinStadt, he said.

The Joint Distribution Committee is now sending an average of 60 tons of food and clothing a week to Polish Jews in the USSR, and in liberated Poland, in addition to 10,000 parcels a month for individual Jews whose addresses are known, Mr. Leavitt reported. Parcels are also being sent by the J. D. C. to reconstituted Jewish communities in the liberated Baltic countries and Poland for distribution among local Jewish families.

It was disclosed at the conference that the J. D. C. has spent \$10,000,000 during the first four months of this year for relief for Jews abroad. The latest appeals for relief received by the J. D. C. during the last few days are from 150,000 Jewish survivors in Budapest and from the surviving Jews in Greece.

HIGH COMMITTEE OF PALESTINE ARABS FORMED; DECIDES TO FOUND LAND RECLAMATION COMPANY

CAIRO, April 9. (JTA) -- After prolonged negotiations and deliberations a "High Committee" of Palestine Arabs has been formed, consisting of heads of all the Arab parties in the country, the Cairo radio reports.

The broadcast said that the first meeting of the committee was held on Friday, when it was decided to found an "Arab Land Reclamation Investment Company" capitalized at one million pounds. Shares of one pound par value will be sold.

The assembled leaders also expressed thanks to the Arab governments for the recent establishment of a League of Arab Nations and for the appendix to the league's charter which called for an independent Arab state in Palestine.

ELIEZER KAPLAN, TREASURER OF JEWISH AGENCY, ARRIVES IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, April 9. (JTA) -- Eliezer Kaplan, treasurer of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, has arrived here from Jerusalem by air. Mr. Kaplan will coordinate the economic activities on behalf of Palestine being conducted by various American Jewish groups. He will also confer with leaders of the Joint Distribution Committee on relief activities in liberated European countries.

THE CONTENTS OF THIS BULLETIN ARE NOT FOR PUBLICATION WITHOUT SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION

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AIR MAIL

Office of the Treasury  
Representative

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
TREASURY DEPARTMENT



Embassy of the United States  
London, April 9, 1945.

Miss Florence Fodel,  
Assistant Executive Director,  
War Refugee Board,  
Treasury Department,  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Florence:

The War-Treasury cable directing me to go immediately to Paris and thence to Switzerland came as a surprise. This letter is an attempt to give you a hurried summary of our negotiations and a chronology of events.

I received the cable on Thursday, March 23, and arrived in Paris on the morning of March 24. Herbert Katzki arrived in London on Friday evening, March 25. I had arranged to establish a priority for us to continue to Paris. However, due to a misunderstanding at the AEC we were unable to proceed to Paris on the same plane, but Herbert arrived there by plane on the afternoon of March 24. After our arrival we immediately got in touch with General Hilland, Chief of G-4, Com-Z, and arranged to see him on Sunday afternoon. Herbert and I spent Sunday morning discussing this matter.

When we saw General Hilland on Sunday, March 25, he stated that he had been expecting us and, through War Department cables, knew the purpose of our visit. We gave the General our story, emphasized the interest of the White House and the personal interest of the members of the Board in seeing that this project was carried out. We stressed the urgency and pointed out that delay could probably be measured in terms of human life. The General appeared to be very much impressed and stated that he had to clear this matter with G-1 which he would do and would see if there were fifty tons of trucking capacity available plus the other things we required. He stated at that time that he was unable to give us any tires because of the critical tire situation. In the course of our conversation on Sunday, which lasted approximately an hour, the General mentioned the trucks which had just been given to the International Red Cross and asked if it were possible for us to use a part of this space. He explained that the matter had been taken up with the American Red Cross in Washington and that such was out of the question. We emphasized that we desired not to interfere in any way with the prisoner of war shipments. General Hilland stated that he would try to call us sometime during Monday, March 26, and let us know what could be done.

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Late in the afternoon of Monday, March 26, I called General Gilland since Katzki and I had not heard from him. The General stated that he had just received a message that McClelland was arriving that evening. He wanted to see McClelland the first thing Tuesday morning as he felt that it would be a good idea to talk with the man who had actually been on the spot before making a decision. After this telephone conversation we investigated and found that through lack of proper coordination the Embassy had relayed a cable message from McClelland along the lines indicated by General Gilland without first clearing with Katzki and me. We arranged to get in touch with McClelland as soon as he arrived and told General Gilland that McClelland would telephone him sometime during the morning of Tuesday, March 27.

Katzki and I met McClelland at the Embassy on the morning of March 27 and discussed the situation in detail. It was arranged that the three of us should call on General Gilland that afternoon at 2:30. It should be noted that in the period from Sunday to Tuesday the news of the Allied breakthrough across the Rhine appeared in all the papers and we had learned from a well-advised friend that Patton's breakthrough was much greater than was indicated in the newspapers. In view of this news and the supply problem facing G-4 we felt that our chances of getting trucks were not as good as they had been.

In the Tuesday afternoon meeting with General Gilland we briefly outlined the situation which we had discussed on Sunday and again stressed the urgency. The General's attitude at this time did not appear to be as favorable as on Sunday. He had several questions to ask McClelland about the operation of prisoner of war trucks and about the situation in Switzerland. On this point I thought McClelland gave him very good answers. The General's attitude was such in the early part of this meeting that we all feared that he was going to say that he had considered the situation and in view of the breakthrough across the Rhine, supply requirements were such that he was unable to comply with any of our requests. The General did point out the supply problem involved and emphasized that the trend was showing a tremendous breakthrough which made his transportation position so acute that trucks which had been used for unloading ships were having to be dispatched to the front in order to supply the American armies. He mentioned furthermore that it appeared that ships would have to be turned back into New York and other ports in the States because they could not be unloaded if they arrived at continental ports. We made such arguments as were available to us and I think that when we left we had the General much more inclined to our position than when the meeting started. The General again stated in this meeting that he could give us no titles, because of the critical situation (he produced his operational charts to prove this) and he promised that he would canvass the transportation situation again and would do his best to meet our requirements. He promised a definite "yes" or "no" answer on Wednesday and it was arranged at that time that we should call

on him at 11:30 a.m., March 28. After this meeting we were somewhat depressed because it was clear to us from our conversation with the General that tremendous demands were being made on him for trucks to supply the front.

On the afternoon of Tuesday, March 27, we received a call from Captain Clark of the SHAFV Mission to France who requested a meeting with us to discuss the evacuation of the Berren-Belsen and other refugees from Switzerland and stated that if agreeable, representatives of SHAFV (Main) and UNRRA would also attend. We set this meeting for the afternoon of March 28.

On Wednesday morning, March 28, we called on General Gilland who received us in the presence of Colonel Renfro. The General stated that he had canvassed the transportation situation and was unable to meet our requirements. In this meeting we made every argument available to us. I shan't list them in detail but suffice it to say, "we threw the book at him". We ended by telling the General that we were both surprised and extremely disappointed since it was our understanding that our mission was really not to "obtain" trucks but to work out the details for getting them to Switzerland and we thought that the Army had sent a rather strong cable recommending that they be given us. It was our impression that the recommendation was tantamount to an instruction. It then developed that the General had not seen the actual cable from the War Department. He knew that the War Department had sent a cable on the matter but didn't know that a document as strong as the one which we described had been sent. At this point he literally raised hell and sent all members of his staff to search for the cable which was soon found and given to him. The General studied it carefully and stated that as sympathetic as he was to our project and as much as he would like to help us, as a military man in the field he had no alternative other than to say that he could not comply with the War Department's request on the basis of "over-riding military necessity".

I am certain that there is nothing that could have been said or done that would have resulted in our obtaining any trucks. However, we told the General that if he couldn't give us trucks we had to have tires, gasoline and balanced lubricants if our program was to go forward. General Gilland said he felt that he had to do something to help us and that he would give us gasoline and lubricants providing we could arrange transportation to Switzerland. That we assured him we could do. The tires, however, were an entirely different matter. After an extended discussion concerning tires which would release Swiss Army trucks to us the General finally asked McClelland if he had the tire sizes of Swiss Army trucks and when the sizes were given to him he telephoned his tire section to find if any of the named sizes were available. He was told that none of such sizes were available but that there was a tire size available which could be substituted for one of the requested sizes. The General then said he would give us enough tires to equip five trucks. At this point I told him that I appreciated the fact that he was giving us the thirty tires and asked

if he could not possibly raise this figure to 100, pointing out that such an amount would be a substantial help to us. The General looked very much surprised at this request and stated that he could not possibly increase the 30 by one tire and that if we only appreciated the critical position on tires we would realize that he had gone "all out" for us. At that point all of us were convinced that we had gotten everything out of the Army that we could. Accordingly, we thanked the General and left on the understanding that we would call the next day and be put in touch with the appropriate supply people who were to work out details for delivery.

The afternoon of March 28 we held our meeting with Captain Clark of the SHAMP Mission to France, Captain Dehaas of SHAMP (Main) together with a Major and a Captain of the Transportation Division of his office, Mr. Youngdahl, the IJARA representative attached to SHAMP (Main), and Mr. Arthur Greenleigh, the Paris representative of the Joint Distribution Committee. In this meeting we worked out most of the details for the evacuation of the refugees from Switzerland. McClelland knew the facts concerning the situation extremely well and I think we made great progress towards working out the details of evacuation. I shall not attempt to go into detail at this point since Captain Clark is furnishing me with minutes of the meeting which I expect to receive any day and will forward to you by airmail promptly upon receipt.

Following the above-mentioned meeting Katzki and McClelland went to see Pradervant, the IRC delegate in Paris, to arrange for the transportation of the gasoline and lubricants by the IRC. I did not attend this meeting since there were a few details that had to be taken care of and since McClelland was of the impression that Pradervant spoke only French and maybe German. (It subsequently developed that the meeting was conducted in English but that, of course, we couldn't know before hand.) At this meeting Pradervant assured McClelland that there would be no difficulty in getting the gasoline transported along with the POW shipment. He also advised McClelland and Katzki that the French had recently sent 100 new three-ton Renault trucks to Switzerland for IRC use but that many of such trucks were presently not in use because of lack of gasoline and he assured McClelland that we could use enough of them to consume the allotment of gasoline given us by the Army.

Thursday, March 29, we called at General Gailand's office and were put in touch with Lt. Col. J. W. Moore who had been told by the General to see that the details for the delivery of gasoline and tires were worked out. Col. Moore gave us action with a capital "A". In our presence he instructed the Colonel in charge of the petroleum section immediately to give orders by telephone to Marseille to ship the gas and balanced lubricants and he dictated a letter to be signed by the appropriate person in the Adjutant General's office stating that such arrangements had been made. (We felt that we needed such a letter in order for McClelland to attempt to get advancements of IRC gasoline before our shipments actually arrived.) Col. Moore gave orders to the tire section for the tires

to be taken by army transport to the Swiss border town of Portarlier Les Verrieres where they would be picked up by a representative of the IRC at noon on Tuesday, April 3.

In our conversations with the Colonel in charge of the petroleum section we gathered that if we were able to get sufficient trucks to use more than the supply of gasoline allotted, we possibly could increase our allotment provided appropriate orders were sent from Washington. Katzki, McClelland and I talked over this matter and we felt that no request for an additional allotment should be made until we determined that we would have sufficient vehicles to use it. It is possible that Katzki and McClelland will communicate with you on this point after they have canvassed the situation in Switzerland.

On Thursday afternoon, March 29, pursuant to appointment we saw Sam Reber, one of the STAFF political advisers to see whether we could obtain space on the 207 trucks for any of our parcels. At that time Reber told us that it was not within his power to make such an allocation but advised us that he had sent out a telegram on March 23 asking that the trucks be used for emergency relief to Allied internees both in camps and on the roads. We mentioned that cable to you in our telephone conversation with General O'Dwyer.

After we had made our arrangements with Lt. Col. Moore we felt that it would be extremely helpful if we could telephone General O'Dwyer and you and give an up-to-the-minute account of what had transpired and what we had accomplished. In order to put through the call we saw a Col. Meyer and finally talked him into permitting us to make the call. Obtaining permission to communicate with General O'Dwyer is a story in itself as you, no doubt, appreciated from the nature of the facilities used.

On Friday, McClelland returned to Switzerland to take up the question of the French trucks with the IRC, to arrange to have the tires picked up and to get the program started. Pursuant to General O'Dwyer's telephone instruction Katzki and I were to remain on the spot until we heard from McClelland in case difficulties arose which required someone in Paris.

On Saturday, March 31, we learned through a cable which was sent to McClelland but which he did not receive before he left that the Swiss were unable to furnish a locomotive as had originally been agreed to take the evacuees from Switzerland to Marseille. Katzki and I immediately got in touch with Captain DeHaas and obtained assurance that this matter would be taken care of by the Army.

During the remaining days that Katzki and I were in Paris nothing much of importance happened. We did confer with a number of people but the conversations were not of sufficient importance to warrant summarizing. On Wednesday we were scheduled to see Pat Malin (who happened to be in Paris) who, we had been told, was slightly angry at the fact that he had not attended the evacuation

conference. At the last minute it developed that I could not attend this meeting with Katzki and Malin because a rather urgent Treasury matter developed which required my attention. Katzki tells me that in his meeting with Malin he informed him that the conference on evacuation had been arranged by the Army and had only met at the Embassy as a convenience for us. He also tells me that Malin complained that he did not get good service out of the American Government on IGC requests. I explained to Katzki, Malin's attitude as I have already described it in letters to the Board, namely, he has never attempted to get in touch with the WRB representative here but insists that since he represents an international organization he must have his dealings with one of the regular diplomatic staff of the Embassy. Incidentally, I mentioned to one of the Embassy officers Malin's complaint and he was provoked at this inasmuch as the Embassy has given the Intergovernmental Committee good service on all occasions.

Since we had heard nothing from McClelland to indicate that there were difficulties Katzki arranged transportation and left for Switzerland on the night of April 4. On the afternoon of April 3 I received a telegram from Treasury directing me to return to London to take charge of the office as soon as the G-4 negotiations were completed and stating that the WRB concurred in such instructions. Accordingly, I made plans to return to London on April 5.

On Thursday, April 5, I received a telegram from McClelland in which he stated that the French Customs officials at Pontarlier Les Verrieres refused to allow the IRC to pick up the tires until instructions had been received from the appropriate Ministry in France. I immediately called upon Pradervant, and we put in a telephone call for M. Pleven, Minister of Finance, who was unavailable at the time. Because of my departure scheduled for the afternoon I was unable to wait until Pleven was available. However, Pradervant assured me that he would see that appropriate instructions were sent to the French customs officials that day. McClelland's cable which stated the customs difficulties indicated that the program was going well. He stated "With good luck should get five trucks under way by Saturday and ten more next week although geographic area still accessible is rapidly shrinking".

I returned to London on Thursday evening, April 5.

The above, I believe, gives a fairly accurate if rough description and chronology of our mission. It is my feeling and I think it is shared by both McClelland and Katzki that we accomplished all that we possibly could under the circumstances. Bearing in mind the time at which we made our request for trucks to the Army, I don't think there is anything that could have been done that would have resulted in obtaining such trucks. All of us have every reason to believe that the alternative plan for the use of French trucks and Swiss Army trucks (tires supplied by Army) will be sufficient to carry out our objectives equally as effective as would have been done by use of the requested Army trucks.

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- 7 -

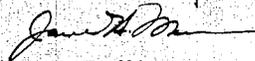
I enjoyed the Mission very much and appreciated your thinking of me for this job. My experiences with Fatzki and McClelland were very pleasant and I have nothing but highest praise for both of them. They are both "full of their job" and sincerely interested in seeing that everything is done to further the Board's objectives. I am certain that the two of them will make things hum in Switzerland.

I know you must enjoy your work with the General. He certainly has the name of a man who gets things done. Please tell him that I am looking forward to making his acquaintance some day.

Again I ask you to excuse this rather rough report but I thought you would be interested in getting an account of our Mission as soon as possible.

Please give my regards to all.

Sincerely yours,



James H. Mann,  
Special Representative,  
War Refugee Board.

000409

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
**TREASURY DEPARTMENT**  
Embassy of the United States  
James H. Mann  
London  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

VIA AIR MAIL

Miss Florence Hoddl,  
Assistant Executive Director,  
War Refugee Board,  
Treasury Department,  
Washington 25, D. C.

**BEST AVAILABLE COPY**

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DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

HM-1420  
Distribution of  
true reading only by  
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[redacted] W)

RECEIVED  
DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
1945 APR 9 Dated April 7, 1945  
AM 8 45  
Rec'd. 10:10 p.m.

Secretary of State  
Washington

DC/L  
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2045, April 7, 6 p.m.

O'DWYER OF WRB FROM MCCLELLAND.

A / Additional to Legation's 1988, April 6 regarding  
ICRC's Division of Special Assistance's plan for  
trucking relief to civil detainees in Germany.

Five Renault trucks instead of six now scheduled  
leave Switzerland April 9 for Luebeck carrying 16 tons  
relief goods and gasoline. This convoy if feasible  
will offload supplies at Bergen Belsen en route.  
ICRC plans have these trucks remain and work out of  
Luebeck distributing WRB parcels, shipped over from  
Goteborg, to concentrations of detainees at Ravensbrueck  
and Hamburg-Neuengame. ICRC is now checking with  
Goteborg on number of WRB parcels already at Luebeck  
all of which committee hopes be able distribute area  
in question within coming three weeks.

Present stress of Luebeck Hamburg area is motivated  
by ICRC fear that this region may soon be cut off and  
by fact

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

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-2-, #2045, April 7, 6 p.m., from Bern

by fact that no trucks are at present available in that zone for civil detainee relief. Committee is accordingly anxious send in more relief and means of transport to distribute it before it is too late.

Four more Renaults with capacity of 3200 kilos each scheduled depart April 12 or 13 for Dachau. They will also remain this area to distribute parcels to large number smaller camps administered from Dachau.

ICRC further counts on being able ship within next ten days by rail to new ICRC depot at Ravensburg between Swiss border and Munich, balance of approximately 50,000 WRB parcels remaining in Switzerland. Plan is then to move these parcels on by trucks as rapidly as possible to accessible camps near Munich and to east and northeast thereof mentioned my 1988. This trucking will be done with 11 more Renaults which ICRC's DSA is due to receive week after next total agreed being 20. They will be operated by gasoline released to ICRC by SHAEF for WRB programs first tank carload of which is already en route from Marseille to Geneva.

Our thirty tires and tubes have arrived and first advance of Diesel oil (Legation's 1981, April 5)

will be

000413

-3-, #2045, April 7, 6 p.m., from Bern

will be made to ICRC today. Herbert Katzki is now in Geneva accelerating arrangements with ICRC to make at least four more trucks available for WRB shipments on basis tires and oil.

ICRC informs me that in addition to abovementioned trucks a small convoy of five wood burning Swiss trucks belonging to commercial transport concern of Braendli in Basel will leave Switzerland next week in effort to get through to Denmark to repatriate Swiss citizens there. Braendli has agreed transport ten tons of relief goods to women's concentration camp of Ravensbrueck for ICRC.

The four~~th~~ trucks which Sternbuch was fortunately able to rent (Legation's 1740, March 23) left Switzerland on March 29 with ICRC assistance but headed for ~~the~~ Resienstadt rather than Bergen Belsen as previously reported. 1B

HARRISON

EDA

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