

Prisoners of War Relieved and
Other Evacuation
Programs

Evacuation from the Island of Rab

000513

1. GENERAL
2. LICENSES ISSUED RE EVACUATION OF REFUGEES FROM ISLAND OF RAB
3. MATERIAL TAKEN FROM ACKERMANN'S FILES RE EVACUATION OF REFUGEES FROM THE ISLAND OF RAB

FFC-76
(11-42)

CROSS REFERENCE ON .EVACUATION OF REFUGEES FROM THE
ISLAND OF RAB

FOR:

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

1. FOR FURTHER REFERENCE TO REFUGEES EVACUATED FROM THE ISLAND OF RAB.

SEE: 1. ITLAY - VOL. 2 (6)

000515

GS 7505

COPY

THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
Washington 25, D. C.

14 April 1944

Walt
JCH

The Honorable
The Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Further reference is made to your memorandum dated 1 February 1944 to the Secretary of War relating to the disbursement of funds to refugees presently on the Island of Rab in the Adriatic.

A reply to the inquiry transmitted to the Allied Commander in Chief, Mediterranean Theater, has now been received stating: (1) that the proposal was being communicated to the headquarters of the Yugoslav Partisans and that he would inform us of the results of the negotiations; (2) that the local representative of the War Refugee Board had been advised of this action; (3) that the previously expressed views of the theater opposing, for military reasons, the rendering of aid to these refugees had been partly revised due to a present ability to care for displaced persons in Italy because arrangements had been made to evacuate dissident Chetnik elements and 25,500 Partisan refugees from Italy to the Mideast; and (4) that the success of the proposal may be affected by (a) the disinclination of the Partisans to lend their aid if the refugees are in part Chetniks, (b) a rumored German assault on Rab, and (c) the hazards of evacuation due to the distance from Allied occupied Italy.

The Germans have reoccupied Rab since dispatch of the foregoing reply. However, it need not be implied from that fact that the project you mention must be abandoned and upon receipt of more detailed information concerning the outcome of negotiations with the Partisans you will be advised of the feasibility of the proposed action.

Sincerely yours,

For the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

/s/ G. C. Marshall

Chief of Staff, U.S. Army.

~~SECRET~~
DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or E
JCS memo, 1-4-74
By SLR, HLR, Date JUN 3 1974

000516



THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

CS 5313

15 March 1944.

The Honorable
The Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to your memorandum of 1 February 1944 relating to the disbursement of funds to refugees presently on the Island of Rab in the Adriatic which has been referred to the Joint Chiefs of Staff for consideration.

A cable has been dispatched to the Allied Commander in Chief, Mediterranean Theater, to obtain his views in the premises. As soon as a reply is received, you will be advised whether conditions in the theater make the proposed action feasible.

Sincerely yours,

For the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

William D. Leahy

WILLIAM D. LEAHY,
Admiral, U.S. Navy,
Chief of Staff to the
Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy.

000517

51

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

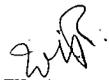
~~DISPATCHED BY AIR MAIL~~
EASTERN HEMISPHERE

January 11, 1944

FFC.- Treasury - Mr. Pehle:

There is attached a copy of the Department's airgram A-12, dated January 3, 1944, to London, with reference to assistance to refugees on the Island of Rab, referred to in London's 7682 of November 4, 1943.

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL
WASHINGTON



EH:WIRiegelman:AMN

000518

COPY

AIRGRAM

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

No. A-12

Time: 6:40 p.m.

January 3, 1944

AEMBASSY,

LONDON.

With reference assistance to refugees on Island of Bab your 7682 November 4 following is quoted from letter received from Joint Chiefs of Staff dated December 15, 1943 quote:

The Commanding General, North African Theater of Operations, has been consulted with regard to this matter and, pursuant to his recommendation, it has been determined that the military situation does not permit the military authorities to render any direct assistance to these refugees at this time.

The Theater Commander has reported that supplies and facilities for displaced persons in Italy are already overstrained, and that demands for these items should, if possible, be reduced. Aside from the fact that operational needs do not permit the rendition of assistance to these refugees, it is considered that to take such action might create a precedent which would lead to other demands and

an influx

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or E

JCS memo, 1-4-74

By SLR, NLR, Date JUN 3 1974

000519

-2- No. A-12 to London, Jan. 3, 1944.

an influx of additional refugees for the care of whom the military authorities would be unable to provide facilities and supplies. Although recommending that no direct assistance or funds be provided, the Theater Commander states that he will continue, as in the past, to care for any refugees who should be able to reach Italy as a result of their own efforts.

Our latest information is that the refugees on the Island of Rab, together with those at Otocac in Northwest Croatia, total approximately 1,500, and that the majority of these refugees are Jews unquote.

Since receipt of letter in reference Department has official information Germans now hold Rab.

Please transmit such portions of the above communication as you may deem appropriate to the Directorate of the Intergovernmental Committee and if the present information of the Committee suggests means of aiding these refugees Department should be informed.

HULL

GHB

840.48 Refugees/4735

VD:RU:FDGR:RWG:MCC:KG:amn
12/27/43

Eu

GI/L
Mr. Pell

A-L

A-L/B

000520

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS
CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL • CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

1834 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, 23, N. Y.

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

LONDON
55 New Cavendish St., W 1

GENEVA
37 Quai Wilson

BUENOS AIRES
Corrientes 1979

JERUSALEM
Vaad Leumi P. O. B., 471

MONTREAL
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY
Sonora 1744

In reply refer to:
No. 343

March 6, 1945

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

Attention: Dr. B. Akzin

Dear Sirs:

I would like to draw your attention to a group of Yugoslav refugees who remained on the Island of Rab after the Nazi occupation. Most of these people were old and sick. However, as you most probably know, a group of the younger people escaped to the Yugoslav Partisans.

We are most anxious about the welfare of the older group and would be extremely grateful to you for giving us some enlightenment on this matter.

Sincerely yours,


KURT F. GROSSMAN
Rescue Department

KFG:bm

000521

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

Yuzor

GLF-877

PLAIN

Lisbon

Dated October 24, 1944

Rec'd 10:02 p.m., 25th

Secretary of State,
Washington.

3247, 24th, 7 p.m.

FOR LEAVITT FROM PILPEL JDC 97 WRB 232.

Further our 96 Perlman advises October 20 that 3
representatives of RAB group arrived Bari stating that
lack housing clothing and food threatens survival winter
at least half this group. British have agreed fly
500 pair shoes 300 blankets 300 pounds medical supplies
from their army stock totaling 2 tons. Quakers supply-
ing some childrened shoes. Our clothing shipment still
unarrived. Additional clothing needs would require 5
more planeloads. Army agreed provide bulk of clothing
needed but thus far unable supply additional planes;
Perlman plans transmit funds through Doctor Hinko
Gottlieb Croatian Red Cross representative Italy.
1400 Jews formerly interned RAB plus 2000 in another
area constitute sole surviving civilian Jews Yugoslavia.
Perlman urges your action Washington and London first
for resumption

COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS
(LIAISON)

1944 OCT 26 AM 10 05

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF

000522

-2-, #3247, 24th, 7 p.m., from Lisbon.

for resumption evacuation of group of 650 people of
whom still 29 evacuated and second half remaining 2750
who otherwise unlikely survive this winter.

NORWEB

MRL

000523

OCT 5 1944

Dear Sirs:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of September 25, 1944, concerning Jewish refugees from the Island of Rab.

The problem of assistance to the refugees from the Island of Rab is presently being studied by the Board. In the meanwhile, it is suggested that you may wish to discuss the matter with the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, 270 Madison Avenue, New York, New York, which we understand is developing a program for aid to these refugees.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Association of Yugoslav Jews
in the United States, Inc.,
381 Fourth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

FHhd 10/4/44

000524

ASSOCIATION OF YUGOSLAV JEWS IN THE UNITED STATES, Inc.

381 FOURTH AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY

Telephone: MUrray Hill 4-5427

DR. ISAAC ALCALAY
Chief Rabbi of Yugoslavia
Honorary President

September 25, 1944

OTTO HEINRICH
Honorary Chairman

Mr. John W. Pehle, Ex. Director
War Refugee Board
U. S. Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
AND
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear Mr. Pehle:

DR. PAUL NEUBERGER
President
AVRAM JUDITCH
Vice-President
MANFRED STERNBERG
Vice-President
ROMAN SMUCER
Secretary
CLARA ERES
Treasurer

We received a letter through Palestine from a group of Yugoslav refugees who have been evacuated from the Island of Rab to Topusko by the Yugoslav Army of Liberation.

We are herewith enclosing a copy of this letter and appeal to you to do everything possible to assist these people and to make possible their evacuation to Italy.

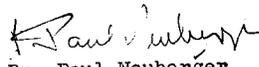
Assistance is very urgent for these few remnants of Yugoslav Jewry and this help is possible.

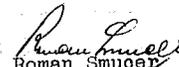
Your intervention on behalf of these unfortunate people to save them in the same way as a certain number of children have been saved from there, would be greatly appreciated not only by Yugoslav Jewry, but also by the Partisan Authorities to relieve them of this burden.

It would be important to send them clothing, money, and food.

We should be much obliged if you would inform us about your opinion in this matter.

Respectfully yours,


Dr. Paul Neuberger
President


Roman Smucer
Secretary

PN:CR
ENCL. 1

000525

Letter from Topusko in which help
is requested for about one thousand
Yugoslav Jews isolated in the woods
of Croatia June 28, 1944

Dear friend,

You probably know that there are 2,700 Jews from Yugoslavia who saved themselves from Ustashi terror and found refuge in a camp on the Island of Rab held by the Italians. After the Italians capitulated, about 600 of our people succeeded in getting to the British in Bari, while the remaining 2,100 were transported to Lika and the Kordun -- territories liberated by Marshal Tito. The entire youth, male and female, joined the Partisans in their fight against the enemy and are still fighting heroically shoulder to shoulder with the Army of Liberation. Unfortunately a great number of them have already met a heroic death.

Approximately one thousand persons, mostly aged men and women, and children unfit for fighting, are settled under the most difficult conditions between Slunj and Glina, in the territory liberated by Tito, and unanimously wish to be transferred to a more secure place. -- We are living together with the peasants often in communities burned down and looted by the enemy, in the most primitive way. We sleep on dirt floors without straw and are fed mostly on corn and beans. The most difficult problem, however, is that we are surrounded by the enemy. Frequently attacked by his bands we have to escape in order not to be captured and killed. Unfortunately 300 of our group have already lost their lives. Partly because they were unable to move quickly enough, partly because they were not familiar with the surroundings and fell into enemy hands. In such instances we were forced to flee for our lives and to hide in forests until the enemy withdrew from his robbing expedition. For the aged, the sick and the young ones, such excursions were catastrophic, because they meant physical suffering, hardship and hunger. During the

000526

Wollner

- 2 -

last Ustashi robbing expedition, many of us had to flee 250 kilometers on foot and for 16 long days had to live and sleep in rain and storms in the woods. Many among us have taken their own lives because they could no longer endure the sufferings. All our possessions were lost during such flights. We lack the most elementary needs, particularly suits, underwear and shoes, especially the last which are worn out. Literally many of us are barefoot. Our money is gone and hunger is spreading. There is no help from anywhere. The Liberation Army is fighting under most difficult conditions and has enough trouble without us. I beg you urgently to describe our desperate situation to competent authorities with the plea that suits, underwear, boots and food as well as money be send us by airplane and that they also try to evacuate us to Bari, because one thousand of us are threatened with extermination.

Very close to us we see Allied planes bringing food, clothing and medical supplies for the Partisans. Such planes could gradually evacuate our group on their way back. Our authorities would like to help us, but they do not possess the means. There is no other way to get out from this place. Please help us urgently. One thousand souls await help.

With kindest regards

Yours

Hugo Wollner
Topusko, c/o Joka Gregoric via Bari

000527

In reply please
refer to: 537

1944

Dear Mr. Travers:

This is to acknowledge and thank you for copies of an exchange of correspondence between your office and Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki of the World Jewish Congress, concerning Yugoslav Jewish refugees, which you forwarded to me with your letter of April 15, 1944, (VD).

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Howard K. Travers,
Chief, Visa Division,
Department of State,
Washington 25, D. C.

Edw *PH* RBHutchison:agr *PH* 21-44

000528

537

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D. C.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

W. B. B. _____
Filing Authority
For Files
Ans. _____
Re. Ans. Reg. _____
Initial _____
Date _____

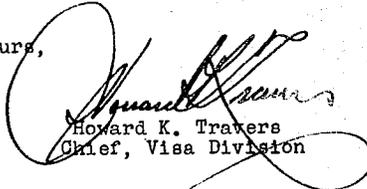
In reply refer to
VD

April 15, 1944

My dear Mr. Pehle:

I enclose for your information a copy of a letter dated April 7, 1944 from Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki, Head, Department European Jewish Affairs, World Jewish Congress, 330 West Forty-second Street, New York 18, New York, concerning Yugoslav Jewish refugees. I also enclose a copy of my letter to Dr. Kubowitzki. Please note that he desires to have any further information which may be available on this subject.

Sincerely yours,


Howard K. Travers
Chief, Visa Division

Enclosures:

1. From Dr. Kubowitzki, April 7, 1944.
2. To Dr. Kubowitzki.

Mr. John W. Pehle,
Executive Director,
War Refugee Board,
Executive Office of the President.



000529

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

330 West 42nd Street

New York 18, N.Y.

Telephone: Longacre 5-2600

April 7, 1944

Mr. Howard K. Travers, Chief
Visa Division
Department of State
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Travers:

I thought you might be interested in the following information which was contained in a letter we received from Dr. Lav Stern, one of the leaders of Yugoslav Jewish refugees in Palestine.

"Rescue from Nazi Occupied Yugoslav Territories

Recently another 600 individuals arrived under great danger in Southern Italy from the Dalmatian and Adriatic Islands (Rab-Arbe, Brac, Hvar, Korcula and Vis). It now appears that while there seem to be no Jews left on any of the other islands there are still some refugees on Rab. Some 2,000 Jews from Rab are still missing and it is to be feared that the Partisans send by far the greatest majority to the "Lika" where they live in greatest danger and under the most serious privation. 107 of the refugees from the islands were sent directly to the Suez Canal where they await certificates for Palestine which will not be easy to secure."

May I know whether you had some additional information recently on the subject dealt with in this letter? I would very much appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely yours

ALKW:ef

Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki, Head
Department European Jewish Affairs

(COPIED:VD:LBG)
(COMPARED: *LBG*)

000530

Department of State

BUREAU
DIVISION

VD

ENCLOSURE
TO

Letter drafted

ADDRESSED TO

1. From Dr. Kubowitzki,
April 7, 1944.
2. To Dr. Kubowitzki.

000531

25, D. C.

In reply refer to
VD

My dear Dr. Kubowitzki:

I refer to your letter of April 7, 1944 giving information which you have received from Dr. Lav Stern concerning Yugoslav Jewish refugees.

The Department does not have additional information on this subject; however, I am sending a copy of your letter to Mr. John W. Pehle of the War Refugee Board for attention.

Sincerely yours,

Howard K. Travers
Chief, Visa Division

Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki, Head,
Department European Jewish Affairs,
World Jewish Congress,
330 West Forty-second Street,
New York 18, New York.

APR 13 5 14 PM '44
RECEIVED
GENERAL BOYD
SECRET

000532

In reply please
refer to: 518

APR 29 1944

My dear General Dunlop:

This is to acknowledge and thank you for copies of an exchange of correspondence between your office and Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki of the World Jewish Congress, concerning the rescue of refugees from Nazi-occupied Yugoslav territories, which you forwarded to me with your letter of April 12, 1944, (AG 383.7 (7 Apr 44) CH-L).

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Fehle

J. W. Fehle
Executive Director

Brig. Gen. Robert H. Dunlop,
The Acting Adjutant General,
The Adjutant General's Office,
War Department,
Washington 25, D. C.

EBT RBHutchison:agr 4-17-44 JH

000533



WAR DEPARTMENT
 THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
 WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



AG 383.7
 (7 Apr 44) CH-L

12 April 1944

U. S. B. 518
 Mr. A. G. ...
 Mr. ...
 Mr. ...
 Initial
 Date

Mr. John Pehle,
 Director of the War Refugee Board,
 Treasury Department,
 Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Sir:

There are inclosed herewith for your information, copies of a communication received from Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki, Department of European Jewish Affairs, World Jewish Congress, 330 West 42nd Street, New York 18, N. Y., and of reply thereto.

Very truly yours,

Robert H. Dunlop
 ROBERT H. DUNLOP
 Brigadier General,
 Acting The Adjutant General.

Incls.
 Copy ltr. 7 Apr. 44.
 Copy ltr. 12 Apr. 44.

000534

Y

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS
330 West 42nd Street
New York 18, N. Y.

April 7, 1944

Col. Burnett
Civilian Affairs Division
War Department
Washington, D. C.

Dear Col. Burnett:

I thought you might be interested in the following information which was contained in a letter we received from Dr. Lav Stern, one of the leaders of Yugoslav Jewish refugees in Palestine.

"Rescue from Nazi Occupied Yugoslav Territories

Recently another 600 individuals arrived under great danger in Southern Italy from the Dalmatian and Adriatic Islands (Rab-Arbe, Brac, Hvar, Korcula and Vis). It now appears that while there seem to be no Jews left on any of the other islands there are still some refugees on Rab. Some 2,000 Jews from Rab are still missing and it is to be feared that the Partisans send by far the greatest majority to the "Lika" where they live in greatest danger and under the most serious privation. 107 of the refugees from the islands were sent directly to the Suez Canal where they await certificates for Palestine which will not be easy to secure."

May I know whether you had some additional information recently on the subject dealt with in this letter? I would very much appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

sgd

Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki, Head
Department European Jewish Affairs

ALKW:ef

W.L. 10-10-44

000535

APR 15 1944

In reply please
refer to: 499

Dear Dr. Kubowitzki:

I have your letter of April 7, 1944, concerning the rescue of Jewish refugees from Nazi-occupied Yugoslav territory, and the fate of the refugees on the Island of Dab.

The Board is presently working on this problem and we shall be glad to advise you if we receive any additional information concerning this matter.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki,
Head, Department European
Jewish Affairs,
World Jewish Congress,
1834 Broadway,
New York 23, New York.

EBT RBHutchison:agr 4-14-44 761

000537

499

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL . . CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

330 WEST 42nd STREET
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

W. R. B. _____
Filing Authority
To: Files
Ans. _____
No. Ans. Req. _____
Initial _____

CABLE Date _____ GENEVA, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: LONGACRE 5-2600

LONDON
55 New Cavendish St, W 1

GENEVA
37 Quai Wilson

BUENOS AIRES
Corrientes 2024-90

JERUSALEM
Vaad Leumi, P. O. B. 471

MONTREAL
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY
Sonora 174-4

April 7, 1944

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I thought you might be interested in the following information which was contained in a letter we received from Dr. Lav Stern, one of the leaders of Yugoslav Jewish refugees in Palestine:

"Rescue from Nazi Occupied Yugoslav Territories"

Recently another 600 individuals arrived under great danger in Southern Italy from the Dalmatian and Adriatic Islands (Rab-Arbe, Brac, Hvar, Korcula and Vis). It now appears that while there seem to be no Jews left on any of the other islands there are still some refugees on Rab. Some 2,000 Jews from Rab are still missing and it is to be feared that the Partisans send by far the greatest majority to the "Lika" where they live in greatest danger and under the most serious privation. 107 of the refugees from the islands were sent directly to the Suez Canal where they await certificates for Palestine which will not be easy to secure."

May I know whether you had some additional information recently on the subject dealt with in this letter? I would very much appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely yours



Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki, Head
Department European Jewish Affairs

ALKW:ef

451

000538

*War Refugee Bd
(Mr. Peble)*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: AMEMBASSY, LONDON
TO: SECRETARY OF STATE, WASHINGTON
DATED: MARCH 20, 1944
NUMBER: 2251

CONTROL COPY

Information has been received by the Embassy that check in sterling equivalent should be sent to the Foreign Office and that it should be made in favor of the Finance officer. We regret that there is not available in London the answer to the final question in the Department's cable of March 9, 1944, no. 1782.

VINANT

RECEIVED 11-2-44

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

000540

MAR 13 1944

In reply please
refer to: 295

Dear General Ulio:

This is to acknowledge and thank you for copies of an exchange of correspondence between your office and Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki of the World Jewish Congress, concerning the evacuation of Jewish and Yugoslav refugees on the Island of Rab, which you forwarded to me with your memorandum of March 9, 1944 (AGOR-C 201.2 Palestine).

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle
J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director

Maj. Gen. J. A. Ulio,
The Adjutant General,
War Department,
Washington, D. C.

Ebt
EBTowler:agr 2-13-44

000541

AGOB-C 201.2 Palestine
(1 Mar 44)

WAR DEPARTMENT
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON

9 March 1944

Subject: Assistance to Refugees on the Island of Rab.

To: Mr. John Pehle,
Assistant to the Secretary,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

The attached correspondence is transmitted as a matter of primary
interest to your agency. ~~The writer has been advised of this reference.~~

2 Incl.
Cy ltr to Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki 9 Mar 44
Cy ltr to Msj. Gen. J. H. Hildring 1 Mar 44


Major General,
The Adjutant General.

295
GB/mm 20936
W. P. D.
Filing Authority
To: File 3942 315144
Ans. ✓ CHA
No. Ans. Req. _____
Initial L. B. J. _____
Date 21344

000542

C
O
P
Y

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS
330 West 42nd Street
New York 18, N.Y.

March 1, 1944.

Maj. Gen. J. H. Hilldring, Chief
Civil Affairs Division
War Department
Washington, D. C.

Dear General Hilldring:

According to information received from the Yugoslav Embassy in Washington, the island of Arbe (Rab) has been retaken by the Yugoslav guerillas. We do not know whether any Jews were left by the Nazis before they were driven off the island. Should investigations prove that there were, I beg to suggest that measures be taken at once to remove them to safer areas.

On October 2, 1943, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the Administrative Committee of the WJC, informed Mr. Breckenridge Long in a telegram that 4000 Jewish and Yugoslav refugees who had been in internment camps or free along the Dalmatian coast, had been removed to the Adriatic island of Arbe (Rab), which had been captured by the Yugoslav partisans. He expressed the request that these refugees be removed, as soon as possible, to safer areas such as southern Italy or Sicily.

On October 16th, Mr. Howard K. Travers, Chief of the Visa Division, wrote to Dr. Goldmann that the information in his aforementioned telegram had been sent to the Embassy in London, with the request that it be referred to the Executive Committee of the Intergovernmental Committee as well as to other appropriate authorities for such action as might be deemed advisable.

On January 3, 1944, Mr. Travers wrote again to Dr. Goldmann, informing him with regret that the efforts of the State Department in connection with the above had been interrupted by the capture of Arbe by German forces.

It would be tragic if, as a result of the uncertain course of the war in that region, these people would fall once again under Nazi domination.

May I venture to suggest further that for immediate relief and assistance and, pending arrangements for their removal, the case of Rab be called to the attention of the Sub-Committee on Displaced Persons of whose creation you informed me in your letter of December 4, 1943.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)
Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki, Head
Department European Jewish Affairs

ALKW:ef

000543

GR/mn 40936

AGOB-C 291.2 Palestine
(1 Mar 44)

9 March 1944.

Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki,
Department of European Jewish Affairs,
World Jewish Congress,
330 West 42nd Street,
New York 18,
New York.

Dear Dr. Kubowitzki:

This acknowledges receipt of your letter of 1 March 1944, addressed to Major General J. H. Hildring, concerning efforts to evacuate to Italy the Jewish and Yugoslav refugees who may be on the Island of Rab off the Dalmatian Coast in the Adriatic Sea.

As this matter is now under consideration by the recently created War Refugee Board with which the War Department is cooperating, a copy of your letter has been transmitted to that Board instead of to the Sub-Committee on Displaced Persons as you requested.

It is the policy of the War Department to take all measures within its power which do not interfere with military operations to afford war refugees all possible relief and assistance consistent with the successful prosecution of the war and to aid the War Refugee Board in carrying out relief programs inaugurated by that Board pursuant to Executive Order of the President of 22 January 1944.

Sincerely yours,

J. A. ULIO
J. A. ULIO,
Major General,
The Adjutant General.
By ~~Ed. B. Robinson~~

Copy for: ✓ Mr. John Pehle,
Assistant to the Secretary,
Treasury Department.

WHE TT 1044

000544

3/13/44
Copies to:

Mr. Pehle
Mr. Luxford
Mr. DuBois
Mr. Lesser
Mr. Friedman
Miss Hodel
Mr. Abrahamson
Miss Laughlin
Mr. Pollak

000545



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR
WASHINGTON

12 March 1944

Mr. J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Treasury Department Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

This will acknowledge your letter of March 9, 1944, concerning the present status of the memorandum of the Secretary of the Treasury proposing that certain funds be made available to the refugees on the Island of Rab.

As you are no doubt aware, this involves an operation in a combined theater and is presently before the Combined Chiefs of Staff for their consideration. The matter is under active consideration and is being pressed with all the urgency which the situation permits.

Sincerely,

John J. McCloy
John J. McCloy

*716
Jan
dent*

321

W. R. B.
Filing Authority
To: Files
Ans.
No. Ans. Req.
Initial
Date

MAR 14 1944

000546

*War Refugee Bd.
M. P. L. L.*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: SECRETARY OF STATE, WASHINGTON
TO: AMEMBASSY, LONDON
DATED: MARCH 9, 1944
NUMBER: 1782

CONTROL COPY

We refer herewith to your telegram of February 23, 1944, no. 1492.

As regards refugees on the Island of Rab, it is requested that you inform us to what account the funds should be deposited whether British Foreign Office or Finance Officer. The American Jews Joint Distribution Committee is willing to make an initial remittance of \$25,000 when advised on this point.

Please inform us whether lire to cover cost of evacuations will be transmitted to partisans in Yugoslavia or will be made available to persons in Italy, if it is possible to ascertain this.

STETTINIUS

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

000547

March 3 1944

Dear Mr. McCloy:

I refer to Secretary Stimson's letter of February 8, 1944, to the Secretary of the Treasury concerning the latter's memorandum of February 1, 1944, with respect to making funds available to refugees on the island of Rab. Secretary Stimson stated that the memorandum had been referred to the Joint and Combined Chiefs of Staff for their consideration.

It would be greatly appreciated if you would advise me as soon as possible concerning the views of the Joint and Combined Chiefs of Staff on this matter.

Very truly yours,

(signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director

Honorable John J. McCloy,
Assistant Secretary of War.

*Original signed
by Mr. Pehle*

Ed
FH:hd 3/7/44

000548

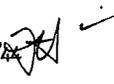
MAR 3 1944

TO: Mr. Warren
FROM: J. W. Pehle

Please transmit the attached cable from the War
Refugee Board to London.

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

Attachment.

FHodel:hd 2/3/44 

000549

CABLE TO LONDON

Reference your 1492, February 23, 1944, concerning refugees
on Island of Rab.

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee is willing to
provide an initial remittance of \$25,000 to the appropriate
account of British Government. Please advise whether these
funds should be paid to the account of the finance officer of
the British Foreign Office.

Also, advise whether lire will be transmitted to partisans
in Yugoslavia or whether lire will be made available to persons
in Italy to cover cost of evacuations.

304 JWP

000550

*War Refugee Bd
JW Rille*

CONTROL COPY

MLR-979

PLAIN
London

Dated February 23, 1944

Rec'd 5:12 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

1492, Twenty-third.

In replying by letter dated February 21 to Embassy's communications concerning refugees on Island of Rab (Department's 370, January 14) Director of IGC states that Foreign Office has now informed him that lire is the currency required and that the Deputy Paymaster in Southern Italy can supply it. Director adds that if War Refugee Board has not found means of transferring funds, the British Government can arrange for transfer if the dollar equivalent is placed at its disposal.

WINANT

EJH

3/1/44 JDC will provide \$25.

000551

MLR-979

PLAIN

London

Dated February 23, 1944

Rec'd 5:12 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

1492, Twenty-third.

In replying by letter dated February 21 to Embassy's communications concerning refugees on Island of Rab (Department's 370, January 14) Director of IGC states that Foreign Office has now informed him that lire is the currency required and that the Deputy Paymaster in Southern Italy can supply it. Director adds that if War Refugee Board has not found means of transferring funds, the British Government can arrange for transfer if the dollar equivalent is placed at its disposal.

WINANT

EJH

cc: Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Messrs. Paul, Gaston, H. D. White, Pehle, Luxford, DuBois, R. N. Bernstein, Stewart, Lesser, Friedman, Pollak, Bundy, Miss Hodel

000552

February 11, 1944

The State Department has advised that the proposed cable to Winant bringing him up to date on the Island of Rab matter was despatched at 3 P. M., February 8, 1944. It went to London as State Department's cable number 967.

M. G. Taylor

000553

2/12/44
Copies to:

Mr. Pehle
Mr. Luxford
Mr. DuBois
Mr. Lesser,
Mr. Friedman
Miss Hodel
Mr. Pollak



000554

WAR DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

FEB 8 1944

123

MAILING AUTHORITY
U. S. Mail & Files

NO.

NO. AT. R. Q.

EXHIBIT

DATE

The Honorable,

The Secretary of the Treasury.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to your memorandum of February 1, 1944 relating to the disbursement of funds to refugees presently on the Island of Rab' in the Adriatic.

The previous proposal to rescue this group, initiated by the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, was considered by the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In the interim, however, the areas bordering on the Mediterranean were placed under the Allied Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, a British Commander responsible to the British Chiefs of Staff as the executive agency for the Combined Chiefs of Staff.

This proposal, therefore, now appears to be a matter for consideration by both the Joint and Combined Chiefs of Staff, and accordingly the War Department is referring your memorandum to them.

Sincerely yours,

Henry L. Stimson
Secretary of War.



000555

C
O
P
Y

WAR DEPARTMENT
Washington

February 8, 1944

The Honorable,

The Secretary of the Treasury.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to your memorandum of February 1, 1944, relating to the disbursement of funds to refugees presently on the Island of Rab in the Adriatic.

The previous proposal to rescue this group, initiated by the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, was considered by the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In the interim, however, the areas bordering on the Mediterranean were placed under the Allied Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, a British Commander responsible to the British Chiefs of Staff as the executive agency for the Combined Chiefs of Staff.

This proposal, therefore, now appears to be a matter for consideration by both the Joint and Combined Chiefs of Staff, and accordingly the War Department is referring your memorandum to them.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Henry L. Stimson
Secretary of War

000556

February 7, 1944

Official File Copy

TO: Mr. Stettinius

FROM: J. W. Penle

With reference to the memorandum which Secretary Morgenthau sent to Assistant Secretary of War McCloy on the Island of Rab matter, there is transmitted herewith a proposed cable to Winant bringing him up to date on the matter.

It will be appreciated if this office is furnished with a copy of the cable as sent.

151 J. W. Penle

JWP:mgt 2/7/44

JWP

000557

CABLE TO AMBASSADOR WINANT, LONDON

Official File Copy

967

Refer our 370 January 14, 1944 with reference assistance to refugees on Island of Rab. War Refugee Board through appropriate military authorities is attempting to arrange with persons in Yugoslavia for furnishing by latter of local currency or guaranty so that refugees in Island of Rab may be able to effect escape to Italy. You will be advised of any further developments. Please inform Directorate of Intergovernmental Committee of this matter if you deem it appropriate.

JEF
JEF:bbk - 2/1/44

000558

February 2, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES:

I sent to Stettinius, on the afternoon of February 1, a copy of the memorandum prepared by Friedman to Stimson on the Island of Rab matter and asked Stettinius's approval to include a final paragraph as follows:

"This has been cleared with Mr. Stettinius who is in agreement."

On February 2, Raynor, in Stettinius's office, called back and said that Stettinius had cleared the memorandum and was agreeable to adding the final suggested paragraph. He mentioned that several people in the State Department felt that it would be helpful to get the British in on this matter in its early stages since the Theater Commander in that area is now a Britisher.

JWP

000559

FEB 1 1944

Official File Copy

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY OF WAR STIMSON

Re: Making Funds Available to Refugees on Island of Rab.

I wish to preface my discussion by saying that in December the Joint Chiefs of Staff were approached at the instance of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees with a comprehensive project to rescue refugees from the Island of Rab. This plan would have necessitated direct assistance upon the part of the military authorities involving questions of transport, etc. On this basis the Commanding General in the North African Theater of Operations decided that the military situation did not permit the operation contemplated. However, since the proposal which I am about to make is entirely different and much simpler than that rejected by the Commanding General, and in view of our Government's policy with respect to refugees announced at the time of the establishment of the War Refugee Board, I recommend the following for your urgent consideration.

Information we have received indicates that there are presently some 1500 refugees, mostly Jewish, on the Island of Rab in the Adriatic off the Dalmatian coast. They apparently were taken there some time ago by Yugoslav Partisans after being freed from internment. The Island has changed hands several times, but it is understood to be again in the possession of the Partisans.

It is believed that many of such refugees might be able to hire boats to bring them to Italy if they had the necessary funds. Similar escapes apparently have been arranged by Yugoslav refugees now in Italy. Funds are available to the War Refugee Board, and probably also from private organizations for this purpose and, if possible, should be sent to these refugees as soon as possible.

000560

As a method of accomplishing the foregoing, I suggest the following possibility. If means of communication exist between our armed forces and the Yugoslav Partisan leaders, it is suggested that you or the Theater Commander transmit a message to the latter requesting -

(a) that the Partisans furnish local currency to refugees on the Island of Rab so that the latter may by their own efforts arrange escape to Italy, it being understood that such expenditures will be reimbursed in U. S. dollars or in such other money as the Partisans request;

(b) That the Partisans, in the event they cannot furnish necessary local currency, aid the refugees in arranging escape by guaranteeing to the boat owners and other persons assisting in the escape that payment will be made to them by the American military authorities upon arrival of the refugees in Italy;

(c) That the Partisans keep the appropriate American military authorities advised of their operations in this field.

It will, of course, be necessary for the Theater Commander to make arrangements for payments in Italy in certain cases to persons bringing refugees there from the Island of Rab, and possibly for certain other financial transactions. It is also essential that the Theater Commander continue his policy of caring for any refugees who may be able to reach Italy as the result of their own efforts. Such other assistance as he may be able to give will, naturally, be extremely valuable. It may be made perfectly clear that the War Refugee Board assumes full financial responsibility for the expenses of evacuating the refugees from Rab and will reimburse all outlays.

000561

If you think that the procedure indicated is feasible, I am sure that you will agree that it should be executed as promptly as possible in view of the uncertainty of the continued possession of the Island of Rab by the Partisans.

This has been cleared with Mr. Stettinius who is in agreement.

/s/ H. Morgenthau, Jr.

(Carried by Secret Service Agent)
2-2-44

*Cleared with
Stettinius
and
Morgenthau*
JBF:bbk - 1/31/44 *JBF*

Official File Copy

TO : AMERICAN EMBASSY, LONDON, #370
FROM: SECRETARY OF STATE
DATE: JANUARY 14, 1944

With reference to our A-12 January 3, 1944, concerning refugees on Island of Rab, Department has just received word from Army officials that Rab has been recaptured from Germans and is now in hands of Yugoslav Partisans. Please bring to attention of IGC Director and ask that information be furnished Department as to means of getting money to these refugees. It is thought necessary funds can be secured from private sources in this country and if there are means of getting it to refugees Department will endeavor to secure concurrence of military authorities in giving refugees money to escape to safer area or secure necessities while on Rab.

000563

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
EASTERN HEMISPHERE

January 12, 1944

FFC - Treasury - Mr. Pehle:

Re: Refugees

The following papers are attached hereto:

- Copy London's 7682, November 4, 1943
- Copy Dept's. A-1391, October 12, 1943

The above messages pertain to the
refugee problem, which we have discussed
recently by telephone.

WIR

EH:WIRlegelman:AMN

Discussed at a meeting in the Secretary's

Office - January 23, 1944. (Enc. 1)

1/23/44

000565

BJR

COPY

PLAIN

London

Dated November 4, 1943

Rec'd 11:38 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

7682, Fourth

Upon receipt of Department's airgram A-1391, October 12th regarding refugees on the Adriatic island of Rab, the Embassy communicated its contents to the Director of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees for the executive committee and has received from him under date of November 2nd the following communication in which he suggests certain action by the Department; "Would you kindly refer to your letter of the 22nd October 1943 in which you transmitted a telegram which the Department of State had received from Dr. Goldman of the World Jewish Congress regarding the situation of certain Jewish refugees on the island of Rab off the Dalmatian coast. We at once got into touch with the World Jewish Congress here, and ascertained that the information on which Dr. Goldman's telegram was based related to the position several months ago. The promised to supply us with further information.

Meantime, I

-2- #7682, Fourth from London.

Meantime, I have received this morning from Professor Brodetsky of the Jewish Board of Deputies a copy of a letter sent to him by an Army Chaplain now in Italy who has been in touch with Yugoslavian refugees in the Bari camp. The letter of the Chaplain is dated 8th October 1943. At that time, according to his information, nearly 3,000 Yugoslavian Jews were on the island, their position being precarious since the island has changed hands several times, but he suggested that their safety could be ensured by their evacuation and concentration in the existing refugee camp at Bari. He further suggested that failing direct help the refugees might be able to hire Italian boats to bring them to safety if they had the necessary funds.

Although the situation may have materially changed since the Army Chaplain wrote his letter, there does seem some chance that the military authorities in Italy might be able to afford some assistance. Malin and I have considered very carefully what action is possible and we suggest that a cable should be sent to the State Department on the following lines: (One) if there are refugees still on the island, the appropriate military authorities in North Africa or Italy be invited to consider whether there are any practical means of helping them. (Two)

000567

-3- #7682, Fourth from London.

them. (Two) We recognize that direct supply of transport would involve military considerations about which we are not in a position to express any opinion. (Three) Failing direct assistance, however, it might be practicable to convey money to the refugees, leaving it to them to make the best arrangements they could for their escape. (Four) Those who did reach the mainland could be kept in the Bari or some other camp pending security and other arrangements. (Five) The cost of transport or the money to be advanced is likely to be comparatively small. If the Intergovernmental Committee had to provide it, this would involve previous consultation with the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States of America. This, however, might not be necessary as the joint distribution committee or other Jewish organizations might, and probably would be willing to supply the necessary funds. In any case, Malin and I consider that the question of ultimate finance should not delay any immediate action that may be possible.

On the same ground of urgency, we are putting forward our suggestions in anticipation of the approval of the executive committee.

We suggest

000568

-4- #7682, Fourth from London.

We suggest that the Department of State be asked to make the necessary approach to the appropriate military authorities.

I may add that I have mentioned to Randall that we proposed to make suggestions contained in this letter, and that he saw no objection.

I shall be seeing Lord Winterton this afternoon, and shall report the matter to him also".

WINANT

EMB

000569

P
Y

AIRGRAM

Clear

No. A 1391

Time 6:00 p.m.^x

October 12, 1943

AMEMBASSY,
LONDON.

Department has received following telegram from
Dr. Goldman, World Jewish Congress:

QUOTE Am being informed from London that 4000 Jewish
refugees and Yugoslavs recently in internments
camps Yugoslavia have been freed by Yugoslav
partisans and removed to Adriatic island of
Rab. Understand food and medical supplies
urgently needed as island suffers serious shortage.
In view of possibility island being recaptured by
Germans most desirable remove refugees soon as
possible to safer area. Southern Italy Sicily
or North Africa. May I respectfully request
to bring this matter to the attention of
authorities North Africa and Sicily asking
them to take necessary steps. UNQUOTE

Please refer to Executive Committee of the
Intergovernmental Committee and if you deem it advisable
transmit it to Murphy for Eisenhower.

HULL

840.48 Refugees/

VD:RWG:OMA:RS 10/9/43 Eu CI/L
Mr. Fell

A-L

000570

WNY

D. A. 1391

Time 6:08 p.m.

WNY,
LONDON.

ALBANY

Clear

October 17, 1943

Department has received following telegram from Dr. Goldmann, World Jewish Congress:

NOTE Am being informed from London that 4000 Jewish refugees and Yugoslavs recently in internment camps, Yugoslavia have been freed by Yugoslav partisans and removed to Adriatic island of Rab. Understand food and medical supplies urgently needed as island suffers serious shortage. In view of possibility island being recaptured by Germans most desirable remove refugees soon as possible to safer area. Southern Italy Sicily or North Africa. May I respectfully request to bring this matter to the attention of authorities North Africa and Sicily asking them to take necessary steps. UNNOTE.

Please refer to Executive Committee of the Intergovernmental Committee and if you deem it advisable transmit it to Murphy for Lachner.

HULL

Shr. re refugees'

V : 120: 1203 10/9/43 Ea CI/L A-L
Mr. Fell

000571

Official File Copy

PARAPHRASE

TO : AMERICAN EMBASSY, LONDON, #280
FROM: SECRETARY OF STATE
DATE: JANUARY 11, 1944

With reference to the subject of refugees on the Island of Rab, it is to be understood and emphasized that the statement relative to the possible creation of a precedent in the rendition of assistance to the refugees by the military authorities, which was contained in our A-12 of January 3, is that of the military authorities and represents a point of view which these authorities may be required to take in view of the military situation. Whenever it is possible, on the other hand, assistance is rendered by non-military agencies behind the lines which are there for that purpose.

000572

January 10, 1944
4:50 P.M.

Riegelman advised me that he had just received
these documents and would send them over to
Mr. Pohl as soon as possible.



F. Hodel

000573

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

January 8, 1944.

Mr. Riegelman confidentially advised Mr. Pehle today that the Department of State has been working on the problem of 4,000 Jews caught on the Island of Riba, off the coast of Yugoslavia. The control of this island apparently has been changing hands quite frequently. It is not clear whether it is presently in the hands of Tito's forces. The joint Chiefs of Staff have been approached concerning the problem of evacuating these people and they have stated that it would be impossible at the present time to divert enough vessels. Apparently, they regard this as a major expedition since it would involve a large ~~number of ships~~ ^{escort vessels}. The joint Chiefs of Staff further stated that, if the Jews could be gotten out to Italy, then we might be of some help, though 4,000 more in Italy would certainly ~~be~~ ^{be} a very great burden which we now have in that area. In addition, Riegelman stated that the Intergovernmental Committee was considering a proposal of the World Jewish Congress to finance the evacuation of these people from Riba. There is no information as to any action having been taken by the Intergovernmental Committee.

Riegelman promised to furnish Mr. Pehle with copies of the pertinent documents, including the recent statement of the joint Chiefs of Staff.

F. Hodel

000574

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

January 8, 1944.

Mr. Riegelman confidentially advised Mr. Pehle today that the Department of State has been working on the problem of 4,000 Jews caught on the Island of Riba, off the coast of Yugoslavia. The control of this island apparently has been changing hands quite frequently. It is not clear whether it is presently in the hands of Tito's forces. The joint Chiefs of Staff have been approached concerning the problem of evacuating these people and they have stated that it would be impossible at the present time to divert enough vessels. Apparently, they regard this as a major expedition since it would involve a large number of ships as escort. The joint Chiefs of Staff further stated that, if the Jews could be gotten out to Italy, then we might be of some help, though 4,000 more in Italy would certainly increase a very great burden which we now have in that area. In addition, Riegelman stated that the Intergovernmental Committee was considering a proposal of the World Jewish Congress to finance the evacuation of these people from Riba. There is no information as to any action having been taken by the Intergovernmental Committee.

Riegelman promised to furnish Mr. Pehle with copies of the pertinent documents, including the recent statement of the joint Chiefs of Staff.

F. Hodel

FHodel:hd 1/10/44

000575

MEMORANDUM

January 10, 1944

The Secretary called at 10:55 A. M. with regard to 4,000 refugees on an island off Yugoslavia. He said he had talked to McCloy this morning and asked him how the food situation was in Italy. McCloy said it was all right and we had enough food there for two months. I told the Secretary that as soon as I got the documents on the matter from Riegelman I would get in touch with him.

JWA

000576

MEMORANDUM

January 10, 1944

The Secretary called at 10:55 A. M. with regard to 4,000 refugees on an island off Yugoslavia. He said he had talked to McCloy this morning and asked him how the food situation was in Italy. McCloy said it was all right and we had enough food there for two months. I told the Secretary that as soon as I got the documents on the matter from Diegelman I would get in touch with him.

(Initials) J. J. S.

JWPehle:mgt 1/10/44

000577

EVACUATION OF YUGOSLAV REFUGEES ON THE ISLAND OF RAB
TO ALLIED ITALY

It is reported that:

1. About 1,500 to 3,000 Jewish refugees and Yugoslavs recently in internment camps in Yugoslavia are on the Adriatic island of Rab which is off the city of Trieste. The position of these people is most precarious since the island has changed hands several times and was last reported in control of the Germans.
2. It is believed possible that the refugees might be able to hire Italian boats to bring them to safety if they had the necessary funds and the cooperation of persons in Allied Italy.
3. Several thousand Yugoslav Jewish refugees have already escaped to Southern Italy and will cooperate in any endeavors made to save the refugees on Rab and in absorbing the refugees into the Jewish community in Southern Italy.

It is recommended that the Board take the following steps at once:

- (a) Make use of the communication facilities of this Government in order to establish the necessary contacts with persons in Allied Italy who are able to communicate with and send funds to the refugees on Rab.
- (b) Take the necessary steps, including the obtaining of necessary licenses, so that government or private funds will be immediately available to appropriate people in Allied Italy to pay for the expenses of evacuation and the care of the refugees when and if they are brought to Italy.
- (c) Obtain the cooperation of the Allied Military authorities in receiving and caring for these refugees in Italy.

000578

LICENSES ISSUED RE EVACUATION OF REFUGEES FROM ISLAND OF RAB

000579

AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE LICENSES

Remittance License NY 616497

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

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

000580

MEMORANDUM

For attachment to:

FFC Letter No:

Date:

Project No.:

TO: Liaison Officer, Foreign Funds Control
FROM: War Refugee Board
Subject: Rescue of refugees from the Island of Rab

There is transmitted herewith a copy of a ~~letter~~ ^{cable} dated March 20, 1944
London dealing with the trans-
mission, by the J.D.C., of the sterling equivalent of \$25,000 to Finance
Officer of British Foreign Office for use in connection with rescue of
refugees from Island of Rab. The War Refugee Board recommends that an
appropriate license be issued at once.

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

Remarks:

F. Hodel
For the War Refugee Board

Action:

Basic license No. W- issued
Remittance License No. ~~issued~~ NY 616497, issued March 25, 1944
Other: Letter No. 59304, ~~issued~~ dated March 25, 1944.

F. Hodel
Liaison Officer
Foreign Funds Control

Date: MAR 25 1944

000581

In reply please
refer to: 59304

25

Sirs:

This is to inform you that pursuant to the recommendation of the War Refugee Board, this Department has authorized the Federal Reserve Bank of New York to issue to you License No. NY 616497 permitting you to remit the pound sterling equivalent of \$25,000 to the Finance Officer of the British Foreign Office, London, England, representing funds to be made available in lire by the Deputy Paymaster in Southern Italy for use in connection with the rescue of refugees from the Island of Rab.

Sincerely yours,

Orvis A. Schmidt
Acting Director

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,
New York, New York.

RBParke:jfh 3-24-44

000582

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF NEW YORK

FOREIGN FUNDS CONTROL DEPARTMENT

NY 616497

Pursuant to application filed directly with this Department, you are hereby authorized to issue license to American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, 270 Madison Avenue, New York City, notwithstanding General Ruling No. 11, to remit the pound sterling equivalent of \$25,000 to the Finance Officer, British Foreign Office, London, England.

(Initials)

Unit 402 RBParker:jfh 3-24-44

000583

3

000584

OUTGOING MESSAGE

Paraphrase

Yes

To for Action: PATIMA

Info: Force 266

Ref. No.: F 26246

Signed: CINC

Site: FHMS

Refer to our message MGS 383-2 of March 31.

Re evacuation of refugees from Rab, Force 266

reports that according to local knowledge they do not think financial considerations have any bearing on evacuation of refugees but that evacuation is governed by politics, availability shipping space and other administrative problems. They state also that latest reports indicate reoccupation of Rab by Germans. In any event plans are being submitted to Tito.

For Force 266. When you report Tito's opinion to this headquarters, please repeat the message to Fatima and quote this cable.

Auth: G.T. Fullerton - Carnegie

MC Out 188

1 April 1944

000585

PARAPHRASE

From: Force-266

To: Freedom - Info: Mideast

Ref. No. G/333 30 March 44

~~Secret~~

Reference your F 24173

1. According to local knowledge we do not consider that financial considerations have any bearing on question of evacuation of refugees but matter is rather one of politics, opportunity, shipping, rations and accommodations.

2. Late reports indicate that Germans have now re-occupied Rab and therefore unless refugees reach VIS it is presumed no further action required except evacuation from VIS as on earlier occasions. Meanwhile your signal has been passed to Maclean for Tito's opinion.

Action G-3

MC In 19314 31 March 44

DECLASSIFIED

E. O. 11652, Sec. 2(a) and 5(D) or (E)
OSD letter, May, 1, 1978

By SLR Date AUG 20 1975

000586

[REDACTED]

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Military Government Section

guz
DW/SJR

31-3-3-2

31 March 1946.

SUBJECT: Evacuation to Italy of Yugoslav Refugees
from the Island of AB.

TO: Allied Control Commission (2 copies) -
Attention: EC and AC Section, and
Comcag Section.

1. In November 1945 the War Department informed this Headquarters that the Yugoslav Government (understood to be the Royal Yugoslav Government outside Yugoslavia) had approached the State Department with an enquiry as to whether steps could be taken to arrange for the evacuation to Italy of 4,000 refugees from the Island of AB. These refugees were reported to have been released from internment camps by the Partisan forces.

The matter had been referred previously by Washington to the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees in London and two possibilities were suggested, viz -

(a) Direct evacuation under Allied arrangements for concentration at Bari.

(b) Calling direct assistance by the Allies, provision of funds so that refugees could make their own arrangements to hire boats to carry them to the Italian mainland.

2. In view of conditions then prevailing in Italy, particularly with regard to the Displaced Persons Sub-Commission, it was not considered advisable to facilitate the evacuation of these persons and the War Department were accordingly informed to that effect. At the same time enquiry was made of the Allied Control Commission (Brindisi) to discover the then latest information regarding refugees on the island. (Our cable 4726 of 23 November and your 1156 of 27 November refer).

3. The matter has now been reopened by the Combined Chiefs of Staff with the suggestion that the evacuation of these refugees should be effected, and that the Partisan Headquarters should be assisted to carry this out by the

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of

[REDACTED] letter, 7-5-72

By [REDACTED] DEC 5 1972

000587

SECRET

provision of funds from American sources. The plans put forward by the Combined Chiefs of Staffs are as follows:

(a) Partisan Headquarters to be asked to furnish local currency to refugees to enable the latter to arrange their escape to Italy, such expenditures to be reimbursed in U.S. dollars or such funds as the Partisans may request.

(b) If Partisan Headquarters are unable to furnish funds they are to be asked to aid refugees in escaping by guaranteeing to boat owners and other persons assisting refugees to escape that they would be compensated by the American military authorities on the arrival of refugees in Italy.

In view of the improved conditions prevailing in Italy, particularly with regard to the Displaced Persons Sub-Commission, and of the expressed desire of the American Government to render assistance to refugees in enemy territories or in danger of falling into enemy hands, approval has been given to the plans suggested in this paragraph which are being communicated to the Partisan Headquarters for the opinion of Marshal Tito.

4. The following factors may affect the success of the plans suggested. It is possible that as the request for evacuation of these refugees is understood to have been made initially by the Royal Yugoslav Government that a number of these persons may be Chetnik in sympathy, in which case Partisan support may be lacking. It is reported that the Germans have assembled invasion barges in the KRALJEVICA-BAKAR which perhaps indicates the presence of elements of an assault landing battalion, probably intended for operations against BARI in the first instance. The distance from the island to Allied occupied Italy will increase the normal hazards of evacuation of refugees from the Dalmatian Islands.

5. In communicating the plans as in para 3. above, to the Partisan Headquarters it has been made clear that compensation to boat owners and other persons assisting the refugees will have to be effected through the Agency of APA, and that for this reason as well as for that stated below, boat owners or skippers should be enjoined to proceed if possible, to BARI where the necessary financial arrangements could be made through the Displaced Persons Sub-Commission and the APA office in that town. For reasons of security it is undesirable that refugees should be landed at random behind the Allied lines, but if they can be disembarked at BARI their screening, interrogation, and accommodation could be effected with the minimum of difficulty. It was

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Authority of JCS

letter, 7-5-72

By _____ Date DEC 6 1972

000588

SECRET

also appreciated that it would be most difficult to arrange for financial compensation to be made to those to whom it was due otherwise than at SARI.

6. Pending receipt of information from the Partisan Headquarters as to whether the plans suggested are acceptable to Marshal Tito the following advance directions are issued for your guidance. These directions are applicable only to refugees who may be evacuated from the island of RH.

(a) AFA are authorized to advance the necessary funds to the Displaced Persons Sub-Commission in whom, it is suggested, responsibility for determining amounts due and for making payments might be vested.

(b) AFA should notify this Headquarters of amounts expended in order that the necessary arrangements for reimbursement by the American War Refugee Board can be made.

(c) In the event that the Partisan Headquarters should desire that compensation be made to boat owners and others assisting refugees in escaping on the arrival of the latter in Italy, Partisan Headquarters will be requested by us to indicate a fair basis and scale for such payments. The information thus obtained will be communicated to your Headquarters.

(d) Arrangements for the administration of any refugees who may enter Italy under the terms of the foregoing procedure should be the same as for other refugees received from Yugoslavia and the Dalmatian Islands.

(e) The arrival of any refugees entering Italy under the terms of the foregoing arrangements should be reported to this Headquarters in order that we may inform both the War Department and the American War Refugee Board of the progress and success of these plans.

7. You will be informed of the outcome of negotiations with the Yugoslav Partisan Headquarters as soon as details are available in AFHQ. Information should be received in sufficient time to permit the completion of arrangements by your Headquarters if the plans are to be put into effect.

- 3 -

DECLASSIFIED

By authority of

JCS

letter, 7-5-72

By

Date DEC 6

1972

000583

SECRET

For the Acting Chief of Section:

[Signature]
W. G. WALKER
Major.

Copy for-

1-2

1-3 (Special Ops).

The Office of the British Resident Minister.

The Office of the American Minister.

Mr. Ackerman, Representative of the Amer-

ican War Refugee Board, c/o The

Office of the American Minister.

W.G.W. - Finance.

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By Authority of JCS

letter, 7-5-72

By DEC 6 1972

000590

To for Action: Force 250

For info: Midcast

Ref. No: T-24173

Signal: Cinc

Cite: FBCC1

Requested that contact be made with Brig. Maclean
asking Marshal Tito's opinion on question of Island of Rab
Refugees. Following plan of Combined Chiefs of Staff has
been agreed here. quote

1. Ask partisans furnish local currency to enable
refugees to effect escape Italy, partisans to be reimbursed
in U.S. dollars or such other funds as partisans may request.

2. If Partisans unable to furnish funds, they should
be asked to aid refugees evacuation by giving guarantees
to boat owners and others who assist refugees to escape
that U.S. military authorities will compensate them when
refugees reach Italy.

3. Payment to boat owners will have to be effected
through agency of ACPA. Therefore and because of security
skippers and boat owners should be enjoined to land if pos-
sible at Bari where financial arrangements can be most easily
effected by ACPA through Displaced Persons Subcommittee.
Emphasized that it is most difficult to pay boat owners
except those at Bari.

- 28 March 1944 -

AC Out

Auth. Daniel Noce, Maj. Gen.
Concur. MGS

000591

CONF

PARAVAN

To: HQ USA

Ref. No. F-23123

Signed: Wilson - D/G/3

MAR 1946

1. Plan proposed PAR 317 will be communicated to Yugoslav Partisan Hdqrs. Local Representative Am. HQB has been informed and we will report on results of negotiations Partisans.
2. Our views stated Opale W-3892 of Dec. 6 now in part revised due to change of condition. Dissident cetnik elements being removed to the east. Supply situation including accommodation, clothing and medical facilities now satisfactory for refugees in Italy. There are can now accept into Italy persons displaced from Hab.
3. Success of plan proposed may be affected by following: Some may be cetniks in which case Partisan support will be lacking. It is reported that Germans may be preparing to land on Hab. Distance to Allied occupied Italy very great.

Approved D/G/3
Co-ordinated with CG, G3

13 Oct 1945

23 March 1946

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JFO: [unclear] 29-71

By: RHP DEC 6 1972

000592

March 23, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

Subject: Conference at the Office of Major Walker

Present: Col. McFadzean, MGS, Finance
Major McGehee, G-3
Major Walker, MGS
Capt. Hamblen, G-2
Mr. Ackerman, WRB

Major Walker referred to the cable which had been received from the Combined Chiefs of Staff in connection with the rescue of the refugees on the Island of Rab. He stated that MGS had not been favorably disposed towards the rescue of these people at an early date because of the difficult supply situation in Italy and further because when the Yugoslavs were brought to Italy, there was constant trouble between the Chetniks and the Croats. Both of these situations have since been eased; the supply situation is better and arrangements have been made for the removal of the Chetnik group to a separate place. He also stated that arrangements had been completed for the removal of 25,500 refugees to the Middle East of whom 12,000 had already been evacuated.

Major Walker suggested that a message be forwarded to Marshal Tito advising him of the contents of the cable which would guarantee through one means or another, the payment of boatmen who would bring the refugees from the Island of Rab to the Italian mainland. He said that there should be no difficulty from the viewpoint of MGS for bringing over 4,000 people. Col. McFadzean said that the Finance Section should be able to handle the financial details in any form requested by Marshal Tito. It was suggested by Capt. Hamblen that the boatmen be requested, if possible, to land at Bari in order to assist in the problem of a security check. All agreed that the message to Tito be sent.

Mr. Ackermann then discussed generally the program of the WRB and asked whether it would be possible to care for similar Yugoslav refugee groups even though the cable from the Combined Chiefs of Staff was only specific with reference to the refugees on the Island of Rab. All persons indicated that this could be done, and Major Walker promised to inform Mr. Ackermann of any further developments either in connection with the Rab refugees or other similar groups.

L. S. Ackermann
Special Representative
War Refugee Board

LEA:gw

000593

Copy

PARAPHRASE

From: Combined Chiefs of Staff

To: Wilson

Ref. 224. March 15, 1944

FAN 347

Ref. CAB-3128 20 Nov. 43 to Eisenhower; reply FAMGS No. W6491 30 Nov. 43
and 699 6 Dec. - Yugoslav refugees Island of Rab.

After further consideration suggested that Theater Commander (1) request partisans furnish local currency to refugees so that latter can escape to Italy. Partisans to be reimbursed as requested in US dollars or other funds.
(2) If funds can't be furnished by Partisans, request then aid refugees by guaranteeing boat rowers and others compensation by U. S. mil. authorities on arrival refugees in Italy.
(3) Request Partisans to keep US authorities advised of operations in this field. Theater Commander requested to arrange payments for passport to Italy of refugees and for "certain other financial transactions" and to care for refugees reaching Italy through their own efforts. War Ref. Bd. will assume finance responsibility for expenses evacuating refugees from Rab.

If feasible prompt execution of suggested plan urged. ~~THE~~ Due to passage of time and change in Theater Command since previous expression of opinion. Your views at earliest date requested.

000594

Mr Ackerman. Com. Mil Post Sec

Herewith spans of 3
cables asked for.

From

P. Langin. Capt.

m. G. S.

A.F.M.R.

Please
acknowledge
receipt.

1400 hrs.

22/3/44.

000595

SECRET - EQUALS BRITISH MOST SECRET

AFHQ MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

WARP
NR325/21
filed: 211649Z

AFSC: H 871/21
211617A
wva

ROUTINE

FROM: AGWAR FROM HILLDRING SIGNED MARSHALL

TO : EISENHOWER

REFERENCE NO THIS MESSAGE: 3128, 21 November, 1943

YUGOSLAV refugees. Following approach to State Department by YUGOSLAV Government, former has inquired of JCS as to what practical steps can be taken to render assistance to 4000 refugees released from Internment Camps by YUGOSLAV Partisans and now reported to be on ISLAND of RAB off Dalmatian Coast. Matter was previously referred to Intergovernmental Committee on refugees in LONDON and 2 possibilities were suggested (1) Direct evacuation by transport for concentration at BARI and (2) Failing direct assistance, provision of funds so that refugees could make own arrangements to hire boats to bring them to Italian Mainland. Please include in your comment, which is requested, most recent intelligence concerning whereabouts and welfare of these refugees.

*Action in 821-12
2-288 X*

ACTION: MBS

INFO :	SGS	G-2
	DIC	G-1
	G-1 (B)	G-3
	M & IN	GAO
	MR MURPHY	MR MACMILLAN
	AG RECORDS	SUMMARY

DECLASSIFIED
S&D Letter, 5-8-78

DEC 6 1972

NO IN 13846 22 Nov 43 0514A Ref No. 3128 ppa/P



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000596

SECRET DUALS BRITISH MOST SECRET

AFHQ MESSAGE CENTER

OUTGOING MESSAGE

ROUTINE

TO FOR ACTION: AGMAR FOR HILDRING

REF NO: W6491

SIGNED: EISENHOWER CITE FMGS

Reference your 3128 of 21 November.

Following is latest information regarding YUGOSLAV refugees on Island of RAB. Majority are Jews. Further refugees at OTOCAC, Northwest CROATIA, 1 report puts total at 1500. Further details being obtained.

Reply to remainder your message follows soonest.

ORIGINATOR: MGS

AUTH: T B JACKMAN, MAJOR

INFORMATION: SO3
DTC
G-2
G-3
MR MURPHY
MR MACMILLAN
G-1
CAO
M & TN
AG RECORDS

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By Authority of JCS
letter, 7-5-72
By RHP DEC 6 1972

MC OUT: 9024

30 Nov 43

1114A

Ref No: W6491

Jak/WKS

COPY No.

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S
321-12
1383-2

10

000597

SECRET EQUALS BRITISH MOST SECRET

AFHQ MESSAGE CENTER

OUTGOING MESSAGE ROUTINE

TO FOR ACTION: AGWAR FOR HILLDRING

REF NO: W-6999

SIGNED: EISENHOWER, CITE PHMGS

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of JCS

letter, 7-5-72

By RHD Date DEC 6 1972

Reference your 3128 of 21 November.

1. It will be appreciated that the problem of Yugoslav nationals in ITALY is already complicated by reason of the following factors:

A. The Yugoslavs are far from being a united nation.

B. There has recently been strife in ITALY, although measures have been initiated to deal with the present situation, between Partisans and Cetniks.

C. Supplies, accommodation, clothing, and medical facilities for displaced persons in ITALY is overstrained.

2. In view of the foregoing and our need, if possible, to reduce demands on accommodation, clothing, and supplies at present required for displaced persons in ITALY, and particularly having regard to the prime need for operational security, neither proposal specified in your message is recommended. It is further considered that such action might create a precedent, which would lead to other demands and the influx of large numbers of additional refugees for which we would not be able to provide.

3. It is recommended, therefore, that no direct assistance or funds be provided for these refugees, but that should they be able to reach ITALY by their own efforts we shall continue to care for them as heretofore.

4. Intelligence concerning whereabouts and welfare of these persons is being obtained and will be forwarded to you separately.

ORIGINATOR: MGS

AUTHENTICATION: T. B. JACKMAN, MAJOR

INFORMATION: SGS

G-1 (B)

MR MURPHY

G-2

AG RECORDS

DTC

M & TN

MR MACMILLAN

G-1

G-3

CAO

SUMMARY

**

COORD WITH:

G-3

G-2

G-1 (B)

MR MURPHY

MR MACMILLAN

MC OUT 1701

6 DEC 43

1920A

Ref No: W-6999

htv/VAN

COPY No. 3

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000598