A. GREECE (MATERIAL SENT FROM THE OFFICE IN TURKEY)

B. GENERAL
WEEGE (Material sent from WRB Office in Turkey)
Herbert Katzki, Esquire,
Refugee Board,
American Consulate General,
Istanbul, Turkey.

Dear Mr. Katzki:

Your letter of January 31, 1945, with further reference to the question of the Jews on the Island of Rhodes, was received in a recent pouch.

I regret that I have been unable to obtain any information regarding the six Jews you refer to as having escaped to Marmaris. I am, however, continuing my investigation, and in the event I learn anything of these people or obtain any other information regarding the Jews of the Island of Rhodes, I shall be glad to communicate such information to you immediately.

With kind regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Ellis A. Johnson,
American Vice Consul.
Translation

November 30, 1944

Broadcasts Received in Bulgarian

Sofia

Foreign news:

Athens - 29 - Reuter. The Rabbinate of Athens told the representa­tives of the press that of the 90,000 Jews who lived in Athens there only remain 8,000 - while the remainder were sent by the Germans to Poland, and that during this voyage, because of the sufferings undergone by the Jews, many died en route. The Rabbinate added that on the islands of Crete and Rhodes not a single Jew remains, following German persecution and the actions on the part of the latter.
November 29, 1944

Memorandum for Mr. Katzki:

In explaining the purpose of his visit to this office this morning, Mr. Ryan, who is secretary to the Papal Nuncio in Istanbul, said that the latter is also Vatican representative for Greece. Monsignor Roncalli recently received the sum of $11,000 designated for relief work in Athens. He had this money converted into Turkish liras at the rate of 1.80.

He now has instructions to send this money to Greece immediately in the form of American dollars. He desires to know if the War Refugee Board office is in a position to accept from him the Turkish liras and to give him in exchange dollar checks in the amount of $11,000. It would be necessary that the exchange rate be at 1.80, the rate at which it was originally converted.
Istanbul, November 9, 1944

Welfare Department
United Nations Relief & Rehabilitation Adm.,
o/o American Legation
Cairo, Egypt

Gentlemen:

We do not know whether or not you have already
established a local bureau for searching for individuals
in Greece, in whom relatives elsewhere are interested.
However, we have been asked to give assistance in
locating the following persons who are the relatives of
Mr. Yorgo (George) Lasaridis, whose address in Istanbul
is Misir Apartment, No. 9, 303 Istiklal Caddesi.

Brother
Mr. Harilos (Harry) Lasaridis, aged 35.
Electrician of the Municipality of
Thessalonica.

Brother
Mr. Yeane (Yanis) Lasaridis, aged 45.
Mechanic, Socony Vacuum Oil Co.
Thessalonica.

Brother-in-law
Mr. George Vasiliadis, aged 60.
His wife, Anna, aged 46.
Rue Nea Xilina Parapigmata Kato Daha I 654,
Thessalonica.
(Office, Odos Egiptou).

Brother-in-law
Mr. Konstantas Koutelas, aged 49.
His wife, Despina Koutelas, aged 43.
Their daughter, Anastasia (Sasa-Sula), aged 19.
Rue Nea Xilina Parapigmata Kato Daha I 656,
Thessalonica.

Inquiry regarding all of the above persons may be made at
the Club (Lesh) Madjaroglou, Rue Daha, or at the drug-store
of Dr. Karameousa, Rue Koutiaia, Thessalonica.
We have also been asked to assist in locating the following persons, who are sister and brother-in-law of Mrs. Yorgo (George) Lasaridis:

Mr. Gregoire Miliadis, aged 58.
His wife, Darika Miliadis, aged 38.
The Androutou 17, Athens.

Inquiry regarding the above persons may be made of Mr. Nicolas Miliadis, Theater Remondjia-Miliadis.

If you are able to obtain any information with respect to any of these people, we shall appreciate your advising us.

Very truly yours,

Herbert Katzki
Representative
U.S. Army, APO Board
O/o American Consulate General
Istanbul, October 6, 1946

Dear Miss Cox:

Mr. Rosen mentioned to us that you had asked him to speak to us about the Israelis and Cezayirs, the desire to emigrate to Palestine.

We had delayed replying to you as there is no definite information we can give you at this moment. The present position is that there are no Palestine migration certificates available for people already in Turkey who desire to emigrate to Palestine. The quota of certificates, which varied from the figure which has been made available for refugees in other countries, has already been exhausted. We have spoken to the Jewish Agency representative in Istanbul regarding this matter, and they have the matter before them.

Should the situation alter so that an additional quota of Palestine certificates is made available for residents in Turkey, we shall advise you.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Herbert Kieski
Representative
War Refugee Board

Miss Dorothy Cox
Greek War Relief
O/A American Consulate
Istanbul

HK/b
Stamboul, September 10, 1944

Sieve Johnson:

I am inclining a statement from Mr. A. Heidt covering his investigation at your request for the purpose of investigating the possibility of opening an independent service under the auspices of the War Refugee Board for the transportation of additional refugees from Greece to Turkey.

Cordially yours,

L. A. Wissmann
Special Attaché

to, J. · obi, x cattiv. iractor
of Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D.C.

Enclosure

IA: W: 19
September 15, 1944

[No visible content]
in this manner.) In the opinion of the police, however, it is
too late now to establish a base, for in their opinion the need
therefor will shortly be obviated, as a result of recent deve-
elopments in Greece. This refers to the evacuation by the Ger-
man military of Greek islands, which is now taking place, and
which, as my report will shortly take place on the Greek
mainland. However, if letters should instruct the police to have
a base established, they of course would do so.

I spoke with Mr. Ellis A. Lyon, Vice-Consul in Charge
of the American Consulate in Imbros. I discussed our plan with
him. In his view, the Greek military are being taken too
slowly, and might have the values of the present time.

Another problem which raises the question which he has
received from various sources, the need for a base might be
evacuated to be established within a matter of weeks.

I conferred with Major G. C., who has represented
the Greek War Relief Association in Imbros. I understand, for
almost two years, he has followed up the Greek refugee
movement closely, and was personally shown with a great
number of refugees who have come from that country. Although
he naturally is vitally interested in the welfare and fate of
Greek people, he opinion likewise was that it probably is too
late to open a base under any relief board auspices. The time
for this is past

I also spoke with the U.S. representative in Imbros. He
informed us that he had received instructions from Washing-
ston to assist the War Refuge Board in whatever way he can, by
advising it and giving the guidance of his office should be possible in
view of his other responsibilities, in preparing a base for
Greek refugees. This representative was most helpful in advis-
ing us regarding the basic steps which would have to be taken
in terms of initiation, preparation, and operation of a base.
he likewise gets of the opinion that the time has passed when
independent operations by the army groups there could have
been urgent and useful. That is not to say that every effort
should not be made to evacuate refugees at this time, but con-
sidering the delay between the Initial step or stopping the
boat and the time when refugees might be evicted as the
result of its operations, the situation in Greece might well
be clarified.

Further inquiry was made in other channels as an informal
means regarding the possibility of creating a base, staffing
it, and using it for other purposes. Such inquiry indicated that,
from sufficient time, a base could be set in operation. However,
the means and time for setting it in advance and long in this
country might be.

In view of the foregoing opinions and other expressions
of opinion which have been received in a sketchy form from intelli-
gence, it would seem that no further step for establishing
a base should be taken at this time, especially since the
Turkish secret police apparently has issued no instructions
authorizing it. A pursuit of matters in this way, on the
other hand, can be still sur, thus, as we have before us
the opinion of the local representative in Izmir of the Turki-
sh secret police, who, one may assume, would express himself
in the same manner would enter a cautious view on the
subject.

Herbert Katzki
Istanbul, 31 March 1944

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I have been unable to realize, on instructions
received from Washington, the utmost urgency in furri-
cing the evacuation of a plane. Subsequent reports indi-
cated conclusively, however, that the situation at

The release suggested a telegram to Washington

Sincerely yours,

I. S. Hirschmann

Honorable Laurence H. St.-Inchault
Ambassador to Turkey

Ankana Embassy

Enc.

If 06.
Subject: 600 Jews refuse to return without Turkish visas.
March 9, 1965

Mr. Secretary of State,

Upon hearing from you of the visit of Dr. Khrushchev to the United States, I was happy to learn of this important event in world affairs. It is a great opportunity for the two nations to work towards a peaceful solution of the world's problems. In this regard, I wish to express my hope that the visit of Dr. Khrushchev will contribute to a better understanding of the United States and its policies.

I have been following with interest the developments in the Middle East and the ongoing talks between the parties. The United States has always been a neutral party in these discussions and I hope that the talks will continue to progress in a positive manner.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

[Note: The text is handwritten and contains a signature. The date is March 9, 1965. The text is likely a letter discussing the visit of Dr. Khrushchev to the United States and the importance of peace talks in the Middle East.]
Istanbul, August 10, 1944

Dear Sir Archer:

I wish to thank you for the courtesy of your reply of July 31 relative to the situation of the Jews in Greece, and the message contained therein from the Grand Rabbi of Athens. We hope to be able to provide some assistance in connection with the situation in Greece, and we are grateful to you for the information contained in the Cohen report.

If we are able to learn anything of additional usefulness we shall certainly pass it on to you and to Sir William. Please extend to him also my warm personal regards.

Cordially yours,

I. A. Hirschmann
Special Attache

Laird Archer, Esquire
Chief of the Greece Mission
United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration
8, Sharia Dar Al-Shifa
Garden City, Cairo
Egypt
31 July 1944

I, A. Hirshmann, Esquire
s/o American Embassy
Istanbul, Turkey

Dear Mr. Hirshmann,

In reply to your letter of July 28 we have had some additional word on the situation of Jews in Greece through certain American military channels which is as follows:

"The following message was sent by the Grand Rabbi of Athens to President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill, Rabbi Wise of New York, the Grand Rabbis of Cairo and Jerusalem and the Jewish Agency:

I am appealing to Jewish philanthropic agencies to send clothing, food, and medicine and ask your assistance. Ninety thousand Jews have been exterminated; 10,000 manage to survive in refuge or hiding places. The refugees are in a desperate situation for lack of food and as a result of disease. All their property has been confiscated by the Gestapo."

I suggest that the American agency transmit the message to your agency and we gave our Washington headquarters the benefit of the information.

I think generally the information in the Cohen report, however, is accurate and as far as I am informed on the situation his recommendations seem sound. The report originated with Mr. Cohen and his brother as a result of their own great interest and was in no sense official, although one of the brothers is an employee of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The copy was brought to us for our general information as affecting the planning of UNRRA for relief operations in Greece after liberation. The Cohen brothers are well regarded by those who know them in Greece.

I hope that your very difficult work is going along as well as possible under the circumstances and Sir William Hinsae in all best regards.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Lord Archer
Chief of the Greece Mission
Internal, August 7, 1944

Dear Mr. Gooch:

An immediate fear of the possible service of a question, torpedo, or sapping, necessitates, therefore, the execution of this letter. The situation is, however, by the event of thearrangement on the subject of the American Department of the

Yours truly,

L. E. Schermer
Supervisor

Enclosure

MR/B

BEST AVAILABLE COPY
Istanbul, August 7, 1944

Dear Mr. Vardaman:

I have just received your letter of July 18, in which you enclosed a form reporting information about the present whereabouts of your wife, Persephone, and yourself. She and I have been unable to secure any further information about her since she left here on the morning of the 16th. Our efforts are being directed to the collection of all possible information about her from sources within the consulate, and we shall endeavor to keep you informed of any developments.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

[Address]

[Address]

[Signature]
United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration
North African Repatriation Center
C/o British Consulate
Casablanca, Morocco

13 July 1944

Dear Mr. Hirschman:

As you know, some of our residents have relatives with whom they have not been in communication for some time and whose addresses they therefore wish to trace. We have asked them to fill out applications for this purpose and enclose herewith a copy of one from SEHAMITEI FISHAKEL DAIR in reference to UNIDENTIFIED Sam Haiir and Vital.

We have made an inquiry in this case through the Red Cross, but we shall be grateful if you could assist us further in this matter.

With many thanks,

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Lorris Feinmann, Chief
Welfare Department

Mr. Ira Hirschman
War Refugees Board
American Embassy
Ankara, Turkey

Enclosure: Application as stated.
For Mr. Valley's notation,
please return to Mr. Hirshman.

Toby Whelan
1. THE FOLLOWING APPEAL HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE GRAND RABBI
OF ATH NS. IT IS FELT BY LAIRD ARCHER THAT IRA HIRSCHMANN OF THE
WAR REFUGE BOARD AT YOUR EID SHOULD RECEIVE A COPY

2. THE MESSAGE WAS TRANSMITTED VIA THE ALLIED MISSION RADIO AND
AS ADDRESSED TO THE GRAND RABBIS, JERUSALEM AND CAIRO, ROOSEVELT,
RIHEL WISE, CHURCHILL AND THE JEWISH AGENCY.

3. THE MESSAGE READS AS FOLLOWS: I AM REQUESTING THE ASSISTANCE
OF ALL JEWISH PHILANTHROPIC AGENCIES TO SEND FOOD, MEDICINE AND
CLOTING. 90,000 JEWISH PEOPLE ARE EXILED, 10,000 MORE ARE NOW IN
HIDING OR HAVE MANAGED TO SURVIVE IN REFUGE. THE SHORTAGE OF
FOOD AND THE PRESENCE OF DISEASE IS SERIOUS. THE GESTAPO HAVE
CONSPICATED THEIR HOMES AND PROPERTY.
August 4, 1944

GREECE

Our best information is that there are between five and eight thousand Jewish people in Greece who for the present at least are in comparative safety, either in bands of, or in territory controlled by, the EAM. There are also approximately 2,000 in hiding in Athens and the vicinity. The latter number is being continually reduced by the work of the Gestapo and by the escape of those who are able to find some means for fleeing to safety.

The organization of the rescue of the Jewish people in Greece through evacuation was exceedingly difficult, and it required some time before an organization could be set up for that purpose and put into operation. The use of three or four kayaks was secured, with that of the necessary Greek boat captains who knew Greek territorial waters intimately, and the movement of Jewish people from Greece to Turkey and thence to Palestine began about October, 1943. The following table shows the number of people rescued from Greece from October, 1943, to the end of June, 1944.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Number of People Rescued</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October through December, 1943</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January, 1944</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>746</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Towards the end of June, the rescue work broke down because
of the lack of a base in Turkey at which the refugees could be debarked. In consequence, no Jewish refugees arrived from Greece during the month of July, and it was not until August 1 that news was received in Istanbul that a further contingent of 40 persons arrived in Turkey and were at Izmir.

We are informed that escape from Athens by people now in hiding there, for purposes of the trip to Turkey, is not difficult. The refugees are brought from Athens to Euboea, an island off the Greek mainland, with the assistance of the EAM while on route to Euboea and while waiting there. To bring these refugees from hiding in Athens to Euboea to congregate there would be dangerous for the refugees, unless their arrival in Euboea could be timed to meet ships sent to Euboea to evacuate them. The chief problem, therefore, continues to be transportation from the east coast of Euboea to the Turkish coast, for which a Turkish "base" is required. The movement from Euboea could be regularized if there were a "base" on the Turkish coast where these people could land and where the ships could be refuelled. Such a "base" would serve as a point of communications with Greece.

We are informed that boats are available and an organization is set up, and it is only the question of a base which must be met.

Greeks now "officially" brought to Turkey are transported to Turkey because of their qualifications from a military point of view. Apparently there is agreement among various governments to permit their passage through Turkey to join Allied or Greek forces, and only those persons are included in these operations who are of military interest. It would be helpful if the
category of people permitted facilities to Turkey from Greece could include people who are Jewish refugees. This would simplify some of the problems which indeed are now being met, but whose elimination would make the movement of refugees to Turkey much simpler.
Istanbul, July 30, 1946

Sir R. Archer:

On my return to Europe from the United States, I was requested to make some recommendations with respect to steps which might be undertaken as a result of the confidential report on "The Rescue of Jews in Greece," written by Dr. Alfred H. Cohen in Cairo.

I am very glad that the report is immensely absorbing. I should appreciate it if you could add any observations, or the basis of your own knowledge of the Greek situation, for my guidance, and at the same time in liaison with more initiated, the report can develop.

Please remember to reply to Mr. William Matthews.

Sincerely yours,

L. E. Hirschmann

United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration
G/O American Legation
Cairo, Egypt

Attention: Mr. Archer
Mr. Ira A. Hirschmann  
War Refugee Board  
c/o American Consulate General,  
Istanbul  

July 13, 1944.

Dear Mr. Hirschmann:

Enclosed you will find a report which was prepared by Mr. Alfred H. Cohn of Cairo at my request. Mr. Cohn is on detached service with the Greek Army and is the legal adviser to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Greece. There are a number of matters in connection with this report which I should like to discuss with you and I shall await your call.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

AMERICAN JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

1 enclosure.
The Rescue of Jews Remaining in Greece

A

The Present Situation of Jews in Greece

I. Deportation of Jews from Northern Greece.

Jews of all the communities in Macedonia (except those of Vastoria and Chania) were deported about a year ago. They represent 3/4 of Hellenic Judaism. According to information received from reliable sources, it is unlikely that the majority of them will survive.

II. The same measures leading to extermination have since been extended to the rest of the country.

Towards the end of September 1943, after the downfall of Italy, German measures of extermination were extended to the remainder of Greece. There were, therefore, 20 to 25,000 Jews in distress still in Greece seven months ago, living in the following towns:

- Athens
- Arta
- Nikia
- Prazesa
- Volo
- Corfu
- Larissa
- Kosta
- Tesalca
- Patra
- Amfitisa
- Candia
- Zakynthia
- Heraklion
- Kastoria
- Nethymon

III. The condition of the Jews in Athens at the time of the application of anti-Jewish measures.

The condition in which the Jews of Athens found themselves at the time of the application of Anti-Jewish measures was essentially different from that which confronted those living in the provincial towns.

It is estimated that in September 1943, the number of Jews in Athens was from 8 to 9,000, of which about one half were residents of the capital and the other half, refugees who had escaped from Macedonia mainly from Salonika. The residents of Athens had the advantage of having
having numerous friends and acquaintances who helped them to hide; also their fortunes were still intact; but they had the disadvantage of being easily traced by the local Gestapo agents, and a small number of malcontents interested in blackmailing. On the other hand those who had escaped from Salonika lacked sufficient support in Athens; most of them having never been there before, found it very difficult to hide. Moreover, most of their property was left in Salonika where it had been confiscated by the Germans. Thus, a great number amongst them were without funds. Under these circumstances it must be very difficult, if not impossible for them to continue hiding in Athens.

IV. How many Jews are still hiding in Athens?

'Ve cannot tell at present the number of Jews still hiding in Athens. However, a conservative estimate would be about 5,000 if one takes into account:

(a) Those who have been registered by the Gestapo, those who have been interned and deported are believed to be 700, although other information claims it to be 2,000.

(b) Those who have, up to the present time reached the Middle East, do not exceed 400.

(c) Those who have since the beginning scattered either in the Peloponnesus or in other regions controlled by Partisans.

V. Difficulties existing for Jews still hiding in Athens.

After seven months of life under such exceptional conditions, most of the Jews must by now be short of money, which greatly endangers their relative safety. Only those possessing money have any hopes of escaping the present persecution, in which the life of every Jew is threatened either in one way or another. It is true that under these circumstances, the solidarity and unanimous support of all classes of the Greek people were manifested towards the Jews. Nevertheless, as must be expected, there are a number of secret agents of the Gestapo and blackmailers, who are extremely dangerous. Moreover, one must consider that:

(a) living conditions in occupied Greece, particularly in Athens, are such that those who assume the risks of harboring Jews must rightly obtain a material compensation which will permit them to provide for their own needs.
(b) Jews in Athens are deprived of ration cards issued by the I.F.C.O., which means that they must obtain these provisions at fabulous prices on the black market.

c) They must face other extraordinary expenses, i.e. obtaining false identity cards, attempts of escaping which turn out to be unsuccessful, etc.

d) The presumption that every Jew is rich and possesses large quantities of gold aggravates their difficulties.

e) The fact that they have been living hidden and hunted has no doubt diminished their self-confidence, thus rendering them incapable of making clear and adequate decisions in the face of the many dangers they no doubt encounter.

(f) They have absolutely no possibility of earning their own living.

VI. The fate of the Jews in the provincial towns.

There is no information whatsoever on the fate of Jews in the provincial towns. It is only known that those of Halkis and Volos have abandoned their homes and joined the Partisans in those districts. It is presumed that the Jews of Larissa, Trikala, Karditsa, Arta, Preveza, Yanina, Kastoria and Patras, knowing the fate of their fellow Jews of Salonika and other Macedonian and Thracean towns, must have done likewise.

The Jews from the provincial towns, who have been able to join the Partisans run less risk of being exterminated by the Germans. The Germans, not having sufficient forces, have up to now avoided systematic pursuit of the guerrillas; they have tacitly abandoned the administration of many districts so long as their lines of communication are not interfered with. But, of course, living conditions are not easy there and food difficulties are great.

VII. The conditions of the Jews on the Islands.

The Jews living in Corfu and Zante had no possibility of joining the Partisans nor had they any serious chance of hiding. As to those of Crete, it is reported that in March-April 1943, they had not been interned nor deported as those living in the other German occupied regions of Greece, probably due to transportation difficulties.

However,
However, according to recent unconfirmed information, the Jews of Inceki were all massacred in fields outside the town, several months ago.

As to the Jews of Rhodes and Crete, according to information from positive sources, until last February no drastic anti-Semitic measures had yet been put into effect.

A plan to come to their urgent aid and an account of the difficulties to overcome

VIII. The Fundamental condition for a successful plan in rescuing the Jews.

The fundamental condition for a successful rescue plan for Jews still living in Greece lies in close active collaboration of:

(a) the Greek Government
(b) the various Greek undergrounds and Resistance Organizations
(c) the UNRRA Board
(d) I.P.A.
(e) all Jewish Organizations interested in saving Jews.

IX. The Conference at present being held in the Middle East is an opportunity to bring up this matter.

An exceptional opportunity for the coordination of all efforts which are actually being displayed from various sources presents itself in connection with the conference which is being held in the Lebanon between the Greek Government and representatives of all Greek political parties and Resistance Organizations. It is, therefore, necessary that the question of saving the Jews be put forward at this conference and it is hoped that the opportunity will not be missed.

X. Necessity of obtaining accurate information.

The first important step is to get accurate information on the conditions of Jews living at present in Athens and in the country. With regard to the latter no information whatsoever has reached us since the putting into effect of the anti-Jewish measures.

Chiefly it is indispensable to know:

(a)
(a) the number of Athenian Jews who have been
interred or executed.
(b) the number of Jews arrested, given over, or
executed since the intensification of the per-
secution (by the end of March 1944) and the
number of those who were compelled to report
to the Gestapo since then.
(c) what did the Jews do when the civilian population
was compelled to renew their identity cards at
the beginning of the year? Is it possible to
obtain false identity cards under the new German
regulations on the matter? Is it possible to
gain entry to the concentration camps in Athens?
does the underground,
(d) does the prevailing Jewish Communal Council set
up by the Germans still exist? What do their
activities consist of?
(e) do the Germans use the services of the few
Jewish traitors (Mason, etc.) who, according
to rumors, were brought to Athens?
(f) what were the results of the Archbishop's attempt
to save war invalids, infants, the aged, etc.,
exempted?
(g) have all the Jews actually evacuated Kallia, Volos,
Larisa, Mendes, Tricca, Arta, Preveza, Janina,
Kastoria, and Patras to join the Partisans?
(h) from what provincial towns, if any, have the Jews
been able to escape to the hills? How many of
them were interned, deported, or massacred in each
of these towns?
(i) which regions controlled by Partisans are mainly
civilian, sheltered Jews? Are they grouped or dis-
persed? Under what conditions have they been living
until the present? What is their health status?
Have they any funds?
(j) what is actually known about the conditions of Jews
in Creta and Eris? (Most likely information could
be obtained from the Allied Services in Southern
Italy and from Partisans operating in Northern
Epirus, Albania).
(k) what are the conditions of Jews in Creta, Corfu,
Leris, and Jethyan? Have they been interned,
deported, massacred, or have they been able to join
the Partisans in the hills?

(1)
XI. What can be done for Jews in Athens on practical grounds.

(a) Provide them with false identity cards, complying with new regulations.
(b) Grant additional aid both to those wishing to leave the town as well as to those having plausible reasons for remaining.
(c) Find shelter for those who are compelled to leave their present refuge.
(d) Relieve the burden of the parents by admitting to children institutions infants who hinder or render impossible their movin about from one place to another, thereby jeopardizing the life of the entire family.
(e) Advise, help and direct the evacuation of the greatest possible number of Jews from the Athens area; the smaller the number of Jews remaining in Athens, the greater the chances of security. For those unable to move, those going in the vicinity to regions controlled by Partisans enjoy better living conditions, more safety, provided they receive regular financial support, sufficient food and medicines.
(f) For security and other reasons they should, of course be scattered as much as possible. At a later date means of helping them escape to the Middle East might be considered.
(g) Organize more systematically the escapes by caiques and improve the means of such escapes by sea.
(h) Carefully avoid mention of the Jewish Problem in clandestine press, as the reaction of the Secreta would cause more harm than the benefit to be derived.
(i) Endeavor to spread the idea that it is an anti-national attitude to exploit the Jews in hiding. Such exploitation generally ends in giving away of the poorer class of Jews.

XII. The sending of funds may greatly contribute to the rescuing work.

The above outline sufficiently illustrates that one of the most effective ways of contributing to the rescuing of Jews still in Greece is to provide them with funds.
These funds should be entrusted to reliable persons who will see that the money reaches the needy.

XIII. Difficulties to be met with in the execution of the above scheduled assistance.

The putting into effect of the above-mentioned proposal would present many difficulties:

(a) The addresses or locations are not, of course, known, nor those giving refuge to them and those who know people sheltering them are obviously careful not to reveal it.

(b) Jews and Christians are mistrustful of unknown persons offering to help them; thus, for instance, any good saving or offer of assistance will be met with extreme caution, it may be a trap set by the Gestapo.

(c) It will often be difficult to convince them to separate members of the same families (i.e., old from young, healthy from the physically fit); in most cases such a separation could give greater security to both sides.

(d) The small number of people taking advantage of the situation in which the Jews in Athens find themselves at present have from the very beginning spread rumors of imaginary dangers on evacuating the capital; ever since October last, these alarming rumors were being spread on one hand by the organizers of departures to the hills, and on the other hand, by the organizers of departures for the Middle East, with the result that most of the Jews preferred to remain on the spot.

(e) Owing to the unavoidable circumstances due in most cases to the different intermediaries, it is most likely that financial help will eventually reach its ultimate destination in a much more reduced amount.

XIV. Means of overcoming the foregoing difficulties.

The difficulties mentioned above will have to be overcome with all the moral and material resources at our disposal.

(a) Above all, we must enlist the support of the Orthodox Church whose high prestige, together with her various activities, was so helpful last October. All existing organizations working in the underground or openly, who have greatly contributed in sparing the Jews from Nazi extermination, should be required to cooperate.
I. The Church, professional organizations and underground groups obviously know a great number of Jews now in hiding as well as Christians sheltering Jews or being indirectly connected with them. The few Jews who have contracted mixed marriages and therefore are not subject to anti-Jewish measures must be able to trace their relatives and friends. The 400 refugees who have arrived in the Middle East could also give us some information. The Catholic Church has also helped shelter Jews.

II. For security purposes it would be unwise to disclose their hiding places. The only indication to be given should be the addresses of people likely to know them. All this work would have to be divided and decentralized. Lists of names must not be issued as they would be detrimental not only to the Jews themselves but also to their Christian friends who are trying to help them. No doubt the experience of the underground organizations would be of great value in this matter.

III. In order to ensure the equal distribution of funds a process of receipts should be established whereby no name of the disburser should appear on the receipt, but only the sum, date and signature of the recipient. This would prevent abuses, the intermediaries realizing that the distribution is subject to control. This process, of course, would not completely exclude abuses, but would limit them.

IV. In Athens at least, funds should be distributed in gold sovereigns because of the continual depreciation of the local currency.

V. The Greek Police of Athens may be of great help (identity cards, watching developments of German measures and warning the people in time.) But, one must be careful of the few blackmailers or Gestapo agents working inside the Police. Other officials linked with the present Ralli Government are likely to do their best in favor of the Jews.

VI. Difficulties and risks of individual (non-organized) attempts to escape by sea.

Generally speaking no one in Athens knows how escapes by caissons are effected. The reason is that those who attempt to escape and do succeed, most often have no means of informing their friends of the procedure and, on the other hand, individuals belonging to organizations who have contacts with the Middle East have very good reasons for
for giving no information whatsoever. Thus, these escapes are shrouded in an atmosphere of great mystery, apprehension, overwhelming difficulties and enormous risks. With a sound knowledge of the route to follow, the help of local inhabitants in one or two places, courage and initiative, the chances of success are great. This has been proved by the fact that whole families (infants, invalids, old people) have managed a successful escape in the middle of the winter.

The greatest difficulty is to find the road leading to the places of embarkation along the coast. This is not easy for people in hiding.

By passing unknown intermediaries or even the captain of a caique, the risk of falling into a trap set by the Gestapo is always present.

A further risk is that the intermediary who is pretending to arrange for an escape is actually only trying to exploit the person, but in this case the harm is not so great if the escapee is eventually connected to the embarkation point; they then have a chance of being sooner or later put on board a caique. This is what has happened to most Jews who have managed to escape from Greece. However, their stay in the coastal area can be a very difficult one if their sailing is delayed and they have not sufficient funds to buy food with, etc...

Another risk is that the caique may be in poor shape, too small a motor, badly equipped or a shipper with no previous experience in crossings. In such a case, of course, the crossing may be fatal.

All these escapes have to be arranged through a number of intermediaries and each one is interested in making a profit; thus, the amount of money requested is in very often much higher than the price one can afford. In October 1945, while a Christian could arrange his escape for one or two gold sovereigns, a Jew would be asked at least ten to twenty and sometimes fifty or more per person. Owing to the present conditions in Greece, such sums are available to a small number of Jews only. What frequently happens is that those possessing the money do not have the required courage and vice versa.

The greatest risk of the whole adventure is the crossing of the Evilkos straits which is constantly patrolled by German guards.
guards on the look out for boats. Hence the reason for crossing the straits at night which takes approximately 4 hours only to the swift sea.

The crossing of the Aegean Sea by calques leaving via the East Coast of the Attica renders the trip much simpler but longer. The greatest difficulty lies in the essentiality of coordinating the simultaneous arrival of boats and escaping parties, as there are no camping facilities on the coast of East Attica.

The above-mentioned notes are aimed at showing as clearly as possible the need for a systematic organization to enable Jews in overrunning difficulties and avoiding unnecessary risks.

XVI. Suggestions about measures to be taken in order to facilitate escapes by sea.

Personal experience leads us to make the following suggestions:

(a) To synchronization must be sought between departures from Athens and sealing from the coast of Ruboos, which at present moment is practically impossible. It would be advisable to direct as many Jews as possible from Athens to Ruboos, provided sufficient boats have been secured.

(b) Disperse them among the various villages of the region and send them to the coast only in small groups according to the facilities of evacuation by calques existing at the time. For security purposes concentrations of refugees on the coast must be avoided.

(c) In order that evacuation of Jews from Athens to the regions of departure may be undertaken with the greatest possible safety it is necessary to have reliable assistance. There are local people affiliated to secret organizations who exercise supervision, give useful advices, procure means of transportation, etc. Generally, they are considered as trustworthy people who also must have some remuneration adequate to the services rendered. Their collaboration in connection with assistance to Jews should be rewarded.

(d) The coastal region of Ruboos from which calques sail is very poor; the villagers can hardly afford their own livelihood; transit and prolonged sojourn of numerous groups of refugees aggravate the shortage of foodstuffs. These conditions lead
load to a tremendous increase in prices which is of no importance for the few well-to-do, but greatly endangers the existence of the others. It must be added that the solidarity which should be expected among the refugees is very often lacking; the prevalent feeling being, "everyone for oneself".

(e) The Partisans who occupied the region in October tried to enforce a little order in connection with the transit of Jews, but it seems that they have withdrawn recently for fear lest leaving part of the sector in the hands of Greek police of the Greek quisling Government, this situation has increased the difficulties. Among the Jews of this force, who is armed by the Germans and who is supposedly fighting communism, there must be numerous spies working for the Gestapo. Under such conditions points of observation must be moved further north.

According to refugees recently arrived in the Middle East, the following regrettable incident occurred a few weeks ago:

At the moment of sailing, a clique was prevented from doing so by a group of Partisans; all the refugees aboard were searched; all their personal belongings, gold, etc. were taken from them and they were told that they (the Jews) should be contented to save themselves without trying to save their possessions as well. Such an incident seems entirely inconsistent with the activity and help shown towards the Jews by the Partisans from the beginning. So, it may be presumed that they were not Partisans but ordinary malcontents. However, it is hoped that this will be the only incident of its kind; but it is a bad example and deserves full attention.

XVII. Arrangements for the improvement of camping conditions of refugees in the coastal zone.

In order to relieve the refugees during their usually delayed stay in the area from which the departures take place and in view of the prospective increase of the number of Jews in transit in Euboea it is essential:

(a) to send supplies for villagers who feed the refugees and for the refugees themselves. For example, on their way back the refugees might carry the necessary foodstuffs. In the past, supplies were sent to the population of these regions. Wheat, corn, potatoes, onions, olives and figs would be appreciated.

(b)
(b) to grant material assistance to the refugees in need, waiting for the arrival of a boat. It may perhaps be more convenient if part of the help to be granted was given in the local currency so as to avoid strengthening the feeling that all Jews are wealthy and possess plenty.

XVIII. The necessity of improving the solidarity and the good sentiments of the native villagers; suggested messages to be addressed to them.

The population in this area is poor, rather ignorant, but honest and simple. These villagers having passively or actively helped for the past three years in the traffic with the Allied forces, or being valuable information, but also groups of men, women, and children who are not directly connected with the war, these are the Jewish refugees. All they know about them is that Jews are different from the rest of the people. Why are they escaping? Why are they being persecuted by the Germans? They do not understand the reason for this persecution. The Partisans have asked them to help these Jews; their school teachers have sometimes tried to explain to them that these people are equally brothers in arms, and since the common enemy—the Germans—is persecuting them, they must also be helped; they must accommodate and feed them though payment may sometimes be impossible. The Partisans, however, are not always natives of the area the Germans rule and accordingly they are not fully trusted by the villagers. Another thing: Jews are presumably rich; thus the opportunity for profiteering.

It is obvious that under such conditions a message from the Free Greek Government would be of the greatest utility. The Greeks have a very highly developed sense of personal pride. This characteristic should be stimulated. They could be reminded that the Christian religion says "love thy neighbor"; "all men are equal"; "those who suffer should be helped"; Jews are equally Greek. One of them, a gallant officer—native of Salonika, the capital of their own island—was killed in action in the Albanian war; thousands of Greek Jews defended their land against the invaders, hundreds amongst them were killed, and it is upon these people that the Germans
have concentrated their hatred upon the most horrible means at their disposal. They are determined to exterminate them because Jews are declared enemies of Mussolini. Besides, Jews all over the world are friends of Greece and the day is close when they will actively show what they can do to help realize the national Greek claims, as well as relieve and restore the country ruined by the invaders. It is, therefore, a national and patriotic duty as well as a question of honor to help Greece save in every possible way. It could also be mentioned that the help given to Jews by the inhabitants of this section is well known in competent circles and that moral and material reward will be forthcoming as a reward to those deserving.

An appeal embodying the above-mentioned principles should be read in all the villages of the district. It would be preferable not to distribute leaflets which may fall into the hands of the Germans who would adopt measures of reprisals.

XIX. The necessity of increasing the small number of boats for the rescue of refugees.

The efforts to be made for encouraging the evacuation of the Jews from Athens in directing them towards the coast would be useless and even harmful if simultaneously arrangements were not made to provide an adequate number of boats.

Considering the geographical position of Greece, which is one of the best in occupied Europe, the number of escapees has been very few. The Jewish refugees who have escaped to the Peloponnes during the last 7 months have not exceeded 400, which comes to an average of about 2 Jews being rescued per day. One must point out that a good many of these Jewish refugees reach the Turkish coast through private arrangements of their own.

The Smyrna Allied Authorities have at their disposal many caiques of different sizes, the smallest being able to hold 20 passengers and the largest 60. Since last October there has been much talk about a Jewish Organization employing 2 caiques; some even talked of 5 boats. Actually, we have not as yet heard of any Jew crossing the Aegean Sea in one of these caiques. Besides, if there really existed 5 or even 2 caiques for the exclusive use of the Jewish Organization, we should have been able in seven months.
months time to save a much greater number of Jews. One must reckon that most probably the Jewish Organization itself does not run any boat but has an agreement with some of the captains of calques to take refugees on board with the promise of being generously rewarded. Such arrangement which seems to help the rescue of the Jews is still quite inadequate. The good will of the captains in itself is not sufficient; a great deal depends on conduct of officials residing in Smyrna; a captain of a calque will not undertake the journey unless he is ordered to; he is only instructed as to the number of passengers he is allowed to take on board and to the point of the wreck coast from which he will sail. On the other hand, it must be remembered that it does not rest with the Smyrna authorities to rescue the Jews, their attribution being of a military character. Besides, the increase of the number of refugees is in some way considered as a danger to the main activities of the above-mentioned service.

There are at present the chief difficulties in rescuing Jews through the Aegean Sea. Under the above-mentioned conditions, it is urgent to have the aid of refugees from this sector to work up with the competent military authorities in order to reach a satisfactory agreement to both sides. Furthermore, the rescue of the Jews must not continue to remain any further an auxiliary duty, but a systematic and efficient effort to be met with full attention.

XX. Utility of questioning every refugee upon his arrival in the Middle East.

The work of rescuing Jews in Athens would be greatly facilitated, if the office of the war refugee board in Smyrna would organize an information department for the questioning of each refugee upon arrival.

(a) On relatives and friends remaining in Greece.
(b) On the conditions under which they are hiding.
(c) How they can be traced, what help they need, etc.

The information thus confidentially obtained would be extremely useful. If this information be gathered in Palestine instead of Turkey, a delay of over a month would be caused.
XXI. Help to be given to Jewish refugees from the provincial town now present living in regions occupied by Partisans.

(a) First of all it is necessary to obtain the information referred to in Part I (6 through 11) in order to judge the scope of this special problem.

(b) Financial assistance should be organized according to the number and the living conditions of Jewish refugees. Distribution of this assistance should be made under the supervision of the local Partisan organization; this task will be made difficult, however, when a large number of Jews are concentrated together.

(c) Organize the supply and distribution of foodstuffs, clothing and medicines where they are most needed, with the collaboration of the local Partisan organization.

(d) A message similar to the one suggested in paras XVIII should also be addressed to the regulations in different sections of the country where the Jewish refugees have taken shelter. The local Jewish organizations could undertake the adequate publicity.

XXII. Necessity of a warning to be given to the Greek people relative to the disappearance and devastation of Jews.

It could be very desirable if the Greek Government should issue an official warning to the effect that any attempt to denounce or to blacken any citizen persecuted by the German authorities will be punished upon liberation of the country with greatest severity. All acts of this nature will be considered equivalent to acts of treason.

XXIII. The duty of every Jew without dependents and eligible for military service should be to join the Partisans.

No matter how difficult present conditions are, the duty of every Jew is to contribute in every possible way towards the liberation of the country. Thus, those who are of age, who have been through the Albanian war, or who have received military training, and are without dependents should join the Partisans; that is not only of their fellow Jews, who avoided being caught in the other occupied countries have done. Should this policy be accepted, the
member of women, children and aged to be evacuated could be greater. They should also be informed that upon arrival in the Middle East they are to be enlisted for military service with the Greek Armed Forces.

by Alfrad F. Cohen
American Consulate, Izmir,
July 6, 1944.

Dear Mr. Hirschman,

In acknowledging your letter of June 20, I wish to say that I am also very sorry that we did not meet when you were in Turkey several months ago. As a matter of fact I did not know that the War Refugee Board was represented in Turkey until just before you left or I would have gotten in touch with you.

The Jews in Greece for whom we were making a special appeal at that time—that is, those who had registered in compliance with a German order—have, as you know, since then been sent off to an unknown destination as was foreseen.

There still remain approximately five or six thousand who, for the present at least, are in comparative safety with partisan bands or in territory controlled by EAM (National Liberation Front). There are also approximately 2,000 in hiding in Athens and vicinity but the number is being continually reduced by the work of the Gestapo and by the escape of those who find the means to avoid a similar fate.

Escape from Athens to Euboea does not present great difficulties and every facility is given the refugees by EAM both while en route to Euboea and while waiting there but it would be useless for large numbers to escape from Athens unless transportation is available from Euboea to Turkey. And so the chief problem to be solved continues to be transportation for the trip of approximately 150 miles from the east coast of Euboea to the Turkish coast. Many thousands of refugees, including about one thousand Jews, have made the trip with little to fear except bad weather.

Members of small groups that continue to come say that the news of interest of our government in rescuing those subject to persecution in occupied countries has reached those in hiding and they beg that steps should be taken in their behalf. To the best of my knowledge none of the efforts made have to date resulted in any American assistance being given.

I hope that as you suggest I may have the pleasure of meeting you.
and cooperating with you. It is unlikely that I shall be in Ankara except possibly for several hours between trains in the event I leave permanently as I may do in the near future. I may be in Istanbul sometime during the summer but I think it rather improbable.

With kind regards and with best wishes for the success of your difficult tasks, I am

Very truly yours,

[Signature]
July 3rd, 1944.

GREECE

When I was last in Turkey I was aware of a trickle of constant movement of refugees across from Greece to Izmir, Turkey. The period of January and February, in the near possible time for traffic across these waters and the movement was so slow at that time that no report was made. So-called capacity capsule of carrying 25 to a maximum of 60 passengers, ply a regular refugee traffic back and forth from the island of Evvoia to a small island outlying Izmir. These refugees generally are removed by the so-called partisans from Athens to Evvoia and are put off on the shore at the Turkish isle. After some routine and formalities which are directed by representatives of the Jewish Agency, they secure their visas for Palestine. The Turkish police take the passengers to Izmir where the British Consulate gives them visas and they proceed by train to Palestine.

Number of Refugees arrived from Izmir since October, 1943 -

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October, 1943</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January, 1944</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February, 1944</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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(Mr. Kanisky, please enlarge on this operation with suggestions as to how we can help).

American elements are represented at the above islan points. The British previously assisted in these movements financially. Many this is more necessary and the British and Americans have asked to be permitted to concentrate on their own political functions in this area.
Subject: Request for reconsideration re report by Cohen on Greece.

June 26, 1944

Page 28
THE TRAGIC HISTORY OF GREEK JEWS SINCE APRIL 10, 1941.

One of the principal articles of the armistice concluded between the German and Greek military authorities in April 1941 specified clearly that the life and property of Greek citizens without distinction of race and religion would be respected by the armies of occupation. After signing this armistice, General Tsolakoglou who was one of the principal members of the armistice commission and one of the most important signatories, seized authority and formed the first Greek government following the capitulation. Upon several occasions the Germans urged Tsolakoglou to put into effect the Nazi laws against the Jews. In an official declaration, however, General Tsolakoglou stated that after the war the Jewish problem in Greece would be considered in its relation to the world-wide Jewish problem. Thus the Jewish question was set aside for a certain time. After the fall of the Tsolakoglou government and the appointment of the Logothetopoulos government the Jewish question came up again and persecutions of every degree of cruelty and barbarism began against the Jewish minority.

Forced Labor.

On July 11, 1942 the Field Kommandantur ordered all male Jews from 18 to 45 to appear in Platanion (Liberty Square) of Salonica to enroll for forced labor. About 10,000 people, including those wounded on the Albanian front, assembled in the square. In the crowd there was a large number of war victims, without eyes, without arms and without legs. At 8 a.m. 300 officers began an inspection of the candidates for forced labor. They selected principally those persons who, from their bearing and appearance, were thought to belong to the better classes. These victims were forced under threat of being whipped or shot, to gaze fixedly at the hot July sun for minutes at a time, without being allowed to make the slightest movement, either of eye or body. If anyone lowered his eyes or turned his gaze aside through sheer physical necessity, he was whipped until the blood ran. After this terrible ordeal, the unfortunate victims were obliged to perform physical exercises without stopping until 2 p.m., which resulted in their complete exhaustion. Anyone who stopped for an instant, because he was worn out and at the end of his strength, was struck with the whip and kicked repeatedly. Those who fainted and fell to the ground were revived by having pails of icy water poured down their backs and they were obliged to go on with the frightful exercises. This torture lasted from 8 a.m. to
2 p.m. Each of the victims was provided with a numbered work card. Not content with the above outrages, the S.S. ordered their victims to go back to their homes and required them to run the first 150 meters or to go on on all fours, turning somersaults or rolling in the dust. Pocks of police-dogs were set on the mothers, wives and children of the victims who were in the square and who could not keep from expressing their anguish by angry cries of protest.

The balconies and windows of the large buildings on Plateia Eleftheria were reserved that day for the German ladies of the city and for German officers who showed their sadistic pleasure in this frightful spectacle by enthusiastic expressions of joy and hearty applause. These spectators also took it upon themselves to photograph and film these scenes.

The conditions in which the poor devils were made to work in the unhealthy regions of western Macedonia and the hard labor that was required of them were of such a nature that most of the laborers became ill and the output of the work was noticeably affected. At this point the German commission, with the uncompromising which is a characteristic of German proposals, approached the Jewish community through the mediation of the German overseer, Johannes Miller, with the proposal to exonerate the Jews of all forced labor if a ransom of 5 billion drachmas was paid. Discussions on this subject ended in an agreement contained in a document signed by an authorized representative of the German authorities, Professor Mark. In this document it was clearly stated that for a year, that is until September - October, 1943, the Jews would not be disturbed, as long as the ransom was paid at the stipulated intervals. The Jews of Salonica lied themselves white in order to pay the enormous ransom and as soon as the last installment was paid, the Germans in their usual manner forgot their written promise and in violation of their signature began the savage measures which are described below.

Not content with attacking the living Jews of Salonica, the Germans found means and excuses to attack the dead also. One fine morning the Jewish community was invited to send representatives to a commission which had been set up to expropriate the Jewish cemetery. It is not necessary to state that the Jews were obliged
to take part in this commission for the sole purpose of hearing their condensation, and not to offer the least bit of advice. They were told that from that moment the cemetery was expropriated for the purpose of making a large park and providing roads connecting it with the various suburbs. Workers set about dismantling the tombs and extinguishing the dead. Jews living in Salonica were allowed to carry away the remains of their dear ones if they arrived in time. We want to draw attention to the fact that the Salonian cemetery was of the greatest historic value, dating from the first centuries of the Christian era. There were in this cemetery very ancient grave stones with very important inscriptions. The work of destroying the cemetery was done in such haste that very few Jews succeeded in finding the remains of their families and relatives. Recently buried dead were thrown to the dogs.

**Ghetto Badges and Declaration of Property.**

Toward the end of February, 1943, at the moment when the last installment of the ransom was paid, the S.S. selected parts of the city in which all the Jews were to be confined. After taking all their property, the S.S. obliged the Jews to leave their homes and shut themselves up in buildings in the designated sections, threatening to shoot anyone who refused to obey the order. Beginning with children of two years, all Jews were obliged to wear on their chests a distinctive badge, which was quite large, yellow in color and represented a Magen David. This distinctive badge was called a "cocarde". The cocarde was numbered. Jews were forbidden under penalty of death to leave the concentration area. If an exception was made and a Jew was authorized to circulate outside the ghetto, he was not allowed to make use of any transportation facilities.

After the Jews had been concentrated in the section called the Ghetto, they received printed forms upon which they were to declare their personal and real property. Under threat of terrible torture every Jew was obliged to make a most detailed declaration of everything he possessed, including furniture, clothes and underclothes. As soon as the S.S. received these forms, robbery and pillage
were systematically carried out and within a
month the unfortunate Jews were deprived of
their property and every means of support.
It is impossible to describe the terrible
suffering caused by all sorts of privations
and among the fact that 45,000 people looked
upon death as their only source of relief is
indicative of what they were obliged to endure.

Braun Hirsch Concentration Camp.
This camp was used as a temporary place of
interment for those Jews who were to be
deported as fast as cars became available.
A group of 2,500 persons was first taken from
the Ghetto and interned at Braun Hirsch.
Thousands of people, regardless of sex, age
and family were crowded into the camp pullmills,
and confined under conditions so terrible from
the point of view of hygiene that they cannot
possibly be described. Woe to anyone who
dared make the slightest valid request. There
were terrible scenes. Families were divided,
mothers searched for their children, husbands
for their wives. Children were generally left
behind in the Ghetto - relatives or their parents
were taken to Braun Hirsch. The unfortunate inmates
of Braun Hirsch were not only obliged to endure
great physical suffering resulting from hunger,
thirst and cold, but every evening at 10 they
were forced under threat of death to dance and
show every sign of gaiety, while the S.S. turned
upon them the brilliant lights required for
making films which would prove to the world how
happy the Jews were to be under German protection.
There is not time or space to enumerate in further
detail the terrible sufferings which the Jews
underwent at the Braun Hirsch camp.

As soon as freight cars were available, men,
women and children were piled in - 70 to 80 in
cars that were large enough for not more than
30 to 40 people. The hygienic conditions of
these cars were deplorable: there was no venti-
lation; only one can of water was allowed and
another can was provided for personal necessities.
The ill and those suffering from tuberculosis
were crowded in with the healthy. The cars
were sealed.
The first transport left on March 14, 1943. It was impressed on the belief that only the infants of the suburbs would be deported but little by little all the Jews of Salonica were sent away. No one was spared—not even women in childbirth, inmates of orphan asylums and old men's homes, or the insane. The doors of the insane asylums were opened and the inmates sent away like trapped beasts. Tens of thousands of veterans of the campaign in the Albanian mountains were taken, regardless of every effort to resist. In this way 45–50,000 people were sent away within a month to unknown destinations.

By the end of the month, Jewish delegations, representatives of the political parties and Presidents of all the Greek organizations in Athens approached Prime Minister Logothetopoulos and various Ministers, asking them to intervene, but Logothetopoulos refused to make the slightest protest, under the pretext that the Germans would remove him from office. If Logothetopoulos had wished to do so, he could have saved the Jews of Greece. However, he showed no such inclination and he even supported the Germans either through his attitude of passivity and indifference to the suffering of Greek Jews or through instructions sent secretly to the Greek provincial authorities.

The Governor-General of Macedonia, Eisonides, and his officials were unperturbed by the German measures against the Jews. The newspaper NEA EROPI, whose editor-in-chief was Eionides, published menacing articles with the express purpose of arousing the Greeks of Salonica against the Jews. The minister Papadopoulos was the head of this group of torturers. He and his accomplices have amassed large fortunes from the confiscated Jewish property and they make a public display of that fact.

However, special mention must be made of the extremely humanitarian attitude of the Orthodox Church in this tragedy. The Archbishop of Athens and all Greece, Damaskinos, whose name should be written in letters of gold in the annals of recent years, showed a spirit of sublime sacrifice and practical
understanding truly worthy of a great Pastor. It is to him that we owe the famous protest against the crimes committed against the Jews of Salonica, a protest that the Logothetopoulos government refused to make. This protest was drawn up by the Archbishop himself at the memorable reunion of the presidents of 31 organizations of Athens. The Archbishop was the first to sign the protest; the others followed.

A small committee was appointed, which, in collaboration with the Jewish delegates, spent the entire summer in preparing a system of hiding and providing means of escape for the Jews of Athens in case the same measures were taken in Athens as had been applied by the Germans in Salonica. When the Archbishop went with Professor Louvaris to present the subject to Altenburg, the German delegate for Greece, Altenburg asked them cynically not to mix in Jewish affairs, inasmuch as the decision to use the same measures of persecution against the Jews of Athens as had been employed in Salonica had been definitely and irrevocably taken.

On September 21, 1943, - that is, several weeks after the Germans took over from the Italians the direction of affairs in Athens, - the Grand Rabbi of Athens was asked to go to the Gestapo office where he was told that all Jewish property, private or community, was expropriated and that anti-Jewish measures would be taken immediately. He was asked to submit a detailed inventory of communal property and a list of important individuals for the purpose of forming a so-called communal council. Two days later the Grand Rabbi, through the aid of EAM, disappeared with all his relatives. Thus thwarted, the Germans appointed a commission of unimportant persons of doubtful integrity and asked the Athenian Jews to register. As could be foreseen, almost all the Jews of Athens went into hiding in the houses of Greek friends where many of them still are. Only a few poverty-stricken Jews, old men, invalids, and very rarely entire families who unfortunately had been betrayed by traitors in German service, registered. Those were the Jews, 800 in number, who were seized on March 24, 1944 and thrown into the Haidari concentration camp. From there they...
were deported to Poland. The Greeks of Athens, who rose nobly to the occasion at the time of this tragedy are continuing to protect the Jews with a devotion which stands every test. Little by little the Jews are finding ways to escape to a spot from which nations have taken to a place of safety.

April 27, 1944, Pireaus
Samuel Gravin.
March 6, 1945

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Joseph Schwartz was received through the American Embassy in Paris under date of March 4, 1945:

"Regarding projected emigration from Greece even before receipt your cable have advised Remik that prices excessive and that all emigration from Balkans should be handled by Passman. Kaplan Jewish Agency agrees price excessive and has heard nothing concerning this entire project."

Very truly yours,

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

Mr. W. A. Leavitt, Secretary,
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,
Dated March 4, 1945
Received 4:16 a.m. 5th.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

1021, Fourth
FOR NOYES LEAVIT AMERICAN JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

FROM JOSEPH SCH ARTZ

"Regarding projected emigration from Greece even before receipt your cable have advised Reznik that prices excessive and that all emigration from Balkans should be handled by Passman. Kaplan Jewish Agency agrees price excessive and has heard nothing concerning this entire project."

CAPPENY

CIV
Jr.

AMERICAN

PARIS

699, Twenty-first.

Please deliver following message to Joseph Schwartz

from H. A. Lenvitt of American Jewish Joint Distribution

Committee, through War Refugee Board:

"NOTE: Reference above cable projected emigration

900 children 100 adults from Greece we disturbed excessive
cost 600 per passage unless emigration of group is matter

of life and death we cannot authorize such excessive costs
even by partial participation advise your recommendations.

Yours

GRZB
(Acting)
(GLM)"

WE BE

2/21/46

CONTROL COPY

February 21, 1946
CABLE TO AMERICAN EMBASSY, PARIS, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Please deliver following message to Joseph Schwartz from N. A.

Leavitt of American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

"Quote Reference Keesing's Cable Project: Emigration 90.
Children 100 adults. From Greece we disturbed excessive cost $600 per passage unless emigration of group of matter of life and death. We cannot authorize such exclusive costs even by partial participation advise your recommendations, unquote.

Copy sent to Leavitt 2/17/45

2:30 p.m. February 17, 1945

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

February 2/17/45"
TREASURY DEPARTMENT

To:
(1)
(2)
(3)

Ann H. 

O. C. White 4 CO. 9. 12

Telephone by 

TD C 79. 12

(J. C. Seattle

J. W. Pohle
Assistant to the Secretary

Mr. White

To return file

To N. N. Hutchinson
February 10, 1945

Dear Mr. Lewitt:

The following message from you from Harold Trobe was received through the American Legation in Lisbon under date of February 5, 1945:

"JWC 163. Projected mass migration scheme from Greece involves movement of 1,000 of whom 900 children 120 escorts. Approved first group 300 early March on two small vessels. At this stage cost excessive approximately 8600 per passenger from Salonika to Haifa. It is reported that certificates will be made available. We are eager to participate which I recommend. If you agree indicate basis on which we can participate. Payment can be made in Palestine. Advise departure and payment."

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

Florence Moss
Assistant Executive Director

Mr. H. A. Lewitt, Secretary,
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,

January 21, 1945
From Greece involves movement of 1,000 of whom 900 children 100 escorts. Proposed that first group 300 ready early March on two small vessels. At this stage cost excessive approximately $600 per passenger from Athens to Haifa. It is reported that certificates will be made available. We are asked to participate which I recommend. If you agree indicate basis on which we can participate. Payment can be made in Palestine. Advised Schwartz and Magnus.

RB

NORWEB
SECRETARY OF STATE, WASHINGTON

TO: American Embassy, Ankara

DATED: June 26, 1944

NUMBER: 571

FOR HIRSCHMANN FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Please refer to memorandum of May 15 concerning rescue of Jews in Greece prepared by Alfred Cohen and forwarded to the Embassy in Ankara by Ambassador Mac Veagh at Cairo.

We await report from you before taking action on Cohen's recommendations.

THIS IS WAR REFUGEE BOARD CABLE TO ANKARA NO. 69.

Hull

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R.H. Tufts, Dolo, SEP 19, 1972
CABLE TO AMBASSADOR STRINHARDT FOR HERSCHEMANN FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Please refer to memorandum of May 15 concerning rescue of Jews in Greece prepared by Alfred Cohen and forwarded to the Embassy in Ankara by Ambassador MacVeagh at Cairo.

We await report from you before taking action on Cohen's recommendations.

This is War Refugee Board cable to Ankara No. 59.

June 27, 1944.

[Signatures]
 Cairo, Egypt, May 31, 1944.

No. 186.

Subject: Rescue of Jews from Greece.

The Honoroble
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

With reference to my despatch no. 113 of May 18, 1944 and previous correspondence concerning the rescue of Jews from Greece, I have the honor to transmit herewith a further memorandum on this subject dated May 15, 1944 prepared by Alfred H. Cohen, whose memorandum of April 27, 1944 in the same connection was transmitted to the Department with despatch no. 107 of May 2, 1944. The main points covered in this later memorandum, which is somewhat more detailed than the previous one, were reported in the Embassy's telegram no. 158, May 17, Noon.

A copy of this memorandum has been given to Mr. Irving S. Friedman, Treasury Department representative in Cairo, who will appreciate it if the Department will also make a copy available to the Treasury.

The Embassy is forwarding a copy of this despatch and its enclosure to the Embassy at Ankara for its information.

Respectfully yours,

Lincoln MacVeagh

Enclosure: Memorandum.

Sent in original and hectograph to Department;
file no. 846;
Rn/H/JB/ea.
The Rescue of Jews Remaining in Greece

A. The Present Situation of Jews in Greece

I. Deportation of Jews from Northern Greece.

Jews of all the Communities in Macedonia (except those of Kastoria) and Thrace were deported about a year ago. They represent 3/4 of Hellenic Judaism. According to information received from reliable sources, it is unlikely that the majority of them will survive.

II. The same measures leading to extermination have since been extended to the rest of the country.

Towards the end of September 1943, after the downfall of Italy, German measures of extermination were extended to the remainder of Greece. There were, therefore, 20 to 25,000 Jews in distress still in Greece seven months ago, living in the following towns:

- Athens
- Halkidiki
- Volos
- Larissa
- Trikala
- Karditsa
- Yannina
- Kastoria
- Arta
- Preveza
- Corfu
- Zante
- Patras
- Candia
- Heraklion
- Rethymnon

III. The condition of the Jews in Athens at the time of the application of anti-Jewish measures.

The condition in which the Jews of Athens found themselves at the time of the application of anti-Jewish measures was essentially different from that which confronted those living in the provincial towns.

It is estimated that in September 1943, the number of Jews in Athens was from 8 to 9,000, of which about one half were residents of the capital and the other half, refugees who had escaped from Macedonia mainly from Salonika. The residents of Athens had the advantage of having numerous friends and acquaintances who helped them to hide; also their fortunes were still intact; but they had the disadvantage of being easily traced by the local gendarmerie agents, and a small number of malcontents interested in blackmailing. On the other hand those who had escaped from Salonika lacked sufficient support in Athens; most of them having never been there before, found it very difficult to hide. However, most of their property was left in Salonika where it had been confiscated by the Germans. Thus, a great number amongst them were without funds. Under these circumstances it must be very difficult, if not impossible for them to continue hiding in Athens.

IV. How many Jews are still hiding in Athens?

It is impossible to know the present number of Jews still
in hiding in Athens. However, a conservative estimate would be about 5,000 if one takes into account:

(a) Those who have been registered by the Gestapo, those who have been interned and deported are believed to be 700, although other information claims it to be 2,000.

(b) Those who, up to the present time reached the Middle East, do not exceed 400.

(c) Those who have since the beginning, scattered either in the Peloponnesus or in other regions controlled by Partisans.

V. Difficulties existing for Jews still hiding in Athens.

After seven months of life under such exceptional conditions, most of the Jews must by now be short of money, which greatly endangers their relative safety. Only those possessing money have any hopes of escaping the present persecution, in which the life of every Jew is threatened either in one way or another. It is true that under these circumstances, the solidarity and unanimous support of all classes of the Greek people were manifested towards the Jews. Nevertheless, as must be expected, there are a number of secret agents of the Gestapo and blackmailers, who are extremely dangerous. Moreover, one must consider that:

(a) living conditions in occupied Greece, particularly in Athens, are such that those who assume the risks of harboring Jews must rightly obtain a material compensation which will permit them to provide for their own needs.

(b) Jews in hiding are deprived of ration cards issued by the I.G.C.O., which means that they must obtain these provisions at fabulous prices on the black market.

(c) they must face other extraordinary expenses i.e. obtaining false identity cards, attempts of escaping which turn out to be unsuccessful etc.

(d) the presumption that every Jew is rich and possess large quantities of gold aggravates their difficulties.

(e) the fact that they have been living hidden and hunted has no doubt diminished their self-confidence, thus rendering them incapable of making clear and adequate decisions in the face of the many dangers they do not doubt encounter.

(f) they have absolutely no possibility of earning their own living.

VI. The fate of the Jews in the provincial towns.

There is no information whatsoever, on the fate of Jews in the provincial towns. It is only known that those of Kavala and Velos have abandoned their homes and joined the Partisans in those districts. It is presumed that the Jews of Larissa, Tric loss, Karditsa, Arta, Preveza, Yannina, Patras and others know the fate of their fellow Jews of Salonika and other Macedonian and Thracean towns must have done likewise.

The Jews from the provincial towns, who have been able to join the Partisans run less risk of being exterminated by the Germans. The Germans, not having sufficient forces, have up to now avoided systematic pursuit of the Guerrillas; they have tacitly abandoned the administration of many districts so long as their lines of communication are not interfered with. But, of course,
living conditions are not easy there and food difficulties are great.

VII. The conditions of the Jews on the Islands

The Jews living in Corfu and Cepheus had no possibility of joining the Partisans nor had they any serious chance of hiding. As to those of Crete, it is reported that in March-April 1943, they had not been interned nor deported as those living in the other German occupied regions of Greece, probably due to transportation difficulties. However, according to recent unconfirmed information, the Jews of Heraklion were all massacred in fields outside the town, several months ago.

As to the Jews of Rhodes and Cos, according to information from positive sources until last February no drastic anti-Semitic measures had yet been put into effect.

A plan to come to their urgent aid and an account of the difficulties to overcome.

VIII. The fundamental condition for a successful plan in rescuing the Jews

The fundamental condition for a successful rescue plan for Jews still living in Greece lies in close and active collaboration of:

(a) the Free Greek Government
(b) the various Greek underground and Resistance Organizations
(c) the H.A.R.E. Refugee Board
(d) U.N.R.R.A.
(e) all Jewish Organizations interested in saving Jews.

IX. The Conference at present being held in the Middle East is an opportunity to bring up this matter.

An exceptional opportunity for the coordination of all efforts which are actually being displayed from various sources, presents itself in connection with the conference which is being held in the Lebanon between the Free Greek Government and representatives of all Greek political parties and Resistance Organizations. It is therefore necessary that the question of saving the Jews be put forward at this conference and it is hoped that the opportunity will not be missed.

X. Necessity of obtaining accurate information:

The first important step is to get accurate information on the conditions of Jews living at present in Athens and in the country. With regard to the latter no information whatsoever, has reached us since the putting into effect of the anti-Jewish measures.

Chiefly it is indispensable to know:

(a) the number of Athenian Jews who have been interned or deported,
(b) the number of Jews arrested, given away, or executed since the intensification of the persecution (by the end of March 1944) and the number of those who were compelled to report to the Gestapo since then,
(c) what did the Jews do when the civilian population was compelled to renew their identity cards at the beginning...
of the year? Is it possible to obtain false identity cards under the new German regulations on the matter? Is it possible to find out if the Jews hiding in Athens were able to obtain these cards through the underground organizations.

(d) does the Budapest Jewish Communal Council set up by the Germans still exist? What do their activities consist of.

(e) do the Germans use the services of the few Jewish traitors (Hasson etc) who, according to rumors were brought to Athens?

(f) what were the results of the archbishop's attempt to have our invalids, infants, the aged, etc., exempted?

(g) have all the Jews actually evacuated Halkis, Volos, Larissa, Terzita, Tricities, etc., Preveza, Janina, Kastoria, and Patras to join the Partisans?

(h) from what provincial towns, if any, have the Jews been unable to escape to the hills? How many of them have been interned, deported, or massacred in each of these towns?

(i) which regions controlled by Partisans are mainly giving shelter to Jews? Are they grouped or dispersed? Under what conditions have they been living until the present? Is their health status? Have they any funds?

(j) what is actually known about the conditions of Jews in Corfu and Lefkada? (Most likely information could be obtained from the Allied Services in Southern Italy and from Partisans operating in Northern Greece, Albania)

(k) what are the conditions of Jews in Crete, Candia, Messolonghi, and Rodopem? Have they been interned, deported, massacred or have they been able to join the Partisans in the hills?

(l) how many Jews from Salonika have been fighting with Partisans in the Olympus region since April 1943? Are there any women and children with them?

XI. What can be done for Jews in Athens on practical grounds:

(a) provide them with false identity cards, complying with new regulations.

(b) grant material aid both to those wishing to leave the town as well as to those having plausible reasons for remaining.

(c) find shelter for those who are compelled to leave their present refuge.

(d) relieve the burden of the parents by sending to children institutions infants who hinder or render impossible their moving about from one place to another, thereby jeopardizing the life of the entire family.

(e) advise, help and direct the evacuation of the greatest possible number of Jews from Athens area; the smaller the number of Jews remaining in Athens, the greater the chances of security for those unable to move; those going in the vicinity to regions controlled by Partisans enjoy better living conditions, more safety, provided they receive regular financial support, sufficient food and medicines.

For security
(e) For security and other reasons, they should of course be scattered as much as possible. At a later date means of helping them escape to the Middle East might be considered.

(f) Organize more systematically the escapes by calques and improve the means of such escapes by sea.

(g) Carefully avoid mention of the Jewish problem in clandestine press, as the reaction of the Gestapo would cause more harm than the benefit to be derived.

(h) Endeavor to spread the idea that it is an international attitude to exploit the Jews in hiding. Such exploitation generally ends in giving away of the poorer class of Jews.

XII. The sending of funds may greatly contribute to the rescuing work.

The above outline sufficiently illustrates that one of the most effective ways of contributing to the rescuing of Jews still in Greece is to provide them with funds.

These funds should be entrusted to reliable persons, who will see that the money reaches the needy.

XIII. Difficulties to be met with in the execution of the above scheduled assistance.

The putting into effect of the above mentioned proposals would present many difficulties:

(a) The addresses of harboried Jews are not, of course, known, nor those giving refuge to them and those who know people sheltering them are obviously careful not to reveal it.

(b) Jews and Christians are distrustful of unknown persons offering to help them; thus for instance any good advice or offer of assistance will be met with extreme caution fearing it may be a trap set by the Gestapo.

(c) It will often be difficult to convince them to separate members of the same families (i.e., old from young, invalids from the physically fit); in most cases such a separation would give greater security to both sides.

(d) The small number of people taking advantage of the situation in which the Jews in Athens find themselves here from the very beginning spread rumors of imaginary dangers on evacuating the capital. Ever since October last, these alarming rumors were being spread on one hand by the organizers of departures to the hills and on the other hand, by the organizers of departures for the Middle East, with the result that most of the Jews preferred to remain on the spot.

(e) Owing to the unavoidable circumstances due to the different intermediaries, it is most likely that financial help will eventually reach its ultimate destination in a much more reduced amount.

XIV. Means of overcoming the foregoing difficulties.

The difficulties mentioned above will have to be overcome with all the available material resources at our disposal.
(a) Above all, we must enlist the support of the Orthodox Church whose high prestige together with her various activities was so helpful last October. All existing organizations working in the underground or openly, who have greatly contributed in saving the Jews from Nazi extermination, should be required to cooperate.

(b) The Church, professional organizations and underground groups obviously know a great number of Jews now in hiding as well as Christians sheltering Jews or being indirectly connected with them. The few Jews who have contracted mixed marriages and therefore are not subject to anti-Jewish measures must be able to trace their relatives and friends. The 400 refugees who have arrived in the Middle East could also give us some information. The Catholic Church has also helped shelter Jews.

(c) For security purposes it would be unwise to disclose their hiding places. The only indication to be given should be the addresses of people likely to know them. All this work would have to be divided and decentralized. Lists of names must not be issued as they would be detrimental not only to the Jews themselves but also to their Christian friends who are trying to help them. No doubt the experiences of the underground organizations would be of great value in this matter.

(d) In order to ensure the equal distribution of funds a process of receipts should be established whereby no name of the disburser should appear on the receipt, but only the sum, date and signature of the recipient. This would prevent abuses. Intermediaries realizing that the distribution is subject to control this process, of course, would not completely exclude abuses, but would limit them.

(e) In Athens at least, funds should be distributed in gold sovereigns because of the continual depreciation of the local currency.

(f) The Greek Police of Athens may be of great help (identity cards, watching developments of German measures and warning the people in time.) But one must be careful of the Gestapo agents working inside the police. Other officials linked with the present Nazi Government are likely to do their best in favor of the Jews.

XV. Difficulties and risks of individual (non-organized) attempts to escape by sea

Generally speaking no one in Athens knows how escapes by calques are effected. The reason is that those who attempt to escape and do succeed most often have no means of informing their friends of the procedure and on the other hand individuals belonging to organizations have contacts with the Middle East have very good reasons for giving no information whatsoever. Thus, these escapes are shrouded in an atmosphere of great mystery, apprehension, overwhelming difficulties and enormous risks. With a sound knowledge of the route to follow, the help of local inhabitants in one or two places, courage and initiative, the chances of success are great. This has been proved by the fact that whole families (infants, invalids, old people) have managed a successful escape in the middle of the winter.

The greatest difficulty is to find the road leading to the places of embarkation along the coast. This is not easy for people in hiding.

By trusting unknown intermedaaries or even the captain of a calque, the risk of falling into a trap set by the Gestapo is always present.

A further
XVI. Suggestions about measures to be taken in order to facilitate escape by sea.

Personal experience lead us to make the following suggestions:

(a) No synchronization must be sought between departures from Athens and sailing from the coast of Evvoia, which at the present moment is practically impossible. It would be advisable to direct as many Jews as possible from Athens to Evvoia, provided sufficient boats have been secured.

(b) Disperse them among the various villages of the region and send them to the coast only in small groups according to the facilities of evacuation by calques existing at the time. For security purposes concentrations of refugees on the coast must be avoided.

(c) In order that evacuation of Jews from Athens to the regions of departure may be undertaken with the greatest possible safety, it is necessary to have reliable assistance. There are local people affiliated to secret organizations who exercise supervision, give useful advice, procure means of transportation, etc. Generally, they are considered as trustworthy people who also must have some remuneration adequate to the services rendered. Their collaboration is essential in connection...
in connection with assistance to Jews should be rewarded.

(d) The coastal region of Euboea from which the refugees sail is very poor. The villagers can hardly afford their own livelihood; transit and prolonged sojourn of numerous groups of refugees aggravates the shortage of foodstuffs. These conditions lead to a tremendous increase in prices which is of no importance for the few well-to-do, but greatly endangers the existence of the others. It must be added that the solidarity which should be expected amongst the refugees is very often lacking; the predominant feeling being "every one for oneself".

(e) The Partisans who occupied the region in October last tried to enforce a little order in connection with the transit of Jews. But it seems that they have withdrawn recently farther north leaving part of the sector in the hands of armed police of the Greek ruling Government. This alteration has increased the difficulties. Among the men of this force, who are armed by the Germans and who is supposedly fighting communism, there must be numerous spies working for the Gestapo. Under such conditions, points of embarkation must be moved further north.

According to refugees recently arrived in the Middle East, the following regrettable incident occurred a few weeks ago:

At the moment of sailing, a caïque was prevented from leaving by a group of Partisans; all the refugees aboard were searched; all their personal belongings, gold etc. were taken from them and they were told that the Jews should be contented to save themselves without trying to save their possessions as well. Such an incident seems entirely inconsistent with the activity and help shown towards the Jews by the Partisans from the beginning. So, it may be presumed that they were not Partisans but ordinary malcontents. However, it is hoped that this will be the only incident of its kind; but it is a bad example and deserves full attention.

XVII. Arrangements for the improvement of camp-like conditions of refugees in the coastal zone.

In order to relieve the refugees during their usually delayed stay in the area from which the departures take place and in view of the prospective increase of the number of Jews in transit in Euboea, it is essential:

(a) to send supplies for villagers who feed the refugees and for the refugees themselves. For example, on their way back the caïques might carry the necessary foodstuffs. In the past, supplies were sometimes sent to the population of these regions. Meat, corn, potatoes, onions, olives and figs would be appreciated.

(b) to grant material assistance to the refugees in need waiting for the arrival of a boat. It may perhaps be more convenient if part of the help to be granted was given in the local currency so as to avoid strengthening the feeling that all Jews are wealthy and possess gold.

XVIII. The necessity of improving the solidarity and the good sentiments of the native villagers; suggested message to be addressed to them.

The population in this area is poor, rather ignorant, but honest by nature. These villagers having passively or actively helped for the past three years in the traffic with the Middle East feel that they are thus contributing to the war effort. Since last October, not only Greek or Allied officers have passed through to join the fighting forces, or bring valuable information, but also groups of men, women and children who are not directly connected with the war.
these are the Jewish refugees. All they know about them is that Jews are different from the rest of the people. Why are they escaping? Why are they being persecuted by the Germans? They do not understand the reason for this persecution. The Partisans have asked them to help these Jews; their school teachers have sometimes tried to explain to them that these people are equally brothers in arms, and since the common enemy - the Germans - is persecuting them, they must also be helped; they must accommodate and feed them though payment may sometimes be impossible. The Partisans, however, are not always natives of the area; they rule and accordingly they are not fully trusted by the villagers. Another thing: "Jews are presumably rich," thus the opportunity for profiteering.

It is obvious that under such conditions a message from the Free Greek Government would be of the greatest utility. The Greeks have a very highly developed sense of personal pride. This characteristic should be stimulated. They could be reminded that the Christian religion says "love thy neighbor; all men are equal." Those who suffer should be helped"; Jews are equally Greek. One of them, a gallant officer - native of Malkia, the capital of their own island - was killed in action in the Albanian war; thousands of Greek Jews defended their land against the invaders, hundreds among them were killed, and it is upon these people that the Germans have concentrated their hatred upon, the most horrible means at their disposal. They are determined to exterminate them because Jews are declared enemies of Nazism. Besides, Jews all over the world are friends of Greece and by are the closer when they will actively show what they can do to help realize the national Greek claims as well as relieve and restore the country ruined by the invaders. It is therefore, a national and patriotic duty as well as a question of honor to help Greek Jews in every possible way. It could also be mentioned that the help given up to now to Jews by the inhabitants of this region is well known in competent circles and that moral and material reward will be forthcoming as a reward to those deserving it.

An appeal embodying the above mentioned principles should be read in all the villages of the district. It would be preferable not to distribute leaflets which may fall into the hands of the Germans who would adopt measures of reprisals.

XIX. The necessity of increasing the small number of boats for the rescue of refugees.

The efforts to be made for encouraging the evacuation of the Jews from Athens in directi. ng them towards the coast would be useless and even harmful, if simultaneously arrangements were not made to provide an adequate number of boats.

Considering the geographical position of Greece, which is one of the best in occupied Europe, the number of escapes has been very few. The Jewish refugees, who have escaped to the Middle East during the last seven months has not exceeded 400, which comes to an average of about 2 Jews being rescued per day. One must point out that a good many of these Jewish refugees reach the Turkish coast through private arrangements of their own.

The Smyrna Allied Authorities have at their disposal many catamarans of different sizes, the smallest being able to hold 20 passengers and the largest 50. Since last October there has been much talk about a Jewish organization employing 2 catamarans; some even talked of 5 boats. Actually, we have not as yet heard of any
Jews crossing the Aegean Sea in one of these oikoumen. Besides, if there really existed 5 or even 10 oikoumen for the exclusive use of the Jewish Organization, we should have been able in seven months time, to save a much greater number of Jews. One must reckon that most probably the Jewish Organization itself does not run any boat but has an agreement with some of the oikoumen of oikoumen to take refugees on board with the promise of being generously rewarded. Such arrangement which seems to help the rescuing of the Jews is still quite inadequate. The good will of the oikoumen in itself is not sufficient; a great deal depends as well on competent officials residing in anymra. a captain of an oikoumen will not undertake the crossing unless he is ordered to; he is also instructed as to the number of passengers he is allowed to take on board and as to the point of the Greek coast from which he will sail. On the other hand, it must be remembered that it does not rest with the anymra authorities to rescue the Jews, their attributions being of a military character. Besides, the increase of the number of refugees is in some way considered as a danger to the main activities of the above mentioned service.

These are at present the chief difficulties in rescuing Jews through the Aegean Sea. Under the above mentioned conditions it is suggested to have the air refugee board take this matter up with the competent military authorities in order to reach a satisfactory agreement to both sides.

Furthermore, the rescue of the Jews must not continue to remain a purely auxiliary duty but a systematic and efficient effort to be met with full attention.

XI. Utility of questioning every refugee upon his arrival in the Middle East.

The work of rescuing Jews in Athens would be greatly facilitated if the office of the air refugee board in anymra could organize an information department for the questioning of each refugee upon arrival.

(a) On relatives and friends remaining in Greece.
(b) On the conditions under which they are hiding.
(c) How they can be traced, what help they need etc.

The information thus confidentially obtained would be extremely useful. Should this information be gathered in Palestine instead of Turkey, a delay of over a month would be caused.

XVI. Help to be given to Jewish Refugees from the provincial towns at present living in regions occupied by Partisans.

(a) First of all it is necessary to obtain the information referred to in Par. X (a through 1) in order to know the scope of this special problem.

(b) Financial assistance should be organized according to the number and the living conditions of Jewish Refugees. Distribution of this assistance should be made under the supervision of the local Partisan Organization; this task will be more difficult where the Jewish refugees are not more or less grouped together.

(c) Organize the supply and distribution of foodstuffs, vitamins and medicines where they are most needed, with the collaboration of the local Partisan Organization.

(d) A message similar to the one suggested in Para XVIII should also be addressed to the populations in different sectors of the country.
country where the Jewish refugees have taken shelter. The local Partisan Organizations could undertake the adequate publicity.

XVII. Necessity of a warning to be given by the Free Greek Government relative to the blackmailing and denunciation of Jews.

It would be very desirable if the Free Greek Government should issue an official warning to the effect that any attempt to denounce or to blackmail any citizen persecuted by the German Authorities will be punished upon liberation of the country with greatest severity. All acts on this nature will be considered equivalent to acts of treason.

XVIII. The duty of every Jew without dependents and eligible for military service should be to join the Partisans.

No matter how difficult present conditions are, the duty of every Jew is to contribute in every possible way towards the liberation of the country. Thus, those who are of age, who have been through the Albanian war, or who have received military training, and are without dependents should join the Partisans; that is what most of their fellow Jews, who avoided being caught in the other occupied countries have done. Should this policy be adopted the number of women, children and aged, to be evacuated would be greater. They should also be informed that upon arrival in the Middle East they are to be enlisted for military service with the Greek Armed Forces.

by Alfred H. Cohen

15th May, 1944.
February 23, 1944.

MEMORANDUM

Deportation of Greek Jews -- Censorship Intercept
(NTC 3997716-3). (Material obtained from file in Visa Division, State Department)

The following is a telegram which was sent by Leon Kubowitski to W. Bowen, A. E. Eastman, 26 New Cavendish Street, London, on November 30, 1943: Received catastrophic news Greek Jewry. 50,000 Jews Salonica deported Poland. Many died en route. Few Turkish subjects arrived Turkey recently. About 260 Spanish subjects directed Spain through Germany. Thereabouts unknown. Some Italian subjects. Salonica, Macedonia, Thrace now without Jews. Properties, resources confiscated. After Armistice Italy Athens Community including 8,000 Salonica refugees severely persecuted by Gestapo. Some 100 young Jews cooperating with partisans. General attitude Greek population correct. Few refugees arriving Palestine Egypt join Greek Army. Please take steps obtain support British representatives Turkey for Isaac Molho from Jerusalem who proceeds Istanbul.