



**CROSS REFERENCE ON PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND  
RESCUE OF REFUGEES: OTHER MEANS OF EFFECTING RESCUE  
(RECOGNITION OF PORTUGUESE JEWS IN GREECE)**

FOR:

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

For an account of similar assurances given by this Government to the Government of Spain in another connection re: availability of funds for the support of such refugees in Spain as may be evacuated to that country

SEE: PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES: OTHER MEANS  
OF EFFECTING RESCUES  
(RECOGNITION OF SPANISH JEWS IN ATHENS)

000150

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

*run Refugee Fed.  
Mr. Peble*

FROM: AMERICAN CONSULATE, Naples  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: June 29, 1944  
NUMBER: 295

*1 copy*  
**CONTROL COPY**

SECRET  
[REDACTED]

See the Department's 1581 to Bern, dated May 6, 8 p.m.  
The following message is Tittman's 214, dated June 27,  
which was drafted the thirty-first of May.

From the Vatican there have been sent to Nuncio in  
Lisbon the instructions needed.

BRANDT

*AB*

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Peviss Date SEP 20 1972

000151

Enclosure No. 2 to despatch No. 653 dated June 28, 1944,  
from the Embassy at Lisbon

The following is a translation of a note from the Apostolic Nuncio in Portugal, written in response to a request from this Embassy for the support of the Nuncio in regard to securing the protection of the Portuguese Government to claimants of Portuguese citizenship of Jewish race who were threatened with deportation to Poland. At the same time, as may be noted, a note was received from the Secretary of State of the Pope by the Nuncio asking for similar action.

Note 4882

The Papal Nuncio presents his compliments to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and has the honor to bring to his attention the following facts:

1. The Papal Nuncio has received instructions from his Eminence, Cardinal Maglione, Secretary of State of His Holiness the Pope, asking the Nuncio to intervene in his official capacity with the Portuguese Government in favor of a group of non-Aryans, resident in Greece, who claim to be originally Portuguese citizens and who are now in danger of being deported to Poland.
2. The Nuncio has been advised that an intervention in favor of this same group was made by the Embassy of the United States in Lisbon by note under date of the ninth of May.
3. The Nuncio urges the Portuguese Government, in view of its well known humanitarian sentiments, which during the war has given comfort and salvation to so many people, to come once more to the aid of this particular group whose situation is so serious. The Nuncio cannot help but anticipate from the Portuguese Government the most favorable response to this request and thanks the Portuguese Government in advance for its cordial cooperation in this humanitarian effort.

000152

AIRMAIL  
No. 653  
x

*3 War Refugee Board*

UNRESTRICTED

**CONTROL COPY**

Lisbon, June 3, 1947

*War Refugee Board  
W.R.B.  
H.A. [unclear]*

Subject: Care of Sephardic Jews now in Greece  
Claiming Portuguese Nationality

The Honorable  
The Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit herewith a translation of a note sent by the Portuguese Foreign Office the 24th of June in reply to an aide-memoire left with it following a visit by the attaché of this Embassy representing the War Refugee Board. The interest which the Portuguese Government has taken in the situation of these Sephardic Jews will be noted. This visit was made following receipt of several telegrams from Washington urging this Embassy to take up the matter covered in the notes with the Portuguese Government. The results, as indicated in the note enclosed, are highly gratifying and it is hoped will obtain an alleviation of the condition of these people.

There is also enclosed a translation of a note sent by the Papal Nuncio to the Foreign Office on the same subject. Presumably this note also had its effect in obtaining the favorable action taken by the Portuguese Government. This Embassy was requested by the Nunciatur to explain to it the request which they had received from Rome, and as a result their note, copy of which is enclosed, was sent to the Foreign Office.

Provided that the Department perceives no objection, it would be appreciated if a copy of this despatch together with copies of the notes enclosed were forwarded to John W. Pehle, Executive Director of the War Refugee Board.

Respectfully yours,

For the Ambassador:

*Edward S. Crocker*  
Edward S. Crocker,  
Counselor of Embassy

Enclosures:

1. Translation letter from Foreign Office
2. Translation letter to Foreign Office from Papal Nuncio

RCD:ew

000153

Enclosure No. 1 to despatch No. 653 dated June 23, 1944,  
from the Embassy at Lisbon

translation

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Direccao Geral dos  
Negocios Politicos e da Adminis-  
tracao Interna

Proc. 32,61

No. 15

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has received with the interest it deserved the suggestion of the United States Government, transmitted by its Embassy in the "Aide Memoire" of the 9th of May, referring to the Israelites of Greece of presumed Portuguese nationality who seem to be at present in a painful situation, under the menace of imminent danger.

2. - The Portuguese Government, faithful to the principles of humanity that in all cases have guided it, never failed to render all possible assistance to the Jews who, on the basis of nationality, appealed for its protection.

3. - This, therefore, is what is happening to the Jews in Greece and for this reason, before having received any appeal from those interested, the Portuguese Government had, in due course, sent instructions to the Legation in Berlin to take steps for the repatriation of non-Aryans residing in the above country, who might be considered Portuguese citizens.

4. - Doubts and deficiencies in proving the claims of nationality of these Israelites, delayed however the settlement of the matter. But in view of the very alarming news brought to the attention of the Portuguese Government, it has decided to authorize the entry into Portugal of those who have any basis for claiming Portuguese nationality; when they are in the country the question of proof can then be carefully considered.

5. - The Portuguese Government has taken good note of the generous offer of the American Government to provide maintenance and the definite future provision of the refugees outside of Portugal.

6. - That offer, which is duly appreciated, will be accepted by the Portuguese Government only in the cases of Israelites who prove not to be its nationals.

Lisbon, June 24th, 1944.

000154

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

[Redacted]  
For security reasons the  
text of this telegram is  
being classified as "Secret"  
Lisbon

*Foley*

GMR-166  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. [Redacted]

Dated May 25, 1944

Rec'd 2:28 p.m.

Secretary of State  
Washington

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
MAY 22 1944  
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS & RECORDS

1599, May 25, 5 p.m.

Referring Sephardic Jews in Greece claiming  
Portuguese nationality Department's No. 1365 (MRB  
23) Portuguese Government reports matter referred  
their representative Athens for attention. MRB 52.

NORWEB

DD RR

(c/f)

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972

000155

PROPOSED CABLE TO MINISTER NORRIS FOR DEXTER, LISBON, PORTUGAL

Reference to Department's 1285 of May 6.

Consul at Istanbul reports substantially as follows:  
NOTE: All registered Jews in Greece were confined in Maidari concentration camp late March. On April 2, 4000 were evacuated from camp to unknown destination, believed to be Inzerienstadt, Czechoslovakia. Repatriation was ordered for Portuguese, Turkish and Spanish Jews. Assistance has been complicated by these developments since there are officially no Jews in Greece, the Jews who are registered having been removed while the Jews in hiding have lost the last remnant of rights through failure on their part to comply with registration order issued by the Germans. UNQUOTE

In light of above information, the requested steps to rescue Jews in Greece claiming Portuguese nationality assume particular urgency.

-THIS IS WRB LISBON CABLE NO. 23

\*\*\*\*\*

May 13, 1944

9:40 A.M.

*Ra L.S.L.*

BAKzin:MStandish/jfh-jp

5/12/44

000156

*War Refugee*  
*Bd*  
*Rehle*  
*1 copy only*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Legation, Lisbon  
DATED: May 15, 1944  
NUMBER: 1385

**CONTROL COPY**

TO MINISTER NORZES FOR EXETER

Reference to Department's 1285 of May 6.

Consul at Istanbul reports substantially as follows:

"All registered Jews in Greece were confined in Maidari concentration camp late March. On April 2, 4000 were evacuated from camp to unknown destination, believed to be Theresienstadt, Czechoslovakia. Repatriation was ordered for Portuguese, Turkish and Spanish Jews. Assistance has been complicated by these developments since there are officially no Jews in Greece, the Jews who are registered having been removed while the Jews in hiding have lost the least moment of rights through failure on their part to comply with registration order issued by the Germans."

In light of above information, the requested steps to rescue Jews in Greece claiming Portuguese nationality assume particular urgency.

THIS IS WRB LISBON CABLE NO. 23

HULL

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date **SEP 20 1972**

RECEIVED  
MAY 15 1944  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

000157

*Wa. Refugee  
Bl (m)  
Pehle  
copy only*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American <sup>Legation</sup> Embassy, Bern  
DATED: May 13, 1944  
NUMBER: 1671  
x

**CONTROL COPY**

TO UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE TITTMANN, VATICAN CITY

Reference to Department's 1681 to Bern of May 6.

Consul at Istanbul reports substantially as follows:

"All registered Jews in Greece were confined in Haidari concentration camp late March. On April 2, 4,000 were evacuated from camp to unknown destination, believed to be Theresienstadt, Czechoslovakia. Repatriation was ordered for Portuguese, Turkish and Spanish Jews. Assistance has been complicated by these developments since there are officially no Jews in Greece, the Jews who are registered having been removed while the Jews in hiding have lost the last remnant of rights through failure on their part to comply with registration order issued by the Germans." In light of above information, the requested steps to rescue Jews in Greece claiming Portuguese and Spanish nationality assume particular urgency.

RECEIVED  
MAY 14 1944  
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE  
BOSTON

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 18.

HULL

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972

000158

CABLE TO UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE TITTMANN, VATICAN CITY

Reference to Department's 1581 to Bern of May 6.

Consul at Istanbul reports substantially as follows:  
QUOTE All registered Jews in Greece were confined in Haidari concentration camp late March. On April 2, 4,000 were evacuated from camp to unknown destination, believed to be Theresienstadt, Czechoslovakia. Repatriation was ordered for Portuguese, Turkish and Spanish Jews. Assistance has been complicated by these developments since there are officially no Jews in Greece, the Jews who are registered having been removed while the Jews in hiding have lost the last remnant of rights through failure on their part to comply with registration order issued by the Germans. UNQUOTE

In light of above information, the requested steps to rescue Jews in Greece claiming Portuguese and Spanish nationality assume particular urgency.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 18.

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There is enclosed herewith for appropriate clearance and prompt despatch a telegram to the American Legation at Bern for transmission to the American representative at the Vatican City.

\*\*\*\*\*

May 13, 1944  
10:50 A.M.

*Ba. llh.*  
BAKzin:MStandish/jfh-jp

5/12/44

000159

*was Ref. Ed.  
m. Belle  
1 copy only*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Lisbon  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: May 9, 1944  
NUMBER: 1396  
X

**CONTROL COPY**

RECEIVED  
MAY 10 1944

Following is WRB No. 28.

The subject of Department's cable No. 1285 (WRB 15) has been discussed by me with the Portuguese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Ministry promises sympathetically to inform the Embassy of possible action.

You are asked to please make my WRB No. 23 dated May 8, No. 1382 of the Embassy read No. 24 from the War Refugee Board.

NORWED

DGR:VAG:HL 5/11/44

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972

000160

*wa Refugee Bd  
m. Pella*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: AMLEGATION, Bern  
DATE: May 6, 1944  
NUMBER: 1581

*copy  
fde*

**CONTROL COPY**

To Harrison for Tittman from War Refugee Board.

Department reliably informed that a small group of Jews in Greece claiming Portuguese nationality is in danger of deportation unless Portuguese government intervenes.

Accordingly, Department cables Minister Norweb at Lisbon as follows:

QUOTE You are requested to approach appropriate Portuguese officials with a view to enlisting the aid of the Portuguese government in the rescue of those of the persons in question claiming Portuguese nationality, and to urge immediate action.

We suggest, accordingly, that the Portuguese government advise German and other authorities in Greece that upon the assurance of a claim to Portuguese nationality the claimant is to be extended all the rights, privileges and immunities of a Portuguese national unless and until after investigation the Portuguese government advises such authorities that it has rejected such claim. The Government of the United States has taken a similar position with respect to refugees within German-controlled areas claiming American citizenship. We further suggest that, in view of the dire consequences of

adverse  
DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972

000161

adverse determinations of such claims at this time, the Portuguese government postpone making adverse determinations in such cases until after the termination of the war.

Should it prove necessary for the protection of the persons concerned, to evacuate them to Portugal, it is hoped that the Portuguese government will facilitate such evacuation in every way. In connection with such evacuation and if in your discretion this seems advisable, you may give to Portugal assurances similar to those given to Spain regarding the maintenance of such of these claimants as may have to be evacuated to Portugal and regarding prompt action to effect the departure from Portugal to other places of refuge of all those among these evacuees whose claims to Portuguese nationality will have been rejected.

In the light of the above assurances, please impress upon the Portuguese government the extreme urgency of acquiescing in our requests and of acting upon them without delay. You should impress upon Portuguese officials that since failure to act would almost certainly spell death for the persons involved, and that since no (repeat no) responsibilities or obligations would result for Portugal from acquiescence in our requests, we trust that the Portuguese authorities would wholeheartedly cooperate with our efforts to save these people.

The above is being repeated to Tittman and he is requested to obtain Vatican cooperation in this matter. UNQUOTE

Please

000162

Please express to the appropriate officials of the Holy See our hope that the Holy See will cooperate with us in this humanitarian task by urgently supporting in Portugal our steps now detailed to you.

Kindly advise the Department of all developments in

this matter.

RECEIVED

OFFICE

CG 4

HULL

WRB:MMV:KG  
5/6/44

WE

SE

NEA

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CABLE TO HAROLD H. TITTMAN, VATICAN CITY

Department reliably informed that a small group of Jews in Greece claiming Portuguese nationality is in danger of deportation unless Portuguese government intervenes.

Accordingly, Department cables Minister Norweb at Lisbon as follows:

QUOTE You are requested to approach appropriate Portuguese officials with a view to enlisting the aid of the Portuguese government in the rescue of those of the persons in question claiming Portuguese nationality, and to urge immediate action.

We suggest, accordingly, that the Portuguese government advise German and other authorities in Greece that upon the assurance of a claim to Portuguese nationality the claimant is to be extended all the rights, privileges and immunities of a Portuguese national unless and until after investigation the Portuguese government advises such authorities that it has rejected such claim. The Government of the United States has taken a similar position with respect to refugees within German-controlled areas claiming American citizenship. We further suggest that, in view of the dire consequences of adverse determinations of such claims at this time, the Portuguese government postpone making adverse determinations in such cases until after the termination of the war.

Should it prove necessary for the protection of the persons concerned, to evacuate them to Portugal, it is hoped that the Portuguese government will facilitate such evacuation in every way. In connection with such evacuation and if in your discretion this seems advisable, you may give to Portugal assurances similar to those given to Spain regarding the maintenance of such of these claimants as may have to be evacuated to Portugal and regarding prompt action to effect the departure from Portugal to other places of refuge of all those among these evacuees whose claims to Portuguese nationality will have been rejected.

In the light of the above assurances, please impress upon the Portuguese government the extreme

000164



ORIGINAL TEXT OF WASHINGTON 844

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Legation, Lisbon  
DATED: May 6, 1944  
NUMBER: 1888

To Norweb, for Dexter.  
Reference your WKS No. 6 of April 28.

1. Department has requested Ambassador Hayes and Vatican through Pittman to approach Spanish government with an urgent plea for the recognition and evacuation of the Spanish nationals (Sephardic Jews), interned in Greece. On other occasions as you doubtless know such recognition has been effective in procuring the release of Sephardic Jews in France and elsewhere in Axis territory.

The Spanish government has been given our assurances that funds will be available for the support in Spain of such of these persons as may be evacuated to Spain and that prompt action to effect their departure from Spain to other places of refuge will be taken.

2. You are requested to approach appropriate Portuguese officials with a view to eliciting the aid of the Portuguese government in the rescue of those of the persons in question claiming Portuguese nationality and to urge immediate action.

We suggest, accordingly, that the Portuguese government advise German and other authorities in Greece that upon the assurance of a claim to Portuguese nationality the claimant is to be extended all the rights, privileges and immunities of a Portuguese national unless and until after investigation the Portuguese government advises such authorities that it has rejected such claim. The Government of the United States has taken a similar position with respect to refugees within German-controlled areas claiming American citizenship. We further suggest that, in view of the dire consequences of adverse determinations of such claims at this time, the Portuguese government postpone making adverse determinations in such cases until after the termination of the war.

Should it prove necessary for the protection of the persons concerned, to evacuate them to Portugal, it is hoped that the Portuguese government will facilitate such evacuation in every way. In connection with such evacuation and if in your discretion this seems advisable, you may give to Portugal assurances similar to those given to Spain regarding the maintenance of such of these claimants as may have to be evacuated to Portugal and regarding prompt action to effect the departure from Portugal to other places of refuge of all those among these evacuees whose claims to Portuguese nationality will have been rejected.

In the light of the above assurances, please impress upon the Portuguese government the extreme urgency of acquiescing in our requests

EX-111-78

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-78

and of.....

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and of acting upon them without delay. You should impress upon Portuguese officials that since failure to act would almost certainly spell death for the persons involved, and that since no responsibilities or obligations would result for Portugal from acquiescence in our requests, we trust that the Portuguese authorities would wholeheartedly cooperate with our efforts to save these people.

The above is being repeated to Fitzmaurice and he is requested to obtain Vatican cooperation in this matter.

3. You may inform Schwartz of the foregoing, and also that we continue urging upon Turkey a program for the rescue of the Turkish nationals in France along similar lines.

TWIA IS WEE XIBCOF CABLE NO. 18

REMA

cc: Sec'y, Abrahamson, Akris, Berenson, Cohn, DeBolt, Friedman, Gaston, Kodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Lofgren, Mann, Manton, Marko, McCarroll, Pollak, Quinn, Rarney, Smith, Staudie, Stewart, Weinstein, E. D. White, Yellin, Yiles.

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