Meetings with Kappa and Rhody.

Refugees: Other Means of Relief.

Recognition of Spanish Jews in Athens.
COPY of a cable received from Istanbul the 5th April 1944

ISTANBUL April 5, 1944

According reliable information 400 Jews Spanish citizens in Athens sent to concentration camp Haidari STOP Necessary intervene through Emagirut Embassy Madrid asking protection Spanish Government STOP Negotiating re possibility arrange transportation Swedish boat running for International Red Cross STOP On arrival here immigration certificate assures essential prevent deportation time being.

Barlas

Dr. Goldman's secretary dictated the above telegram over telephone to Mrs. Sheppe on April 13, 1944.
MESSAGE TO AMBASSADOR HAYES, MADRID, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD
(BY COURIER)

Annexed is a copy of a communication received by the World Jewish Congress, New York, from Isaac Neissman, its representative in Portugal.

The Board would appreciate any comments or suggestions you might make regarding the conversation between Ambassador Franco and Mr. Neissman, reported in this communication.

In this connection, the Board would be grateful for any information bearing upon Department's cable no 1100 to Madrid of April 21.

P.S.C.

Bakken 5/15/44
Note

on my meeting with D. Nicolau Franco, Spanish Ambassador to Lisbon, on April 8th, 1944.

The Ambassador began by inquiring if the Jews in Athens are Spanish citizens or only Spanish protected people (among the Sephardi Spanish Jews part are considered only as protected people owing to lack of certain administrative formalities which they did not fulfill in time, and part are considered as regular Spanish citizens). He added that he was asking this question merely from an informative point of view, since the answer would have no influence on the action to be taken. I then showed the Ambassador the cable in which mention is made of Jewish Spanish citizens and not of proteges.

D. Nicolau tried to explain that the world overestimates the so-called influence of Spain on Germany, saying that Spanish relations with Germany are only friendly and nothing more. On my remark that neither influence nor special friendship applied when a country intervenes on behalf of its own citizens, the Ambassador answered that intervention would take place.

He then explained in friendly words that Spain is not only not anti-semitic but on the contrary, his brother, General Franco, is very interested in the Jewish question, especially in the Sephardi Jews. He told me further that in spite of all endeavors by the Germans Spain has introduced no anti-semitic laws and that his brother has always avoided introducing measures which might involve difficulties for the Jews in Tangier, where banking and commerce are, to a large extent, in their hands. At this, I ventured to draw the attention of the Ambassador in clear terms to the difficulties which Sephardi Jews of Spanish citizenship are enduring in Spain and all the occupied countries. I also mentioned the fact that 450 Sephardi Spanish Jews who entered Spain some weeks ago must leave that country before any more are allowed to enter. There are about 200 such Jews on the Franco-Spanish border at Perpignan who are unable to obtain their Spanish visas, although they are Spanish citizens, so long as the aforementioned 450 Jews are still in Spain. I then went on to inform him of the 200 Spanish Jews at present interned in the Camp of Drancy near Paris about the many Jews (Spanish) living in hiding in Paris and who cannot obtain visas for Spain and are in no way protected by the Spanish Consulates in spite of their Spanish citizenship. I added that I surmised that these facts were not of the knowledge of the high officials, and even less in the possession of the Spanish ministers, otherwise and seeing what he had just told me, they would have preferred protection to their nationals.
The Ambassador was visibly impressed by my remarks and assured me that his Government is sincere, interested in helping all these unfortunate people. He said he was grateful to us for turning the light on these events.

We finally came to the decision to deal in the first place with the 400 Spanish Jews in Greece, mentioned in the cable, and as soon as this is achieved, D. Nicolau Franco will request my presence again for the purpose of submitting our other claims.

With regard to the 400 Spanish Jews in Greece, the Ambassador promised me he would immediately contact by telephone Count Jordana, Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs and he assured me again that steps will be taken without delay to obtain from the Germans their release and permission to leave Greece.

I. W.

Lisbon, April 11th, 1944.
COPY of dispatch received from Istanbul the 5th April 1944.

Istanbul 5/4/44

COLONEL W. R. WILKIE

1982

ACCORDING RELIABLE INFORMATION 400 JEWISH SPANISH CITIZENS LIVED IN
THE CITY OF CONSTANTINOPLE IN THE HAGHIA EGLI CHURCH. FLEEING THROUGH
SUBSEQUENT EVENTS THEY PROCLAIMED THEIR DESIRE FOR IMMIGRATION AND
VOLUNTARY ABROAD EMIGRATION BY SAILING ON MEDITERRANEAN VESSELS BUT RUNNING FOR INTERNATIONAL
FRANCE RELIEF STAY OF-ARRIVAL HEAL IMMIGRATION CERTIFICATES PALESTINE
CITY IMPOSED RESTRICTIONS IMMIGRATION RESIDENCE IN ACTION IN BULGARIA

May 24, 1944
2:25 p.m.

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, Dubois, Friedman, Hodel,
Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Stewart, Central Files, Cable Control Files
AMBASSADOR,

MADRID (SPAIN).

THIS IS FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE FROM THE WAR REFUGEES BOARD.

There is given below the text of a communication received by the World Jewish Congress, New York, from Isaac Weisssman, its representative in Portugal.

The Board would appreciate whatever comments or suggestions you might make regarding the conversation between Ambassador Franco and Mr. Weissman reported in this communication. In this connection, the Board would be grateful for any information bearing upon the Department's cable no. 1109 of April 21 to Madrid.

Meeting with D. Nicolau Franco,
Spanish Ambassador to Lisbon,
on April 8th, 1944.

NOTE: The Ambassador began by inquiring if the Jews in Athens are Spanish citizens or only Spanish protected people (among the Spanish Spanish Jews part are considered only as protected people owing to lack of certain administrative formalities which they did not fulfill in time, and part are considered as regular Spanish citizens). He added that he was asking...
asking this question merely from an informative point of view, since the answer would have no influence on the action to be taken. I then showed the Ambassador the cable in which mention is made of Jewish Spanish citizens and not of protegeses.

(A copy of April 5 received from Zurich at Istanbul).

The Ambassador endeavored to explain that the world overestimates the so-called influence of Spain on Germany, saying that Spanish relations with Germany are only friendly and nothing more. On my remark that neither influence nor special friendship applied when a country intervenes on behalf of its own citizens, the Ambassador answered that intervention would occur.

He then explained in friendly words that Spain is not only not anti-Semitic but on the contrary, his brother, General Franco, is very interested in the Jewish question, especially in the Sephardi Jews. He told me further that in spite of all endeavors by the Germans Spain has introduced no anti-Semitic laws and that his brother has always avoided introducing measures which might involve difficulties for the Jews in Tangier, where banking and commerce are, to a large extent, in their hands. At this, I ventured to draw the attention of the Ambassador in clear terms to the difficulties which Sephardi Jews of Spanish citizenship are
are enduring in Spain and all the occupied countries. I also mentioned the fact that 450 Sephardi Spanish Jews who entered Spain some weeks ago must leave that country before any more are allowed to enter. There are about 200 such Jews on the Franco-Spanish border at Perpignan who are unable to obtain their Spanish visas, although they are Spanish citizens, so long as the aforementioned 450 Jews are still in Spain. I then went on to inform him of the 500 Spanish Jews at present interned in the Camp of Drancy near Paris; about the many Jews (Spanish) living in hiding in Paris who cannot obtain visas for Spain and are in no way protected by the Spanish Consulates in spite of their Spanish citizenship. I added that I surmised that these facts were not of the knowledge of the high officials, and even less in the possession of the Spanish Ministers, otherwise from what he had just told me, they would have preferred protection to their nationals.

The Ambassador was visibly impressed by my remarks and assured me that his Government is sincerely interested in helping all those unfortunate people. He said he was grateful to me for turning the light on these events.

I finally came to the decision to deal in the first place with the 400 Spanish Jews in Greece, and as soon as this
A-392, May 2 71 5:45 p.m. -- to Madrid

is achieved the ambassador will request my presence again for the purpose of submitting our other claims.

With regard to the 400 Spanish Jews in Greece, the ambassador promised me he would immediately contact by telephone Count Jordana, Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs and he assured me again that steps will be taken without delay to obtain from the Germans their release and permission to leave Greece. UNJWZE.

The telegrams of April 6 in reference above reads as follows:

"We are 400 Jews Spanish citizens living in Athens sent to concentration camp Kaldari according reliable information. Intervention through Shapirrnat Madrid asking protection Spanish Government necessary. Possibility arranging transportation by Swedish boat running for International Redcross under negotiation. Immigration certificates Palestine assured on arrival here. Will action essential prevent deportation timebeing. Barlas UNJWZE. Hull "

PREHENDING VE SE RE
5/28/44
FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Embassy, Madrid
DATE: May 16, 1944
NUMBER: 1360

Consul at Istanbul reports substantially as follows:

"All registered Jews in Greece were confined in Naldari concentration camp late March. On April 2, 4000 were evacuated from camp to unknown destination, believed to be Theresienstadt, Czechoslovakia. Repatriation was ordered for Greeks, 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 remnants 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 assuming Spanish nationality assume particular urgency.

Hull.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Folsom Date SEP 20 1972
PROPOSED CABLE TO AMERICAN EMBASSY, MADRID

Reference, Department’s 1108 of April 21.

Consul at Istanbul reports substantially as follows:

"All registered Jews in Greece were confined in Haldari 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 Spanish nationality assume particular urgency.

***************
May 13, 1944
9:40 A.M.
FROM Secretary of State, Washington
TO American Legation, Bern
DATE May 13, 1944
SUBJ 1944

This is and cable to Special No. 17 for McDillard.

The consul at Istanbul reports substantially as follows:

"All registered Jews in Greece were confined in Vedani concentration camp late March. On April 3, 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 last vestige of rights through failure on their part to comply with registration order issued by the Germans.

Innsbruck at Istanbul, Madrid and Lisbon have been instructed to obtain action to help victims in Greece obtaining the nationalities of the respective countries. The American representative in the Vatican City has been requested to obtain the cooperation of the Holy See.

You are requested to ask Intercessor to bring all possible aid to said victims, including those evacuated from Greece. Would appreciate information as to destination of evacuees.

Hill.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 7-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972
CONSUL at Istanbul reports substantially as follows:

QUOTE. All registered Jews in Greece were confined in Haidari 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 last remnant of rights through failure on their part to comply with registration order issued by the Germans. UNQUOTE

Missions at Istanbul, Madrid and Lisbon have been instructed to obtain action to help victims in Greece claiming the nationalities of the respective countries. The American representative in the Vatican City has been requested to obtain the cooperation of the Holy See.

You are requested to ask Intercess to bring all possible aid to said victims, including those evacuated from Greece. Would appreciate information as to destination of evacuees.

THIS IS WB CABLE TO BERN NO. 17

***************
May 13, 1944
9:40 A.M.
May 11, 1944

Mr. John W. Pehle,
War Refugee Board,
Treasury Building,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I received the enclosed cable from Mr. Barlas in Istanbul with reference to the Spanish refugees in Greece. As you see from the cable these refugees have been deported to Theresienstadt.

I don't know what can be done in this matter but I feel that if you can get the cooperation of the Spanish Government something may yet be done.

I am sure you will take the matter up without delay.

With best wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Nahum Goldmann

NG:FR
FA 135 X35 TY304 XEO0J 29 26 2338
ARTHUR LOURIE 41 EAST 42ND STREET NEW YORK
2208 YOURS 18/4 RESIGN MEAN TIME REFUGEES DEPORTED FROM GHUEK TO
THRESHEMSTADT STOP WIRE WHETHER REFUGEES CONTINUING EFFORTS
EVEN THIS SITUATION
CHAEM BAHLAS

CPM 2308 18/4
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: May 9, 1944
NUMBER: 2944

Approach was made to Vatican authorities on May 1 and I have been informed that action has been taken as requested.

Foregoing is May 5 telegram 166 from Tittman, and refers to April 24 telegram No. 1414 sent to Bern by Department.

HARRISON
In reply refer to #55

May 9, 1944

Hi. John W. Pehle, Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I am attaching a confidential note which we received from our Lisbon representative concerning a conference he had on April 8 with Mrs. Nicolau Franco, Spanish Ambassador to Lisbon.

This note deals chiefly with the fate of the 100 Spanish citizens living in Athens who were sent to the Haidari concentration camp. May I stress at this occasion that it is not requested that these people be brought to Spain, that immigration certificates to Palestine are assured for them, and that the Jewish Agency in Palestine is negotiating the possibility of arranging their transportation to Istanbul by a Swedish boat which is running relief for the International Red Cross. The note also deals:

a- with the 150 Sephardic Jews who entered Spain in March and who "must leave that country before any more are allowed to enter";
b- with 200 Jews of Spanish citizenship who are on the Spanish-French border at Perpignan and who "are unable to obtain their Spanish visas";
c- with the 500 Spanish Jews at present interned in the camp of Drancy near Paris;
d- with the many (Spanish) Jews living in hiding in Paris and who cannot obtain visas for Spain and are in no way "protected by the Spanish Consulate, in spite of their Spanish citizenship."

May I suggest that these facts be brought without delay to the attention of the American Ambassador in Madrid.

May I inquire at this time what is the present situation of the Haidari internees?

Sincerely yours,

Dr. A. Leon Rubowitski
Head, Reseale Department
Note on my meeting with D. Nicolau Franco, Spanish Ambassador to Lisbon, on April 8th, 1944.

The Ambassador began by enquiring if the Jews in Athens are Spanish citizens or only Spanish protected people (among the Sephardi Spanish Jews part are considered only as protected people owing to lack of certain administrative formalities which they did not fulfill in time, and part are considered as regular Spanish citizens). He added that he was asking this question merely from an informative point of view, since the answer would have no influence on the action to be taken. I then showed the Ambassador the cable in which mention is made of Jewish Spanish citizens and not of protected.

D. Nicolau tried to explain that the world overestimates the so-called influence of Spain on Germany, saying that Spanish relations with Germany are only friendly and nothing more. On my remark that neither influence nor special friendship applied when a country intervenes on behalf of its own citizens, the Ambassador answered that intervention would take place.

He then explained in friendly words that Spain is not only not anti-Semitic but on the contrary, his brother, General Franco, is very interested in the Jewish question, especially in the Sephardi Jews. He told me further that in spite of all endeavors by the Germans Spain has introduced no anti-Semitic laws and that his brother has always avoided introducing measures which might involve difficulties for the Jews in danger, where banking and commerce are, to a large extent, in their hands. At this, I ventured to draw the attention of the Ambassador in clear terms to the difficulties which Sephardi Jews of Spanish citizenship are enduring in Spain and all the occupied countries. I also mentioned the fact that 150 Sephardi Spanish Jews who entered Spain some weeks ago must leave that country before any more are allowed to enter. There are about 200 such Jews on the Franco-Spanish border at Perpignan who are unable to obtain their Spanish visas, although they are Spanish citizens, as long as the aforementioned 150 Jews are still in Spain. I then went on to inform him of the 500 Spanish Jews at present interned in the Camp of Drancy near Paris; about the many Jews (Spanish) living in hiding in Paris and who cannot obtain visas for Spain and are in no way protected by the Spanish Consulates in spite of their Spanish citizenship. I added that I surmised that these facts were not of the knowledge of the high officials, and even less in the possession of the Spanish ministers; otherwise, and seeing what he had just told me, they would have preferred protection to their nationals.
The Ambassador was visibly impressed by my remarks and assured me that his Government is sincerely interested in helping all these unfortunate people. He said he was grateful to us for turning the light on these events.

We finally came to the decision to deal in the first place with the 400 Spanish Jews in Greece, mentioned in the cable, and as soon as this is achieved, D. Nicolás Frano will request my presence again for the purpose of submitting our other claims.

With regard to the 400 Spanish Jews in Greece, the Ambassador promised me he would immediately contact by telephone Count Jordana, Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs and he assured me again that steps will be taken without delay to obtain from the Germans their release and permission to leave Greece.

I.N.

Lisbon, April 11th, 1944.
ISTANBUL 5/4/44

MISSIAN AVENIDA LIBERDA LISBO

1953 ACCORDING RELIABLE INFORMATION 100 JENI SPANISH CITIZENS LIVING IN

AMERS SENT TO CONCENTRATION CAMP HALDAN STOP NCESSARY INTERVENTIONS THROU

SHERURIB MADRID ASKING PROTECTION SPANISH GOVERNMENT STOP NEGOTIATING RE

POSSIBILITY ARRANGING TRANSPORTATION BY SWEDISH BOAT RUNNING FOR INTERNATIONAL

RED CROSS RELIEF STOP ON ARRIVAL HERE IMMIGRATION CERTIFICATES PALESTINE

ASSURED STOP ESSENTIAL PREVENT DEPORTATION TELLING WIRE ACTION • BANIAS
FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Lisbon
DATE: May 6, 1944
NUMB: 1285

To: American Legation, Lisbon.

Reference your WRB No. 6 of April 25.

1. Department has requested Ambassador Hayes and Vatican through Tittman 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 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 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 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 Zitman and he is requested to obtain Vatican cooperation in this matter.
3. You may inform Schwarts 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.

THIS IS HUD LEBRON CABLE NO. 16

HULL
CABLE TO MINISTER NONNES FOR DEITER, LISBON

Reference your WMB No. 6 of April 25.

1. Department has requested Ambassador Hayes and Vatican through Tittman to approach Spanish government with an urgent plea for the recognition and evacuation of the Spanish nationals 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 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 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.

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.

THIS IS WIB LISBON CABLE NO. 15

***************
May 5, 1944
9:15 a.m.

R.S. /ED.
RLSmith:BA:16L/EDuBois/jp 5/5/44
The following developments in the Jewish situation in Greece are reported by repatriated Turkish Jews: On the 24th of March all registered Jews in Athens were confined at Haidari concentration camp. On the following days registered Jews from the provinces arrived. The Haidari camp was evacuated on April 2, and repatriation was ordered for Portugese, Turkish, and Spanish Jews. Argentine Jews were left in camps (*) and there were loaded on trains for unknown destination, believed to be Treblinka, all others possibly totaling 4,000.

The suggested assistance (see Department's telegram of April 26, 1944; no. 257) 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.

The foregoing was repeated to Cairo for MacVeigh and was repeated as my no. 10 to Algiers.

SQUIRES

(*) Apparent omission
Hon. John W. Pohle, Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pohle:

Referring to our interventions in the matter of the Jews of Spanish nationality who have been interned in Greece, I beg to inform that we received from our British Section the following cable:

"Have had closest sympathetic cooperation from Spanish Ambassador here who has received communication from Madrid assuring protection Spanish citizens."

May I ask you to kindly let me know whether you have had similar assurances.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Dr. A. Leon Rubowitski
Head, Rescue Department

April 20, 1944
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT
FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: Amlegation, Bern
DATED: April 24, 1944
NUMBER: 1414

FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD, FOR TITTMANN.

There is given below the substance of a message sent to Madrid.

As a result of intercession by the Holy See, whose humanitarian efforts on behalf of the oppressed peoples of Europe have resulted in the saving of thousands of lives, the Spanish Government has on several occasions in the past recognized groups of Sephardic Jews in Axis-occupied territory as Spanish nationals, and has intervened with Germany for their release from concentration camps and subsequent evacuation to Spain.

Information has now been received by the War Refugee Board that 400 such Sephardic Jews, Spanish nationals residing in Athens, have recently been imprisoned in a concentration camp, and it is vital that they be given Spanish recognition to forestall deportation and almost certain death.

You should approach the appropriate Spanish officials and inform them of the situation of the
refugees under reference in order to rescue them through the Spanish Government's aid. Full assurances may be given to the Spanish Government that funds will be available for the support of such of these persons as may be evacuated to Spain, and that prompt action will be taken to speed their departure from Spain to places of refuge. Please keep the Department informed of all developments.

For Tittmann's attention.

It is requested that you approach the appropriate Vatican authorities to request the Vatican's support for the rescue mentioned above.

HULL
CABLE TO HAROLD H. TITTMANN, JR., AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE, VATICAN CITY

As a result of intercession by the Holy See, whose humanitarian efforts on behalf of the oppressed peoples of Europe have resulted in the saving of thousands of lives, the Spanish Government has on several occasions in the past recognized groups of Sephardic Jews in Axis-occupied territory as Spanish nationals, and has intervened with Germany for their release from concentration camps and subsequent evacuation to Spain.

Information has now been received by the War Refugee Board that 400 such Sephardic Jews, Spanish nationals residing in Athens, have recently been imprisoned in a concentration camp, and it is vital that they be given Spanish recognition to forestall deportation and almost certain death.

It is earnestly requested that you approach appropriate Vatican officials to the end that the Papal Nuncio at Madrid be advised of this situation and his aid enlisted in the rescue of these unfortunate.

Full assurances may be given to the Spanish Government that funds will be available for the support of such of these persons as may be evacuated to Spain, and that prompt action will be taken to speed their departure from Spain to places of refuge. Please keep the Department informed of all developments.

***************
April 17, 1944
5:25 p.m.

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lerner, Mann, Pehle, Stewart, Central Files, Cable Control Files

RLSmith:DLessersfield 4/17/44
The Spanish Government has on several occasions in the past, as the result of intercession by the Holy See whose humanitarian efforts on behalf of the persecuted refugees of Europe have resulted in the saving of thousands of lives, extended protection to groups of Sephardic Jews in Axis occupied areas and has intervened with Germany to accomplish their evacuation to Spain after release from concentration camps.

The War Refugee Board has now been informed that 400 such Sephardic Jews residing in Athens have recently been interned in a concentration camp. To forestall deportation to Poland and almost certain death it is vital that these Sephardic Jews be given Spanish protection.

You are requested to approach appropriate Spanish officials to advise them of the situation of this group and to enlist the aid of the Spanish Government in the rescue of these refugees. You are authorized to give full assurance to the Spanish Government 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 speed their departure from Spain to other places of refuge will be taken.

Kindly advise the Department of all developments in this matter.

The

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept Letter 1-11-73
By R. H. Parks Dec. SEP 20 1972
The foregoing has been repeated to Bern for Tittman.
I N C 0 .. 1

JACOING CABLE

LISBON

Rec'd & Stencilled Feb. 15, 1944

LUISON P31140 LISBOA VIA HCA 133 7 2155 1/90

JOHN D. RITCHIE,

JACOB DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

270 JACOB AVE. NEW YORK CITY

640 WE HAVE BEEN OFFICIALLY INFORMED BY SPANISH AUTHORITIES THAT GROUP 374

ARRIVING SPAIN FROM GERMANY NEXT DAYS. STOP GROUP CONSISTS FOLLOWING

152 MEN
173 WOMEN
49 CHILDREN

STOP OUR REPRESENTATIVE SAGUA SECULAR, PROCEEDING TO BORDER RECEIVE ARRIVALS

STOP WE ASK THAT GROUP WHICH LEFT SALONICA SOME MONTHS AGO BUT WERE HELD

UP IN GERMANY WHILE SPANISH AUTHORITIES WERE EXERTING PRESSURE ON US EVACUATE

ORIGINAL SEVICHIC GROUP FROM SPAIN, STOP SPANISH AUTHORITIES SENDING SOME DOCTORS

AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO BORDERS AND WE BEING ASKED SUPPLY NECESSARY CLOTHING SINCE

GROUP SEEMS TO BE VERY BAD SHAPE STOP VIEW THIS EMERGENCY REQUIREMENT YOU SEND IMMEDIATELY FULL AMOUNT FEBRUARY BUDGET one million pesetas. STOP WILL KEEP YOU

FULLY ADVISED

JOSEPH SCHWARTZ