

Preambles with Respect and Rescue  
of Refugees: Other Means of  
Effecting Rescue.

Recognition of Spanish Jews in  
Athens

000168

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 Snagrirut Embassy Madrid asking protection Spanish Government STOP Negotiating re possibility arrange transportation Swedish boat running for International Red Cross STOP On arrival here immigration certificates assured essential prevent deportation time being.

Barlas

Dr. Goldman's secretary dictated the above telegram over telephone to Mrs. Sheppe on April 13, 1944.

000169

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 Weissman, its representative in Portugal.

The Board would appreciate any 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 Department's cable no 1108 to Madrid of April 21.

B.G. L.S.L.  
BAKzin:jp

5/16/44

000170

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS  
Lisbon

Spanish Sephardi Jews in Greece  
(see enclosed copy of cable from  
Mr. G. Barlas).

~~Confidential~~

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 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 Tanger, 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 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.

000171

Page 2

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. 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.

000172

COPY of cable received from Istanbul the 5th April 1944

ISTANBUL 5/4/44

RECEIVED AMERICAN LEGATION LISBON

1982 ACCORDING RELIABLE INFORMATION 400 JEWS SPANISH CITIZENS LIVED IN  
THEIR WAY TO CONCENTRATION CAMP BUDAPEST STOP BY TRAIN AND THROUGH  
SMAGORIN BORDERS ASKING PROTECTION SPANISH GOVERNMENT STOP NEGOTIATING RE-  
COGNITION ARRIVING TRANSPORTATION BY SWEDISH BOAT RUNNING FOR INTERNATIONAL  
RECOGNITION RELIEF STOP ON ARRIVAL HERE IMMIGRATION CERTIFICATE PALESTINE  
COUNTRIES STOP ESSENTIAL PREVENT DEPORTATION TIMEBLIND ACTION - DARIO S

May 24, 1944  
2:25 p.m.

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

000173

BY COURIER

A- 582

5:45 pm

SENT BY AIRGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF MAY 27, 1944

MAY 30 1944

COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

CONTROL COPY

AMEMBASSY,

MADRID (SPAIN).

FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE FROM THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

There is given below the text of a communication received by the World Jewish Congress, New York, from Isaac Weissman, 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. 1108 of April 21 to Madrid.

Meeting with D. Nicolson 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 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

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

000174

A-292, May 27, 5:45 p.m. -2- to Madrid

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. (A wire of April 5 received from Barlas at Istanbul).

The Ambassador endeavored to explain that the world over-estimates 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

000175



A-292, May 27; 5:45 p.m. -3- to Madrid

are enduring in Spain and all the occupied countries. I also mentioned the fact that 480 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 480 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 those 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 proffered 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 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, and as soon as this

is

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A-292, May 27; 5:45 p.m. -d-

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 UNQUOTE.

The cablegram of April 5 in reference above reads as follows:

QUOTE 400 Jews Spanish citizens living in Athens sent to concentration camp Maidari according reliable information. Intervention through Shagrirut 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. Wire action essential prevent deportation timebeing. Barlas UNQUOTE.

Hull  
827

HULL

WRB:MMV:KG  
5/28/44

WE

SE

NE

000177

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Embassy, Madrid  
DATED: May 15, 1944  
NUMBER: 1360

*War Refugee*  
*BD (Mr. Bish)*  
*copy only*  
**CONTROL COPY**

Reference Department's 1108 of April 21.

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 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 Spanish nationality assume particular urgency.

HULL

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

000178

PROPOSED CABLE TO AMERICAN EMBASSY, MADRID

Reference Department's 1108 of April 21.

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

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.

BA. L.S.L.  
BAKzin:Kstandish/lom-jp

5/12/44

000179

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Legation, Bern  
DATED: May 13, 1944  
NUMBER: 1572  
X

*War Refugee  
Ad (Smy)  
Pehle*  
*1 copy only*  
**CONTROL COPY**

THIS IS WKB CABLE TO BERN NO. 17 FOR McCLELLAND

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 last remnants of rights through failure on their part to comply with registration order issued by the Germans."

Legations 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 Intercross to bring all possible aid to said victims, including those evacuated from Greece. Would appreciate information as to destination of evacuees.

HULL

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

700 180

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON FOR McCLELLAND, BERN, SWITZERLAND.

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 Intercross to bring all possible aid to said victims, including those evacuated from Greece. Would appreciate information as to destination of evacuees.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 17

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May 13, 1944

9:40 A.M.

*Ba. R.S.P.*  
BAKain:MSandiah/jfh-jp

5/12/44

10018

הסוכנות היהודית לארץ ישראל

The Jewish Agency for Palestine

New York Office: SUITE 1205, 342 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, N. Y., MUrray Hill 2-8803

Washington Office  
1720 SIXTYBETH ST., N.W.  
Michigan 4480

May 11, 1944

*Filed*

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 Theresinnstadt.

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*  
Nahum Goldmann

NG:FR

700182

C  
O  
P  
Y

1944 MAY 10 PM 3 47

FA 135 XAX TY204 BEYOGLU 29 26 2333

ARTHUR LOURIE 41 EAST 42ND STREET NEWYORK

2208 YOURS 18/4 REGRET MEANTIME REFUGEES DEPORTED FROM GRENON TO  
THERESIENSTADT STOP WIRE WHETHER REFUGEEBOARD CONTINUING EFFORTS  
EVEN THIS SITUATION

CHAIM BARIAS

CFM 2208 18/4

000183



*Handwritten:*  
Very Good  
Spelling  
attached

*Handwritten:*  
was Ref. Br  
ms. P. 111  
Copy only

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

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

**CONTROL COPY**

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 186 from Tittman, and  
refers to April 24 telegram No. 1414 sent to Bern by  
Department.

HARRISON

RECEIVED  
MAY 11 1944  
STATE DEPT.

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

000184

# WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL . CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

330 WEST 42nd STREET

NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

NEW ADDRESS:

1834 BROADWAY

NEW YORK 23, N. Y.

Gl. 6-1900

LONDON  
55 New Cavendish St, W 1

GENEVA  
37 Quai Wilson

BUENOS AIRES  
Corrientes 2024-90

JERUSALEM  
Vaad Leumi, P. O. B. 471

MONTREAL  
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY  
Sonora 174-4

In reply  
refer to #55

Hon. 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 Mr. Nicolau Franco, Spanish Ambassador to Lisbon.

This note deals chiefly with the fate of the 400 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 450 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. Leo Kubowitzki*  
Dr. A. Leo Kubowitzki  
Head, Rescue Department

ALK:bg

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WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS  
Lisbon

Spanish Sephardi Jews in Greece  
(see enclosed copy of cable from  
Mr. C. Barlas).

Continuation

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 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 Tanger, 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 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 proffered protection to their nationals.

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Page 2

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. 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.

dg

000187

C  
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Y

COPY of a cable received from Istanbul the 5th April 1944

ISTANBUL 5/4/44

WEISSMAN AVENIDA LIBERDAD LISBON

1982 ACCORDING RELIABLE INFORMATION 400 JEWS SPANISH CITIZENS LIVING IN  
ATHENS SENT TO CONCENTRATION CAMP HAIDARI STOP NECESSARY INTERVENE THROUGH  
SHAGRINUT MADRID ASKING PROTECTION SPANISH GOVERNMENT STOP NEGOTIATING RE  
POSSIBILITY ARRANGING TRANSPORTATION BY SWEDISH BOAT RUNNING FOR INTERNATIONAL  
REDCROSS RELIEF STOP ON ARRIVAL HERE IMMIGRATION CERTIFICATES PALESTINE  
ASSURED STOP ESSENTIAL PREVENT DEPORTATION TIMEBEING WIRE ACTION ■ BARIAS✓

bg

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ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Legation, Lisbon  
DATED: May 6, 1944  
NUMBER: 1285

*Mr. Refugee Bureau*  
*Mr. Keller*  
*copy only*

**CONTROL COPY**

To Mr. Webb, for Decker.  
Reference your WRB No. 6 of April 26.

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

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

000184

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 Tittman and he is requested to obtain Vatican cooperation in this matter.

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-3-

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 WRB LISBON CABLE NO. 16

HULL

APR 13 2 20  
RECEIVED

000191



CABLE TO MINISTER NORWEB FOR DEXTER, 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 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

100192

- 2 -

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 WRB LISBON CABLE NO. 15

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May 5, 1944  
9:15 a.m.

*Re. JED.*

RLSmith:BA:LSL:JEDuBois/jp

5/4/44

000193

*War Refugee Act*  
*Jim Pelt*  
*10/1/44*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: AMCONSULATE GENERAL, Istanbul  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: May 1, 1944  
NUMBER: 270R58

CONTROL COPY

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 Portuguese, Turkish, and Spanish Jews. Argentine Jews were left in camp (\*) and there were loaded on trains for unknown destination, believed to be the Resienstadt, 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 Mac Veigh and was repeated as my no. 10 to Algiers.

SQUIRES

(\*) Apparent omission

DCR:IDB:FB 5/3/44

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

000194

NEW ADDRESS  
JEWELRY DEPT.  
NEW YORK, N. Y.  
10000

# WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL . CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

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

LONDON  
55 New Cavendish St., W 1

GENEVA  
37 Quai Wilson

BUENOS AIRES  
Corrientes 2024-9c

JERUSALEM  
Vaad Leumi, P. O. B. 471

MONTREAL  
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY  
Sonora 174-4

CABLES: CONGRESS, NEW YORK  
TELEPHONE: LONGACRE 5-2600

*Files*  
April 28, 1944 *Teller*

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

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,

*Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki*  
Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki  
Head, Rescue Department

ALK:bg

*Carved Ref. Ch.  
JMS Rell  
Copy*

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

**CONTROL COPY**

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

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972

refugees

000190

-2-

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

RECEIVED  
MAY 18 1941  
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE  
D.C.

000197

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 unfortunates. 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, Lesser, Mann, Pehle, Stewart, Central Files, Cable Control Files  
RLSmith:LS Lesser:als 4/17/44

000198

TELEGRAM SENT

5. W. Refugee  
Bid (Mr. Pehle)

2  
CITY  
This telegram must be  
paraphrased before being  
communicated to anyone  
other than a Government  
Agency. (SC-00)  
AMEMBASSY,

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF  
APR 22 1944  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

April 21, 1944  
1 p.m.  
**CONTROL COPY**

MADRID.  
1108

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

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.

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

The

000199



-2- #1108, April 21, 1 p.m., to Bern.

-2-

The foregoing has been repeated to Bern for Tittman.

HULL

WRB:OLW:KG  
4/20/44

WZ

SE

000200

INCOMING CABLE

LISBON

1283

Rec'd & Stencilled Feb. 15, 1944

LUSON PGL49 LISBON VIA RCA 133 7 2155 1/50  
NLT LEAVITT  
JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE  
270 MADISON AVENUE NEW YORK CITY

640 WE HAVE BEEN OFFICIALLY INFORMED BY SPANISH AUTHORITIES THAT GROUP 374  
SEPHARDIC JEWS ARRIVING SPAIN FROM GERMANY NEXT DAYS STOP GROUP CONSISTS FOLLOWING

152 MEN  
173 WOMEN  
49 CHILDREN

STOP OUR REPRESENTATIVE SAMUEL SEQUEIRA PROCEEDING TO BORDER RECEIVE ARRIVALS  
STOP WE ASSUME THIS IS GROUP WHICH LEFT SALONICA SOME MONTHS AGO BUT WERE HELD  
UP IN GERMANY WHILE SPANISH AUTHORITIES WERE EXERTING PRESSURE ON US EVACUATE  
ORIGINAL SEPHARDIC GROUP FROM SPAIN STOP SPANISH AUTHORITIES SENDING SOME DOCTORS  
AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO BORDER AND WE BEING ASKED SUPPLY NECESSARY CLOTHING SINCE  
GROUP SEEMS TO BE VERY BAD SHAPE STOP VIEW THIS EMERGENCY SUGGEST YOU SEND IM-  
MEDIATELY FULL AMOUNT FEBRUARY BUDGET ONE MILLION PESETAS STOP WILL KEEP YOU  
FULLY ADVISED

JOSEPH SCHWARTZ

000201