

Programs with respect to Relief and Rescue
of Refugees: Other means of effecting
Rescues

Joint Exchange Project

700247

*I - War Refugee Rel.
Mr. Pehle*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

File

CONTROL COPY

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: July 10, 1944
NUMBER: 4388

It is reported by Lichtheim Jewish Agency for Palestine, Geneva, that through efforts of Swiss and British Governments exchange was completed of 111 Germans for 283 Palestinian German and Dutch Jews carrying regularly issued Palestine certificates at Istanbul on July 5.

In connection with this subject, please refer to my message of April 29, Number 2738. With regard to Switzerland's operations and collaboration in assistance of victims of war, please refer to my message of July 7, Number 4324.

HARRISON

DCR/GPW

7-13-44

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

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*war Refugee Bd
J.W. Poble*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: ALLEGATION, BERN
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: April 29, 1944
NUMBER: 2738
X

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Reference your 1442, dated April 26.

It is stated by Lichtheim of Jewish Agency for Palestine that recently the Germans have drawn up holders Palestine certificates which has been forwarded to London as basis for first coming exchange and British Government is trying to come to some arrangement.

Involving about fifty women and children from Germany and Poland, the first exchange took place about three years ago. The Germans first interned them and later, against German women and children from Palestine, they were exchanged.

Some time later about 800 women and children, mainly Polish, although not yet possessing Palestine certificates were declared eligible for exchange by decision of the British Government and were granted certificates and list was handed by Switzerland as the protecting power to German authorities. For various reasons this proposed exchange did not materialize.

It is suggested that you may obtain the exact official details from London because negotiations have been conducted by Switzerland as the protecting power between German and British authorities.

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

RECEIVED
MAY 10 1944

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Edward R. Kelly
Mr. Kettle

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: April 28, 1944
NUMBER: 1442

copy only

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DIVISION OF
CONSULAR AFFAIRS
MAY 11 1944

Reference is made herewith to the fourth sentence in the message for Dr. Wise quoted in your cable of April 18, 1944 No. 2444.

If possible, we would like to know who proposed to the Germans the principle of exchanging Jews who hold Palestine certificates and the date and manner of the German Government's acceptance. In assessing the probability of success of such efforts as may be taken along these lines, the Department might be aided by such information.

HULL

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State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. [unclear] Date SEP 20 1972

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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: The American Minister, Bern
TO: The Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: April 24, 1944
NUMBER: 2603

CONTROL COPY

On April 19 Weingort called at the Legation. Concerning the situation he did not appear to be very well informed and was not able to say whether the authorities of Germany had actually received the authorizations for entry into Palestine. Your statement that the so-called Palestinian certificates have been withheld from delivery or were lost somewhere in transmission or particularly in Switzerland was not confirmed by him. (Refer to your message dated April 12, number 1268.) (Note from the Legation: Concerning Palestine certificates apparently there is some misunderstanding. The practice is to notify the Government of Germany and the persons affected that the appropriate Palestinian authorities have authorized their entry into Palestine rather than to send the actual certificates. Through the Swiss Protective Power, the British Legation at Bern and the British Foreign Office this is accomplished officially.)

It is stated by the British Legation that lists of persons whose entry into Palestine has been authorized have regularly been forwarded to Berlin through the Swiss authorities and that an attempt to notify directly the refugees concerned has been made by the Jewish Palestine Agency in Geneva, IRC, and the authorities

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

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2- #2603 from Bern

authorities of Switzerland. It is believed by the British Legation that notifications have all been made regularly and it (the British Legation) does not know of any instance wherein names have been omitted from lists or lists have been lost.

Therefore I am not taking further action on your number 1266 dated April 12 since more definite particulars on which action might be premised are lacking. In this connection it would probably be of assistance if you can indicate just what the reference to lost certificates means or if you can indicate identity of the persons who may have been affected.

HARRISON

WASHINGTON, D.C.
REFUGEE BOARD
RECEIVED
APR 26 11 03

DCR:MPL
4/26/44

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: The American Minister, Bern
TO: The Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: April 18, 1944
NUMBER: 2444 (Section 1)

The following message is from Gerhardt Riegner and Richard Lichtenstein, Geneva, to the World Jewish Congress, 1834 Broadway, New York, for Dr. Wise.

(For delivery to Dr. Wise at the discretion of the Department, the following message in substance is transmitted by the Legation for the information of the Department).

Our opinion is that a special effort to arrange an exchange of Jews in German-occupied countries against German nationals in Allied countries should be made by the War Refugee Board working with the Government of Britain. In the first instance the Jewish candidates for exchange are those who received Palestine immigration certificates whose names have been notified by the Government of Britain through Switzerland as the protecting power, to the Government of Germany. There are approximately 3500 of these persons. Germany has accepted this principle of exchange for persons holding these certificates but due to the lack of German candidates the exchange has not materialized so far. The holders of these certificates have been kept to date in special camps and are in danger of deportation since Germany is now getting impatient. The whole group might be saved if as a beginning an exchange of a few hundred at least could be made with prospects of further exchanges in the future.

HARRISON

DGR:MFL
4/20/44

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Aksin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Paul, Pehle, Pollak, Rains, Sargoy, Smith, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H. D. White, Files

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

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: The American Minister, Bern
TO: The Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: April 18, 1944
NUMBER: 2444 (Section 2)

As quickly as possible the War Refugee Board should therefore prepare a full list of all Germans in North and South America in the British Empire who are eligible for exchange and should also with the British Government send such list through protecting powers to the Government of Germany without delay.

In view of the present situation this procedure is of the utmost urgency. In case some practical result is obtained an effort should also be made to arrange a separate exchange plan for such Jews as many have obtained South American passports or other papers of identity from certain consulates provided recognition of such documents for this purpose can be obtained from respective governments. Bearers of visas for overseas countries would be other Jewish candidates for exchange. This scheme is of particular importance to Jews in Hungary in view of their desperate situation; those Hungarian Jews also could profit from Palestine certificates or other authorized visas or documents. It is our considered opinion that unless action is taken at once to effect a group exchange, neither holders of Palestine certificates nor any other groups can be saved. This view is held by all diplomatic representatives including the Papal Nuncio at Bern who have approached us recently.

HARRISON

DCR:MPL
4/20/44

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Aksin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mannon, Mann, Marks, McCormack, Paul, Pehle, Pollak, Rains, Sargoy, Smith, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H. D. White, Files

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State Dept. Letter, 1-11-78
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