Cases in which Report is to be made and Presence of Red Cross Cooperation with Other Agencies
Dear Mr. Huber:

This is to acknowledge receipt of and thank you for your letter of July 6, 1945, (G/4/a) with which you enclosed a photostat copy of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee "News," in which tribute is paid to the International Red Cross for its activities in behalf of European Jews.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Florence Hodel

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

Mr. Charles Huber,
Delegat,
International Committee of the Red Cross,
1645 Connecticut Avenue,
Washington 9, D. C.

EDT:inp 7/27/45
Comité International de la Croix Rouge à Genève, Suisse
Délégation aux États-Unis d'Amérique

International Committee of the Red Cross
in Geneva, Switzerland
Delegation to the United States of America

1645 Connecticut Ave. N.W.
Washington 9, D.C.

July 6th, 1945.

Brigadier General O'Dwyer,
Executive Director
Executive Office of the President,
War Refugee Board,
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

Dear General O'Dwyer,

The International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva has requested us by their communication dated April 5th, 1945, to transmit to you, for information, a photostat copy of a publication which the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee had published in New York, relative to part of the activities of the I.C.R.C. in favor of Hebrews in Europe.

We would thank you to acknowledge receipt of this document at your convenience, in order to complete our records on the subject.

We beg to remain,

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

CHARLES HUBER, Delegate.

encl. 1
Reports reaching the American Joint Distribution Committee from Europe unanimously hail the International Red Cross for its outstanding role in the rescue and maintenance of persecuted European Jewry. "Thousands of Jews in newly liberated lands and in German concentration camps," announced Joseph G. Myron, Executive Vice-Chairman of the J.D.C., "owe their lives to the sanctuary and the help given them by the International Red Cross."

Work of the International Red Cross in Europe in behalf of Jews may be divided into four categories: the shipment of relief (food, clothing and medicines) from Geneva to occupied countries or camps in Germany, shipment of relief from other areas to camps in Germany, transmission of funds for the purchase of food and clothing, and the erection of children's homes, hospitals and soup kitchens.

In all instances, strict precautions have been and are being taken to prevent any supplies from being diverted from the persons for whom they are intended. The International Red Cross and the J.D.C. operate only where control can be exercised and where sufficient guarantees can be furnished to the authorities responsible for the distribution.

In Axis-controlled Hungary, for example, the International Red Cross worked in several ways. Although it was unable to protect the Jews from deportation, the J.D.C., in agreement with the representative of the Joint, did remit 6,000,000 penges to its delegate and to representatives of the Jewish Council of Budapest. At the same time it shipped a variety of foodstuffs from Geneva to Budapest. Because of transportation difficulties, all supplies were purchased on the Hungarian market with funds made available by the J.D.C. Delegates of the International Red Cross were permitted to visit certain labor camps to see that the treatment of Jewish workers was as humane as possible. They frequently approached the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to call attention to unsatisfactory conditions and recommended legislation on the treatment of Jews. (More action was taken on...
The International Red Cross conducted the activities of mercy. It began work in this field in the summer of 1942, having been given a permit of cooperation by General Averchenko. J.D.O. united hundreds of thousands of dollars for the relief of persecuted Jews. With these funds the International Red Cross bought food, clothing and medicines. It also provided relief for Jews, transported from Transnistria and investigated conditions in camps for deported Jews. It aided these interned in Romanian camps as well as those drafted for compulsory labor, and to the work included Romanians Jews at liberty throughout the country as well as Jews from other countries temporarily in Romania.

Of inestimable value were J.D.O.'s attempts to persuade the Romanian authorities to cease the persecution of Jews. When the official attitude changed in 1944, J.D.O. was able to obtain substantial concessions. With J.D.O. contributions the International Committee was able to purchase underwear and clothing which were distributed by the Jewish community of Bucharest; to send foodstuffs for needy Jews; give each aid to be used for clothing, rent and food for war victims, and transmit four carloads of food from Turkey to Romania.

A delegation of the J.D.O. is surveying Jewish needs in North Italy, preparatory to arranging assistance from the J.D.O.

In Croatia, three internment camps are known and visited. Recently 3,000 packages purchased with funds made available by J.D.O. were distributed among the internees. These packages were transported under the protection of the International Committee in Zagreb. The only request in Croatia which could not be met was an appeal for clothing, which was halted by transportation difficulties.

In those parts of the world where J.D.O., major American agency for the rescue and relief of distressed Jews everywhere, cannot itself work directly, Mr. Bema, "we know we can count on the International Red Cross, as well as the governmental agencies, to act for us in bringing aid to suffering Jews."

5/14/46
Dear Mr. Huber:

For General O'Dwyer, I wish to acknowledge with thanks your letter of July 11, 1946, forwarding a letter from Mr. Max Huber, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, to General O'Dwyer.

Very truly yours,

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

Mr. Charles Huber, Delegate,
International Committee of the
Red Cross,
1640 Connecticut Ave., N.W.,
Washington D.C., U.S.
Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross recently forwarded to us the following translation of a communication from its Geneva headquarters which may be of interest to you:

**SUBJECT: RELIEF IN FAVOUR OF HEBREWS IN SERBIA.**

We have just received a telegram from our Delegation in Bucharest, dated March 26th, giving us the following information:

The Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Belgrad has communicated to our Delegation in Bucharest the following figures in respect of Hebrews still in Yugoslavia. These figures have been supplied by Dr. Popa, representative of the Hebrews in Belgrade:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Children</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belgrad</td>
<td>463</td>
<td>697</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>1,463</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skopje</td>
<td>150</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bitolj</td>
<td>26</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vales</td>
<td>76</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pristina</td>
<td>175</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiselkovac</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subotica Backabanka</td>
<td>140</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Novi Sad Backa</td>
<td>173</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zemun</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Djulovac</td>
<td>111</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vracacenta</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Novi Sad Backa and Petrovgrad</td>
<td>49</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banija Topuzko Glima Korden</td>
<td>670</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Split</td>
<td>200</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>1,463</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Most of the children in Belgrad are orphans. The question of housing is extremely difficult. A complete lack of shoes, clothing and underclothing is registered on the market of Serbia. A popular kitchen is functioning. The first relief distributed has been of 6,000 dinars per adult, and 1,000 dinars per child.*
We are transmitting the foregoing for your information.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Florence Hodel

Florence Hodel
Acting Executive Director

Mr. Moses A. Leavitt,
Secretary,
American Jewish Joint Distribution
Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,
MAY 18 1945

Dear Mr. Huber:

This is to acknowledge receipt of and thank you for your letter of May 14, 1945, (8/4/p), quoting for our information a translation of a communication from your Geneva headquarters concerning the relief of Hebrews in Serbia.

Very truly yours,

Florence Hodel
Acting Executive Director

Mr. Charles Huber,
Delegate,
International Committee of the Red Cross,
1645 Connecticut Avenue, N. W.
Washington 9, D. C.
May 14th, 1945.

Brigadier General O'Dryer,
Executive Director,
Executive Office of the President,
Emergency Relief Board,
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear General O'Dryer,

We have been requested by our Headquarters in Geneva, to communicate to you for information, the contents of a letter we have just received, dated April 9th, 1945. Please find a transcription below:

"SUBJECT: RELIEF IN FAVOUR OF JEWISH REBS OF SERBIA.

We have just received a telegram from our Delegation in Bucharest, dated March 26th, giving us the following information:

The Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Belgrad has communicated to our Delegation in Bucharest the following figures in respect of Hebrews still in Yugoslavia. These figures have been supplied by Dr. Peras, representative of the Hebrews in Belgrade:

in Belgrad: 465 men
in Béotoul: 360
in Skofije: 66
in Bucov: 76
in Skopje: 176
in Skopje: 68
in Skopje: 76
in Skopje: 176
in Skopje: 30
in Skopje: 111
in Skopje: 23
in Skopje: 49
in Skopje: 670
in Skopje: 200

TOTAL: 3,914"

[Additional information not legible]
Most of the children in Belgrad are orphans. The question of housing is extremely difficult. A complete lack of shoes, clothing and under-clothing is registered on the market of Serbia. A popular kitchen is functioning. The first relief distributed has been of 6,000 dinars per adult, and 1,000 dinars per child.

We are transmitting the foregoing for your information."

We would thank you to kindly acknowledge receipt of this letter at your convenience, and oblige.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

CHARLES HUGHES,
Delegate.
MAY 16 1945

Dear Mr. Huber,

This is to acknowledge receipt of and thank you for your letter of May 11, 1945, (0/2/h), giving us information received from your Geneva headquarters concerning medicaments shipped to Zagreb.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Florence Modul
Florence Modul
Acting Executive Director

Mr. Charles Huber,
Delegate,
International Committee of the Red Cross,
1645 Connecticut Avenue,
Washington 9, D. C.
Dear Mr. Leavitt:

We have just received from the Delegate of the International Red Cross the following translation of a communication from his Geneva headquarters:

"The Joint Relief Commission informs us that following a communication from our Delegate in ZANBOR, the shipment of medicaments valued at Swiss Fr. 23,594.85, against the contribution of $100,000.00 made by the Joint through the War Refuge Board, has arrived in good condition. We would request that you communicate this information to the War Refuge Board."

Very truly yours,

[Signature] Florence Hodel
Acting Executive Director

Mr. Moses A. Leavitt,
Secretary,
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,
Comité International de la Croix Rouge à Genève, Suisse
Delegation aux Etats-Unis d'Amérique

International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva, Switzerland
Delegation to the United States of America

1645 Connecticut Ave. N.W.
Washington 9, D.C.

May 11th, 1943.

Brigadier General O'Dwyer, Executive Director,
War Refugee Board,
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Sir,

We have just received a communication from our Geneva Headquarters, relative to medications shipped to Sarreb, with request that we give you this information. For your guidance, we give you below a translation of the letter received:

"The Joint Relief Commission informs us that following a communication from our Delegate in Zaghed, the shipment of medications valued at Swiss Fr. 23,594.50, against the contribution of $100,000.00 made by the Joint through the War Refugee Board, has arrived in good condition. We would request that you communicate this information to the War Refugee Board."

In order that our files may be kept in order, we would ask you to kindly acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Sincerely yours,

CHARLES HUBER,
Delegate.
MAR 28 1945

Dear Mr. Peters,

This is to acknowledge receipt of and thank you for your letter of March 3, 1945, (8/4/b), quoting for our information the text of a telegram sent to Genoa by the International Red Cross delegate in Bucharest.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) William O'Dwyer

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

Mr. Marc Peter,
International Committee of the Red Cross,
1615 Connecticut Avenue, N. W.
Washington 9, D. C.
Comité International de la Croix Rouge à Genève, Suisse
Délégation aux États-Unis d'Amérique

International Committee of the Red Cross
in Geneva, Switzerland
Delegation to the United States of America

1645 Connecticut Ave. N. W.
Washington 9, D. C.

March 3rd, 1945,

Brigadier General O'Dwyer,
Executive Director,
Executive Office of the President,
War Refugee Board,
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Sir,

We have just received a communication from our Headquarters in Geneva, giving us the text of a telegram dated January 16th, 1945, sent to them by our Delegate in Bucharest. We are quoting this telegram below for your information, as we feel sure that it will prove of interest to you.

"AVONS RECU VISITE GRANDRABBI DOCTEUR SAFRAN
CHIEF SPIRITUAL OF THE JEWS IN ROMANIA PRESENTANT
VOTRE DELEGATION PLUS VOS REMERCIEMENTS POUR
GROSSEUR ET EMPRUNT POUR AIDE APORTÉE
POPULATION JUIVE EN ROMANIE ET AUX DEPORTÉS
EN TRANSPORT PENDANT LES ANNÉES DE PERSECUTION
EN NOUS CHARGANT DE VOUS TRANSMETTRE SES
SENTIMENTS DE GRATITUDE."

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

MARC PETER,
Delegate.

scc.
Dear Mr. Pehle:

At the request of the International Committee of the Red Cross I am transmitting to you enclosed herewith, for the Board's information, a copy of the various relief projects which the I.C.R.C. undertook with the grant of $100,000 the Committee received from the Joint Distribution Committee some months ago.

Very sincerely yours,

Russell D. McClelland
Special Assistant to the American Minister.

P.S. The substance of this report was contained in the Legation's telegram No. 8044, of December 9, 1944.

Enclosed: Report from the I.C.R.C.

John V. Pehle, Esquire
Executive Director,
War Refugee Board,
Washington 25, D.C.
**Concerns** : Empli du don de 100'000 $ = 429'000 Frs.s. du War Refugee Board, en faveur des réfugiés et déportés israélites de différents pays.

L'emploi de ces fonds se justifie comme suit :

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rubrique</th>
<th>Valeur en Frs.s.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) Produits pharmaceutiques</td>
<td>100,000,-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) Transfert de fonds en Roumanie</td>
<td>100,000,-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3) Envoi de vivres</td>
<td>229,000,-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>429,000,-</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Le détail de ces rubriques se présente de la façon suivante :

1) **PRODUITS PHARMACEUTIQUES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nom du Camp</th>
<th>Date d'expédition</th>
<th>Valeur en Frs.s.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bergen-Belsen</td>
<td>24 oct. 1944</td>
<td>19,643,-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30 caisses prêtées à l'expédition</td>
<td>5,550,-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judische Gemeinde, Zagreb</td>
<td>29 nov. 1944</td>
<td>20,667,-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp de Birkenau</td>
<td>11 oct. 1944</td>
<td>16,742,-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theresienstadt</td>
<td>26 juillet 1944</td>
<td>7,808,-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 nov. 1944</td>
<td>7,850,-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JGB - Generalgouvernement Cracovie</td>
<td>26 juillet et août 1944</td>
<td>6,884,-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Réfugiés israélites en Roumanie</td>
<td>5 caisses expédiées, mais qui doit être remboursée</td>
<td>3,800,-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montant total des dépenses</td>
<td><strong>100,000,-</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2) \textit{Transfert de fonds en Roumanie.}

La conversion des Fr.100,000,\textemdash attribuée à l'œuvre de secours pour la Roumanie a donné au cours de 330 Lei pour Fr. \
1,\textemdash un total de Lei 33,000,000,\textemdash qui ont été utilisés comme suit :

| Achat de vêtements et de sous-vêtements pour les rapatriés de Transnistrie | Valeur en Lei |
| Achat de vivres pour le "Bateau Tari" selon détails remis en son temps à M. Silly Mayer, | 15,000,000,\textemdash env. |
| Secours en espèces, vêtements, logements, nourriture aux éprouvés de guerre | 30,000,000,\textemdash |
| | 33,000,000,\textemdash |

3) \textit{Envoi de vivres.}

\textbf{Theresienstadt}

Les 8 et 18 juillet 1944, 8'000 colis en tout ont été envoyés, contenant du fromage, des petits pois, de la marmelade de pommes, des pâtes de lièvre, du sucre, des pâtes et des biscuits, d'une valeur globale de Fr. \ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots 89,000,\textemdash.

\textbf{Birkensau}

Le 11 septembre, 93 caisses contenant des pâtes, des sardines et des pâtes de viande furent expédiées et 20 caisses de sucre ont été directement envoyées de Bratislava à ce camp, envoi se montant à Fr. \ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots 40,000,\textemdash.

\textbf{JUS - Generalgouvernement Cracovie}

Le 31 mai, 14'000 boîtes de conserves hongroises ont été expédiées. Le 2 juillet, 15'000 kilos de potages avec additions de pâtes, marchandise de provenance slovaque et le 27 juin 6'000 kilos de haricots blancs Fr. \ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots 70,000,\textemdash.

\textbf{Camp de Bergen-Belsen}

Au mois de novembre, 2'000 kgs de farine pour potages et 400 caisses de lait condensé, moitié sucré et moitié non-sucre ont été réexpédiées de Ratiborne à Bergen-Belsen, après avoir été précédemment
destinées pour la Hongrie.

Fr. . . 30,000,-
Fr. 229,000,-
Dear Mr. Peter:

Thank you for your letter of December 20, 1944 (6/4/4) enclosing duplicate copies of an extract of the International Red Cross Resumé, concerning relief given by the International Committee of the Red Cross to the inmates of Camp Pruskow.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Marc Peter, Delegate,
International Committee of the Red Cross,
Delegation in the United States of America,
1645 Connecticut Avenue,
Washington 9, D. C.
Mr. J. M. Pehle, Executive Director,
Executive Office of the President,
WAR REFUGEES BOARD,
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Pehle,

We are sending you hereewith, in duplicate, and for your information, an extract of the International Red Cross Revue, treating with the relief given by the International Committee of the Red Cross, to the inmates of Camp Tranckow.

We feel sure that this brochure will prove of interest to you.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

MARC FETTER,
Delegate.

Enclos. 2 brochures.
La Croix-Rouge et les civils polonais
du camp de Pruszkow

Extrait de la Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge
(61° année, no 310, octobre 1944)

GÉNÉVE
COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE
1944
La Croix-Rouge et les civils polonais du camp de Pruszkow

Le représentant à Genève de la Croix-Rouge polonaise à Londres signalait au Comité international de la Croix-Rouge, le 25 août dernier, que, selon un appel transmis par la radio polonaise à Varsovie, 100,000 habitants de la capitale, en grande majorité des femmes, des enfants et des vieillards, rassemblés dans le camp de Pruszkow, à vingt kilomètres environ de Varsovie, manquaient de tout ravitaillement et se trouvaient dans une situation très critique. Des appels pressants au Comité international, émanant de diverses Croix-Rouges et en premier lieu de la Croix-Rouge polonaise à Londres, se succéderent les jours qui suivirent. La population de la capitale polonaise a traversé et traversera encore les plus dures épreuves. Toutefois, comme on le verra plus loin, le message de la radio de Varsovie ne donnait pas une idée très exacte des conditions dans lesquelles se trouvaient les personnes rassemblées au camp de Pruszkow.

Le Comité international de la Croix-Rouge s'adressa aussitôt de la façon la plus urgente aux Gouvernements et aux Sociétés nationales de Croix-Rouge — en l'occurrence les Croix-Rouges allemande, américaine, britannique et soviétique — desquels dépendait en premier lieu l'aboutissement de cette action de secours. Il fit en particulier des démarches en vue d'être autorisé à envoyer sur place aussi vite que possible un membre de sa délégation à Berlin.

Hors-texte.
Le représentant de la Croix-Rouge polonaise avait aussitôt, au nom de son institution, mis des sommes importantes à la disposition de la Commission mixte de secours de la Croix-Rouge internationale, organisme créé par le Comité international de la Croix-Rouge et la Ligue des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge pour venir en aide aux populations éprouvées par la guerre. De son côté, la Croix-Rouge suédoise s'était déclarée prête à s'associer à cette action de secours par un don de 15,000 couronnes. Le Comité international, pas plus que la Commission mixte de secours, ne dispose d'autres fonds que ceux qui lui sont confiés pour des actions déterminées ; d'autres apports eussent été les bienvenus, car il faut de toute évidence des fonds très importants pour être à même d'apporter une aide efficace à des centaines de milliers de personnes, à toute une population dans le malheur. Toute contribution en faveur de la population de Varsovie signifierait une amélioration de son sort et serait accueillie avec reconnaissance.

Les difficultés à résoudre pour mener à bien une telle action de secours ne sont pas uniquement d'ordre financier. Il s'agit en pareil cas pour le Comité international de trouver également les secours matériels nécessaires, d'obtenir l'autorisation de les exporter des pays où ils se trouvent, puis, s'il y a réussi, de les faire parvenir, dans le plus bref délai, aux destinataires, et cela en surmontant de très grandes difficultés.

Le transport rapide de secours dans un camp qui se trouve à proximité immédiate des opérations militaires posé, il va de soi, des problèmes difficiles. Une solution efficace c'est été en l'occurrence que des avions, en nombre suffisant — étant donné qu'ils n'auraient pu emporter que deux à cinq tonnes de secours — parachutassent des vivres et des médicaments. Mais l'envoi d'avions ne peut se faire qu'avec l'assentiment des belligérants et de tous les pays survolés. Les efforts faits immédiatement par le Comité international en voie de réaliser un tel projet se sont malheureusement heurtés à des difficultés insurmontables.

S'il n'a pas été possible au Comité de prélever en faveur du camp de Pruszokow une certaine quantité de vivres sur les secours qui lui sont confiés par les Sociétés nationales de Croix-Rouge pour être remis selon leurs indications à des bénéficiaires déterminés — prisonniers de guerre et internés civils — la Commission mixte de secours de la Croix-Rouge internationale a réussi à faire parvenir au camp de Pruszokow des secours achetés par elle avec les fonds mis à sa disposition par la Croix-Rouge polonaise. Douze wagons expédiés par ses soins avaient quitté la Suisse trois semaines plus tôt à destination de Cracovie, où ils avaient pu parvenir malgré d'énormes difficultés, grâce en particulier aux efforts de la Croix-Rouge allemande. La Commission mixte de secours fit aussitôt toutes les démarches voulues pour que le camp de Pruszokow pût bénéficier d'une aide partielle tout au moins de ces secours. En même temps elle mettait en route de nouveaux envois. Dix wagons, contenant principalement des farines pour soupes, du sucre, du lait condensé, des produits lactés vitaminoés et du biomalt, ont quitté Genève depuis le 19 octobre, et 200 caisses de médicaments, dont une partie avait été donnée par la Croix-Rouge américaine, ont été envoyées aux réfugiés polonais. Le Comité international ne relâche pas ses efforts.

La Croix-Rouge allemande informait bientôt le Comité international que le camp de Pruszokow était un camp de transit destiné à assurer l'évacuation de la population civile de Varsovie, dont les habitants, par milliers, cherchaient à fuir pour s'éloigner des combats qui y faisaient rage. D'après ses indications, le camp de Pruszokow pouvait contenir 50,000 personnes, et le chiffre de son effectif quotidien, au 10 septembre, était d'environ 30,000. Les personnes arrivées le matin en repartaient aussi rapidement que possible en direction du Wartheland. Les soins sanitaires, étant donnés les circonstances, pouvaient être considérés comme satisfaisants. Les nouveaux arrivés étaient aussitôt soumis à un examen médical. Les prêtres et les religieuses étaient libérées.

**Visite du camp de Pruszokow par un représentant du Comité international de la Croix-Rouge.**

Le 13 septembre, la délégation à Berlin du Comité international était avisée qu'un de ses membres était autorisé à visiter le camp de Pruszokow. Monsieur Paul Wyss, celui des collabor-
Croix-Rouge et civils polonais

Teurs du Comité qui fut chargé d'accomplir cette mission, arrivait le lendemain à 3 heures à Cracovie, on compagnie d'un représentant du ministère des Affaires étrangères, qui devait l'accompagner durant tout son voyage et qui accomplissait sa mission avec tact et dévouement. Il y était reçu, à son arrivée, par un représentant du Reich et de la Croix-Rouge allemande. Le 17 septembre, dans l'après-midi, le délégué du Comité international arrivait à Pruszkow, qui est une petite ville industrielle de 24,000 habitants, située à 17 kilomètres du centre de Varsovie, au sud-ouest de la capitale. Le commandant du camp lui déclara aussitôt qu'il se mettait à sa disposition et que toutes facilités lui seraient données pour l'accomplissement de sa mission. Après que M. Wyss eut procédé à une première visite d'ensemble, il fut convenu que les Polonais dirigeant un certain nombre des services du camp — administration, service médical, service pharmaceutique, cuisines, magasin de vivres, envois de Croix-Rouge, etc. — seraient convoqués pour le lendemain matin.

Le jour suivant, à une belle heure, le délégué du Comité eut l'occasion de se rendre compte de la façon dont avait lieu l'évacuation de Varsovie. Dans le décor tragique qu'offrent les maisons démolies et calcinées des faubourgs extrêmes de la capitale, c'est le flot ininterrompu des habitants qui quittent la ville, prenant la direction de Pruszkow. Spectacle lamentable que celui que présentent ces malheureux, affaiblis par les privations, aux vêtements déchirés, dont les visages creusés reflètent les dures épreuves subies durant les sept dernières semaines passées dans des caves, sans lumière et presque sans nourriture. Ils sont sortis de la ville à la faveur de l'obscurité, car l'exode est trop dangereux pendant la journée. Tout ce qu'ils ont pu sauver se trouve dans un sac, une voiture d'enfants, un panier... Dans cette interminable colonne, qui avance péniblement, il y a toutes les conditions et tous les âges, il y a des nouveau-nés et des vieillards, des malades, des infirmes, et des blessés. Le délégué du Comité international et les personnes qui l'accompagnent parviennent jusqu'à l'église qui sert de lieu de rassemblement et de poste de premier secours pour ceux qui cherchent à quitter la ville. Le médecin polonais,

dépêché par son travail de nuit, doit à même le sol. Après un bref entretien avec le praticien, qui lui dit manquer de tout le matériel indispensable et lui confirme que, de 30,000 au début du soulèvement, le chiffre des passages quotidiens est tombé à moins de 4,000, le délégué du Comité international reprend le chemin de Pruszkow.

Arrivé au camp à 10 h. 30, M. Wyss y voit aussi-tôt, comme il avait été convenu, les Polonais y assurant des fonctions : en toute une vingtaine de personnes — qui, elles et leurs services, se dépêchent sans compter — dont le médecin-chef — Mme Jastragia Kiebasańska — et ses collaborateurs, le chef du service pharmaceutique, le président — M. Maschnicki — et les membres du Comité central polonais d'assistance de Varsovie, un ambulable, etc. L'entretien a lieu dans un bureau du bâtiment où sont réunis les services de l'administration du camp, en présence du représentant de l'Auswärtiges Amt. Des déclarations qui sont faites à M. Wyss au cours de cette réunion par les représentants des Polonais, il ressort que le camp de transit de Pruszkow fonctionne depuis la nuit du 6 au 7 août dernier. Les civils polonais qui fuient la zone des combats sont rassemblés dans les faubourgs de Varsovie, puis dirigés sur ce camp. Dès leur arrivée, les personnes qui sont déclarées aptes au travail sont envoyées en Allemagne. Celles qui ne rentrent pas dans cette catégorie sont évacuées dans les différents arrondissements des districts de Varsovie et de Radom, où elles sont libres et trouvent asile tant bien que mal chez l'habitant. Ce sont les médecins polonais du camp qui dressent les listes des personnes incapables au travail et les soumettent, avec leur diagnostic, au médecin-chef allemand, qui confirme ou infirme leurs décisions. Nous reviendrons plus loin sur le douloureux problème que pose la dispersion des familles.

En principe et dans la majorité des cas, les arrivants ne séjournent que quarante-huit heures au camp. Il est arrivé cependant, au moment de la plus grande affluence, que certains y soient demeurés jusqu'à une semaine, faute d'avoir pu être évacués par suite des moyens limités dont disposaient les services allemands.

D'après les contrôles allemands, 238.218 personnes sont
Croix-Rouge
et civils polonais

entrées au camp de Pruszkow du 6 août au 18 septembre.
Sur ce nombre 128,371 ont été déclarées aptes au travail et transportées en Allemagne ; 109,847 ont été déclarées inaptes
au travail et ont été libérées, après avoir été transportées dans
leur nouvelle résidence. Au moment de la visite du délégué du
Comité international, le camp enregistrait de 2 à 4,000 entrées
par jour. Les entrées ont atteint au mois d'août, mais ceci
exceptionnellement, le chiffre de 40,000.

Locaux. — Le camp est installé dans les grands ateliers de
réparation de matériel roulant de la ville. Ce sont d'immenses
bâtiments en maçonnerie de 200 mètres de long sur 100 de large
environ, d'une hauteur de 12 à 15 mètres, recouverts de tôles
en tôle ou de grandes verrières. Il a été logé jusqu'à 8,000 per-
sonnes par halle. Les occupants ne disposent ni de lits, ni de
planches, ni de couvertures, ni de paille, qu'il ne serait gare
possible d'utiliser, étant donné le va-et-vient continu et la
quasi-impossibilité de nettoyer régulièrement les halles.
Le chauffage n'est pas installé, mais devait l'être prochaine-
ement, d'après les déclarations faites au délégué du Comité
international au commandant du camp.

Nourriture. — Les cuisines sont bien organisées. De grandes
chaudières sont continuellement sous pression. Il existe une
cuisine spéciale pour les enfants de un an à un an et demi.
De grands locaux sont utilisés pour les réserves de légumes
et de pain. D'après les précisions fournies au représentant du
Comité international au cours de la réunion susmentionnée,
trois repas par jour sont distribués. Les adultes reçoivent :
le matin : du café noir sans sucre, 250 gr. de pain de très
bonne qualité ;
à midi : une soupe de légumes et de pommes de terre,
sans graisse ni viande ;
le soir : la même nourriture que le matin, avec, en plus,
une soupe de temps à autre ;
les enfants reçoivent :
le matin et le soir : une soupe au lait écrémé, deux fois par
semaine, et une soupe de gruau d'avoine ou de
produits similaires les autres jours ;
VISITE DU CAMP DE PRUSZKOW
Septembre 1944

1. Faubourg de Varsovie. Habitants quittant la ville pour se rendre au camp de Pruszkw 4.
VISITE DU CAMP DE PRUSZKOW
Septembre 1944

2. Faubourg de Varsovie. Habitants quittant la ville pour se rendre au camp de Pruszkow.

Photographie reportée par le délégué du Comité International.

VISITE DU CAMP DE PRUSZKOW
Septembre 1944

3. Faubourg de Varsovie. Une infirme est transportée hors de la ville en direction de Pruszkow.
VISITE DU CAMP DE PRUSKOW
Septembre 1944

VISITE DU CAMP DE PRUSZKOW
Septembre 1944

5. Vue partielle d'une halle.
VISITE DU CAMP DE PRUSZKOW
Septembre 1944

6. Corvée de cuisine.

Photographie prise par le chef du Comité International.

7. Hôpital de Milanowek.
VISITE DU CAMP DE PRUSZKOW
Septembre 1944

8. Homme de Milanowek.

9. Enfant sous-alimenté et blessé,
soigné au hame de Milanowek après sept semaines de privations à Varsovie.

À midi : une soupe semblable à celle qui est mentionnée
ici-dessus, mais plus épaisse.

Vêtements. — Tous ces réfugiés sont restés durant des semaines
dans des caves et ont dû brusquement tout abandonner. Ils
sont, en majorité, habillés de vêtements d'été en très mauvais
état. Depuis six ans, ils n'ont rien pu se procurer, et leurs vê-
tements, déjà très usés, ont beaucoup souffert dans les caves de
Varsovie ou au cours de leur exode. Ils sont pour la plupart
dépourvus de tout — vêtements chauds, sous-vêtements,
chaussures. Les enfants, qui sont tous en haillons, sont dans une
situation encore plus triste. Ils ont froid. Il y a de tout petits
enfants, qui sont venus au monde depuis que le drame n'
commence. Ceux qui sont nés pendant l'exode ou dans le camp
sont presque nus, ou enveloppés dans des chiffons. Or, il fau-
sait déjà froid le soir et le matin dans cette région de la Pologne,
où l'automne est précoce. Il faudrait pouvoir fournir d'urgence
des effets, du linge de corps et des chaussures, même très usages,
pour les centaines de milliers de réfugiés qui ont quitté Varsovie
— pour 400.000 personnes au moins. Il faudrait plus de
10.000 layettes.

Service médical. — Le travail des médecins attachés au camp
de Pruszkow est des plus ardues. Il leur faut accomplir des
tâches multiples et difficiles : médecine interne sans les médi-
caments les plus indispensables, pansements de blessures graves
sans le matériel nécessaire, chirurgie sans les instruments
adéquats.

Soixante médecins, répartis à raison de deux par halle, sont
attachés au camp. Avec les évacués arrivent chaque jour de
nouveaux médecins, qui sont envoyés immédiatement dans les
hôpitaux et lazarets des environs. Les malades sont peu
nombreux au camp même, car ils sont immédiatement évacués
dans les quarante-cinq lazarets situés dans un rayon de trente
kilomètres du camp. Les personnes atteintes de blessures légères
et de maladies peu graves sont rassemblées dans une halle.
Leur nombre est quotidien de l'environ 300 à 400. Ils peuvent s'étendre sur des planches suspendues ou des nattes de
raffia assez épaisse. Des soins médicaux sont donnés dans une
salle de pansement et de petite chirurgie se trouvant au camp même et dans 45 lazarets et hôpitaux, installés dans des écoles, des usines, etc., et comptant chacun de 150 à 400 malades. Il y a une pharmacie au camp même, mais elle est très démunie. Un laboratoire, bien installé à Grodziek-Mazowiecki, ville située à 13 kilomètres de Pruszew, travaille pour les 45 lazarets.

Le délégué du Comité international visite quatre lazarets installés à Milanowek, à 10 kilomètres au sud-ouest de Pruszew, et fonctionnant sous la direction du médecin-chef du camp de Pruszew, Mme Jadriga Kielbasinska, exemple admirable de courage et d'abnégation, qui les a organisés avec des moyens de fortune et fait preuve, de même que ses collaborateurs et collaboratrices, d'un inlassable dévouement. Un lazaret est affecté à la médecine interne, un autre à la chirurgie, le troisième aux maladies contagieuses. Ils sont installés, de façon très rudimentaire, dans des villas et contiennent de 150 à 300 malades au total. Le quatrième est un hôpital d'enfants : grandes salles pavoisées de petits lits blancs en fer, et qui contiennent, lors de la visite du délégué du Comité, 105 enfants de dix jours à un an, 207 enfants de un à cinq ans, 36 mères hospitalisées. Cet établissement, qui tient lieu aussi de maternité, avait particulièrement besoin de secours : les enfants les plus jeunes étaient dans un état de faiblesse extrême, provenant de la sous-alimentation et des semaines passées dans les caves de Varsovie. Il en meurt chaque jour, et il est urgent de leur envoyer ce dont ils manquent.

**Croix-Rouge et civils polonais**

et sont détruits, les lazarets de fortune ne disposent que des instruments que les médecins ont réussi à sauver du désastre. Il n'y a presque pas de draps, point de couvertures, et les malades ont froid, surtout la nuit.

Le délégué du Comité international a rapporté la liste de ce qu'il serait le plus urgent d'envoyer. Cette liste est longue et éloquente.

**Ambulants du camp.** — Il y avait trois aumôniers catholiques au camp même, et il s'en trouve dix dans les divers lazarets des environs. L'aumônier-chef dit la messe tous les dimanches dans les halles. Au cours d'un entretien qu'il eut l'occasion d'avoir avec le représentant du Comité international, il se plaît à reconnaître que l'attitude des Autorités allemandes du camp était, d'une façon générale, correcte. Les Polonais participant à la réunion dont il a été parlé plus haut s'expriment dans le même sens.

**Distribution des envois de Genève.** — A l'arrivée du délégué du Comité international, un wagon expédié de Genève avait été distribué dans le camp même, ainsi que dans un certain nombre des lazarets dépendant du camp. Un deuxième wagon allait être distribué le lendemain. Ces deux wagons, partis de Genève le 2 septembre, sont arrivés à destination les 12 et 13 septembre respectivement. On peut imaginer la joie avec laquelle ils furent accueillis. Une dame polonaise avait été désignée pour tenir une comptabilité rigoureuse des vivres reçus ainsi que des vivres distribués. Le médecin allemand du camp réunit les documents concernant ces deux wagons aux représentants du Comité central polonais d'assistance de Varsovie, en leur donnant toute latitude d'assurer la distribution des vivres et des médicaments comme ils le jugeaient bon. Le rapport sur la distribution des secours contenus dans le premier wagon fut remis au délégué du Comité international, qui inspecta le dépôt prévu pour les vivres reçus de Genève et put se convaincre que la tenue des registres et l'ordre y étaient parfaits. D'autres wagons sont arrivés depuis lors. Mais ce seraient des trains entiers qu'il faudrait pouvoir faire parvenir, car c'est à toute la population qui a dû quitter Varsovie qu'il faudrait venir en aide.
C'est au Comité central polonais d'assistance de Cracovie que les envois de Genève sont maintenant adressés. Cet organisme, dont le président, M. Konstanty Tchorznicki, fait preuve du plus grand dévouement, est le centre de toute l'aide polonaise aux personnes en détresse dans le Gouvernement général, ainsi qu'à celles qui ont été transportées en Allemagne. Il est au courant des besoins et donc à même de procéder à une distribution judicieuse des secours, de diriger les envois, selon les circonstances, sur Pruszkow ou sur un autre point.

Familles dispersées. — Au début, des dizaines de milliers d'hommes et de femmes, transportés en Allemagne, ont été séparés des leurs qui, pas plus que les Autorités allemandes elles-mêmes, ne savent où ils se trouvent maintenant. On peut imaginer l'effet extrêmement démoralisant que produisent ces séparations. Actuellement, l'affluence et les services allemands étant mieux organisés, il est possible de savoir dans quelle région de l'Allemagne se trouvent les personnes qui y sont envoyées. Le Comité central polonais d'assistance de Cracovie reçoit chaque jour des centaines de demandes de nouvelles. Il a créé un service de recherches, dont le travail est rendu très difficile par le manque de matériel et l'affluence toujours plus grande des demandes. Le Comité international s'efforcera d'apporter son aide à ce service si important.

Le délégué du Comité international estima nécessaire, avant de repartir pour Berlin, de s'entretienir avec les Autorités allemandes compétentes des si importants problèmes que pose la séparation des familles. L'assurance lui fut fournie que des ordres formulés avaient été donnés pour que les familles dont les membres sont aptes au travail dans une proportion d'au moins 50% ne soient pas séparées, que ces ordres seraient confirmés, et qu'il serait fait le nécessaire pour que le côté humain de cette question ne fût pas perdu de vue.

Signalons que le Comité international de la Croix-Rouge a obtenu l'autorisation d'envoyer deux de ses délégués dans la Warthegau pour y visiter les camps de réfugiés polonais et que ses représentants s'acquitteront très prochainement de cette mission.
Dear Mr. Peter:

Thank you for your letter of October 12, 1944, (12-4/0), enclosing a copy of a report made by one of your delegates after a visit to Jasenovac, Stara Gradiška and Gradjani Salas.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pohle
J. W. Pohle
Executive Director

Mr. Naro Peter,
Delegate,
International Committee of the Red Cross,
1645 Connecticut Ave., N.W.,
Washington 9, D. C.
Mr. J.W. Pehle,
Executive Director,
Executive Office of the President,
War Refugee Board,
Washington 25, D.C.

October 12th, 1944.

Dear Mr. Pehle,

We have been requested by our Geneva Offices to forward to you a copy of a report made by one of our delegates after the visit of the following camps: Jasenovac, Stara Gradiška and Gredjani Salas. This report is attached herewith for your attention and information and we would ask you to note that it is of a confidential nature.

The International Committee of the Red Cross would be most happy to receive whatever clothing you could procure for distribution to this category of internees.

Very truly yours,

Marc Peter,
Delegate.

Encl. 1 ago.
Barti de Zagreb le 13 juillet, M. Schmidlin, accompagné du Directeur général du Département de la Sécurité publique, du Secrétaire d'Etat de l'Intérieur et du Comité pour les camps de travail près le Département de l'Intérieur, est arrivé le même jour à Jasenovac. De là le début, M. Schmidlin remarque qu'il lui est interdit de s'entretenir avec les internes ou de prendre des photographies dans les camps visités. Le 14 juillet la visite a commencé par des bâtiments qui se trouvent hors du camp soit, un hôpital destiné aux Ustachis. Des médecins, ainsi que le personnel sanitaire de cet établissement, sont recrutés uniquement parmi les internes (juifs et chrétiens). L'hôpital semble bien organisé et dispose de tout le matériel sanitaire nécessaire, ainsi que d'une pharmacie et d'un laboratoire d'analyses. La pharmacie sert au même temps pour l'hôpital, le corps de garde des camps de Stara Gradiska et de Jasenovac et les camps eux-mêmes.

La région de Jasenovac se trouve située à la frontière même du champ d'activité des partisans.

Le 15 juillet notre délégué a pu visiter, en passant, le camp de Jablanac qui se trouve entre Jasenovac et Stara Gradiska. Le camp, situé sur la rive droite et au bord même de la Sava, se compose de quelques constructions assez primitives en briques. Les internes travaillent aux champs sous surveillance permanente d'Ustachi; les hommes et les femmes sont strictement séparés, tant pour le travail que pour le logement à l'intérieur du camp. M. Schmidlin a pu voir environ 140 internés qui semblent de classes sociales très différentes et qui, selon les apparences, se portent assez bien. Les vêtements (lambeaux) et les chaussures (sandalas avec semelles de bois) laissent beaucoup à désirer. A la cuisine du camp on était en train de préparer de la polenta.

Le même jour (15 juillet) M. Schmidlin visite une ancienne forteresse utilisée jusqu'en 1941 comme prison. Le terrain est entouré d'un mur ayant des tourelles pour les surveillants.

Dans ce camp se trouvent internés des hommes, des femmes et des enfants, des Juifs et des Chrétiens (pravoslaves) et même quelques étrangers. Femmes et hommes sont d'artisans ou 220 hommes (Juifs et Chrétiens) sont mieux chaussés que les autres internés. Le camp contient plusieurs ateliers d'artisans ou des machines pour les internés. Le camp contient un moulin et une boulangerie, une fabrique d'eau gazeuse, etc. Environ 45 hommes sont occupés dans ces ateliers et fabriquent de la pâte, du papier, etc.

Dans ce camp, l'ordre règne. Les internés disposent de couvertures, mais le coton est rare. Les internés ont des couchettes. Le camp contient également une maison de travail, une cuisine et une pièce de travail. Il y a une cave où les internés peuvent se réunir. Le camp est entouré d'un mur avec des tourelles pour les surveillants.

Les internés sont logés dans des dortoirs de bois et de pierre. Les dortoirs sont primitifs, mais ont été aménagés. Les internés ont des couvertures, mais manquent de matelas. Les internés ont des vêtements, mais manquent de nourriture. L'eau est très sale et manque. Les internés ont des sanitaires, mais manquent de matériel. Les internés ont des conditions de santé médiocres. Le camp est entouré d'un mur avec des tourelles pour les surveillants.


Comme il est déjà mentionné plus haut, la plupart des internés, hommes et femmes, sont occupés aux travaux des champs en dehors du camp. Les heures de travail sont de 7-12 et de 14-19 h. Les vêtements des internés laissent beaucoup à désirer. Une école fréquentée par 14 enfants fonctionne dans le camp.

Le 16 juillet, M. Schmidlin a assisté à la messe dans la chapelle du camp. Le même jour, il a assisté à une représentation théâtrale, un concert et un match de football. Toutes ces manifestations sont organisées et exécutées par les internés.
Le même jour notre délégué a visité une ferme (GRELJANI Sales) où environ 95 internés (Juifs et Chrétiens) sont employés aux travaux des champs. L'état général des internés a été trouvé satisfaisant tandis que leurs vêtements sont insuffisants. A la cuisine on préparait de la polenta et des légumes.

Le 17 juillet notre délégué a pu visiter le camp de Jasenovac. Constructions en brique entourées de trois côtés d'une muraille et du long par la rivière Save.

A l'intérieur du camp il y a une installation pour la fabrication des briques ainsi qu'une fabrique de chaînes. Environ 70 à 80 internés (surtout des Juifs) sont occupés dans ces ateliers. Ils ont bonne mine, mais sont très mal vêtus. Un atelier et un atelier de menuiserie fonctionnent également dans ce camp. Un moulin et une boulangerie se trouvent à l'intérieur du camp. Il y a même du béton et une fromagerie dont s'occupent 3 internés.

Les dortoirs sont installés dans des baraques en bois. Les couchettes sont en bois, doubles, sans matelas, mais surtout des couvertures en quantité suffisante. L'ordre règne partout. Chaque baraque abrite environ 100 internés.

L'infirmerie est placée dans deux baraques identiques. Les médecins sont tous des internés (Juifs et Chrétiens). Le jour de la visite environ 95 personnes étaient hospitalisées. Les maladies les plus fréquentes sont la r.a.c., le rhumatisme et la malaria. Les produits pharmaceutiques sont fournis par la pharmacie de l'hôpital des Ostachis. Il y a une installation de désinfection qui fonctionne à intervalles réguliers. Le manque de matelas est signalé. Les toilettes sont satisfaisantes.

La partie du camp réservée aux femmes est séparée par une palissade. Les dortoirs sont installés dans deux baraques identiques à celles décrites plus haut. L'ordre règne partout. Les femmes sont surtout occupées aux travaux des champs.


Les internés de Jasenovac portent des brassards distinctifs (jaunes - Juifs; bleu - catholiques; et blanc - pravoslaves). Tous les hommes sont tondues.

La nourriture est insuffisante, ce qui fait que les internés attendent toujours impatiemment les colis (ils en reçoivent souvent jusqu'à 600 par jour).

En conclusion, les constatations générales sont satisfaisantes, abstraction faite de la question vêtements, et des matelas. Il faudrait aussi prévoir des envois de vivres et de médicaments (quoique selon M. Schallies, envoyé américain de produits pharmaceutiques pourrait suffire pour le moment).
Dear Mr. Peter:

Thank you for your letter of October 13, 1944, (7/2/4), enclosing a report showing the relief activities of the Joint Relief Committee of the International Red Cross in favor of Jewish deportees, refugees, and internees in Europe.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. V. Pehle

J. V. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Marc Peter,
Delegate,
International Committee of the Red Cross,
1546 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.,
Washington 9, D. C.
Mr. J.W. Pehle,
Executive Director,
Executive Office of the President,
War Refugee Board,
Washington 25,
D.C.

Dear Mr. Pehle,

Our Geneva Headquarters have requested us to transmit to you for attention and information, the attached report showing the relief activities of the Joint Relief Committee of the International Red Cross in favour of Jewish deportees, refugees and internees throughout Europe.

We feel sure that this document will prove of the greatest interest to yourself and the members of your organization.

Sincerely yours,

MARC PETER,
delegate.

encl. 1
sgo.
OCT 6 1944

Dear Mr. Peters:

Thank you for your letters of September 29 and September 30, 1944 (your references 8/4/3 and 8/5/3), enclosing copies of communications concerning the camp at Pruzhany.

Very truly yours,

J. V. Fabia
Executive Director

Mr. Marc Peter,
Delegate in the United States
of the International Committee
of the Red Cross,
1548 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.,
Washington, D. C.

[Signature]

Leavescript: 10-5-44 S.S. D.
Mr. J. W. Pehle, Executive Director
Executive Office of the President
War Refugees Board
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I am herewith sending you the continuation of the cable which I sent you on September 29th, concerning the visit of Camp Pruszkw by a Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

MARC PETER
Delegate in the United States of the International Committee of the Red Cross

MP/303
1 copy cable
COPY OF INCOMING CABLEGRAM:
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS
DELEGATION IN THE UNITED STATES

Translation

Date received: September 30, 1944

Cablegram received from: Intercroixrouge
Geneva, Suisse

1927. FOLLOWING OUR 19207 BESIDE REPORT OUR DELEGATE GERMAN RED CROSS
COMMUNICATIONS THE FOLLOWING:

MEDICAL CARE PROVIDE GOOD SPECIAL FACILITIES FOR CONTAGIOUS JAIL
7 MILITARY PHYSICIANS PLUS PHYSICIANS AND POLISH NURSES OBSTETRICIANS
AT CAMP STOP NEW ARRIVALS ARE EXAMINED BY PHYSICIANS STOP PATIENTS AND
NURSES DIRECTIONS STOP PERSONNELS ARRIVING IN THE MORNING AT CAMP
LEAVE IN THE EVENING FOR THE DIRECTION OF WARTHAGAU

INTERCROIXROUGE 19245
September 29, 1944

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I am sending you herewith the translation of a cable we received today about the visit of Camp Pruszkow by a Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

Marc Peter
Delegate

Enclosure
COPY OF INCOMING CABLEGRAM:
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS
DELEGATION IN THE UNITED STATES
Réf. S/4/1
S/24/8

Cablegram received from: Intercroixrouge
Genève, Suisse

Date received: September 29, 1944

1223 FOLLOWING OUR B9063 CIOR DELEGATE HAS RETURNED FROM PRUSZKOW ANOUNCES ARRIVAL TWO CARS INTACT 61 MEDICAL PACKAGES STOP URGENTLY REQUESTS FOOD AND DRUGS WHICH COMMISSION (MIXED MEDICAL COMMISSION) IS TRYING TO SEND DISTRIBUTION PARTLY COMPLETED IN PRESENCE DELEGATE STOP 17/9/44 FOUR THOUSAND PEOPLE AT PRUSZKOW CAMP IN TRANSIT 243,000 PEOPLE HAVE PASSED ON WAY TO CAMPS WHICH EMPLOYMENT WE TO DATE IGNORE BUT WHICH WE HAVE REQUESTED TO VISIT STOP RELIEF SPECIALLY DISTRIBUTED TO 45 LAZARETS AROUND PRUSZKOW STOP DELEGATE WILL BE ABLE RETURN ON RECEIPTION NEW SHIPMENTS

INTERCOIXROUGE B9207
Dear Mr. Peters:

Thank you for your memorandum of September 19, 1944 (your 8/4/4) with reference to the authorization received for an International Red Cross Delegate to visit Camp Premium near Varazin. I would appreciate it very much if you would keep me advised of developments in connection therewith.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

J. U. Fehle,
Executive Director.

Mr. Marc Peters,
Delegate in the United States,
International Committee of the Red Cross,
1845 Connecticut Avenue, N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

Copy to: L.

Lileascribbl 8-27-44 L. S. L. 24
MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. J. W. Pehle
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D. C.

For your information I am hereewith enclosing a copy of a cable we have received from the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva concerning no. 1205, visit of IOMO Delegate to Camp Pruszów, near Warsaw.

The Delegate in the United States of the International Committee of the Red Cross
COPY OF INCOMING CABLEGRAM:
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS
DELEGATION IN THE UNITED STATES

Date received: le 18 septembre, 1944

Cablegram received from: Intercroixrouge
Genève, Suisse

1205 HAVING OBTAINED NECESSARY AUTHORISATIONS HAVE INSTRUCTED MEMBER OUR DELEGATION BERLIN TRAVEL IMMEDIATELY TO TRANSITCAMP PRUSZKOW STOP SHALL KEEP YOU INFORMED

INTERCROIXROUGE B9063
H. S. Harrison

I'm

Iles Chauncy (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Akzin, Bohn, Drury, Dubois, Friedman, Getson, Hodel, Laughlin, Lessing, Mannon, Miske, McCormack, Pohlo, Files
AUG 30 1944

Dear Mr. Ryan:

I wish to thank you for your letter of August 28, with which you enclosed a copy of a letter received from a member of the American Red Cross staff in Moscow. Your interest in forwarding this report to us is greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

(R. W. Pehle)

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Philip E. Ryan,
Director of Civilian Relief,
Internal and Foreign Operations,
National Headquarters,
American Red Cross,
Washington, D.C.
Copies sent to:
Mr. Abrahamson
Mr. DuBois
Mr. Friedman
Miss Hodel
Mr. Lesser
Mr. Mann
Mr. Pefle
Mr. J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Secretary
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Mr. Pehle:

For the information of the War Refugee Board, I am attaching copy of a letter recently received from a member of our American Red Cross staff in Moscow, about Jewish refugees in the U.S.S.R.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Philip S. Ryan
Director of Civilian Relief
Insular and Foreign Operations

Encl.
July 17, 1944

Re: Headquarters Letter #318
Jewish refugees in the
U.S.S.R.

Mr. G. Roberts More
Assistant Director, Civilian Relief
Insular and Foreign Operations
American Red Cross
Washington, D.C.

Dear Bob:

Your clearly defined statement concerning
Dr. Tartakower's discussion with you on Jewish refugees
in the U.S.S.R. led us to review the problem carefully.
Our effort did not produce satisfactory results and we
cabled you consequently (RU-205) that it would be useless
to forward the long lists from the World Jewish Congress.

With respect to the lists of general refugees,
we have pursued the subject from every angle, particularly
in connection with the Lithuanians and will be fortunate
if replies are forthcoming even on the small list of 200
refugees with known addresses. The longer Lithuanian list
is simply beyond the scope of the Soviet Red Cross and they
have asked us definitely to cancel the request for a report.
Their attitude is the same toward the prospective list of
Jewish refugees about whom Dr. Tartakower so understandable
is concerned. Theoretically, inquiry service is performed
by the alliance, but practically, the facilities of the
organization are almost entirely absorbed in other more
pressing responsibilities. The Australian Legation, acting
for the Poles, is occasionally successful in obtaining infor-
mation about nonpolitical Polish individuals and there
might be some point in submitting inquiries apertaining
to this group.

In regard to Hungarian and other Jews forcibly
assigned to Nazi Labor Battalions, the Soviet Red Cross
quite readily understands the special situation of these
people but does not see a way to find them and to differen-
tiate between the individuals deserving of recognition and

V. S. S.
those who would still be of a questionable association, from the Soviet point of view, we had submitted this problem prior to the arrival of your letter #318 in the interests of two Hungarian Jews in a like predicament and, although no written statement of policy has been offered, there has been a verbal declination.

We are sincerely sorry that we cannot be more encouraging but this is how the matter stands.

Sincerely yours,

/\ Elliott M. Shirk

Elliott M. Shirk
Assistant Director
American Red Cross
In The USSR
FELDMAN, 37, Qual Wilson, Geneva:

QUOTE Approached by Belgian Legation, E.N. stated its inability to obtain German authorization to visit Jewish camps in Belgium. The fear that a new request would endanger sending foodstuffs these camps.

It is our conviction that by stressing repeatedly the right of treated civilian internees by analogy Geneva Convention, the Red Cross could only improve their situation. Inertial action had Cross Hungarian Jews proves authority this committee could still achieve much, especially at this stage of the war. Besides, wonder whether foodstuffs really reach Jewish internees Belgian camps. Please intervene.

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS. A. Leon Rubowitski. UNQUOTE

Tipo is written to see No. 131.
CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AND McCLELLAND, RWSN, SWITZERLAND

Please transmit the following message to Dr. Gerhard Rieger, 37 Quai Villete, Genoa:

"INTERNATIONAL Red Cross (ICRC) stated its inability to gain access to German Jewish camps in Belgium. ICRC fears that a new request would endanger sending foodstuffs to these camps.

It is our conviction that by stressing repeatedly the right internal Jews should be treated as civilians interned by analogy under Geneva Convention, the Red Cross could only improve their situation. Efforts to obtain further internal changes in the conditions of the camps would still achieve much, especially at this stage of the war. Besides, wonder whether foodstuffs really reach Jewish interned Belgian camps. Please intervene.\n
World Jewish Congress. A. Leon Hubovitzki. UNWNAV.

THIS IS MFB CABLE TO BISH NO. 181"

9:30 a.m.
August 16, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Secy) Abrahamson, Cohn, DaBols, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Nann, Mannion, McCormack, Cable Control Files

L.J.S.£.
Maximal 8/16/44 29

A.FS.
In reply to your request, I am sending you the following message to Dr. Gerhard Biegner, our Geneva representative, through the facilities of the State Department:

"To: Dr. Gerhard Biegner, 3 Quai Wilson, Geneva, Switzerland
From: Dr. A. Leon Kubowitz, World Jewish Congress, 1834 Broadway, New York, N.Y.
August 6, 1944

Dear Mr. Biegner:

I am writing to inform you about the situation in Belgium, where the Belgian government has stated its inability to undertake action to improve the conditions of the Jewish population. They have expressed their concern about the situation of the Jewish refugees in Belgium and have requested that the United Nations send foodstuffs to these camps. I hope you will be able to arrange for this assistance.

I have also been informed by the Belgian authorities that they are considering the possibility of allowing a delegation of the Jewish Congress to visit the Jewish camps in Belgium. I hope that this delegation will be able to provide the necessary assistance.

I am enclosing a copy of the resolution passed by the World Jewish Congress condemning the actions of the Belgian government and calling for the immediate release of all Jewish refugees.

I hope that you will be able to arrange for this assistance and that the situation of the Jewish refugees will improve as a result.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. A. Leon Kubowitz, World Jewish Congress

Note: The document appears to be a letter written in English, discussing a request to send foodstuffs to Jewish camps in Belgium, and mentioning the resolution passed by the World Jewish Congress.
Dear Mr. Pohle:

I ask you to be kind enough to forward to Dr. Riegner of our Geneva Office the following cable through the facilities of the State Department:

Belgian Legation born requested ICHRO visit Jewish camps in Belgium. ICHRO refused ask Germans for such authorization fearing that such demand would endanger their other activities. On account recent affirmation prestige ICHRO request you press for reconsideration this viewpoint. ICHRO should be reminded constantly your arguments July 15 validity of which not impaired by Hungarian action."

Thanking you for giving this matter your attention, I remain

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Leon Kubowitzki, Head
Rescue Department
JUN 27 1944

Dear Mr. Peter:

Thank you for your letter of June 21, 1944, (S/h), with which you transmitted a copy of a letter dated May 12, 1944, from the International Red Cross to the Minister of the United States in Berne.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

J. W. Fehle
Executive Director

Mr. Marc Peter,
Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross,
1640 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.,
Washington 8, D. C.
June 21, 1944

Mr. J. W. Pehle, Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Treasury Department
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

The International Committee of the Red Cross recently sent me two copies of a letter which they addressed to the Minister of the United States in Berne on May 12, 1944, in answer to a communication from the War Refugee Board.

As I understand that you have not yet received a copy of this letter, I am sending you one enclosed. The International Committee has sent, together with the above-mentioned copies, a note to this Delegation reminding me of certain considerations which must be taken into account with regard to relief for Jewish people in Germany and German-occupied territories.

The International Committee observes that its position cannot be compared with that of a government acting as a Protecting Power with a definite mandate from a belligerent nation. The International Committee's activities can be pursued only when admitted by the belligerent governments; and in trying to go beyond these limits, the Committee would run the risk of impairing all possibilities of fulfilling its humanitarian task.

Realities must be faced, and the policies of the German authorities toward the Jewish population must be taken into consideration.
The answer of the International Committee, however, is not merely negative; it is also constructive when it mentions the only way in which in its opinion and experience relief can, through their intervention, be brought to the Jews.

In some of the letters, of which I have forwarded you copies, the Committee mentioned a relief program which it has elaborated in favor of certain groups of civilians, relief which must not be limited to Jews. The Committee will be glad to collaborate with the Board in the execution of this program, and I am ready to discuss it with you whenever it is convenient.

Sincerely yours,

Marc Peter
Delegate

Enclosure
My dear Mr. Minister,

I beg to thank you sincerely for your kind letter of 2 May 1944, in which you reproduce a message from the War Refugee Board, requesting the International Committee of the Red Cross to approach certain Governments with a view to obtaining for Jews and other persons interned treatment comparable with that which is accorded to civilian internees to whom the Geneva Convention relative to the treatment of prisoners of war is applied by analogy, or, failing such treatment, that such persons be placed on an equal footing with civilian internees as regards permission to receive relief.

We desire, in the first place, to point out that steps of this nature by the International Committee would go far beyond the limits of their traditional capacity and that the Governments to whom such a request might be addressed would not fail to view this proposal from that particular angle.

In the provisions of the International agreements the International Committee have only a slender basis upon which to found their humanitarian activities. The letter are, therefore, dependent upon the good will of belligerent States, and can only take practical shape in so far as they are accepted or solicited by the Governments concerned.

Consequently, the International Committee of the Red Cross might lay themselves open to the objection that they were going beyond the limits of their competence, and
trespassing upon the internal concerns of a State, should they attempt to act on behalf of certain categories of persons whom that State considered to be subject exclusively to its domestic legislation.

The exceptional position of the International Committee of the Red Cross as neutral intermediary between belligerent countries precludes their seeking other solutions than those which offer practical hope of realisation, through appropriate action in quarters where the best results may be expected.

The proposal contained in point (1) of the message from the War Refugee Board has, we may add, been submitted on several occasions to the International Committee of the Red Cross by the World Jewish Congress. On each occasion, the International Committee was obliged to answer that the numerous endeavours they had made on behalf of the Jews had invariably met with a negative answer with the exception of certain concessions with regard to relief measures.

Under these circumstances, we must admit that application by our Committee to the German authorities in this matter would not only have a prospect of success, but might even, in the eyes of these authorities, appear — quite unjustifiably — dictated by political rather than by humanitarian motives.

We deeply regret having to confine ourselves to purely relief activities on behalf of persons who do not enjoy the protection of the Convention applicable to prisoners of war and civilian internees. This circumstance is not due to absence of endeavours of all kinds by the Committee on behalf of such persons — irrespective of race — with a view to their assimilation with civilian internees, by reason of their enemy nationality. Unfortunately, not one of these approaches has been successful.

As regards point (2), the International Committee is compelled, in view of experiences in this field, to admit likewise the fact that such application would be considered incompatible with the domestic legislation of the detaining Powers and moreover would constitute serious passage not only to the general activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross on behalf of prisoners of war and civilian internees, but also endanger the limited possibilities which we enjoy of assisting the few groups of persons who are not protected, either directly or by analogy, by international conventions. The International Committee must, it will be remembered, take extreme care that a provision, in which the belligerents have acceded our ministrations, should not be closed to future action.

- 2 -
The same observation applies to the proposal con-
tained in the last paragraph of the message from the War
Refugee Board "to rescue from the occupied areas Jews and
other persons who are victims of persecution". Any such
attempt by the International Committee of the Red Cross
would at once have the most unfortunate consequences for
their entire work -- an eventuality which they cannot
conscientiously envisage.

Since repeated and conclusive experience in this
field leads us to suppose that any steps of this kind would
not only be altogether fruitless, but might even do more harm
than good, the International Committee must, to their regret,
abide by the proposals they have already submitted to the
authorities in Washington and to the Interdepartmental Com-
mittee in London. After careful consideration of the
problems and through exploration of all avenues in other
fields of action, the International Committee are, in other
words, compelled to confine themselves strictly to relief
work, within the limits which circumstances prescribe.

The scheme for the relief of civilian war victims,
irrespective of race and religion, with which the War
Refugee Board is familiar, in to our mind, and for the
present, the only province in which action by the Interna-
tional Committee can produce useful results. Moreover, the
scope of such action can be widened, in obedience to condi-
tions prevailing, only so far as publicity of any kind
is avoided. In this connection, we are happy to assert the
fact that the International Committee have achieved encour-
ging results in the field of relief work. It was largely
due to the kind support given to our suggestions by the War
Refugee Board a short time ago, that relief activities on
behalf of Jews in certain countries could be undertaken.
This work is worth being pursued.

As regards the other countries mentioned in the
message of the War Refugee Board, and in which the Inter-
national Committee are also engaged actively, here too we
must confine ourselves to questions of purely material relief
and we shall be pleased to receive, as soon as possible,
any assistance the War Refugee Board is able to give us,
with a view to our taking practical action along the lines
we have submitted to their consideration on behalf of
civilian war victims without distinction of race or creed.

In certain countries of South-Eastern Europe,
and as far as circumstances allowed, the International
Committee have, nevertheless, been instrumental in facilita-
ting Jewish emigration to Palestine. On 3 May, 1944, we
forwarded to the United States Legation at Bona a note
(0.50/9) on the work done during the preceding months. In
this respect also -- the question concerns primarily safe-
conducts -- the degree of responsibility we are in a posi-
tion to assume, depends not upon ourselves, but on the
extent to which circumstances and the Governments interested
permit.

The International Committee of the Red Cross
would be extremely grateful to you, my dear Mr. Minister,
if you would inform the War Refugee Board of the above
reply, and request them to consider this communication as
confidential, since any publicity given to these matters
can be prejudicial to the same persons whom we are
endeavouring to assist.

I remain, my dear Mr. Minister,

yours sincerely,

Max HUG -
President of the International
Committee of the Red Cross.
The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose herewith a copy of a letter from the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross dated May 12, 1944 on the above-indicated subject, which is in reply to my communication of May 2, 1944 to President Huber.

In my letter of May 2 I transmitted to President Huber the message from the War Refugee Board which was conveyed to me by the Department in its telegram No. 1498 of April 29, 1944. This present despatch is confirmatory, the reply of the International Committee having previously been transmitted to the Department in my telegrams Nos. 3144 and 3147 dated May 17, 1944.

Respectfully yours,

Leland Harrison.

Enclosure:

Copy of letter from International Committee of the Red Cross, May 12, 1944.

File No. 840.1
JMH/ejb
In triplicate to Department.
My dear Mr. Minister:

I beg to thank you sincerely for your kind letter of 2 May 1944, in which you reproduce a message from the War Refugee Board, requesting the International Committee of the Red Cross to approach certain governments with a view to obtaining for Jews and other persons interned treatment comparable with that which is accorded to civilian internes to whom the Geneva Convention relative to the treatment of prisoners of war is applied by analogy, or, failing such treatment, that such persons be placed on an equal footing with civilian internes as regards permission to receive relief.

We desire, in the first place, to point out that steps of this nature by the International Committee would go far beyond the limits of their traditional capacity and that the governments to whom such a request might be addressed would not fail to view this proposal from that particular angle.

In the provisions of the International agreements the International Committee have only a slender basis upon which to found their humanitarian activities. The latter are, therefore, dependent upon the good will of belligerent States, and can only take practical shape in so far as they are accepted or solicited by the governments concerned.

Consequently, the International Committee of the Red Cross might lay themselves open to the objection that they were going beyond the limits of their competences, and trespassing upon the internal concerns of a State, should they attempt to act on behalf of certain categories of persons whom that State considered to be subject exclusively to its domestic legislation.

The exceptional position of the International Committee of the Red Cross as neutral intermediary between belligerent countries precludes their seeking other solutions than those which offer practical hope of realization, through appropriate action in quarters where the best results may be expected.

The proposal contained in point (1) of the message from the War Refugee Board has, we may add, been submitted on several occasions to several

His Excellency
Mr. Leland Harrison,
American Minister,
Legation of the United States of America,
Bern.
several occasions to the International Committee of the Red Cross by the World Jewish Congress. On each occasion, the International Committee was obliged to answer that the numerous endeavours they had made on behalf of the Jews had invariably met with a negative answer, with the exception of certain concessions with regard to relief measures.

Under these circumstances, we must admit that application by our Committee to the German authorities in this matter would not only have no prospect of success, but might even, in the eyes of these authorities, appear--quite unjustifiably--dictated by political rather than by humanitarian motives.

We deeply regret having to confine ourselves to purely relief activities on behalf of persons who do not enjoy the protection of the Convention applicable to prisoners of war and civilian internees. This circumstance is not due to absence of endeavours of all kinds by the Committee on behalf of such persons--irrespective of race--with a view to their assimilation with civilian internees, by reason of their enemy nationality. Unfortunately, not one of these approaches has been successful.

As regards point (2), the International Committee is compelled, in view of experiences in this field, to admit likewise the fact that such application would be considered incompatible with the domestic legislation of the detaining Power, and moreover would constitute serious menace not only to the general activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross on behalf of prisoners of war and civilian internees, but also endanger the limited possibilities which we enjoy of assisting the few groups of persons who are not protected, either directly or by analogy, by international Conventions. The International Committee must, it will be remembered, take extreme care that a province, in which the belligerents have accepted our ministrations, should not be closed to future action.

The same observation applies to the proposal contained in the last paragraph of the message from the War Refugee Board "to rescue from the occupied areas Jews and other persons who are victims of persecution". Any such attempt by the International Committee of the Red Cross would at once have the most unfortunate consequences for their entire work--an eventual which they cannot conscientiously envisage.

Since repeated and conclusive experience in this field leads us to suppose that any steps of this kind would not only be altogether fruitless, but might even do more harm than good, the International Committee must, to their regret, abide by the proposals they have already submitted to the authorities in Washington and to the Intergovernmental Committee in London. After careful consideration of the problem and thorough exploration of all avenues in other fields of action, the International Committee are, in other words, compelled to confine themselves strictly to relief work, within the limits which circumstances prescribe.

The scheme for the relief of civilian war victims, irrespective
irrespective of race and religion, with which the War Refugee Board is familiar, is to our mind, and for the present, the only province in which action by the International Committee can produce useful results. Moreover, the scope of such action can be widened, in obedience to conditions prevailing, only in so far as publicity of any kind is avoided. In this connection, we are happy to stress the fact that the International Committee have achieved encouraging results in the field of relief work. It was largely due to the kind support given to our suggestions by the War Refugee Board a short time ago, that relief activities on behalf of Jews in certain countries could be undertaken. This work is worth being pursued.

As regards the other countries mentioned in the message of the War Refugee Board, and in which the International Committee are also engaged actively, here too we must confine ourselves to questions of purely material relief, and we shall be pleased to receive, as soon as possible, any assistance the War Refugee Board is able to give us, with a view to our taking practical action along the lines we have submitted to their consideration on behalf of civilian war victims without distinction of race or creed.

In certain countries of South-Eastern Europe, and as far as circumstances allowed, the International Committee have, nevertheless, been instrumental in facilitating Jewish emigration to Palestine. On 5 May, 1944, we forwarded to the United States legation at Bern a note (6.39/5) on the work done during the preceding months. In this respect also--the question concerns primarily data-conducts--the degree of responsibility we are in a position to assume, depends not upon ourselves, but on the extent to which circumstances and the Governments interested permit.

The International Committee of the Red Cross would be extremely grateful to you, my dear Mr. Minister, if you would inform the War Refugee Board of the above reply, and request them to consider this communication as confidential, since any publicity given to these matters can be prejudicial to the same persons whom we are endeavouring to assist.

I remain, my dear Mr. Minister,

Yours sincerely,

MAX HUBER
President of the International Committee of the Red Cross.
A fifteen paragraph letter dated May 12 has been received from the President of IRO, Mr. Max Hober, in reply to my May 3 letter which contained information set forth in April 29 telegram No. 2493 from the Department. By May 17 telegram No. 3147 transmitted first thirteen paragraphs of text of Huber's letter under reference, in which "subjects" means "the Jews," "imperial" means "European authorities," "League" means "World Jewish Congress," "respondents" means "the International Committee of the Red Cross," and "Inquirer" means "War Refugee Board.

The following is a paraphrase of paragraph fourteen:

Nevertheless as far as conditions permitted IRO have been instrumental in facilitating emigration of Jews from some southeastern European countries to Palestine. Memorandum dated May 5 describing work done has been furnished U. S. Legation at Berlin by us. (Note from Legation: If and when mailing facilities permit, copy will be forwarded by microfilm.) As regards responsibility which we can assume primarily in matter of safe conduct for vessels it does not depend upon ourselves but rather on interested governments and circumstances.

As regards fifteenth paragraph: It is desire of IRO that War Refugee Board be informed but that since any publicity can be prejudicial to same persons we are trying to help, it requests that communiques be kept confidential.

HARRISON

CC: Secretary, Abrahamson, Cohen, Cohen, Bernstein, Dubois, Friedman, Hals, Gart, Laughlin, Lesser, Lusker, Mann, Mauer, Marks, McCormack, Rain, Sargent, Smith, Standlee, Stewart, Weisn exceedingly in. D. White, Fables, Files.
...
Seven. Under these circumstances we must admit that application by respondents to emigrate in this matter would not only have no prospect of success but might even in case of success appear quite unjustifiable - dictated by political rather than by humanitarian motives.

Eight. We deeply regret having to confine ourselves to purely relief activities on behalf of persons who do not enjoy protection of convention applicable to prisoners of war and civilian internees. This circumstance is not due to absence of endeavors at all kinds by respondents on behalf of such persons - irrespective of race - with view to their assimilation with civilian internees by reason of their enemy nationality. Unfortunately not one of these approaches has been successful.

Nine. As regards point two respondents are compelled in view of experiences in this field to admit likewise fact that such application would be considered incompatible with domestic legislation of detaining powers and moreover would constitute serious menace not only to general activities of respondents on behalf of prisoners of war and civilian internees but also endanger limited possibilities which we enjoy of assisting few groups of persons who are not protected either directly or by analogy by international conventions. Respondents must it will be remembered take extreme care that prejudice in which belligerents have accepted our administrations should not be closed to future action.

Ten. Same observation applies to proposal contained in last paragraph of message from ENQUIER "to remove from the occupied areas subjects and other persons who are victims of persecution". Any such attempt by respondents would at once have most unfortunate consequences for their entire work - an emergency which they cannot conscientiously envisage.

Eleven. Data of repeated and conclusive experience in this field lead us to suppose that any steps of this kind would only be altogether fruitless but might even be more harmful than good respondents must be to their reputation by proposals they here already submitted to authorities in Washington and to Inter-Governmental Committee in London. After careful consideration of problem and exploration of all avenues in other fields of action respondents are in other words compelled to confine themselves strictly to relief work within limits which circumstances prescribe.

Twelve. Scheme for relief of civilian war victims irrespective of race and religion with which ENQUIER is familiar is to our mind and for present only probable in which method by respondents can produce useful results.
results. Moreover scope of such action can be widened in obedience to conditions prevailing only insofar as publicity of any kind is avoided. In this connection we are happy to stress fact that respondents have achieved encouraging results in field of relief work. It was largely due to kind support given us our suggestions by INQUIRER short time ago that relief activities on behalf of subjects in certain countries could be undertaken. This work is worth being pursued.

Thirteenth. As regards other countries mentioned in message of INQUIRER and in which respondents are also engaged actively here too we must confine ourselves to questions of purely material relief and we shall be pleased to receive as soon as possible any assistance INQUIRER is able to give us with view to our taking practical action along lines we have submitted to their consideration on behalf of civilian war victims without distinction of race of creed.

NARRISON

1214

[Names]

Gilbert E. Wylie, New York, New York, July 23, 1944

To

The Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to express my concern regarding the current situation in the Middle East and to request your assistance in addressing a specific issue.

Recent reports have indicated that there is an increasing number of refugees and displaced persons in the region, particularly those from the Middle East. The humanitarian crisis is worsening, and the situation is becoming dire.

I am aware of the complex geopolitical landscape and the challenges involved in providing aid and assistance in such situations. However, I believe that it is crucial that we act swiftly to address this crisis.

I am attaching relevant documents and studies that highlight the scope of the problem and the need for urgent action. I urge you to consider these materials and to take necessary steps to alleviate the suffering of those affected.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

Gilbert E. Wylie

[Signature]
Agency requested the Committee, however, to secure the Bulgarian Government's permission for the transit of a number of Jewish children from Rumania and Hungary. The Bulgarian Government gave a favourable reply to this demand.

The Committee was furthermore requested to notify the next-of-kin of persons in whose name immigration visas to Palestine were being issued, and of whom lists were furnished. The Committee could not see their way to satisfying this demand, since they had learned that the British authorities had decided to deal with the problem of Jewish emigration through the channel of the Protecting Power. The Committee therefore handed the said lists to the Swiss Government until, on January 22nd, 1943, the British Legation asked to receive them.

In the meantime, the Turkish Government authorized the transit of a number of Jewish emigrants by the Taurus Express, and parties of Jews were conveyed, through Rumania, wholly by rail. In this matter also, the Committee and their representatives, acting at the request of the Jewish organizations concerned, made repeated application to various authorities, with a view to securing the necessary permits and facilities.

In March 1943, the Committee were again asked by the Jewish Agency to grant their protection to transports by sea. Following on the increase of immigration permits to Palestine for Jews from Eastern Europe, and seeing the limited number of emigrants (a few hundred monthly) who were allowed to travel through Turkey, the Jewish Agency attempted to organize transports by sea from Bedenagatch to Haifa. The Committee at once agreed to allow the use of their emblem, and to apply to the belligerent States, as soon as a neutral vessel had been chartered by the organizations concerned.

On April 5th, 1943, the Committee, through their representative in London, submitted a note to the Foreign Office concerning Jewish relief. The question of Jewish emigration was alluded to in the following terms:

"Finally, the International Red Cross Committee wish to draw the attention of the Foreign Office to the following problem:

"Private organisations in the Balkan States-in Rumania in particular-as well as the World Jewish Congress, have urged the International Red Cross Committee to assist in organizing the emigration of Jews to Palestine.

"For the time being, and as long as they have received no official request, the International Committee do not contemplate any other course of action than to provide for the transport by sea of Jewish emigrants traveling to Palestine under the protection of the Red Cross emblem, as is already done in the case of ships carrying consignments for prisoners of war between Lisbon and Marseilles."
"The terms upon which the International Committee authorize the use of their particular emblems are the following:

1) Neutral vessels shall be chartered by the organizations concerned;

2) The costs involved shall be borne wholly by these organizations;

3) The ships shall be accompanied by convoy agents of the International Committee;

4) The ships shall serve solely for the transport of emigrants, to the exclusion of any other persons or cargoes.

The International Committee would greatly appreciate information as to the views of the British authorities on this matter, and would be glad to learn whether they would be, in principle, prepared to lend their support to an action of the International Red Cross Committee carried out within the limits indicated above."

A reply to this note was received only on June 9th, the British Consulate in Geneva informing the Committee that the British authorities were considering the possibility - in case no other means offered - of chartering the "Lynn Drottningholm" for the transport of Jews from Turkey to Haifa, and asking that appropriate steps be taken with the German and Italian Governments for the transfer of this vessel from the Baltic to Istanbul. The Consulate further informed us that the British Government agreed to the conditions specified in our note, and hoped that the ship would sail under the Committee's auspices, if the safe conduct were secured. Although the Committee knew by experience that there was no hope of the German Government's allowing the vessel to leave the Baltic, they submitted the matter to the said Government, while drawing the British Government's attention to the small prospect of carrying out this project.

Meanwhile the Bulgarian authorities had suspended the transit visas granted to a party of Jewish children from Rumania. In reply to their request, the Committee were informed by the Bulgarian Legation at Berne that, owing to police considerations, the Bulgarian Government were unable, for the present, to grant the said parties of children permission to travel through the country.

During the months of May and June 1943, a special delegation of the International Committee visited Eastern Europe, and especially Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria. Local Jewish organizations were consulted, and the particular attention of the authorities and of Red Cross Societies was drawn to the importance of the problem of Jewish emigration, and to the desirability of exploring with the greatest care all avenues that might lead to its favourable solution.

At the same time, our delegate in Bucharest informed us that
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that the Rumanian Red Cross was trying to find shipping for the transport of Jewish emigrants, and that the Rumanian Government was anxious that the Committee should grant the use of their emblems, and were applying for a German permit allowing such vessels to sail. The Committee then studied the possibility of organizing transports through the Black Sea, and of purchasing or chartering ships for this purpose.

On July 5th, 1943, our representative at Ankara was instructed to obtain from the various Embassies the agreement in principle to issue American, British, German and Italian safe conducts for certain Turkish vessels secured by the Jewish Agency for Palestine. We moreover requested our delegate to obtain assurances that these voyages could be undertaken in proper conditions of safety. In reply the Jewish Agency informed us that the British Legation in Berne would give the Committee directly the desired information. On July 9th, 1943, the Committee wrote to the said Legation. Replying on July 10th, the latter informed the Committee that, acting on instructions from its Government, it had made application in this matter to the Protecting Power.

Subsequently, our delegation at Ankara advised us that the utilization of Turkish vessels was out of the question.

On August 4th, the British Consulate at Geneva informed the Committee that there was no further occasion to employ the "Lynn Drottningholm" for transporting Jews, since the S.S. "Sontay" was available for that purpose. The Committee has not learned the issue of the proposal to make use of the "Sontay". During the following months, the Committee remained in contact with the Hungarian, Rumanian, Bulgarian and Turkish Governments, with a view to securing the necessary facilities for Jewish emigration, and were meanwhile pursuing negotiations in other quarters for the purpose of chartering a vessel.

On December 19th, 1943, the Committee received a telegram from Dr. J. Costinescu, President of the Rumanian Red Cross, stating that with the consent of the Government, the Red Cross was planning to send to Istanbul, in about a fortnight's time, and afterwards weekly, parties of Jewish child emigrants, between the ages of ten and sixteen. The Rumanian Red Cross requested the Committee to apply to the belligerent parties with a view to safeguarding the steamer "Bollaoitta", sailing under the Bulgarian ensign and the Rumanian Red Cross flag, between Constanza or Mangalia and Istanbul. As regards Russia, the Rumanian Red Cross had applied to the Turkish Red Crescent.

On receiving the necessary data concerning the vessel and the proposed trips, the Committee applied on January 4th, 1944, through the Consulates at Geneva, for the American, British and German safe conducts for the "Bollaoitta".

The Red Crescent and the Turkish Foreign Office having declined the request made by the Rumanian Red Cross, that they
they should ask the Soviet Government for free passage, the British Embassy at Ankara, acting on the wish expressed by our delegation, submitted the matter to the Foreign Office which agreed to approach the USSR in the matter. With the exception of the German Government, all the Governments concerned have granted their safe conducts to the "Bellaclita". A further request made to the German Consulate in Geneva on February 29th has met with no reply. We thereupon offered the Rumanian Red Cross to notify the belligerents of the journeys of the "Bellaclita" without awaiting the safe conduct, should the Rumanian Red Cross deem it impossible to delay the proposed transports any longer. In this case, however, the vessel could not enjoy the benefit of protection by the Red Cross emblem. Difficulties arose meanwhile and prevented the emigrants from embarking, the organizers having been arrested in Rumania. The question remained in suspense, and it was only on March 27th, 1944, that our delegate was able to inform the Committee that the sailing would take place on April 3rd. The departure was notified to the belligerents concerned, but was postponed, first to the 9th, and then to the 14th of April. Finally, the "Bellaclita" arrived at Istanbul on April 24th.

While the Rumanian Red Cross was thus organizing this emigration, the Jewish institutions in Turkey and Rumania were endeavoring to arrange for transports by sea and by land. At the end of March, 243 emigrants left on a small Bulgarian steamer, the "Milka" without protection and without any Turkish visa. On April 8th, 245 refugees reached Istanbul on the "Maritza", also sailing without protection.

In the hope of securing shipping for the transportation of emigrants under the Red Cross emblem, the Committee negotiated for the purchase of two modern Rumanian passenger steamers, the "Transylvania" and the "Bessarabia".

On March 20th, our delegate at Ankara informed us that the Turkish Government had agreed to a Turkish vessel being put at the disposal of the International Committee for the transportation of 1,500 Jewish emigrants from Constanza to Haifa.

On March 24th we received from our delegate in Ankara the necessary details concerning this vessel, the "Turi", of 4,000 tons. On the same day application was made for a German safe conduct, through the channel of the German Consulate in Geneva. Instructions were further given to our delegate to request the German Embassy at Ankara to recommend our application in Berlin.

The Committee have also been informed that the Rumanian Government are endeavouring to secure the approval of the German authorities to the proposed scheme of emigration by means of the "Turi", to sail under the auspices of the International Committee.
No reply has yet been received on this matter from the German authorities.

The above notes furnish only a summary of the evolution of the emigration problem as it has been placed before the Committee. No mention is made of the numerous steps taken by the Committee and by numbers of their delegates, who have been in almost daily consultation with the authorities and the organizations concerned, with a view to removing the obstacles which constantly thwarted the execution of every project. These plans have also been ceaselessly modified, in consequence of difficulties arising. The Committee were happy to serve as intermediaries, whenever private organizations requested their assistance in facilitating emigration. The problem as a whole was beyond their scope, since the question of immigration into Palestine was, until a short time ago, considered by the Governments interested -- with the exception of the Rumanian Government -- as a matter to be dealt with through the intermediary of a Protecting Power.

The International Committee have always been ready to grant the use of their emblems and their guarantee to neutral vessels which were to be placed at their disposal for the transport of emigrants. This guarantee is, however, subject to two conditions:

1) that the emigrants hold entrance visas for Palestine;

2) that all Governments concerned grant free passage to the vessel.

Very truly yours,

Pour le Comité International de la Croix Rouge:

R. GALLOPIN

Directeur de la Division des Prisonniers internés et civils.
Résumé chronologique de l'activité
du Comité International de la Croix-Rouge
relative à l’émigration de Juifs de Roumanie,
de Bulgarie et de Hongrie.

1942
30 mars - Le Comité International de la Croix-Rouge est
informé par son délégué à Ankara que M. Barlas,
de l'Agence juive pour la Palestine à Istanbul,
désire savoir si la ligne de la Croix-Rouge
peut-être apposé sur un bateau dont il dispose
en ce moment pour le transport d'enfants juifs
entre Constantza et Istanbul.

31 mars - Le Comité International communique à son délégué
d’à Ankara les conditions auxquelles les transports
enviagés pourraient se faire sous ses auspices,
asie : obtention des suis-conduits de la part des
gouvernements belligérants intéressés; observa-
tion des règles auxquelles sont soumis les
navires au service du Comité International;
garanties relatives à une bonne organisation
des transports, etc.

28 avril - Le Comité International demande à son délégué
d’à Ankara quelle suite fut donnée au projet du
transport par bateau mentionné ci-dessus.

18 mai - Le Comité International est informé par son
délégué qu’il est intervenu auprès du Ministère
des Affaires Étrangères turo en vue d’obtenir
l’autorisation de transit de principe. Celle-
ci ne pourra être donnée que lorsqu’une auto-
risation d’entrée en Palestine aura été délivrée
par l’ambassade britannique à Istanbul. Par la
même occasion le délégué du Comité International
à Ankara fait part que M. Barlas est en pour-
parler pour l’achat ou l’affrètement du bateau
grec "Ily".

31 mai - Le Comité International est avisé par son
délégué à Ankara que le programme du voyage
est modifié. Les enfants se rendraient de
Budapest et de Bucarest à Istanbul par voie
ferée via Sofia. D’Istanbul à Merdine ou
Alexandrette le voyage se ferait par bateau
turo sans nécéssité d’une participation du
Comité International, et le dernier trajet
s’effectuerait par train. Le Comité Inter-
national est sollicité d’obtenir l’autorisation
de transit bulgare.

3 juin - Le Comité International reçoit de son délégué à
Ankara une liste des candidats à l’émigration
ainsi qu’une note de M. Barlas faisant mention
de l’obtention de 270 certificats d’immigration
en Palestine, donnant des renseignements sur
l’organisation
l'organisation du voyage, informant que les enfants seront identifiés par les soins des consuls de Suisse à Budapest et Bucarest, enfin, demandant au Comité International d'intervenir pour que le transit bulgare et turc soit accordé.

5 juin - Télégramme du Comité International au Gouvernement bulgare lui demandant d'autoriser le passage d'un convoi de 200 enfants juifs de Roumanie et de Hongrie. Le Comité International adresse le même jour un télégramme à son délégué à Ankara le priant d'obtenir la même autorisation de la part des Autorités turques.

13 juin - Télégramme du Secrétaire général aux Affaires Étrangères à Sofia informant le Comité International que le Gouvernement bulgare autorise le passage à travers la Bulgarie d'un convoi de 200 enfants juifs se rendant en Palestine si le Gouvernement turc est d'accord de donner une autorisation analogue, et priant le Comité International d'aviser les autorités bulgares à l'avance de l'arrivée du convoi en Bulgarie afin que les formalités pour les visas puissent être réglées en temps utile.

18 juin - Le Comité International donne connaissance du télégramme ci-dessus à son délégué à Ankara en le priant de bien vouloir faire le nécessaire pour l'obtention du visa bulgare.

22 juin - Le Comité International met l'Agence juive pour la Palestine à Genève au courant des démarches entreprises.

23 juin - L'Agence juive pour la Palestine à Genève prétend que le Comité International d'intervenir auprès du Département Politique Fédéral afin que celui-ci donne suite à la demande de la Légation britannique à Berne de procéder à l'identification, par l'intermédiaire de ses agents consulaires à Budapest et Bucarest, des 200 enfants autorisés à émigrer en Palestine.

4 juil. - Le Comité International est informé par son délégué à Ankara que M. Barlas demande également l'intervention du Comité International dans cette question d'identification.

9 juil. - Le Comité International informe l'Agence juive à Genève qu'il ne lui paraît pas possible d'intervenir auprès du Département Politique Fédéral pour une question traitée par la Légation britannique.


5 août - Le Comité International informe l'Agence juive à Genève...
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Geneva qu'il ne voit pas la nécessité de désigner un agent-convoyeur du Comité International, étant donné que c'est entre les mains d'une Puissance Protectrice que les Autorités britanniques ont placé le problème de l'immigration en Palestine des enfants juifs.

30 octobre - Le Comité International reçoit de son délégué à Ankara les conditions auxquelles le Ministère des Affaires Étrangères turc aurait accordé le transit pour 270 enfants, et est informé que M. Barlas invite pour avoir un agent-convoyeur du Comité International.

19 nov. - Le Comité International reçoit confirmation du côté suisse que la question de l'immigration des enfants juifs est effectivement entre les mains de la Suisse agissant sur demande britannique, comme Puissance Protectrice.

24 nov. - L'Agence juive à Genève donne au Comité International des renseignements sur la situation actuelle de la question de l'émigration des 270 enfants juifs répartis comme suit: 122 pour la Hongrie et 148 pour la Roumanie. Les 122 enfants de Hongrie ont été identifiés en possession d'un visa de transit bulgare et turc; un petit groupe de 50 de ces enfants aurait dû s'embarquer le 23 novembre. Pour les 148 enfants de Roumanie le visa de transit bulgare aurait été refusé. L'Agence juive demande une lettre du Comité International pour la Légation de Bulgarie à Berne afin que celle-ci intervienne auprès de son Gouvernement.

4 déc. - Le Comité International demande à la Légation de Bulgarie d'intervenir auprès du Gouvernement bulgare en faveur du visa de transit des 148 enfants juifs de Roumanie.

22 déc. - Le Comité International reçoit de son délégué à Ankara un télégramme l'informant que le visa de transit bulgare n'a pas encore été accordé pour les enfants de Roumanie.

23 déc. - Le Comité International reçoit de son délégué à Ankara la liste des personnes qui obtiendraient, dès leur arrivée à Istanbul, le visa palestinien et le visa de transit syrien. Le Comité International est en outre prié d'avertir les familles en question.

6 janvier - L'Agence juive pour la Palestine informe le Comité International que les difficultés de transit pour la Bulgarie ont été aplanies et nous signale que des difficultés de transport ont par contre surgis à Budapest le 25 novembre. Les Autorités allemandes, qui contrôlent la navigation sur le Danube, ont retiré l'autorisation hongroise d'embarquer.
barquer les enfants juifs sur un vapeur danubien. Il a donc fallu obtenir encore un visa roumain afin de pouvoir partir par rail et le premier groupe pourra partir dans le courant de la semaine.

11 janvier - L'Agence juive à Genève informe le Comité International qu'un premier groupe d'enfants est arrivé en Bulgarie le 8 courant et est reparti le même jour pour Istanbul. Elle demande si les listes à communiquer aux personnes intéressées sont parvenues au Comité International.

14 janvier - La Légation de Bulgarie confirme au Comité International que l'accord pour le transit a été accordé à condition que le Comité International lui communique les renseignements demandés pour délivrer les visas.

18 janvier - Le Comité International informe l'Agence juive à Genève qu'il transmettra les listes aux autorités suisses puis qu'elles sont chargées par le gouvernement britannique de traiter la question, c'est donc elles qui transmettront les informations nécessaires aux intéressées.

22 janvier - La Légation britannique à Berne, se référant à la lettre du Comité International du 19 janvier adressée à l'Agence juive, demande au Comité International de lui remettre les listes qui parviennent au Comité International.

11 février - L'Agence juive à Genève donne au Comité International un exposé de la situation. Le gouvernement britannique aurait accordé 500 autres permis d'immigration pour enfants juifs venant de Roumanie et de Hongrie, et 4500 permis pour la Bulgarie comprenant 4000 enfants et 500 adultes.

23 février - Le Comité International reçoit de son délégué à Bucarest copie d'une lettre de la Compagnie des Wagons-Lits demandant si le Comité International pourrait reprendre les pourparlers que M. Barlas avait entamés à Stockholm en vue de détourner un bateau suédois pour le transport des juifs.

6 mars - Le Comité International reçoit de son délégué à Ankara le télégramme suivant : "Vous informerez à Istanbul 50 enfants émigrés Bulgarie - Passeront ce soir à Ankara par Taurus Express."

12 mars - Le Comité International reçoit de son délégué à Ankara un télégramme disant que M. Barlas l'a informé qu'il pourra disposer de 5000 visas palestiniens et que la Bulgarie semble disposée à accorder le transit, ce qui éviterait la navigation sur la Mer Noire et permettrait d'embarquer les émigrants à Dedaghatche. M. Barlas aurait
aurait d’autre part obtenu une offre de bateaux suédois avec option jusqu’au 15 mars, mais il demande si d’autre côté les bateaux suédois "Bardaland" et "Fenris" seraient disponibles pour un ou deux voyages de Dedéghatch à Alexandrette. Y aurait-il possibilité de placer ces transports à vos dispositions du Comité International? Cette proposition a été substituée dans la suite par une autre.

13 mars - Le Comité International est informé par son délégué à Bucarest qu’un premier convoi de 75 enfants doit partir le 14 mars par chemin de fer via Bulgarie et Turquie.

16 mars - Le Comité International reçoit de son délégué à Ankara un télégramme l’informant que M. Darlas a obtenu une prolongation au 15 avril pour l’option du bateau suédois "Oresund" et que, d’autre part, deux bateaux suédois seraient disponibles, le s/s "Akbal" et le s/s "Uygin".

18 mars - Le Comité International envoie un télégramme à son délégué à Ankara pour demander des précisions sur l’organisme responsable des transports envisagés, en l’informant que les signes du Comité International pourraient être accordés à condition que le Comité International soit sollicité par l’organisation responsable et que des garanties soient fournies quant à l’organisation des transports.

19 mars - Le Comité International envoie le même télégramme à son délégué à Bucarest.

24 mars - Le Comité International est informé par son délégué à Ankara que l’organisme responsable est l’Agence juive pour la Palestine, que M. Darlas est compétent pour la mise en service des navires et les questions financières et que les navires seront qualifiés par l’ambassade britannique.

25 mars - L’attention du Comité International est officieusement attirée sur le fait que son activité risque de faire double emploi avec les dispositions prises par l’intermédiaire de la Puissance Protectrice.

30 mars - Le Comité International informe son délégué à Ankara qu’il consent à accorder ses signes mais qu’il ne pourra entreprendre des démarches auprès des gouvernements intéressés avant que les conditions communicées en Mai 1942 ne soient remplies.

8 avril - Le Comité International est informé par son délégué à Bucarest que la Légation de Bulgarie à Bucarest a notifié à la Centrale Juive de renvoyer le départ prévu pour le 6 avril.

5 avril -
5 avril - Le Comité International envoie à une Délegation à Londres une Note pour le Foreign Office, dont
nous extraisons le passage suivant:

"Finally, the International Committee wish to draw the attention of the Foreign Office to the
following problem:

"Private organisations in the Balkan countries (in Rumania in particular) as well as the World Jewish Congress, have urged the
International Committee of the Red Cross to help in organising the emigration of Jews of
Palestine.

"For the time being, and as long as they have not received any official request, the
International Committee do not contemplate any other course of action than to provide for the
transport by sea of Jewish emigrants travelling to Palestine under the protection of the Red
Cross emblem, as is already done in the case of ships carrying consignments for prisoners
of war between Lisbon and Marseilles.

"The terms upon which the International Committee of the Red Cross authorise the use of
their particular signs are the following:

1) Neutral ships shall be chartered by the organisations concerned.

2) The expenses involved shall be entirely met by these organisations.

3) The ships shall be accompanied by convoy-agents of the International Committee.

4) The ships shall serve solely for the transport of emigrants, to the exclusion of any
other persons or cargoes.

"The International Committee of the Red Cross would greatly appreciate being informed of the views of the British Authorities on
this matter and would be glad to know whether they would be in principle prepared to lend
their support to an action of the International Committee of the Red Cross carried out within
the limits indicated above."

4 avril - Le Comité International reçoit par l'intermédiaire de son délégué à Bucarest copie d'une lettre du
Président itérinaire du Conseil des Ministres, M. Mihai Antonescu, donant l'accord du Gouverne-
ment roumain à l'émigration juive.

15 avril
15 avril - Le Comité International envoie une lettre à la Légation de Bulgarie à Berne l'informant qu'il vient d'être avisé par l'Agence juive que les visas de transit de 74 enfants, du groupe de 270, dont le passage avait été autorisé, viennent d'être suspendus par ordre du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères à Sofia, et le priant d'intervenir pour que cette question soit reconsidérée.

16 avril - Le Comité International est informé par son délégué à Ankara que M. Barlas de l'Agence juive pour la Palestine lui avait déclaré avoir obtenu l'accord de principe de L'Ambassade britannique pour le transport par bateau d'enfants juifs entre Istanbul et Haïfa.

20 avril - Le Comité International demande à son délégué à Ankara de prier l'Ambassade britannique de bien vouloir communiquer au Comité International l'accord du Foreign Office pour les transports envisagés et lui faire savoir que les certificats d'immigration sont accordés. Le Comité International lui demande en outre de veiller à ce que le navire envisagé soit soumis à l'expertise du Lloyd et d'obtenir des assurances concernant les conditions et la nourriture à bord et le priant de trouver un convoyeur du Comité International sur place.

26 avril - Le Comité International reçoit un télégramme de son délégué à Ankara répondant au précédent et communiquant que M. Barlas reprend les pourparlers pour un bateau turc. Le délégué ajoute qu'un convoyeur suisse a été trouvé sur place.

7 avril - Le Comité International reçoit de son délégué à Ankara copie d'une Note de M. Barlas concernant le plan du transport remis à l'Ambassade britannique.

15 mai - Lettre de la Légation de Bulgarie à Berne informant le Comité International que pour des raisons de police le Gouvernement bulgare ne peut pas accorder actuellement l'autorisation de transit pour le groupe d'enfants roumains devant se rendre en Palestine.

Mai - Le Lt. Colonel Chapuisat, Membre du Comité International de la Croix-Rouge, se rend à Sofia et à Bucarest et appuie personnellement les efforts déployés en vue d'obtenir le concours des Gouvernements bulgare et roumain pour l'émigration des juifs.

27 mai - Lettre du Colonel Chapuisat, de passage à Bucarest, informant le Comité International que la Croix-Rouge
Rouge roumaine cherche actuellement à se procurer des navires et que le Gouvernement a sollicité l'autorisation allemande de les faire circuler. La Croix-Rouge roumaine désirerait que le Comité International prêtât ses signes.

9 juin - Le Consulat britannique à Genève, se référant à la Note du 5 avril du Comité International au Foreign Office, informe le Comité International que les autorités britanniques examinent la possibilité, au cas où il n'y aurait pas d'autres possibilités, d'affréter le "Lynn Drottningholm" pour le transport des juifs de Turquie à Haïfa. Il demande que le Comité International fasse des démarches auprès des Gouvernements allemand et italien pour amener le bateau de la Baltique à Istanbul. Il informe enfin le Comité International que les autorités britanniques accordent aux conditions posées dans la Note du Comité du 5 avril et espère que le Comité International consentira à ce que le bateau navigue sous ses auspices si les smur-conduits sont accordés.

11 juin - Le Comité International informe son délégué à Ankara que le résultat de l'intervention à Sofia est négatif et que le Comité International étudiera éventuellement l'embarquement dans un port roumain.

11 juin - Le Comité International reçoit de son délégué à Bucharest communication d'une proposition de céder à titre gratuit au Comité International un bateau roumain, actuellement en construction, pour le transport d'enfants juifs.

21 juin - Le Comité International donne connaissance à son délégué à Bucharest des conditions auxquelles le bateau en question pourrait être transféré à la "Fondation pour l'organisation de transports de Croix-Rouge".

25 juin - Le Comité International fait part au Consulat britannique à Genève qu'il soumet à Berlin le projet d'utilisation du "Lynn Drottningholm" bien qu'il s'agisse trè's peu d'espoir que les autorités allemandes consentent à laisser sortir ce bateau de la Baltique.

8 juillet - Le Comité International reçoit de sa délégation à Bucharest des détails sur le bateau en construction qui fut offert au Comité International pour servir entre un port roumain et Istanbul ou Mersine.

Cette offre ne fut pas maintenue.

10 juillet - Réponse de la Légation britannique à Berne informant le Comité International que conformément aux
aux instructions de son gouvernement, elle s'est adressée au Gouvernement suisse comme Puissance Protectrice dans cette affaire et suggérant au Comité International de s'adresser à ce dernier.

14 juillet - Lettre de l'Agence juive au Comité International l'informant que d'après une communication qu'elle a reçue de M. Burdis, le transit des groupes d'enfants de Hongrie à travers la Bulgarie aurait été autorisé. Par la suite le Comité International ne reçoit aucune confirmation de cette communication.

4 août - Le Comité International est informé par le Consulat britannique à Genève qu'il n'y a pas lieu d'utiliser le "Lynn Brothingham" pour le transport des Juifs, étant donné que le s/s "Sontay" sera disponible à cet effet. Le Comité International ne reçoit toutefois aucun renseignement à ce sujet.


26 août - L'Agence juive informe le Comité International que le permis de sortie de Bulgarie est encore en suspens, et demande que le Comité International intervienne auprès du Ministre de Bulgarie à Berne.

30 septembre - S'étant donné qu'aucun des projets d'émigration à l'étude ne semblait réalisable, le Comité International prie son délégué à Ankara d'examiner la possibilité d'arrêter un navire turc par une des organisations intéressées.

19 octobre - En réponse le Comité International reçoit de son délégué à Ankara le télégramme suivant : "Affûterement navire turc abusivement exclu."

30 septembre - Le Comité International reçoit de sa délégation à Bucarest une note donnant un exposé général de la situation.

3 décembre - M. Meister, armateur à Zurich, informe le Comité International que son représentant à Istanbul a obtenu de disposer du bateau turc "Vatan" pour le transport de réfugiés de Roumanie en Palestine.

9 décembre - Le Comité International télégraphie à son délégué à Ankara pour le prier d'examiner la proposition ci-dessus.

19 décembre - Le Comité International reçoit un télégramme de M. Constantino, Président de la Croix-Rouge roumaine.
rromaine, que le Comité International fera des démarches auprès des gouvernements allemand, américain et britannique pour l'obtention des sauf-conduits, mais que le "Bellaotita" naviguera sous les signes ni convoyeur du Comité International, étant donné que ce bateau naviguait sous pavillon balligrent.

30 décembre - Le comité International reçoit de son délégué à Bucarest des renseignements sur le bateau et les voyages envisagés.

1944
4 janvier - Le Comité International demande par l'entremise des Consulats à Genève les sauf-conduits allemand, américain et britannique.

6 janvier - Le Comité International est informé par son délégué à Ankara que le Croissant rouge turc et le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères turc déclinent la requête de la Croix-Rouge roumaine d'introduire une demande auprès du gouvernement de l'URSS pour un sauf-conduit.

7 janvier - Le Comité International reçoit un télégramme de son délégué à Ankara l'informant que le projet d'utiliser le "Natan" est hors de question.

11 janvier - Le Comité International demande à M. James (représentant de la Croix-Rouge américaine) si la Croix-Rouge américaine serait disposée à intervenir à Moscou. M. James se propose d'en samir les autorités compétentes américaines.

12 janvier - Le Comité International est informé par son délégué à Ankara qu'en réponse à sa demande, Londres s'est déclaré disposé d'intervenir auprès de l'URSS. Le Comité International est informé que les autorités turques accordent officiellement 640 visas par mois pour le transit par le Taurus Express.

18 janvier - Le Comité International reçoit un rapport de son délégué à Bucarest sur le projet d'émigration par mer de Roumanie en Turquie. Le délégué lui communique quelques renseignements sur une proposition du gouvernement britannique au gouvernement suisse d'utiliser un grand paquebot pouvant transporter 5000 émigrés à la fois, et il donne des renseignements sur le projet de la mise en service de deux autres bateaux bulgares "Milka" et "Maritza".

17 janvier - Le Comité International reçoit une demande de son délégué à Ankara s'il accepterait de louer pour la durée de la guerre deux bateaux roumains "Transilvania" et "Bessarabia" stationnant dans le port d'Istanbul, qui lui sont proposés par le gouvernement roumain.

18 janvier - Téléphone du Consulat britannique à Genève in-
Formant le Comité International que les autorités britanniques ne comprenaient pas bien notre démarche relative au "Bellacitta", étant donné que la Puissance Protectrice s'occupe depuis de longs mois du rapatriement de ces enfants.


21 janvier - Le Comité International donne de nouvelles instructions à son délégué à Bucarest concernant le problème de l'émigration.

1 février - Le Comité International envoi le même exposé à sa délégation à Londres en lui faisant remarquer que la tâche du CICR serait grandement facilitée s'il pouvait compter sur l'appui des Autorités britanniques.

9 février - Le Comité International informe son délégué à Bucarest que si la Croix-Rouge roumaine estimait ne pas pouvoir différer davantage les transports envisagés, il serait disposé, sans responsabilité de sa part, à communiquer aux belligérants les dates de départ des navires sans attendre l'obtention des sauf-conduits.

10 février - Le Consulat-britannique communique au Comité International que son Gouvernement accorde le sauf-conduit pour le "Bellacitta" et demande des renseignements concernant la mise en service du "Marita" et du "Milka", renseignements que le Comité International lui communique le 15 février.

14 février - Le Comité International reçoit de son délégué à Bucarest le télégramme suivant : "Bellacitta partira probablement fin février".

15 février - Le Comité International communique divers renseignements aux Consulats de Grande-Bretagne et d'Amérique concernant le voyage du "Bellacitta".

23 février - Le Comité International est informé par son délégué à Bucarest que le "Bellacitta" embarquera à Mangalia au lieu de Constantza, mais que pour le moment toute la question est en suspens étant donné que des difficultés ont surgi et empêchent actuellement l'émigration (arrestation des dirigeants juifs).

24 février - Le Comité International reçoit une lettre, datée du 2 février, de son délégué à Bucarest, donnant le compte-rendu de son entrevue avec M. Michel Antonescu, Vice-Président du Conseil, remettant copie des Notes qu'il lui a adressées au sujet de l'émigration juive et concernant son intervention pour la libération des personnes juives arrêtées.

29 février -
29 février - Nouvelle démarche du Comité International auprès du Consulat d'Allemagne pour le sauve-conduit du "Ballacotta".

1 mars - Le Comité International reçoit un message de son délégué à Ankara transmettant une proposition de M. Hirschmann (de l'Office américain pour les réfugiés de guerre) pour l'acquisition de navires au moyen de fonds qui seraient remis au Comité International par voie anonyme.

9 mars - Répondant au précédent message le Comité International informe son délégué à Ankara que l'intervention du Comité International dans les transports par mer de juifs dépend du consentement allemand. L'acquisition de paquebots roumain est problématique, vu que d'ultérieures affectations ne sont pas prévisibles. Il serait éventuellement préférable d'affrêter un bateau neutre dans ce cas le financement proposé par M. Hirschmann pourrait être utile.

20 mars - Le Comité International reçoit le message suivant de son délégué à Ankara: "À la suite d'une pressante intervention américaine, le Gouvernement turo a accepté qu'un navire turo soit mis à disposition du Comité International pour transporter 1500 juifs émigrants de Constantza à Haifa. M. Hirschmann demande avec insistance que le navire navigue sous la protection du Comité International."

20 mars - Le Comité International reçoit un autre télégramme de son délégué à Ankara: Hirschmann vous prie d'introduire demande sauve-conduit pour bateau turo "Tari" 4000 tonnes naviguera avec insignes et convoyeur Comité International. Sauve-conduit russe est demandé à Ankara."

21 mars - Le Comité International demande à son délégué à Ankara les renseignements nécessaires pour solliciter les sauve-conduits et les assurances que les certificats d'immigration en Palestine sont en règle.

23 mars - Le Comité International reçoit un télégramme de son délégué à Ankara l'informant que les certificats d'immigration sont en règle et demandant s'il peut appuyer auprès de l'ambassade à Berlin la demande du Comité International à Berlin pour le sauve-conduit. Le dernier délai pour l'affrètement du "Tari" est le 10 avril.

24 mars - Le Comité International demande au Consulat d'Allemagne
24 mars - Le Comité International prie son délégué à Ankara d'intervenir auprès de l'ambassade d'Allemagne pour appuyer sa démarche à Berlin.

27 mars - Le Comité International reçoit le télégramme suivant de son délégué à Bucarest: "Bellaocita partira Constantza nuit deux trois avril transportant 190 enfants, 20 adultes Urgences avis pour sauf-conduit".

28 mars - Le Comité International avertit les belligérants intéressés du départ du "Bellaocita" et il prie sa délégation à Ankara d'en faire aviser le gouvernement de l'URSS par l'ambassade britannique à Ankara.

30 mars - Le Comité International reçoit le télégramme suivant de son délégué à Bucarest: "Milka parti avec 243 émigrés sans protection ni visa turc."

31 mars - Le Comité International reçoit une note du 9 mars de son délégué à Bucarest le renseignant sur les réserves qu'il a faites au sujet d'un départ clandestin par le "Marita" et le "Milka".

31 mars - Le Comité International prie son délégué à Bucarest de rendre attentive la Croix-Rouge roumaine sur le fait que l'apposition sur le "Bellaocita" du signe de la Croix-Rouge par celle-ci constituerait une dérogation à la Convention de la Haye, si ce bateau n'a pas reçu l'accord de tous les belligérants intéressés.

31 mars - Le Comité International envoie de nouvelles instructions à son délégué à Bucarest concernant l'émigration des Juifs.

4 avril - Le Comité International reçoit un télégramme de son délégué à Ankara ainsi conçu: "Vous informez que les 243 émigrants parisiens sans visa sur "Milka" arrivèrent tous à Istanbul le 30/3 et purent repartir 31 matin par train spécial pour Alep."

4 avril - Le Comité International reçoit un télégramme de son délégué à Bucarest: "Départ du Bellaocita remis au 9 avril."

6 avril -
6 avril - Le Comité International informe les Consulats allemand, américain et britannique que le départ du "Bellacotta" a été renvoyé au 9 avril.

8 avril - Le Comité International est informé par son délégué à Ankara que 245 réfugiés juifs sont arrivés à Istanbul par le bateau bulgare "Maritza" naviguant sans protection.

11 avril - Le Comité International reçoit un télégramme de son délégué à Bucarest disant que le départ du Bellacotta est remis au vendredi 14 avril.

13 avril - Le Comité International demande aux Consulats américain et britannique les sauveteurs pour le "Tari".
No. 9295

Bern, May 6, 1944.

Subject: Rescue and Protection of Jewish War Refugees from Southeastern Europe by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to previous correspondence regarding the above indicated subject and in particular to the Department's telegram No. 970 of March 23 and subsequent telegraphic correspondence, regarding the procurement from the several belligerent governments of safe conduct in order to convey Jewish emigrant passengers from Romania through Turkey to Palestine. The request for safe conduct for the TARI originated with the International Committee of the Red Cross, which it appears has long been active in an endeavor to effect transportation of Jewish war refugees from southeastern Europe to Palestine, and had previously engaged in active efforts to find other vessels which might be used for this purpose.

During discussions of the general subject between members of the Legation and officials of the Red Cross, it developed that the Red Cross felt that possibly there might be general unfamiliarity with the efforts which the International Red Cross has been making in the past to assist Jewish victims of persecution in Axis and Axis-occupied territory in their attempts to escape therefrom. The Committee was therefore engaged in the preparation of a memorandum summarizing these efforts.

I have now received a communication dated May 5, 1944 from the Director of the Division of Interned and Civil Prisoners of the International Committee, in which there is given a chronological record of the work which the International Committee has been engaged in since the beginning of 1942 in endeavoring to rescue persecuted Jews, particularly from southeastern European districts, and which may be of use to the War Refugee Board in its efforts.
efforts to implement the activities in which the International Committee of the Red Cross has been engaged.

With specific reference to the problem of emigration from Europe to Palestine, the International Committee remarks that they have "always been ready to grant the use of their emblem and their guarantee to neutral vessels which were to be placed at their disposal for the transport of emigrants. This guarantee is, however, subject to two conditions: 1) that the emigrants hold entrance visas for Palestine; 2) that all governments concerned grant free passage to the vessel."

All belligerent governments which have been approached for safe conduct for vessels, in recent months when the International Committee has been able to obtain the use of vessels for the project, have willingly and promptly granted the desired safe conduct therefor, with the exception of Germany. Notwithstanding failure to obtain safe conduct from the German Government, several vessels (the S.S. BELLACITTA, the S.S. MILKA and the S.S. MARITZA) have recently succeeded in sailing from Rumania and arriving at Istanbul with several hundreds of refugee emigrants en route to Palestine.

Respectfully yours,

Leland Harrison.

Enclosure:

From International Committee of the Red Cross, May 5, 1944, with enclosure.

File No. 8105
JRH/mb
In triplicate to Department.
APR 29 1944

Dear Mr. Hirschmann,

I am forwarding to you herewith a copy of a letter received from Mr. Peter of the International Red Cross. I suggest that you may wish to contact Mr. Peter directly.

Sincerely,

(Signed) J. W. Pohle

J. W. Pohle
Executive Director

Mr. Ira Hirschmann,
Executive Offices,
Bloomingdale Bros.,
Lexington Ave. & 59th Street,
New York, New York.

Enclosure.

Original signature by

[illegible]

[illegible]

Philab 4/29/44
Ref: 3/2/h
April 24, 1944

Mr. J. W. Fehle
Executive Director
Executive Office of the President
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Fehle:

I thank you for your kind letter of April twenty-first, and I shall not fail to forward it to Geneva.

If it is possible, I should like to meet Mr. Hirschmann at any time convenient for him, either at his office or at mine.

Very truly yours,

Marc Peter
Delegate
FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: AMBASSADOR, Bern
DATE: April 28, 1944
NUMBER: 1498

FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD FOR HARRISON.

This is WEB Bern Cable No. 10:

Following for INTERVIEWS:

QUOTE: In full agreement with interested American welfare agencies, War Refugee Board requests INTERVIEWS to approach the German and satellite governments through appropriate and expedient channels, to bring about with respect to Jews and other persons, detained, interned, or otherwise confined because of race, religion, or political belief (1) treatment equal to that accorded civilian internees to whom Geneva Convention is currently applied by analogy or (2) equal treatment of such persons to the extent at least that reception and distribution of packages under INTERVIEWS supervision be permitted them under guarantees equal to those in effect with respect to the civilian internees referred to in (1) above. War Refugee Board feels strongly that (1) above is preferable and suggests that (2) should be only if in the judgment of INTERVIEWS (1) is unobtainable.

Furthermore, War Refugee Board requests INTERVIEWS to make every effort to obtain, wherever possible, for Jews and other victims of Nazi oppression, who though they may not be physically interned have been singled out for persecution, facilities and opportunities to obtain food and other necessities on the basis of equality with the local population both from local or domestic sources and through INTERVIEWS channels. In addition, War Refugee Board calls attention to the Board's efforts to bring Jews and other persecuted persons out of German controlled territory in as large numbers as possible. The Board urges that INTERVIEWS, through proper approach to the German and other authorities in German controlled territory and through any other means possible, do what it can to expedite the departure of these persecuted peoples to neutral countries.

UNCLASSIFIED

Encl: Web Bern 10

SEP 23, 1972

Mr. MacNeal:
The Board is cognizant of unceasing efforts of
Intercross in the direction of making this general
program a reality and is appreciative of the
humanitarian activities of Intercross. The Board is
ready to assist Intercross in every way to effectuate
the realization of all of the foregoing.

Following for Harrisen:

War Refugee Board considers the proposed appro-
aches to the German and other authorities through
Intercross are of utmost importance to the success
of its program. In view of recent military develop-
ments, including the reported situation in Hungary,
Bulgaria and Romania, the Board is convinced that
special emphasis should be placed on efforts to
persuade the Germans to improve the condition of
Jews and other similar groups within occupied
territories. Accordingly, you are requested to do
everything possible to support the proposals being
made to Intercross. If at any time you believe that
the Swiss Government would be willing to make similar
approaches to the Germans or otherwise assist in
the program outlined herein, you are authorized
informally to make a request for such action to
the Swiss on behalf of this Government.

NULL

[Handwritten names and signatures]
Dear Mr. Peters:

Mr. Ira Hirochmann, the War Refugee Board's Special Representative in Turkey, who has just arrived in Washington from Ankara, has spoken in such glowing terms of the work of your Turkish representative, Mr. Gilbert Simon, that I feel impelled to express our appreciation for the assistance given by Mr. Simon to the Board. Mr. Simon cooperated whole-heartedly and enthusiastically with Ambassador Steinhardt and Mr. Hirochmann in their efforts to facilitate the rescue of refugees. His vast experience in refugee matters was invaluable to them, as was his sympathy, imagination and, above all, his tact.

I should appreciate your conveying to President Huber the thanks of myself and the Board for all that Mr. Simon has done to further our work.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Hans Peter,
Delegate,
International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva, Switzerland
Delegation to the United States of America,
1445 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.,
Washington 25, D.C.
MEMORANDUM

To: WAR REFUGEE BOARD
    O/o Mr. Paul S. Mc. Cormick
    Room 387 1/2
    Treasury Building
    Washington D. C.

For your information I am herewith enclosing a copy of a cable we have received from the International Red Cross Committee in Geneva concerning

No. 931, total strength in CI camps Libeau, Tittmoning, Compiègne, Vittel (American CI)
COPY OF INCOMING CABLEGRAM: INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS COMMITTEE DELEGATION IN THE UNITED STATES Réf. S/2/h

Date: 14 avril, 16.45
Date received: 17 avril, 1944

Cablegram received from: Intercroixrouge Genève, Suisse

931 VOTRE 783 EFFECTIFS LIBERNAU 176 31 JANVIER TITROMING 303 6 MARS CO-PLAGNE 329 4 MARS VIETEL 323 29 FEVRIER TOUS USA

INTERCROIXROUGE B9940
Mr. Zollinger, Delegate of the ICRC, with whom I spoke this morning, said that the Joint Relief Commission, in clearing with the American and British Ministries in Bern on all relief projects for enemy and enemy-occupied countries, is attempting to avoid receiving "acrimonious notes from the WRB", as was their experience recently.

Zollinger suggested that if WRB were to advise Intercross that, when they were in receipt of funds made available by United States Treasury license, there was no need to make this clearance, the ICRC "would be more than happy to comply".

[Signature]
PANAPHASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM:  The American Minister, Bern
FOR:   The Secretary of State, Washington
DATE:  April 25, 1944
NUMBER:  2312

An order to give it more efficacy the International Committee has as a matter of fact concerned itself for some time in enlarging its delegation at Budapest. For the time being it has not considered sending to Hungary's special delegation with instructions to assume the particular protection to which the State Department's message referred since under the present circumstances such mission might be considered as unrelated to the committee's traditional and conventional competence. The International Committee shall continue to devote its entire attention to all categories of war victims as it has in the past without intruding into the domestic policy of any of those states and the War Refugee Board as well as all the humanitarian and government institutions of several belligerent states can rest assured of this. Within full scope which circumstances demand and according to means placed at its disposal it shall always attempt to broaden and increase its action along its own line of activities in favor of these victims.

DECLASSIFIED  
HARRISON  
State Dept. Letter, 4/25/44  
By R. H. Fiske Date SEP 20 1972
Failing to secure any results from my visit to the American National Red Cross on behalf of internees in Compiegne, Tithorea, Liebens, Bergen and Balgen-Bergen, I called on Mark Peter, delegate of the International Red Cross Committee in the United States. Mr. Peter is cabling the International Red Cross Committee and will secure for us a register of the internees at Vittel, Compiegne, Tithorea, and Liebens, and an indication of their nationality. Mr. Peter indicated that Bergen and Balgen-Bergen were staging camps or reception centers, and therefore for practical purposes were comparable to concentration camps. He knew that International Red Cross Committees did not have a register on persons confined at either camp by name and felt that our purposes with respect to these camps would be better served by awaiting International Red Cross' answer on the cable to that body in behalf of unidentifed persons.
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS
IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
1615 Connecticut Ave. N. W., Washington 9, D. C.

March 31, 1944
Ref. 8/2/h

My dear Mr. Mo. Cormick:

I am sending you herewith the copy
of the Note from Geneva you asked me for,
concerning the situation of Jews in Europe.

Believe me, my dear Mr. Mo. Cormick,
yours sincerely:

MARC PETER
Delegate of the International
Committee of the Red Cross

AL copy

Mr. Paul S. Mo. Cormick
Room 387 1/2
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington D. C.
NOTE
POUR LA DÉLÉGATION DU COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX ROUGE
WASHINGTON

CONCERNÉ: Situation des israélites en Europe
(votre note no. 412 du 25/10/43)

Nous avons pris connaissance avec un très vif intérêt de votre note ci-dessus mentionnée et de ses annexes. Il ressort de ces textes que, dans l'opinion du Président de la Croix Rouge Américaine, le CICR ne semble pas être l'organisme qualifié pour venir en aide à ces malheureuses victimes de la guerre, tandis que le Dr. S. Z. Kantor estime que son activité devrait être considérablement développée dans ce sens.

Pour le cas où vous désiriez répondre à ces deux personnalités, ce que nous laissons à votre libre appréciation - nous vous permettons de vous rappeler brièvement l'attitude du CICR en face du problème de l'aide aux israélites.

Vous savez certainement déjà que notre activité en faveur des populations juives victimes de la guerre est dépourvue de bases juridiques ou conventionnelles. L'Allemagne en particulier considère le problème israélite comme relevant exclusivement de sa politique intérieure. Le CICR a dû constater qu'en insistant pour s'occuper "de droit" de ces personnes, il risquait de diminuer ses chances d'obtenir et d'étendre les résultats pratiques auxquels il est déjà partiellement parvenu, comme cela est exposé ci-après:

C'est en nous fondant sur des motifs purement humanitaires que nous avons pu jusqu'à maintenant arriver à certaines réalisations, notamment dans le domaine des envois de secours - surtout des vivres et médicaments. Nos précédentes lettres vous ont indiqué le détail de ces envois de secours, ainsi que les possibilités d'action qui s'offrent à nous dans les différents pays européens.

De plus, il vous intéressera sans doute de savoir que nous avons au récemment la preuve que tous les colis expédiés par nous à titre d'essai - donc en nombre encore restreint -
au camp d'israélites de Theresienstadt (Bohême-Moravie) sont arrivés à destination en parfait état, ainsi d'ailleurs que les envois individuels venant du Portugal et transmis à Theresienstadt.

Ces résultats très encourageants, comme, d'autre part, les facilités qui nous ont été accordées dans d'autres pays de l'Axe, laissent espérer que notre action en faveur des israélites victimes de la guerre est susceptible de se développer encore au fur et à mesure que les circonstances le permettent.

Il convient de relever toutefois que les difficultés que nous rencontrons ne sont pas toujours le fait des puissances de l'Axe. Ainsi que nous vous l'avons déjà indiqué, nous ne pouvons entreprendre de pareilles actions de secours que si les sommes nécessaires sont mises à notre disposition. Or les autorités tant américaines que britanniques du Blocus se sont jusqu'à maintenant opposées à tout transfert d'argent.

Nous espérons cependant que l'action envisagée par le Comité intergouvernemental pour les Réfugiés à Londres sera de nature à faciliter notre tâche, en contribuant à obéir les autorités compétentes un assouplissement des règles du blocus.

Il y a enfin un dernier point sur lequel nous aimerions revenir. Dans sa lettre du 29 juillet 1943 à M. Cordell Hull, le Dr S. Z. Kantor exprime l'espoir que le CICR devrait renseigner l'opinion mondiale sur l'œuvre qu'il a entreprise en faveur des israélites, et sur les obstacles qu'il rencontre. L'expérience nous donne, au contraire, lieu de craindre qu'une telle publicité, soulignant exagérément les résultats que nous avons obtenus jusqu'à présent, modifie peut-être les dispositions des autorités d'entreprises, c'est-à-dire compromettant finalement le développement de cette activité bienfaisante.

A ce propos, nous avons pensé que le CICR aurait été nommé publiquement - selon les informations de presse par M. le Secrétaire d'État Breckinridge Long, devant la Commission des Affaires Étrangères de la Chambre des Représentants. (Voir à ce sujet la copie de presse ci-jointe.) Le but recherché ne peut être atteint, à notre avis, qu'en évitant toute publicité et nous croyons savoir que tous les intéressés se sont ralliés à cette opinion. En effet, la mention, dans la presse, de l'activité exercée par le CICR en faveur des Juifs risquerait peut-être d'entraver les possibilités d'intervention, déjà très restreintes en Allemagne et dans les pays occupés par elle. Il en serait évidemment de même pour les protestations que certaines personnes nous demandent parfois d'adresser à ces autorités d'entreprises. Il est bien évident qu'il faut procéder, en cette
matière avec toute la mesure et la discrétion possibles, afin qu'une action qui d'ailleurs n'est nullement clandestine, ne provoque pas, si on lui donne trop d'éléments, des réactions peut-être défavorables de la part des autorités de la bonne volonté desquelles cette action dépend en définitive.

x x x
FROM: SECRETARY OF STATE, WASHINGTON
TO: AMBASSADOR, BERN
DATED: MARCH 27, 1944
NUMBER: 1023

CONTROL COPY

FROM WAR REFUGEES BOARD TO HARRISON.

Please deliver the following message to the International
Red Cross, Geneva, from War Refugee Board:

"In view of German occupation of Hungary, War
Refugee Board urges that Intercom send effective
representation to Hungary in order to protect the
well being of groups facing persecution."

HULL

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Perke Date SEP 20 1972
March 23, 1944
3:20 p.m.

TO: Mr. Warren
FROM: J. W. Peake

It will be appreciated if you will have the attached
cable dispatched at once to Minister Harrison, Bern, for the
International Red Cross, Geneva.

Attachment.
CABLE TO HARRISON FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Please deliver following message to the International Red Cross, Geneva, from War Refugee Board:

"In view of German occupation of Hungary, War Refugee Board urges that Interred cross send effective representation to Hungary in order to protect the well being of groups facing persecution."
MEMORANDUM

March 23, 1944
4:50 p.m.

TO: MR. WARREN

FROM: MR. PERHIZ

It will be appreciated if you will have the attached telegram from the War Refugee Board to Minister Harrison in Bern dispatched at once.
The War Refugees Board requests that you deliver the following message to Interross:

Message begins: The President of the United States recently instructed the Secretaries of State, Treasury and War to take action for the immediate rescue and relief of the Jews of Europe and other victims of enemy persecution. The Executive Order establishing the War Refugee Board declared QUOTE It is the policy of this Government to take all measures within its power to rescue the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death and otherwise to afford such victims all possible relief and assistance consistent with the successful prosecution of the war UNQUOTE. The President stressed that it was urgent that action be taken to forestall the plot of the Nazis to exterminate the Jews and other persecuted minorities in Europe.

On March 24 the President issued a forceful statement which reaffirmed the determination of the United States Government to punish those guilty of acts of savagery against the Jews and other oppressed peoples, and again made clear that this Government would do what it can to save them. The President stated that we would find havens of refuge for these people and would assure them maintenance and support. He called upon all peoples to cooperate.

Interross as well as the War Refugee Board realize the fate of groups singled out for extermination or oppression by German authorities and exempted from protection of the Geneva Convention is tragic whether they be detained or free but deprived of food, clothing, and all elementary facilities. This concerns particularly Jewish survivors. Accordingly the Board hopes that Interross will do its utmost to obtain improvement of conditions of these persons in every way possible.

In full agreement with interested American welfare agencies, the War Refugees Board requests Interross to support this humanitarian endeavor by approaching the German and satellite governments, through appropriate and expeditious channels, in order to bring about as a minimum the full or at least partial application of the Geneva Convention and of resolutions of existing Interross conferences to the detained and unassimilated groups of Jews and others with a view to effectuating (1) their complete assimilation with and treatment equal to civilian internees now under the Geneva Convention, or (2) partial assimilation with civilian internees now under Geneva Convention at least to the extent that reception and distribution of packages under Interross supervision will be permitted.
In addition, the War Refugee Board requests Interross to make every effort to obtain, wherever possible, for Jews and other victims of Nazi oppression (who though they may not be physically interned in camps have been singled out for persecution) facilities and opportunities to obtain food and other necessities on the basis of equality with the local population out of local resources and through Interross channels.

The War Refugee Board is determined to do what it can to actually bring Jews and other persecuted persons out of German controlled territory in as large numbers as possible. The Board urges that Interross, through appropriate approaches to the German and other authorities in Germany controlled territory and through any other means possible, do what it can to assist the departure of these persecuted peoples to neutral countries.

The Board is cognizant of Interross's unceasing efforts in the direction of making this general program a reality and is appreciative of Interross's activity in its international humanitarian programs. The Board is ready to assist Interross in every way to effectuate the realization of all of the foregoing. Message ends.

The War Refugee Board considers that the proposed approaches to the Germans and others through Interross is of utmost importance to the success of its program. In view of recent military developments, including the reported situation in Hungary, Bulgaria, and Rumania, the Board is convinced that great emphasis should be placed on efforts to persuade the Germans to improve the condition of Jews and other similar groups within occupied territory. Accordingly, you are requested to do everything possible to support the proposals being made to the Interross. If at any time you consider it desirable that the Swiss Government make similar approaches to the Germans, or otherwise assist in the program outlined herein, you are authorized to make a request for such action to the Swiss on behalf of this Government.
My dear Mr. Minister,

May I thank you for your letter of March 25th concerning the Turkish steamship "TAHE". As you surmise, our delegate in Turkey has suggested that we solicit safe conduct for this ship from all the belligerent governments concerned except Russia, which has been approached through the Soviet Embassy at Ankara.

Our delegate adds that the signing of the contract of charter for this ship is subject to securing all safe conduct, April 10th being the final date.

The safe conduct would also be indispensable as far as the International Committee of the Red Cross is concerned - for extending to the "TAHE" the protection of our Committee which consists in providing her with the Committee's insignia; furthermore, she must be accompanied by a supercharge.

We note with greatest satisfaction that the United States Government would approve any safe conduct which might be issued by the belligerent authorities and we consider this is a further proof of the readiness of the United States authorities to co-operate in a problem which has been deeply concerning the International Committee for months.

Experience of late, however, makes it seem extremely doubtful that the German government will agree to

His Excellency
Mr. Leland Harriman
American Minister,
Legation of the United States
of America,

[Handwritten note: Time, June 1944]
Despite this hitherto negative attitude of the German government in the case of the "BELLACITTA", we did not fail to ask on March 26th for a safe conduct for the Turkish steamer "TARTA".

We greatly regret that the prospect of obtaining safe conduct for these ships is not at all hopeful and that there seems little hope altogether of putting Jewish emigration from the Balkans into effect on an organized and sound basis. This is all the more regrettable since for months past we have done everything in our power to hasten measures for emigration before it was too late. We shall transmit to you shortly a summary of our efforts in this matter voicing our unflagging endeavours and indicating that if we are forced to consider the present situation as too advanced to give any tangible result, it is not for lack of good will on our part.

May I fully endorse on this occasion M. de Schwarzenberg's letter to Mr. Daniel Reagon of March 27th, in which we asked the American Legation kindly to intercede with the War Refuge Board in support of our suggestion to have a large stock of parcels of food and underwear sent over to Geneva where they would be drawn upon only with the consent of the War Refuge Board's representative. This scheme would enable relief to be rushed to war victims whom the War Refuge Board wishes to assist in Europe. The constant changes in the general situation make it in fact advisable, in our opinion, not to wait first for a decision as to which category of war victims is to be aided.

Sincerely yours,

Max HEIM
President.
Dr. J. E. Schwarzenberg
Member of the Secretariat of the
International Committee of the Red Cross

Dear Dr. Schwarzenberg,

I should like to refer to our telephone conversation this morning concerning the relief program you propose to undertake in accordance with the message from the War Refugee Board transmitted to the International Committee of the Red Cross in the Legation's letter of February 11, 1944.

With regard to the use of the equivalent in Swiss francs of the $100,000 made available to the International Committee of the Red Cross by the Joint Distribution Committee in accordance with a Treasury license, the message from the War Refugee Board states:

"You (the International Committee of the Red Cross) are authorized under the license to employ the funds for buying food and other supplies in Hungary, Romania, and neutral countries and otherwise to carry on the relief activities which are mentioned above."

The Legation interprets this statement to mean that the International Committee of the Red Cross requires no further authorization to proceed with the relief program in question.

Very truly yours,

DANIEL J. REAGAN
Commercial Attaché.
March 27th, 1944.

Dear Mr. Reagan,

The latest events in Hungary and the rumours about a possible occupation of Slovakia and Romania will of necessity influence considerably the activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross on behalf of war victims in those parts of Europe. Moreover, the last possibilities of securing foodstuffs in noteworthy quantities within Europe seem to be dwindling away. The Commission Mixte will inform you of these growing difficulties in purchasing, and that certain adjustments will have to be made as far as the Joint's 100,000-dollar scheme is concerned.

We are sure that the War Refugee Board will agree with us when we say that rapid action is essential if the United States Government's intention of rescuing certain particularly stricken groups of refugees is to be put into effect. The latest events have shown once more that what would have still been feasible a few months ago has now been rendered impossible because action has come too late.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has experienced this over and over again during this war, and that is the reason why we so very strongly urge the necessity of accepting our suggestion to send us as rapidly as possible a considerable stock of parcels of food and underwear. As we have suggested, we would hold these in reserve in Geneva and we would draw upon them according to requirements, but only after having contacted the War Refugee Board's representative at Bern to whom we would supply all information and control vouchers he may desire.

Mr. Daniel J. Reagan
Commercial Attache
Legation of the United States of America
It is with the prospect in view that the situation of refugees may become still worse in Europe and that nothing ought to be left undone to save human lives - we again point out the necessity of helping detainees in concentration camps and particularly children in certain parts of Europe - that we ask the American Legation to support our scheme, providing it agrees with it, and to lay particular stress on speedy action. By suggesting that we put before the Legation all material it may desire, we believe that we have taken into due account the reserves which the Economic Warfare sight make towards our activities.

Thanking you in advance, dear Mr. Reagan, for all the trouble you are taking in this matter, we are

yours sincerely,

/s/ J.K. Schwarzenberg
LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Bern, March 25, 1944

My dear Mr. President,

I have just received telegraphic information from the Department of State, dated March 23, 1944, to the effect that the steamship TARI, a 4,000 ton vessel, which belongs to the Government of Turkey and is lying at present at Istanbul, is being made available for the purpose of evacuating Jewish refugees to Istanbul from Constanza.

The Department of State has further informed me that your representative in Turkey has sent a telegram to you asking that you endeavor to obtain safe conduct from all the belligerent countries for the vessel, with the exception of the Soviet Union, which I understand has been approached for the purpose through the Soviet Ambassador at Ankara.

The Department of State asks me to inform the International Red Cross that the Government of the United States concurs in such safe conduct as may be agreed to by the British Government for the movement of the steamship TARI for the purpose indicated in the foregoing.

For your information, it may also be stated that the Government of Switzerland has been appropriately advised by the Legation in the premises.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

The honorable
Max Huber, President C.I.O.R.
Geneva
March 24th, 1944

Mr. Daniel J. Reagan
Commercial Attaché
Legation of the United States of America

Dear Mr. Reagan,

Many thanks for your letter of March 22nd, 1944, by which you were kind enough to transmit to us a message from the War Refugee Board concerning the Joint's opinion on the utilisation of $100,000. We have seen Mr. Saly Mayer and are in agreement with him.

On the other hand, events in the Balkans have developed recently in a way which necessarily must change our entire plan of action. As a matter of fact, I don't see how we shall be able to get any more foodstuffs out of Hungary now. I shall write to you this subject in a few days.

Sincerely yours,

J.W. Schwarzenberg
Mr. Daniel J. Reagan  
Commercial Attaché  
Legation of the  
United States of America  
Berns

Dear Mr. Reagan,

Do you think you could ask for the support of the War Refugee Board in the following matter?

In view of the growing difficulties of purchasing foodstuffs in Central Europe — and these will be considerably increased by present events in Hungary — we have endeavoured to obtain information as to purchasing possibly in certain countries which are farther distant. We hear that certain food products might be found in Portugal. As a matter of fact, the Blockade authorities give permission to transfer funds from overseas more easily when these are to be devoted to purchases in neutral countries. The Jewish organizations would be able to make funds available for our use forthwith in Portugal with the object of supply food to certain Jewish groups who were not included in our scheme of 27 February. We should, as an example, like to send foodstuffs to Jews who are interned in three camps in Croatia and who, according to reports received from our Delegate in Zagreb, are in an extremely-precious condition as regards food.

The following difficulty, however, arises: railroad transportation from Portugal is very expensive and, moreover, fairly uncertain because of the railroad situation in Spain. For these reasons, the International Committee of the Red Cross were led to initiate a shipping line between Lisbon and Marseilles to convey the large cargoes of parcels for
American and British prisoners of war in Germany. These ships are, however, allowed to carry only goods for which the blockade authorities have issued navicerta.

Hitherto we have never been able to obtain navicerta for shipments intended for the categories of persons, including Jews, whom we hope to be able to help within the sphere of the scheme which has now been started thanks to the support of the War Refugee Board.

We should therefore be extremely grateful if you could approach the War Refugee Board with the object of finding out whether they could secure navicerta from the blockade authorities which would enable the goods intended for the groups of persons indicated in our letter of 29 February to be shipped on board the International Committee's ships from Lisbon to Marseilles.

With many thanks in advance for your kindness in this matter and as the question appears to be an urgent one, we should be most grateful for an answer as quickly as may be. Copy of this letter is forwarded to our delegate in Washington.

We are, dear Mr. Reagan,

Yours sincerely,

(J. E. Schwarzenberg)

P.S.—Referring to your kind letter of March 18th, par. 3, I may add that my letter of March 15th has been forwarded to our Washington delegation with instructions to contact the War Refugee Board.
COPY

Yours,

G. 39/2

G. 48

M. Stehmann

Peronne responsible: M. P. KUNNE

MEDATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Bern, March 18, 1944

Dr. J. H. de Schwarsenberg,
Member of the Secretariat of the International Committee of the Red Cross,
Palais du Conseil-General, Geneva.

Dear Dr. de Schwarsenberg:

I wish to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter of March 13, 1944, concerning your discussions with Mr. Saly Mayer of the relief program to be undertaken with the funds which have been made available to the International Committee of the Red Cross by the Joint Distribution Committee.

I was pleased to note that with the exception of certain minor changes which you are able to effect, Mr. Mayer agreed with your program for the expenditure of these funds.

I believe that your letter would be of interest to the War Refugees Board and wonder if it would be possible for you to forward it to the United States as was done with the International Committee's letter of February 29, 1944.

Washington is, of course, very interested in the execution of the relief program and it would be much appreciated if you could inform me of any developments which have taken place since your letter of March 13.

I am very sorry to have missed you during my brief visit to Geneva this week but hope to see you soon either here or in Geneva.

Very truly yours,

(S) Daniel J. Reagan,
Commercial Attaché
SECRETARIAT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

BERN, March 22, 1944.

Mr. Schwarzenberg
Member of the Secretariat of the
International Committee of the Red Cross,
Geneva.

Dear Dr. J. de Schwarzenberg,

Reference is made to paragraph 2 of your letter of February 29, 1944, and to the Legation’s letter of March 7, 1944, concerning the authority of the International Committee of the Red Cross to administer the expenditure of the Swiss Franc equivalent of the $100,000 for relief purposes made available to the International Committee by the Joint Distribution Committee.

In this connection, the Legation has been requested to deliver to the International Committee the following message from the War Refugee Board:

"With reference to your letter of February 29, No. 199, addressed to the American Legation at Bern, with regard to the equivalent of $100,000 in Swiss Francs received from the Joint Distribution Committee: The Joint Distribution Committee has informed the War Refugee Board that full discretion with regard to the use of the funds under reference has been placed in the International Red Cross but the Joint Distribution Committee hopes that the International Red Cross will, after consultation with Salty Mayer, coordinate the proposals set forth in the letter of February 29 with the feeding program already being carried out in Turkey and with the work which is being done with Salty Mayer. The Joint Distribution Committee assures the International Red Cross that no exploitation for purposes of propaganda will be made of this relief action."

You will note that this message confirms the interpretation of the original instructions which was made in the Legation’s letter of March 7.

Very truly yours,

(D) Daniel J. Reagan,
Commercial Attaché.
March 13th, 1944.

Dear Mr. Reagan,

I believe it may be useful to inform you of a long visit we had from Mr. Saly Mayer, the representative of the "Joint" in Switzerland.

Mr. Saly Mayer, interpreting, as we assume, the opinion of his organization, seems to have expected that the International Committee of the Red Cross would utilize the sums transferred through the kind offices of the War Refugee Board not solely for relief activity. Mr. Mayer hoped that we would request the transfer of far greater sums and utilize them primarily for what he calls "saving of lives".

We pointed out that the International Committee of the Red Cross could not contemplate the possibility of partaking in certain actions with the object of getting Jews out of Axis countries, such actions necessitating methods which are not considered legal by the detaining authorities. Being fully aware of the humanitarian aim of this type of activity and in this case the means would seem to justify the end - the International Committee of the Red Cross, considering its manifold other activities which are based on the confidence of all governments concerned, cannot launch into a new field of activity where it would sooner or later come into conflict with the detaining powers. This would be contrary to its interests and to its traditions of absolute neutrality. We believe that Mr. Saly Mayer understood our point of view, and the fact that we have to discriminate between the vast activities which are the province of the various Jewish organizations, and the narrow limits within which the International Committee of the Red Cross is able to offer its services without jeopardizing the task which devolves upon it as a result of tradition and the Geneva Conventions.

Mr. Daniel J. Reagan
Commercial Attaché of the
Legation of the United States of America
For these reasons the International Committee has decided to limit its work in favour of the Jews and other persecuted groups of civilians in Europe to relief work, building up a Central-Card-Index for Dispersed Families and a certain limited cooperation in the emigration problem.

The latter consists in helping to procure tonnage and to protect ships which might transport Jews from Rumanian or Bulgarian ports to Palestine. We shall probably have to reduce our work in this case to protection of the ships (asking the belligerents for safe-conducts), all the more so as the British authorities prefer to pass through the channel of the Protecting Powers in all questions concerning emigration.

We have, however, asked Mr. Mayer to make practical suggestions as to what, in his opinion, the International Committee of the Red Cross could do for Jews in addition to the above-mentioned points. We shall be glad to examine his suggestions and see whether we can discover a means of rendering assistance.

Concerning the utilization of the 100,000 dollars, Mr. Salty Mayer seems to approve our plan except for certain minor changes which could be easily made. His main objection however is that this action is put on too modest a basis and that we ought to ask for higher contributions.

This is however for the War Refugee Board to decide. If we have been reluctant to embark upon a large-scale plan, it is partly because we do not know exactly how far and in what way the War Refugee Board wishes us to proceed. The proposals contained in our letter of February 29th aim, by the way, at an amplification of our activity; especially our scheme of having a large stock of parcels in Switzerland under control of the War Refugee Board, opens the door, in our opinion, to relief on a far larger scale.

We feel we have indicated to the War Refugee Board - and this we explained to Mr. Mayer - where and how the International Committee of the Red Cross could be entrusted with the continuation and enlargement of a scheme which might lead to a really effective relief action on behalf of certain groups of persecuted civilians in Europe. And relief in the case of Jews and the other categories mentioned in our letter of February 29th is, in our opinion, a means too - if somewhat different - of "saving lives."

Sincerely yours,
J. E. Schwarzenberg
Dear Sirs,

I wish to thank you for your letter of March 10, 1944 (ref. G.59/2 0.59/7 0.85 PK/AP), in reply to the Legation's letter of March 7 concerning the remittance of funds for the Service Social d'Aide aux Enfants.

The Legation has transmitted by telegram to the War Refugee Board the substance of your reply and your suggestion that the funds in question be remitted directly to the Service Social d'Aide aux Enfants. I shall not fail to inform you when the Legation receives further information concerning this matter.

Very truly yours,

(s) Daniel J. Reagan,
Commercial Attaché.
Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that the Legation has been requested by the Department of State to inform the International Committee of the Red Cross that the Department, the Treasury, and the War Refugee Board have approved the operations covered by the license described in the following message:

"The Treasury Department has issued a license to the International Rescue and Relief Committee, New York, which permits the remittance, through the Banque Nationale Suisse, Zurich, of the equivalent in Swiss francs of $7,500 monthly for six months to the International Red Cross for the relief of Spanish refugees now located in camps in southern France, this amount for transmittal to the Service Sociale d'Aide aux Enigrants."

It would be appreciated if you would inform the Legation of the precise identity of the Service Sociale d'Aide aux Enigrants and of the activities which it is proposed to finance with the funds made available by the International Rescue and Relief Committee.

Very truly yours,
for the Minister

(S) Daniel J. Reagan,
Commercial attaché.
Dear Mr. Reagan,

May I thank you for your letter of March 3rd and for the information you were kind enough to give me by telephone in the subject of the War Refuge Board's action in favour of Jews.

We are sending on our letter of February 29th, ref. G 59/2 85, to Mr. Peter, our delegate in the United States, with a copy for transmission to the War Refuge Board.

Answering to your question contained in the last paragraph of your letter, the "Service Pharmaceutique" of our Committee gives the following information:

The 4 pharmaceutical products designated as Assortment B are actually at the Port Franc Cornavin in Geneva and are of foreign origin, i.e.

- insulin - Canada or Denmark
- marcrochrome - France
- dextrose - Hungary
- perhepar - Hungary

Sincerely yours,

J. E. Schwarzenberg
Dr. Carl J. Burckhardt,
Member of the International Committee
of the Red Cross,
Palais du Conseil Général
Geneva

Dear Dr. Burckhardt:

I wish to acknowledge on behalf of the Legation the receipt of your letter of February 29, 1944, in reply to the Legation's letters of January 29 and February 11 which transmitted to the International Committee of the Red Cross messages from the War Refugee Board.

A summary of the proposals for relief action contained in your letter is being telegraphed to the Department of State, Washington, D. C., for transmission to the War Refugee Board and the Legation will not fail to inform you as soon as further word is received from Washington.

May I express the Legation's appreciation for the promptness and completeness with which the International Committee of the Red Cross has supplied the information requested by the War Refugee Board.

Very truly yours,

(S) Daniel J. Reagan,
Commercial Attaché.
The Honorable
Max Huber
President International Committee
of the Red Cross
Geneva.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge your letter of February 17th, file No. 4,59/7 0,59/2 0,59 JES/IL, in response to my letters of January 23rd and February 11th last, and take pleasure to inform you that I have not failed to convey your message as requested to the War Refugee Board.

In reply to the inquiry contained in the last paragraph of your letter under acknowledgment, I am happy to name Mr. Daniel J. Reagan Commercial Attaché of the Legation, for such informal consultation as suggested by you.

Very truly yours,

(s) Leland Harrison
American Minister.
Sir,

The message from the War Refugee Board of the Government of the United States of America, which you were so kind as to forward us on 29 January, and relating to the possible transfer of relief in cash, was for us a matter of special satisfaction since for several months past our most earnest concern has been to draw the attention of Allied Authorities to the almost tragic condition of various categories of civilians in Europe.

Subsequently the Legation of the United States of America has been good enough, in a letter of 11 February, to inform us of the transmission of USA $100,000 for the purpose of purchasing foodstuffs and other relief without the relevant license containing any geographical restriction concerning the utilisation of this sum.

We should be very much obliged to the Legation of the United States of America if it would be so kind as to convey to the War Refugee Board the expression of our deep gratitude for this proof of confidence and the assurance that, on our side, we shall do everything in our power, in close co-operation with the Joint Relief Commission and taking into account the wishes of the donors, to draw up a programme of relief action which will be submitted to the War Refugee Board in the near future.

We shall not fail to make in due course further suggestions of a practical character concerning the development of this action and the initiation of other similar operations. In this connection we should much

His Excellency
Mr. Leland Harrison
American Minister
Legation of the United States
of America,

BERNE
appreciate if the Legation of the United States of America could indicate the name of a member of its staff with whom we could get into touch in the future with a view to mutual consultation as to the expediency of any given proposal.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
very truly yours,

Max HUBER
President.
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: March 16, 1944

TO: Mr. Friedman

FROM: Paul J. McCormack

Realizing the Board's decision to contact International Red Cross Committee with respect to the proposals (1) assimilation of detained civilians, or (2) release of detained assimilated civilians, or (3) children under 12, women, and the aged, or (3) the expansion of the existing limited 25 kilos package program, contacts were made with American National Red Cross, George L. Warren, International Red Cross Committee Delegation in the United States, and Bernard Gufler, Assistant Chief, Special War Problems Division, State Department.

In an informal conversation with Mr. Philip Ryan, Director of Civilian Relief, discussing the above mentioned proposals, Mr. Ryan indicated that while his organization had some reservations about point (1) they were sympathetic to the other two proposals, and that if the Board approached the International Red Cross Committee with these proposals, the American National Red Cross, through its Delegate in Geneva, Mr. Francis James, would add its support to the Board's proposals.

In informal conversation was likewise had with George L. Warren on these specific proposals with a view to obtaining the State Department file containing the formal exchange of diplomatic notes between this Government and the German Government, through the medium of their protective power, for the purpose of obtaining information as to the exact language in which these notes were couched, from the German Government as a result of this exchange, agreed to apply the Geneva Convention to civilian American nationals. Mr. Warren was completely sympathetic to the proposal and said that it would be necessary for me to see Mr. Bernard Guffler, Assistant Chief of Special War Problems Division, who had specific responsibility for prisoners of war. Mr. Warren further indicated that he felt reasonably sure that if the International Red Cross Committee was able to report any significant favorable reaction on the part of the German Government and other governments to these specific proposals, that the
State Department would be willing if the Board so requested, to make official diplomatic representations in the same direction to the same end.

INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS COMMITTEE
DELEGATION IN THE UNITED STATES:

Contact was made with Madam Suzanne Ferriere, and Mesaras. Zollinger and Petet on the above mentioned proposals. Madam Ferriere indicated at the outset that the Delegation in the United States would support the Board in this venture. She emphasized the fact that such representation on the part of the International Committee were unofficial as opposed to diplomatic, and had actually been going on continuously on behalf of the unassimilated detained groups since the outbreak of the war, and that this venture on the part of the Board probably represented the first instance in which a governmental agency had ever approached the International Red Cross Committee with such a proposal.

BERNARD GUFFLER, ASSISTANT CHIEF, SPECIAL WAR PROBLEM DIVISION, STATE DEPT.

Mr. Guffler was unimpressed by this proposal and likewise since the governmental exchange of notes as applying only to American nationals in German hands was not exactly analogous to the group in which the Board is interested, Mr. Guffler did not feel that there was any value in making the file available. He did however summarize the content of the exchange of notes. That is, (1) our Government made representations to the German Government that without reciprocity we would apply the Geneva Convention to German nationals in American hands; (2) the German Government replied that they would not intern American nationals but would hold American nationals in protective custody for exchange; (3) our Government in replying indicated that exchange involved considerable delay and therefore requested that the Geneva Convention apply to these civilians; and (4) the German Government agreed to these details.

The representatives of the American National Red Cross and the International Red Cross Committee Delegates made the request that before the Board dispatched its cable to the International Red Cross Committee requesting action on the part of the Committee with respect to these proposals that they be consulted, so that having the advantage of the content of our cable to the Committee they would be in a better position to give support to our proposals.
March 14, 1944

Mr. L.C. Aaron through M. J.B. Friedman
Joseph H. Murphy

Re: Remittances by International Red Cross

Somehow or other this got into the VSB hopper although it appears to be an ITC matter. The following appear from the attached files:

A. Sometime ago we had evidence that the IRC was (1) offering its facilities to various National Red Cross societies of the Western Hemisphere for the transmission of funds from Western Hemisphere to enemy territory; (2) that it was, in some cases, doing the same for individuals; and (3) that it desired to transmit funds from enemy territory for the financial assistance of persons in the Western Hemisphere. The United States and the British both protested, urging IRC to withdraw offers of its facilities to National Societies and refrain from permitting the use of its facilities except for approved transfers on behalf and at the request of governments, e.g., payments to POW's and civilian internees in the Far East.

B. On December 1943, IRC replied to our protests asking for a conference at Bern with British and ourselves. It also pointed out: (1) It does not solicit offers from national societies but acts only when requested to and then on the assumption that the requests of the national societies have been approved by their governments. Hence it has no means to withdraw; (2) With certain alleged isolated and purely accidental exceptions, when individuals request transfer of funds, they are referred to their obligations to comply with national laws. IRC stressed humanitarian need and said it would not exercise pressure on national societies. It did indicate that, if pressed to do so, it would tell national societies that future transfers would not be made, except through intermediary governments.
The State Department now proposes the following:

(1) Except for approved transfers at the request of governments, the IRG advises national societies that its channels are no longer available to transmit funds between territories of opposing belligerents; (2) Article 38 of the Geneva Convention of July 27, 1929, relative to POW's doesn't affect right of detaining power to control reception of funds, nor does it affect domestic laws, etc. on transfer of funds (this point was made by IRG); (3) Certain emergency transfers might be the subjects of further consideration in cases where specific needs had to be met.

State also concurs with request for conference. In the attached draft, FG concurs with this message.

I understand that FFG has recently held a conference with State and others on POW remittances. I recommend that this be returned to FFG, and insofar as WHB is concerned, I see no objection to the letter in question.
Stating that the message from the War Refugee Board
(your 279, January 27) was a matter of special satisfaction
since for several months past their most earnest concern
has been to draw attention of the Allied authorities to the
almost tragic condition of various categories of civilians
in Europe, letter from CIOR has now been received.

I have been asked by CIOR to convey to the War Refugee
Board, after they acknowledge receipt of my letter of
February 11, transmitting message contained in your 437,
February 9, expression of their deep gratitude for this
proof of confidence and the assurance that they would do
everything in their power in close cooperation with the
Joint Relief Commission and taking into account wishes of
the donors to draw up a program of relief action which will
be submitted to the Board at an early date. Further suggestions
of a practical character concerning the development of this
action and the initiation of other similar action will also
be made by CIOR in due course.
MEMORANDUM

January 27, 1944

I read to Mr. Bundy of the War Department at 12:25 P.M. today the cable to the International Red Cross from the War Refugee Board, which I told him had already been sent to State. He commented that the last sentence contained a commitment with regard to funds and I told him I understood there were private funds available. He said he would report the matter to the Secretary of War.
CROSS REFERENCE ON COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES
INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS

FOR:

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

1. FOR MATERIAL RE $100,000 FEEDING PROGRAM
2. FOR MATERIAL RE PURCHASE OF FOOD IN SWITZERLAND TO BE DISTRIBUTED BY RED CROSS TO INTERNEES AT THERESIENSTADT (LICENSE PERMITTING JDC TO REMIT MONEY FOR)
3. FOR MATERIAL RE COOPERATION OF IRC REPRESENTATIVES IN ANKARA AND GENEVA IN OUR EFFORTS TO OBTAIN SAFE CONDUCT FROM ALL BELLIGERENTS IN CONNECTION WITH RESCUE OPERATIONS TO AND THRU TURKEY
4. FOR MATERIAL RE EFFORTS TO OBTAIN FOR JEWS AND OTHER VICTIMS OF NAZI OPPRESSION, OPPORTUNITIES TO OBTAIN FOOD & OTHER NECESSITIES

SEE:
1. PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF & RESCUE OF REFUGEES: RELIEF PROJECTS (RED CROSS AID IN ROMANIA, HUNGARY, SLOVAKIA, CROATIA & THERESIENSTADT)
2. PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF & RESCUE OF REFUGEES: RELIEF PROJECTS (RELIEF IN THERESIENSTADT (JDC))
3. PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF & RESCUE OF REFUGEES: EVACUATION TO & THRU TURKEY
4. MEASURES DIRECTED TOWARD HALTING PERSECUTION: APPROACHES TO OFFENDING GOVERNMENTS (THE GERMANS)
Dear Mr. Huber:

Through your delegate in Washington, I have just received your letter of May 30, 1945. Your expression of thanks to the Board is greatly appreciated.

I wish to take this opportunity to express to you my personal gratitude for the service your Committee has rendered to the Board, particularly in its program to bring relief to the suffering inmates of German concentration camps. I wish also to thank you for the cooperation your Committee has generously given to Mr. McClelland and Mr. Kasten in their arduous duties as representatives of the Board in Switzerland. In spite of many obstacles, the Board was able to save and bring relief to many thousands of victims of Nazi oppression in its unique life-saving mission. We are grateful for the part the International Red Cross played in that great undertaking.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) William O'Dwyer

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

Mr. Max Huber,
Honorary and Acting President,
International Committee of the
Red Cross,
Geneva, Switzerland.

AUG 11 1945
Comité International
de la Croix Rouge à Genève, Suisse
Délégation aux États-Unis
d'Amérique

1645 Connecticut Ave. N. W.
Washington 9, D. C.

July 11, 1945

In reply, refer to ( ... )

Brigadier General William O'Dwyer
Executive Director
War Refugees Board
Washington D. C.

Sir,

I have the honor of forwarding to you herewith a letter addressed to you by Mr. Max Huber, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, in Geneva.

Believe me, Sir,

yours very truly:

[Signature]

CHARLES HUBER
Delegate
GENEVE, le May 30th, 1945.

Sir,

The conclusion of hostilities in Europe involves obviously a substantial change and reduction in the activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross. The relief scheme for what were known as "unassimilated groups", and, in particular, for Jews in Germany and in the occupied territories, which had been undertaken in the face of the greatest obstacles, is drawing to a close. The International Committee therefore consider it an essential duty at the present time to thank the organizations which have been particularly helpful in this welfare work.

The War Refugee Board, which was called into being under the wise and memorable leadership of President Roosevelt, enabled some tens of thousands of the most sorely tried war victims to receive some degree of help, although this was on a modest scale, in comparison to the stupendous needs of the sufferers. According to testimonies received repeatedly from the latter, this help, however, in many cases spelt rescue from death by starvation.

The International Committee would therefore like to thank the War Refugee Board sincerely for the effective and understanding assistance which they have invariably received through Mr. Roswell D. McClelland. The Committee greatly regret that such fruitful cooperation with the War Refugee Board, and in particular with their distinguished representative in Switzerland, should come to an end. Mr. McClelland's resourcefulness and selfless labours have contributed in large measure to the success of the enterprise, and he was latterly very ably seconded by Mr. Katzki.

Believe me,

Yours faithfully,

Max HUBER
Honorary and Acting President of the
International Committee of the Red Cross
Mit Luftpost
Par avion
Per via aerea

COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL
DE LA
CROIX-ROUGE
GENÈVE

Agence centrale
Prisonniers de Guerre

Brig. General William O'Dwyer
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington D.C.
International Committee of the Red Cross
De lausanne, Switzerland
Delegation to the
United States of America
1645 Connecticut Ave., Washington 9, D.C.

Brigadier General William O'Dwyer
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington D.C.
Sir,

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Believe me,

Yours faithfully,

/s/ Max Huber

Max Huber
Honorary and Acting President of the International Committee of the Red Cross
London, February 25, 1944

No. 14,067

SUBJECT: Refugee Relief Project Through International Red Cross

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's telegram no. 1020, February 9, 11 p.m., from the War Refugee Board and to transmit herewith copy of a letter and its enclosures received by the Embassy from the Director of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees in response to the communication to the Director which the Embassy was instructed by the telegram under reference to make.

Respectfully yours,

For the Ambassador:

W. J. Gallman
Counselor of Embassy

Enclosure:

1/ Copy of letter from the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, dated 21st February, 1944, reference 171/48 RWE/KMS.
Enclosure no. 1 to despatch no. 14,087 from the Embassy at London, dated February 25, 1944.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES

Our Ref: 171/98
HWE/EMS

11 D Regent Street,
London, S. W. 1.

21st February, 1944

Dear Mr. Bucknell:

Will you kindly refer to your letter of February 12, 1944, informing me that, on the approval of the War Refugee Board, the United States Treasury had issued appropriate licences to the Joint Distribution Committee to carry out the programme referred to in my letter No. 171/98 of December 7, 1943. I now enclose a copy of a letter dated 16th February, 1944, (with a copy of its enclosure), received from Monsieur Haccius of the London Delegation of the International Red Cross, and a copy of my reply thereto.

I am sending Mr. Randall at the Foreign Office a copy of the correspondence.

Yours sincerely,

H. W. Emerson.

Mr. Howard Bucknell, Jr.,
Embassy of the United States of America,
1, Grosvenor Square, W. 1.

Enc. 3.
21st February, 1944

Dear Monsieur Haccius,

In reply to your letter of the 16th February, 1944, with which you enclosed a copy of the note dated 5th February, 1944, from the International Red Cross at Geneva, I write to say that we have heard from the United States Embassy in London that the United States Treasury, with the approval of the War Refugee Board, has issued appropriate licences to the Joint Distribution Committee, the effect of which is that the Joint Distribution Committee will make available to the International Red Cross the sum of one hundred thousand dollars ($100,000) for the purpose of carrying out the scheme of assistance to certain groups of Jews in Europe, which has been the subject of discussion between the International Red Cross and the Intergovernmental Committee. We are informed that the licences will cover the purchase of food and other supplies in Rumania and Hungary. I have no doubt that the Joint Distribution Committee will get into early touch with the International Red Cross, if it has not already done so. The relations between the two will be direct and not through the Intergovernmental Committee. It will not, therefore, be necessary for the International Red Cross to render accounts to the Intergovernmental Committee as was provisionally proposed, but I hope that the International Red Cross will keep us informed of the progress of the scheme.

Under this arrangement the difficulty mentioned in the enclosure to your letter, regarding the transfer of money across the blockade, would apparently no longer exist, but I am sending a copy of the correspondence and of this letter to the Foreign Office and to the United States Embassy in London, in case any further action is necessary.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) H. W. Emerson.

Monsieur R. A. Haccius,
Comité International de la Croix-Rouge,
London Delegation,
55, Pall Mall, S. W. 1.

21/1/39
EWR/EMS
Dear Sir Herbert,

I have just received from Geneva a note which is complementary to the letter addressed to you by the Committee of the 9th December, 1943; this outlines the conditions governing the transfer of funds by the Committee through the blockade. I enclose copy of this note (No. 3980) for your information.

I should be obliged if you would let me know when you obtain any result in your dealings with the M.E.W. regarding the purchase of foodstuffs in Hungary.

My headquarters also wish me to inform you that they are willing to supply you with any further information you may require, and which may not be contained in their letter of the 9th December, 1943.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) R. A. Naccius.

Enclosed copy letter No. 3980.
Délégation du Comité International de la Croix-Rouge en Grande-Bretagne.

Concernant: Secours aux Israélites en Europe.

Pendant suite à notre note N° 2971 (JES/HL) du 13 décembre 1943, nous jugons utile de vous communiquer les informations suivantes:

En date des 29 et 30 novembre 1943, les Gouvernements américain et britannique ont fait savoir, par l'intermédiaire de leurs légations à Rome, qu'ils ne désiraient pas que le Comité International de la Croix-Rouge procédât à des transmissions d'argent à travers le Blocus, de telles transmissions étant de la compétence exclusive des Puissances Protéctorices. Une exception à ce principe serait toutefois admise lorsque, en l'absence de Puissance Protéctrice, le Comité International de la Croix-Rouge aurait été requis par un Gouvernement de procéder à une telle transmission.

Or, vous savez que notre œuvre de secours en faveur des Israélites en Europe nécessiterait vraisemblablement des transferts d'argent assez considérables. Vous savez également que les intérêts des Israélites dans les pays de l'axe ne sont pas représentés par une Puissance Protéctrice, et que le Comité International de la Croix-Rouge semble être, pour le moment, le seul intermédiaire capable de les secourir d'une manière efficace.

Nous tenons à préciser et nous espérons que notre lettre du 9 décembre 1943 au Directeur du Comité Inter-gouvernemental pour les Réfugiés ne sera pas considérée comme une infraction aux règles du Blocus, telles qu'elles viennent de nous être rappelées par les Gouvernements britannique et américain.

En fait – et notre lettre n'était peut-être pas assez explicite sur ce point – si nous avons offert d'entreprendre une action de secours à condition qu'une première somme de 300.000 francs soit mise à notre disposition, il est bien évident que cette offre était conditionnée par l'autorisation formelle des Autorités du Blocus à un tel transfert d'argent.

Nous vous sommes donc reconnaissants de bien vouloir porter les informations ci-dessus à la connaissance du Comité Inter-gouvernemental, en exprimant le désir que ce Comité veuille bien intervenir lui-même auprès des Autorités du Blocus en vue d'obtenir les facilités nécessaires à l'action de secours que nous sommes prêts à entreprendre.

Division des prisonniers internés et civils.
Subject: Relief to the Jews in Europe.

Referring to our note no. 3971 (JES/HL) of December 13, 1943, we deem it advisable to send you the following information:

Under date of November 29 and November 30, 1943, the American and British Governments informed us, through their legations in Bern, that they did not wish the International Red Cross Committee to effect the transfer of funds through the Blockade, the Protecting Powers having the sole right to such transfers. Exception to this principle might be made if, in the absence of a Protecting Power, the International Red Cross Committee were required by a Government to make such a transfer.

Now, you know that our work of assistance to Jews in Europe will most likely require the transfer of rather considerable sums of money. You also know that Jewish interests in Axis countries are not represented by a Protecting Power and that the International Red Cross Committee
Committee appears to be, for the time being, the only intermediary capable of giving them effective aid.

We hope, and we wish to make this clear, that our letter of December 9, 1943 to the Director of the Inter-governmental Committee on Refugees will not be considered as an infraction of the Blockade Regulations recently called to our attention by the British and American governments.

In fact—and our letter was perhaps not explicit enough on this point,—when we offered to carry out a scheme of assistance if an initial sum of Frs. 300,000 were put at our disposal, we evidently considered this offer as subject to the formal authorization of the Blockade authorities previous to such a transfer of funds.

We would therefore be grateful to you for transmitting this information to the Inter-governmental Committee, expressing the desire that this Committee itself approach the Blockade authorities as regards to the granting of facilities necessary to the relief project which we are ready to undertake.

Division of prisoners, internees and civilians.
This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government Agency. (EH)

U.S. URGENT

AMERICAN LEGATION

BERN

279

FOR THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS, GENEVA, FROM THE WAR RELIEF BOARD, we are familiar with the report (contained in your cable B71 of October 13, 1943, to your Washington Delegation) concerning possible feeding programs in Rumania, Theresienstadt, Slovakia and Croatia and the need of funds therefor. We desire immediate information concerning what areas you could operate in right now, assuming that necessary funds are made available to you, to provide food and medicines to Jews and other persecuted groups in German-occupied areas who are denied the facilities available to the rest of the population. Please advise where food, medicines, and other supplies can be purchased and how much money is needed. We are prepared to see that funds are made available at once for necessary operations.

NILL (AAB)

J. W. FENLX, TREASURY DEPARTMENT

EARPHONE CONVERSATION WITH H. R. STEINITZ, JR.

UNHW

Miss Commony (for Searl), Paul, Guten, White Pehle, Luxford, Doelis (2), A.M. Bernstein, Stewart, Lesser, Friedman, Hodel, Fisch, Abrahamson, Miss Langhin.