

Programs in Request to Relief
and Rescue of Refugees: Cooperation
with Other Agencies

Intergovernmental Committee
Vol 1 Folder 2

000254

DMH-144

PLAIN

London

Dated July 29, 1944

Rec'd 11 p.m.

Secretary of State
Washington

6054, Twenty-ninth

Director Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees
requests following message be transmitted to War
Refugee Board:

We have been given copy of cable sent to World
Jewish Congress by Dobkin and Weissman from Portugal
regarding Jewish children in France. We understand
Jewish Congress in America has approached or will
approach War Refugee Board. Our views at present are
as follows:

First real difficulty is to get children out of
France. Approaches made by Swiss Government on our
behalf a few months ago failed. We would favour fur-
ther approach by International Red Cross. Second if
children can be got out of France we had assurances
first from United States Government that its offer to
take 5,000 children still held good and similarly from
Canada for its offer of 1,000. Prima facie therefore
homes

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-2- #6054, Twenty-ninth, from London

homes would be available for 3,000 children if they reached Spain or Portugal but this might be subject to adjustment if many children got out of Hungary and it seemed desirable to seek priority for them with American and Canadian Governments. Third as regards maintenance when we discussed the matter several months ago with World Jewish Congress and then independently with Schwartz we understood that even if the former could not supply funds about which it held out prospects the Joint Distribution Committee would certainly be willing to assume responsibility for maintenance. As this would be for only short period there should be no difficulty. Fourth we have no information whether Weiseman's present proposals have been made in collaboration with the Joint; if not we think it most desirable that they should come into the scheme. Only immediate action required appears to be approach by International Red Cross to French authorities. We are quite ready to take this up with Geneva either independently or jointly with War Refugee Board."

HTM

VIMANT

cc: Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Weinstein, Files

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CONTROL COPY

San Salvador, El Salvador, July 10, 1944

No. 1805
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SUBJECT: Inter-Governmental Committee on Refugees.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State
Washington

Sir:

3 WRB
3 Wa-Refuge Board
(Leas)
1 Wa (Mr Bundy)

With reference to the Department's circular telegram of December 10, 1943, with regard to the problem of refugees from Nazi tyranny, I have the honor to transmit herewith a translation of a self-explanatory note from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, dated July 7, 1944, which has been received by me today:

"NATIONAL PALACE:

San Salvador, July 7, 1944.
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS
REPUBLIC OF EL SALVADOR, C.A.

DIPLOMATIC SECTION

A-855-D-1479

Sir:

With reference to your Embassy's esteemed note no. 217 of December 11, 1943, I have the honor to bring to your knowledge the contents of a communication which this Foreign Office is sending today to the Honorable Director of the Inter-Governmental Committee on Refugees, 11 Regent Street, London, S.W.1, which says: 'Sir: Referring to your esteemed note of May 25 last and other communications in which you invite El Salvador to become a member of the Inter-Governmental Committee on Refugees, I inform you that the Government of this Republic regards with deep sympathy the noble efforts carried out by that Institution to save, maintain and transport all those persons whom the fury of war has turned from their homes. The joint work to this end, of the United States, Great Britain and the Soviet Union deserves warm approval; but the adherence of this Government requires legislative authorization with respect to the sharing of the administrative expenses of the Committee. We must, therefore, to our regret, wait until in one of the coming years there is included in the Budget an appropriation for the said humanitarian purpose. Accept my distinguished consideration. JULIO E. AVILA.'

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

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AIR MAIL

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I renew to you, Sir, the assurances of my distinguished consideration.

/s/ Julio E. Avila

Honorable Gerhard Gade
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim
of the United States of America,
San Salvador."

Respectfully yours,

Gerhard Gade
Gerhard Gade
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

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GG/mdm

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Telephone: ABBEY 6593-4--6467-8.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES.

Our Ref.: IC/242/56.
Your Ref.: PMA/DLD.

11b, REGENT STREET,
LONDON, S.W.1.

4th July, 1944.

Dear Jim,

In order that the War Refugee Board, as arranged in April, may have a general view of our work in addition to the information which is shared with you by the Department of State on individual matters, as they arise, it is our intention to provide you at the end of each month with a summary of our salient activities and plans, and also more specific letters as occasion requires. The initial summary would have been written shortly after my return on 1st June if I had not had an acute and drawn-out attack of neuritis.

We have received the Board's weekly reports for May 22-27, May 29-June 3, and June 5-10, as well as copies of the President's cablegram and memorandum of 8th June concerning the Emergency Refugee Shelter, and his message to Congress of 12th June. You have our congratulations for the admirable work which you are doing, and our assurance that we shall consistently recognise the confidential nature of certain items in your reports.

Mr. Albert Abrahamson,
War Refugee Board,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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4th July, 1944.

Before dealing with substantive matters directly concerned with refugees, may I repeat what Sir Herbert and I said while we were in Washington - that we are very grateful for the frankness and cordiality with which John Pehle, yourself, Joe DuBois and other members of the Board's staff joined us in clarifying relations between our two organisations and in discussing rescue and relief questions generally. We are also grateful to Secretary Morgenthau, Secretary Hull and Secretary Stimson for the personal interest which they evidenced, and for securing from the President the financial allocation for our work. Sir Herbert reported these results to the Executive Committee Meeting held on 26th May, and I should like to quote from the minutes of that meeting: "The Executive Committee, by resolution, confirmed the arrangement between the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees and the War Refugee Board, as stated in the letter from the Director to Mr. Pehle, Director of the War Refugee Board, dated 14th April, 1944, and the latter's reply dated 17th April, 1944. It wholeheartedly approved the offer of cooperation with the War Refugee Board, made on its behalf by the Director."

Miss Biehle, our American resident representative, who officially began on 26th June her liaison work with U.N.R.R.A. headquarters and the American private organisations, has reported on the establishment through your office, shortly after I left, of the special deposit account of \$1,775,000 in the Treasury, under the name of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees. We are once more very grateful for the prompt arrangement of these facilities. Our Executive Committee has now ratified all the American financial formalities, and our finance officer, Mr. Hughes, is forwarding the necessary resolution etc. to the Treasury through the American Embassy here.

You have doubtless learned through the State Department that we are busy preparing for our plenary session, which is scheduled to open on the 15th August. It will be concerned primarily with the adoption of general rules and financial regulations, and the election of an enlarged executive committee; but it will also afford an opportunity for Sir Herbert to explain to the delegates of the thirty-eight governments now members of the Intergovernmental Committee something of the present and future responsibilities of the Committee under its enlarged mandate, and for the delegates to discuss generally the vast international humanitarian task represented by the European refugees.

Regarding the credit scheme, I was - as you know - planning to see Joseph Schwartz of the Joint Distribution Committee on my way back to London, in order to have everything in readiness for the anticipated approval of the American and British Governments; but he had to go earlier than he expected to Italy and the Eastern Mediterranean. We kept in constant touch with the American Embassy and the Foreign Office in respect of the American

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Government's reply, and - just before John Pehle's request that Sir Herbert inform him as to the status of the scheme was received at the Embassy - we presented to the Embassy a request that the reply might be hastened. The Embassy immediately cabled the Department and the War Refugee Board, and a week ago reported that the reply had been delivered to the British Embassy in Washington. The Foreign Office reported to us early last week that the reply had arrived in London, and was being dealt with immediately - with every prospect of early affirmative action. As soon as final approval is given, we shall communicate with you, and with the Joint Distribution Committee headquarters - as arranged with them before I left - and they will inform Schwartz (wherever he may then be) of the increased credit basis available, in order that he may in turn immediately inform the proper persons, if he can possibly communicate with them before returning to Lisbon. Then, at his first opportunity, we shall arrange for him to visit London for detailed discussion - this appearing to us more desirable, all things considered, than having me go to Lisbon.

Meanwhile, we have been approached by the Chief Rabbi, by the Central Council for Jewish Refugees, by the Board of Deputies of British Jews, and by the Agudas Israel organisation, with the request that we tell them of any additional way by which they might render immediate practical aid to their fellow-religionists in Axis or occupied territory. We have confidentially outlined the credit scheme to a few leaders, and have already received a cheque for £5,000 from the Central Council for Jewish Refugees. Under our new mandate of last August, we are empowered to receive and disburse private as well as public funds; and such private funds as we have now received will be used as it is planned to use the governmental funds which may become available to us. But, in order that public and private funds may be kept quite separate, we have already established a new account under the title of "Voluntary Relief Fund".

Immediately on his return from the United States and Canada in early May, Sir Herbert resumed those contacts with various British departments, the diplomatic representatives of other governments, the International Red Cross etc., which have bulked large in our work since the reorganisation of the Intergovernmental Committee last summer. It is through such contacts, often informal, that we have done a good deal of that part of our work which concerns preservation within and exit from Axis and occupied areas. A case in point concerns a matter in which your reports show that you have been very much interested - namely, American and British assurances to neutrals for their maintenance of refugees. We have been dealing with this matter in respect of Sweden and Switzerland since early last autumn, formally or informally as circumstances dictated, and I may report to you confidentially that Sir Herbert had something to do with the affirmative reply which the Ministry of Economic Warfare has made to your recent proposals.

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Turning now to work with refugees who have reached or been discovered in liberated or other safe areas, you will be glad to know that our resident representative in Italy, with headquarters recently transferred to Rome, has been heartily welcomed by the Internees and Displaced Persons Sub-Commission of the Allied Control Commission, and is busy with all manner of duties. His staff includes one delegate of the Joint Distribution Committee, two delegates of the American Friends Service Committee, and two delegates of the British Friends Ambulance Unit. In view of the reference on page 4 of your report for June 5-10 to "temporary refuge in Palestine" for refugees evacuated from Italy, we are enclosing a copy of our representative's report on how the first movement of 571 from Italy to Palestine was accomplished. This was a result in some measure of the arrangements it was possible for me to make with the Allied Control Commission in Naples in February, with the Palestinian Government and the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem in March, and with the Allied Force Headquarters in Algiers in April. Our representative has been instructed to aid in every way possible the rescue of refugees still north of the battleline in Italy, and those in Yugoslavia who may become accessible as the northward march of the Allied armies goes on; in this connection, we have just received a detailed report from Zagreb on the refugees located on the island of Rab and elsewhere in that area, and are forwarding it to our representative in Italy. He has been instructed to cooperate wholeheartedly with your representative in Italy, and he reports that he is doing so.

We have appointed as our resident representative in French North Africa, M. Valentin Smith, formerly Governor of Gabon; he has already visited the Fedhala camp, and will assume full duties in a few days. He will, of course, be given complete information about our relations with the War Refugee Board, about Ackerman, and about your activities which are relevant to North Africa. The French Committee of National Liberation, when I was in Algiers in April, informally agreed to our proposal that the two American Friends Service Committee delegates remaining in North Africa should work under our auspices, and we are now able to ask for formal approval. It is reported here that, in addition to the 38 refugees who were transferred from Spain to Fedhala in late May, about 200 were moved last week, and the residue of 500 will soon be moved. Apparently, with its American appropriation passed, U.N.R.R.A. is assuming responsibility for the camp; and we are assuming our responsibility for immediate efforts leading to the onward movement of the refugees from the camp to permanent homes.

Sir Herbert has been continuing his long-standing activities in connection with the 1500 refugees who have for some time been on the island of Mauritius. The basic difficulties are that they will not during the war have the opportunity they want to enter Palestine, and that detention is a psychological irritant. But, as you will see from the enclosed copy of a report just received, the administration of the camp is so conducted as to reduce so far as possible the inevitable effects of detention.

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During the last two months, a great deal of Sir Herbert and Dr. Kullmann's time has been devoted to discussions with military authorities and with the staff and technical advisory commission of the Displaced Persons Division of the U.N.R.R.A. office here. Among the matters on which they have been working most are the following:- (1) the multi-lateral agreement of the Continental allies concerning the maintenance and repatriation of internationally displaced persons; (2) the administrative framework within which U.N.R.R.A., at first under the army and then on its own, will co-ordinate the handling of such persons; (3) the definition of various groups of non-repatriables and the distribution of responsibility for them among the military, U.N.R.R.A., the national governments and the Intergovernmental Committee; and (4) the developing of a system of registration and family-tracing and communication, based on the International Red Cross records and information bureaux in the various nations. Kullmann has been examining the various aspects of refugee travel documents. His conclusions support what we said in Washington, namely, that governments are very unlikely to allow any authority but themselves to issue them, and that their main value would be, not for internal purposes, e.g., identity and protection, but for the purpose of travel from one country to another. There is considerable scope for the wider adoption by governments of a uniform travel document, and we may be able to bring the matter up before the plenary session. We will keep you informed about this.

With relation to resettlement possibilities, the most important item is Sir Herbert's visit to Canada on his way back; he had very full and encouraging discussions with both government officials and members of private organisations. (Incidentally, on his recommendation, the Canadian government is extending to Tangier the application of its Spanish and Portuguese activities.) Since returning, he has had some discussion on Rhodesia, and I have had some on Ethiopia.

This brings our best personal wishes to you all.

Yours sincerely,

Patrick Murphy Malin

Patrick Murphy Malin
Vice-Director.

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INTER GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE
ON REFUGEES
o/o HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
C.M.F.

REFERENCE : IGCR/PAL/3 30 May 1944.
FROM : Resident Representative in Italy, I.G.C.R.
TO : Sir Herbert Emerson, Director, I.G.C.R. London.
SUBJECT : First Settlement overseas of Stateless Refugees
effected through I.G.C.R. instrumentality.



1. Departure of Convoy.

I confirm my telegram No 3 of 29 May 44 which reported that 571
Sionist Jews had been embarked for Palestine, and are now on their
way there.

2. Reasons for length of this Memorandum.

As this is the initial operation of its kind effected at the
instance of and under the auspices of the I.G.C.R. and in a not
inconsiderable degree with its assistance I propose to deal
with this first venture in some detail.
And this for three reasons, because, firstly: I feel you would
wish to know what the despatch of this selected group of
immigrants involved: secondly, the full particulars given here
should enable future reports on any subsequent similar operations
to be comparatively laconic: and thirdly, the recital may serve
to prevent the recurrence of avoidable errors and promote ideas
and suggestions for dealing more adequately with future shipments.

3. Situation and Preparations previous to my arrival.

I&DPS/C There have been in S. Italy with little variations of numbers
since our occupation cared for and maintained by the Internees
and Displaced Persons Sub-Commission, Jewish refugees located in
Ferramenti Camp some 850, at Di Bagni some 500, and in the Bari
Transit Camp nearly 200. Apart from these there have been
groups greater or smaller living scattered inside and near the
towns of BARI, SALERNO, POTENZA, FOGGIA, BENEVENTO, TRENISACCE
etc, besides youths in 2 Agricultural training centres.
With communications slow and difficult, it was a hard task for
those concerned to keep in constant touch with these dispersed
bodies.

J.E.C. The Jewish people, always practical, formed a Jewish Emigration
Committee (J.E.C.) in S. Italy, with its centre at Bari, embracing
11 members in all, dispersed between other cities and camps.
In February the Vice-Director of the I.G.C.R. Mr P.M. Malin
visited Bari, and the Committee, inspired by the hope of an
eventual emigration, set about making a preliminary selection of
Sionist would-be emigrants, with five priority classes (i) those
for whom Certificates had been allocated in the past, even
though Certificates had never reached them: List A 53 : List
B 11: i.e. 64 in all, (ii) those with a husband or a wife in
Palestine (iii) parents with 2 or more children in Palestine
(iv) Youths: pioneers trained for farming (v) well known old
stager Sionists.

This selection was far advanced when in Mid-April Mr Shertok,
the Head of the Jewish Agency, was authorised by A.F.H.Q. North
Africa to visit S. Italy. It was understood he would select the
first 300 "Certificate holders".

Actually he remained a very short time in S. Italy and delegated
his authority to a Mr Serini who worked with the J.E.C. at Bari
for a while, when he too went off (to the United Kingdom).
Thus on my arrival at Bari on the 11th May (I reached Italy -
Naples - on 30 April) there was the 300 Family Heads List already
signed by Serini, while there was a further 800 Family Heads List
(drawn up

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drawn up)

drawn up, which he had scanned and also authenticated by his signature. The Officer who had been throughout in the closest touch with the J.E.C. and to whom they looked for advice was Captain L.J. Korn, an American Army Officer of the IADPS/C. It would be impossible to find anyone more selfless, more sympathetic about the problems involved or more single minded. Although he has no racial or other connection with the Jews, he is held in great affection and respect by them all, and can speak their common language - German. He explained to me that there were still some doubtful cases: that several dubious marriages were taking place, so that presumed bachelors were marrying in haste single women over 18, and thus "save" certificates for others; and above all that the instructions from Palestine regarding numbers were not clear.

4. Uncertainty regarding instructions in respect of the Numbers of Emigrant Heads of Families.

(a) Uncertainty regarding the Instructions

The instructions regarding both the numbers and the categories of the total to be admitted have proved to be confusing; and despite much study of them, no one here is completely clear as to what was intended.

(b) Doubtful Points in the Instructions

- (a) Was the total to be 300 or 313?
- (b) Those on the nominal lists furnished by the Palestine Authorities - List A 53 names: List B 11 names: were considered as effectively on the priority lists, even if they had no proofs of their certificates. But if such persons were still in Axis territory were their places to be taken by others waiting here in liberated territory?
- (c) Was the "delegation" of authority to choose the immigrants given by Mr Shortok to Mr Serini, to invest the latter (who during these crucial weeks has been absent in England) with absolute overruling powers?
- (d) How were other substitutes to be chosen for the vacancies caused (i) by those who have changed their mind, (ii) by recent marriages absorbing "Heads of Families" (single women over 18) (iii) by illness (iv) by enlistment in the Czech or other Armies, and so on.

(c) Decisions taken on doubtful points.

On my advice and authority the local self-styled Jewish Emigration Committee has conformed to the following decisions:

- (a) The Heads of Families total is not to exceed 300 in principle,
- (b) Whatever the number of cases of Certificates granted to persons still in Enemy territories, an equal number of Heads of Families present here shall benefit and be allowed to leave for Palestine.
- (c) Mr Serini's list has been respected subject to changes caused by subsequent vacancies.
- (d) The list of priority for Ersatz or substitute emigrants drawn up by the local Jewish Emigration Committee has been utilised as a basis for filling new vacancies, subject to an overriding authority that I have exercised when there was a doubt and appeal made to me.

5. Decision to Send Convoy away as soon as possible.

It took me some days to understand what was apparently holding up the final decisions. But the IADPS/C very helpfully accepted my somewhat anomalous position of Representative of the I.G.C.R. as that of an official with authority to make decisions in respect of these emigrants to Palestine.

(Since I conceived

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Since I conceived the role and policy of the I.G.C.R. as having early and final settlement of the Stateless persons as its foremost aim, I sent you my telegram of the 14 May stating that 300 Heads of Families should be leaving for Palestine at the end of May. In the sequel it was found that the implementing of this decision entailed an exceptionally rapid effort.

Dates of Sailing.

A.F.S.C. I was confidentially informed that there would probably be a convoy about the 31st May/1st June: and on Saturday 20th May I set out by car from Bari for FERRAMONTI Camp, near Cosenza, with Mr David Hartley, of the American Friends Service Committee (A.F.S.C.) who had only joined me 3 days before. We reached the Camp in the early evening.

Proceedings at the Camps - Ferramonti.

A.C.C. There were there some 850 Jews, of whom over 200 were on the selected list. The American Commandant of the Camp Lt. GARCIA helped us prepare the programme for the following morning 21st May, when we called together first the Zionist emigrants to their Assembly Hall. All the proceedings at Ferramonti and later at Di Bagni were in German.

A.C.C. After giving the background of the Allied Control Commission (A.C.C.) and of the I.G.C.R. I explained to the audience that there was a probability of a sailing at the end of the month or early June: that they should prepare: baggage would be limited to some 150 lbs for each adult: that no currency could be taken out of the country, and that as the compensation to be given for Occupational Lira's involved a delicate financial problem they would have to sign an undertaking to accept whatever compensation the A.C.C. might indicate. To overcome their natural reluctance to accept compensation to be fixed later and unilaterally, I reminded them that by fleeing from German persecution into the lands held by the American and British, they had voluntarily entrusted us with their lives and honour, and that now they were only being faced with having confidence in our Governments as regards their money. When the time came later, all handed over their currency quite happily.

Substitutes or ERSATZ Emigrants.

Then the Substitutes were addressed, as clearly there would be persons falling out, and substitutes or ERSATZ Emigrants needed: a group of a few families had been selected, some 40 from throughout S. Italy, of whom about 12 families in Ferramonti. I told these people the situation and said that they were free to take a chance and go down with the others to the eventual Transit Camp for Embarkation. They must clearly understand that though called, they might not be chosen, and would have to return to Ferramonti in that case. All except two families accepted. Subsequently I spoke to the remainder of the Camp, less those already addressed. I explained the keen and growing interest of the I.G.C.R. in their present welfare and future settlement: now that the War had first priority, but that they were not forgotten ~~that now~~ this was a flying visit - and I pointed out their - comparative - wellbeing in the Ferramonti Camp.

A rather distinguished elderly Jew then made an eloquent speech, heartily applauded, which ended with the words: "This is the day of the greatest disappointment of our lives: the American and British Governments speak fine words, but do nothing, except allow an insignificant contingent to enter Palestine, but not the States or a part of the British Empire". I thought matters should not rest there, so I briefly complimented the speaker on his eloquence: pointed out the happy life the German Jews had led in Germany

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until an orator with childish inexact accusations had by his eloquence turned all the Germans against the Jews. That eloquence based on false promises had been their undoing: and I asked should they cease to trust the two countries, now protecting them, merely because both of them engaged in this life and death struggle of this world wide war could not simultaneously perform miracles for what later may be millions of homeless and Stateless? The meeting by its response appeared to come back to earth again. That evening at Cosenza I was told the sailing date 30th May was likely. So the next day at a further meeting all due to sail were told to stand by as from Thursday 25th May: and all signed a form drawn up declaring their complete readiness and desire to go to Palestine.

Change of Date.

We set off for the Camp at S. Maria di Bagni, but were held up at Taranto. There I thought it best to get the sailing date further confirmed by Movements: and to our discomfiture heard it had been put forward, and that all should be aboard late on Friday 26th, with a very faint possibility of delay until Saturday 27th. I decided it would be best to go ahead even if only some 250 Heads of Families could be collected.

Camp at Di Bagni.

With several minor changes, and with no time to address all the inmates of the "Camp" (really a summer resort seaside village, pleasant unfurnished villas) the same procedure was followed as at Ferramonti, and signatures obtained of all those on the list and desirous to sail. The usual crop of individual hardship cases came up for settlement, while here too a further batch of ERSATZ emigrants were listed, and agreed to stand their chance by coming to the Embarkation Transit Camp.

Preparations before Collection at Transit Camp.

On the same day 23rd May the IDPS/C in the person of Lt Colonel Fothergill on behalf of Colonel Findlay, the Director, had issued urgent orders regarding the movement on Thursday the 25th of approximately 300 Jews from Ferramonti, 150 from Di Bagni and 120 from Bari Camps to the Brickfields (Embarkation Transit Camp) at Taranto. Mr Howard Wriggins of the A.F.S.C. who had come to work with me, had reached Bari the day before, and was despatched straight away on the 23rd to Ferramonti Camp to assist the Commandant in the accelerated preparations for departure. He and Lt Garcia collected against receipt the currency handed in by the refugees, while the DPS/C sent a Finance Officer to Di Bagni on the same errand.

At the Embarkation Transit Camp.

The contingent collected from, at, and around Bari and from near Naples, and notified very diligently and in time by the J.E.C. left by train on the morning of Thursday 25th: the Di Bagni group left the same morning by train, and the Ferramonti group that afternoon, also by train. They arrived the first two, in the afternoon of Thursday, the Ferramonti section on Friday morning all at Taranto, whence they were brought by lorries to the "Brickfield" Camp. The accommodation for the 570 odd persons was on the floor of the huge upper room, of a still more huge one hall building, where some 2000 Yugoslav refugees were camped on the ground floor. Straw and blankets were provided by the A.C.C. as also hot soup and adequate food during their stay. The newcomers soon camped themselves among their belongings and uttered no complaints about the necessarily somewhat primitive accommodation.

(Lists.

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Lists.

From Friday morning onwards there was a perfect orgy of lists to be made, all at top pressure. First all the refugees had to be identified in due order, and handed their Embarkation Travel Cards, to which the official number on the Nominal Roll could not yet be added. A few of the more independent refugees were still dribbling in on their own. Then all the Ersatz or Substitutes were called up separately and identified, but not issued with Travel Cards. After this the list of all the individuals from the various camps etc. had to be sorted, and a definite figure established to show how many were missing and how many ERSATZ members could be admitted. This figure was finally established at 29 Heads of Families. These 29 individuals were then chosen after careful deliberation with the representatives of the J.E.C. from among the whole Ersatz list. On this an Alphabetical Nominal Roll of the 300 Heads of Families was begun, with consecutive official numbers, and this was only finished before dawn on Saturday the 27th. Lists were also demanded for the Sea Transport Officer of groups of passengers divided into blocks of 25 to 30, with sexes and ages, and a breakdown showing five different age groups. In the morning the 60 odd persons, including the Ersatz group, who had not yet handed over their currency did so, against official receipts - a lengthy operation with the small value notes in circulation here. Meanwhile the R.A.M.C. were vaccinating all those without proof of recent inoculation. The last operation was the handing in by each Head of Family, in alphabetical order, of his Embarkation Travel Card for presentation on arrival in Palestine, on to which his official number as figuring on the Nominal Roll was affixed. All were lined up in Alphabetical order for this operation which worked smoothly and rapidly, and was the final proof that all were present. As each Head of Family passed on he was handed by the Sea Transport Officer's Representative a ticket showing his place in the ship. Shortly after the passengers were lined up with their baggage and placed with it into the lorries brought on to the Camp ground, whence they were taken on to the quay alongside the Transport. Subsequently each one was directed straight to his appointed deck, or in the case of a few elder persons, their cabin.

The Departure.

British troops aboard the Transport as usual volunteered to carry much of the refugees luggage up the gangways. The expressions of relief, happiness and gratitude on the lips and faces of nearly all these Emigrants were clearly genuine. Many had been persecuted and wanderers over a period of five years and more.

On the instructions of the IDPS/C Captain Korn travelled as conducting Officer in charge of this draft of Jewish Emigrants to Palestine. He will have filled up during the voyage complete Personal Record Sheets for each Head of Family.

General Comments.

Selection of Refugees. It is clear that there must be a stricter control if the next group of Emigrants is to be carefully chosen, from out of a larger number. It is significant that 10 of the 11 members of the J.E.C. placed themselves on the chosen list and departed.

Collection at Embarkation Transit Camp.

(If time allows....

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If time allows...

If time allows, it would be helpful if the Emigrants were collected three clear days beforehand in this Camp, so many are the operations and lists to be made.

Absence of Children.

There was a noticeable absence of children in this convoy: and indeed the average emigrant was middle aged or older. I do not know how far this is in accord with the Palestine Government's policy. It would be most valuable if a Representative of the Jewish Agency controls the making of the choices for the next convoy.

Cooperation with the A.C.C. and I & DPS/C.

Throughout I have received every possible assistance in the I.G.C.R.'s share in the despatch of these emigrants. The I & DPS/C's share of the work was carried out most rapidly and effectively, and I should like especially to place on record the never failing helpfulness of Lt CRANE the Brookfields Camp Commandant, despite his most slender resources.

ENCLOSURES

- Annex "A" Nominal Roll of the 300 Jewish Heads of Families.
- Annex "B" Numbered Embarkation Travel Document (Specimen)
- Annex "C" Currency Receipt with undertaking by currency holder (Specimen)

NOTE:

The grand total of all currencies handed in reached, approximately, the equivalent of 9,000,000 Occupational Lire: estimating the £ Sterling at 400 Occupational Lire'...

C.E. Heathcote-Smith

C.E. HEATHCOTE-SMITH
Resident Representative
I.G.C.R.

DISTRIBUTION:

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H.J. Allied Control Commission,	
R.C. & M.G. Section.	1
A.F.H.Q.	1

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INTERIM REPORT ON THE DETAINMENT CAMP

1st October, 1942, to 30th September, 1943.

I. GENERAL.

1. On the 3rd April, 1943, eight detainees of Polish Nationality left the Camp to serve with the Polish Forces in the Middle East. One detainee was released to join her husband in England, and another was allowed to go to South Africa to work in the Czechoslovak Consulate in Cape Town. Several others have been granted their release and are awaiting passage. In April, 1943, the Czech authorities in London cancelled the departure of 42 detainees of Czech Nationality who had volunteered for service with the Czech Forces. This was because there were so many desertions in the batch of Czech volunteers who left the Camp in 1942 for service in the Middle East. The detainees whose departure was cancelled were given the opportunity of joining the British Pioneer Corps, but they declined.

2. Up to August, 1943, detainees continued to go out daily on parole and to move freely in those parts of the Island which are not under military control. It then became necessary to re-inforce security measures throughout the Island. In consequence of this, the daily outings on parole had to be discontinued. To improve the position caused by these measures, transport has been put at the disposal of the Camp Authorities to enable parties of detainees to be sent to the seaside every day. The number of persons who enjoy this privilege is not less than that hitherto allowed out on parole. These changes were greatly resented by some of the younger inmates of the Camp, but they were welcomed by others, particularly those who through age or infirmity had been unable to enjoy the privilege of leaving the Camp on parole.

3. It has also been found possible to establish a Holiday Camp at one of the healthiest seaside resorts of the Island. Parties of sixty are taken to the camp each week by bus. The camp was opened on the 5th June and has been greatly appreciated by all. Here detainees can spend a holiday in quiet and beautiful surroundings. They are allowed to roam about freely in the hundred acres of woodland which surrounds the camp. There are courts for deck tennis and for volley ball, and plenty of indoor games. A wireless set has been installed at the camp so that detainees can listen to the news bulletins and musical programmes from London and other Empire Stations.

4. Another innovation introduced during the year and greatly appreciated by detainees is hot baths.

II. ACCOMMODATION.

5. There has been no change in the accommodation of detainees. Women are housed in wooden huts and men in separate cubicles in stone buildings.

6. In March, 1943, a scheme for allowing detainees to live a fuller family life was discussed with the national group leaders. After ascertaining the feelings of their respective groups, the leaders reported that 95 per cent of the detainees were satisfied with the present arrangements and were against any alteration. Although the present accommodation does not allow married couples and their families to live together, they enjoy a maximum of privacy, and are permitted to

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mix freely from 11 a.m. to 9.15 p.m. daily. The Camp gardens and recreation grounds, which cover some fifty-six acres are open to all detainees from 2 p.m. until 6.30 p.m. daily.

7. The Camp is well provided with public rooms. Besides the wireless rooms, libraries, reading rooms, canteens and cafés, there are recreation rooms in both the men's and women's camps which have accommodation for 400 persons. In the buildings where the men are housed there are two passages 34½ feet long and 25 feet wide. These passages are well lighted and equipped with tables and benches where detainees can read, write letters, etc. Two stone buildings, each accommodating 300 people, are used by the Orthodox and Liberal congregations as synagogues. There are special rooms for indoor games such as table tennis, and both Girl Guides and Boy Scouts have club rooms of their own. Four huts comprising sixteen rooms in the women's section of the Camp are used as workshops, and in the men's camp several blocks of buildings are used for the same purpose. Special accommodation has also been provided for school rooms. The school rooms are available for private study after school hours.

III. WORKSHOPS AND INDUSTRIES.

8. One of the chief aims of the Camp authorities has been to keep the members of the Camp fully occupied.

9. In the men's section, there are very few detainees without a job who are fit and willing to work. About 29 per cent. of the Camp population are employed on Camp duties as doctors, nurses, dentists, dressmakers, shirtmakers, cooks, bakers, barbers, tailors, cobblers, carpenters, blacksmiths, etc. In addition to these, many men and women are found employment as school teachers, physical training instructors, sports ground attendants, etc. Detainees employed on essential Camp duties are paid standard rates of pay from a grant which has been given for this purpose by Government. Others are paid a small remuneration for their work from the Camp Fund.

10. Approval has been obtained for the establishment at the Camp of workshops for the servicing and general maintenance of motor vehicles used by the Civil Defence and Service Departments. Work on service vehicles has already started in the existing workshops, and new buildings are being constructed. In addition to the motor repair shops there will be machine shops, vulcanising plant, electrical welding plant, etc. These new workshops will not only provide work for about two hundred detainees but will give them an opportunity to exercise their technical skill. Advantage will be taken of these shops to train some of the younger boys in motor engineering, etc. Detainees employed on these industries are paid at current trade rates, and the profits which are made are paid into the Camp Welfare Fund.

11. The sale of toys and fancy goods manufactured by detainees and sold through the Camp Show Room has increased during the year. About 15 per cent. of the Camp population are now employed on work of this kind. The articles manufactured vary from toys to tools, and include handbags, suit cases, dispatch cases, underclothing, artificial flowers, belts and bags, jewellery, tortoise shell work and brushes. Workers employed on the manufacture of these articles are allowed to charge their own price for their labour and when orders are received, they are given an advance with which to purchase the raw materials. Several consignments of hand-embroidered goods, toys and fancy goods manufactured in the Camp have been sent to South Africa. Jam manufactured from local fruits is another Camp industry which has made great progress during the year.

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This jam is now being supplied to His Majesty's Forces in Mauritius. The profits from these industries are paid into the Camp Welfare Fund.

IV. CAMP GARDENS

12. It has been a most successful year for the Camp gardens. The quantity of vegetables raised from the 1st October, 1942, to the 30th September, 1943, was 162 tons as against 122 tons for the same period in 1941 - 42. The gardens have during the year also supplied to the Camp 12 tons of fruit and 18,462 cobs of maize.

13. The quantity of vegetables grown in the Camp gardens during the winter months far exceeds the requirements of the Camp, whilst the production in the summer months has been insufficient for our needs. To enable us to be self-supporting, we have this year increased the quantity of cabbages grown and made about 10 tons of sauerkraut to be issued during the summer months.

14. The allotment scheme which was started last year has made good progress. Many more detainees have taken over allotments, and some of the old allotment holders have extended their holdings. One of the most interesting allotments is that worked by the Boy Scouts. Each troop cultivates its own piece of ground and there is great competition to see which troop by the sale of its produce can contribute most to the Scout Fund.

V. DETAINMENT AREA COMMITTEE.

15. The nerve centre of the whole Camp organisation is the Detainment Area Committee, which was set up to promote the general welfare of the detainees. It has various sub-committees which deal with education, library, Camp industries, outdoor sports and indoor games, social activities such as the organisation of concerts and lectures, and it controls and directs the whole life of the Camp. The principle aimed at has been to make the Camp as far as practicable a self-governing community. Through this Committee, national group leaders and deputy leaders who are elected by the detainees themselves can bring forward any proposal for the improvement of conditions in the Camp. It is gradually being more and more left to the selected leaders and committees to run their own affairs under the guidance of the Commandant and his officers. These committees, with the help of the Camp authorities, have done much in the way of providing amenities to relieve the irksomeness of internment for those who cared to partake in Camp activities.

VI. EDUCATION.

16. The infant, primary and secondary schools which have been provided for the education of children are well equipped and supplied with up-to-date text books and educational materials. For junior classes there is a supply of properly graded English readers published by the Oxford University Press for schools in which English is a foreign language. Other equipment includes wall maps, kindergarten apparatus, mathematical instruments, painting materials and exercise books of all kind.

17. The infant school where children between the ages of 2 and 6 years receive instruction is one of the brightest spots in the Camp. There are no formal lessons in the infant school. Children spend their time largely in play activities, storytelling and sleep. The greatest emphasis is laid upon the formation of right habits of personal hygiene and the acquire-

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ment of the art of living in the society of others. All the furniture and equipment in the infant school has been specially designed for small people. Many of the older children passed into the primary school during the year and their places have been taken by new toddlers.

18. In the primary school, where the work is more systematised, the children learn to read and write and to do simple arithmetical calculation. They also learn something of the facts of history and geography, and they are encouraged to take an intelligent interest in the world of nature. Singing is regularly taught and there is organised physical training which combines scientifically planned exercises with a wealth of lively games. In the secondary schools the subjects taught include classics, English, science, Hebrew, mathematics, botany and shorthand. Scope is given for practical creative work in arts and crafts. The boys are taught woodwork whilst the older girls are taught sewing, needle-work and weaving. The hand looms used by the weaving classes were made in the Camp workshops, and the material woven by the children is made into handbags which are sold through the Camp Show Room. Some of the girls who left school during the year are serving their apprenticeship as shirtmakers and dress-makers, whilst employment has been found for some of the older boys in the carpenters', tailors' cobbler's and engineering shops. The musical and dramatic talent of the children is given full scope, and many good plays and concerts have been produced by them in the Camp recreation rooms.

The staff of the schools consists entirely of detainee men and women teachers.

19. Text books have been provided for general and advanced education, and detainees are encouraged to occupy their time in study. Evening classes are held for adult detainees in English, Hebrew, mathematics, book-keeping, shorthand, hygiene, chemistry and gardening. The English classes held by the Bishop of Mauritius and the Director of Education have been continued throughout the year. At these classes, lectures have been given and discussions held on a wide range of subjects, on current affairs, English life and thought, English history and literature. Lectures have also been given by the principal of the Government Training College and many other prominent members of the British and French communities in the Island. These lectures have been greatly appreciated.

20. The Committee which deals with social activities in the Camp has during the year organised lectures, plays, radio programmes, short stories and essay competitions. Hebrew and English for beginners is taught over the Camp radio, and talks on a variety of subjects have been given by detainees.

21. The debating society, which is composed of both men and women detainees, meets fortnightly under the chairmanship of the Camp Commandant and discusses subjects of topical interest. Some of the subjects which have been discussed are "The rebuilding of Europe after the War", "What is democracy", "Advantages of co-educational schools".

22. Detainees have continued to give lessons in art, music and languages to members of the public.

VII. CAMP LIBRARIES.

23. The Camp libraries are well stocked with cultural, historical and educational books. There are also books in Hebrew and German which have been sent by the Jewish community in South Africa. Newspapers and periodicals are provided and include papers published in the United Kingdom in foreign languages. The Camp receives copies of the Globe-Reuters News, and the news is broadcast daily through the Camp radio. A special section of

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the library is devoted to children's books, and there is also a separate library for the Zionist Association, where literature on the Zionist movement is available for detainees.

VIII. BOY SCOUTS AND GIRL GUIDES.

24. The Scouts now have their own headquarters. The building includes, besides the Scouts' workshop, a room large enough for company or pack meetings and training. Here the members can bring their friends for leisure and recreation, and meet for discussion and demonstration. The furniture was made by the Scouts in their own workshop, and the room was painted and decorated by them. They are taught to earn the money they need for the company. Some of them pay a regular subscription whilst others find jobs of work to do to augment their fund. These boys are anxious to serve the British Empire, and they regard the fact of being welcomed into the Scout movement and of being allowed to wear its uniform as a great privilege.

25. Thirty-five of the Scouts spent ten days from the 16th to the 26th August under canvas at the seaside. The Camp was very successful and was voted to have been the best yet held. Several of the cubs who reached scout age during the year have had their "going up" ceremony and so have filled the vacancies created by boys who have left the troop after reaching the age of 18. Proficiency badges have occupied much of the spare time of the boys. Several have gone in for what may be called "trade" badges, the most popular being the carpenter, electrician, black-smith, and leather worker as the boys are taught these trades in the Camp workshops. Few of the boys had difficulty in obtaining their swimmer's badge as most of them could swim, but for the rescuer's badge they had to be taught specially. Nine gained this badge during the seaside camp. The badge for ambulance work has also been popular. The boys who obtained this badge were put in charge of all the first aid needed by the other boys during the August camp. They had plenty of small cases to attend to and all were satisfactorily dealt with. Cooking played a big part in camping and 13 cook badges were gained in August.

26. The Cub pack goes ahead more slowly, as most of the boys are rather young, but instruction is given and the boys have their weekly meeting. Many new boys have been taken into the cubs during the year. Both pack and troop put much zest into games. The team spirit is strong, and it is a real joy to watch a game being played.

27. In the Girl Guides Company there are now 4 Guiders and 31 Guides. As in the case of the Scouts, proficiency badges have occupied much of the spare time of the girls. In all, 55 badges have been gained, most of them for home-maker, child-nurse, gardener, knitter and needle women. Three Guides were awarded their second class badge during the year. A building has been secured for use as a club room. The room has been comfortably furnished and decorated (in great part by the Guides themselves).

28. Three Guiders and 30 Guides were in camp for 10 days during the beginning of August. The camp was held this year at Helle Mare, an exceptionally beautiful site near Flacq. Among the campers were 3 Czechs, 15 Poles, 7 Austrians and 8 Danzigers. Campcraft occupied a good part of the girls' time whilst in camp. The Guides truly lived up to their motto "Be prepared". There was no "tin-can guiding" at the August camp. All cooking was done out of doors, and sometimes in a storm of wind and rain; firewood had to be collected and fires lighted without the aid of paper, etc. The evenings were spent round

the camp fire, when songs of the different nations could be heard echoing round the camp site. On Tuesday, the 10th August, the Governor and Lady Mackenzie-Kennedy visited the camp and delighted everybody by having tea in camp. Whilst His Excellency visited Scouts camping on other sites, Lady Mackenzie-Kennedy watched an enrolment. She also made a tour of the site inspecting the tents and talking to many of the campers. After tea the Guiders entertained their visitors with national songs.

29. Twenty-three girls between the ages of 7 and 11 years make up the Brownie pack. Seven new girls have been enrolled during the year and three of the older Brownies have become Guides. The Brownies are encouraged to do their good turn. The Brown Owl collects all the pack's ideas at Pow-wow and directs the Brownies' choice to activities which satisfy their desire to be useful. The Brownies are just as keen on working for proficiency badges as the Guides; many of them have gained badges as collectors, needlewomen and knitters, and four of them passed their first class test during the year.

IX. RELIGION

30. Every facility has been provided for religious observances. Buildings in the Camp have been provided for use as synagogues by the Orthodox and Liberal groups. They are well equipped with prayer books, prayer shawls and vestments.

31. Special facilities exist for the cooking of food for the Orthodox group and kosher meat is issued to the whole Camp. Divine service is held regularly. The Commandant and senior members of the Camp staff attended a special service which was held in the Liberal Synagogue on the 4th September, 1943, to commemorate the fourth anniversary of the war. Cases of matzoth bread were provided for the Passover by the Jewish community in South Africa, and the Passover was celebrated in accordance with Jewish customs. A sum of £230 received from the Jewish community in South Africa was distributed among the children, destitute and sick detainees on the occasion of the Jewish New Year. There were 4 confirmations and 8 circumcisions during the year and 6 marriages were solemnized.

32. The spiritual needs of three detainees who are members of the Roman Catholic Church are ministered to by a Roman Catholic priest of the parish, and those of a member of the Lutheran Church by the Bishop of Mauritius.

X. VISITING COMMITTEE

33. This Committee was set up to act as the public conscience in all matters relative to the welfare of the detainees. All the members are non-official persons and were nominated by the Governor. Members of this Committee make unexpected visits and are allowed to visit any part of the Camp and talk freely with any person in the Camp. Many improvements in food, general comfort, and welfare have been suggested by them and put into operation whenever practicable.

XI. CAMP WELFARE FUND

34. The Camp Welfare Fund which was established to assist those detainees who are destitute or have no means of earning money, continued its activities during the year. The fund derives its income from -

- (a) profits from the Camp canteens and cafés,
- (b) profits from Camp industries,
- (c) remittances from foreign governments.

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- (d) contribution from the Government for specific occupational activities,
- (e) money gifts made direct to the Commandant for the benefit of the detainees,
- (f) voluntary contributions by detainees.

Besides providing the detainees with sporting outfits and equipment, books and periodicals, music and musical instruments, text books for advanced education, the fund also provides pocket money for those who are in need and physically unable to work at the rate of Rs. 3 a month for adults, R. 1.50 for children. The amount disbursed from the 1st October, 1942, to the 30th September, 1943, has been Rs. 60,910, and since the start of the Camp Rs. 91,230. The Camp authorities have been tireless in their efforts to find employment for detainees and to see that gifts of money for their welfare are put to the best possible use.

XII. CAMP SAVINGS BANK.

35. All money received by detainees is paid into their account in the Camp Savings Bank, from which they may draw up to Rs. 10 a week (more in certain cases). Since the start of the Camp, the bank has paid out to detainees Rs. 361,136. A detailed statement showing the working of the Savings Bank is given in Appendix E.

XIII. RECREATION

36. Games continue to play an important part in the life of the Camp, and have done a lot towards relieving the irksomeness of detention. Greater facilities for recreation have been provided during the year. About six acres of the Camp grounds have now been taken over for use as a sports ground. There is a football field and a running track, and there are courts for deck tennis and for volley ball. Two pavilions have been erected on the football ground, which provide shelter for about 500 spectators.

37. Volley ball matches as well as football matches are played regularly against outside teams. Sports meetings are held frequently on the recreation grounds. In addition to flat races, the programmes include events such as long jump, high jump, putting the shot, relay race, hurdles, obstacle race and comic football matches. In fact, events are provided for all classes and all ages.

38. A portion of the sports ground has been set apart for children, and swings and see-saws have been erected.

39. There is a café on the sports ground where detainees can purchase tea, coffee, cakes and fruits. The Camp Band plays there once a week.

40. For indoor recreation, rooms have been provided in both the men's and women's sections where detainees can play table tennis, chess, draughts, dominoes and other indoor games. Bridge, chess and skat tournaments are organised. These tournaments are run on a point system instead of a knockout and therefore keep the competitors occupied on several evenings each month.

41. The ^{re}creation room in the men's section, which has been equipped with parallel bars, horses for vaulting exercises, boxing gloves and wrestling mats is used in the daytime as a gymnasium, and qualified detainee instructors are in attendance. The classes in physical training and rhythmic dances, which are held in the early morning, are well attended and appreciated by both sexes.

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42. On the 10th December, 89 children were invited to tea by the Commandant and his wife. They were entertained with games in the garden and after tea presents were distributed. There was something for each child including oranges and sweets. Six days later, the Commandant and his wife had 100 old couples of over 65 years of age to tea, and on Christmas day they entertained 25 detainees (five from each of the national groups - Czech, Austrian, Polish, Danzig and 5th Group).

43. The Camp Dance Band has had a most successful and profitable year. It has been in great demand at dances, weddings and fancy-fairs, and has played on 77 occasions outside the Camp during the year.

XIV. HEALTH.

44. The Camp Hospital which is situated outside the Camp, is well equipped and has beds for 200 patients. There is also special accommodation for the isolation of infectious cases. A maternity ward, which was opened during the year, will enable us to deal with the increasing number of births. Thirteen babies have been born since the 12th April, 1943. About 30 more are expected before the end of the year.

45. There has been a considerable decrease in the number of admissions to hospital during the year. Invalids and old persons who are in need of constant medical attention still make up the greater part of the admissions.

46. Major surgical cases are treated in the large hospitals of the Colony, where specialists in eye, ear, throat, nose, skin and mental diseases are constantly available. Spectacles are supplied free to those who are not able to pay for them.

47. Outdoor patients are treated at the dispensaries in the Camp by detainee doctors. The Camp Medical Officer and the Assistant Medical Officer visit the Camp daily.

48. The two dental surgeries in the Camp are under the care of qualified detainee dentists. Dental treatment is given free to all detainees.

49. Of the seventeen deaths registered during the year, ten were of persons over 60 years of age.

50. There have been no epidemics during the year. The anti-malarial measures have been maintained, and there has been a steady decrease in the number of new cases of malaria reported. The monthly average of new cases has been 6.6 against 8.75 in the previous year.

51. The health of the detainees is excellent. How remarkably fit they are was again illustrated when forty-two Austrians who had volunteered to join the British Pioneer Corps were examined by an Army Medical Board in May, 1943, and all passed A.I.

CONCLUSION

52. A distinguished visitor to the Camp during the year was His Excellency Sir Donald Mackenzie-Kennedy, K.C.M.G., Governor of Mauritius. His Excellency visited the Camp in detail and took great interest in its activities and organisation. His appreciation of what has been done at the Camp has been a source of encouragement for us all.

53. Other visitors who continue to take great interest in the Camp, and whose support and encouragement have been particularly appreciated are the Bishop of Mauritius (the Right Revd. H. Otter Barry) and the Director of Education (Mr. W. F. Ward).

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Our thanks are also due to the Jewish community in South Africa for their generous gifts of money and clothing.

54. When I look back on all that has been accomplished these last three years in the way of buildings, grounds and plant to meet our needs, I feel that I cannot conclude this report without expressing the thanks of the whole Camp to those who have been responsible for dealing so expeditiously with our numerous requests and particularly, of course, to the Colonial Secretary, Mr. S. Moody, for his advice and support. His personal experience of Jews and Jewish problems as a result of 22 years' service in Palestine has been of invaluable help to me. In spite of his heavy duties at the Secretariat, he has always found time to take a keen interest in our activities.

55. I should also like to mention the great assistance we have received in every way from the members of the Visiting Committee.

H.J. ARMITAGE

Commandant, Detainment Camp.

23rd October, 1943.

Appendix A.

CLASSIFICATION OF DETAINEES BY NATIONALITY.

	<i>Adults</i>		<i>Children</i>						
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total				
Austrian	349	...	226	...	14	...	15	...	604
Czech	119	...	83	...	6	...	3	...	214
Polish	118	...	30	...	4	...	3	...	155
Danziger	68	...	67	...	4	...	5	...	144
German	35	...	39	...	4	...	2	...	80
Stateless	9	...	154	...	3	...	15	...	184
Roumanian	13	...	2	...	-	...	-	...	15
C.S.R. (Russian)	13	...	4	...	-	...	-	...	17
Hungarian	5	...	1	...	1	...	-	...	5
Latvian	1	...	1	...	-	...	-	...	2
Turkish	1	...	1	...	-	...	-	...	2
	729	...	611	...	39	...	43	...	1,422

Appendix B.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS AND STILL-BIRTHS.

Births	...	12	Deaths	...	17
Civil marriages	...	51	Still-birth	...	1
Religious marriages	...	6			

Appendix C.

COST OF GENERAL MAINTENANCE.

Average cost per detainee per day R. 1.14

COST OF FEEDING

Average cost per detainee per day R. 0.75

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WORKSHOPS AND INDUSTRIES. Appendix D.

(a) Value of work performed in Camp Workshops during period 1.10.42 to 30.9.43, excluding cost of material :-

		Rs.	C.
Tailors' Workshop	: 1,040 articles were made and 1,017 repaired	4,171	00
Shoemakers' Shop	: 4,872 pairs of shoes were repaired	5,447	60
Carpenters' Shop	: 1,398 articles were made and 345 repaired	1,762	63
Tinsmiths' Shop	: 755 articles were made and 2,024 repaired	2,424	10
Matressmakers' Shop	: 240 articles were made and 782 repaired	668	80
Blacksmiths' Shop	: 566 articles were made and 1,422 repaired	2,095	57
Dressmakers' Shop	: 736 articles were made and 18 repaired	1,036	95
		17,626	65

(b) The earnings of the bakery were as follows:-

	Rs.	C.
Value of output of bread (195,013.60.Kilos)	69,647	75.
Less cost of materials	38,708	87
Saving	30,938	88

Appendix E.

SAVINGS BANK.

Receipts and Payments Account for the period 3.2.41 to 30.9.43.

	Rs.	C.		Rs.	C.
Remittances received	409,835	25.	Payments to detainees	361,136	76
Bank charges (stamps and commission) recovered	1,042	90	Bank charges (stamps and Commission) ...	1,042	90.
Interest on money deposited at the Government Savings Bank ...	345	12	Barclays Bank: (cheques returned) ...	1,022	15
Interest on money deposited at Barclays Savings Bank	75	00	Postmaster General (M.O. returned) ...	53	08
			Interest transferred to Camp Welfare Fund ...	420	12
			Levy on incoming monies, transferred to Camp Welfare Fund ...	20,342	64
			Balance: Cash	19.	68
			Barclays Bank: (current Account)	6,893.	32
			Barclays Savings Bank	10,075.	00.
			Government Savings Bank	10,292.	62.
				27,280.	62
Total	Rs.411,298.	27	Total	Rs.411,298.	27

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Wednesday, May 24, 1944

Dictated by Patrick Malin for Mr. Abrahamson

I discussed with Moses Leavitt of the JDC the question of that cable on Shanghai refugees which Mr. Abrahamson asked me to find out about. I discovered that Mr. Leavitt discussed that in the winter with Mr. Brandt, formerly of Assistant Secretary Long's office in the State Department or Mr. Travers, who is Chief of the Visa Division of the State Department. Mr. Leavitt and Mr. Brandt or Mr. Travers, he doesn't remember which, agreed on the basis of information which the JDC had directly from Shanghai via Miss Margolis, that the people mentioned were suspect and simply wanted to get out themselves, perhaps for nefarious purposes. Therefore, the whole matter was dropped. Mr. Leavitt is to discuss this with Mr. Abrahamson and will return the copy of the telegram which Mr. Abrahamson gave to me.

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TAM 171

PARAPHRASE OF OUTGOING CABLE DATED 2 May 1944

Subject: Intergovernmental Refugee Committee

The decision relative to the desirability of representation of the Intergovernmental Refugee Committee with ACC was held open pending visit and report of vice-director of IGC. Final authorization to AFA to make advances to the resident representative of IGC must await this decision. You are authorized, however, pending this decision to make appropriate advances to Sir Heathcote-Smith if you determine that he is in need of funds upon his pledge on behalf of IGC of repayment of such advances, all this without prejudice to the final decision on the question of IGC representation with ACC. We would appreciate the field study referred to in MAT 171.

DECLASSIFIED

J.G.S. Regrading Memo. 27-71

By RHP Date DEC 12 1972

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RCC-687

PLAIN

London

Dated April 26, 1944

Rec'd 11:43 a.m., 27th.

Secretary of State

Washington

3449, Twenty-sixth.

FOR EMERSON FROM KULLMANN

Following is text of American Embassy letter dated March 9th to IGC (Reference Department's 3131, 19th):

"I am glad to inform you that it is the view of the Department of State that the choice of a final destination for refugees accommodated at the refugee center in North Africa should fall within the sphere of the Intergovernmental Committee, and that it is suggested that the committee examine this question.

It is believed that this is also the view of the Foreign Office, which I am informing of the present communication to you. It is the desire of the Department of State that the referring of this matter to the Intergovernmental Committee be in association with the Foreign Office".

WINANT

RR

000282

DSH
Department

PLAIN

PLAIN

April 19, 1944

AMEMBASSY,

LONDON.
3131 Nineteenth
FOR KULLMANN FROM EMERSON.

Please cable text of British Foreign Office or American
Embassy letter asking Intergovernmental Committee to take
responsibility for ultimate disposition of occupants of
North African camp.

HULL
(GLW)

WRB:GLW:KG
4/19/44

EO

CC: Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y); Mr. Abrahamson, Mr. Aksia,
Mr. Bernstein, Mrs. Cohn, Mr. DuBois, Mr. Friedman, Mr. Gaston,
Miss Hodel, Miss Laughlin, Mr. Lesser, Mr. Loxford, Mr. Mann,
Mrs. Mannon, Mr. Marks, Mr. McCormack, Mr. Paul, Mr. Pehle, Mr.
Pollak, Mr. Rains, Mr. Sargoy, Mr. Smith, Mr. Standish, Mr.
Stewart, Mr. Weinstein, Mr. E. D. White, Wiles.

000283

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

Free
[Signature]
DATE April 19, 1944

TO Mr. Pehle
FROM Mr. Abrahamson
Subject: Sir Herbert Emerson

The following notes were supplied me by Pat Malin over the telephone:

By 1938, Sir Herbert Emerson had been 33 years in the Indian Civil Service. The most prominent positions he held were Home Secretary to the Government of India and finally Governor of the Punjab.

He became League of Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in 1938, having charge of both the Nansen refugees from the previous war and the League work (chiefly legal and politically protective) for the German, Austrian and Sudetenland refugees.

In 1939, he became also the Director of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees.

He was knighted at the end of his Indian service.

He is 65 years old.

cc: Virginia M. Mannon

aa.

Bobson met with Sir H. Emerson

000284

MEMORANDUM

1. Early in January last, Dr. G. G. Kullmann, Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees under the League of Nations and Assistant Director of the Intergovernmental Committee, visited Switzerland on the invitation of the Swiss government, returning to London at the end of February. During his visit he obtained much information regarding the assistance, both open and secret, which was being given, from Switzerland as a base, to the victims of persecution inside the territory of Germany, and of her allies, and of countries occupied or controlled by her. Dr. Kullmann satisfied himself by a very thorough investigation that there was a wide and efficient network of underground agents who had done and were doing work of great value in saving and assisting the victims of persecution. His conclusion was that their efforts had succeeded not only in effecting the escape of many persons from areas in which they were in extreme danger, but also in concealing and preserving many times more persons inside the territories above mentioned. His information, in short, showed that in addition to the rescue of persons by getting them outside the danger areas there were great opportunities for the preservation of persons who could not be brought out. The Director of the IGC at once took up the matter with the Chairman, Lord Winterton. Meanwhile, Dr. Schwartz, executive head of the Joint Distribution Committee in Europe, visited London, and full discussions took place between him and the officers of the IGC. He confirmed the information given by Dr. Kullmann, and gave his opinion based on close knowledge of the operation, that there was wide scope for expansion of the operation if more financial backing were available. The Director of the IGC, on the instructions of the Chairman, therefore submitted to the governments of the United Kingdom and the U.S.A. a memorandum dated March 10, 1944, containing proposals by which the IGC might assist the operations. The particular form of help proposed to be given by the IGC was the financing of operations based on credit, designed to assist persons inside the territories above mentioned. The government of the United Kingdom, in pursuance of the proposals made by the IGC, has communicated to the government of the U.S.A. its readiness to place at the disposal of the IGC the sum of £1,500,000 for the purpose of credit operations, provided that the government of the U.S.A. is prepared to provide the same amount. As a result of preliminary discussions by the representatives of the WRB and the IGC, the Director of the latter body now submits the following proposals:

2. The operations to be promoted should be defined as follows:

a. They

000285

a. They would extend to persons who have had to leave or may have to leave their countries of residence on account of race, or religion, or political beliefs, and who are in danger of life or liberty.

b. They would have as their objects the escape of persons to neutral countries or other countries of comparative safety, the rescue of persons from internment or concentration camps, concealment inside Germany, occupied, and satellite territory, and all measures necessary thereto, and the preservation of such persons in concealment.

3. Operations with these objects in view are now being carried out by organizations or individuals, partly on a cash basis but mainly on a credit basis. It is proposed that (1) financial assistance by the IGC should be limited to credit operations; (2) that cash operations should continue to be financed by the voluntary organizations through licenses issued by the governments of the U.K. and U.S.A. respectively, according as the organizations are British or American, and that any question of policy which may arise between the two governments regarding the issue of such licenses should be discussed between the two governments, independent of the IGC.

4. With regard to the financial scope of the operations it is understood that the following arrangements might be more convenient to the U.S. government than the proposal made by the British government.

a. The IGC has provided in its estimate of operational expenditure for 1944 the sum of one million pounds, of which one half will be furnished by the American government and one half by the British government. It has been agreed by the two governments that if this expenditure is exceeded, the IGC, under the agreed procedure, may submit proposals for supplementary grants. At present the IGC has not in prospect operational expenditure of any considerable amount. It could therefore allocate £900,000, namely \$3,600,000 for the purpose of credit operations provided it is clearly understood that if and when the necessity of undertaking other projects arises it will be free, in accordance with the approved procedure, to submit applications to the two governments for

further

000286

Further grants. Such applications might include requests for further grants towards credit operations if they exceeded £900,000 from the budget grant and could be usefully extended beyond this figure.

It is therefore proposed that, on the above understanding, the credit operations should be financed in the first place to the extent of £250,000 out of the budget grant of £1,000,000.

b. The IGC would be placed in funds out of this grant according to its requirements. It has already received the sum of £100,000 in equal parts from the two governments for operational expenditures generally. It is proposed that it should receive the further sum of £250,000 in equal shares for the quarter beginning the 1st April, 1944, and ending the 30th June, 1944, the demand for subsequent quarters being made in accordance with the procedure already approved by the two governments.

c. The IGC would place the above-mentioned payment of £250,000 and similar payments made on account of credit operations in a suspense account which would be held for the purpose of defraying, after the war, liabilities incurred on its behalf.

d. If these liabilities were incurred in terms of dollars it would be necessary to convert sterling payments into dollars. If part of the liabilities were incurred in sterling it would be necessary to hold a corresponding part of the account in sterling. This would be kept in view, according to the nature of the liabilities incurred. It might prove desirable not to convert into pounds, for example, the U.S. Government's share of the above-mentioned £250,000, but to hold that £125,000 (£125,000) in a dollar suspense account in the name of the IGC.

5. The Joint Distribution Committee, through its agent in Switzerland, has been mainly concerned hitherto with both the cash and credit operations. It is unquestionably the agency most capable of carrying them out because of its experience and of its long established connections in all countries of Europe. It is therefore proposed to ask the JDC to act as the agent of the IGC for the credit

operations

000287

operations which the latter will finance, and if it is agreeable to this proposal to come to an arrangement with the JEC which will insure that a separate and accurate account is kept of all liabilities which it incurs on behalf of the IEC. Such an arrangement might take several forms. For instance, the IEC might accept complete liability up to a maximum amount for operations in a specified country during a stated period, or it might agree to provide a specified sum for credit operations generally within a stated period. It would be necessary to have an agreement with the JEC that the assistance given by the IEC should not curtail the expenditure which it would otherwise have incurred. In other words the object of the IEC grant should be to stimulate, or at least to supplement, voluntary effort rather than to replace it.

3. The operations would in the first place relate to those carried out from Switzerland as a base, but they might be extended to other bases as opportunity and necessity arose. For this and for other purposes it would be necessary for the WED and the IEC to work in close and active cooperation with each other so that duplication is avoided. In particular, cooperation will be necessary in order to get the best results out of cash and credit operations viewed as a whole. If for instance there appears reason to believe that the former are tending to undermine credit operations in a particular country or at a particular time so as to affect the total result, then the two bodies should consult together with the sole object of obtaining the best results.

H. W. MERSON

April 18, 1944

000288

MEMORANDUM

1. Early in January 1949, Dr. O. G. Kullmann, Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees under the League of Nations and Assistant Director of the Intergovernmental Committee, visited Switzerland on the invitation of the Swiss Government, returning to London at the end of February. During his visit he obtained much information regarding the resistance, both open and secret, which was being given, from Switzerland as a base, to the victims of persecution inside the territory of Germany, and of her allies, and of countries occupied or controlled by her. Mr. Kullmann satisfied himself by a very thorough investigation that there was a wide and efficient network of underground agents who had done and were doing work of great value in saving and assisting the victims of persecution. His conclusion was that their efforts had succeeded not only in effecting the escape of many persons from areas in which they were in extreme danger, but also in concealing and preserving many times more persons inside the territories above mentioned. His information, in short, showed that in addition to the rescue of persons by getting them outside the danger areas there were great opportunities for the preservation of persons who could not be brought out. The Director of the IRO at once took up the matter with the Chairman, Lord Winterston. Meanwhile, Dr. Schmidt, executive head of the Joint Distribution Committee in Europe, visited London, and full discussions took place between him and the officers of the IRO. He confirmed the information given by Dr. Kullmann, and gave his opinion based on close knowledge of the operations, that there was wide scope for expansion of the operations if more financial backing were available. The Director of the IRO, on the instructions of the Chairman, therefore submitted to the governments of the United Kingdom and the U.S.A. a memorandum dated March 10, 1949, containing proposals by which the IRO might assist the operations. The particular form of help proposed to be given by the IRO was the financing of operations based on credit, designed to assist persons inside the territories above mentioned. The Government of the United Kingdom, in pursuance of the proposals made by the IRO, has committed to the purpose of the U.S.A. the sum of \$1,500,000 for the purpose of credit operations, provided that the Government of the U.S.A. is prepared to provide the same amount. As a result of preliminary discussions by the representatives of the IRO and the IRO, the Director of the latter body now submits the following proposals:

2. The operations to be promoted should be defined as follows:

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0000289

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3. Operations with these objects in view are now being carried out by organisations or individuals, partly on a cash basis but mainly on a credit basis. It is proposed that (1) financial assistance by the IGC should be limited to credit operations; (2) that cash operations should continue to be financed by the voluntary organisations through licenses issued by the governments of the U.K. and U.S.A. respectively, according as the organisations are British or American, and that any question of policy which may arise between the two governments regarding the issue of such licenses should be discussed between the two governments, independent of the IGC.

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It is therefore proposed that, on the above understanding, the credit operations should be financed in the first place to the extent of \$900,000 out of the budget grant of \$1,000,000.

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000290

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c. The IGC would place the above-mentioned payment of £250,000 and similar payments made on account of credit operations in a suspense account which would be held for the purpose of defraying, after the war, liabilities incurred on its behalf.

d. If these liabilities were incurred in terms of dollars it would be necessary to convert sterling payments into dollars. If part of the liabilities were incurred in sterling it would be necessary to hold a corresponding part of the account in sterling. This would be kept in view, according to the nature of the liabilities incurred. It might prove desirable not to convert into pounds, for example, the U.S. government's share of the above-mentioned £250,000, but to hold that £125,000 (\$500,000) in a dollar suspense account in the name of the IGC.

5. The Joint Distribution Committee, through its agent in Switzerland, has been mainly concerned hitherto with both the cash and credit operations. It is unquestionably the agency most capable of carrying them out because of its experience and of its long established connections in all countries of Europe. It is therefore proposed to ask the JDC to act as the agent of the IGC for the credit operations which the latter will finance, and if it is agreeable to this proposal to come to an arrangement with the JDC which will insure that a separate and accurate account is kept of all liabilities which it incurs on behalf of the IGC. Such an arrangement might take several forms. For instance, the IGC might accept complete liability up to a maximum amount for operations in a specified country during a stated period, or it might agree to provide a specified sum for credit operations generally within a stated period. It would be necessary to have an agreement with the JDC that the assistance given by the IGC should not curtail the expenditure which it would otherwise have incurred. In other words the object of the IGC grant should be to stimulate, or at least to supplement, voluntary effort rather than to replace it.

6. The operations would in the first place relate to those carried out from Switzerland as above, but they might be extended to other bases as opportunity and necessity arose. For this and for other

purposes

000291

- 4 -

purposes it would be necessary for the WRB and the ICC to work in close and active cooperation with each other so that duplication is avoided. In particular, cooperation will be necessary in order to get the best results out of cash and credit operations viewed as a whole. If for instance there appears reason to believe that the former are tending to undermine credit operations in a particular country or at a particular time so as to affect the total result, then the two bodies should consult together with the sole object of obtaining the best results.

H. W. EMERSON

April 18, 1944

000292

Page 11

PLAIN

London

Dated: April 15, 1944

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Mr. Secretary of State

Washington

OSL, Fifteenth

FROM KULMANN FOR EMERSON CARE
WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

"Swiss Government requests to inform us that
despite our interventions with Vichy Government,
negative reply received regarding exit facilities
for children threatened with deportation. Bern makes
publicity will be given
based on in United States concerning intervention
It is emphasized that the
protection is
want are to pursue it."

URGENT

REX

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Akin, Bernstein, Cohn,
DoBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lazar, Loxford, Maon,
Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Paul, Penle, Pollak, Reins, Sargoy, Smith,
Staudish, Stewart, Weinstein, H. D. White, Files

REGRADED
UNCL/SPH

000293

14 April 1944

D R A F T of Cable to General Wilson from OCS

Subject: Intergovernmental Refugee Committee.

Authorization to *NFA* to make advances to resident representative of Intergovernmental Refugee Committee must await decision on desirability of *INS* representation with *AGC*. This decision was held open pending visit and report of Vice-Director of *IGC*. Request field study referred to in *MAT 171* and your comments.

ACTION: Mr. Brons

DECLASSIFIED

JCS memo, 1-4-74
By SLR, NLR, Date

JUN 3 1974

000294

~~SECRET~~

MAT 171

Paraphrase of Incoming Cable dated 8 April 1944.

Subject: Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees

Field study undertaken by Malin, Vice-Director of Intergovernmental Refugee Committee, London, relative to cooperation of ICG in solving non-material problems in connection with refugees such as communications with relatives, ultimate destination and resettlement, status, etc. has now been completed. Malin now proposes that Sir Heathcote-Smith lately Consul General Alexandria be attached to ACG HQ as the resident representative of ICG in Italy. Malin left Sir Heathcote-Smith the necessary authorization to borrow and to pledge repayment by ICG in order that Sir Heathcote-Smith would be able to receive advances for his own expenses and those of his staff and for operations. Will you advise us if AFA is authorized to make such necessary advances against this authority and method of repayment, if possible. Within one week Sir Heathcote-Smith is leaving for Italy.

~~SECRET~~

ACTION: Mr. Brens
COPY 4-15-44

DECLASSIFIED
J.C.S. Regrading Memo 27-71
By SLR Date MAR 6 1973

000295

1
1
extra
Clt-767

File
PLAIN

London

Dated April 14, 1944

Rec'd 1:55 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

3033, fourteenth.

FOLLOWING FROM KULLMANN TO EMERSON CARE WAR REFUGEE

BOARD:

✓ According cables Jewish Agency, Jerusalem, new
commander Vittel Camp advised March 20 about 250 to
300 internees holding South American passports that they
were not recognized by government concerned. It is
alleged these persons already isolated for deportation
which caused panic and despair. Agency here has partial
list of people affected, mostly Polish Jews previously
put on list of veteran Zionists, Rabbis, et cetera, for
grant of Palestine certificate. ¹⁰ Comparing with our
list of Vittel internees out of partial Agency list
of people affected 128 names passports held as follows:
Paraguay 105, Peru 7, Nicaragua 4, Costa Rica 9, Honduras
2, Bolivia 1. ⁴ Agency trying to obtain from Colonial
Office formal assurance to Swiss protecting power that

these

000296

-2- #3033, fourteenth, from London

these persons placed on Palestine exchange list in
order to stave off deportation. Can you contact above
Latin American governments involved? There may be
others as list not complete. Please advise."

WINANT

JT

000297

CCS classified
document
attached

Draft of Cable
to Gen. Wilson
from CCS, 4-14-44

000298

ICC ②

~~SECRET~~

MAT 171

Paraphrase of Incoming Cable dated 8 April 1944.

Subject: Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees

Field study undertaken by Malin, Vice-Director of Intergovernmental Refugee Committee, London, relative to cooperation of ICC in solving non-material problems in connection with refugees such as communications with relatives, ultimate destination and resettlement, status, etc. has now been completed. Malin now proposes that Sir Heathcote-Smith lately Consul General Alexandria be attached to ACC HQ as the resident representative of ICC in Italy. Malin left Sir Heathcote-Smith the necessary authorization to borrow and to pledge repayment by ICC in order that Sir Heathcote-Smith would be able to receive advances for his own expenses and those of his staff and for operations. Will you advise us if A.A. is authorized to make such necessary advances against this authority and method of repayment, if possible. Within one week Sir Heathcote-Smith is leaving for Italy.

~~SECRET~~

ACTION: Mr. Brown
COPY 4-15-44

DECLASSIFIED
J.C.S. Regrading Memo 27-71
By SLR Date MAR 6 1973

000299

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE April 10, 1944

TO Mr. Abrahamson
FROM Mr. McCormack

Re attachment:

In a conversation with Rabbi Richman, the addressee, I learned that the copy was not made available to Mr. Lesser until April 8th.

Since receipt of this Inter-cross cable (message) Mr. Richman has discussed the proposal contained therein with a Miss Poate at the British Embassy who suggested that the proposal be submitted to the I. G. C. The message was likewise discussed with State's Mr. Keeley who said that in view of the relatively small number (3000) of American nationals who have been repatriated to date from the Far East, this Government hesitated to sponsor the proposal. Rabbi Richman pointed out that the release of the atrocity stories about the time of the cable's receipt probably promised to interfere with the proposal. The addressee indicated his willingness and availability to assist if the Board decided to further develop this proposal.

It is suggested that the matter might be called to the attention of Sir Herbert Emerson when he meets with you in the near future.

Attachment.

000300

Judge

*Mrs. Poole
British Embassy*

Dec. 3, 1943

W161 828245 GENEVE 102/101 2 1800

RLT AMICROSS WASHINGTONDC

C
O
P
Y

PLEASE TRANSMIT PAUL RICHMAN 1003 K STREET N.W. WASHINGTON DC
FOLLOWING MESSAGE WE RECEIVED FROM OUR SHANGHAI DELEGATION QUOTE
INTERCONFESSIONAL COMMITTEE PREPARING RETRANSPORT OF OVER TWENTY-
THOUSAND TRAPPED STATELESS REFUGEES WISHES IN AGREEMENT WITH JAPANESE
AUTHORITIES VISIT GOA IN ORDER ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH ALLIED AUTHORITIES
STOP URGENTLY REQUEST APPROACH. SUTHERLAND AND AUTHORITIES OBTAINING
INVITATION FOR FOLLOWING DELEGATES AND ACCOMPANYING PERSONS BERNDT HUNES
PHYSICIAN ANNIE KUNES MICHAEL LOEWY LEVAL JOURNALIST ERNST STORRI
FORMER AUSTRIAN CONSUL OTTO LIEBEL VETERINARY JOSEFINE LIEBEL JOURNALIST
FELIX LIEBEL STUDENT SIGFRIED GREGORY LEWISER MERCHANT TO PROCEED NEXT
BRITISH REPATRIATION BOAT REPLY TO REDCROSS SHANGHAI UNQUOTE-

INTERCROSSING 9979

Copied 12/4/43

000301

C
O
P
Y

Dec. 3, 1943

W161 828245 GENEVE 102/101 2 1800

RLT AMRCROSS WASHINGTONDC

PLEASE TRANSMIT PAUL RICHMAN 1003 K STREET N.W. WASHINGTON DC
FOLLOWING MESSAGE WE RECEIVED FROM OUR SHANGHAI DELEGATION QUOTE
INTERCONFESSIONAL COMMITTEE PREPARING RETRANSPORT OF OVER TWENTY-
THOUSAND TRAPPED STATELESS REFUGEES WISHES IN AGREEMENT WITH JAPANESE
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STOP URGENTLY REQUEST APPROACH. SUTHERLAND AND AUTHORITIES OBTAINING
INVITATION FOR FOLLOWING DELEGATES AND ACCOMPANYING PERSONS HERBERT RUMES
PHYSICIAN ANNIE RUMES MICHAEL LOENE LEVAL JOURNALIST ERNST STORER
FORMER AUSTRIAN CONSUL OTTO LIEBEL VETERINARY JOSEFINE LIEBEL JOURNALIST
FELIX LIEBEL STUDENT SIEGFRIED GREGORY LEHRER MERCHANT TO PROCEED NEXT
BRITISH REPATRIATION BOAT REPLY TO REDCROSS SHANGHAI UNQUOTE-

INTERCROSSIRGUCS 9979

Copied 12/4/43

000302

CONTROL COPY

2 - War Refugee Bd
(Mr. Behl)
TELEGRAM SENT

April 6, 1944

file

APR 10 1944

APR 7

2079, 2172H
EX 0500-11 1000 12-000000 AND SALES 8-00

1. THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WILL
2. MAKE THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND WILL PROBABLY AVOID THE UNITED
3. STATES OF AMERICA WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
4. THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

RULL
(GHE)

Forwarded by
Dwight A. Lutz
6 April 44

100-100000

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

000303

Chairman, ROFUS M. JONES

Telephone: RITTENHOUSE 9372

Executive Secretary, CLARENCE E. PICKETT

American Friends Service Committee

Twenty South Twelfth Street
Philadelphia 7  Pennsylvania



April 5, 1944

CEP
4/19/44

President's War Refugee Board
Washington, D.C.

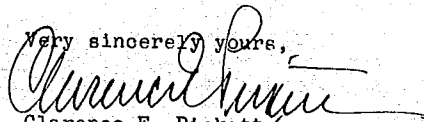
Attention: Mr. DuBois

Dear Mr. DuBois:

I am enclosing herewith a copy of the cable received from
Sir Herbert Emerson mentioned in our conversation yesterday.

I would greatly appreciate any comments which you may wish
to make on this.

Very sincerely yours,


Clarence E. Pickett
Executive Secretary

CEP/BER
Encl.

SP

000304

Cable to AFSC from Herbert Emerson, Director, Inter-Governmental Committee, London (paraphrased by Department of State, as transmitted through official channels):

March 21, 1944
Rec'd. 3/30/44

CLARENCE PICKETT

THE VICE DIRECTOR OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE, PATRICK MALIN, IS IN NORTH AFRICA ON TOUR.

HEATHCOTE SMITH, FORMER BRITISH CONSUL GENERAL, ALEXANDRIA, IS NEW REPRESENTATIVE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE IN ITALY. HE IS WORKING ON PROBLEMS OF DISPLACED PERSONS WITH ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION.

WHILE IN CAIRO, MALIN HAS TAKEN INITIATIVE TO SUGGEST THAT HOWARD WRIGGINS SHOULD ASSIST HEATHCOTE SMITH IN ITALY WITH THIS WORK, UNDER AUSPICES OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE.

THE NECESSARY APPROVAL OF ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION COULD BE OBTAINED, MALIN BELIEVES.

MALIN FURTHER CABLES THAT SUBJECT TO YOUR APPROVAL WRIGGINS IS WILLING AND COULD TAKE OVER BY APRIL FIFTEENTH.

SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT WOULD GIVE YOU A FOOTING IN ITALY FOR YOUR WORK AND WE WOULD WARMLY WELCOME IT.

THE POSSIBILITY OF MEETING VAIL IN NORTH AFRICA HAS BEEN SUGGESTED BY MALIN.

I DO NOT KNOW WHERE VAIL IS.

COULD YOU KINDLY CABLE HIM TO CONTACT MALIN IF HE IS IN NORTH AFRICA?

WRIGGINS' SALARY AND OTHER EXPENSES WE WOULD PAY GLADLY, BUT IMAGINE YOU PREFER TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS AND TO REGARD WRIGGINS AS WORKING UNDER THE WING OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE BUT AS IN YOUR SERVICE.

I HAVE HAD BENEFIT OF JUDKYN'S CONSULTATION AND ADVICE AND THE PROPOSAL IS SUPPORTED BY HIM.

A VERY EARLY REPLY WILL BE APPRECIATED.

HERBERT EMERSON

000305

CONTROL COPY

TELEGRAM SENT

PLAIN

March 25, 1944

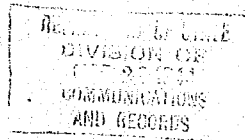
U.S. URGENT

AMEMBASSY,

LONDON.

2277, twenty-fifth.

FOR VIFANT



Mr. Taylor requests that you suggest to Emerson that Malin's participation in proposed conversations in Washington will be helpful and that he arrange to have Malin come to Washington with him.

HULL
(GLW)

WRB:GLW
3/25/44

000306

CONTROL COPY

2 - War Refugee Bd

KEM-298

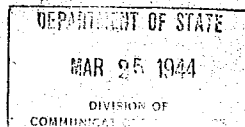
PLAIN

London

Dated March 23, 1944

Rec'd 10:36 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.



2381, 23rd.

Malin has suggested by telegram to Emerson from North Africa that the IGC appointee to MERRA contemplated in Embassy's 1762, 3rd be Keeny. Emerson while recognizing that arrangements must depend upon still pending decisions concerning UNRRA relations with MERRA accepts Malin's estimate of Keeny's suitability and says he would be grateful if Department could ascertain whether UNRRA will be prepared to release Keeny (said to be now with UNRRA) for employment under IGC to Cairo if decision is in favor of IGC having a representative there. Please instruct.

WINANT

MRM

*No action
necessary -*

*a. a.
3/27/44*

000307

10: Mr. Mann - 389

MR. PAUL	Mr. Lesser
Mr. Aarons	Mr. Luxford
Mr. E.M. Bernstein	Mr. O'Connell
Correspondence	Mr. Olsen
Files	Mr. Reeves
Mr. Fox	Mr. Schmidt
Mr. Hoffman	Mr. Stewart
Mr. Lawler	Mrs. Taylor

See that State is taking care of
this.

JWP

J. W. PEHLE
DIRECTOR, FOREIGN FUNDS CONTROL

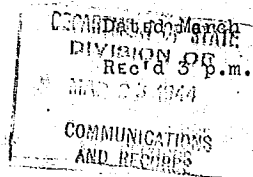
000308

CONTROL COPY

CMW-750

PLAIN

Secretary of State
Washington



2324, 22nd

Sir Herbert Emerson is pleased at suggestion in Department's 2043, March 17, midnight and plans to visit Washington very soon. Please so inform Myron Taylor, Secretary Morgenthau and Pehle.

Embassy requests immediate authority issue visa to Emerson to proceed United States for discussions concerning refugees with Secretary Morgenthau, Pehle and others. References Taylor and Pehle.

WINANT

BB

000309

CONTROL COPY

TELEGRAM SENT

March 17, 1944

Midnight

This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Government
agency. (RM)

EMBASSY

LONDON

2043

FOR MR. HERRING FROM MYRON TAYLOR.

After discussion with Secretary Morgenthau,
Chairman, War Refugee Board, regarding the relative
fields of action of the Intergovernmental Committee
and the War Refugee Board, I suggest that Mr.
Herbert Pearson and Malin come to Washington prompt-
ly to discuss this subject with Secretary Morgenthau,
Mr. Pehle, and others interested.

HULL
(ES)

ACT:RFB

000310

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

000311

Secret memorandum dated March 10, 1944, by
W. H. Jackson submitting draft for
consideration of the Committee
on the United Kingdom and the United States.

000312

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

SEP 20 1972

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~State Department Policy~~
~~Re: P. H. Davis, Data~~

000313

the presentment being the finding of the fact that the
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(10) If this proposal were accepted, the amount of
the dollar would be the same as the amount of the
intergovernmental fund, and the fact of the
fact of the above-mentioned arrangement is the fact of the
fact of the above-mentioned arrangement.

(11) The intergovernmental Committee would be in a
position to make the necessary arrangements with the organiza-
tions and individuals carrying on the operations in Sumatra
land to extend them up to the prescribed limit.

(12) The operations could be defined on the following
lines: The persons to whom assistance should be extended
would be those who had had to leave, or might have to leave

(a) Hitherto credit has been raised on a purely verbal basis. This has tended to restrict its use. It would be of course more if a scheme would be devised of further covering the leader by a form of receipt, which, however, should not be capable of use as a means of currency, and as place for the exchange at the disposal of the enemy. The form of receipt hitherto agreed upon has been the payment of a fixed number of dollars after the war. The difficulty about receipts might be overcome either (a) by a form which could be non negotiable, or (b) by an endorsement under which receipts were issued in regard to each transaction, but were not to be cashed in themselves, and were not to be used by the leader to restrict the use.

Extensive business with credit transactions

The facilities for credit transactions, and therefore, the necessity of such transactions vary from country to country. For instance, it is easy to raise credit in Hungary because there has been little persecution of Jews and practically no confiscation of Jewish property. There is a big Jewish population. It is very difficult to raise credit in Yugoslavia because there are very few Jews left and those there are have very few assets. A similar practice cannot therefore be applied to all countries. But in a country where credit can be raised, it is undesirable, unless all operations can be run on a cash basis, to carry on cash operations to an extent which will undermine credit. This is a matter which will need watching in the future of business, but the organizations concerned are alive to this matter and are in the best position to advise.

Financial operations from bases other than Switzerland

I understand that some of the Allied Governments and, in particular, Poland, are, with the agreement of the American and British Governments, financing operations of the same or similar character, partly from their own resources and partly from resources made available by voluntary organizations. It would seem that the only action required here is that the facilities to such Governments should be extended so far as possible.

H. M. EMBSON, Director

000315



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

CONTROL COPY

No. 14311

AMERICAN EMBASSY
London, March 7, 1944.

Subject: Refugees in Mauritius.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

- 1/ In the enclosed letter and memorandum submitted to
2/ the Department at the request of the Director of the
Intergovernmental Committee on refugees, the Director
suggests that the detention of refugees in Mauritius is
a subject which the War Refugee Board may wish to examine.

- 3/ The subject of refugees in Mauritius attracted atten-
tion in the House of Commons on February 23. A copy of the
pertinent record is enclosed.

Respectfully yours,
For the Ambassador:

W. J. Gallman
Counselor of Embassy

Enclosures:

- 1/ Copy of letter of March 4, 1944
from H. W. Emerson, Director of
the Intergovernmental Committee on
refugees to Bucknell.
2/ Copy of Memorandum by H. W. Emerson
regarding refugees who wish to
emigrate to the United States.
3/ Copy of record of Parliamentary
Debates, House of Commons, February 23,
1944, Cols. 819-820.

CC/PB

000316

C O P Y

Enclosure No. 1/ to despatch No.
14311 of March 7, 1944 from the
Embassy at London, England.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE

Director:
Sir Herbert Emerson,
G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I., C.B.E.,

11d Regent Street,
London, S.W.1.
March 4th, 1944.

Dear Mr. Bucknell:

I enclose a memorandum in which I have made representations suggesting that the United States authorities might relax in some respects the procedure now followed regarding the issue of visas to refugees. Both as High Commissioner and as Director of the Intergovernmental Committee I have had to deal with a number of cases in which it has been relevant. The immediate question has arisen out of a representation made to me by the World Jewish Congress regarding certain refugees now detained in Mauritius. In considering that case, I came to the conclusion that the only satisfactory way of dealing with it was to raise the general issue. It seems to me a matter which the War Refugee Board might wish to examine. It is a matter of domestic concern, and it would therefore be inappropriate to refer it to the Executive Committee, which I do not propose to do. I may say that I have not consulted the British Government before drafting the Memorandum, but I am raising with it the question of refugees in Mauritius to see whether, even if the present procedure of the State Department cannot be relaxed, some other way cannot be found out of the present impasse. I shall be grateful, if the Ambassador has no objection, if the Memorandum can be submitted to the State Department.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) H. W. Emerson.

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

000317

Enclosure No.2/ to despatch
No.14311 of March 7,1944,
from the Embassy at London,
England.

MEMORANDUM

The object of this memorandum is to represent to the State Department the case of refugees who wish to emigrate to the United States of America and experience difficulty in obtaining the necessary authority either because they are now in detention or are ex-internees, or are under certain restriction. During the past two years I have had to deal with cases of this kind (either general or individual) relating to refugees in the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, Trinidad and Mauritius, and I have no doubt the same problem arises in the case of refugees elsewhere.

2. I was first concerned with the case of refugees in the United Kingdom who wished to emigrate to the United States of America, and who had either been released from internment, or who had not been interned but were subject to certain restrictions. I took part in a conference which was held at the Home Office, London, on the 16th April 1942, attended by representatives of the British Home and Foreign Offices, and of the United States Embassy. As a result, a procedure was adopted, which is still in force, by which the Home Office in appropriate cases issues a certificate in the following form:

"It is hereby certified that (A).....(B).....having satisfied the Secretary of State that it would not be prejudicial to the national interests that he/she should be left at large and allowed to reside in the United Kingdom, has been exempted/released from internment subject only to the regulations and restrictions which are applicable to all foreigners resident in the United Kingdom who are not nationals of a State at war with the Axis Powers, and subject to any general policy that may be adopted by His Majesty's Government from time to time. It is further certified that the above mentioned person was not released from internment on condition of emigration to another country."

A certificate is not given to a would-be immigrant, but to the U.S.Consulate General in London (a) at the request of the Consulate General or (b) on production by an applicant of a letter from the U.S.State Department asking for such a certificate.

This procedure has, on the whole, worked very satisfactorily, but a few months ago I had to deal with a case which was not covered by it. The facts were briefly as follows: It related to a youth 21 years of age who had been interned in England during the general internment, and was later released on condition that he undertook specified work of national importance, and would not leave it without the permission of the Ministry of Labour. He took up this employment and has been in it ever since. His father is on the staff of Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island. The voluntary committee with which the youth is registered testifies that his character and general attitude are irreproachable. There is no security objection whatsoever. But since there is a condition attaching to his release, the Home Office cannot give the necessary certificate. It may be observed, however, that the condition in question had no reference to security. It was imposed in this and similar cases in order to ensure that full use would be made of

persons/

000313

persons on release, so that they would make a direct contribution towards the war effort. In this respect it was in anticipation of the policy later adopted by the Ministry of Labour, and applied to all free persons, within certain age limits, of allied or enemy origin, by which they were required to register, and can be directed to employment related to the war effort. This policy was itself a reflection of the very wide powers exercised by the Ministry of Labour over British subjects in regard to their conscription for and direction to specified employment. This conditional form of release does not imply any suspicion against the reliability or conduct of the person concerned, or carry any imputation that he will not make a good citizen.

3. The difficulty about released internees in Australia has, I believe, been now overcome. As regards Canada, I understand that the principal relief organization has made representations to the Canadian authorities with the object of the relaxation of restrictions which are at present regarded as an obstacle by the United States authorities. Within the past week I have written to the organisation in question explaining the procedure adopted in this country and described above.

4. This procedure is, however, not always suitable to local conditions. I may give two examples with which I have been dealing recently. The first relates to Trinidad. There, the refugees in question have been released from internment, but they are under restrictions applicable to persons of enemy origin. There seem to be no restrictions applicable to foreigners of non-enemy origin. This being so, a certificate cannot be given to the effect that they are "subject only to the regulations and restrictions which are applicable to all foreigners resident in the United Kingdom who are not nationals of a state at war with the Axis Powers".

5. For Mauritius the facts are different. About 1,400 Jewish refugees of different nationality - Czech, Pole, Austrian and German - are detained in a detention camp, having been deported towards the end of 1940 from Palestine, which they entered illegally. They are well cared for in the detention camp, and are given as much liberty as possible, but there is no means of employment for them in the island outside the camp, and there is no accommodation available. They have therefore to be kept in a camp. So far as I am aware there is no objection to them on security grounds, with the possible exception of a few individuals, and there is no reason to suppose that they are not bitterly hostile to the Nazi cause and very friendly towards the Allied cause. They are of the same class as other refugees from Nazi oppression, but they have had the bad luck to be deported to Mauritius. Had they come to the United Kingdom instead, it is safe to say that in accordance with the liberal policy pursued by the British Government, at least 90 per cent of them would have been at liberty, subject to a minimum of restrictions, and with ample facilities for employment in the war effort. They would have qualified for the certificate had they wished to emigrate to the U.S.A., and had they been otherwise acceptable. Some of them have relations in the U.S.A. who are ready to give the necessary affidavits, but I have been informed by the World Jewish Congress that in the present circumstances applications will not be entertained by the U.S. authorities.

000319

6. The above instances, and there must be many others, illustrate the anomalies which arise in applying a uniform procedure to all cases. These are due to the fact that a uniform policy has not been followed (and indeed cannot be followed, owing to differences in conditions) in different countries, or even in different parts of the British Empire, in regard to (a) internment, (b) detention, (c) restrictions imposed on foreigners as a body, or on those of Allied origin or on those of enemy origin. The result is that the measure of restraint or restriction is determined in many cases more by accidental circumstances and local conditions than by considerations of the person's reliability and loyalty and his fitness to make a good citizen. The fact is that, in war conditions, internment, when not based on purely personal grounds, does not necessarily imply any stigma on the individual in respect of reliability or character.

I therefore submit for consideration the question as to whether the policy now pursued by the United States authorities cannot be relaxed. The fundamentals of that policy would appear to be, first that any restriction imposed on a would-be immigrant should not be in excess of that imposed on persons of neutral nationality, and second, that where the person has been in internment the release should be unconditional. I fully realise that apart from the normal conditions attaching to immigration, it is essential for the United States authorities to be completely satisfied on two points, first, that there is no security objection whatsoever to the grant of a visa, and that second, when a person is released from internment or detention, the release is not made merely with the object of getting rid of him to the possible detriment of the United States Government. I would suggest, however, that these conditions can be fulfilled in many cases, and are now excluded ab initio from consideration by the application of general principles. To take the extreme case of persons in Mauritius. They have now been there for more than three years, so that the authorities must have very intimate knowledge of their character, reliability, etc. It ought not to be difficult to establish a procedure by which the local authorities in Mauritius could give the U.S. authorities whatever information might be required regarding a particular individual, it being understood, of course, that the Mauritius authorities would act in the matter with complete good faith. If, on the particulars so given, the United States authorities were satisfied that he was fit for citizenship and were prepared to issue a visa, then the person would be released from detention, not in order to get rid of him, but because the United States Government were satisfied that he was fit for citizenship. That is to say, in the peculiar conditions of Mauritius (and similar conditions may well arise elsewhere), the release would follow the satisfactory examination of personal factors instead of, as at present, being a condition precedent to such examination. In short, I would urge that where a general procedure is not appropriate, the scrutiny of individual cases should be adopted, and the case decided on its merits. Since the general procedure for refugees in the United Kingdom mentioned in paragraph 2 above is proceeding satisfactorily, I would not suggest any change in it, except that the few individual cases deserving of consideration which do not fall within the four corners of the procedure should be admitted to individual examination on their merits.

H. W. EMERSON

000320

C O P Y

Enclosure No.3/ to despatch
No.14311 of March 7, 1944.
from the Embassy at London,
England.

SOURCE: PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES,
House of Commons,
23 February 1944.
London.Cols.819-820

MAURITIUS (JEWISH REFUGEES)

30. Mr. Martin asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies how many European refugees are now interned on the island of Mauritius; of what nationalities are they; how many are known to be sympathetic to the Allied cause; and how many have professional or technical qualifications of recognised standing.

Mr. Emrys-Evans: There are some 1,400 Jewish refugees in Mauritius. They include Austrians, Czechs, Poles, Danzigers and Germans. I have no reason to believe that they are other than sympathetic to the Allied cause. I have no data on the last part of the Question.

Mr. Martin: Is the hon. Gentleman aware that some of these people have excellent technical qualifications and that the Allied cause should make some use of them, instead of keeping them in internment, doing nothing year after year?

Mr. Emrys-Evans: A certain number have already been released and are in the service of the Allies.

Mr. Astor: Are these refugees doing nothing, or are they engaged in some useful occupation to help the Allied cause?

Mr. Emrys-Evans: I have said that a certain number have already joined the Allied Forces.

Mr. Silverman: Is it not the case that those who have not been released, those who are still in camp - which is the greater number - are compelled by the Government to spend days in idleness when they are capable of doing useful work and are anxious to do it?

Mr. Emrys-Evans: I should want notice of that question.

Mr. McGovern: Are these Jewish refugees being imprisoned at the same time as they are asked to do something useful for the Allied cause?

000321

*OWO 1 Refugee Sec
(Mr. Billa)*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Embassy, London
DATED: March 6, 1944
NUMBER: 1682
x

[REDACTED]

Your telegrams of February 19 and February 23, 1944,
nos. 1426 and 1495 are referred to herewith.

Your informing the Director of the IGC and the Foreign
Office in accordance with your 1426 under reference is
approved by the Department.

STETTINIUS

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

000322

and K. J. G. B. (Mrs. G. B.)

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, London
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: March 6, 1944
NUMBER: 1836
X

In connection with the Embassy's no. 1836, of
March 6, the Embassy makes reference to Madrid's 370,
dated the third of February.

WINANT

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

000323

AOK-798

Plain
London
Dated March 6, 1944
Rec'd 7:15 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

1835, Sixth

Foreign Office in letter dated March 3 suggests that if Department agrees an approach be made by our Embassies in Madrid to Spanish Government to agree to establishment of an IGO office and to appointment of Blickenstaff as its representative. Emerson agrees with this suggestion. Foreign Office states in explanation: "We have now heard from His Majesty's Embassy at Madrid about the proposal to appoint a representative of the IGO there.

They are of the opinion that the Spanish Government will not welcome a new refugee mission or office there. Blickenstaff's office is dealing very well with existing problems and as you know the United States Embassy and His Majesty's Embassy have given Blickenstaff himself every possible support in helping him to overcome a certain amount of obstacles and difficulty from the Spanish Government in the course of his negotiations with them. From the point of view of prestige also it would appear to the Spaniards that Blickenstaff is being superseded if there were two refugee offices to deal with instead of one. His Majesty's Embassy consider also that the appointment of a Spanish representative in Madrid would not be suitable as no Spanish national under present conditions could be expected to take as strong a line as is often required with the Spanish authorities. They think it would be hard to find anyone as good as Blickenstaff for such an appointment and suggest that he should be the representative of the IGO.

We understand that the United States Ambassador fully agrees with this opinion of Blickenstaff and is emphatic on the necessity of any other refugee organization working through him and not independently."

MRM

WINANT

cc: Sec'y, Abrahamson, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois (2), Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, McCormack, Paul, Pehle, Pollak, Standish, Stewart, H. D. White, Files.

000324

IGC.

CONTROL COPY

2 - War Refugee Bd
(Mr. Peble)

PLAIN

Dated March 3, 1944

REC'd 11:59 p.m.

Washington

1762, 3rd

CCL3

WINANT

MEV
EMB

000325

CONTROL COPY

2 - W. Refugee
Bill (Mr. Jelle)

CH-550

PLAIN

Algiers

Dated March 2, 1944

Rec'd 2:33 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

685, second.

Following has been received from Cairo.

Malin Vice Director Intergovernmental Committee
on Refugees has arrived. Planning to remain four or
five days then proceed to Jerusalem and perhaps
Ankara then return to Algiers by March 15th or 20th.

Please inform Department.

No word has reached Malin concerning outcome
of wife's operation so please wire news here.

Signed Kirk.

CHAPIN

BB

000326

2 - War Refugee Bd

~~RESTRICTED~~

GAR-913

PLAIN

London

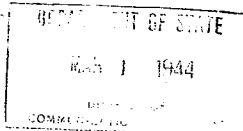
Dated February 29, 1944

Rec'd 7 p.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

1655, 29th



As prelude to the forthcoming House Commons debate on Intergovernmental Committee and following up earlier editorials today's MANCHESTER GUARDIAN has editorial on refugee situation ending as follows:

"Successful effort demands as it has always demanded the use of men, money, time, energy personally directed with adequate authority to the work of rescue. This is what the American Government announces it is going to provide. It is what we are not providing but could still do if we chose. The ponderous Intergovernmental Committee will never by itself do what is needed."

WINANT

EJH

000327

CONTROL COPY

3 - War Refugee
Ed (mike)

BE-384

PLAIN

London

Dated February 28, 1944

Rec'd 8 a.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

U.S. URGENT
1597, Twenty-eighth
X

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
FEB 28 1944

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

By way of urgent reminder Embassy desires to state that reply from Department on two points is necessary to reach us by twenty-ninth if to be of use in preparing for parliamentary debate Wednesday morning on Inter-Governmental committee on refugees.

One. As requested in Embassy's 1393 eighteenth final paragraph consent is requested to statement premised on approval of holding of plenary meeting. Director has approval from Argentine, Brazil, Netherlands representatives expects French approval and urgently desires ours.

Two. Regarding the understanding requested in Embassy's 1554 twenty-fifth penultimate paragraph Foreign Office urgently desires expression of approval.

WINANT

RR

000328



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AMERICAN EMBASSY

London, February 25, 1944

No. 14,087

SUBJECT: Refugee Relief Project Through International
Red Cross.

3 & W R R L
with 1 copy
transmitted

1 May (in Sunday)

The Honorable
The Secretary of State
Washington.

Sir:

1/ 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 tele-
gram 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 371/98 HWE/EMS.

CC:hjs

840.48 REFUGEES/5323

PS/MEL

000329

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.

Encs. 3.

000330

C o p y

171/98
HWE/EMS

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 Roumania 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.

000331

C o p y

COMITE INTERNATIONAL DE LA
CROIX-ROUGE.

Genève, 5 janvier, 1944.

Délégation du Comité International
de la Croix-Rouge en Grande-Bretagne.

Concerne: Secours aux Israélites en Europe.

Faisant suite à notre note No. 3971 (JES/HL) du
13 décembre 1943, nous jugeons utile de vous communiquer
les informations suivantes:

En date des 29 et 30 novembre 1943, les Gouvernements
américain et britannique nous ont fait savoir, par l'inter-
médiaire de leurs légations à Berne, 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
Protectrices. Une exception à ce principe serait toutefois
admise lorsque, en l'absence de Puissance Protectrice, 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 Pro-
tectrice, 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 Gouverne-
ments 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 frs soit mise à notre disposition, il est bien
évident que cette offre était conditionnée par l'autori-
sation formelle des Autorités du Blocus à un tel transfert
d'argent.

Nous vous serions donc reconnaissants de bien vouloir
porter les informations ci-dessus à la connaissance du
Comité Intergouvernemental, 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.

000332

C o p y

COMITE INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE
Agence Centrale des Prisonniers de Guerre

London Delegation,
55 Pall Mall, S. W. 1.

16th February, 1944

RAH/MF.

Sir Herbert Emerson, G.C.I.E., K.C.I.E.,
High Commissioner for Refugees,
11D, Regent Street, S. W. 1.

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. Haccius.

Enclosed copy letter No. 3980.

000333

CONTROL COPY

C
O
P
Y

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, London
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: February 24, 1944
NUMBER: 1513
X [REDACTED]

Reference Embassy's 1493, February 23.

The Embassy orally communicated to the IGO Director contents of the Department's 1333, February 23, as he had received similar information through the Foreign Office. In regard to the IGO representative in Portugal it is hoped by the Director that the Department will postpone taking a position. Pertinent information which the Director desires to be considered is expected to be brought by Deputy Director Kullman who is to return to London by the beginning of March.

WIMANT

cc: Miss Chauncey, Messrs. Paul, Gaston, H.D. White, Pehle, Luxford, DuBois (2 copies, E.M. Bernstein, Stewart, Lesser, Friedman, Miss Hodel, Mr. Pollak, Mr. Abrahamson, Miss Laughlin.

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

000334

CONTROL COPY

*I was Relieved
Mr. Bell*

GAR-333

PLAIN

London

Dated February 24, 1944

Rec'd 5:52 p.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

1520, twentyfourth

Foreign Office has supplied us copy of letter
February eighteenth from Foreign Office to Emerson
regarding IGC representative with Merra (See Embassy's
1439, twentyfirst) in which Foreign Office states:

"We have just heard from Matthews, Director of
Merra, who entirely agrees with the proposal. He
adds that with the increasing volume of work there, he
is nearly desperate for skilled assistance of all kinds
and finds the suggestion that this representative in
addition to his primary task should be able to help
with Merra's current activities most welcome."

WINANT

IMS

000335

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

To: *Mr. Stewart*
(1) (Room) (Bldg.)
(2) (Room) (Bldg.)
(3) (Room) (Bldg.)

*I believe that this relates to
J.G.C. approp. what you are
handling.*

JB7

From: (Date)
..... (Room) (Bldg.)

000336

*was Refugee's
Mr. Peller*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, London
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: February 23, 1944
NUMBER: 1495
x

We should appreciate confirmation, before informing
✓director
IGC/as instructed in Department's telegram of February 22,
No. 1330, that we are to inform him thus without awaiting
instructions in reply to Embassy's telegram of the 19th,
No. 1426, and without advising the Foreign Office that the
director is so being informed by us.

WINANT

CONTROL COPY

APR 23 1944

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

000337

Miss Chauncey
Mr. Paul
Mr. Gaston
Mr. H. D. White
Mr. Pehle
Mr. Luxford
Mr. DuBois (2)
Mr. E.M. Bernstein
Mr. Stewart
Mr. Lesser
Mr. Friedman
Miss Hodel
Mr. Pollak
Mr. Abrahamson
Miss Lughlin

1493

000338

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E.A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Nease
Mr. Gandy

(copy in file)

CONTROL COPY

3- War Refugee
Bd (M. Deke)

LFR-978

PLAIN

London

Dated February 23, 1944

Rec'd 5:13 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

1493, twentythird

Foreign Office now informs us in letter dated February 21 of change of view concerning appointment of IGC representative at Lisbon (Embassy's 1246, fourteenth). Emerson is writing us today that he is not at present inclined to accept the revised Foreign Office view nor does he believe executive committee will accept it, but states he is seeking further information. Foreign Office letter February 21 states as follows:

"As a result of receiving further information from Lisbon we are compelled to modify our views to some extent. It appears that a meeting was held at your Legation at which the Joint Distribution Committee, Hicem, the Unitarians and the Society of Friends were represented. These were unanimous in the opinion that a local representative of the Intergovernmental Committee

000339

copy
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT
FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Embassy, London
DATED: February 22, 1944
NUMBER: 1330
x

It is requested that you advise the Director that the Department is in agreement with the views which he expressed, transmitted in your cable of December 30, 1943, No. 9066, and to state further that when the Fedhala Camp was first agreed upon it was the understanding of the United States and British Governments that the camp was to be a temporary one and that the responsibility of finding a more permanent place for the refugees accepted at Fedhala would fall to the Intergovernmental Committee.

At that time it was envisaged that ^{either} the permanent migration of the refugees might be organized or that they might be removed for the duration of the war to a more permanent place and thereafter to return to their countries of origin in Europe.

These plans remain in effect, and it is anticipated that, in order that the foregoing objectives can be achieved as soon as possible, close working relations may be established between the Fedhala administration and the London and/or Algiers office of the Intergovernmental Committee. Since the consent of the French Committee of National Liberation was based on the temporary stay of the refugees at Fedhala Camp, this is especially desirable.

The foregoing

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972

000340

-2-

The foregoing message was repeated to Madrid for
Beckelman's attention.

STETTINIUS
(Acting)

000341

cc: Miss Chauncey
Mr. Paul
Mr. Gaston
Mr. H. D. White
Mr. Pehle
Mr. Lufford
Mr. DuBois
Mr. E. N. Bernstein
Mr. Stewart
Mr. Lesser
Mr. Friedman
Miss Hodel
Mr. Pollak
~~Mr. [unclear]~~

*Mr. [unclear]
Mrs. [unclear]
Mrs. [unclear]*

000342

CONTROL COPY

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Embassy, London
DATED: February 22, 1944
NUMBER: 1323
X

Referring further to notification sent to Lisbon referring to the Department's telegram of January 25, no. 626, the following has been received from the American Legation at Lisbon, and you are requested to please transmit this message to the Directorate of IGC:

We are of the opinion, after consultation with representatives of the British Embassy, the Joint Distribution Committee, HICEM, the Friends and the Unitarians, that for the present no useful purpose would be served by the opening of a branch office of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees or of the appointment of a Portuguese national as representative of IGC.

At present the number of stateless refugees in Portugal is slightly more than 500 which figure is expected to be reduced shortly to about 400 and such problems as are currently arising are being handled satisfactorily by existing organizations.

The relief

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972

000343

- 2 -

The relief organization's representatives who met today with the British and ourselves are in agreement with the foregoing and have stated that their ends will be served if they can count on the direct support of the American and British Missions in approaching the Foreign Office when the occasion seems to require such. Our representative stated that our instructions would make it possible for us to do this and the closest cooperation was offered by us.

This message repeated by courier to Madrid.

STETTINIUS
(Acting)

cc: Messrs. Paul, Gaston, H. D. White, Pehle, Luxford, Dubois, E. N. Bernstein, Stewart, Lesser, Friedman, Pollak, Abrahamson, Misses Chauncey, Hodel, Laughlin.

000344

CONTROL COPY

File
887

GLR-88

PLAIN

London

Dated February 19, 1944

Rec'd 6:14 p.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

FEB 20 1944

COMMUNICATIONS

1426, Nineteenth

We have discussed subject of Department's 1051, tenth, with Foreign Office which expresses view that choice of a final destination for refugees accommodated at North Africa refugee center should fall within the sphere of the Intergovernmental Committee and expresses willingness to associate with the United States Government in suggesting to the Intergovernmental Committee that they should examine this question. If Department approves we will follow this line in referring matter to IGC in association with British.

WINANT

EJH

000345

IGC (copy in file)

CONTROL UNIT

heres

LFR-771

PLAIN

London

Dated February 18, 1944

Rec'd 8:44 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

1393, eighteenth

Please instruct urgently regarding request by Lord Winterton as Chairman of Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees for Plenary meeting and for agreement to a statement by Eden in Parliament referring thereto contained in letter dated February 16 (see despatch 13675, February 2 entitled proposed IGC Plenary meeting):

"You will remember that when the Executive Committee met on August 4 last, it was felt that having regard to the urgency of the problem, it was desirable to ask the member governments to give wide powers to the Executive Committee by correspondence rather than to incur the delay that would have been inevitable had it been necessary to call a meeting of the Plenary Committee. In fact it was not possible to call

000346

-2- #1393, eighteenth, from London

to call a representative meeting until the attitude was known of those governments who were invited to become members.

The position has now changed insomuch as sufficient governments have replied to enable a representative meeting to be called, and as chairman I have felt for some time that a Plenary meeting should be arranged so soon as this can conveniently be done. Apart from other matters which would come before the meeting, it is very desirable that the constitution and procedure of the Committee should be defined in rules approved by the Plenary Committee as a whole. The director is now engaged in drafting rules which I hope will be laid before the Executive Committee in the near future for its consideration before submission to the Plenary Committee.

Another reason for calling a meeting is that there is some criticism of the fact that none has so far been convened and I have reason to believe that this criticism is likely to be made in the House of Commons in the forthcoming debate on a supplementary estimate which the British Government will move for provision of its share towards the expenditure of the Committee.

If Your

000347

-3- #1393, eight enth, from London

If Your Excellency agrees, I would like that opportunity to be taken of letting it be known that the Executive Committee has in mind the convening of a Plenary meeting as soon as convenient and subject to your agreement, I would arrange for the Secretary of State to include in his opening speech something on the following lines:

'I would explain that the Executive Committee has been empowered in very wide terms by the member governments to carry on the work of the Committee and it is in fact doing so. The member governments by agreeing to this course have avoided the delay in taking action which would have been inevitable had it been necessary to call a meeting of the Plenary Committee in the early days of the reorganization but I understand from the chairman that the Executive Committee is fully alive to the desirability of calling such a meeting in the near future and that preparations to this end including the draft of the constitution of the Committee and its rules of procedure are in hand.' We could then perhaps consider at the next meeting of the Executive Committee the question of a suitable date for a Plenary meeting and some of the matters arising out of it.'

LMS

WINANT

000348

CONTROL COPY

BJR -

AIRGRAM

FROM

LONDON

Dated February 15, 1944

Rec'd 4 p.m., 19th

Secretary of State,
Washington.

A-183, February 15, 3:05 p.m.

Pursuant to Department's Airgram A-146, 12:10 p.m.
February 1, 1944, the Embassy communicated contents to
Director of Intergovernmental Committee on refugees and
has received from him the following letter in reply
dated February 14, (IC/234/102):

"I am writing to thank you for your letter of the
12th February regarding the transfer of refugees from
Spain and Portugal to Palestine. We have been in touch
for some time with the Foreign Office and the voluntary
organizations concerned in this transfer, which as you
know has been pending for many months. We received a
cable, dated the 25th January from Mr. Schwartz of the
J.D.C., who was then in Lisbon, giving the following
figures:-One hundred and seventy-one passengers from
Lisbon and Five hundred and seventy from Cadiz, giving
a total of seven hundred and forty-one passengers. I
have since seen in the Press that the ship reached Haifa
safely".

WINANT

000349

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

INTER OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE Feb. 10, 1944

TO Mr. Lesser
FROM J. W. Pehle

We will soon have to make up our minds what we are going to do vis-a-vis the Intergovernmental Committee. This question is bound to come up in all sorts of ways, including the furnishing of funds to the Intergovernmental Committee. Accordingly, I should like to have you undertake the assignment of finding out all there is to be found out in Washington about the Intergovernmental Committee.

Please give me a definitive report on this by Monday, February 14.



See reply under Bureau of Internal Revenue dated 7/2/44

000350

2/8/44

Copies to:

Mr. Pehle
Mr. Luxford
Mr. DuBois
Mr. E. M. Bernstein
Mr. Lesser
Mr. Friedman
Miss Hodgl

000351

FOREIGN FUNDS CONTROL

February 5, 1944

MRS. TAYLOR:

We sent a copy of this to
Mr. O'Flaherty.

RHB

O. A. SCHMIDT

000352

EOC - 730

PLAIN

London

Dated February 2, 1944

Rec'd 3:45 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

923, second.

IGC Director informs us pursuant to last sentence Department's 709 twenty-eighth that he has arranged for release Thursday February third of following communique: at the meeting of the 4th August 1943 the Executive Committee resolved to invite certain governments who had not previously been members to become members of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees.

Replies to the invitation have so far been received from the governments of Czechoslovakia, Egypt, India, Luxembourg, Poland, Union of South Africa and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, all of whom have accepted the invitation."

WINANT

WVC

FEB 5 1944

000353

2/8/44
Copies to:

Mr. Pehle
Mr. Luxford
Mr. DuBois
Mr. Lesser
Mr. Friedman
Miss Hodel

000354

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, Madrid
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: February 3, 1944
NUMBER: 370
x

*Index FFC
Jm Bille*

Reference is made herewith to the Department's telegram of January 27, No. 223.

It is believed by the Embassy that representation of Intergovernmental Committee in Madrid could effectively and adequately be handled by Mr. David Blickenstaff, Director of Office of "Representation in Spain of American relief organizations", without the necessity of opening a separate office. Although Blickenstaff, an American citizen with whose work IGC is already familiar, has no official status, with the support of the Embassy he has gained confidence and respect of Spanish Government and they recognize him as a qualified representative of stateless refugees in Spain. You are here referred to my despatch of January 24, No. 1932. At this time, the Embassy does not favor the opening of a separate office or the appointment of a Spanish national as representative of IGC.

Although it appears that the Spanish Government is willing to accept IGC representation, it is stated by the Foreign Office that it would prefer that it be handled, as suggested, through Blickenstaff.

The above message repeated to London and Lisbon for the information of our Embassy there.

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

000355

2/17/44
Copies to:

Mr. Pehle
Mr. Luxford
Mr. DuBois
Mr. Stewart
Mr. Lesser
Mr. Friedman
Mr. Pollak
Miss Hodel

TELEGRAM SERVICE

February 2, 1944

PLAIN

LONDON.

829, second
Concerning terms of approach to IGC Director referred

to in your 452 January 18, Department suggests that the words "ICG seeking the help or advice of the Committee UNQUOTE" in last sentence of paragraph numbered one be changed to read "QUOTE seeking information and advice from the Committee UNQUOTE". It is our view that above change makes clear that the Committee is not expected to assume responsibility for providing material aid but it may act in a consultative capacity.

The following addition is suggested at the end of last sentence of paragraph numbered two "QUOTE and its advice should be sought in each instance. The Committee should be informed of blockage facilities which may be granted by our respective Governments for maintenance of refugees UNQUOTE". It is thought that IGC should be the agency through which activities on behalf of refugees in Switzerland should be cleared and the above addition is intended to clarify this point.

HULL
(KAB)

840.48 Refugees/5014

VD:RU:REG:GF

EU

CI/L

EM

SWP

Mr. Pell

000356

C
O
P
Y

EOC-144
This telegram must be paraphrased
before being communicated to anyone
other than a Governmental agency. (HR)

London

Dated January 31, 1944

Rec'd 6:40 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

U.S. URGENT

882, January 31, 10 p.m.

FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY FROM CASADAY

Department's 749, January 29.

I have discussed with the Ambassador the message under
reference. He tells me has already taken up the President's
action with the Intergovernmental Committee for refugees. He has
suggested that the British form a governmental committee of
Ministers similar to that established in the United States.

The Ambassador wants to help in every way he can. He asks
me to thank you for your message.

WINANT

JRL

eh:copy
2-1-44

Distributed to: Secretary (Mr. E. M. Bernstein); Mr. D.W. Bell (Mr. Dietrich);
Mr. Paul; Mr. White (Mr. E.M. Bernstein-Orig.); Mr. Luxford; Mr. Pehle;
Mr. E.M. Bernstein; Mr. Glasser; Mr. Taylor; Mr. Ness; Mr. DuBois; Mr. Lesser;
Mr. Friedman; Miss Hodel

000357

C O P Y

DEPARTMENT

AMEMBASSY,

LONDON.

The Department agrees that the ultimate disposition of the occupants of the North African refugee center should be a function of the Intergovernmental Committee as suggested in your 8787, December 18.

You are requested to discuss the matter with British Foreign Office and collaborate with British in preparing the question for official reference to the Directorate of the Intergovernmental Committee. Please keep Department advised of developments.

840.48 Refugees/4884

VD:RU:MCC:GF 12/22/43 Eu

GI/L
Mr Pell

000358

C
O
P
Y

PLAIN
London
Dated December 18, 1943
Rec'd 1 p.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

8787, Eighteenth.

Embassy wished to raise question whether Department may not desire that Embassy discuss with Foreign Office (as in the matter covered by Department's 7946, Sixteenth) terms under which some ultimate aspects of North Africa refugee project might be referred to Intergovernmental Committee.

In a letter dated December 16 to Fred Hoshler attached to this Embassy the director includes this incidental comment: "with regard to the ultimate disposal of occupants of the camp in North Africa it has been understood that this will be the function of the Intergovernmental Committee but the committee has so far not been officially informed to this effect. It is prepared so it should be informed officially at the earliest date. In order to perform it, it will be essential that it should have a representative in North Africa who will on the one hand be in close touch with the French authorities and on the other hand be in close touch with the French authorities and on the other hand will have access to the camp and work closely with the camp director and his officials. The headquarters of the representative should be in Algiers and he may have to have an assistant who will spend most of his time in the camp. The question of a representative of the Intergovernmental Committee

000359

Consent of the Department of State
Not to be used for official purposes
except as authorized by the Department of State
SECRETARY OF STATE

5017

at Algiers is under consideration in connection with a proposal made by the Department of State to the Foreign Office that the Intergovernmental Committee should have representatives in various countries".

WINANT

000360

C
O
P
Y

FMH

PLAIN
London

Dated September 9, 1943

Rec'd 11:47 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

5982, ninth

Having made an unsuccessful effort to convene a meeting of the Executive Committee (which apparently cannot meet before September 30) the Director of the Inter-Governmental Committee on Refugees called an informal meeting in his office this afternoon at which the Embassy and Foreign Office were represented and the Director and Vice Director attended. With the entire agreement of the Vice Director the Director presented the following personal joint suggestions for the consideration of the Department and Foreign Office: "The messages from the Department of State conveyed through the American Embassy raise two questions which are closely related, namely (one) the safety of foreign refugees in Italy itself and (two) the safety of foreign refugees in the portions of southern France hitherto occupied by the Italians. The unconditional surrender of Italy has changed the position

000361

-2- #5982, ninth from London

the position in some respects. It would seem to have changed it for the better insofar as (one) direct and open negotiations can now take place between the Allied authorities and the Italian authorities (two) it is definitely in the interests of the Italian authorities to do all they can to meet the wishes of the Allies (three) one may expect, although one cannot assume, that the territory occupied by the Allies in Italy will expand in the near future (four) the prospects of Switzerland having access to countries other than those occupied by the enemy are definitely improved although the date at which there will be a common frontier between Switzerland and Italian territory occupied by the Allies, depending as it does, on the progress of military operations is still uncertain. Nonetheless, the direction which the war is now taking does open up prospects of Switzerland ceasing to be a country completely surrounded by Axis countries and, therefore, unable to get people out except by the consent of the Axis authorities. This may well have an important influence on the attitude of the Swiss authorities towards giving asylum to refugees.

On the

000362

-3- #5982, ninth from London

On the other hand, the unconditional surrender may well complicate the situation because (one) it may be anticipated that the Germans will take over the control of as much of Italy as she can (two) she will certainly take control of the departments of France hitherto occupied by the Italians. The Italian authorities will no longer operate in those departments. On the above analysis the means of helping refugees in Italy would seem to be the following: (A) encouragement by the Allies of the Italian authorities, amounting to pressure if necessary, to give such protection to the refugees as is possible to help their concealment by the population by their passage to areas where they would be safe (3) encouragement Swiss Government to give asylum to all refugees from Italy who are able to cross the frontier. The encouragement to the Swiss Government to be really effective must include (none) an assurance regarding food supplies (two) an assurance that she will be relieved as soon as possible of the refugees she may receive. The second is far more important than the first. The assurance might take the form that, so soon as possible the Allies will take back into Italy any refugees

000363

-4- #5982, ninth from London

refugees therefrom whom Switzerland now takes.

It is suggested that this assurance should be confined to returning the refugees to Italy and not their transfer elsewhere because (non) the very few places elsewhere to which they could be transported will be required for other refugees (two) the return to Italy would be comparatively simple so far as transport is concerned (three) the final settlement of the refugees in question is likely to be more easy if they return to Italy and are not dispersed elsewhere (C) there was the possibility of escape by sea of refugees from Italy to other places e. g. Spain, North Africa and Cyprus. Having regard to the military operations now in progress and the flight of the Italian ships from Italian ports in order to escape the Germans, this does not now seem to be a possible means of escape, organized lines, although a few may have got away on Italian ships or may be able to get away within the next day or two. The safety of the ships and not of the refugees must obviously be the dominant consideration, and unless there are ports not under control by the Germans, which is improbable, nothing can be done.

With regard

000364

-5- #5982, ninth from London

With regard to the refugees in southern France, it must be assumed that if this has not already happened, there will be full German control within a few days. The Italians will not be able to organize the removal of refugees from there into Italy and it seems unlikely that many will wish to cross the frontier into the portions of Italy strongly occupied by the Germans. For those who do cross the Italian frontier what has been said in the previous paragraph will apply.

The remaining means of escape is into Switzerland. Here again, approaches to the Swiss Government should be accompanied by assurances regarding food relief and the removal of the refugees. As regards the latter, a distinction may be made between children and others. In the summer and autumn of 1942 when there was still a prospect of the Vichy Government allowing children to leave Vichy France, various governments offered to give asylum. The Government of the United States, for instance, generously agreed to take five thousand, the age limits being sixteen for children of Allied nationality and fourteen for children of enemy origin. The offer by the United States was later extended to children who were

000365

-6- #5982, ninth from London

who were able to escape into Spain. If the United States were willing to extend it to children who may now be able to escape from the southern departments of France to Switzerland, an assurance could be given to Switzerland that such children would be removed when communications allowed. Approaches on the same lines could be made if necessary to other governments concerned but the number, unfortunately, is likely to be so small that the offer, if made, by the United States would probably not involve liability of more than a few hundred. For adults, the assurance would have to be, in present circumstances, on more general lines. Here again, the number is likely to be so small that I think an assurance could be safely given, remembering that when Italy is occupied it should be possible within reasonable time to open a camp there, if facilities in North Africa and elsewhere did not suffice. The above suggestions are, of course, contingent on and subject to military considerations". The Director made it clear that reference to refugees in Italy is intended to be limited to foreign refugees in Italy. He expressed appreciation of the Departments having referred suggested

000366

-7- #5982, ninth from London

suggested projects to the inter-Governmental Committee explained that on account of the urgency of the situation and the impossibility of a prompt meeting of the Executive Committee he was following the procedure of submitting his suggestions as above for consideration by the American and British Governments. In conversation he attached particular importance to the desirability of the guarantees proposed by him to be given by the British and American Governments to the Swiss Government.

WINANT

EMB

000367