

Programs and Respect to Labor  
and Rights of Refugees: Other  
Government Agencies

Office of Consular Affairs

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INSTRUCTIONS TO RED CROSS CHAPTERS  
FOR CABLE MESSAGES RELATIVE TO REFUGEES

A letter received on October 17, 1944 from the Office of the Chief Cable Censor, Washington, D.C., requested that we add another paragraph to the instructions for sending cable messages to refugees. It is suggested that, "The exact text of the message to be transmitted," be included in the letter which the individual sends to Censorship for a license to transmit certain information by cable to refugees. The dittoed letter of instructions has been revised and this point added. This information also appears in AAS Letter 161 F, some  
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1. The individual should make application to the Director of Censorship for a special license to transmit such information by cablegram. The letter should be as complete as possible and should contain:
  - (a) full name and address of person to whom the message is directed.
  - (b) relationship of sender and addressee
  - (c) nationality of both sender and addressee
  - (d) statement of the reasons the sender wishes to send the cable with as complete information as possible concerning the addressee
  - (e) full name and address of the sender
  - (f) bank reference of sender and names and addresses of three persons in community who have known sender for past five years
  - (g) any other information or data applicant desires to file in support of application.
  - (h) exact text of the message to be transmitted.
2. If the license is granted, the licensee will be instructed to bring copy of letter granting license to local chapter of the American Red Cross when filing his request for cable service. Use new cable form 2279 when available, a supply of which should be requisitioned from the Area office.
3. The Chapter will file the request for cable service with Home Service, National Headquarters with an exact copy of the letter from censorship granting the license and a copy of the message approved by censorship.

Since these messages will contain more than twenty-five words the cost of this type of cable to the International Committee of the Red Cross will be higher than the regular twenty-five word night letter cable. No money should accompany the request for cable service.
4. In addition to the above license from the Director of Censorship, a Treasury license is also required. The applicant should procure this from his local bank, Federal Reserve Bank, or American Express office.

Inquiry Unit - Home Service  
American Red Cross

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**INSTRUCTIONS TO RED CROSS CHAPTERS  
FOR CABLE MESSAGES RELATIVE TO REFUGEES**

Any individual wishing to cable a person other than a U.S. citizen in enemy or enemy-occupied territory relative to a Palestine Certificate, Refugee Visa, or availability of funds for such transactions, should proceed as outlined below.

This does not apply to nationality visas of persons wishing to immigrate to the U.S., which is a State Department matter, but to Refugee Visas for stateless persons (those who have been deprived of citizenship rights for political or racial reasons by the country in which they originated and who have not established citizenship in another country).

1. The individual should make application to the Director of Censorship for a special license to transmit such information by cablegram. The letter should be as complete as possible and should contain:

- (a) full name and address of person to whom the message is directed.
- (b) relationship of sender and addressee
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Inquiry Unit - Home Service  
American Red Cross

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# CENSORSHIP REPORTS

No. 100 Date 10-10-50

PREPARED BY THE OFFICE OF CENSORSHIP, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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CENSORSHIP REPORTS

No. 101

August 28, 1944

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Germany.....	4 - 11
Denmark and Finland .....	11
Greece.....	12
Netherlands.....	12 - 13
Norway.....	13 - 14
Portugal.....	14 - 17
Spain.....	17 - 20
Switzerland.....	20 - 23
Sweden.....	23 - 27

Prepared by The Office of Censorship, Washington, D. C.

000 123

### SUMMARY ON REACTION TO THE INVASION OF FRANCE

All the letters quoted in this report were written on or after June 6, 1944.

#### GERMANY

(All the communications quoted which are addressed to the United States are to prisoners of war.)

"So much, so long expected has happened," writes a woman in Kiel to an internee in U.S.A. She elaborates: "It had to start. You should never make a pact with the devil, he is always the shrewder one. Only good for us. The American news reports will create sufficient confusion to make it difficult to form a clear picture for yourself. But have faith in the decisions which are coming, thanks to the genius of our Fuhrer." A German in Pommern confides to a relative in Texas: "I am positive the whole world believes in a German victory." A native of Berlin is happy that "finally all trumps are now being played, and so the decision is nearer. Germany must and will not be vanquished." Resident of Kempen-Allgau relates: "We surely never had the intention of attacking America. Even the children in Europe know that. Why Americans want to destroy us we simply can't understand. Therefore we feel a really fanatic hatred towards the war-mongers on that side." Writer in Stuttgart admonishes an internee in Texas: "If the Americans had stayed home, there too, tears would not have been shed in such profusion. Tell them that, when you get the chance. They'll experience their big surprises within the next weeks."

All Germans "will help break the enemy's heart in the west," a Recklinghausen resident is confident, for "the great reckoning has begun, the dance of hell is on." He warns the addressees in New Mexico to "behave so that you will be alive when the deliverance comes and you can return to mine and mother's arms." That Germans were "born to work" is the opinion of a writer in Sosnowitz-Oberschl, who tells an internee in Texas that "today we are all working with true fanaticism." And in Bruchhausen, a woman says: "In bombing us the enemy only succeeds in welding us that much tighter and to make us still more fanatically German." A German woman in Gronauhausen comments ambiguously: "There is great rejoicing among the population. You can see it on every face. The tension is gone." From Berlin comes the candid statement: "We would prefer death with honor than to being thrown back into a condition of slavery and dependence. In this respect, we were treated to a slight foretaste, (1918) though this would pale into insignificance with what would be intended for us now, but it will not happen again."

#### DENMARK AND FINLAND

A Dane comments: "The Germans are scared stiff," and adds: "There is nothing quite as nervous as a scared German." Aside from the radio, correspondent reports on "an illegal press to keep us informed, - and it gives us other information the Germans hate to see leak out."

From Stockholm a Finn reports: "The already deeply rooted distrust that the Finns have towards everything Russian is further strengthened through the contact with Germany and a one-sided propaganda seems to be beyond control." Resident of Goteborg, Sweden refers to Finland as "this unfortunate country," and states the "U.S.A. should not have on its conscience the downfall of this fine little country, - the only country that really fights for its honestly earned freedom."

A German woman in Hawaii comments: "The invasion has saved us a great walk, and we shall see the end of the miserable war soon. I visit the movies often and we are shown news which set one's mind at ease. Therefore, we all believe in victory and hope to see you soon in our homeland." Written another from Bernau-Jaunist: "We are now living like the gods. It is beyond your imagination. The meals are so good that we feel like licking our fingers after we finished." From Bremen: "After the new happenings, we really do not have to worry at all; our leaders know what has to be done." And from Vinzen Luho: "British and American troops landed in France. There they meet stiff resistance from our soldiers. They experience heavy losses of men and materials. Rocket bombs are annihilating British cities. They must show they are able to perform. Of course they are paying dearly for that."

#### GREECE

A Greek in Alexandria tells an internee in Pennsylvania: "Our nephew just came from Greece and said your wife gave a party on your birthday. She served herbs and cozo (alcoholic beverage) which is plentiful there. In fact they are having often such parties to forget their miseries and hunger." From Cairo: "I personally need nothing, but those who have remained in Greece - they have nothing. Their condition is terrible. Man's mind cannot conceive the tragedy which is being enacted in Greece." Again from Alexandria: "Hitler forced us to take tools and cultivate the soil in order to live. Our families are very unhappy in our home town in Greece as there is a total lack of petroleum as well as electric lights and medicines."

#### NETHERLANDS

"How astonished you will be when you come back," writer in Holland tells a friend in Uruguay, adding, "It is lucky that terror cannot destroy hope and confidence. Our food is for the most part restricted to vegetables. Jeanne ate nothing but lettuce for 12 days." A German woman in Augsburg tells an internee in Kentucky: "I am still in Holland. I do not like it though we have it much better than many a one in the Reich. It cannot last much longer. Vengeance has already started." Better mailed in Zurich states: "Tobacco and cigarettes which are suitable for smoking are no longer obtainable in Holland."

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000131

NORWAY

Norwegian in Oslo reports: "Starvation in the big cities is gruesome. Conditions at home are desperate. Deliverance is on the way, is it not?" Norwegian in Varmland comments: "Food is so poor now they have to use hydrochloric acid when they bake in order to make the bread stick together."

PORTUGAL

From Figueira da Foz: "I am so excited and delighted. All this is due to the desembarquement on Franco... the beginning of the end." From Restauradores: "Thank heavens that one can say now that Nazism will be defeated soon."

SPAIN

Woman in San Sebastian confides to friend in Argentina: "We are all depressed by the darkness of the horizons we are facing." But from Madrid: "Here we talk of nothing else but the invasion. I hope that things progress well and with the least possible losses." In Barcelona: "After the war, thanks to God and to Franco, we are not mixed up in it, there will be great prosperity." "There is much liveliness here," in Pamplona. "The young people are always full of life. There is no other town in Spain that has inverted millions the way it has been done here in new street construction." But in Porto Santo, "This is a bad year. There is no bread nor grapes. Not only the poor will go hungry but everyone in general."

SWITZERLAND

"In Europe the last act of this sad drama has appeared on the stage," Weissen correspondent tells friend in Argentina. Bern writer says, "It is a good thing that the war is approaching, slowly, its decisive stage; else we shall be old folks before peace reigns again." From St. Gallen resident fears: "The large part of humanity no longer knows a God. They think they can do it all themselves. How well God has meant it with us... but we must be able to see it." In La Chaux De Fonds: "We do not have unemployment yet but since the invasion we cannot export any more."

SWEDEN

Helsingborg writer states, "The war is apparently soon over and the poor Germans defeated after five years. And then Russia takes over the parental care of Europe." Correspondent in Vasteras states: "Things are coming to a boiling point in the occupied countries. They are waiting for the final blow to be given to the Germans. Like in 1918, the Germans once more imagine 'Germany over all'. Now I do think it will be the 'Allies over Germany.'"

000132



- 4 -

GERMANY

A Day Makes History

Resident of Stuttgart to North Africa: "Today, sixth of June, is one of those happy days which will have a place in history. Maybe you will be able to return soon. I wish it with all my heart." (N. Africa 09538 6/6/44).

Fight for Final Decision

Resident of Holstein to North Africa: "The Anglo-Saxon invasion begun yesterday is the principal event. We had been waiting for it for a long time and we were prepared for it. The battle is raging on the Atlantic coast. Finally the enemy is engaging us in the West in an honest fight for the final decision. May God be at our side and help us to conquer. One can no longer picture to oneself what peace will be. What a touching moment when we shall be told 'Peace on Earth'....." (N. Africa 09468 6/7/44).

Atlantic Wall Will Hold

Resident of Bavaria to North Africa: "The invasion began in the West on June 6, that is why we are drawing nearer and nearer the great victory, for here is where it will be decided. The Atlantic wall will hold, without a doubt." (N. Africa 09519 6/8/44).

So Much, So Long Expected

Woman in Kiel to Kansas: "So much, so long expected has happened. The battle for which you over there, no less than we in the homeland, have been eagerly waiting for has begun, the fight which will bring us the anticipated decision and bring the dragon to our sword. It had to start. Thank God, You should never make a pact with the devil, he is always the shrewder one. Only good for us. He who laughs last, laughs best. I would like to see your contented faces, would like to hear you sigh with relief; you now are a part of the homeland, which in this struggle can also only show a passive attitude. But we both know the hands, the spirit and the faith of those who will decide this struggle. Surely - how could it be otherwise - the American news reports will, especially now, create sufficient confusion and make it all the more difficult to form a clear picture for yourself. But you don't have to depend upon these reports, wait and have faith in the decisions which are coming, just as we have. The fear of having something go wrong is eliminated. (Must' is a hard nut. And henceforth everybody will try to bring about a turn of events. Thanks to the genius of our Fuhrer." (PCW NY 6/8/44)

Enemy Has Wavered Long Enough

Resident of Neuviend-on-Rhine to man in Arkansas: "Life has come to our West front since the day before yesterday, for the invasion that had developed into a myth has started at

000133

last! The enemy has wavered long enough, but our battle and home fronts are firmly convinced that from this perhaps our most difficult task, victory for Germany will finally be wrung." (POW NY 6/8/44).

#### Hour of Liberation

German to North Africa: "You must have learned that the invasion has been underway in France since June 6. It isn't the number of fighters which will bring the decision but the will of our soldiers to conquer...the hour of liberation will soon come for you." (N. Africa 09686 6/10/44)

#### With God's Help

Man in Bayern to German soldier in Mississippi: "With God's help things will change soon. This cannot go on forever. The invasion is causing a colossal loss of human life and the enemy is suffering even greater losses than we are. It is a pity that so many young people have to die. There is a dearth of food but we are not yet starving. There is still bread and meat; only potatoes are scarce. I would have sent Marie potatoes but we are not allowed to do it without a permit and I do not have one. I would like to write you much more but it would only be crossed out, just as in your first letter. Keep on believing that this cannot go on forever and remember that you are now in safety. There will be a joyous reunion if we survive." (POW NY 6/10/44)

#### Whole World Believes in German Victory

German in Pommern to relative in Texas: "I am sure that you have heard by now about the invasion too, which at last has begun on June 6th after a long waiting period. This invasion shall be the decision and in consequence thereof the war will end in 1944. Our enemies already are prepared for victory, but there is no one else who believes more in a definite victory than we Germans. No one can make us believe otherwise until the hour of decision has come. I am positive the whole world believes in a German victory. With this invasion the war will last not only days yet, weeks and months will pass and then at last all this killing will end." (POW NY 6/11/44)

#### Behind the Fuhrer "Like One Man"

German in Aschaffenburg to relative in Louisiana: "The invasion, heralded by our enemies long ago, began on June 6th, on the channel of Normandy. We are confident and very proud of our soldiers and our Fuhrer. There will be a few surprises for the opponent. Our people stand like one man behind our incomparable army and obey the war emergency laws fully. Always be aware that you are soldiers of your Fuhrer, who will bring the war to a proper end, which even may not be far off." (POW NY 6/13/44)

000134

Germany Sighs With Relief

German in Holstein to German in Texas: "Well, the invasion is finally in swing. All of Germany sighs with relief, for we now hope it is going towards the end. Of course, it will still be very hard for us but our faith in final victory is unshakable! And thus we have the satisfaction of knowing that the British themselves, too, must bleed, for in Normandy the battle is severe. When you receive my letter we shall probably have gone through the worst and peace will be near. Greetings, keep up your good spirits and do not let them down you." (POW NY 6/16/44)

End of War Soon

German woman in Hainichen-on-Rhine to relative in Arkansas: "The invasion has saved us a great walk, and we shall see the end of the miserable war soon. Yes, we may and will be proud of our armed forces who accomplished so much. I visit the movies often and we are shown news which set one's mind at ease. Therefore, we all believe in victory and hope to see you soon in our homeland." (POW NY 6/9/44)

Time to Play Trumps

German in Berlin to German in Alabama: "In the meantime, the long expected blow in the west has started, and we are all happy that finally all trumps are now being played; and that so the decision is nearer. We all know that this probably will be the hardest battle but we have full confidence that we will make it. Germany must and will not be vanquished; there has been too much sacrificed for it; we will bear everything whatever may come so that some day you may return to your homeland. Many a city will not look the way you have it in mind, but what does it matter, the main factor is that it belongs to the homeland which we all call ours, and which is proud that it could contribute to the success of the great outcome. That is what we think here, and you over there should know it." (POW NY 6/9/44).

Fifty Days - One Pig

Magdeburg to Oklahoma: "Sunday I am going with Jurgon to Bielitz. I have to work on a farm for fifty days in order to be permitted to slaughter one pig." (POW NY 6/9/44)

Inexhaustible Reserves

Resident of Wesenburn/Dithmarschen to New Mexico: "The spirit of all of you must remain unbroken as it does with us. Our faith remains unshaken, and the longer the war lasts the closer we unite. We have no doubts, and if there is any justice we know we are on the right road. Our reserves are inexhaustible." (POW NY 6/10/44)

000133

Fatherland Can Stand Anything

German in Kempen-Ailgen to relative in Louisiana: "That in the fifth year of the war we have to do without this or that comfort you can well understand, but otherwise Germany remains the same despite air attacks and enemy propaganda. The Fatherland is at the top of its form and can stand anything if the existence of the nation demands it. We surely never had the intention of attacking America. Even the children in Europe know that full well. Why the Americans want to destroy us we simply can't understand. Therefore we feel a really fanatic hatred towards the war-mongers on that side. As far as England goes the case is quite clear. Twice they have refused the peace offer of our Fuhrer. Why? Because they had even that time the definite commitments of America and Russia in their pockets. Otherwise they could not have acted as they did.

"That on the 6th of June the invasion of the French coast has started, even you may know by now. You, my boy, are familiar with that coastline. That it is bound to come there to severe clashes I need not say. Personally, I do not believe in a great or lasting success of the attackers; in my opinion the very opposite of it will happen in the end. But these are still probably material events and one is better silent about them. (POW NY 6/10/44)

Americans Should Have Stayed Home

Stuttgart to Texas: "If the Americans had stayed home, there too, tears would not have been shed in such profusion. The result will not be changed. We will win. Tell them that, when you get the chance. They'll experience their big surprise within the next weeks." (POW NY 6/10/44)

Living Like Gods

Sornu/Lausitz to Arkansas: "We are now living here like the gods. It is beyond your imagination. The meals are so good that we feel like licking our fingers after we finished the meal." (POW NY 6/10/44)

Waiting is Hardest Part

Budingon to Texas: "The youngster wrote a nice letter today, dated June 3rd. They were still waiting for the strange guests. Now they are here and were received with a big "Hello." Now we can endure the final spurt. It won't be easy. Just the last part of a race is always the hardest, never-the-less we will make it. The entire population is working for it. We owe this to you, it is your due. And everyone is doing his duty--- Let this console you. Waiting is the hardest part for you." (POW NY 7/11/44)

000136

China Up!

Bremen to Mississippi: "The great gigantic decisive battle has started at last. It is a huge, momentous struggle. The homeland took a deep breath as the great hour finally arrived. Who knows all that will have happened when you receive these lines. We keep our chins up, come what may!" (POW NY 6/11/44)

Will Have Last Word

Reckun to Texas: "The mail from here is forwarded as quickly as possible. It is over there where it is delayed, maybe they want to soften you in this way, but they will never succeed; on the contrary, we will only get tougher. We are German women and fulfill our duties joyfully and we know what we owe our men who are prisoners of war. They must be stupid if they think they can get us under. We will have the last word in this war. So many things have happened I cannot write you any more particulars. If they read it they would turn everything around. I am full of hate and so furious about them because they fight so unfair. Many times I wished I were a man and had an M.109 so I could fly against the enemy." (POW NY 6/12/44)

Standfast to End

Meinershagen to Kentucky: "When you receive this letter you will know that here we are all faring well. Nobody here is without courage, on the contrary, we believe in our victory just as we believe in our Fuhrer and our soldiers. May the battle be over so hard. You probably know by now that the invasion has started. I think this war has lasted long enough but we will stay standfast, you can be sure of that. And we also ask the same of you. You must never forget that we not only have an Adolf Hitler as our leader but also all that our valiant and courageous soldiers have conquered and obtained through struggle. Even in this last lap of the race it will be so." (POW NY 6/12/44)

Great Reckoning Has Begun

Rocklinghausen to New Mexico: "The hour of deliverance has come, your brothers and all German men will help break the enemy's heart in the West. The great reckoning has begun, the dance of hell is on. God who creates iron did not want men to be sorfs, that is why he has given us strength to destroy our enemies. Even if all devils of hell are raging, God is stronger. Be at once and behave so that you will be alive when the deliverance comes and when you can return to mine and mother's arms and we can celebrate your homecoming." (POW NY 7/12/44)

Everything in Abundance

Snchaen, Germany to Texas: "There is work galore and everything pertaining to food and the necessities of life we have in abundance." (POW NY 6/12/44)

000130

Treaty of Defeat in Hitler

Berlin to Missouri: "Let it be your solace that, being a loyal German, you can feel convinced that we shall know how to defend ourselves in a manner that will be unique in the history of the world. All this quite aside from the fact that we esteem above material things the ethical value of life such as liberty, honor and justice and, last but not least, propriety, that which we might designate as common decency. As a natural consequence of these sentiments, we would at all times prefer death with honor to being thrown back into a condition of slavery and dependence. In this respect, we were already treated to a slight foretaste, though this would pale into insignificance with what would be intended for us now, but, it will not happen again, you may rest assured, (POW NY 6/15/44)

Born to Work

Boonville-Oberachl to Texas: "I can only repeat, Dear Willy, that everybody in the German homeland is working as never before in its history. We Germans know the proverb no work -- no reward. We Germans have always been industrious, which is known all over the world. But today we are all working with true fanaticism. All factories are working day and night without interruption; and the same all over Europe whenever there are Germans. We will never tire for we were born to work." (POW NY 6/15/44)

Lull on Russian Front

Woman in Berlin to Oklahoma: "Now there is fighting only in Italy and France. There has been a lull on the Russian front for the last few weeks. We all hope and believe in final victory, even if the world is full of 'the devil' we will succeed." (POW NY 6/15/44)

Fanatically German

Woman in Bruchhausen to relative in Oklahoma: "I hardly believe there is a more beautiful bit of earth than ours. Only it is a pity to have that dirty 'Tommy' vent his grudge on it. But in spite of it all we don't despair but put our trust in our Fuhrer and in God. Some day soon he'll get the punishment he deserves. When our retaliation comes, we'll pay him back for all our grief -- then poor England. Victory will be ours without fail, because we are fighting a just cause. In bombing us the enemy only succeeds in welding us together that much tighter and to make us still more fanatically German." (POW NY 6/16/44)

Only One Country Can Be Victorious

Ludwigsburg to Texas: "I believe, Dear Walter, that you all have been away from the homeland for the longest time. The decisive victory must come now. Walter, there is only one country which can be victorious and that is Germany. I believe

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many of you feel discouraged not to be able to participate in the final battles. But every German knows that all of you have done your share and have gone through quite some hard and dangerous situations. However, the main thing is, our Fuhrer knows what you all have done." (POW NY 6/18/44)

Tension Gone

Woman in Grossenauhausen to relative in Texas: "There is great rejoicing among the population. They all have hope that it will end soon and the peace bells will be ringing. I do not know whether you are informed over there about the recent happenings but believe me, you can see it on every face. The tension is gone. I wonder whether the grumblers still grumble?" (POW NY 6/19/44)

Confident of Future

Canvill to Texas: "You are in my mind these days as the struggle in the West has flared up again. I want you to know over there across the wide ocean that the German army has been prepared for that moment long ago. The weight of the blows which we are dealing out will be fully felt by the invasion forces. I can tell you that we at home are looking into the future with confidence, especially at a time when the enemy has suffered so many hard blows from which he will never recuperate." (POW NY 6/31/44)

Revenge Will Come

Woman in Bremen to Louisiana: "After the new happenings we have gotten much courage and hope that there will be a good and perhaps even a speedy end. We really do not have to worry at all; our leaders know what has to be done. Many defenseless people have given their innocent lives in the homeland and so revenge will have to come. Who knows what will already have happened by the time you get this letter. In the last few days we have cheered up considerably. Fritz has a furlough for eight weeks and then his convalescence, and until then the war will probably be over." (POW NY 6/22/44)

Invasion in Full Swing

Woman in Winsen/Luho to Alabama: "The invasion is in full swing. British and American troops landed in France. There they meet stiff resistance from our soldiers. They experience heavy losses of men and materials. Rocket bombs are annihilating British cities. Enemy bombers also fly in now and then. They must show that they are able to perform. Of course they are paying dearly for that." (POW NY 6/22/44)

000134

DENMARK AND FINLAND

Germania Seared Stiff

Dano in Stockholm to Woman in N. Y. 1 "The Germans are seared stiff - and there is nothing quite as nervous as a seared German. They ruin the countryside with their ridiculous fortifications - it is especially bad in Jutland, so I am keeping away from that part of the country. How completely Denmark will be wrecked before they are kicked out, God only knows. But such is war. Aside from the radio we have an illegal press to keep us informed. It deals, naturally, with domestic questions and tells us who is arrested and gives such other information as the Germans hate to see leak out. I doubt that any other country has a press quite as flourishing as that - and the authorities are mad as hell." (N. Y. 6/18/44)

Deformed Babies

Woman in Bortby, Finland to woman in Connecticut: "So many deformed babies have been born lately. They are taken to Stockholm. It is mostly the hands or feet that are defective." (N. Y. 6/6/44)

One-Sided Propaganda

Finns in Stockholm to woman in California: "Finland's position is frightful. From here we look at its course of events with great uneasiness. There is still a faint possibility that those men who led the country into such a catastrophic situation will be pushed aside, and peace take place. Unfortunately, however, as seen from here, the whole nation is blinded through censors and such. The Swedish Government is certain to do everything to help guide the Finns out of the war, but the chances do not seem to be so good. The already deeply rooted distrust that the Finns have towards everything Russian is further strengthened through the contact with Germany and a one-sided propaganda seems to be beyond control. For us it means a more dangerous situation and an extremely increased preparedness." (N. Y. 6/19/44)

Unfortunate Country

Resident of Goteborg, Sweden to woman in South Dakota: "This unfortunate country (Finland) is worse off than any of the other war faring countries. Poor and with this Eastern neighbor who has persecuted them for hundreds of years. U.S.A. should not have on its conscience the downfall of this fine little country. It is the only country that really fights for its honestly earned freedom." (N.Y. 6/24/44)

000140



GREECE

Herbs and Oono

Alexandria, Egypt to Pennsylvania: "Our nephew just came from Greece and said that your family are well. Your wife gave a party on your birthday, where she served herbs and oono (alcoholic beverage) which is plentiful there. In fact, they are having often such parties to forget their miseries and hunger." (MI 6/6/44)

Had Everything

Cairo, Egypt to New York: "You asked me whether I need any money or clothing so that you could send it to me. I personally need nothing, but those who have remained in Greece, they have nothing. Their condition is terrible, dreadful. Man's mind cannot conceive the tragedy which is being enacted in Greece. One of the usual sights is the view of emaciated men, women and children in deathly pallor. Those who are not victims of malaria, succumb to dysentery or to winter exposure." (NY 6/14/44)

Oil But No Bread

Alexandria, Egypt to Texas: "The food situation in the Dodecanese Islands is about the same. There is a total lack of bread since last October, but they have plenty of olive oil that they bring from Samos." (MI 6/24/44)

No Oil - No Lights

Alexandria, Egypt to Ohio: "Hitler forced us to take tools and cultivate the soil in order to live. Therefore we became very experienced farmers. Our families are very unhappy in our home town in Greece as there is a total lack of petroleum as well as electric lights and medicines. We did not lack money as deals were made by exchanging products." (MI 6/27/44).

NETHERLANDS

Terror Cannot Destroy Hope and Confidence

Holland to Uruguay: "In Rand's family everything is all right. His children have been put out of their various houses, just as Jan Van L. The trams are over crowded and you must always hang on the straps. How astonished you will be when you come back. Everything is so changed. Everything is so horrible and we cannot pray enough for a speedy delivery from this plague. It is a good thing we do not know what the next day has in store for us, and it is lucky that terror cannot destroy hope and confidence. Our food is for the most part restricted to vegetables. Joanne ate nothing but lettuce for 12 days." (SJ 6/8/44)

000141

Good Time at Home

Woman in Netherlands to woman in Argentina: "Because of the circumstances we have made no plans to go away for a vacation, and we hope to have a good time at home in our delightful garden, which is now used for much more useful purposes. Wilma celebrated her 19th birthday here last Sunday. Presents now-a-days are practically unobtainable. I let her have a piece of leather which I owned from former times. She can have a handbag made of it. At Whitsuntide we went on the houseboat which is directly in front of Aunt J's house. It has a beautiful view, which was so much the better as the house was occupied by 'others.' We hope it will not be too long before it is again at Uncle H's disposition." (SJ 6/9/44)

Vengeance Has Begun

German woman in Augsburg to Kentucky: "So far I am still alright as much as one can any in the fifth year of warfare. It is still bearable. I believe I have notified you that I am still in Holland. It is now almost three months that I have been here. I do not like it here anymore, though we have it here much better than many a one in the Reich. We have a roof over our head, our meals and a bed. Nevertheless, we all would be glad if everything would soon be over and we could return to the Reich. It cannot last much longer. Vengeance has already started. Don't let us get discouraged now, soon it will be over." (POW NY 6/19/44)

No Tobacco Or Cigarettes

Zurich, Switzerland to Argentina: "Tobacco and cigarettes which are suitable for smoking are no longer obtainable in Holland. Of all the factories, there are now only about twelve working and these have few employees. All other factories are closed." (SJ 7/19/44)

NORWAY

Cleaned Out

Norwegian in Goteborg, Sweden to New York: "I was home for two weeks (Bergen, Norway). Everyone is well situated and I found things better than I had expected. Norway is, however, 'cleaned out' and there is nothing more to buy except what they got on their ration cards, and hardly that. Only the laborers get 1/4 kilogram of chopped meat every 14 days, otherwise they can buy meat on the black market for 80 to 40 crowns per kilo. But they take it all in good humor." (NY 6/7/44).

Starvation is Gruesome

Norwegian in Landskrona, Sweden to Illinois: "I am terribly worried about my people at home. They are not enjoying their

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particular hell and at any time now it will probably get worse. The letters they write get gloomier all the time. They fear for their health, reason and their very lives. The psychological pressure is the hardest of all to bear. Starvation, especially in the big cities, is gruesome. Once a month we are permitted to send a package of food, 5 Ks. of clothing and 1 pair of children's shoes to them. I can assure you that we never slip up on that chance, neither Tano nor I. That we may not send more and often are blamed on the Western powers. Our rations are sufficiently large to provide sharing with others. But it is unreasonable to expect that we should hoard anything and not be able to send it on to those who are starving. I appeal to you, who live over there, please sound the big drum long and hard. Conditions at home are desperate and their health has been incurably damaged by those long privations. Without necessary fats the body shrivels and natural functions refuse to operate. There is a shortage of laxatives and only once a month do the drug stores get a small supply. It is sold out in less than a half hour. People stand in line all night in order to buy some. My oldest brother got a vasectomy. Heart failure because of overwork. They have to work for seven people. They could not have held out much longer, deliverance will arrive in the last moment. Deliverance is on the way, is it not?" (NY 6/18/44)

No Money for Anything

Norwegian in Goteborg, Sweden to New York: "If there was anything to buy, I could not pay the price. You will not believe it, but the price of a coat is eleven hundred crowns and over." (NY 6/16/44)

Poor Food - No Medicine

Norwegian in Varmland, Sweden to Massachusetts: "Food is so poor now - they have to use hydrochloric acid when they bake, in order to make the bread stick together. And they have no medicine, but have to use hydrochloric acid for all sorts of ailments." (NY 6/20/44)

PORTUGAL

Money Crazy

Woman in Porto to woman in Minnesota: "The Portuguese people have gone money crazy, there has been for the majority of them no thought for anything else except making as much money as possible. I am sure that the 49-ers in California in those days, did not look more greedy than these people do here. It would take all the Turcs to beat them. They should have rationing for a long time, it was not done, consequently - lines all over. Noisy, filthy, swartish, horrible lines for bread, potatoes, rice, etc. Now these commodities are rationed,

but insufficient in quantity so you have to make up, through the black market at 8 to 10 times higher prices. Rent was put to a fixed price the other day. Rent has disappeared. You have to get it some other way, as I do not know what price. Then soap has become an article of luxury too, so your landlady, for the smallest remark on the dirty towels she gives you, simply declares, "Alright, no more towels, please yourself, manage the best you can, I shall have nothing more to do with it." Consequently, number 8, you wash your own towels and shut up, otherwise, they may take away more things from the service you pay so dearly for. I dread the time from now on, we have an awful draught again. Vegetables and corns are scarce, ships are scarce, too, to go and get those commodities elsewhere. The rich are willing to give any money to have all they always had, the working man will have to go without. The poor are better off, as they receive soups twice a day from organized centers in every city. Salazar has his hands full, I assure you, Portuguese being most unruly and individualists true to their racial traditions that the upper classes have the right to get more and better things than the working class. For instance, you hear the following statements: sugar and bread rationing should be different for those who are accustomed to these first class commodities, give therefore a second or third quality to the lower classes and the first to us. Fortunately, however, Salazar has not taken the hint for granted and so everybody has the same quality, which is about third-rate anyway." (NY 6/7/44)

#### Germans Still Strut in Lisbon

Lisbon, to Santo Amaro, Portugal: "I'm glad Portugal at last put a stop to the exportation of wolfram to Germany. But here in Lisbon they still strut around as if they owned the world, and one rubs elbows with them everywhere in restaurants, night clubs, casinos, etc. They glare at us or look insultingly at us and we either ignore them or glare back. The windows of my sitting room look out onto a big building where hundreds of them work at their nefarious activities. I have to be careful lest they spy on me." (MI 6/12/44).

#### Beginning of the End

Figueroa da Foz to Buenos Aires, Argentina: "I am so excited and delighted that I can hardly write. All this is due to the disembarkment on France. Darling, the beginning of the end. Now we can really say with the help of God that soon the war will be over. To think all this killing will be over. All the mothers with sons at the front being able to sleep once again - only the poor devils, how many more will still have to be sacrificed before the others can have their peace? Each scrap of land won makes all here wild with joy and we simply live hanging over the wireless." (SJ 6/22/44)

Bright Future

Folguera to Brazil: "Fortunately, it now seems that the war will soon end. Business is much better and I understand that conditions there, too, are improving. Brazil is a great country and this war will make it the richest nation of the world. In spite of our being small in size we can live prosperously with our rich colonies. The point is that they must let us do so. As there is no doubt of an Allied victory, and since Portugal has lined up rightly, who can have opportunities advantageous to her future. As good Anglo-philos we hope that this will be so. (SJ 6/23/44)

Nazis Will Be Defeated

Restauradores to Brazil: "The cost of living is exceedingly high and there is a shortage of first class commodities. Even under these conditions, we should consider ourselves fortunate because we haven't yet been struck by the great horrors of the war. It is unbelievable the great misery which sweeps throughout Europe. But thank heavens, that one can say now that Nazism will be defeated soon." (SJ 6/24/44)

War Must End in September

Portugal to Brazil: "This cursed war is responsible for our bad situation, but it must end by September. It will not last till the end of the year. The Germans cannot do anything with their crafty planes and grenades, and so they must have a truce and. Here, at present, nobody is either in favor or against them; we all have a common idea and that is to see the war end. If we are fed up with it, what about the others? Let us pray that God will put an end to all these calamities." (SJ 6/25/44)

No Money But Well Governed

Chaves to Brazil: "Here, one cannot earn enough to live on and life is worse than it has ever been before. Many times, there is not sufficient food for each person to get his share. Thus, you are already able to see the misery in which we live. Perhaps we are well governed, however." (SJ 6/25/44)

Nail Polish \$2.00 Plus

Lisbon to New York: "Several dark lipsticks and nail polish to match - these you can't buy over here. A five and ten bottle of nail polish costs over two dollars here. There is no jewelry to be had here so I want several pairs of middle size pearl earrings and one dozen American baby's diapers. If you could see the things we have to use here, you'd die on the spot." (NY 7/6/44)

No Manpower Shortage

Lisbon to Oklahoma: "And there is certainly not the manpower shortage here that there is at home. There are men chambermaids, men beauty parlor operators, two men to every

street car and enough street cars to furnish Oklahoma. Meat is not rationed here and we have a plentiful supply of every kind. Fish was delightful at first and is still good but we have it now twice a day every day since we left. In Lisbon we have enjoyed tender steaks and I can even eat the mutton. Bread, potatoes, wheat and sugar are among the items rationed." (NY 7/8/44)

#### Low Living Standards

Madroil, to Californian: "A fair idea of living standards here may be gained from the following: Clerks in stores are paid ten dollars a month, day labor the same. White collar folks may be paid up to 30 or 40 a month, managerial help in an office, fifteen to thirty a month. This is not because living is cheap either. Living costs are generally much higher than at home. This applies to goods produced in the country and from abroad also. This country has felt the pinch of the war. Shortage in many things. Gasoline very short. Probably less gas burned in all Portugal than in one of our larger coast cities. Private driving very limited. Many have installed charcoal burners on cars. A big device looks like a washing machine mounted front or back of car. May cost from five hundred to thousand dollars. It works but not like gasoline. If allowed to run down on the highway, you have to change it with fresh charcoal and then crank a mechanical blow for five or ten minutes till gas forms again to be able to proceed. Food rationing is very strict. Few ounces of sugar a month. Allowed two buns of dark rye bread daily. Dried fish (cod) is a main staple and rigidly rationed." (NY 7/9/44)

#### SPAIN

#### Afraid for Future

Woman in San Sebastian to Argentinian: "The summer will be a quiet one in San Sebastian. Tourists will come but the Embassy people will not be here and it is they who add splendor to the place. They are all staying in Madrid as many think that the summer will be a dark one and many problems may arise. Churches are crowded, everyone is praying for the way to end and for God to continue to protect Spain. We are all afraid of what may happen. People remain in their homes and when friends do meet in the street all they speak of is neighborhood gossip. If rations are scant now, how would we manage in the event of an invasion by strangers? When the calm comes, we should expect that there will be peace some day, things will not be the same, as everything has a limit. In closing, let me say that we are all depressed by the darkness of the horizons we are facing." (SJ 6/6/44)

000146

Talk Only of Livision

Madrid to New York City: "You would like the life here in Madrid. It is a very cultured city. There is a fantastic love for books, theatres, music, etc. This is still of greater significance taking into consideration the bad times this country has gone through. There are still ruins and destroyed houses in the outskirts of Madrid but all this is disappearing rapidly. Here we talk of nothing else but the invasion. You probably have much more news. I hope that things progress well and with the least possible losses." (NY 6/9/44)

Favored City

Barcelona to Argentina: "Here in Barcelona, particularly, conditions are going back to normal internally as well as internationally. It is one of the most favored capitals in the European continent, as evidenced by the various exchanges of prisoners that have taken place here, and, also, that since the middle of last year there is an abundance of food, clothing, and everything necessary in life which was customary in our catalonian country. For these reasons, if conditions become normal, your idea of returning is not bad, as after the war, thanks to God and to Franco, we are not mixed up in it, there will be great prosperity. It is a pity we are not younger." (NY 6/10/44)

Future Regarded with Calmness

Coruna to Uruguay: "What is the situation of our country? It is getting notably better day by day in all aspects of our national life. It is true that during this past season, the food problem has become worse but this has been due to the failure of the crops, especially the grain and potato crops; something which this year, fortunately, does not seem likely to happen. In so far as our national industry is concerned, it may be clearly seen that it is on its way to normality in spite of the enormous difficulties it has to conquer to do so. As to the international affairs, our country has a clearer horizon though we cannot be too sure of our victory because of what is happening. I believe we have reason to look on Spain's future with greater calmness. I mean that imminent danger of our entry into the war is disappearing gradually as the international developments continue their course." (SJ 6/14/44)

Oasis in War Desert

Woman in Barcelona to Brazil: "To see each other again! Could it be possible? All depends on how Europe is left after the war is over. If Spain can only hold her present status. This is an oasis - I do not think that anything will happen, but when I start thinking about Communism I feel very upset.

000141

I am sure that if I could have the opportunity to go back and start again, I would not in a very different way. I wonder what the results of the invasion will be! This war is like a nightmare, to see them killing each other is horrible. We are in this world only for a short time and the things we have to endure! They have gone crazy." (SJ 6/13/44)

Gaiety Prevails

Pamplona to Argentina: "There is much liveliness here. We have not experienced the war, you already know it. The young people are always full of life. The Bull Fights are usual, and as many amusements as before, gaiety to a greater degree. No doubt, Pamplona has augmented its population and appearance. You would be surprised to see what it was and what it is now. There is no other town in Spain that has inverted millions the way it has been done here in new street construction since you went away - it is another Pamplona." (SJ 6/13/44)

Nothing Looking

Barcelona to Argentina: "In view of the present situation life here is quite all right; for, in spite of the increase in prices, as might be expected, we lack nothing. It doesn't seem as if a war were going on affecting nearly the entire world." (SJ 6/14/44)

Franco - Patron of the Impossible

San Sebastian to Argentina: "It is something that makes us believe that Spain belongs to another planet, to be involved in the war. Generalissimo Franco must have been appointed by God, patron of the impossible, just like Santa Rita, because in no other way can it be conceived that being so near to the greatest catastrophe that has been known, we should be safeguarded by a protecting hand (Franco) which is guided by God Almighty." (SJ 6/18/44)

Horrible Tragedy Nearing End

Barcelona to Argentina: "Business is at a standstill and it is more noticeable on account of the changes in the course of the war. The general opinion is that we are close to the end of this horrible tragedy." (SJ 6/19/44)

War To Last "Some Time"

San Sebastian to Argentina: "Sorrow is everywhere and the depression is such that we can hardly think of anything else. We are not nervous the way the people of Madrid are. They think we are brave to spend the summer here where the sound of the bombs can be heard. The worst part of it all is that according to general opinion the war will still last for some time." (SJ 6/30/44)

000148



Ric. and Poor go Hungry

Porto Santo to Honolulu: "Over here, this is a bad year. There is no bread nor grapes. It is an unfortunate (year) year, but, God's will be done. Not only the poor will go hungry this year but everyone in general." (SJ 6/26/44)

Severe Droughts

Gijon to Mexico: "North Spain is suffering from one of the severest droughts in the history of the country to the degree of rationing water and electricity. Consequently the peasants cannot develop their resources in the proper manner and because of last year's bad crop and the deficiency in transportation nothing is abundant, and one can only get things through people's speculations in spite of the government's vigilance." (BA 7/6/44)

Plenty of Food - But Expensive

Madrid to California: "Life here is plentiful but expensive to what it was before. There is plenty of food if you pay for it (black market) but the life here is tiring." (NY 7/16/44)

SWITZERLAND

Standing by

Born to Brazil: "Today, one day after the occupation of Rome in the beginning of the invasion! How will it all end? But this much one knows, this terrible war will be approaching; its end. We still are getting along well. Even if we must deny ourselves many things, we still have plenty. The cost of living is high, but to learn to live within certain limits never has hurt anyone's health. Our task is to help as much as we can and we Swiss are doing everything possible. The refuge which we offer so many refugees and to those who are persecuted requires some sacrifices, but we would rather help - than get a bomb. We are working very hard so as to be able to stand by should the worst occur." (SJ 6/6/44)

Worried But Peaceful

Horgen to Santiago: "We are worried here in Switzerland; let us hope that we may be granted further peaceful life on this little island. Surely you, as a good Swiss citizen, often wonder how things are over here. Well, we shall have to tell you loads of things one of these days. But often we think how fortunate it is that you do not have to live with our present rationing, maybe you would suffer as George who never seems to be able to satisfy his hunger. You would be amazed to see how everybody, old and young, has lost weight. Vati has become so slender, that he has had to resort to his tailor. His clothes hung on him as if he had borrowed them. And after all, we always managed to have something extra for him when he drops in." (SJ 6/7/44)

Last Act of French

Buenos to Argentina: "In Europe the last act of this and drama has appeared on the stage. How will it end, also for us Swiss? This is a disturbing question." (SJ 6/9/44)

And Will Be Soon

Zurich to Rio de Janeiro: "The poor children see and hear nothing but murder, and bombings and invasion and bombers. These are words in every-day use with them, but thank God they don't understand the seriousness of it. If only it remains so and nothing more happens to us. The people of Schaffhausen got a taste and we hope there will be no repetition. Now almost all men are again in the service; one can't know (what can occur) concerning finally-begun invasion. But one can indeed finally reckon on an end soon, no one doesn't mind a few consequences." (SJ 6/10/44)

Growing Impatience

Geneva to Buenos Aires: "Nothing has changed here. Naturally, we await the end of the war with growing impatience. The occurrences of the last few days, the invasion, are of such significance that it is hard to think or speak of anything else. Let us hope that this will lead to a speedy, long awaited end of the war." (SJ 6/10/44)

"Foreign World" Favorably Impressed

Winterthur to Rio de Janeiro: "It is my hope for the time being that a war conference with Switzerland on the further progress of the invasion which has just begun could be avoided. Several of the larger motor units and border troops were partially mobilized on 8/9 of June. The early defense measures taken by the Federal Government and the generals have made the right impression on the foreign world. Let us hope that a general mobilization will be unnecessary, otherwise, it might be an indication of greater danger for us." (SJ 6/11/44)

Refugees are Problem

Hochatol to Buenos Aires: "Poor us in the midst of this furnace and how long will it yet last? Switzerland is filled with internees and foreigners and we have to share the little that we have and in addition they are far from satisfied. It is the Jewish women who are the worst. The soldiers are constantly in the ranks and our dear country is well guarded. About 1000 children of Swiss in France arrived with a great deal of trouble just when the invasion had begun." (SJ 6/11/44)

Few Unwelcome Surprises

Bern to Bolivia: "It is a good thing that the war is approaching, slowly, its decisive stage; else we shall be old folks before peace reigns again. By the time you receive

000150

this letter the developments will have progressed still further and I believe there will be few unwelcome surprises as long as the force of arms has the command." (SJ 6/16/44)

Skeptical

Grundelwald to Brazil: "I do not believe that the war is coming to an end. Both warring nations are still strong and still more people will have to be sacrificed." (SJ 6/17/44)

Half the World on Its Head

Sinchofswell to Argentina: "It is a long time since we have had letters from you, but we must ascribe this to the sad occurrences on the sea and in the air. Half of the world is standing on its head. What would Heinrich say now about the events which are taking place in France?" (SJ 6/18/44)

Humanity No Longer Knows a God

St. Gallen to Buenos Aires: "Up to this very hour we are getting along well. One naturally lives in daily worry over the war. What is yet to come? But there must be an end some time, the nations must resort to reason once more. It seems as if first everything must be laid waste. Yes, I think sometimes that it is almost impossible for such terror to be going on. It is thus because the large part of humanity no longer knows a God. They think they can do it all themselves. They no longer seek the true and the beautiful. When I walk through the forest and field I always must say to myself how well God has meant it with us, how wonderfully nature stands there again, God's love and goodness speaks from each little flower. All that we human beings need is there for us, but we must be able to see it." (SJ 6/18/44)

Food Scarce But No Complaint

Zurich to Chile: "Although food is scarce we are still satisfied. If only our dear homeland would be spared the horrible war. Since the no long expected invasion has started, everybody hopes for an early end of the war." (SJ 6/23/44)

Invasion Ends Exports

La Chaux De Fonds to Brazil: "We do not have unemployment yet but since the invasion we cannot export any more. There are no longer ports of exit. We hope that the situation will be modified soon and that a passage will be opened. Nothing is mobilized for an indefinite time because of the situation. And as he is in the frontier defenses he risks being there for a good deal of time. This year I have my vacation from July 15 to 30. The factory will be entirely closed for two weeks." (SJ 7/5/44)

000151

STOCKHOLM

Will Stand Against Germans

Gothenborg to Maryland: "We hope that this (the invasion) means an early finish of the war. The entire military force in Sweden is in readiness, as of yesterday, as an invasion can be expected even here. The Allies may in that case land on the West coast, take Denmark and Norway from the rear, and bomb Berlin from bases in Skane (Southern part of Sweden). Last year the Germans fortified the Norwegian coast on the border of Sweden considerably. Now it will be possible for us to prevent fighting against the Allies is difficult to tell. Supposedly they will fight for some hours in the beginning while waiting for the Germans to attack from another direction to 'meet' the Englishmen, but then we will instead take a stand against them (the Germans). Bohuslan (West Coast of Sweden) is very dangerously situated." (NY 6/7/44)

Treasure in Hiding

Woman in Stockholm to U. S. A.: "Sigfrid and I have now packed a great trunk with clothes, including everything from hats to shoes, from underclothes and dresses, etc., and hidden them in a safe place where we can have access in case we are bombed here in Stockholm. I was amazed when Sigfrid suggested it. We have also packed away the best silver in the same safe place." (NY 8/9/44)

Looking to the Future

Gothenborg to Argentina: "Volvo is going to have a big exhibition in Stockholm this fall. Among other things they will show the first test car of our new series of automobiles. We are making tractors too now, and the army is our customer. So Volvo is doing very well." (NY 6/9/44)

Freedom is Above All

Varbergsvagon to Massachusetts: "The invasion has just started. Of course we are as interested in it as you are. People talk of nothing else. It is awful that you have to take part in such a job, but it has to be done. So much depends on it. Freedom is above all. After a long pause Russia has attacked Finland again. What will happen there? Everyone is busy. Russia can do what she likes. We do not feel happy about that." (NY 8/10/44)

Sweden is Misunderstood

Falun to U.S.A.: "Conditions are the same all over the world so we must not complain as long as we are not in the war, but how long we do not know, for according to the press Sweden is the object of much criticism in other countries."

000152

- 34 -  
I regret that so many unwarranted falsehoods are being circulated, for we cannot understand why such disgusting tales should be imposed upon a small nation which has done nothing but show fair play everywhere. The propagandists are being disclosed in unlimited numbers. We would like to be enlightened as to what is expected of Sweden. I know that Sweden has done more than any other nation has ever dreamed of when it comes to relieving suffering and want, not only among our neighboring countries but also in distant nations. Once more I want to express my contempt of all lies that are published against our land and its government and again ask 'Why'." (NY 6/11/44)

#### Spanish for Sweden

Stockholm to Argentina: "Here at home they write a lot in the papers about the fact that Spanish should be taught more extensively in the schools, and it looks as though Sweden is expecting much trade with South America after the war." (NY 6/12/44)

#### Victory for America

Ran to New Jersey: "We are following with interest the invasion of France, using the published maps. Millions of people in Sweden now are hoping that Germany will be crushed, the horrible monster. It is rarely that anyone sides with the Germans, all speak with hope for a victory for America because all see Germany's barbarity and slavery. Russia's acts against Finland are a sad chapter. They have land enough that they cannot use - but even in this the Germans are largely to blame. That is a horrible secret weapon Germany has discovered. Hope it won't be so effective that Germany wins the war." (NY 6/12/44)

#### Business Complications

Stockholm to Illinois: "In the meantime, the so-called ball bearing conflict has sailed up and, while it is hard to judge exactly from here, it seems to me that it has kicked up more dust than what it should deserve. I do not think that anybody here fails to understand the sentiments behind the American attitude, or I should rather say the attitude which is expressed by the American press. On the other hand, it ought to be quite obvious that Sweden is put in a difficult position which cannot be straightened out by one single cut, if we still want to preserve our neutrality. It has also to be taken into account that the party involved here is not primarily the Swedish government but a Swedish private concern. Under such circumstances there ought to be a chance that the matter should be straightened out on a business-like basis, and I for one am in great hopes that this shall be the case."

000153

Of course, I know nothing about it. The negotiations have been kept very secret and this, I believe, is to the benefit of all parties interested. It is quite possible that, even if - as I hope will happen pretty soon if it has not happened already - a solution satisfactory to all parties will be arrived at, this may not be publically announced." (NY 6/13/44)

#### No One Starves

Oskalo to Cuba: "We do not feel the rationing much now. Prices are high, of course, but no one needs to starve. Mobilization has been increased since the invasion, even I might be called in this Fall." (NY 6/13/44)

#### War is Over

Stockholm to Indiana: "We have grown tired of the war a long time ago. Fortunately, it looks as if the Germans are being defeated which pleases us greatly. The butchering of people is terrible, but now the worst is over and the American boys appear to be alright. Hitler, Ribbentrop, Goering and all the other German wretches one hears so little about now-a-days. It was quite different before, as then they were chattering all the time. I wish to God the Devil would take Hitler and all his gang and as you know, the majority of the people in Sweden wish the same." (NY 6/14/44)

#### On the Alert

Karlskoga to San Francisco: "So many have been called out to military service here in Sweden because they are afraid of the invasion which began in France. Perhaps it will come this way also and then, of course, Russia is active in Finland now which is not far from Sweden." (NY 6/15/44)

#### Prepared - But Not Afraid

Stockholm to New York: "The invasion seems to be making great progress and Cherbourg will fall one of these days. The Russians have already reached Viborg and I hope that this time Finland will use her senses. Her government should depart as soon as possible, as the time is limited. We are now well prepared, but we are not afraid. The war is close to us and we will see if the Baltic Sea will be a dangerous point even for us. I hope the Russians are wise enough to leave Aland in peace. Strangely enough the growing hatred for the Germans has caused the interest for Finland to subside greatly." (NY 6/15/44)

#### Finland Crushed

Woman in Malmo to woman in Washington: "The Russians are continuing their heroic deed of destroying little Finland and the Finnish people, thanks to the wonderful help they (Russia) get from your country, so the American people can participate in the glory." (NY 6/15/44)

000154

Defeat on German Soil Necessary

Stockholm to Idaho: "A good crop is necessary because the war does not seem to be over this year. Defeating Germany on their own soil will be very difficult and an undecided decision is better, otherwise, Russia will be the ruler of Europe. There is nothing wrong with the Germans if only Hitler and the Nazi party would disappear. This war is only a continuation of the one before and its unhappy peace treaty." (NY 6/30/44)

Nazis, Undependable

Stockholm to Brooklyn: "We are glad that we have accepted the war but we do not know how it may turn out. The Nazis in Germany are not very dependable but soon they will have got about all they can stand. Thanks to America's participation, so we have much to thank you for, we would otherwise probably have become Nazis. Everyone is agreed upon that point." (NY 6/21/44)

Finland - Hard to Understand

Stockholm to Philadelphia: "One feels especially for Finland, that clean, courageous people, with their almost fatalistic faith. But I must admit that it is rather difficult to understand their position, for instance, they never came with a counter proposal to the Russian's peace terms, which of course were unacceptable. And what will Europe be like when this war comes to an end and peace terms are to be dictated? The peace propositions that have been discussed so far have not been hope-inspiring, rather a cause for apprehension. Even I, as pessimistic as I have been with regard to the approaching end of the war, am beginning to think that it may be possibly over within a few months." (NY 6/25/44)

Poor Germany

Helsingborg to New York: "The war is apparently soon over and the poor Germans defeated after five years. And then Russia takes over the parental care of Europe. That glorious prospects for the future." (NY 6/26/44)

German Illusion

Vasteras to New York City: "According to the newspapers Per Kures factory in Oslo has been blown up. It is in total ruins. The loss has been estimated at 10 million Kr. Kures factory had been enlarged, so it is twice as large as it was when you and I were there. Things are coming to a boiling point in the occupied countries. They are waiting for the final blow to be given to the Germans. Like in 1918, the Germans once more imagine 'Germany over all.' Now I do think it will be the 'Allies over Germany'." (NY 6/26/44)

CONFIDENTIAL

000155

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
OFFICE OF CENSORSHIP  
WASHINGTON - 25

July 26, 1944.

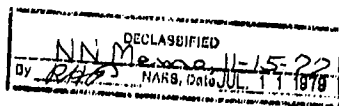
Mr. J. W. Pehle,  
Executive Director,  
War Refugee Board,  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

We have no objection to the program for allocating refugee intercepts which you outlined in your letter of July 21 to Mr. Price. It will be helpful to have Mr. Hueffer at hand for consultation when necessary. I am asking Mr. Morrish and Lieutenant Shackell to arrange a meeting with representatives of the War Refugee Board for further discussion of background information.

Sincerely yours,

*Theodore F. Koop*  
Theodore F. Koop,  
Assistant to the Director.



000156



FOREIGN FUNDS CONTROL

To: *Mr. C. E. ...*  
 (1) *Mr. C. E. ...* (Room) (Dtg.)  
 (2) *Mr. ...* (Room) (Dtg.)  
 (4) *Mr. ...* (Room) (Dtg.)

*Copy of my ... to ...  
 after ... with ...  
 ... and ...  
 ... we shall no  
 longer be required to examine  
 ...*

From: *A.F.L. ...* (Room) (Dtg.)  
*...* (Room) (Dtg.)

000 157

THE OFFICE OF CENSORSHIP  
THE CHIEF CABLE AND RADIO CENSOR  
WASHINGTON

July 25, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR Lt. Chase

The two hundred or more cables pertaining to war  
refugee matters which are being held for scrutiny by me in  
behalf of the War Refugee Board are of interest only in those  
instances outlined in a letter to The Office of Censorship  
from War Refugee Board and then only in having copies of the  
indicated cables allocated to Treasury in behalf of War Refugee  
Board.

(3) A.F.L. RUEFFER

000150

JUL 21 1944

My dear Mr. Price:

Reference is made to our recent exchange of correspondence relating to incoming and outgoing cable messages dealing with refugee matters.

Since July 1, Mr. A. F. L. Rueffer, Foreign Funds Control, and Mr. Paul J. McCormack, War Refugee Board, at the request of Captain Green have been examining cable traffic of this nature. This review has now enabled the War Refugee Board to indicate at this time its interest in certain types of incoming and outgoing cable messages transmitted through commercial channels.

The War Refugee Board is interested only in the allocation of intercepts which deal with the broader aspects of refugee activity as is exemplified in the exchange between private agencies and their field personnel and with specific reference to (1) refugee activity within enemy and enemy-occupied countries, (2) planned, proposed, and possible means of escape, and (3) conditions prevailing in refugee camps and concentration areas.

Accordingly, it will be appreciated if the Office of Censorship will arrange to effect the allocation of these intercepts at the earliest possible date, thereby making it unnecessary for the Board's liaison officer with Censorship to continue reviewing the total daily traffic. Mr. Rueffer will continue to be available in a liaison capacity, for (1) the referral of any cable message which the Office of Censorship feels should be referred to him specifically, and (2) for general consultation.

May we repeat our invitation to have an officer of the Office of Censorship visit the War Refugee Board for the purpose of studying available background material relative to various refugee organizations and to acquaint your representative with various projects now being pursued in the refugee field.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) S. W. Feltz

J. W. Feltz  
Executive Director

Mr. Byron Price  
Director

The Office of Censorship  
Washington 25, D. C.

cc: Mr. McCormack

*RM 24*  
McCormack: r 7/1/44

100 154

My dear Mr. Price:

Reference is made to our recent exchange of correspondence concerning incoming and outgoing cable messages dealing with refugee matters.

On July 1, Mr. R. E. R. Rueffer, Foreign Funds Control, Mr. John J. McCormack, War Refugee Board, at the request of the Board have been examining cable traffic of this nature. This review has enabled the War Refugee Board to indicate at what time the interest in certain types of incoming and outgoing cable messages transmitted through commercial channels.

The War Refugee Board is interested only in the allocation of traffic to deal with the broader aspects of refugee activity as it is exemplified in the exchange between private agencies and their field personnel and with specific reference to (1) refugee activity within enemy and enemy-occupied countries, (2) planned, proposed, and possible means of escape, and (3) conditions prevailing in refugee camps and concentration areas.

Accordingly, it will be appreciated if the Office of Censorship will arrange to effect the allocation of these intercepts at the earliest possible date, thereby making it unnecessary for the Board's liaison officer with Censorship to continue reviewing the total daily traffic. Mr. Rueffer will continue to be available in a liaison capacity, for (1) the referral of any cable message which the Office of Censorship feels should be referred to him specifically, and (2) for general consultation.

May we repeat our invitation to have an officer of the Office of Censorship visit the War Refugee Board for the purpose of studying available background material relative to various refugee organizations and to acquaint your representative with various projects now being pursued in the refugee field.

Very truly yours,  
(Signed) J. W. Pehle  
J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Mr. Byron Price  
Director  
The Office of Censorship  
Washington 25, D. C.

PJMcCormack:ar 7/18/44

000 110

My dear Mr. Price:

Reference is made to our recent exchange of correspondence relating to incoming and outgoing cable messages dealing with refugee matters.

As of July 1, Mr. A. F. M. Rueffler, Foreign Funds Control, and Mr. Paul J. McCormack, War Refugee Board, at the request of the War Refugee Board have been examining cable traffic of this nature. This review has now enabled the War Refugee Board to indicate at this time its interest in certain types of incoming and outgoing cable messages transmitted through commercial channels.

The War Refugee Board is interested only in the allocation of intercepts which deal with the broader aspects of refugee activity, i.e., a caption in the exchange between private citizens and their field personnel and with specific reference to (1) refugee activity within enemy and enemy-occupied countries, (2) planned, proposed, and possible means of escape, and (3) conditions prevailing in refugee camps and concentration areas.

Accordingly, it will be appreciated if the Office of Censorship will arrange to effect the allocation of these intercepts at the earliest possible date, thereby making it unnecessary for the Board's liaison officer with Censorship to continue reviewing the total daily traffic. Mr. Rueffler will continue to be available in a liaison capacity, for (1) the referral of any cable message which the Office of Censorship feels should be referred to him specifically, and (2) for general consultation.

May we repeat our invitation to have an officer of the Office of Censorship visit the War Refugee Board for the purpose of studying available background material relative to various refugee organizations and to acquaint your representative with various projects now being pursued in the refugee field.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. H. Penie

J. H. Penie  
Executive Director

Mr. Byron Price  
Director  
The Office of Censorship  
Washington 25, D. C.

PJMcCormack:ar 7/18/44

0001161

1  
The Board of Censorship, in its capacity as the  
highest authority for the control of the  
communications of the United States, is authorized to  
intercept and examine all communications passing  
through the United States, and to require the  
transmission of such communications to be made in  
such a manner as to avoid disclosure of the  
contents of such communications to unauthorized  
persons. The Board of Censorship is also authorized  
to require the transmission of such communications  
to be made in such a manner as to avoid disclosure  
of the contents of such communications to unauthorized  
persons.

The Board of Censorship is authorized to intercept  
and examine all communications passing through the  
United States, and to require the transmission of  
such communications to be made in such a manner  
as to avoid disclosure of the contents of such  
communications to unauthorized persons. The Board  
of Censorship is also authorized to require the  
transmission of such communications to be made in  
such a manner as to avoid disclosure of the  
contents of such communications to unauthorized  
persons.

Accordingly, it will be appreciated if the Office of Censorship will  
arrange to effect the allocation of these intercepts at the earliest  
possible date, thereby making it unnecessary for the Board's liaison  
officer with Censorship to continue reviewing the total daily traffic.  
Mr. Rueffer will continue to be available in a liaison capacity, for  
(1) the referral of any cable message which the Office of Censorship  
feels should be referred to him specifically, and (2) for general consulta-  
tion.

2 1 0 1 6 1

My wife and I are very sorry to hear of the death of  
your mother. I hope you are not feeling too much for the loss of her.

I hope you are feeling better now. I hope you are  
not feeling too much for the loss of her. I hope you are  
feeling better now. I hope you are not feeling too much for  
the loss of her.

Very truly yours,

W. J. P. H. C.  
Executive Director

PJ McCormack, Jr.

100 16 1

Draft: 7/15/44

Dear Mr. Price:

Reference is made to our recent exchange of correspondence relating to incoming and outgoing cable messages dealing with refugee matters.

Since July 1, Mr. A. F. M. Rueffer, Foreign Funds Control, and Mr. Paul J. McCormack, War Refugee Board, at the request of Captain Crook have been examining cable traffic of this nature. This review has now enabled the War Refugee Board to indicate at this time its interest in certain types of incoming and outgoing cable messages transmitted through commercial channels.

The War Refugee Board is only interested in the allocation of intercepts which deal with the broader aspects of refugee activity as is exemplified in the exchange between private agencies and their field personnel and with specific reference to (1) refugee activity within enemy and enemy-occupied countries, (2) planned, proposed, and possible means of escape, and (3) conditions prevailing in refugee camps and concentration areas.

Accordingly, it will be appreciated if the Office of Censorship will arrange to effect the allocation of these intercepts at the earliest possible date, thereby making it unnecessary for the Board's liaison officer with Censorship to continue reviewing the total daily traffic. Mr. Rueffer will continue to be available in a liaison capacity, for (1) the referral of any cable message which the Office of Censorship feels should be referred to him specifically, and (2) for general consultation.

7 2 0 1 1 5



- 2 -

May we repeat our invitation to have an officer of the Office of  
Censorship visit the War Refugee Board for the purpose of studying  
available background material relative to various refugee organizations  
and to acquaint your representative with various projects now being  
pursued in the refugee field.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pohl  
Executive Director

PJMcCormack:ar

100 115

Draft: 7/15/44

Dear Mr. Price:

Reference is made to our recent exchange of correspondence relating to incoming and outgoing cable messages dealing with refugee matters.

Since July 1, Mr. A. F. J. Rueffer, Foreign Funds Control, and Mr. Paul J. McCormack, War Refugee Board, at the request of Captain Greesh have been examining cable traffic of this nature. This review has now enabled the War Refugee Board to indicate at this time its interest in certain types of incoming and outgoing cable messages transmitted through commercial channels.

The War Refugee Board is only interested in the allocation of intercepts which deal with the broader aspects of refugee activity as is exemplified in the exchange between private agencies and their field personnel and with specific reference to (1) refugee activity within enemy and enemy-occupied countries, (2) planned, proposed, and possible means of escape, and (3) conditions prevailing in refugee camps and concentration areas.

Accordingly, it will be appreciated if the Office of Censorship will arrange to effect the allocation of these intercepts at the earliest possible date, thereby making it unnecessary for the Board's liaison officer with Censorship to continue reviewing the total daily traffic. Mr. Rueffer will continue to be available in a liaison capacity, for (1) the referral of any cable message which the Office of Censorship feels should be referred to him specifically, and (2) for general consultation.

- 2 -

May we repeat our invitation to have an officer of the Office of Conscription visit the War Refugee Board for the purpose of studying available background material relative to various refugee organizations and to acquaint your representative with various projects now being pursued in the refugee field.

Very truly yours,

J. K. Pehle  
Executive Director

PJMcCormack:ar

000167

~~SECRET~~

Reference is made to your letter of July 1, 1944, wherein it is indicated that the Office of Naval Intelligence is seeking the specific interest of the War Refugee Board in all messages outgoing from and incoming to the United States which deal with refugees or their friends, family, associates, and individuals in the respondent's letter of July 27, 1944 from the War Refugee Board; the Board by its nature, for reasons already stated, could not assume the responsibility for passing upon all private messages concerning refugee matters.

In commenting about a meeting held in your office on June 2, 1944, in your letter of June 3, 1944 you indicated that your office would proceed on the basis that the War Refugee Board is interested only in the broader aspects of refugee problems and that it is not concerned with individual refugees or with transactions between individuals in connection with refugee situations; therefore, not interested as to the disposition of communications in such cases.

Since July 1, Mr. F. J. McCormack of the War Refugee Board and Mr. A. F. D. Rueffer of Foreign Funds Control, at the behest of Captain Greach, have scrutinized all cables dealing with refugee matters, such cables averaging more than a hundred each day. It is believed, after careful consideration, that much useless, and duplication of, effort and time is expended in thus examining the subject cables before release.

Insofar as the War Refugee Board is concerned, it is, as indicated in the foregoing, only interested in allocation of intercepts to Treasury, for

7 10 16 11



ies sent to;

Abrahamson  
Cohn  
Dill  
Friedman  
Hodel  
Laughlin  
Lester  
Pelle  
Stewart  
Wheeler

000170

THE OFFICE OF CENSORSHIP  
WASHINGTON

25 June 21, 1944.

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

Your suggestion that the liaison already established with this office by the Foreign Funds Control also function for the War Refugee Board in connection with cables relating to refugee matters, meets with my approval.

As suggested to me in your letter of June 14, 1944, I will request the Chief Cable Censor to see that the necessary details of operations with Foreign Funds Control representatives are carried out.

Sincerely yours,

  
Byron Price,  
Director.

000171

Mr. Behuncik

June 20, 1944

L. B. Lesser

The following is an excerpt from a letter received from a person much interested in refugee problems:

"The particular reason why I am writing you in regard to the foregoing is because it has become more and more difficult, if not impossible, to get in touch with refugees who are in neutral countries, like Switzerland and Sweden. No letters can be sent to them from this country although some letters do arrive from the other side. This cannot be helped, but what makes the position very much worse is that telegraph communication is also made almost impossible. It seems that the Censor withholds the majority of the cables from and to the people in these countries. As a result, quite a bit of information which could be obtained, about the people in neutral countries, and, through them, about people in camps in the occupied territories, does not reach its destination."

Can you give me any light on this matter?

LSLesser:als 6/20/44

000172



1944

My dear Mr. Price:

Reference is made to your letter of June 3 and our discussion of the preceding day.

In conformity with our agreement, the War Refugee Board is prepared to establish a liaison between the Board and the Office of Censorship on cable referrals relating to refugee matters. Inasmuch as Foreign Funds Control has an already established liaison with your office, I have discussed the matter with that bureau of the Treasury Department and they have consented to function for the War Refugee Board for this purpose.

If this plan meets with your approval, will you kindly have your representatives arrange the details of operations with Foreign Funds Control representatives.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Mr. Byron Price  
Director  
The Office of Censorship  
Washington 25, D. C.

*Original signed by  
Mr. Pehle  
copy to: Mr. McCormack*

*PJM Haa*  
PJM McCormack:er 6/13/44

100 173

Dear Mr. Schmidt:

Reference is made to the recent discussion between Messrs. Behuncik, Rueffer, and Davids of your office and Miss Hodel, Messrs. Abrahamson and McCormack of the War Refugee Board, concerning the establishment of a liaison between the Board and the Office of Censorship on cable referrals relating to refugee matters.

Mr. Behuncik, informally, indicated that the Board might avail itself of your already established liaison service with the Office of Censorship.

Accordingly, I have so informed Mr. Byron Price of this designation. A copy of my letter to the Office of Censorship is attached. It will be appreciated if you will arrange to have the appropriate members of your staff assume these duties at their earliest convenience.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Fehle

J. W. Fehle  
Executive Director

Mr. Orvis A. Schmidt  
Acting Director  
Foreign Funds Control  
Treasury Department  
Washington 25, D. C.

*Original signed by  
J. W. Fehle  
Copy to: Mr. McCormack*

*PJM* *PJ* *SC*  
PJMccormack:ar 6/13/44

000174

JUN 7 1944

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. George Warren

FROM: J. W. Pehle

I am enclosing the following documents relating to recent discussions between the Office of Censorship and the War Refugee Board:

1. My letter of May 8 to Mr. Price
2. Letter of May 13 from Mr. Price to me
3. My letter of May 27 to Mr. Price
4. Notes on conversation held at Office of Censorship, June 2
5. Letter of June 3 from Mr. Price to me

These seem to clear up almost all the problems existing between the War Refugee Board and the Office of Censorship. We are proceeding in accordance with the understanding presented in Mr. Price's letter of June 3.

There remain two matters that have been raised in recent discussions. One, raised by the Office of Censorship, concerns the question of the cipher to be used by the Department of State in transmitting the War Refugee Board messages. If agreeable to you, it is our intention in the future to indicate in transmittal memoranda which War Refugee Board messages ~~shall be~~ ciphered ~~and~~ ~~which shall be transmitted in plain text~~. The second matter, raised by the Department of State, concerns the War Refugee Board's attitude toward communicating the contents of occasional non-private messages to private groups or individuals. It is my opinion that this is a matter between the War Refugee Board and the Office of Censorship that will be met in harmony with the general understandings covered by the enclosed documents.

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

Enclosures: 5

GA JWA  
AAbrahamson:lab 6/5/44

000175

CONTROL COPY

THE OFFICE OF CENSORSHIP

WASHINGTON

25

June 3, 1944.

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I think that the meeting that you, Mr. Abramson, Captain Creech, Commander Freeman, and myself held in my office on June 2, clarified the situation relative to communications concerning refugees.

In accordance with the conclusions reached, this office will proceed on the basis that the War Refugee Board is interested only in the broader aspects of refugee problems, and is not concerned with individual refugees or with transactions between individuals in connection with refugee situations, and is therefore not interested as to the disposition of communications in such cases.

Your understanding of the problems that refugee traffic present to Censorship, and your offer to aid in every way that you can, is appreciated, and I welcome your suggestion to make available a member of the staff of the War Refugee Board for close liaison with the Office of Censorship. As Captain Creech and I stated in the meeting, it is the desire of this office to be as liberal as possible with refugee traffic. Our actions, however, must be consistent with security, the obligations of which at this time require from Censorship the most rigorous and positive action. I hope that the time will be soon when we can relax some of the rigorous measures presently required.

Upon the establishment of the liaison above referred to this office will make available for examination, to the person designated, traffic with which we consider the War Refugee Board might be concerned, so that the Board will be able to render to us an indication of its interest.

It is understood that your liaison representative will be in a position to furnish to this office any information in the possession of the Board which might pertain to individuals or situations referred to in the communications involved.

Sincerely yours,

  
Byron Price,  
Director.

MEMORANDUM ON CENSORSHIP

CATEGORY	STATUS
I. Private messages to and from private agencies and individuals using the normal commercial channel.	I. We have agreed to furnish a liaison person who will indicate our interest, if any, in these messages. The ultimate security responsibility is with Censorship.
II.A-WRB messages	II.A-No change from present procedure, except that State Department in the DeCoursey memorandum seems to feel that WRB should submit to Censorship any such messages which are not clearly marked and which WRB might decide to pass on to private entities.
II.B-Messages employing WRB channels and transmitted and received on behalf of private individuals and agencies.	II.B-Outgoing messages of this character will continue to go through Censorship. Incoming messages will come to WRB whether or not cleared by Censorship. WRB will observe Censorship's request not to release questionable messages.

June 3, 1944

*From Ambassador's file*

000177

MEMORANDUM ON CENSORSHIP

CATEGORY

STATUS

I. Private messages to and from private agencies and individuals using the normal commercial channel.

I. We have agreed to furnish a liaison person who will indicate our interest, if any, in these messages. The ultimate security responsibility is with Censorship.

II.A-WRB messages

II.A-No change from present procedure, except that State Department in the DeCoursey memorandum seems to feel that WRB should submit to Censorship any such messages which are not clearly marked and which WRB might decide to pass on to private entities.

II.B-Messages employing WRB channels and transmitted and received on behalf of private individuals and agencies.

II.B-Outgoing messages of this character will continue to go through Censorship. Incoming messages will come to WRB whether or not cleared by Censorship. WRB will observe Censorship's request not to release questionable messages.

June 3, 1944

AAbrahamsen:lr 5/3/44

*W. B. R. B.*  
*W. B. R. B.*  
*W. B. R. B.*  
*W. B. R. B.*

000178

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE June 2, 1944

TO Mr. Fehle  
FROM Mr. Abrahamson

1. Attached is a draft of the report on the meeting we held this morning. I shall appreciate your comments.

2. Do you think a copy of this ought to go to George Warren?

3. Stewart talked with Behuncik of FFO who handles liaison with Censorship for them. FFO has a man at Censorship now, and Behuncik thinks he could handle our liaison.

*aa*

000174

D R A F T

REPORT ON CONFERENCE WITH CENSORSHIP, JUNE 2, 1944

Present: Mr. Byron Price  
Commander Freeman  
Captain Creech  
Mr. Pehle  
Mr. Abrahamson

Mr. Price stated that, at this critical time, Censorship was examining all of its procedures with a view toward assuring the maximum of security in communication, particularly indirect communications with enemy or enemy-occupied territory. In the course of this examination, Censorship found itself particularly troubled by certain messages that are being sent by voluntary agencies through private cable facilities. It had been Censorship's hope that WRB might be willing to clear such messages, but Mr. Pehle's letter of May 27 convinced Mr. Price that this would be impracticable. Mr. Price further remarked that, although he realized the importance of the work that WRB was doing under the Executive Order, he wanted to make absolutely sure that WRB appreciated the security aspects of the problem.

Mr. Pehle, in reply to these points, stated that he understood perfectly the importance of security at a time like this. He said that he had always felt that security considerations applied not only to "indirect communications with enemy or enemy-occupied territory", but equally to communications with neutral countries. WRB, he added, had absolutely no interest in violating security regulations and it intended to carry out the mandate of its Executive Order within security



restrictions. But these restrictions, he is convinced, are the responsibility of Censorship.

He pointed out that the WRB had taken the position that it was not particularly interested in saving individual refugees by name but it was interested in saving as many people in as short a time as possible. Accordingly, WRB's interest was negligible or non-existent in most of the private messages that were being sent through private facilities.

After considerable discussion of details and examples, it was agreed that WRB would designate a liaison person who would be available to Censorship to examine such private messages and indicate whether the Board had any particular interest in them. This person would also furnish available background to given situations as they arise. It was understood that the ultimate responsibility would remain with Censorship.

There followed a discussion of the messages being sent through WRB facilities through State Department. Mr. Fehle pointed out that WRB is definitely interested in transmitting messages from and to certain private agencies, since most of our operations are carried out through these private agencies. In general, it was agreed that present procedures would continue in this field. Mr. Fehle said it was his understanding, which he is getting confirmed in writing, that all outgoing WRB messages, whether sent by WRB for itself or for private organizations were being submitted to Censorship. He also requested that all messages addressed to WRB either for itself or for private

*Assured*  
*Private messages accepted for review*

000181

agencies continue to come to WRB even though it might be necessary for Censorship to forbid the delivery of some of these. Censorship agreed to do this.

Censorship suggested that the State Department should develop another cipher for those of the WRB messages which seem not to be important enough to require secret cipher. The repeated use of the same secret cipher on a large scale, it was pointed out, might prove compromising to State in that it might more easily be deciphered by the enemy. It was suggested that WRB might discuss with State the possibility of WRB designating on each message the type of cipher that might be employed. Mr. Pehle said that this would be discussed with Mr. George Warren of State.

It was pointed out that an effort had been made to have Mr. Warren present at this meeting. Since this had proved impossible, it was suggested that another 3-way meeting be arranged in the future. At this meeting the problem of ciphers would be discussed, as well as the matter of instructions to missions.

000 182

Report on Conference with Censorship  
June 2, 1944

Present: Mr. Byron Price  
Commander Freeman  
Captain Crook  
Mr. Fehle  
Mr. Abrahamson

Mr. Price stated that, at this critical time, Censorship was examining all of its procedures with a view toward assuring the maximum of security in communication, particularly indirect communications with enemy or enemy-occupied territory. In the course of this examination, Censorship found itself particularly troubled by certain messages that are being sent by voluntary agencies through private cable facilities. It had been Censorship's hope that WNS might be willing to clear such messages, but Mr. Fehle's letter of May 27 convinced Mr. Price that this would be impracticable. Mr. Price further remarked that, although he realized the importance of the work that WNS was doing under the Executive Order, he wanted to make absolutely sure that WNS appreciated the security aspects of the problem.

Mr. Fehle, in reply to these points, stated that he understood perfectly the importance of security at a time like this. He said that he had always felt that security considerations applied not only to "indirect communications with enemy or enemy-occupied territory", but equally to communications with neutral countries. WNS, he added, had absolutely no interest in violating security regulations and it intended to carry out the mandate of its Executive Order within security restrictions. But these restrictions, he is convinced, are the responsibility of Censorship.

He pointed out that the WNS had taken the position that it was not particularly interested in saving individual refugees by name but it was interested in saving as many people in as short a time as possible. Accordingly, WNS's interest was negligible or non-existent in many of the private messages that were being sent through private facilities.

After considerable discussion of details and examples, it was agreed that WNS would designate a liaison person who would be available to Censorship to examine such private messages and indicate whether the Board had any particular interest in them. This person would also furnish available background to given situations as they arise. It was understood that the ultimate responsibility would remain with Censorship.

000123

- 2 -

There followed a discussion of the messages being sent through WAB facilities through State Department. Mr. Pohle pointed out that WAB is definitely interested in transmitting messages from and to certain private agencies, since most of our operations are carried out through these private agencies. In general, it was agreed that present procedures would continue in this field. Mr. Pohle said it was his understanding, which he is getting confirmed in writing, that all incoming WAB messages destined for private organizations were being submitted to Censorship prior to their receipt by WAB. He also requested that all messages addressed to WAB for private agencies continue to come to WAB even though it might be necessary for Censorship to forbid the delivery of some of them. Censorship agreed to do this.

Censorship suggested that the State Department should develop another cipher for the WAB messages which seem to require secret cipher. The repeated use of the same secret cipher on a large scale, it was pointed out, might prove compromising to State in that it might more easily be deciphered by the enemy. It was also suggested that WAB might discuss with State the possibility of WAB designating on each message whether it felt the message should be ciphered or sent in clear. Mr. Pohle said that this would be discussed with Mr. George Warren of State.

AAbrahamsen:lr 5/5/44

000184

May 27, 1944

Mr. Byron Price, Director,  
The Office of Censorship,  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Price:

Reference is made to your letter of May 19, 1944, and the Board's letter of May 8, 1944, relative to communications concerning refugees which may involve indirect communications with enemy or enemy-occupied territory.

The War Refugee Board understands your concern from a security standpoint with regard to a few of the above-mentioned messages and desires that the necessary security precautions be observed. While the Board wishes fully to cooperate with the Office of Censorship, I am sure that from the reasons given below you will appreciate the difficulties involved if it should assume the responsibility proposed in your above-mentioned letter.

It should be observed that the War Refugee Board is not "the supreme authority with regard to all matters having to do with refugees". As will be noted from the enclosed copy of Executive Order No. 9417 establishing the War Refugee Board, its authority covers only a part of the refugee field. In such matters there are many other operating agencies such as the State Department, UNRRA, FEA, and others, and the Board's authority does not concern many of the activities of such agencies nor many of the activities of various private agencies. Furthermore, by its nature the War Refugee Board is not primarily a regulatory body. Accordingly, it is thought that the Board could not assume the responsibility for passing upon all private messages concerning refugee matters.

The Board does not have intelligence reports on the addressees and senders of messages of the nature indicated above. Even in those cases in which its facilities are used, it only knows that the sender or addressee, as the case may be, is affiliated with the organization in the United States indicated in such message. Of course, the War Refugee Board deals only with those agencies which it believes are sincerely interested in rescuing and helping victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death and which it believes to be thoroughly reliable. Such agencies state that they deal only with reliable correspondents in the field.

Respectfully,  
  
Sincerely,  
  
[Signature]

Because of its small professional staff, the Board is not equipped to make the necessary security investigation of the sender or addressee of each of the messages which you propose to forward to it for specific clearance before transmission to the addressee. Accordingly, this office could only pass upon the substance of the message and since your office can better exercise this function, it is thought that the duplication in such cases would serve no useful purpose. However, the Board desires to cooperate with the Office of Censorship to the greatest extent possible and in specific cases at the request of the Office of Censorship it will gladly give any background information available to it relative to any group or organization concerned in any particular messages. Also, in specific cases pursuant to request, the Board will attempt to obtain for the Office of Censorship information from refugee organizations in the United States concerning their correspondents or agents abroad.

It has occurred to me that the Office of Censorship might desire to send one of its officers to the Board to study available background material relative to various refugee organizations and acquaint such representative with various projects in the refugee field. If you desire to send such a representative, the Board will gladly receive him and make such information as it has available.

Very truly yours,

(signed) J.W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Enclosure

*Enclosure 401 281*  
JWM:mdh 5/20/44

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THE OFFICE OF CENSORSHIP

Washington

25

May 13, 1944

Mr. J. W. Fehle,  
Executive Director,  
War Refugee Board,  
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Mr. Fehle:

It is the understanding of this office that the War Refugee Board is the supreme authority with regard to all matters having to do with refugees. As you know, there are many groups in the United States who are interested in refugee problems, and all of these groups from time to time have desired to communicate with various foreign points in connection with these problems. Such messages invariably involve third parties. The identification of these third parties by this office has proved to be extremely difficult, and in some cases impossible.

Since these communications all involve indirect communication with enemy or enemy-occupied territory, you can readily understand my extreme concern from a security standpoint. In answer to your question stated in your letter to me of May 8, 1944, I feel that it is logical that the War Refugee Board should assume the responsibility from a security standpoint for the transmission of any such messages as above referred to. The procedure that this office proposes is that any message outgoing from or incoming to the United States should not be passed except with the specific approval of the War Refugee Board. To this end, the Cable Division of the Office of Censorship proposes to require the comment of your Board in connection with each such message, and will only pass those messages which you approve. It is to be understood, of course, that the Cable Division also reserves the right to exercise such censorship action on these messages, even though approved by you, as it deems necessary.

Yours very truly,

(signed)  
Byron Price,  
Director.

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May 8, 1944

My dear Mr. Price:

It has been brought to my attention that conversations have recently taken place between Mr. Philip H. Ryan and Miss Anne Lockett of American Red Cross, Captain Cressh and members of his staff in Cable Censorship and Mr. Paul McCormack of my staff. Incoming Interpress cable messages containing requests for Palestine Certificates and transit visas were the subject of the discussions.

It is my understanding that, prior to these discussions, such cables were made available to Interpress' Inquiry Unit for delivery to addressees in the United States through the medium of Red Cross Chapters.

I understand that suggestions are now being made that the War Refugee Board assume responsibility not only for the delivery of these cables but also for the internal security aspect of the delivery.

The War Refugee Board is naturally interested in all possibilities involving the rescue of persons in imminent danger of death. Before undertaking any commitment involving internal security, however, we should like to consider the matter quite carefully.

As a basis for this consideration, the Board would appreciate a written statement from your office embodying the exact nature of the undertaking, as proposed by Cable Censorship.

Very truly yours,

(signed) J.W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Mr. Byron Price  
Director, Office of Censorship  
Apex Building  
Washington, D. C.

*initials 5-10-44*  
McCormack:Abrahamsentag 5-4-44

000188



Worm has no  
oblation to the  
community. A life with  
him is perfect in  
simplicity to the  
minors and he is  
convinced this  
John

000 189

May 27, 1944

Mr. Hyman Price, Director,  
The Office of Censorship,  
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Price:

Reference is made to your letter of May 18, 1944, and the Board's letter of May 6, 1944, relative to communications concerning refugees which may involve indirect communications with enemy or enemy-occupied territory.

The War Refugee Board understands your concern from a security standpoint with regard to a few of the above-mentioned messages and desires that the necessary security precautions be observed. While the Board wishes fully to cooperate with the Office of Censorship, I am sure that from the reasons given below you will appreciate the difficulties involved if it should assume the responsibility proposed in your above-mentioned letter.

It should be observed that the War Refugee Board is not "the supreme authority with regard to all matters having to do with refugees". As will be noted from the enclosed copy of Executive Order No. 9417 establishing the War Refugee Board, its authority covers only a part of the refugee field. In such matters there are many other operating agencies such as the State Department, UNRRA, FRA, and others, and the Board's authority does not concern many of the activities of such agencies nor many of the activities of various private agencies. Furthermore, by its nature the War Refugee Board is not primarily a regulatory body. Accordingly, it is thought that the Board could not assume the responsibility for passing upon all private messages concerning refugee matters.

The Board does not have intelligence reports on the addressees and senders of messages of the nature indicated above. Even in those cases in which its facilities are used, it only knows that the sender or addressee, as the case may be, is affiliated with the organization in the United States indicated in such message. Of course, the War Refugee Board deals only with those agencies which it believes are sincerely interested in rescuing and helping victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death and which it believes to be thoroughly reliable. Such agencies state that they deal only with reliable correspondents in the field.

Because

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Because of its small professional staff, the Board is not equipped to make the necessary security investigation of the sender or addressee of each of the messages which you propose to forward to it for specific clearance before transmission to the addressee. Accordingly, this office could only pass upon the substance of the message and since your office can better exercise this function, it is thought that the duplication in such cases would serve no useful purpose. However, the Board desires to cooperate with the Office of Censorship to the greatest extent possible and in specific cases at the request of the Office of Censorship it will gladly give any background information available to it relative to any group or organization concerned in any particular messages. Also, in specific cases pursuant to request, the Board will attempt to obtain for the Office of Censorship information from refugee organizations in the United States concerning their correspondents or agents abroad.

It has occurred to me that the Office of Censorship might desire to send one of its officers to the Board to study available background material relative to various refugee organizations and acquaint such representative with various projects in the refugee field. If you desire to send such a representative, the Board will gladly receive him and make such information as it has available.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Fehle

J. W. Fehle  
Executive Director

Enclosure

JH:db 5/19/44

JH ca L.S.R.

*Copy to Lt. C. ...  
... are ready to discuss*

000191

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



OFFICE OF THE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Byron Price, Director,  
The Office of Censorship,  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Price:

Reference is made to your letter of May 13, 1944, and the Board's letter of May 8, 1944, relative to communications concerning refugees which involve indirect communications with enemy or enemy-occupied territory.

The War Refugee Board understands your concern from a security standpoint with regard to a few of the above-mentioned messages and desires that the necessary security precautions be observed. While the Board wishes fully to cooperate with the Office of Censorship, I am sure that from the reasons given below you will appreciate the difficulties involved if it should assume the responsibility proposed in your above-mentioned letter.

It should be observed that the War Refugee Board is not "the supreme authority with regard to all matters having to do with refugees". As will be noted from the enclosed copy of Executive Order No. 9417 establishing the War Refugee Board, its authority covers only a part of the refugee field. In such matters there are many other operating agencies such as UNRRA, FEA, and others, and the Board's authority does not concern many of the activities of such agencies. Accordingly, it is thought that the Board could not assume the responsibility for passing upon all private messages concerning refugee matters.

*the State Dept.*

*near many activities of various private agencies*

The Board does not have intelligence reports on the addressees and senders of messages of the nature indicated above. Even in those cases in which its facilities are used, it only knows that the sender or addressee, as the case may be, is affiliated with the organization in the United States indicated in such message. Of course, the War Refugee Board deals only with those agencies which it believes are sincerely interested in rescuing and helping victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death and which it believes to be thoroughly reliable. Such agencies state that they deal only with reliable correspondents in the field.

*Furthermore, by its nature the War Refugee Board is not primarily a regulatory body*

*(Second page as is)*

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The Office of Censorship has directed the attention of the War Refugee Board and the Department to the fact that a few messages related to refugee matters transmitted on behalf of private individuals or organizations through the Department's facilities contain information of possible military value to the enemy. Censorship has instructed its staff to be particularly alert to see that messages of this nature do not contain such information and it has requested that appropriate instructions be sent to the missions in the field.

Both the War Refugee Board and the Department are naturally concerned about such messages and are strongly in accord with the policy of the Office of Censorship. Accordingly, you are requested to see that messages concerning refugee matters transmitted by you through the Department's facilities on behalf of private individuals or organizations do not contain information of possible military value to the enemy. Furthermore, you should take appropriate steps to see that such messages do not contain political information which if known to others than officials of the United States Government would embarrass this Government in its relations with another friendly or neutral Government, or otherwise endanger the national security.

This instruction, of course, does not hinder in any way your communications with the Department or the War Refugee Board. Accordingly, where private messages contain military or political information of the nature described above, such information should be deleted from the personal messages. Such political information should be transmitted through the Department to the War Refugee Board for its information unless it is clear that such information would be of no value whatsoever to the War Refugee Board in carrying out the announced policy of this Government in connection with refugees. Military information, of course, should be deleted and transmitted to the War Refugee Board only if it is clearly pertinent to the handling of refugee matters.

*John L.S.L.*  
JHM:adb 5/20/44

000193

THE OFFICE OF CENSORSHIP  
WASHINGTON

May 17, 1944

Mr. J. E. Connelley,  
Executive Director,  
War Refugee Board,  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Connelley:

It is the understanding of this office that the War Refugee Board is the supreme authority with regard to all matters having to do with refugees. As you know, there are many groups in the United States who are interested in refugee problems, and all of these groups from time to time have desired to communicate with various foreign points in connection with these problems. Such messages inevitably involve third parties. The identification of these third parties by this office has proved to be extremely difficult, and in some cases impossible.

Since these communications all involve indirect communication with enemy or enemy-occupied territory, you can readily understand my extreme concern from a security standpoint. In answer to your question stated in your letter to me of May 6, 1944, I feel that it is logical that the War Refugee Board should assume the responsibility from a security standpoint for the transmission of any such messages as above referred to. The procedure that this office proposes is that any message outgoing from or incoming to the United States should not be passed except with the specific approval of the War Refugee Board. To this end, the Cable Division of the Office of Censorship proposes to require the comment of your Board in connection with each such message, and will only pass those messages which you approve. It is to be understood, of course, that the Cable Division also reserves the right to exercise such censorship action on these messages, even though approved by you, as it deems necessary.

Yours very truly,

*Byron Price*  
Byron Price,  
Director.

000194

Notes on Confidential Memoranda from DeCourcy to  
Warren on Cable Censorship

1. Although I am by no means fully aware of the detailed background of all our negotiations, I have had the feeling that some of the cables we send and receive from private individuals might well be the subject of criticism. Particularly, it seems to me that some of the organizations and individuals might follow the practice of JDO, for example, and send some of its messages by regular cable service and subject to regular censorship requirements. It has been my impression, for example, that many of the more routine exchanges between JDO and its field representatives are handled without benefit of the War Refugee Board. I suggest, therefore, that one approach might be to be more selective in our transmission of private messages from Washington. Similarly, we might include in the joint instructions to the Missions that they too be reluctant to accept messages for transmission to Washington unless they bear directly on an unusual refugee problem.

2. I am inclined to agree with Mr. Pehle's reaction that it would be too much to instruct "that all telegrams on refugee matters omit all political and military information". Certainly military information should be omitted, but there is good reason for suggesting that political information dealing directly with the work of the Board be contained in both outgoing and incoming messages.

3. If point one above is followed, and there are very few messages received for private entities, it might be possible that the instructions to the Missions can be greatly simplified.

4. Joe Friedman suggests that our own representatives in the field be given instructions to decide which private messages should come through us and which should be sent through straight cable.

5. Although these points are not intended to be a solution to the problem raised in the memorandum, they are rather designed to furnish the basis for discussion within this organization.

AAbrahamson/sg 5/11/44

000195

MAY 8 1944

My dear Mr. Price:

It has been brought to my attention that conversations have recently taken place between Mr. Philip M. Ryan and Miss Anne Lockett of American Red Cross, Captain Greesh and members of his staff in Cable Censorship and Mr. Paul McCormack of my staff. Incoming Interpress cable messages containing requests for Palestine Certificates and transit visas were the subject of the discussions.

It is my understanding that, prior to these discussions, such cables were made available to Interpress' Inquiry Unit for delivery to addressees in the United States through the medium of Red Cross Chapters.

I understand that suggestions are now being made that the War Refugee Board assume responsibility not only for the delivery of these cables but also for the internal security aspect of the delivery.

The War Refugee Board is naturally interested in all possibilities involving the rescue of persons in imminent danger of death. Before undertaking any commitment involving internal security, however, we should like to consider the matter quite carefully.

As a basis for this consideration, the Board would appreciate a written statement from your office embodying the exact nature of the undertaking, as proposed by Cable Censorship, ~~and the reasons behind the proposal.~~

Very truly yours,

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

Mr. Byron Price,  
Director, Office of Censorship,  
Apex Building,  
Washington, D. C.

*Original signed by  
J. W. Fehle*

aa JH-OPM  
McCormack:Abrahams:agr 5-4-44

000196



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

May 8, 1944

WRB - Mr. Warren:

Captain Greesh of the Bureau of Censorship communicated today with the Division of Communications and Records of the Department concerning a telegram transmitted to the Department by the American Legation in Bern for the World Jewish Congress. The Censor objected to certain information contained in the telegram and pointed out that the transmission of such military information as is contained in Bern's no. 2794 of May 2, 11 p.m., endangers the national security and has requested the Department of State to take immediate steps to prevent the transmission through its cipher systems of such information.

In this connection reference is made to a letter received by the Department from Mr. Byron Price, Director of the Office of Censorship, dated April 8, 1944, which in part reads as follows:

"My attention has been called to communications that are being sent through the Department of State by UNRRA and War Refugee Board. I understand the difficult problems these organizations have in trying to perform their duties. However, since these communications involve almost open communication with enemy territory, it is felt advisable to call your attention to them and urge that for the time being the greatest caution be exercised in transmitting messages of this character. I am instructing our censors to be particularly alert to see that such messages do not contain

any

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-1-59  
By R. H. Parks Date MAR 13 1973

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any information of possible military value. I am sure that you are in accord with this policy".

Some time ago the Department issued instructions to American Diplomatic and Consular officers throughout the world cautioning them regarding the transmission of any information having to do with Allied military matters which precaution was taken at the direct instance of the War Department and the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

In view of the strong attitude of the Office of Censorship and of the War Department regarding the transmission of military information it will be necessary henceforth to limit the subject matter contained in telegrams transmitted on behalf of the War Refugee Board to matters which are solely connected with refugees.. This step is necessary in view of the fact that for the most part telegrams transmitted for the War Refugee Board from abroad are received from non-official persons and entities operating under the supervision of the War Refugee Board; and that telegrams transmitted on behalf of the War Refugee Board in Washington are in part received from private individuals and organizations in this country.

The Department considers, in order to clear this matter up and to institute measures necessary for the national security, that an instruction, with the concurrence of the War Refugee Board, be sent to the chiefs of the American missions in those countries which are transmitting telegrams on behalf of the War Refugee Board, instructing that all telegrams on refugee matters omit all political and military information.

Furthermore, in view of the fact that the question of censorship is involved, it is suggested that an arrangement be worked out between the War Refugee Board and the Office of Censorship, under which arrangement the Department of State would submit to Censorship all messages received which are clearly marked for private entities in the United States. On the other hand the War Refugee Board would have the complete responsibility for clearing with the

CENSOR

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cancel all messages not so clearly captioned which the War Refugee Board might decide to pass on to private individuals, associations or organizations. Under this arrangement the Department would also clear with Censorship outgoing messages clearly captioned for individuals, organizations or associations abroad or which clearly emanate from such entities in this country. Under the same arrangement the War Refugee Board will be responsible for clearing with the Censor all messages intended for private individuals, associations or organizations abroad, which are not clearly captioned; and likewise all messages received for transmission by the War Refugee Board from private individuals, associations or organizations in the United States which are not clearly indicated as to such origins.

Please bring this matter immediately to the attention of the War Refugee Board with a view to obtaining approval of the suggested procedures.

W. E. DeCourcy  
Executive Assistant to  
Assistant Secretary G. Howland Shaw  
Security Officer of the Department of State

000194

May 3, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

Re: Allocation of Censorship Material to War Refugee Board

Mr. Hylan Standish of the War Refugee Board called on April 24, 1944, with respect to the types of Censorship information allocated to the Board. He stated that the general run of intercepts thus far received have not been of great value and therefore allocation of such material to that Office will no longer be necessary.

Mr. Standish pointed out, however, that the Board will still be interested in seeing any significant information pertaining to groups of refugees as well as information of a general nature indicating important trends or developments with regard to relief activities or conditions within the enemy-occupied countries.

It was agreed that henceforth only submissions of exceptional interest would be allocated to the Board.

We shall, however, continue allocation of such other reports affecting their activities as may be received by us from O.S.G., O.M.I., etc.

E. J. Bohunick

cc: Mr. Schmidt, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Richards, Mrs. H. Schwarts,  
Mr. O'Flaherty, and Mr. Standish.

*Censorship*

EJBohunick:mb 5/5/44

000200

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE April 27, 1944

TO Mr. Abrahamson  
FROM Mr. McDermuck

Last week, Miss Ann Lockett, Chief of American Red Cross' Inquiry Unit, called me regarding interoffice cables containing requests for Palestine certificates and transit visas.

The three copies you now hold are typical. Therefore, the Office of Censorship released such messages to the Inquiry Unit for delivery to addressees in the United States through the medium of Red Cross chapters.

Last week, Miss Lockett said that Captain Creech, U.S.N., head of the Office of Cable Censorship, called her in for a discussion of cables of this nature. Captain Creech made it clear to Miss Lockett at the time of this discussion that (a) messages of this nature were properly a responsibility of War Refugee Board and (b) that the messages currently awaiting delivery to addressees in the United States would be turned over to Miss Lockett only if she made them available immediately to War Refugee Board. (She did this in her recent letter of transmission.) Miss Lockett further informed me that Captain Creech felt that the security of this Government was placed in jeopardy in the transmission of messages of this nature. She informally indicated that if War Refugee Board wished to designate the American Red Cross as its agent in the transmission of these messages to addressees, that her unit would probably consent to act.

As per discussion with you, I met with Captain Creech and members of his staff on April 25, 1944 at 10:00 a.m., only to have the Captain, following his reading of the Executive Order establishing War Refugee Board, reiterate all he had told Miss Lockett. He seemed to feel that messages of this nature fell within the scope of War Refugee Board activity as far as Censorship was concerned and that Censorship was unable to assume the security investigation of the addressees of any such messages, and that War Refugee Board, in accepting messages for delivery, would have to assume this responsibility. It was pointed out to the

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Captain that it would appear that messages of this nature were encompassed by the license issued to the Inquiry Unit of the American Red Cross, namely transmission and delivery of messages of a health, family and welfare nature. The Captain was adamant. He said that all subsequent incoming messages of this nature would be held at the Office of Censorship until such time as he received instructions from War Refugee Board as to their interests in this type of message.

It was later learned from Miss Lockett that similar messages involving the welfare of American nationals in enemy and enemy-occupied countries, at least with respect to the outgoing messages, has been handled in the Special War Problems Division at State who, after it has satisfied itself on the question of security, gives the addressee a letter of authority to transmit an outgoing message through Red Cross facilities, which letter of authority accompanies the message from Inquiry Unit to the Office of Censorship. Miss Lockett is sending to this office samples of the forms used in cases of this nature, which she felt might be helpful if War Refugee Board proposed to act similarly in connection with the messages in question.

AM

100200



## AMERICAN RED CROSS

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
WASHINGTON 13, D. C.

April 18, 1944

*Capt. (res. 4)*

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

Attention: Mr. Paul McCormack

Dear Mr. Pehle:

Attached are copies of three cablegrams received by the American Red Cross from the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva, Switzerland. You will note that they all request persons in this country to obtain Immigration Certificates for Palestine with Turkish Visas.

These cablegrams have been released to the American Red Cross by the Office of Censorship with the specific provision that they may not be released to individuals, but only to the War Refugee Board. We are, therefore, referring them to you for necessary action in accordance with our conversation.

Sincerely yours,

*Annie H. Lockett*  
(Miss) Annie H. Lockett  
Chief, Inquiry Unit  
Home Service

AHL:nh

Enc.



YOUR RED CROSS IS AT HIS SIDE

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R C A  
RADIOGRAM  
R.C.A. COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

Received at 1112 Connecticut Ave., Washington 6, D.C. at 1944 APR 14 PM 3 42

W140/SZ8161/ VIA RCA GENEVE 38 13 1616

NLT AMCROSS WASHINGTON

PLEASE TRANSMIT TO FORGASH WEIRTON WESTVIRGINIA URGENTLY  
APPLY FOR JOESPH MILA FORGASHS CERTIFICATE TO IMMIGRATION  
DEPARTMENT PALESTINE AND TRANSITVISA TO PALESTINE OFFICE  
ANKARA VIA REDCROSS GENEVA HERMANN GOLDSCHHEIN ATTILA U 5  
UJPEST HUNGARY

INTERCROIXROUGE E8959

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COPY

R C A

RADIOGRAM  
R.C.A. COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

Received at 1112 Connecticut Ave., Washington 6, D. C.

W207/828131 38 VIA RCA= GENEVE 28 1800 =

NLT AMOROSS WASHINGTON

PLEASE TRANSMIT TO SAM WISZNIA 321 WEST 105 STREET NEWYORK

EVERYBODY HEALTHY IN NITRA DUBAY 11 SLOVAKIA PROCURE URGENTLY

IMMIGRATION CERTIFICATE PALESTINE WITH TURKISHVISA CABLE VIA

REDCROSS GENEVA FAJGENBLATT CARE SLOVAKIAN REDCROSS BRATISLAVA=

INTERCROIXROUGE E8891

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R C A  
RADIOGRAM  
R.C.A. COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

Received at 1112 Connecticut Ave., Washington 6, D.C.

W208/SZ8359 36 VIA RCA= GENEVE 31 1810

NLT AMCROSS WASHINGTON

PLEASE TRANSMIT TO ARON JERUCHIM 287 E 7TH STREET NEWYORK

QUOTE PLEASE PROCURE URGENTLY FAMILY CERTIFICATE AND TURKISHVISA

FOR US VIA REDCROSS GENEVE MICHENSTEIN OSIAS ZARDA U 6

NAGYVARAD HUNGARY UNQUOTE=

INTERCROIXROUGE E8908

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TREASURY DEPARTMENT  
WASHINGTON

FOREIGN FUNDS CONTROL

In reply please  
refer to 90,700

MAR 1 1944

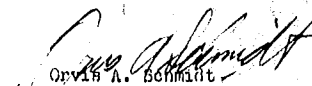
Dear Mr. Pehle:

Reference is made to your letter of March 9, 1944, requesting the establishment of procedures for making available to the War Refugee Board processed censorship material on relief and refugee matters.

On March 18, 1944, we requested authority from the Office of Censorship for the re-allocation of censorship material to your Office. Having received the necessary clearance, we shall make available to your Office such censorship material and other reports processed in the Censorship Relations Section as may be requested by your staff. It is understood that all allocated material will be handled in a manner that will insure its security.

Enclosed for your information is a copy of the letter of approval received from the Office of Censorship.

Sincerely yours,

  
Orvis A. Schmidt  
Acting Director

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

NAR  
m.d.4/7

Enclosure



No. 70571

THE OFFICE OF CENSORSHIP

WASHINGTON - 25

March 20, 1944

Mr. Orvis A. Schmidt,  
Acting Director,  
Treasury Department,  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Schmidt:

In accordance with your request of March 18, we are glad to authorize your office to pass along to the War Refugee Board Censorship intercepts on pertinent relief and refugee matters.

This material, of course, must be handled on a confidential basis, and must not be circulated by the War Refugee Board outside its own staff or made public in any way. We shall appreciate it if you will call the Board's attention to the special notice at the bottom of each submission sheet setting forth our regulations for secure handling.

Sincerely yours,

s/d Theodore F. Koop  
Theodore F. Koop,  
Assistant to the Director.

000200

March 9, 1944.

Dear Mr. Schmidt:

Reference is made to the recent discussion between Messrs. Richards and Behuncik of your Office, Messrs. Stewart and White of the War Refugee Board and Lieutenants Koop, Hayward, and Mr. Morris of the Office of Censorship, concerning the establishment of procedures for making available to us processed material on relief and refugee matters from the Office of Censorship.

It would be appreciated if you would arrange to have this material sent to the War Refugee Board, attention of Mr. David White, room 385. If this arrangement is satisfactory to you, details can be worked out between Mr. Behuncik and Mr. White, and I can assure you that all necessary precautions will be taken for safeguarding these censorship submissions.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pehle  
Acting Executive Director

Mr. Orvis A. Schmidt  
Acting Director  
Foreign Funds Control  
Treasury Department  
Washington 25, D. C.  
cc: Mr. Stewart, Mr. Richards, Mr. O'Flaherty, Mrs. R. Shwartz,  
Mr. Behuncik, Files.

*dw.*  
WS:DW:ia 3/9/44

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE

TO Files

March 8, 1944,

FROM David White

Subject: Meeting on Relief and Refugee Intercept Submissions  
and Outgoing Private Cables at Office of Censorship,  
March 6, 1944.

Prior to this meeting the War Relief Board had been getting censorship information on relief and refugee matters through the facilities already in operation in Foreign Funds Control. The Office of Censorship had raised the question of the validity of the Board's obtaining material in this manner and notified Foreign Funds Control to withhold from the Board all material until some arrangement was agreed upon either to continue servicing the Board through FFC as before or to forward intercept material directly to the Board. This informal meeting was then arranged to go into the situation. In the meantime, another issue had arisen, namely, Censorship clearance, prior to submission to the State Department, of outgoing cables from private agencies sent in collaboration with WRB; and this question was also discussed.

Present were Messrs. Richards and Behunok of Foreign Funds Control, Messrs. Stewart and White of the WRB, and Lts. Koop and Hayward, and Mr. Morrish of the Office of Censorship.

The meeting resolved the two points under discussion as follows:  
(1) Intercept submissions will continue to come to the Board as before through the already existing facilities of Foreign Funds Control (Mr. Behunok's office). The WRB agreed to observe the security regulations outlined by the Censorship representatives, namely, that the material be kept in a safe place and not be used by unauthorized persons. (2) Pre-censorship of outgoing cables will be considered further and Lt. Hayward will notify this Office of Censorship's decision. (The opinion was expressed that little difficulty would be encountered in making this arrangement.)

*Noted: M. J. 3/10*

*Noted: White's files*

000210

File

March 8, 1944.

David White

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and Outgoing Private Cables at Office of Censorship,  
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*dw.*  
cc: Mr. Stewart, Mr. Schmidt, Mr. Richards, Mr. O'Flaherty, Mrs. R. Shwartz,  
Mr. Behuncik, Files.

000211

# TREASURY DEPARTMENT

## INTER OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE March 4, 1944

TO : Mr. White, War Refugee Board

FROM : Mr. Behuncik, Chief, Censorship Relations Section

Re: Necessity for approval by the Director of Censorship of allocation of submissions to the War Refugee Board.

This confirms our telephone conversation of this morning on the above matter. As you know, we have been working closely with your office on arrangements for making information processed in this section available to the War Refugee Board.

In order to be of greater help, we attempted to have more material on relief and refugee matters allocated to us by the Office of Censorship. Our attention was directed to the censorship rule that no secondary allocation to another agency is permitted without written consent of the Director of the Office of Censorship. It was also pointed out that before any agency can obtain censorship submissions, either directly from the Office of Censorship or indirectly from another user agency, a written request to and discussions with the Director of the Office of Censorship are necessary.

Accordingly, it is suggested that your office communicate with the Office of the Director of Censorship, so that approval may be obtained for the receipt of censorship material by your office. Such requests should be addressed to Lt. Theodore F. Koop, Assistant to the Director, Office of Censorship. He can be reached by telephone at Extension 40. Information regarding the form of request can be obtained from Mr. Kenneth Morrish (Extension 287) Office of Censorship.

It is believed that no difficulty will be encountered in obtaining approval of the proposed arrangements whereby we will allocate certain censorship submissions to your office.

I would appreciate being informed about any developments in this matter.

*EJB*

cc: Mr. Stewart, Mr. Schmidt, Mr. Richards, Mr. O'Flaherty, Mrs. Shwartz, and Files

*James White's files*

100212



## TREASURY DEPARTMENT

### INTER OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE February 28, 1944

TO : Mr. David White, War Refugee Board.  
FROM : Mr. E. J. Behunick, Chief, Censorship Relations Section.  
Re: Relations with the War Refugee Board

Reference is made to our discussions of the past week concerning the establishment of a close working relationship between the Censorship Relations Section and your office. Subject to such changes as may from time to time be desirable, the procedures outlined below will be followed in making available to the War Refugee Board the services of this Section.

#### A. Censorship Submissions

All censorship submissions dealing with refugee and relief matters will be routed to you notwithstanding that they may be of interest to other sections of the Control. After your staff has studied such submissions, you and Mr. Parke will route them to interested sections of the Control, and in cases of uncertainty, will return them to this section for allocation or other appropriate disposition.

#### B. State Department Despatches

Any State Department despatches, airgrams or cables dealing with refugee and relief matters shall be charged out to Mr. E. O'Flaherty and will be sent by us to Mrs. M. Adkins of his office for transmittal to Miss F. Hodel. Thus, you will not receive any State Department material directly from us.

#### C. Other Secret Material

If any refugee and relief material is found in other reports processed and copied by this section (O.S.S., O.N.I., M.I.D. Reports, etc.) you will be included in the distribution of such reports. If the material has no general interest, and therefore is not copied, the reports will be forwarded to you for study. It will be necessary for you to return any such original reports to this section.

#### D. Other Services and Assistance

##### 1. Inspection of Individual Name Files at the Office of Censorship.

The Office of Censorship maintains complete name files on all individuals and firms who were senders or addressees of any communications on which submissions have at any time been prepared by the Office of Censorship. Should it become advisable for your office to obtain any information on a particular individual or organization, we can make arrangements for your staff members to inspect all the material on file at the Office of Censorship. At

*from white files*

000213

least one day's notice is required for Censorship to pull any requested information out of its main files.

2. Inspection of subject matter files on Censorship material at the Office of Strategic Services.

The Office of Strategic Services maintains a large volume of censorship submissions in its files under various subject matter headings. It is the only governmental agency maintaining this type of subject matter file on censorship submissions. If you should be interested in obtaining information concerning the refugee and relief activity in any particular country, we likewise can arrange for the inspection of O.S.S. censorship material files. I have been informed by the Office of Strategic Services that in each country file, material of interest to you is filed under the following headings:

- (a) Children's Relief.
- (b) Red Cross.
- (c) Hoover Commission.
- (d) Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.
- (e) American Friends Service Committee.
- (f) Relief - General.

I believe these files will prove a valuable source of information since O.S.S. receives about 2000 submissions daily, and files over 95% of them in various subject matter files. At least two day's notice must be given to O.S.S. to permit the material to be gathered and made available for inspection by you or your staff.

3. Copies of specific submissions

Should you desire to have copies of significant submissions which had not been allocated to you, we can obtain them from the Office of Censorship. Due to a personnel problem, under existing conditions, such copies are ordinarily not made available for at least one week. Whenever requests of this type are made, the number of the particular submission (e.g. NY FIN-3125) or complete information as to sender, addressee, date of communication, enclosures, type of communication (cable, air mail letter, registered mail, etc.), should be given.

In this connection, the O.S.S. files (see D-2 above) may prove very helpful; from them you can obtain the numbers of submissions of particular interest.

May I suggest that you make a thorough analysis of the material presently being allocated by us, bearing in mind the possible issuance of a directive covering your interests to my staff and/or to the Office of Censorship. It is my intention, once basic arrangements are worked out, to have a member of my staff maintain liaison with your office. In the meantime, feel free to call me on any matters concerning which you think I can be of help.

cc: Mr. Stewart, Mr. Schmidt, Mr. Richards, Mr. O'Flaherty, Mrs. R. Schwartz, Files.