

5 AND DOCUMENTS
FILE

Programs with Respect to Relief
and Rescue of Refugees: Food Packages
for Unassimilated Persons

Food Packages for Unassimilated
Persons, Vol. 1 Folder 1
1-25

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000469



000470

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: The American Legation, Bern
TO: The Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: July 18, 1944
NUMBER: 4578

CONTROL COPY

The following message is from McLelland for WRB. X

An aide-memoire giving reaction of the committee to questions raised in number 2198 from the Department and to those which were contained in news telegrams ARFAR 2197 and 2198 dated June 24 was submitted by ICRC to our British colleagues and ourselves on the 7th of July (please refer to number 3877 of June 17 from the Legation and 430 of July 6 and also to number 2198 dated June 28 from the Department.)

Not to civilian internees assimilated to Geneva Convention does the whole project under consideration refer, but only to deportees and to aid for political prisoners in concentration camps.

The aide-memoire of ICRC follows in substance: It is the conviction of ICRC that an official approach to German authorities asking permission to distribute relief packages generally to unassimilated persons who are confined in camps would not only be refused flatly but would jeopardize the practical results desired in the future as well as those achieved heretofore. There has been a consistent refusal by the authorities of Germany to assimilate such detainees to the status of prisoners of war or civilian internees either by analogy or directly. (During an interview on the 4th of July it was orally stated by an ICRC collaborator

that

—DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-78
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 21 1972

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that the German reply to a request for the assimilation of such detainees has always been that control over them is an internal affair and that they were considered "criminals".)

In the case of certain concentration camps ICRC is able to assure the delivery of individual packages and to verify regularly that they are received by the prisoners for whom they are intended, in spite of this official attitude of the Germans. In the past ICRC delegates have been able to make unofficial visits to these camps and they have no reason to doubt that in the future they will be able to repeat such visits.

The distribution by a delegate of packages individually and personally in concentration camps is no more possible than it is in prisoner of war camps, for practical reasons. The delegates of ICRC have many possibilities of verifying the fact that in the camps to be specified relief goods are consumed by beneficiaries for whom they are intended and are not diverted both by means of visits which will be made regularly on a basis analogous as concerns frequency to those prisoners of war and through controls exercised independently of the visits which have just been mentioned.

ICRC is forced, for these reasons, to request blockade authorities to take into account the realities of the situation and to permit the delegates of the committee the liberty of using control methods available to them which alone allow them to judge whether the distribution of relief goods is carried out satisfactorily,

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torily, and not to insist on one special form of control or another. ICRC, in assuming the responsibility for such distributions, agrees on the other hand that if any irregularities are brought to its attention regarding the satisfactory reception of relief goods, it will suspend all shipments immediately.

The names of practically all civilian prisoners of certain nationality groups are possessed by ICRC. Although their total number at a given moment is known ICRC has only partial lists for other nationals. Authority is not possessed by ICRC to reveal either the number of names of civilian prisoners in its possession or information regarding the camp's strength which it has been able to obtain through channels which are strictly confidential. However, in proposing to undertake the delivery of a maximum of thirty thousand parcels for concentration camps and thirty-five thousand to the Resienstadt (which can be regarded as a ghetto, not a camp) during the initial month, the approximate number of civilian prisoners to whom it can deliver individual parcels at present is implicitly indicated by the committee. French, Belgian, Dutch, German, Yugoslav, Norwegian and Czech are the principal nationals involved.

The delivery of individual parcels to the following camps in Germany is proposed by ICRC: Sachsenhausen-Oranienburg and Vatzweiler, also Dachau, Ravenswueck (women's camp) Buchenwalde Weimar. An examination is being made of the question of similar distributions to camps of Staragradisca, Gredjanisalas and

Jasenovac

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Jasenovac in Croatia. ICRC can visit these camps but if only Jews are to benefit the authorities of Croatia hesitate to allow the distribution of relief. At the present time shipments to camps of Birkenau and Auschwitz in Upper Silesia are not ~~advisable~~ advisable. There will be a further investigation of the situation in Drancy, Compiègne and Belsen. The delegates of ICRC have been able to visit both Drancy and recently the Resenstadt, but no assurance is possessed by the committee that there can be a repetition of such visits.

Reports of distribution of each consignment of parcels will be submitted by ICRC which will also limit the distribution to persons who are confined in camps.

Since a rapid increase in the number of names of political prisoners known is to be expected as soon as the sending of parcels gets under way, the shipment of an initial consignment of one hundred thousand parcels is recommended by the committee although ICRC is at present able to undertake the distribution of only sixty-five thousand parcels for the first month.

The ICRC report ends here.

After consultation with James of Amcross, Geneva, and in view of the present difficulties of transportation, it is suggested that there be used for this relief project for prisoners in concentration camps in Germany, a part of the reclaimable portion of foodstuffs from the cargo of the CHRISTINA (about 65% of 80,000 standard food parcels) which has already arrived in
Switzerland.

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Switzerland. For making up a batch of smaller parcels with these salvaged goods, ICRC is equipped and ready. The decision of blockade authorities is urgent since this food must be consumed within three months.

Only parcels up to a maximum weight of 3 kilos will be accepted for delivery to concentration camps, whether they contain clothing or food, according to information which ICRC has received recently. It is stated by ICRC that if parcels can be shipped for this purpose from overseas to be distributed they must not bear any National Red Cross markings in order that ICRC labels can be affixed by them.

As stated above to me, we have concerted action with the British Legation which has wired a similar summary of the ICRC aide-memoire and the CHRISTINA suggestion.

HARRISON

DGR:MPL
7/24/44

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*2 more references
m. table*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: AMERICAN LEGATION, BERN
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: July 16, 1944, 7 p.m.
NUMBER: 4541
X

CONTROL COPY

gb This message is from McClelland for WRB.
See message 2198 from the Department of the twenty eighth of June.

Below is given the introductory memorandum dated tenth of July, submitted by ICRC, on clothing requirements of civilian prisoners located in Germany in concentration camps.

Our Berlin delegation in January of this year drew our attention to the needs of clothing of civil detainees in camp of Sachsenhausen--Oranienburg saying that the prisoners were in critical need of underclothing. The prisoners were not permitted to sleep in their wearing apparel and that in the winter the barracks were but slightly heated. Conversely, they were allowed to sleep in their underclothing which took the place of covers. In particular three clothing items were requested: sturdy gloves long enough to give wrist protection, underwear and pullovers.

In addition we were informed by our delegate that most of the individuals in this camp not having socks wrapped their feet in rags to make up for this deficiency.

On the twenty fifth of May this year we received a note from our delegate saying that prisoners in camp of Buchenwald, bei Weimer especially were in need of socks, pullovers, and shirts.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

To the present

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 21 1972

000477

To the present time ICRC has not sent clothing to civilian prisoners in concentration camps and, therefore, has no information based on practical experience with this type of consignment. For instance, it is not known to us whether old underwear would be taken from detainees should they receive new wearing apparel of this kind at a later date. Our only statement can be that the need brought to our attention by our representative in such that in certain instances prisoners have no underclothing.

The possibility of such distributions of clothing will be investigated further by ICRC and as soon as possible they will report to us.

This information has been supplied MEW by the British Legation.

HARRISON

DCR:MLG
7-17-44

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000479

Draft
7/10/44

Mr. Maurice Pate, Director
Prisoner of War Relief
American National Red Cross
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Pate:

Recent discussions between Mr. Dingle M. Foot, of the Ministry of Economic Warfare, and representatives of State, FEA, and War Refugee Board resulted in an agreement to permit the shipment of 100,000 standard food parcels per month for a three-month period from this country for distribution by the International Committee of the Red Cross to persons confined in concentration and refugee camps in enemy-occupied territory. Such a proposal, subject to specified distribution guarantees, has been presented to the International Committee by the Ministry of Economic Warfare and we are momentarily awaiting an answer. Anticipating an affirmative reply, we are desirous of making the necessary arrangements with you that will permit the packaging and shipping of these 300,000 food parcels by your organization. As you know, the War Refugee Board is not an operating agency and we therefore do not have these facilities nor do we desire to duplicate facilities already in existence. Accordingly, we are prepared to have allocated to your organization the sum of \$1,125,000 to cover the cost of packaging and shipping the 300,000 standard food parcels permitted under this agreement. I will appreciate hearing from you relative to this matter at your earliest convenience, and I am prepared to discuss it with you in greater detail.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

PJMcGornack:ar

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v



000481

July 10, 1944

Misa Hotel

Mr. McCormack

In conversation with Mr. Kuppinger, Special Division, today regarding the experimental shipment of 100,000 food parcels per month for a three-month period to persons in concentration camps, I understood that Mr. Kuppinger had answered this date a note which the British Embassy received from the British Government with respect to the package proposal informing the embassy that War Refugee Board would be in a position to ship the 100,000 packages immediately if an affirmative answer was received from the German Government through Intercross. Mr. Kuppinger indicated that he had cleared this with Maurice Pate, Director of Prisoner of War Relief at American Red Cross. The latter informally indicated that the packages could be made available out of stock in Geneva against which shipments from this country would be credited upon arrival. However, Kuppinger felt that it might be necessary to secure the approval of the Army in this direction, too.

Mr. Kuppinger also informed me that the British proposal apparently reached Intercross on July 4. He based this conclusion on an incoming cable from McClelland, No. 4304, July 6, copy of which has been made available to the Board.

It is my feeling that it would now be advisable for Mr. Pahlé and others to call on Mr. Pate at American Red Cross to determine the willingness of the American Red Cross to package and ship the necessary food parcels to make this program a reality. This call on Mr. Pate might be preceded or followed by a letter to Mr. Pate along the lines of the attached draft.

There is also attached a draft of the letter to the Bureau of the Budget asking for the allocation of the necessary amount of funds from the Foreign War Relief Appropriation to cover the cost of this program.

Attachments

FJMcCormack:ar 7/10/44

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

July 8, 1944

In reply refer to
SWP 800.142/6-3044

My dear Miss Hodel:

I refer to our recent conversations in regard to the possible distribution in refugee and concentration camps in southern France of the salvaged cargo of the S.S. Christina.

Replies have now been received to the telegrams sent on June 19 to Algiers and London to ascertain the attitude of the French and Belgian authorities in respect of the acquisition of these supplies for distribution as described above. Copies are enclosed in paraphrase of telegrams from Algiers and London dated June 29 and June 30, respectively, in regard to the approaches made to the French and Belgian authorities in this matter. The French Committee has expressed its willingness to sell its portion of the salvaged cargo on the basis proposed to it. The Belgian Government has agreed to sell the portion of the salvaged supplies to which it has title which could not be sent on to Geneva for distribution to Belgian prisoners of war.

However, as will be noted from the enclosed copy of telegram no. 213 from the Consulate at Geneva dated June 30, the International Red Cross was not able to handle the salvaged cargo at Sete and forwarded the entire cargo by rail to Geneva.

A portion of the shipment is said to have arrived in Switzerland and is being sorted. A further report

from

Miss Florence Hodel,
War Refugee Board,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.



000484

from the American Red Cross representative at Geneva is expected and upon receipt a copy will be furnished the Board.

Sincerely yours,

Eldred D. Kuppinger
Eldred D. Kuppinger
Assistant Chief
Special War Problems Division

Enclosures:

1. No. 2175 From Algiers,
June 29, 1944.
2. No. 5194 from London,
June 30, 1944
3. No. 213 from Geneva,
June 30, 1944.

000485

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

To: Secretary of State

From: Algiers

Dated: June 29, 1944

Number: 2175
x

Reference Department's 1925, June 19, the sale of salvageable food parcels aboard the Christina at a price determined by Intercross for distribution in French concentration and refugee camps is agreeable to the Committee. The Committee's decision is being communicated to the representative of the Commissariat of Prisoners, D'Ornano, presumably in Washington.

740.00115 European War 1939/602944

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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

To: Secretary of State
From: London
Dated: June 30, 1944
Number: 5194
X

On June 21 an EWD representative called on Vicomte Obert of the Belgian Foreign Office and indicated our desire to arrange for immediate disposition of the Christina cargo, in accordance with instructions in the Department's 4829, June 19. Consideration was then being given to the question by the Belgian War Office, Foreign Office, and other departments concerned, Obert said.

The Belgian Foreign Office verbally informed EWD on June 29 that the Belgians desired that portion of their supplies which could still be sent to Geneva for ultimate distribution to Belgian prisoners of war to go forward as intended originally, but that the sale of the rest to the International Red Cross would be agreeable to them, although it was not felt that the goods could be donated. The question of the exact financial arrangements the Belgians had in mind was not pursued by EWD, in view of your instruction. We understand that du Parc has been instructed on this point by the Belgian Government.

740.00115 European War 1939/603944

000487

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

VMT-506

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

PLAIN

Geneva

Dated June 30, 1944

Rec'd 10:15 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

213, Thirtieth.

Department's 2102, 19th to Bern, concerning cargo
Intercross vessel CHRISTINA.

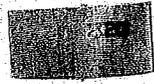
Lacking handling facilities Sete all salvaged cargo was simply loaded freight cars despatched Geneva. Since June 20 approximately third have arrived. Given condition French rail and road communications Interross Relief Division considers it utterly impossible divert any of other cars which are somewhere en route or even to try distribution from here now. Accordingly Interross not even approaching German authorities for time being. If French conditions improve matter can be taken up again but Consulate considers little likelihood fulfillment proposal also due time required for imperative sorting and reconditioning and necessity use salvaged canned goods within relatively short period time. Sorting work going ahead was inspected yesterday by Elting and James with Interross and Public Health representatives. James reporting this angle earliest.

SQUIRE

HTM

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DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

I was Ref. Ch. - Felle
INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

KEM-589

PLAIN

CONTROL COPY

GENEVA

Dated July 7, 1944

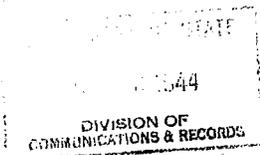
Rec'd 11:31 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

223, Seventh.

FOR LMCROSS FROM JAMES



"B534 your SWB66. Best knowledge all CRISTINA cargo was loaded cars Sete but exact number unknown. Arrived Switzerland ex-CRISTINA to date approximately 80,000 SFP. Seawater had damaged all parcels except approximately 400 SFP. Sorting, drying, et cetera now proceeding and expected finished end next week. Results preliminary survey indicate probably approximately all following articles undamaged. Powdered milk, margarine, tinned meat, corned beef, salmon, pate, jam. Of other items probably following percentage utilisable with balance completely lost. Coffee fifty, cigarettes ten, soap fifty. Also possibly can sell following badly damaged items unfit human consumption at centimes per kilo, chocolate fifteen, biscuits ten, prunes raisins ten. Report indicated although personally believe this figure

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-2- #223, July 7, from Geneva.

figure too high, 75 percent cheese utilisable. Balance can be sold 30 centimes kilo. Only 10 percent sugar saleable at 50 centimes kilo, balance completely lost. Report indicated 68 percent cargo here recoverable, 22 percent saleable, 10 percent completely lost, although my opinion percentage recoverable goods somewhat too high. Report Basel judgment inspectors Department Public Health and Agriculture who state absolutely necessary all useable items be sent camps for consumption within three months. As French POWs lack more than others food reserves suggest forwarding these supplies in bulk French camps. Please advise regarding sale supplies and as to my suggested disposition including instructions concerning balance CRISTINA cargo when, and if, it arrives here as delay in transit and time needed reconditioning may preclude possibility requesting additional instructions in view necessary consumption total damaged cargo within three months".

SQUIRE

EEC EMB

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*2 war Ref Bd.
m. Pehle*

PARAPHRASE OF TELETYPE RECEIVED
REVISED
100-100000

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: July 6, 1944
NUMBER: 4304

See

CONTROL COPY

McClelland sends following message for attention of War Refugee Board.

Reference is made herein to the Department's June 28 telegram No. 2198.

On July 4 in concert with our British colleagues a joint approach was made to ICRC. The substance of MEWS telegrams ARMR 2197 and 2198 (dated June 24) were communicated orally by our British colleagues to ICRC which is at present time studying matter of distribution guarantees requested and inside of a few days will submit a preliminary reply.

The foregoing has been repeated to London for the information/^{of}our Embassy there and has been sent in reference to June 27 telegram 187 from London.

HARRISON

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 21 1972

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*I am Refugee Ref
m. Kelle*

RECEIVED OF TELETYPE SERVICE

913

FROM: American Embassy, London
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: June 30, 1944
NUMBER: 5194
X

CONTROL COPY

In accordance with directions contained in Department's message of June 19, Number 4529, the ESD agent visited Vicomte Obert of the Foreign Office of Belgium on June 21 and voiced to him our wish that arrangements be made to dispose of the CHRISTINA's cargo at once. It was stated by Obert that this matter was under consideration by the departments concerned, including Belgian Foreign Office and War Office, at that time.

The Foreign Office of Belgium advised ESD orally on June 29 that they desired that part of their supplies which could still be forwarded to Geneva for ultimate allocation to Belgian war prisoners to be shipped as originally planned, but that, although they felt they were unable to give the materials, they were willing to sell the balance to the International Red Cross. The question of what definite monetary settlement the Belgians had in mind was not followed up by ESD, in view of your instructions. The Government of Belgium has now instructed du Parc on this issue, according to our understanding.

WINANT

DCR/GFW
7-3-44

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date **SEP 21 1972**

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000496

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

*near Refugee Bd.
Mr. Pihle*

single copy

Control Copy

CONTROL COPY

FROM: American Mission, Algiers
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: June 29, 1944
NUMBER: 2175
X



With reference to Department's message of June 19, Number 1925, the sale of salvageable food packages on board CHRISTINA for allocation to French concentration and refugee camps, at a price decided by Intercoast, is acceptable to French Committee. The decision of the Committee is being transmitted to Dornano, representative Commissariat of Prisoners, who is believed to be in Washington.

CHAPIN

DCR/GPW
6-30-44

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distributed

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 21 1972

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DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 21 1972

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

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JUN 22 1944

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

For your [REDACTED] information

I should like to call your attention to some recent developments with respect to sending food to some of the unfortunate victims of Nazi terror now in internment camps in enemy Europe.

We have just worked out in personal conversations with Mr. Dingle H. Foot, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of the British Ministry of Economic Warfare, a program under which the British and American blockade authorities will permit the shipment from the Western Hemisphere of 100,000 standard food parcels (500 tons) a month for three months to be distributed by the International Red Cross to persons in European internment camps. It is understood that this three months' project is only an experiment, and, if successful, it is contemplated that this system of relief will be extended considerably. Since time is of the essence, steps have been taken to get the initial program under way at once.

In addition to the foregoing, the blockade authorities have agreed to permit the distribution by the International Red Cross to persons interned in Southern France of certain foodstuffs still fit for human consumption salvaged from the camps of the "G. A. Christina," now at Cetta, France. The food supplies in question are contained in 218,120 food parcels which were destined originally for distribution to Belgian and French prisoners of war. Negotiations with the French, the Belgians and the International Red Cross have commenced and it is hoped that all arrangements will be completed soon. The War Refugee Board is doing everything it can to expedite this relief measure and has indicated that it will arrange for any financing that may be necessary.

We are very encouraged by these developments and hope they are only a beginning. At this stage, sustaining the lives of these unfortunate people may be quite as important as attempting to rescue them from enemy territory.

(Signed J. W. Pehle)

J. W. Pehle

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PH:lab 6/22/44

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Eads Date SEP 21 1972

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Charge Department

US URGENT

AMREP,

ALGIERS.

Please discuss personally with Frenay on an urgent basis the following matter.

The French Committee of National Liberation has title to 315,120 prisoner of war food parcels which were aboard the Christina when it had to be beached recently near Cette. This and the rest of the cargo has been salvaged and is now in Intercross custody at Cette. Efforts are being made to determine extent of damage to the cargo. However, since most if not all the cargo is believed to have been under water for an undetermined length of time, it is assumed that the contents of the food packages are now unfit for human consumption with the possible exception of food in hermetically sealed tins. The cargo is not believed to be in a suitable condition for forwarding to Geneva for distribution to prisoners of war. It is hoped, however, that a part of the food supplies can be otherwise utilized. Prompt disposition would seem necessary, to avoid further deterioration. Blockade authorities are agreeable to the distribution by Intercross of the items still suitable for human consumption in refugee and concentration camps in southern France if satisfactory assurances regarding distribution can be obtained.

Please ascertain and inform Department urgently whether (a) Committee is agreeable to the aforementioned use of salvageable supplies to which it has title, (b) whether it would be prepared to donate such supplies to Intercross for this use, (c) if not willing to make a donation, whether Committee would agree to the sale of such of these supplies as are fit for human consumption at a value to be determined by Intercross.

If Committee is not willing to make a donation of these supplies but is willing to sell, you may in your discretion state that War Refugee Board will arrange for the necessary financing of such a sale. You are, however, not in a position to make a definite offer in this connection and are authorized only to inquire whether Committee would be willing to sell on the terms mentioned above.

Similar inquiry is being made of Belgian authorities in London in respect of that portion of cargo to which Belgian Government has title.

French Delegation, Washington, informed of foregoing.

HULL

Cleared with FEA (Kiaer).

Cleared with J. W. Pehle 6/19/44

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~~SECRET~~

US URGENT

AMEMBASSY,

LONDON.

FROM THE DEPARTMENT AND FEA FOR EWD.

We are agreeable in principle to disposition Christina cargo as proposed your 4681, June 10. However, title to food packages in the cargo is in Belgian Government and French Committee. Inquiry is being made of Algiers to determine (a) whether Committee is willing for salvageable portion of cargo owned by it to be distributed in camps in southern France, (b) whether it would be prepared to donate such supplies to Intercross for this use, and (c) if not willing to make a donation, whether Committee would agree to the sale of such supplies at a value to be determined by Intercross.

As regards Belgian portion of cargo, du Parc, Belgian representative in New York for prisoner of war relief, has telegraphed Belgian Government in London in substantially the same sense. Please indicate to the appropriate Belgian authorities our desire to arrange for the immediate disposition of these supplies since even that portion which is now suitable for human consumption may deteriorate rapidly.

It is understood that du Parc has suggested that the Belgian Government donate the supplies to Intercross provided Belgian Government freed of responsibility in connection with salvage costs. War Refugee Board will arrange for use of supplies in French camps and for necessary financing if that is necessary. No commitment in that regard, however, should be made. Solution suggested by du Parc probably would be agreeable provided salvage costs did not exceed value of useable items. Should that be the case, Belgian Government would be expected to pay difference between reasonable value as determined by Intercross and salvage costs.

HULL

Cleared with FEA (Kiaer)

Cleared with J. W. Pehle 6/19/44

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PLAIN

AMLEGATION,

BERN.

FOR CONSUL, GENEVA.

2102 6/19/44

QUOTE Please take up the following matter with Intercross:

The cargo of the SS Christina which recently had to be beached near Cette has been salvaged and is now understood to be in the custody of Intercross representative at Cette. While the extent of damage to the cargo is as yet not known by the American authorities, it is presumed to be such that the cargo and particularly the prisoner of war food packages included therein are not in a suitable condition for forwarding to Geneva and for distribution to prisoners of war. The blockade authorities are agreeable to the distribution of the food items in the packages still suitable for human consumption by Intercross in refugee and concentration camps in southern France if Intercross can obtain from the German authorities the following assurances: (1) that Intercross delegates may supervise the distribution of these supplies in the camps and (2) that within a reasonable period, not to exceed a month, following distribution Intercross delegates may visit the camps to verify the correct use of the supplies.

Efforts are now being made to arrange to turn over without cost to Intercross that portion of the food supplies in the cargo which is still fit for human use. It is suggested that Intercross approach the German authorities to determine whether, if necessary arrangements can be made in other respects, Intercross will be in a position to distribute the supplies.

Please request Intercross to inform American authorities through you whether German authorities will permit distribution to be made under the above-mentioned conditions should it prove possible to turn over such supplies to Intercross for this purpose. UNQUOTE.

HULL

Code Room:

Please repeat to London, with preliminary paragraph as follows:

Following has been sent to Legation, Bern, for Consul, Geneva, reference your 4681, June 10.

Cleared with FEA (Kiaer)

Cleared with J.W. Pehle 6/19/44

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000509

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DATE: June 17

TO : WRB - Miss Hosal.

FROM : State Dept - E.D.K.

SUBJECT :

As agreed in our telephone conversation today, I enclose a copy, in draft, of a proposed instruction to London on the question of relief shipments to European camps.

May I have your comments?

W. H. H. H.

P.S. A copy has been sent also to Mr. Keast, FEQ.

000510

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D. C.
MAY 10 1945

The War Refugee Board has ascertained that the need is particularly acute in the above-named camps and therefore it is hoped that they can be given priority.

(c) The German authorities would interpose any objection to the distribution of food parcels imprinted in the same manner as those which are distributed to prisoners of war and civilians assimilated to that status under the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention.

It is desired that the International Red Cross make this approach to the German authorities on a most urgent basis. The Department should be informed by telegraph of the results of this approach.

The American Legation at Stockholm is being informed by the Department of the increased authorization mentioned in sub-paragraph (b) of paragraph 1 of the memorandum. It is assumed that the British Government is forwarding a similar communication to the British Legation at Stockholm.

Separate instructions will be forwarded to the Embassy in regard to the relief measure mentioned in sub-paragraph (c) of paragraph 1 of the memorandum.

SWP:EDK:EHJ

000512

DRAFT AIR MAIL INSTRUCTION TO LONDON

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The Secretary of State encloses for the information and guidance of the American members of the Relief Sub-Committee of the Joint Blockade Committee copies of a letter dated June 13, 1944 from Mr. Dingle M. Foot to Mr. Berle and Mr. Berle's reply, together with a copy of a memorandum dated June 12 which sets forth in greater detail the relief measures agreed to in conversations between Mr. Foot and representatives of the Department ~~and~~ the Foreign Economic Administration **AND WAR REFUGEE BOARD.**

With reference to sub-paragraph (a) of paragraph 1 of the memorandum the Department desires that the Relief Sub-Committee request the International Red Cross immediately to approach the German authorities to ascertain whether

(a) the German authorities will, in principle, permit the International Red Cross to distribute food parcels and clothing parcels under the conditions set forth in Mr. Foot's letter in all camps in German-controlled Europe where-in are confined persons not assimilated to the status of prisoners of war under the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention,

(b) the German authorities will permit the immediate distribution of food parcels by the International Red Cross under the conditions set forth in Mr. Foot's letter in the following camps:

Belsenbergen	- Germany
Bergau	- Germany
Birkenau	- Silesia or Poland
Sarvar	- Hungary
Theresienstadt	- Czechoslovakia
Drancy	- France
Tost or Dost	- Silesia
Josenorac	- Croatia
Stara Gradiska	- Croatia
Gred Jani-Salis	- Croatia

The War Refugee Board has ascertained that the need is particularly acute in the above-named camps and therefore it is hoped that they can be given priority.

(c) The German authorities would interpose any objection to the distribution of food parcels imprinted in the same manner as those which are distributed to prisoners of war and civilians assimilated to that status under the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention.

It is desired that the International Red Cross make this approach to the German authorities on a most urgent basis. The Department should be informed by telegraph of the results of this approach.

The American Legation at Stockholm is being informed by the Department of the increased authorization mentioned in sub-paragraph (b) of paragraph 1 of the memorandum. It is assumed that the British Government is forwarding a similar communication to the British Legation at Stockholm.

Separate instructions will be forwarded to the Embassy in regard to the relief measure mentioned in sub-paragraph (c) of paragraph 1 of the memorandum.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 21 1972

000513

10.10

000514

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: June 17, 1944
NUMBER: 3877

McCalland sends the following for the War Reliefs Board

There follows strictly confidential information that has been secured in reply to the questions in Departmental cable dated May 27, No. 1245.

A. Yes, exclusively.

B. Auschwitz, Buchenwald, Dachau, Ravensbrueck and Sachsenhausen-Grannenberg are the principal concentration camps in Germany and German occupied territories to which packages can be sent with satisfactory guarantees of distribution.

ICRC will always be able to supply, for the relief of Jews, the name and location of larger camp, ghetto or Jewish Aid Organization undertaking distribution in case of collective shipments of packages. In consultation with WBE representative, ICRC would forward packages only when it can secure the necessary guarantees.

From relatives and friends in Europe, ICRC and other relief organizations are constantly receiving news, addresses of members of prisoners, deportees, and political detainees, both Jewish and non-Jewish, located in a great many smaller camps and places of detention.

At all times ICRC is prepared to present detailed evidence to representatives of the Allied blockade authorities of proper distribution of such packages.

(1) ICRC is in a position to forward roughly 20,000 individual parcels monthly for political prisoners in concentration camps and prisons. However, if French political deportees are included, this number of packages would have to be approximately ten times larger, as there are over 100,000 French deportees according to reliable estimates.

As provision should be made for coming difficult months, a reserve of several hundred thousand parcels containing clothing, shoes and food would not be disproportionate. We requested that there

be included

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 21 1972

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be included a few hundred cases of cigarettes as they are absolutely invaluable in facilitating distribution of parcels in Germany and German occupied territories.

(2) The Resistance could alone absorb up to 80,000 parcels monthly at the rate of single parcel per person. It is interesting to note in this respect, that ICRC has received written permission from the Germans for one of their delegates to visit the Resistance this month.

Including the needs of Croatia, Poland and Hungary, several hundred thousand parcels more per month would be essential should sending of relief for Jews concentrated in that country become possible and necessary.

This proposal is urgent as needs for both Jews and non Jews are increasing each month. Even now European overland transport difficulties may be such as to prevent supplies reaching Switzerland. On the other hand, could such a stockpile be built up in Switzerland, it would be invaluable for saving endangered lives both now and later. It could constitute an advanced UNRWA stock.

Please refer to Legation's message of April 4, No. 2031. The possibilities of purchasing foodstuffs in Europe, let alone clothing, are shrinking rapidly. Any purchases in the Balkans, hitherto the principal remaining source of food available for packages, now increasing liable to benefit the enemy directly by giving him foreign exchange.

We cannot too strongly emphasize the desirability of general relief action on behalf of all persecuted and endangered groups irrespective of race, creed or nationality. ICRC is willing to undertake such a general program but restricting help mostly to Jews as hitherto the case insofar as the sending of WWB sponsored funds has been concerned, is liable to jeopardize this whole humanitarian effort. If funds are required, ICRC is informed that various Allied Governments in London and the French Committee of Liberation, Algiers, whose nationals are in Nazi hands, are prepared to contribute to this cause generously.

(With respect to the British position on this subject, it is pointed out that at the present time is allowing sending of packages to unorganized groups in France in the notorious internment camp of Vernet, Arles for instance. British position in general, however, has apparently not been favorable).

This stockpile

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2

1

Miss Gammage (nee The Sec's) Abrahamson, Akain, Bernstein, Bohm,
Dobson, Friedman, Galt, Hodal, Laughlin, Lambert, Laxford, Mann,
Hannon, Harke, McCormick, Peltis, Saigoy, Standsah, Stewart, Sotnatcha,
H. H. White, Ylisa

000517

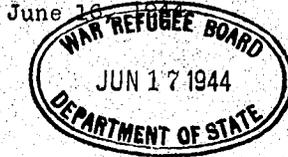
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000510

attached
3-17-44

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WAR PROBLEMS
SPECIAL DIVISION



WRB - Mr. Warren:

It would be appreciated if you would forward to Mr. Pehle the attached copies of the documents listed below:

Minutes of meeting on June 12

Minutes of meeting on June 13

Memorandum dated June 12

Letter from Mr. Dingle M. Foot to Mr. Berle dated June 13.

Letter from Mr. Berle to Mr. Foot dated June 14.


Eldred D. Kuppinger

SWP:EDK:EHJ

000519

June 12, 1944

The following were present at a meeting held in Mr. Berle's office this morning further to discuss the question of relief for civilians in occupied Europe:

Mr. Dingle Foot, Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of Economic Warfare.
Mr. Berle
Mr. Winfield Riefler, Foreign Economic Administration.
Mr. G. F. Thorold, Counselor, British Embassy
Mr. W. T. Stone, Director, Special Areas Branch,
Foreign Economic Administration.
Mr. Eldred D. Kuppinger, Special War Problems
Division.

As indicated in a preliminary meeting on Saturday, the British authorities are opposed to a broad blockade concession which would permit the distribution of relief supplies among the civilian populations of the occupied countries. Mr. Foot said at that time that he was not clothed with authority to enter into any sort of undertaking on this question which would go beyond the position heretofore taken by the British War Cabinet.

He said, however, that MEW believed that a great deal of pressure now being exerted on both Governments on the feeding question might be removed if the British and American publics were informed of all the steps previously taken with a view to assisting victims of Nazi oppressions and the measures now in effect, which to a limited extent are achieving that result. Moreover, he said he did have authority to agree to certain extensions of the measures now being taken and to a limited blockade concession in respect of relief supplies for persons in concentration and refugee camps.

Mr. Foot proposed that we agree on the following points without prejudice to such further relief measures as might be agreed upon subsequently by the two Governments.

1.

000520

1. Shipments of food for distribution to persons in concentration and refugee camps. Such shipments would be made from outside the blockaded area for distribution by Intercross to persons in camps where Intercross had obtained assurances from the Germans that Intercross delegates could distribute supplies and could return later to verify the correct use of such supplies. The concession would be limited to food packaged for individual distribution. He proposed that as evidence of our desire to extend help as soon as possible supplies be sent immediately on the prisoner of war supply ships to be held at Geneva until Intercross is in a position to distribute them. It was agreed that the principle involved would be applicable to all concentration and refugee camps in enemy and enemy-occupied territory, including camps wherein Italian "military internees" are held.

2. Intra-blockade shipments. Mr. Foot proposed that the present authorized monthly shipments from Sweden to Norway be doubled making a monthly authorized total of 500 tons. Such exports may, as is presently the case, include those of List A. It was also proposed that the two Governments examine the possibilities of permitting increased purchases of relief foodstuffs in Switzerland, Spain and Portugal. Such supplies would be intended mainly for France and Belgium. This proposal was agreed to.

3. Evacuation schemes. Discussions have been going on in London with representatives of the Swedish and Swiss Governments to the end that approaches be made to the German Government to obtain its consent for children to go to Sweden and Switzerland where they could be physically rehabilitated. Some difficulty has been encountered in securing agreement on the manner in which the approaches should be made. Both the Swedes and the Swiss are willing to take the children but neither Government is desirous of making a direct approach to the German Government. The Swedes are particularly hesitant, having been rebuffed before in similar cases. It is likely that as regards Sweden Intercross will be asked to approach the Germans. The Swiss may be willing to make a direct approach, laying down the conditions that children must be selected on the basis of need by the International Red Cross without reference to political background. The question of publicity was discussed. It was considered preferable

that

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that no publicity be given to the approaches until the German Government had had a reasonable opportunity to reply.

Mr. Foot said that the Irish Government had already approached the German Government with an offer to take 500 French children. Although the approach was made several months ago no answer has been received. The British propose to suggest to the Irish Government that this approach be renewed.

At the proper time it is the intention to publish the full story of all measures that have been attempted or put into effect to bring relief to European victims of the war. It is believed, however, that publicity at this time in regard to the evacuation schemes would be premature.

Mr. Foot will send a letter to Mr. Stettinius (which can be made public) outlining the agreement reached on points 1 and 2. At the same time he will send a memorandum (not for publication) outlining the agreement reached on points 1 and 2, and the agreement reached on point 3 and the question of publicity.

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MINUTES OF MEETING

June 13, 1944

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A meeting was convened this afternoon in Mr. Berle's office to consider drafts prepared by Mr. Foot of a letter to Mr. Berle and an accompanying memorandum on the question of relief for civilians in occupied Europe. It was also expected that some discussion would be held on the question of remittances to neutral European countries for expenditure in enemy territory in connection with evacuation and relief of refugees.

In addition to Mr. Berle, the following were present:

Mr. Dingle M. Foot, Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of Economic Warfare
Mr. G. F. Thorold, - British Embassy
Mr. Winfield Siefler - FEA
Mr. William T. Stone - FEA
Mr. John W. Pehle - War Refugee Board
Miss Florence Hodel - War Refugee Board
Mr. Abrahamson - War Refugee Board
Mr. George Warren - WRB)
Mr. H. I. Riegelman - WT) State Department
Mr. E. D. Kuppinger - SWP)

Mr. Foot distributed copies of his letter and memorandum in draft form.

The first item discussed was that concerning relief shipments to refugee and concentration camps. It was agreed that in order to provide for the earliest possible distribution of relief foodstuffs in areas of greatest need if circumstances permitted, in addition to the camps in southern France, the letter would be changed to state "****, it is proposed to begin with certain camps to be selected after consultation with the International Red Cross".

Mr. Pehle commented that the proposals embodied in the letter and memorandum did not go very far beyond the rigorous blockade policy as presently applied. It was pointed out that a definite concession is being made in respect to refugee and concentration camps and that Mr. Foot did not have authority at this time to go beyond this concession and the extensions of present policy as

set

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set forth in the letter and memorandum. Mr. Pehle's attention was invited to the final paragraph of the draft letter in which it is stated that the measures described therein are without prejudice to such further measures as may subsequently be agreed to by the two Governments. Mr. Pehle asked that it be indicated in the record that apart from what is to be done in respect of refugee and concentration camps it is his opinion that changes in the blockade policy are coming about much too slowly and that he thinks more far-reaching concessions should be made.

Mr. Pehle proposed that in addition to enlarging the scope of the agreement as regards refugee and concentration camps the amount of food to be shipped immediately for distribution when possible should be agreed upon. He suggested that this amount be set at 100,000 food parcels per month for a three-month period. This was agreed to and section (a) of paragraph 1 of the memorandum was amended accordingly.

Mr. Pehle then raised the question of the shipment of clothing for distribution in the camps. It was pointed out that from the blockade point of view greater objection exists to the introduction of clothing into enemy territory than to the shipment of food since the former is a non-consumable item and one in great shortage in Europe, whereas the latter is consumed immediately thereby making it more likely that the intended recipients will actually get the benefit. Mr. Foot would have preferred to withhold decision on the clothing question until it could be determined in the light of experience resulting from the distribution of food whether the likelihood was good that satisfactory distribution of clothing could be made. He agreed, however, to the immediate procurement of 25,000 parcels of clothing suitable for individual distribution provided distribution would not be attempted until there was an opportunity to decide in the light of International Red Cross experience in distributing food whether the clothing should go forward. The memorandum was amended in this sense by the inclusion of a new section under paragraph 1.

The other paragraphs of the memorandum were discussed and agreed to with minor changes in phraseology which did not change the sense as originally drafted.

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It was agreed that Mr. Berle would have copies of the memorandum prepared for exchange with Mr. Foot on Wednesday at the same time that Mr. Foot delivers his letter to Mr. Berle and receives Mr. Berle's acknowledgment.

The length of the discussion on the letter and memorandum precluded discussion on the question of remittances. Mr. Pehle and Mr. Foot arranged to have a discussion this point before Mr. Foot's departure.

000525

June 12, 1944

1. The United States Government and His Majesty's Government will take immediate steps to carry out the proposals contained in Mr. Foot's letter to Mr. Berle of 12 June. These include:

- (a) The immediate despatch of relief to concentration and refugee camps in enemy Europe subject to the conditions set out in the letter. It is proposed experimentally to begin with certain camps to be selected after consultation with the International Red Cross. If the conditions are observed, the experiment will be extended. Initially, shipments of 100,000 food packages per month for three months, amounting to 550 tons monthly, are contemplated.
- (b) An increase in the volume of relief consignments from Sweden to Norway, which may now be authorized by the United States and British Missions in Stockholm without reference back to Washington and London. The present maximum is 250 tons a month. This will be increased to 500 tons.
- (c) An immediate examination of the possibility of increased relief consignments to the occupied countries from Switzerland, Portugal and Spain. In particular attention will be given to increasing supplies of milk and dairy products from Switzerland to Belgium and France. This proposal must of course be governed by the availability of Swiss, Portuguese and Spanish currencies, and is therefore subject to the approval of the United States and British Treasuries.
- (d) The question of adding clothing to the food consignments under (a) will be considered after the scheme has come into operation with particular reference to the effectiveness of the supervision and control established in these camps by the International Red Cross. The International Red Cross will be asked to report on the state of clothing in camps to which food is being delivered and particularly on the quantities and quality of clothing made available to the internees under present conditions. In anticipation of conducting an experiment in the supply of clothing, arrangements will promptly be made for the procuring of 25,000 standard clothing parcels.

The implementation of the above measures will be the responsibility of the Relief Sub-Committee of the Blockade Committee, and the two Governments will forthwith give the necessary instructions to their representatives on the Committee.

In

000521

In the first place supplies will be loaded as and when space is available on ships now carrying prisoner-of-war supplies. If the scheme develops to such an extent as to make extra shipping necessary an attempt will be made to obtain a Swedish ship or ships from the Baltic on the same terms as the Greek relief ships.

2. All practicable steps will be taken to further the schemes already under consideration for the reception in Sweden, Switzerland and Eire of children from enemy-occupied countries. The Swedish Government have already expressed their willingness to receive

(a) children from Norway, and

(b) Jewish children from any part of German Europe, but are unwilling to make any further approach either to the German Government or to the Quisling Government of Norway. They have suggested that the necessary approaches should be made through the International Red Cross. They have now been asked whether they will themselves take this matter up with the International Red Cross, or whether they would prefer the Allies to do so.

3. The Swiss Government have expressed their willingness to receive up to 50,000 children in the course of a year without assistance from the Allies, and may be willing to receive more if additional imports through the blockade can be made available. They have received assurances on this point. The only difference that has so far arisen in the discussions on this matter is that the British and United States Governments insist that the children to be received in Switzerland shall be selected by a method which will preclude a preference being given to the children of Quisling parents. It is agreed that this matter will now be taken up with the Swiss Minister in Washington, who will be asked whether his Government are now prepared to approach the German Government, or whether they would prefer that in their case also, the necessary approach should be made by the International Red Cross

4. The Irish proposal was first raised unofficially with the Ministry of Economic Warfare towards the end of 1943. It was suggested that the Irish Red Cross should receive 500 children, preferably from France, who would remain in Eire until the end of the war. After consultation with the United States Government, the British Government informed the Irish authorities that there was no objection to this proposal, and that all necessary facilities regarding transportation from the Continent to Eire would be given. It is understood that the German Government were approached on this matter over three months ago, but that no answer has yet been received. The British Government will ascertain whether the Irish Government are prepared to renew this offer. (In this case the question of additional supplies through the Blockade is unlikely to arise.)

Nothing

000527

Nothing will be said in public about these evacuation schemes until the various approaches to the German Government, and if necessary to the Quisling Governments concerned, have taken place. Thereafter a reasonable period, say three weeks, will be allowed for the reply. If no reply has then been received, or if it is unfavourable, the facts will receive the utmost publicity.

5. Thereafter or at the same time an agreed statement will be issued simultaneously in Washington and London setting out the various measures which the two Governments have taken or attempted, to bring relief to persons in enemy-occupied territories. In particular, emphasis will be laid upon the following:

- (a) The abortive scheme for the evacuation of Greek children, when preparations were actually made for the reception in India, Kenya and Tanganyika of at least 25,000 necessitous children from Athens and other Greek cities. This fell through because the consent of the Italian Government could not be obtained.
- (b) The evacuation schemes mentioned above; i.e. to Sweden, Switzerland and Eire.
- (c) The purchase and despatch inside the Blockade Area of foodstuffs from Sweden to Norway, from Switzerland to France and Belgium, from Turkey to Greece, and from Portugal to almost all the occupied territories. It should be emphasised that these consignments have for the most part been paid for by the Allied Governments in London, with funds made available by the British and American Governments.
- (d) The fact that ever since 1940, a special quota of foodstuffs has been despatched to Switzerland over and above the normal Swiss quotas, ear-marked for Polish refugees.
- (e) The fact that when the Danish Jews escaped to Sweden, the two Governments at once communicated with the Swedish Government offering to allow certain additional imports, which would not otherwise have been permitted to pass through the Blockade.
- (f) The fact that medical supplies have never been treated as contraband and have, throughout the war, been permitted to pass through the Blockade.
- (g) The recent decision to admit Vitamin D.

000520

COPY

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

June 13th 1944

Dear Mr. Berle:

During the past week I have had the opportunity of discussing with Mr. Stettinius and yourself the problem of relief in enemy-occupied Europe. This is to confirm the conclusions that we have reached.

The problem is how to render genuine assistance to our friends in the occupied countries without at the same time appreciably diminishing the effectiveness of the Blockade and thereby, directly or indirectly, assisting the enemy. We have also to bear in mind the needs of the territories concerned after liberation. If the Germans adopt everywhere, as they have already done in Italy, a policy of scorched earth the needs of these areas will be even greater than when they were occupied by the enemy and they will urgently require all the supplies which can be made available. It follows that for supply as well as for Blockade reasons any commitment into which we enter in relation to occupied territory must be of a limited character.

It is not easy to distinguish between degrees of hardship or to divide into precise categories all the victims of Nazi mis-rule. Undoubtedly, however, many of the most necessitous cases are to be found in civilian internment camps. The information available to our two Governments shows that, as a general rule, the inmates of these camps are far worse off than the population outside. The problem of sending relief to these camps has always been a difficult one since, unlike prisoners of war, the persons concerned have no protecting power and there is no system of inspection to ensure that they receive what is sent to them. As a result of our discussions however we are now agreed that an experiment should be made and that relief foodstuffs may be despatched through the Blockade to such camps provided that the following conditions are observed:

(a) The

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Berle, Jr.,
Department of State,
Washington, D. C.

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(a) The goods are to be packed suitably for individual distribution;

(b) The I.R.C. will undertake to distribute such packages personally by their delegates;

(c) The delegates will make subsequent visits to ensure that the goods have been used by those for whom they were intended;

(d) Reports will be required from the I.R.C. after each consignment and as a condition of further shipments;

(e) The distribution will be limited to persons confined in camps.

Since it will not be possible immediately to send relief to all persons in internment camps, it is proposed to begin with certain camps to be selected after consultation with the I.R.C. If these experiments are a success - if, that is to say, the conditions are observed and we are fully satisfied that the food has reached the persons for whom it was intended - our two Governments will be prepared, subject to supply and shipping considerations, to extend the system to other internment camps in enemy Europe.

As regards the ordinary civilian populations of the occupied countries, and particularly the child populations, it has always been the view of our two Governments that relief consignments from inside the Blockade Area (i.e. originating in European neutral countries) were open to fewer objections from an economic warfare point of view than shipments through the Blockade. We are now agreed that the time has come when the volume of these consignments should, if possible, be substantially increased.

In the case of Norway, relief is administered by the Ditleff organization and takes the form of indigenous Swedish foodstuffs provided by donors in Sweden or, in certain cases, paid for by funds from outside Sweden. Under our existing arrangements with the Swedish Government such foodstuffs cannot be exported to enemy or enemy occupied territory without the express permission of our two Governments. In the past few months we have authorized our Missions in Stockholm to grant such permission, without reference back to Washington or London, up to a total

of

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of 250 tons a month. We are now agreed that this authorization shall be increased to 500 tons a month.

The problem in other occupied countries is more difficult since, except in the case of France and Greece, there are no contiguous neutrals. Nevertheless, there has been a regular flow of relief foodstuffs, both in bulk and in the form of parcels, from Portugal to the various occupied countries, and from Switzerland. The Portuguese supplies have been paid for with exchange made available to the Allied Governments in London by our two Governments. The Swiss supplies have been partly so paid for and have partly represented gifts by Swiss nationals. The Swiss consignments have been directed mostly to Belgium, France and Yugoslavia. It is now agreed that we will at once examine how far we can bring about an increase in this flow of relief foodstuffs from Portugal and Switzerland and how far supplies can be made available from Spain.

Our two Governments will forthwith instruct their representatives on the Blockade Committee to work out the details of the above proposals and to give effect to these proposals with the utmost possible despatch. It is understood that these measures are without prejudice to the other measures for assistance to persons in enemy occupied countries which are now under consideration by our two Governments.

Yours Sincerely,

/s/ Dingle M. Foot

000531

COPY

June 14, 1944

My dear Mr. Foot:

I am glad to have had the opportunity to discuss with you questions concerning relief measures in enemy Europe.

Your letter of June 13 sets forth my understanding of the conclusions reached in our conversations.

I take this opportunity to note particularly the statement in the final paragraph of your letter of June 13 that these measures are without prejudice to the other measures for assistance to persons in the occupied countries, which are now under consideration by our two Governments. You are aware of the fact that for a considerable period of time the Government of the United States has taken the position that additional measures of relief could be made available to our friends in the occupied territories, and more particularly to children and pregnant women, through supervised shipment of supplies from outside the blockade area, and that our proposals for rendering such assistance are presently being considered by the British Government. I think it has been made plain during our conversations that we will continue to press for the adoption of such measures, and hope for favorable action thereon.

Sincerely yours,

Adolf A. Berle, Jr.
Assistant Secretary

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000533

INTERNAL USE OF PROGRAM ONLY

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington

TO: American Legation, Bern

DATE: May 27, 1944

NUMBER: 1045

For Minister Harrison and McEllean

In view of disappointingly negative response contained your 5147, May 17, and further in view of desperate situation prevailing internment camps generally, Board is interested stockpile proposal your 1800, March 6 and 1031, April 1, and Interest Letter to you February 29.

In this direction, Board would appreciate information along following:

1. Assurance such stocks would benefit unassimilated groups exclusively.
2. Names of camps where such programs could be undertaken with usual distribution guarantees.
3. The number of standard food parcels and clothing parcels that Interest estimates could be shipped monthly existing Interest facilities.

THIS IS THE END CASE NO. 68

END

Miss Gannery (for the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akin, Burstein, Cahn, DeLois, Friedman, Gahan, Hibel, Laughlin, Langer, Leonard, Mann, Quinn, Rands, Rosenback, Sims, Sargoy, Smith, Swartz, Stewart, Winkelman, T. B. White, Wolfe, Yiles.

DECLASSIFIED

Exec. Order 11652

By: R. H. Park Date: SEP 21 1972

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This is our SW 917

We greatly appreciate all efforts Intercross has made with Christina cargo under adverse circumstances.

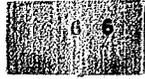
Amcross prefers that none of the water-logged merchandise, even canned goods, leave Switzerland for camps, as rust process will continue and eventually damage goods to extent of endangering consumers. Air which reaches whole powdered milk or meats soon spoils contents.

Therefore, Amcross having received authority from original donors gives Intercross entirely free hand to dispose by sale of all goods included, even those slightly damaged, in Switzerland; if used for constructive purpose they need not bicker long about price. In case of goods consumable now but which should not be kept long on hand, we would be glad to see these made available at moderate prices to Swiss authorities for use in Swiss refugee camps.

If certain goods appear absolutely safe, we leave to discretion Intercross sending same in respective ratio 3 to 1 to French and Belgian war prisoner camps as Intercross has suggested, advising us of quantities so despatched. However, where slightest doubt, we prefer goods remain Switzerland.

Please ask Intercross to keep accounts so that in due time we can be advised expenses involved in (1) Salvage operation Sete, (2) Transportation, if any, Sete to Switzerland, (3) Expenses Switzerland, (4) Quantities of supplies sold, (5) Total amount received from sale.

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714
FOREIGN ECONOMIC ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

In reply refer to:
BA-813-HSK

APR 20 1944

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

Please find enclosed herewith copies of two telegrams which have been despatched to London and to Bern, respectively, concerning the immediate clearance of the proposed shipments by the International Red Cross of foodstuffs and medical supplies to Jewish refugees and to Jews detained in camps in Germany and in German occupied territory.

Sincerely yours,

Geo. L. Powell
George L. Powell
Chief, Blockade Division

Enclosures

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date **SEP 21 1972**

000538

COPY OF CONFIDENTIAL TELEGRAM DRAFTED
ON APRIL 25 AND CLEARED BY FEA FOR
DESPATCH APRIL 26, 1944

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
AMLEGATION, BERN
CROWLEY AND STONE, FEA

Your 1334, March 4, 2122 April 6, and 2305 April 13.

We are requesting MEW to approve immediately the entire list of
foodstuffs and medical supplies, and to instruct British Legation
at Bern accordingly. Please take prompt action subject to
confirmation by London.

Cleared by telephone with
E. D. Kuppinger,
Special War Problems Div.
State Dept.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 21 1972

000539

COPY OF U.S. CONFIDENTIAL TELEGRAM
DRAFTED ON APRIL 25, 1944, AND TELEPHONED
TO MR. WRIGHT THOMAS, DEPT. OF STATE, AT
9:30 AM APRIL 26th FOR IMMEDIATE
DESPATCH

AMEMBASSY, LONDON
CROWLEY AND STONE, FEA
Your 3185, April 18.

In view of the great urgency of clearing these particular shipments of relief supplies, please make strong request to MEW to approve immediately the entire list of foodstuffs and medical supplies and to instruct the British Legation at Bern accordingly. We are authorizing the American Legation at Bern to approve the entire list, subject to the above confirmation by London. Please confirm MEW's action by cable.

Cleared by telephone
with E. D. Kuppinger,
Special War Problems Div.
State Department

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 21 1972

000540



000541

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: The American Minister, Bern
TO: The Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: April 1, 1944
NUMBER: 2031

A letter from the Intercross Committee of the Red Cross dated March 27 is summarized as follows (please refer to my number 1850 dated March 25, 1944):

1. The activities of Intercross on behalf of war victims in that part of Europe will be affected by events in Hungary and the possible occupation of Hungary and Slovakia. Certain adjustments are necessary in the joint 100,000 dollar relief program since the last possibilities of obtaining relief foodstuffs within Europe apparently are dwindling.

2. If the plans of the War Refugee Board to rescue certain particularly stricken groups of refugees are not to be too late, rapid action is necessary. The necessity of accepting the suggestion to send it (Intercross) parcels of underwear and food is urged by Intercross - please refer to paragraph three of my number 1366 dated March 31. These parcels would be stored in Geneva and only after concurrence of a representative of the War Refugee Board to whom full instructions and control vouchers could be supplied, would they be dispatched.

3. The necessity of aid to children in certain parts of Europe and to prisoners in concentration camps is emphasized by Intercross - please see paragraphs B1 and C1 in my number 1366.

4. Acceptance of Intercross proposals is strongly recommended by the Legation.

HARRISON

DCR:MPL
4/3/44

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

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 21 1972

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000543

To Mr. Le er

Prof #8

"UNASSIMILATED" CIVILIANS AND BLOCKADE

1. The Draft Resolution of the Red Cross Conference in Tokyo, 1934, providing for assimilating the treatment of civilian internees in some respects to that of prisoners of war, has never been incorporated in an international convention.

After the outbreak of the war, it was nevertheless agreed as between U.S.A., Great Britain, Germany, Italy and Japan, to apply the Tokyo Draft Resolution to their respective nationals.

No such agreement was made by either U.S.S.R. or any of the governments-in-exile with Germany. Therefore, civilian nationals of these countries have not been given the advantage of treatment similar to that enjoyed by prisoners of war under the 1929 convention.

Since the Germans do not recognize any of the governments-in-exile, and since these governments do not have any German nationals under their control, there is no reason to anticipate that Germany would agree to apply the principles of the Tokyo resolution to the nationals of these countries. (Gathered from Mr. McCormack.)

2. I discussed the attitude of our blockading authorities toward these "unassimilated" group, with Mr. Kiaer, of the Blockade Division of Foreign Economic Administration (phone: FEA 2267).

Mr. Kiaer (pronounced chair) confirmed that we do not permit packages to go to "unassimilated" civilians through the blockade, since the distribution of these packages could not be properly supervised by the International Red Cross.

Upon ^{my} remarking that the Red Cross tries to reach "unassimilated" civilians with packages purchased in Switzerland whenever it can supervise distribution, he answered that, while not questioning the good faith of the Red Cross, the blockading authorities simply don't believe that proper supervision can be guaranteed in the circumstances; permitting packages to go to that large category of people would therefore amount to a serious breach of the blockade, of definite benefit to the enemy.

I asked whether this does not work to the disadvantage of the Norwegians, Dutch, Poles, etc., since all of the civilians of these nations belong to the "unassimilated" category, with only American and British citizens being admitted to the advantages of the "assimilated" treatment. Mr. Kiaer admitted this, adding that this could hardly be changed as long as the Germans refuse to recognize the

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governments-in-exile.

I asked what agencies decide on these matters. Mr. Kiaer answered that these matters are handled for the United States, by the Special War Problems Division of the State Department, under Mr. Berle, jointly with the Blockade Division of FEA, under Mr. George Powell. These two agencies cooperate with their British counterpart, the Ministry of Economic Warfare in London, through cables and through the British Embassy in Washington.

4. It is understood that Mr. McCormack has been discussing this subject with Mr. George Wafren and the Special War Problems Division at the Department of State.

March 15, 1944.

B. Austin

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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: March 6, 1944
NUMBER: 1366

Reference is made herein to the Department's 279, January 27; and 427, February 9; and the Legation's cable of March 4, no. 1334.

In addition to detailing the proposed expenditure of funds donated by the joint groups, the International Committee Red Cross letter dated February 29, includes following information requested by WRB in the Department's telegram under reference: (a) - general possibilities and proposals for relief of Jewish refugees and other persecuted groups; (b) - proposals for relief for prisoners from occupied countries in German concentration camps; (c) - plan for relief of children of war victims in Serbia and Slovenia.

1. It is stated by the Intercross that they are almost certain relief consignments would reach their destinations to Rumania, the Resistenstadt and Judische Unterstutzung Stelle, Cracow; about consignments to Westerbork, Holland and camps in France and upper Silesia they are uncertain, but the Intercross proposes certain proportion of sums put at its disposal be devoted to test shipments through channels hitherto untried.

2. It is stated by the Intercross that it will endeavor to keep to the lowest possible minimum any purchases made in Hungary or Rumania and will try to procure goods as much as possible in neutral countries. Inquiry is made by the Intercross whether it can count on additional funds on condition that they be expended exclusively in neutral countries within limited available possibilities.

3. In order to avoid expenditures in enemy territory the Intercross proposes (Intercross apprehensive of dangers of enemy abuse entailed by expenditures of foreign exchange in enemy territory) that stocks of relief materials be shipped from overseas for deposit in Geneva which could be drawn upon as opportunities arise for despatch to relief centers. Opportunities for relief are often of short duration and cannot be anticipated with certain types without necessity of fresh appeals on each occasion and a reserve depot would permit immediate action. It is suggested by the Intercross that the depot be under control of War Refugee Board representatives. Warm clothing, underwear, and men's large size boots are the articles most urgently required in Transnistria.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 21 1972

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Suggest several thousand parcels each containing assortment of clothing, underwear, pair of strong boots parcels to be made up separately for men, women and children (not infants). It is suggested by the Intercross that the depot contain several tens of thousands relief food parcels of overseas origin not weighing over 2 1/2 kilos and containing nonperishable articles including canned goods, sugar, condensed milk, ovaltine, etc. The Intercross is prepared to transport against reimbursement via Red Cross ships sailing from the United States and Canada to Lissabon and Marseilles, if the question of tonnage presents difficulties.

4. It is stated by the Intercross that cooperation among the various Jewish relief groups seems impossible and observes not in interest of aim in view that it be revealed to one Jewish relief organization what the other organizations are doing. That relief plans be kept strictly secret is urgently requested.

5. Stressing the importance of the relief program to include oppressed groups "irrespective of race or religion", the Intercross expresses gratification that this principle was willingly agreed to by the War Refugee Board. It is believed by the Intercross that a broad relief program assisting various groups is less likely to arouse enemy opposition than one which is confined exclusively to the assistance of Jewish refugees only. Intercross proposes as beginning relief Allied nationals in German concentration camps and children in Yugoslavia (see B and C below).

B-1. The Intercross proposes, in accordance with A-5 above, that if funds are made available immediately tension relief to Belgians, Dutch, Norwegians, Poles, Greeks, Czechs and other Allied Nationals enduring privation in concentration camps and prisons in Germany under severe secret police control (Intercross through informal channels has obtained names of nearly all Norwegians, Dutch and large numbers of Poles detained in German concentration camps and prisons and urgently requests this fact be kept strictly secret) Intercross states organized relief has up to present been prevented by the British blockade authorities, who insisted as condition that Germans recognize these prisoners as prisoners of war and subject to convention of Geneva.

According to a statement of Intercross it has made successful test shipments of individual relief parcels to these prisoners which were personally acknowledged by the recipients and in several camps Intercross delegates were able to verify on the spot that shipments reached the person intended to receive them. The Intercross is prepared to submit evidence of success of these

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of actions and proposes as start food parcels be made available immediately to men and women in camps and prisons in Germany for 1,450 Norwegians, 1,000 Dutch men and women and 1,300 Polish. Risks of benefiting the enemy are far less than if free exchange expended in enemy territory for relief in Transnistria.

1. Two groups of children in Yugoslavia present a particularly alarming situation, according to statement of Intercross. 50,000 children evacuated from Croatia to Belgrade and other Serbian towns are a particularly critical problem as they are undernourished, in need of clothing and health conditions are pitiful. The same applies to where conditions which were already bad during the Italian occupation have now become increasingly serious since last summer and 100,000 children are suffering from malnutrition as a result of complete lack of fortifying foods such as milk, sugar, ovaltine and chocolate.

2. It has been suggested by the Intercross that in order to alleviate this situation the War Refugee Board assign 220,000 francs, of which 200,000 for food and 20,000 for medical relief to be divided equally between children in Slovenia and Serbia. For the purchase of Slovakian sugar and Hungarian elementary pastes about 45,000 francs would be used and balance of 200,000 francs less 17,000 for administration, transportation, et cetera for purchase of Swiss food products. To prepare Swiss pharmaceutical products and surgical dressings would use about 20,000 francs. It is proposed by the Intercross that these relief goods be shipped to Intercross delegate at Belgrade for distribution in cooperation with the Serbian Red Cross.

If desired the Legation can telegraph further details regarding the above proposals. Copy of letter is being sent by IRC through its own facilities and we will also endeavor to forward a copy.

HARRISON

cc: Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Messrs. Abrahamson, Bernstein, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, McCormack, Paul, Pohle, Pollak, Standish, Stewart, H. D. White, Raines, Misses Laughlin, Hodel, and Mrs. Cohn

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February 29th, 1944.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Dear Sirs,

Following upon our letter of February 17th, 1944, to H.E. the American Minister in Bern, we venture to submit for your consideration the following particulars concerning relief action in regard to which the support of the War Refugee Board of the United States would be highly desirable.

The War Refugee Board, in accepting a suggestion made by us to the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees in London last autumn, was good enough to notify us that the equivalent in Swiss francs of 100,000 dollars would be available free from restrictions as to geographical areas, for use in Hungary, Rumania and neutral countries, and that the licence had been issued under the name of the "Joint Distribution Committee".

The International Committee have just been credited with the sum of 429,000 Swiss francs through the Swiss National Bank, on behalf of the "Joint", and we assume that it will be mainly a matter for Mr. Jaly Mayer to discuss with us particulars for the utilization of this sum. We feel, however, that it may be useful to send you herewith a scheme which has been drawn up by the "Joint Relief Commission of the International Red Cross (Commission Mixte)". Subject to an agreement being reached with the "Joint Distribution Committee", this scheme would provide for the utilization of a sum of 429,000 Swiss francs for the benefit of groups of Jews whom we consider to be in great need. This scheme aims at speedy action, without awaiting the putting into effect of any projects which might be evolved subsequently.

To the
Legation of the United States
of America,

B E R N

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We have thought it advisable to apply certain rules in drawing up this programme.

I: Relief for Jews.

1. The peculiar position of Jews in the Axis countries is not a crystallised one, and the possibilities of extending relief to them which exist at any given moment may suddenly disappear. It is therefore necessary to proceed by test cases in the absence of any basis which is firmly established by international law. We have been able more than once, by means of tests, to open up fresh channels for the distribution of relief, the facilities offered to us being very variable and differing from one area to another. We should therefore very much appreciate if a certain proportion of the sums which are placed at our disposal was to be set aside for test consignments the despatch of which would be attempted through hitherto untried channels. Whereas we are able to state almost with certainty that relief consignments to Rumania, to Theresienstadt and to the "Jüdische Unterstützungsstelle" in Cracow will reach the beneficiaries, we cannot vouch in the same way for the delivery of relief to, say, the Jews in the camp at Westerbork (Netherlands), in the camps in France and in certain camps in Upper Silesia, where we should like to make the test.

2. Being apprised of the views of the blockade authorities as regards transfer of currency to Axis countries, we shall endeavour to reduce to the lowest possible minimum any purchases which may have to be made in Hungary and Rumania, and to procure goods as far as possible in the neutral countries of Europe (pharmaceutical products and some foodstuffs, which have however become very rarified). In this connection, we should like to know if we could count on additional funds if they were to be used exclusively in Switzerland, Portugal, Sweden and possibly Turkey.

3. In order, however, to limit as far as possible the purchases which would be made in Hungary and Rumania, we wonder if the War Refugee Board would consider shipping from overseas relief in kind which we propose to stock in Geneva, and upon which we would draw according as supplies were required. This method would have the advantage of enabling us to seize as they occur certain opportunities of despatching relief supplies, without having to send out fresh appeals on each occasion. The stock which would thus be built up in Switzerland could remain under the control of the War Refugee Board which, through their representative at the

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American Legation in Bern, would authorize us to draw upon these reserves to the extent of the amounts proposed in the schemes and projects which would be submitted by us.

The articles which are most urgently required are:

a) warm clothing and underwear. Certain groups of Jews in Transistria, for instance, whom our delegate has been able to visit, are practically completely deprived of clothing.

b) boots (large sizes for men).

It would meet one of the most urgent needs if, as the War Refugee Board proposes to do, we had several thousand parcels available, containing each an assortment of clothing, underwear and possibly a pair of strong boots (parcels made up separately according as they are intended for men, women or children (not infants)).

4. The same system of warehousing could usefully be applied for food parcels, perhaps several tens of thousands of these of a maximum weight of 2 kg. 1/2. The distribution of relief to Theresienstadt is most easily carried out in the form of standard parcels. These should contain only articles which will keep some time (canned goods, sugar, condensed milk, ovaltine, etc.). These parcels could be sent also to the camps in Upper Silesia (if this is found to be possible), Croatia, the Netherlands and France. If, on the other hand, the War Refugee Board do not see their way to entertaining our proposal that clothing and food parcels be sent to us from overseas, we should be compelled to make them up ourselves, which would unavoidably entail the purchasing of certain foodstuffs in Hungary and Rumania, and this would mean transfer of Swiss francs to Axis countries.

Should the question of tonnage be an obstacle in the way of the War Refugee Board accepting our proposal to place food parcels at our disposal, we should be willing to have these consignments conveyed, against reimbursement of the freight charges, and in so far as the available tonnage would permit, by the ships which are at present plying under the sign of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and which carry supplies for the allied prisoners of war between the United States, Canada and Lisbon, on the one hand, and Lisbon-Marseilles (Geneva), on the other.

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5. As a general rule, we should like to stress that in this matter of relief for Jews, we proceed very discreetly, and that we endeavour to avoid any form of publicity as far as our own work is concerned. The reasons for this are

a) the fact that the various Jewish associations, for certain reasons, prefer to act independently the one from the other, and it would seem impossible to succeed in centralising the various relief undertakings which are organized by each of these groups. It is therefore not in the interest of the aim in view to reveal to one Jewish organization what is done by another.

b) Neither is it in the interest of the Jews whom we wish to rescue from a critical situation to draw too much attention to the proposed relief action. In view of certain tendencies, it is to be feared that authorizations which already exist might be withdrawn and new difficulties raised if this plan to save certain groups of Jews were exploited for propaganda purposes.

II. Relief for concentration camps in Germany.

This desire to avoid as far as possible attracting attention to our scheme has led us to propose relief work for certain groups of civil war-victims, irrespective of race and religion. The War Refugee Board willingly agreed to this principle, and we are therefore venturing to mention certain groups who, we feel, are deserving of assistance by the War Refugee Board in like manner to the Jews.

These groups include nationals of allied countries (Belgians, Dutch, Norwegians, Poles, Greeks, Czechs, etc.) who have been deported and are detained in the prisons and concentration camps in Germany.

Political prisoners are detained in Germany in concentration camps which are under the control of the secret police. The regime is more severe than in the prisoner of war and civil internment camps, and all the information we receive corroborates that the food in these camps is inadequate. The International Committee therefore, in response to the urgent appeals which they received from these political prisoners and from their next-of-kin, applied on many occasions to the allied authorities and Red Cross Societies, with the object of obtaining permission to reforward food parcels to these concentration camps, as is done for allied prisoners of war and civilian internees in Germany. To their great regret, the blockade authorities firmly refused to authorize

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these consignments, insisting, as an essential condition, for such an authorization that these detainees should be assimilated with prisoners of war, i.e. that the stipulations of the Geneva Convention should be applied to them. Such a measure depends, however, upon the German authorities, which refuse to allow this assimilation. The International Committee regret that the blockade authorities should have laid down this condition which makes relief entirely dependent upon a decision to be taken by the detaining authorities and prevents the detainees from receiving what are very necessary food supplies.

Judging that the blockade authorities are not opposed on principle to this category for peculiarly afflicted war-victims receiving assistance, but that they are concerned chiefly with preventing the detaining country from deriving any benefit from the foodstuffs, the International Committee have endeavoured to discover some means of guaranteeing the safe distribution of relief in these camps. At the same time, they have sought to provide the blockade authorities with guarantees which would be equivalent (if not superior) to the means of control which are provided for under the Conventions of Geneva, the latter being unfortunately inapplicable in the present instance.

These guarantees are the following: thanks to certain small sums which have been received in Switzerland, we have been able to send some parcels to the principal concentration camps in Germany and even to certain camps and prisons in the occupied countries, asking that acknowledgments be returned to us personally by the beneficiaries. In certain camps (Oranienburg and Ravensbruck), our delegates have been able to ascertain on the spot that the parcels were actually delivered, and that there was no reason to fear they had been misappropriated. We are thus able at present to send parcels to Norwegian (also to the students from Oslo), Dutch, Polish, Belgian, Greek, Czech and other deportees in Dachau, Buchenwald, Sachsenhausen-Oranienburg, Ravensbruck, and in certain other camps, but for lack of funds and parcels, we are not in a position to develop this relief action on the scale which would be necessary; at present it is still in the stage of a test process undertaken to furnish the blockade authorities with evidence that the scheme is feasible, and that fully adequate guarantees could be supplied and which we should be ready to submit for the attention of the representative of the American Legation, should the latter be interested in these various test cases.

Although the detaining authorities decline to supply the International Committee with the names of political prisoners and even with information on the

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strengths of the camps, this action has had a noteworthy result. The parcels which we have nevertheless been able to deliver to certain detainees have as a matter of fact acted as a snowball, and the next-of-kin, in the home countries of the deportees, having doubtless been notified by letters from the camps, are now advising us spontaneously of the names and addresses of the deportees. Thus we possess the names - and we would ask you to treat this as strictly confidential - of nearly all the Norwegians, Dutch and a large number of Poles who are political prisoners in the concentration camps. Consignments could therefore be organized systematically and we would even be in a position to receive acknowledgments from the prisoners' representatives - similarly to the procedure applied in prisoner of war camps - for any collective consignments which might be despatched.

The present problem would be to send food supplies by means of standard parcels to several thousand political prisoners (approximately 14,50 Norwegians, a thousand Dutch men and women, or thereabouts, and as many Polish men and women). We do not know the strengths of the other nationalities, but feel convinced that we would have their names communicated to us if we were able at last to undertake this relief action.

We are profiting by the opportunity afforded us by the War Refugee Board, thanks to their generous support, of drawing their attention once more to this very urgent problem, and of warmly recommending that they contribute to supplying a particularly deserving and severely stricken category of war-victims with relief which might be instrumental in saving the lives of many of them.

III. Relief for children war-victims, particularly in Serbia and Slovenia.

From accurate information received from Belgrade we hear that there are at present in Belgrade and several other Serbian towns more than 80,000 children who have escaped from the areas which used to be included formerly in Yugoslavia, and which are now attached to Croatia. These refugee children are in a particularly critical condition; they are undernourished and require clothing. Their health condition is pitiful. It would be necessary to organize emergency relief action for their benefit.

The same may be said of children in Slovenia (the northern section of Yugoslavia). This area was first annexed by Italy which undertook to supply it. The situation which was already serious has become worse since the events in Italy in the summer of 1943. More than 100,000 children

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are suffering from malnutrition. Products such as milk, sugar, chocolate, ovaltine and other strengthening foods are entirely lacking. Here too relief consignments are urgently required. We enclose a distribution plan in case it should prove useful.

The International Committee of the Red Cross and the Joint Relief Commission (Commission Mixte) undertake to apply in any future action - as in the past - measures of control as strict as possible, and to prevent any misappropriation of relief consignments. We shall proceed to carry out relief only when we have gained the conviction as far as possible that the detaining authorities will not derive any direct benefit from the relief supplies. We shall submit to the War Refugee Board - if possible through their representative at the American Legation in Bern - all the evidence which we can gather vouching for the safe arrival of relief supplies, and reports on their distribution, in all cases where our delegates have been able to be present. Thus the War Refugee Board will be in a position to judge whether it is possible to carry out a specific undertaking or not.

Further we do not think that rigid regulations for control are expedient; we have already mentioned the example (cf. point II) of political prisoners in German concentration camps to whom the blockade authorities do not consider it permissible to send relief parcels so long as they are not assimilated with prisoners of war. The criterion to be selected for control should, in our opinion, be as flexible as the relief action itself; one principle must however be strictly applied, i.e. that relief must benefit only those for whom it is intended.

We are at the entire disposal of the War Refugee Board to supply them with any additional information they may desire to receive.

Yours truly,

Carl J. Burckhardt
Member of the International Committee
of the Red Cross.

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Red Cross - IGC

PRESENTER (NAME)

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The Director of the American
Refugee Commission
New York

We have been honored by your committee's invitation to
make an appeal of the World Jewish Congress and the American Jewish
Committee have shared the responsibility of preparing a report
of the International Red Cross Commission for Europe
to which we have added our own contribution. In Europe relief work
has been accepted everywhere, and in Central Europe we have
succeeded in securing for this year a grant of \$1,000,000
in quarters and a valuable amount of other relief work
and additional work.

In connection with the survey of the situation
in the following points:

As you would know, Congress has informed us in the past
of its intention to furnish an appeal to the Allied Governments
regarding considerable funds to be put at the disposal of the International
Red Cross Commission for help in Europe, we were very happy to see that
action was to have been undertaken in favor of civilian victims of the war
without distinction of race or religion. It seems, however, that this
initial project has been abandoned and that it has been decided that
relief under consideration should be limited to certain groups of Jews
in Central Europe. We state with regret that this restriction renders
exceedingly difficult, if not illusory, the carrying out of this project.
It would have a better chance of acceptance by the other parties, had it
been organized within the framework of a general action. We are confident
that you will be better understand our report since your Committee, which
we would appear from an article in the Times of Friday, October 12, has
the intention of extending its activities to all populations which had to
leave their homes for racial, religious, or political reasons.

We could not be but happy over such an extension of the
contemplated relief action, since it would enable us to secure the aid
of certain circles whose concurrence in the circumstances is occasionally
indispensable and therefore to increase considerably our chances of
obtaining tangible results.

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You certainly are not unaware of the difficulties which we meet in certain countries when we wish to take action in favor of Jews, arising from the fact that the authorities consider that this issue relates exclusively to internal policy. Consequently, our work is based only on permits usually restricted to general purposes which never acquire the character of established rights. Moreover, we must see to it that the gifts which are undertaken to be benefit those for whom they have been intended and then alone. We must, therefore, be able to exercise very serious control in order to justify the confidence placed in us both by the donors and by the international authorities. During these last years, we were obliged and had no choice but to undertake a relief action which was agreed on by us, because we did not think ourselves able to assume the responsibility in view of the lack of sufficient opportunities for control. For this reason, it is very difficult for us, at least for the present, to undertake relief work in certain countries occupied by Germany, despite our desire to help the Jews who ask it of us.

On the other hand, we wish to notify you that on several occasions, we could have undertaken relief action under satisfactory conditions, had the necessary means been put at our disposal at the right time. To quote a concrete case, we would have been able, a few months ago, to get assistance to the Jews in Poland, since the contract which the German Red Cross was able to exercise contained all desirable guarantees. Unfortunately, we did not have the financial means at that time. At present, the German Red Cross is no longer able to assume the contract which we ask it to exercise, and we can, therefore, no longer transmit any assistance to Poland.

It follows from our experience that it is unfortunately impossible to establish in detail a long-term plan for action, since it would probably remain a dead letter because of the frequency with which changes occur and sudden and unforeseen decisions are taken. If we indicate to you, below, the places in which, thanks to increased funds, we could undertake relief action or extend work already in operation, we do so only to give you a more precise idea of the domain to which we would like to see you bring quick and generous help. Without, however, being able to assure you that any particular action could be taken at any given time. We shall gladly send you reports on each action which we will take; they will permit you to judge whether you wish to continue your efforts with our help and to undertake new activities.

To insure that our action brings effective assistance to the largest possible number of beneficiaries, we must be able to send relief as soon as an opportunity arises and without waiting for months the arrival of the necessary sums. We would, therefore, be very grateful to the Intergovernmental Committee, if it could consider whether it might

not put the necessary sums at our disposal, leaving us to judge in each particular case whether a given action is justified and whether it could be accomplished under satisfactory conditions. Any other procedure would risk the loss of a number of occasions for efficient action.

In this connection, we should like to draw your attention to the fact that only those amounts are of practical value to us the use of which is not limited to neutral countries, since the opportunities for purchase in the latter countries are fairly restricted.

Permit me, my dear Director, to say a word about the Joint Relief Commission of the International Red Cross, an agency of the International Red Cross which has already been able to carry out various relief actions in favor of Jews. It has been created in 1940, by the International Red Cross Committee together with the League of Red Cross Societies, and it has the task of coming to the aid of civilian populations which have been made victims of the war, more particularly of women, aged, and children. The closest collaboration exists between the International Red Cross Committee and the Joint Relief Commission over which I have the honor to preside.

The Joint Relief Commission, among other things, has sent food, pharmaceutical products, artificial teeth, spectacles, artificial limbs, etc., to Jews interned in the camps of Southern France. Moreover, it has insured the distribution in these same camps of several tons of clothing, the gift of an American charitable organization. The distribution of these gifts was supervised by the delegates of the International Red Cross Committee.

I should like now to review the different countries in which action in favor of Jews could be intensified or undertaken.

Rumania

About 70,000 Jewish deportees of Rumanian nationality -- men, women, and children -- in Transnistria are now in a very precarious position, especially from the point of view of clothing. A delegation of the International Red Cross Committee was able to get into that region (also into Odessa) and to investigate on the spot the opportunities for helping them in cooperation with Jewish organizations in Rumania and with the Rumanian Red Cross. All facilities have been accorded to us by the Rumanian Government, and we believe that our delegates will not encounter any difficulty in supervising the contemplated distribution. We don't have reason to fear, therefore, that relief sent to needy Jews would be utilized for the benefit of people other than those for whom it was intended. In the first place, it would be necessary to find shoes, which are lacking in Rumania for these Jews in need. If these deportees could return in the near future to the territory of Rumania proper, it would be necessary to be able quickly to procure for them clothing and shoes.

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...the situation in that country is such that it is not possible to carry out a relief action on a large scale... The International Red Cross Committee has not yet considered the question of a permanent delegation in that country, since the question of organizing a relief action on a fairly large scale could not have been envisaged in view of the reasons explained above. A delegation of the International Committee which has visited that country a few months ago has found, however, that the appointment of a permanent delegate would be opportune in view of the difficult position in which certain categories of the population find themselves. We would be happy to study this question, but here again, in order to be able to undertake a relief action, we would have to be able to count on the cooperation of donors.

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HUNGARY

We believe that a relief action in favor of Jewish refugees in that country, who come mainly from Germany and from Poland, would be necessary and that the authorities would lend it their assistance. We

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have had sent a delegate to Hungary to study the situation in that country. If we have not yet busied ourselves with the Jewish problem in Hungary, it is because we did not have sufficiently large amounts of money to spread our efforts. We have thought it correct to utilize our funds to help the Jews in Germany.

Germany and Occupied Countries

The outlook is less and less favorable, although the position appears there in a more acute form than elsewhere.

The Joint Commission has organized several deliveries, on a small scale, to the Jews in forced residence in Theresienstadt (about 20,000) and coming from all the countries occupied by Germany. The competent authorities have permitted the sending and distribution of individual packages and of stimulants. Unfortunately these products cannot be found in Switzerland without the greatest difficulty, and we have asked the Federal Authorities to permit us to send some foodstuffs which could be bought more easily. This activity of the Joint Commission has certainly been pursued on a larger scale if more considerably than we could have done.

Outside of Theresienstadt, we could try to send packages to the labor camps of Upper Silesia where many Jews of different nationalities are found. This brings up the question of supervision in occupied countries. We don't believe that direct control such as is permitted in the countries mentioned above could be obtained in the territories occupied by Germany; it seems that only the German Red Cross could assume this task. The Jewish circles with whom we have cooperated for years think, just as we do, that distributions organized or supervised by the German Red Cross could be considered as offering full guarantee. We know that the gifts which are entrusted to it come into the hands of those for whom they are intended. It might happen, of course, that these gifts benefit indirectly the detaining authorities, if they refuse to admit that these gifts are nothing but a supplementary ration and if they take the outside gifts into account in establishing the food rations of the persons under their administration.

As far as Poland is concerned, it seems unfortunate that for the present at least one would have to renounce the sending of relief to that country. Indeed, the German Red Cross has informed us that it could not assume any responsibility for the distribution of such gifts among the intended receivers. This does not seem that the situation could not change; perhaps the Joint Commission could resume sending packages some day. We add for your information that the Joint Commission has only now received the receipts for the collective gifts sent several months ago. The receipts are signed by the President of the "Jüdische Unterstützungsstelle" /Jewish Office of Assistance/ in Cracow. If the matter interests you, you may take note of a report of the Joint Commission regarding its activities in Poland, a report which is in the possession of our delegation in London. It will give you a precise idea of the manner in which the Joint Commission accounts for its activities.

On the other hand, the opportunities for purchases by the Joint Commission in Central Europe are as follows, (no other countries were in consideration for the moment for the purchase of food)

	Pengos	per kilogram
✓ Dehydrated onions	"	7.15 "
Julienne	"	7. " "
Green and yellow peas	"	205 " 100 kilogram
String beans	"	125. " 100 kilogram
"Bib" soup, ready for cooking	"	5.50 " kilogram
"Karamalt" nutritive flour for " " "	"	9 " " "
Apples	"	4 " "
Wheat	"	81. " 100 kilogram
Pate of game	"	11.60 " kilogram
Game conserves	"	Different prices, with a basic price of 9.50 per kilogram
Refined millet	"	100 per quintal
Puree of game	"	12.35 " kilogram
Hind part and breast of ham	"	12.95 " "
Macaroni	"	2.20 " "
	Lei	per kilogram
Green and yellow peas	"	74. " "
Sunflower oil	"	297,361. " ton
"Acide gras" (?)	"	231,110. " "
Salt pork, lard and fat	"	370. " kilogram

These prices are subject to some variations.

In conclusion, basing ourselves on the experience which the International Red Cross Committee and the Joint Relief Commission of the International Red Cross had in the course of their activities in favor of Jews in Europe during this war, we would like to submit to you the following suggestion. We would be grateful if you could put at our disposal a sum of about 300,000 francs to begin with, which would permit us to act in the sense indicated above. It would be, of course, indispensable that we should be able to utilize this sum for purchases in Central Europe, notably in Hungary and Rumania, where we have indicated above the opportunities for purchase are fairly extended. We would keep you informed of our projects, of the system of control which could be instituted, of the purchases and of the distribution which we would carry out. If the activities thus put on a new and broader basis produce satisfactory results, and if the reports of our delegates contain the promise of

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an opportunity for extension, we shall submit new propositions with a view to increasing the funds that would be put at your disposal*thanks to the generosity of the World Jewish Congress and of the interested authorities.

Accept, my dear Director, etc.

(Signed) Carl J. Burekhardt

Member of the International Red Cross
Committee

* Probably missprint. Should read "at our disposal".

cc: Mr. Abrahamson, Mr. Aksin, Mr. Bernstein, Mrs. Cohn, Mr. DuBois,
Mr. Friedman, Mr. Gaston, Miss Hodel, Miss Laughlin, Mr. Lesser,
Mr. Luxford, Mr. Mann, Mr. McCormack, Mr. Paul, Mr. Pollak, Mr. Rains,
Mr. Smith, Mr. Standish, Mr. Stewart, Mr. H. D. White, Mr. Pehle.

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