PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Stockholm
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: October 31, 1944 (received November 1, 3:09 a.m.)
NUMBER: 4440

This is being repeated to London as No. 1600.

The following refers to Department’s message to London dated September 27, No. 7801, which was summarized to Legation in London’s No. 513.

It is now the desire of Red Cross officials and Polish Legation to forward additional shipment to Przyslows through same channels and in same way as outlined in our message of September 15, No. 3681, which was repeated as No. 1806 to London. The Poles submit copy of telegram from Intercross as evidence of safe arrival of former shipments made in September. This telegram also outlines additional requirements of Przyslows Poles and quotes as number of people passing through camp the German control figure of 238,000.

The following items are included in proposed shipment: 4,000 kilos underclothes; 2600 kilos shoes; 16,000 kilos soap; 20,000 kilos used clothing collected in Sweden; 10,000 kilos Hungarian pen meal.

Arrangements have been made to send shipments through Denmark via rail, we are told by Polish Legation. Urgent approval is recommended by Legation.

JOHNSON

DEC 11 44

State Dept. Letter 1-11-44

By H. R. Dakin Date SEP 3 1972

000799
In reply refer to No. 271

October 31, 1944

Dear Sirs:

With reference to the telephone conversation I had yesterday with Mr. McCormick concerning the shipment of food parcels to Bergen Belsen, I would like to inform you of the following cable we received this morning from our Swedish Section:

"Mine 13/10 YMOA guarantees watching distribution food parcels navicert received 21/10 40,000 parcels 2.5 kilos each."

Thank you again for your fine cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

ERF R. BEICKMAN, Assistant
Rescue Department
4430 October 31, 6 p.m.

This is our 100 for WRB.

Have discussed contents of WRB 223 (Department's 2152, October 26, 8 p.m.) with Glen Whisler of Red Cross.

He has taken all steps necessary to have parcels repackaged and shipment is moving forward in a few days.

He has done a very good job. Legation would appreciate clarification of meaning of words "unassimilated persons in concentration camps".

JOHNSON

JMS
EEG
November 1, 1944

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Laura Margolis was received through the American Legation in Stockholm under date of October 30, 1944:

"It was arranged by the World Jewish Congress here to send 100,000 kilos of foodstuffs in individual packages to Bergen-Belsen, Theresienstadt, etc. 2,000 names were procured from Zurich Congress. It has requested the necessary funds from Congress New York. The War Refugee Board representative here is most helpful and I am in close touch with him; will advise you as soon as further funds for packages are needed. Against future needs he has at present balance 218,000 kronor of our funds."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pohle

J. W. Pohle
Executive Director

Mr. M. A. Leavitt, Secretary,
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,
Distribution of
true reading only by
special arrangement.

Secretary of State,
Washington,

4423, October 30, 9 p.m.

This message from Margo Leavitt of Joint.

This message from Joint to Leavitt of Joint.

Department of October 23, 10 p.m.

World Jewish Congress here has arranged for
100,000 kilos foodstuffs to be sent as individual
parcels to the Natzisstadt, Bergen-Belsen, etc.

Has received 8000 names from Zurich congress. Necessary funds requested from congress in New York. Am in close touch with WRB representative here who is most helpful and as soon as additional funds for parcels needed will advise you. He now has balance of 218,000 kronor of our funds against future needs.

JOHNSON

WSB

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEp 21 1972
November 1, 1944

Dear Dr. Kubozitaki:

The following message for you from Mr. Hollander was received through the American Legation in Stockholm under date of October 30, 1944:

"The necessary approvals were obtained for the parcels program and the approximate cost of the entire 100 tons will be $60,000. An initial amount of $25,000 should be transferred by you and if additional is necessary you will later be advised by us. Financial assistance is not being requested by us of the Buenos Aires branch."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pohle

J. W. Pohle
Executive Director

Dr. Leon Kubozitaki,
World Jewish Congress,
1834 Broadway,

Rbrury 11/1/44
Stockholm

Dated October 30, 1944

Receiv'd 8:55 p.m.

Secretary of State Washington

4419, October 30, 7 p.m.

Hollander of Swedish section sends following message for Kubowitki of World Jewish Congress. This is our No. 97 for War Refugees Board.

Parcels program obtained necessary approvals and cost of whole quantity of 100 tons will approximate $65,000.

Please transfer an initial amount of $25,000 and we will advise you later if more is necessary. We are not requesting Buenos Aires branch for any financial assistance.

Note for WRB from Olsen. Above is program participated in working out with local mosaic community for shipment of parcels to internees in concentration camps.

A trial consignment of few thousand packages being shipped soon and prospects appear very good of satisfactory delivery.

JOHNSON

WEB

CONTROL COPY

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Lester 1-11-73
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 21 1972
In reply refer to No. 268

October 27, 1944

Hon. John W. Peble
War Refugees Board
Treasury Department
Washington, D.C.

Attention Mr. McCormack

Dear Sir:

I tried in vain to reach Mr. McCormack this afternoon in order to read to him the following cable we received from our representative in Stockholm concerning the license for the sending of food parcels to Camp Bergen-Belsen.

"Re: foodparcels licence was approved last week under condition International Red Cross willing guarantee packages reaching destines stop Explained your authorities such guarantee impossible as nobody able visiting camps but experience proving parcels arriving safely furthermore Hjelp Krigets offer which part of IKA through which Organization sending parcels confirmed willingness control as far as possible furthermore we confirmed stopping sending immediately if discovering parcels unarriving and prepared fully cooperating your authorities even after license granted stop Legation here recommended Washington accepting this scheme now informed also Allied Authorities London accepting your Legation recommended for hurrying decision Stephen Wise contacting authorities Washington intervenes immediately cable urgent stop"

Please telephone me by Monday at the very latest and let me know what we can answer our Swedish Section.

Trusting that you will give this matter your urgent consideration, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Kurt E. Groisman, Assistant
Rescue Department
October 26, 1944

Attention: Mr. McCormack

In Reply Refer to #287

Dear Mr. McCormack:

Attached, please find copy of my letter to the Foreign Economic Administration (Mr. Pollak).

I am still looking forward to receiving your letter with reference to the three matters we have taken up with you.

Thank you in advance for giving these matters your attention.

Yours very truly,

[Signature]
Kurt R. Gruenberg, Assistant
Rescue Department

[Stamp: Encl.]
October 28, 1944

Foreign Economic Administration
Washington 25 D.C.

Attention: Mr. Pollak

Re: Your GC-700-PSP

Dear Mr. Pollak:

With reference to our various telephone conversations concerning the sending of clothing to the unfortunate inmates of Bergen-Belsen and to Terezin, I wish to thank you for the warm consideration you have given this urgent matter.

I am waiting for a Navy Certificate which we will undoubtedly receive from your office, and I have approached Mr. Haukamp regarding shipping facilities, in order not to delay action.

I am sure that you will give us the necessary instructions for making this transport of clothing.

Very truly yours,

Kurt R. Grosman, Assistant
Belief Department

cc: Mr. McCormack
Mr. Prince of New York (Canal 60467) called this afternoon. He is experiencing difficulty getting clearances from federal agencies, notably WPA, in connection with some packaging he is doing for the American Federation of Polish Jews and a War organization which wants to ship packages through Russian War Relief. The packages are going to the Polish Government at Lublin. He wondered whether we could be of any help to him. I told him that you would call him Monday.

He also wondered whether we could send him a letter to read to his staff, telling what a fine job they did on their part of the 15,000 package program. Zollinger had told him that the Prince packages arrived in good shape whereas the others did not.

Maybe we should discuss these two points before you actually telephone him.

P.S. A. Hauver camp (?) by Amcross

Called about a letter from Rossmann to O. E. on a Dilling trip. You write

Call H. aa

aa

10/26
To H.C. Warren from A.A.
Report on the Mistletoe
Collection by D. Herschman
4/1/64
ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: October 26, 1944
NUMBER: 3653

MEDILLAND FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Re your 6927, October 19. For your information food parcel program
from Sweden to unassimilated persons Bergenbelsen and other German-controlled
camps was presented for approval to HEN, Department and FEA without
reference to WRB. FEA and Department in accord with HEN on October 20
authorized the program calling for shipment of 93 tons of parcelled food
to German-controlled camps. Plan as developed by World Jewish Congress
representative in Sweden calls for distribution of these parcels under
supervision of Swedish Y.M.C.A.

With respect to WRB program calling for shipment of 300,000 parcels
from United States, Amcross will have all of remaining 285,000 three-kilo
parcels ready for shipment via Marseille in November. All instructions
contained in your 6263, September 21, being observed by Amcross.

THIS IS WRB IRISH CABLE NO. 240.

STETTINIUS
(Acting)

Note: This is for correction of number which was previously sent through
as #3633 instead of #3653
FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: October 26, 1944

CONTROL COPY

MODIFIED FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Re your 6927, October 19. For your information food parcel program from Sweden to unassimilated persons in Bergenbelsen and other German-controlled camps was presented for approval to DEW, Department and FIA without reference to WRB. FIA and Department in accord with DEW on October 20 authorized the program calling for shipment of 93 tons of parcelled food to German-controlled camps. Plan as developed by World Jewish Congress representative in Sweden calls for distribution of these parcels under supervision of Swedish Y.M.C.A.

With respect to WRB program calling for shipment of 300,000 parcels from United States, Amcross will have all of remaining 285,000 three-kilo parcels ready for shipment via Marseille in November. All instructions contained in your 6263, September 21, being observed by Amcross.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 240.

STETTINIUS
(Anting)
CABLE TO MINISTER HAMRICK, BRINN, AND MCCULLAND FROM WAR REPUBLIC BOARD

Re your 6927, October 19. For your information food parcel program from Sweden to unassimilated persons Bergambolme and other German-controlled camps was presented for approval to MW, Department and FRA without reference to WRB. FRA and Department in accord with MW on October 20 authorized the program calling for shipment of 93 tons of parcel food to German-controlled camps. Plan as developed by World Jewish Congress representative in Sweden calls for distribution of these parcels under supervision of Swedish Y.M.C.A.

With respect to WRB program calling for shipment of 300,000 parcels from United States, Amcross will have all of remaining 285,000 three-kilo parcels ready for shipment via Marseilles in November. All instructions contained in your 6263, September 21, being observed by Amcross.

Board of plans to make public statement on food feeding programs. Please refer to information and obtain from their any photographic material might be appropriate for such purposes.

This is WRB BRINN CABLE NO. 240.

Last paragraph deleted by J.W. Pehle

9:30 a.m.
October 26, 1944

Rice (Hamann) (for the Secy) Abrahamson, Dubois, Friedman, Rodel, Lesser,

R.McCullough Ed '10/26/44
To Minister Harrison, Bern, and Copenhagen from War Refugee Board

Re your 6927, October 19. For your information food parcel program from Sweden to unassimilated persons Bergenbelsen and other German-controlled camps was presented for approval to HEW, Department and FEA without reference to WRB. FEA and Department in accord with HEW on October 20 authorized the program calling for shipment of 93 tons of parcelled food to German-controlled camps. Plan as developed by World Jewish Congress representative in Sweden calls for distribution of these parcels under supervision of Swedish Y.M.C.A.

With respect to WRB program calling for shipment of 300,000 parcels from United States, America will have all of remaining 285,000 three-kilo parcels ready for shipment via Marseille in November. All instructions contained in your 6263, September 21, being observed by America.

This is WRB Bern cable No. 260.

9:20 a.m.,
October 26, 1944
In connection with Board's program to ship 300,000 food parcels from United States for unemancipated persons in concentration camps in German-occupied territory, Board has been advised through Minister Harrison and McGlelland that the 15,002 three-kilo parcels shipped from here on 8.3, Gripeholm and off leased Göthenburg arrived somewhat damaged, requiring some rehabilitation before being forwarded onto for unemancipated persons German controlled territory. Glen McIver of American and Inter-American Delegate in Sweden aware of this situation. Please check the exact status this shipment and advise Board.

For security reasons the text of this message must be closely guarded.
CABLE TO MINISTER JOHNSON, STOCKHOLM, FOR OLSON FROM WAR REFUGE BOARD.

In connection with Board's program to ship 300,000 food parcels from United States for unassimilated persons in concentration camps in German-occupied territory, Board has been advised through Minister Harrison and McClelland that the 15,002 three-kilo parcels shipped from here on S.S. Gripsholm and off loaded Gothenburg arrived somewhat damaged, requiring some rehabilitation before being forwarded camps for unassimilated persons German controlled territory.

Glen Whisler of Amcross and Intercross Delegate in Sweden aware of this situation. Please check the exact status this shipment and advise Board.

THIS IS WAR STOCKHOLM CABLE NO. 223.

223
9:30 a.m.
October 26, 1944

Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, DaBois, Friedman, Hodel, Lesser, Mannon, McCurnack, Files

FM:PH:10/26/44
In reply refer to No. 206.

I would like to refer to my letter (No. 229) of August 31st concerning the camps to be included in the parcel program of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

I understand that a second dispatch of food parcels is now being prepared, and I must express our deep concern over the probability that the camps specified by the ICHC are not likely to benefit any substantial number of Jews.

It appears from recent information that there are still Jews in the following camps in Poland: Czestochowa, Jedrzejow, Katowice, Kielce, Klimontow, Konin, Kielce, Krylow, Opole, Ozorkow, Piotrkow, Radom, Sanok, Starzyke, Trzcinica, Wieliczka - Bochnia. The ICHC has ruled out some of these camps. May I however suggest that this Committee be requested to make a serious attempt to provide the inmates of these camps with food. These are the camps which deserve the greatest care, since their internees who are too weak to work, pay for such inability with their lives, and in a most gruesome way.

The ICHC information, according to which there are no internees any longer in the camp of Sereď in Slovakia, is contradicted by recent news. It seems that the entire Jewish population of the Sereď camp has been concentrated in that camp, and is very badly in need of help.

Looking forward to hearing from you, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Leon Szywulski
Head, Rescue Department
Please deliver paraphrase of the following message to Laura Margolis, Hotel Continental, Stockholm, from H. L. Leavitt of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

"Please explore possibilities of sending from Stockholm food parcels to camps such as Theresienstadt, Bergenbelsen, Birkenau, etc. Should such possibilities exist, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee will handle the mailing."

[STETTINIUS]

For security reasons, the text of this message must be closely guarded.

CONTROL COPY

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date: SEP 21 1972
CABLE TO MINISTER JOHNSON, STOCKHOLM, FOR OSWALD FROM WAR REFUGE BOARD.

Please deliver the following message to Laura Margolis, Hotel Continental, Stockholm, from W. L. Lowitt of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

"QUOT. PLEASE EXPLORE POSSIBILITIESSender FROM STOCKHOLM FOOD PARCELS TO CAMPS SUCH AS TAJFENHEIM, BEINHAUSEN, SIRKEHEIM ETC. SHOULD SUCH POSSIBILITIES EXIST LONDON OFFICE HAS LISTS OF INTERESTED VICTIMS CAMPS TO WHICH PARCELS CAN BE INDIVIDUALLY ADDRESSED. UNQUOTE"

THIS IS HIS CABLE TO STOCKHOLM NO. 125.

5:15 p.m.
October 18, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Scty) Abrahamson, Cohn, Dubois, Friedman, Hodel, Lesser, Mannon, McCormack, Files

RDrury 10/18/44
TO Miss Hodel
FROM Mr. McCormack

Subject: VJRB. Food Parcel Program

DATE October 21, 1944

There appears below a brief accounting of the status of the Board's food parcel program as of this date.

The National Container Corporation of New York began delivery of the necessary cartons to the American Red Cross packing center in New York on October 16 and will continue delivery at the rate of 50,000 cartons weekly to the expiration of the contract.

American Red Cross will actually begin the packing operation on October 26 and will pack at the rate of 14,000 parcels daily, six days per week. The first 185,000 parcels will contain the following items:

1 package cigarettes .................................................. 3/4 ounces
Biscuits, K-2 (or equivalent) ......................................... 6 ounces
Cheese ................................................................. 8
Whole powdered milk .............................................. 16
Cream ........................ ............................................. 16
Salmon (or tuna) ....................................................... 8
Sugar ................................................................. 8
Chocolate bars (or equivalent) ...................................... 4
Dehydrated soup (3 servings) ....................................... 12
Meat ................................................................. 12
1 packet of ascorbic acid tablets
1 bar soap ......................................................... 2

Also in this run each parcel will contain the receipt card prescribed by the International Committee. The 185,000 parcel run will be completed on approximately November 10.

The second run of 100,000 parcels will be begun on November 11 or November 13, contingent upon the ability of the Feinberg Kosher Sausage Company to make delivery of 50,000 tins of Kosher meat by that time and the remaining 50,000 tins by November 17. Kosher meat will be substituted in this run for the non-Kosher product contained in the first 185,000 parcels. No receipt cards will be included in the final 100,000 parcels as per the International Committee's instructions. This lot will be forwarded individually via parcel post to internees with a special receipt that will be affixed by the International Committee.
As to shipping: American Red Cross will have two ships sailing between November 5 and November 10 and two ships sailing between November 15 and November 25. Such portions of our parcels as are ready for shipment as of these dates will go forward. The Marseille route will be employed as recommended by the International Committee in their recent cable to the Board.
TIMES reports that British airman, who was assisting Polish resistance forces in Warsaw and whose occasional messages before surrender were reported in Embassy's earlier telegrams, is now known to be safe. It publishes following brief message which has now been received from him: "The Germans are giving no help to Polish population evacuated from the capital. Medical supplies are very short, and badly wounded people are to be seen lying by the roadside. Tens of thousands of the citizens are sleeping in the open fields. Food is short. The Germans are rounding up all men from 16 to 40 years of age and sending them to Reich."

TIMES also contains following brief item by a Polish correspondent in London: "An official announcement disclosing new German atrocities against population deported from Warsaw has been issued by the Polish Government in London. It says in part: 'The Germans have arrested males between the ages of 16 and 40 and have deported them in the direction of Germany. Some were separated from the rest and directed straight to the infamous death camp of Oswiecim. Up to
-2- 9033. Twentieth. From London

Up to October 14, 12,400 of those deported from Warsaw had been sent there and are now threatened with death. On October 7 the Germans began mass execution of Polish prisoners in Oewiesim by means of poison gas either in gas chambers or in motorvans. A report from Poland has been received concerning a rising in Oswiecim Camp. It says that on October 7, when mass executions of political prisoners began, the Polish prisoners who were in a majority in the camp, attacked the Germans. In the course of the unequal struggle, during which the Germans machinegunned the barracks, the Poles succeeded in killing 6 German executioners. More than 200 Polish prisoners perished in the fight.

WINANT
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: AMERICAN LEGATION, STOCKHOLM
DATED: October 20, 1944
NUMBER: 2111 (It came to London as 6970)

See London's 9907 of the eighteenth of October, repeated as 697 to Stockholm. FEA and the Department agree in recommendation of EMD and EEU with regard food parcel shipments to Jews interned in Germany.

HULL

Paraphrase

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 21 1972
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE October 19, 1944

TO Miss Hodel

FROM Mr. McCormack

Subject: Food parcels from Sweden to unassimilated persons in German camps.

The attached cables tell the story of the status of a food parcel program comparable to our own to ship parcels from neutral Sweden to unassimilated persons in Bergenbelsen and other camps in Germany.

This project was called to our attention in a letter from the World Jewish Congress of September 22, in which was quoted two cables received by the Congress from its representative in Sweden urging that they place the matter before the interested governmental agencies. On October 2, 1944, the Board drafted a proposed cable, Stockholm 96, requesting Minister Johnson's and the Board representative's comments with respect to this project and when the cable was submitted to Special War Problems, it was learned that Minister Johnson had already, on September 20, 1944 (see 3772) recommended to London that the project be approved. Special Division and FEA endorsed the project to MRN London, and as of this date there is being despatched from the Department a cable to London and Stockholm in answer to 4181, October 14, from Stockholm in which Minister Johnson outlined the manner in which the parcels would be distributed. Swedish Y.M.C.A. will be employed in a supervisory capacity in distributing a total of 93 tons of foodstuffs which will be made up into parcels comparable to our own.

Needless to say, this is a worthwhile project and supplements the Board's program in this direction. The significant thing, it would appear, is that in this instance the Board was not consulted by either SWP or FEA while the project was under discussion, and we probably would not have learned of it except for the fact that we had submitted a proposed cable on the subject.
FROM: American Legation, Stockholm
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: October 14, 1944
NUMBER: 4191

US URGENT

We repeat below cable No. 1281 which has been sent to London today.

With reference to Embassy's cable dated October 6, No. 546, to Legation and Department's message No. 8244 to Embassy dated October 7, in connection with food parcels for Jews interned in Germany.

According to World Jewish Congress representatives in Sweden, as a rule Germans do not allow IRO control of Jewish concentration camps. However, they have sent a telegram asking aid in whatever control possible, to IRO in Geneva. It is claimed by Jews that parcels sent previously from Switzerland, Portugal and close relatives in Sweden reached their destination satisfactorily. Letters from recipients confirm this.

Swedish IRO will forward foodstuffs in packages of one to three kilos via parcelpost. Their representatives in Germany will try to help in assuring information that parcels are reaching recipients. Germans will not be aware of part Congress takes in plan. Confirmation from addresses by card or letter (which will be made available to Legation for control) will be asked by Swedish IRO. With possible exception of camp at Bergaestrom.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 1-11-74
By R. H. Farkas Date, SEP 21 1977
No. 4181 - page 92

Bergenbelsen, it is believed recipients will be allowed to write confirmation that parcels have been received, in most cases. The majority of the recipients will consist of individuals which the World Jewish Congress in Switzerland has authorized.

In the event confirmations do not reach Sweden regularly, or if conditions justify, forwarding of parcels can be stopped at once.

According to reports, food situation in Jewish concentration camps, particularly in Bergenbelsen, is desperate.

The above arrangements are satisfactory. Legation is convinced, (and British Legation agrees), and urgent approval is recommended.

JOHNSON

DORFPW
10-17-44
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Stockholm
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: September 20, 1944
NUMBER: 3772

This message is repeated to London as No. 1121 today.

When Department determines policy concerning increased
applications for forwarding food parcels to civilians interned in Germany,
we ask that consideration be given to USC application V/781 to send 95
tons foodstuffs to Jew interned in Germany (received on behalf Swedish
Section of World Jewish Congress) at the same time.

Consignment will be forwarded in separate five kg parcels
and includes fifteen tons of American bacon and twenty tons of Danish
sugar.

JOHNSON

DCR: GPW
10-17-44
To: Mr. Stettinius  
From: J. W. Pohle

I wish to call your attention to the fact that recently the American Minister in Switzerland presented for the consideration of His Majesty the King of Sweden, and the Department and PCA in Washington, a food parcel program benefiting unarmed persons in camps in German-controlled territory. As you know, such a proposal parallels the War Refugee Board’s program of food parcels from this country benefitting the same category of people.

Needless to say, we are entitled at the prompt and positive manner in which the Department and PCA handled Minister Johnson’s request for authorization to ship these supplies. However, the fact that this matter was not called to the attention of the War Refugee Board has been a source of great embarrassment to us.

Since the establishment of the Board, the many private relief agencies in this country interested in this field of activity, which up to the time of the beginning of our package program was a matter that was dismissed quickly by interested governmental agencies, have been looking to the War Refugee Board to explore the possibilities of making projects of this nature possible. With specific reference to the Swedish program, the Joint Jewish Congress in the United States called this matter to our attention at the very moment when PCA and the Department was considering the matter. We had actually drafted and submitted a proposed cable to Minister Johnson asking for his recommendation with respect to the program. As our cable made its way from desk to desk in the Department, the proposal, without reference to the Board, had become
a reality, whereas our proposed cable emerged a tired and tenny paper.

I am not so much disturbed that the Department and FHA is at the present time ready to approve projects of this nature as I am over the fact that there seems to be no desire to clear requests of this nature with the Board, the governmental agency charged with the responsibility of bringing relief to these unfortunate victims of the war. I shall appreciate a word from you on this matter together with your assurances that in the future we will be consulted on undertakings of this nature.
CABLE TO MINISTER JOHNSON, STOCKHOLM, FROM OWEN FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

World Jewish Congress has called to the attention of Department and Board a proposed food parcel project benefiting detained persons Borgenseleman and other camps. Parcels to be made up in Sweden and shipped from that point. Hillel Storch, World Jewish Congress representative, Stockholm, can acquaint you with texts of his cables of September 6 and September 20. Department and Board desire your opinion of this parcel scheme. Specific information is desired as to who is to finance the project and what shipping facilities are currently available from Sweden to Germany. Recent Across shipments to Gothenburg, which include Prisoners of War and War Refugees Board packages, apparently have not yet gone forward to Germany due to shipping difficulties. We suggest that this matter be discussed with Intercross delegate with a view to determining Intercross interest, ability to supervise program. If favorable recommendation is received from you, Department, FEA and Board could be in a position to recommend favorable consideration of this program to Joint Relief Committee, NGO.

THIS IS WAR CABLE TO STOCKHOLM NO. 96—

11:30 a.m.
October 3, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sect'y) Abrahanson, Cohn, Dubois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Hamilton, McCormack, Files

[Signature]

F/N: McCormack 9/30/44
September 25, 1944

In reply please refer to no. 242

Mr. McCormick
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. McCormick:

I wish to confirm our telephone conversation of today regarding the cable we received from our representative in Stockholm, Mr. Hillel Storch.

I understand that you have not received any answer from Switzerland regarding the possibility of sending food parcels to Bergen-Belsen and other camps which have Jewish inmates mainly. To avoid any postponement of the possibility to help the endangered people in Bergen-Belsen, I understand that you will take up the matter to submit this question to the Swedish authorities with Mr. Fehle and Miss Hodell. I am extremely anxious to learn their decision as soon as possible.

Thank you for giving this matter your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Kurt R. Grossman
Assistant
Rescue Department

MR:erl
Dear Mr. Pehle:

May I refer to the following excerpt of a cable dated September 6th which we received from our Stockholm office on September 11, and the text of which was communicated to the Board orally:

"Swedish Government granted World Jewish Congress to buy and ship Bergenbelsen and other camps 100 tons foodstuffs including meat canned fish sugar vitamins dried milk dried eggs bread etc. stop Intervene urgently USA Government to grant license."

Today we received the following cable dated September 20th:

"Mine sixth September definite arrangement 20000 food packages 5 kilos each totalling 100000 kilos canned fish 20000 dried milk 20000 peasemel 2000 sugar 3000 canned sardines 3000 canned meat 10000 hard bread 15000 various canned foodstuffs 2500 sweet oil 2000 cod liver oil stop Swedish Government applied for navigation allied governments."

I would be extremely grateful to you for supporting the request of the Swedish Government with the blockade authorities.

Sincerely yours,

A. Leon Kubowitski
Head, Rescue Department
SECRETARY OF STATE
Washington.

6927, October 19, 11 a.m.
FOR WRB, McCLELLAND

Riehner of the World Jewish Congress, Geneva, informs me their representative at Stockholm, Nilolstorch, has secured permission of Swedish authorities and has purchased foodstuffs sufficient make up 40,000 five pound parcels intended for Jewish deportees in Borgholm-Bolson and Theresienstadt. Riehner has forwarded individual names and addresses of 2,200 Borgholm-Bolson and 4,000 Theresienstadt internees to Storch for initial shipment.

Storch wired Riehner October 13 that there was some difficulty concerning final export license. Swedes and I believe our Legation have requested assurance that International Red Cross would verify proper distribution and reception these parcels.

I discussed the matter with International Red Cross October 18. Committee states that as is known they have only
they have only been able visit Theresienstadt once and have not yet succeeded obtain permission visit Borgen- Bolson. Individual receipt card system, however, has produced very satisfactory results as far as both pieces are concerned, particularly Theresienstadt. Parcels from International Red Cross reach addresses regularly and as normally as can be expected under the circumstances. Hungarians from Borgen-Bolson now in Switzerland also report satisfactory arrival and distribution such parcels while they were there.

International Red Cross willing instruct their delegate in Sweden affix International Red Cross labels, enclose standard receipt cards these parcels.

Would much appreciate any stops you could take facilitate granting clearance this lot parcels.

Seems to me this project very similar $200,000 JDC-ICRC (Department's 437, February 9, noon 1944) program which was authorized although I am unacquainted source WIC funds used Stockholm purchase these foodstuffs.

View time element involved transport goods from overseas and increasingly difficult transport situation
-3- 6927, October 19, 11 a.m., from Bern

situation inside Germany and German occupied areas as well as scarcity purchasable foodstuffs, rapid used on goods immediately available in Europe most recommendable.

HARRISON

BB-
October 19, 1944

Memorandum for the File

On October 17, 1944, a meeting was convened in the office of the Special War Problems Division, Department of State. In attendance were Messrs. Lidrew Kupninger, S.W.P., Franklin Pollock, General Counsel's Office, FIA, and Paul J. McComb, War Refugee Board. The subject under discussion was the World Jewish Congress' proposal to ship clothing from the United States to unoccupied persons in Bergenbelsen and to a group of 1,000 refugees in Croatia (see WJC letters of October 5, 1944, relating to these two proposals).

FIA, who had also received copies of these specific letters, had already despatched a cable to London (London 8364, October 11, 1944) from Gordon to Grossman, endorsing the WJC proposal with respect to Bergenbelsen and asking him to concur. No reply has yet been received to this cable.

With respect to the 1,000 refugees in Croatia, there was attached to the World Jewish Congress letter of October 5, 1944, to FIA, the complete text of a letter from Hugo Volmer to the World Jewish Congress in the United States which was not attached to WRC's letter of the same date. (Carbon copy now attached to this memorandum.) The text of this letter made it appear that the refugees in question were not in enemy-occupied territory, but were presently located in Tito-liberated territory. Mr. Kupninger therefore indicated that FIA approval to ship clothing to this group was not necessary inasmuch as they were in territory liberated from the enemy. A "round robin" telephone conversation had had with Mr. Grossman of the World Jewish Congress in New York, during which Mr. Grossman was advised (a) that the proposal to ship clothing to Bergenbelsen had been submitted to A.I.R. in London with a recommendation that it be approved. The World Jewish Congress in the United States would be advised when reply is received from London. (b) that the World Jewish Congress should discuss with the Yugoslav Embassy in Washington the matter of shipping clothing to the refugees in Croatia through the medium of shipping facilities available to the Yugoslav representatives in this country, and if failure to secure shipping space through this source results, that the matter be referred to Mr. Philip F. Ryan, Foreign War Relief, American Red Cross, with a view to securing shipping space from that agency to the theater of operation.

Mr. Grossman expressed appreciation with respect to both proposals and indicated that the matter with respect to (b) would be immediately presented to the Yugoslav embassy in Washington.

Later Mr. Hathey, Assistant to Marc Peter, forwarded to the office (see attachment) a letter received from the International Committee which indicates that the International Committee is willing to receive and able to supervise the disposal of clothing to inmates of camps in Croatia.
June 28, 1944

Dear Friends,

You probably know that there are 2,700 Jews from Yugoslavia who saved themselves from Ustashi terror and found refuge in a camp on the island of Rab held by the Italians. After the Italians capitulated, about 600 of our people succeeded in getting to the British in Beli, while the remaining 2,100 were transported to Lika and the Kordun -- territories liberated by Marshal Tito. The entire youth, male and female, joined the partisans in their fight against the enemy and are still fighting heroically shoulder to shoulder with the Army of Liberation. Unfortunately a great number of them have already met a heroic death.

Approximately one thousand persons, mostly aged men and women, and children unfit for fighting, are settled under the most difficult conditions between Slunj and Gline, in the territory liberated by Tito, and unanimously wish to be transferred to a more secure place. -- We are living together with the peasants often in communities burned down and looted by the enemy, in the most primitive way. We sleep on dirt floors without straw and are fed mostly on corn and beans. The most difficult problem, however, is that we are surrounded by the enemy. Frequently attacked by his bands we have to escape in order not to be captured and killed. Unfortunately 300 of our group have already lost their lives. Partly because they were unable to move quickly enough, partly because they were not familiar with the surroundings and fell into enemy hands. In such instances we were forced to flee for our lives and to hide in
forests until the enemy withdrew from his robbing expedition. For the aged, the sick and the young ones, such excursions were catastrophic, because they meant physical suffering, hardship and hunger. During the last Ditačić robbing expedition, many of us had to fly 250 kilometers on foot and for 10 days had to live and sleep in rain and storms in the woods. Many among us gave taken their own lives because they could no longer endure the sufferings. All our possessions were lost during such flights. We lack the most elementary needs, particularly suits, underwear and shoes, especially the last which are worn out. Literally many of us are barefoot. Our money is gone and hunger is spreading. There is no help from anywhere. The Liberation Army is fighting under most difficult conditions and has enough trouble without us. I beg you urgently to describe our desperate situation to competent authorities with the plea that suits, underwear, boots and food as well as money be sent us by airplane and that they also try to evacuate us to Bari, because one thousand of us are threatened with extermination.

Very close to us we see Allied planes bringing food, clothing and medical supplies for the partisans. Such planes could gradually evacuate our group on their way back. Our authorities would like to help us, but they do not possess the means. There is no other way to get out from this place. Please help us urgently. One thousand souls await help.

With kindest regards

Yours, Hugo Wollner
Topusko, c/o John Gregoric via Bari
October 5, 1944

In reply please refer to letter no. 249

Hon. John W. Pehle, Executive Director  
War Refugee Board  
Treasury Building  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

With reference to the letter of September 29 sent to you by Dr. Kubowitzki in the interests of the Yugoslavian Jews in Topusko, I wish to inform you that our clothing division has 5000 pounds of clothing at its disposal in the event that there is a chance of sending this clothing to the unfortunate Jews in Topusko.

Would you be good enough to take up this matter with the authorities concerned? I have also approached Dr. Marc Péter of the International Red Cross, and I take the liberty of enclosing a copy of my letter to him.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

Kurt B. Grossman, Assistant  
Rescue Department

KRG:erl
October 5, 1944

Dr. Marc Peter, Delegate
International Committee of the Red Cross
1645 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Dr. Peter:

Enclosed you will find a letter from Teppako, o/o Joka Gregorio via Bart, by Hugo Wellner, which deals with the needs of about 1000 Yugoslavian Jews isolated in the woods of Croatia.

Again the question was raised of whether or not it will be possible to put clothing at the disposal of these unfortunate people. In bringing this letter to your attention, I wish to inform you that our clothing division has 5000 pounds of clothing at its disposal earmarked for this purpose.

I am writing also to the Foreign Economic Administration and the War Refugee Board in this matter, but I wanted to bring your attention to the urgency involved.

Very truly yours,

Kurt R. Grossman, Assistant
Rescue Department
In reply please refer to no. 249

Hon. John W. Peble, Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Peble:

Enclosed you will find a copy of our letter of September 29 sent to Dr. Marc Peter, of the International Red Cross, together with a copy of his answer. In compliance with the suggestion of Dr. Peter, I would indeed be grateful to you if you would be good enough to investigate the possibilities of sending clothing to Bergenbelsen. The cables reproduced in the letter to Dr. Peter manifest the urgency of the whole matter.

I would be very much obliged to you if you would give us the necessary information as soon as possible. Thank you for your cooperation.

Very truly yours,

Kurt B. Grossman, Assistant
Rescue Department
September 29, 1944

Dr. Marco Peter
International Committee of the Red Cross
1645 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington 9, D.C.

Dear Dr. Peter:

With reference to our telephone conversation of today, I wish to inform you that we received from our Geneva representative a cablegram as follows:

ASKING FURTHERMORE INTERVIEW AT ALLIED AUTHORITIES TO ISSUE NAVERS AND PERMIT DISPATCH WARM CLOTHES TO 1400 HUNGARIAN JEWS INTERNED CAMP BERGENBelsen AS APPROACHING WINTER TERM WILL PLACE THEM MOST PAINFUL CONDITION IF DISPATCH CLOTHES NOT IMMEDIATELY AUTHORIZED.

A second cablegram reached us today from our representative in Geneva stressing again the urgent necessity of sending clothing to Camp Bergenbelsen. It states as follows:

ACCORDING INFORMATION FROM PEOPLE ARRIVED HERE ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY SENDING REMAINING PEOPLE IN BERGENBelsen WARM CLOTHES OTHERWISE EVERYBODY WILL DIE SUPPLY FROM HERE IMPOSSIBLE PLEASE SEND CLOTHES FROM THERE TO INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS WITH DESTINATION BERGENBelsen STOP.

As I pointed out to you on the telephone, I would be grateful to learn whether the International Red Cross is in a position to accept this clothing for distribution in Camp Bergenbelsen.

I am looking forward to your earliest reply.

Very truly yours,

Kurt R. Grossman, Assistant Rescue Department

ERG 1
In replying, refer to 8/4/k

October 3, 1944

Mr. Kurt R. Grossman, Assistant
Rescue Department
World Jewish Congress
1334 Broadway
New York 23, New York

Dear Mr. Grossmann:

The question raised by your letter of September twenty-ninth must be investigated inasmuch as the regulations about sending supplies to concentration camps in Germany or elsewhere have been, in the past, related only to food supplies and not to clothing.

Before we ask Geneva whether or not clothes could be sent to Camp Bergenbelsen, I think you should ask either the W.R. Refugees Board or the Foreign Economic Administration whether the Blockade Authorities would authorize the sending to Switzerland of clothing besides the food supplies.

As soon as I know this is permissible, I shall ask Geneva whether they are in a position to send the clothing to Bergenbelsen.

Very truly yours,

Marc Peter
Delegate

MP: MJH
Comité International de la Croix Rouge à Genève, Suisse
Délégation aux États-Unis d'Amérique

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

1045 Connecticut Ave. N. W.
Washington 9, D. C.

October 17, 1944

War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D. C.

Attention Mr. F. J. McCormack

Gentlemen:

With reference to our telephone conversation of today, I confirm the request of our Geneva Headquarters for clothing to be distributed to inmates of the camps in Croatia.

The letter from Geneva on the subject reads: (translation)

Kindly point out to the War Refugee Board that it would be useful to the International Committee to have at its disposal clothing for this category of persons. At the same time we remind you of our project in our letter of 7/7 to the American Legation in Bern for relief to civilian prisoners.

Very truly yours,

F. Matthay
Assistant to the Delegate
The telegram must be transmitted before being communicated to anyone other than a Government Agency. (Too long)

Secretary of State, Washington,

6907, October 18, 9 p.m. (6907)

REW and EWD recommend approval of food parcel shipments to Jews interned in Germany on conditions given in Stockholm's 1881, October 14 to London, 4181 to Department. Embassy suggests that if Department and FEA also approve Stockholm's suggestion Legation be so informed without further reference to London. Sent Department as 6907, repeated Stockholm as 587. Embassy would appreciate Department's repeating to London telegram sent Stockholm.

WINANT

CONTROL COPY
Dear Mr. Peter:

I wish to acknowledge with thanks your letter of October 17, 1944, (S/4/C), enclosing photostatic copies of documents acknowledging receipt of relief parcels addressed to "Theresienstadt".

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

J. W. Pebble
Executive Director

Mr. Marc Peter,
Delegate
International Committee of the Red Cross,
1646 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.,
Washington 9, D. C.
Mr. J.W. Fehlau,
Executive Director,
Executive Office of the President,
War Refugee Board,
Washington 25, D.C.

My dear Mr. Fehlau,

I am sending you herewith photostat copies of documents acknowledging receipt of relief parcels addressed to "Theresienstadt.

We also attach copy of a document acknowledging receipt of 68 cases containing pharmaceutical products and tonics which have been addressed to the same ghetto by the Joint Relief Committee of the International Red Cross.

You will note that if for the period November 1st 1943 to March 29th 1944 we have succeeded in obtaining only one receipt for 6,194 parcels, the document for the period April 10th to July 3rd 1944 acknowledges receipt of 13,444 individual parcels.

We are forwarding these documents to you merely for information and as a proof that these relief parcels have reached Theresienstadt.

Sincerely yours,

MARC PETER,
Delegate.

enc.: 1 copy of letter
1 report - 16 pages.
Betreff: Postländungen aus Lissabon

Wir bestätigen hierdurch, dass in der Zeit vom 1. März bis 28.3.1944 insgesamt
6.194 Postpakete und Briefen aus Lissabon
in Theresienstadt eingegangen sind und den eingangs erwähnten-
gebäude zugestellt wurden, darunter

110 Einzelbriefe, 100 Einzelbriefe der Portugiesischen Post und
565 Einzelpakete in Sammelbriefen der Portugiesischen Post

Theresienstadt, den 29. März 1944

Judische Selbstverwaltung
Theresienstadt

Dr. Paul Israel Epstein

Best Available Copy
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<tr>
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<td>90-94</td>
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656 people
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</tr>
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</table>
WU36 27

CHICAGO ILL OCT 9 1255P
A J MCCORMICK, WAR REFUGEE BOARD
ROOM 413 US TREASURY BLDG
CANNING COMPANY DELIVERING CANS IN TIME SO CANS WILL BE IN
NEW YORK BY NOVEMBER 17TH. WRITE ME MINNEAPOLIS GIVING SHIPPING
INSTRUCTIONS SO CAN PRINT ON BOXES.

ARNOLD FEINBERG
2435P
From: Secretary of State, Washington
To: Embassy, Washington
Dated: October 7, 1944
Number: 8244

With regard to Embassy's 8097, dated September 28, and NEW on JAC application V/781 subject to provisions delineated in telegram under reference. In accordance with Legation's 4039, dated the fifth of October and repeated to London as 1210, which requests answer by the ninth of October, advise Stockholm at once.

CONTROL COPY

HULL

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 21 1972
WA2D DL PD

WUX CHICAGO ILL OCT 7 1159A
A J MCCORMACK WAR REFUGEE BOARD ROOM 4413

RECEIVED ORDER FROM AGRICULTURE TODAY SUBJECT DELIVERY NEW YORK NOVEMBER 17TH CANNING COMPANY WILL GIVE DEFINITE ANSWER AXX ON CANS BY NOON MONDAY WILL WIRE YOU MONDAY AFTERNOON

ARNOLD FEINBERG AMERICAN CAN CO

119P
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: AMERICAN LEGATION, STOCKHOLM
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: October 5, 1944
NUMBER: 4046

See Stockholm's 1146 of the twenty fifth of September to London, repeated to the Department as 3960; London's 313 of the thirtieth of September to Stockholm.

As yet the Polish relief consignment for Przemkos has not left. Plans had been made to route it by the Sassnitz Trelleborg Ferry which has been stopped now. The other possibilities for shipment are now being explored by the Poles. In addition this Legation is exploring the other possibilities in connection with dispatch of prisoner of war parcels to Germany including routing by Swedish rail and ferry to Denmark or carriage by German safe conduct vessel to German port. See message from the Department to London repeated as 3954 to Stockholm of the thirtieth of September; 3840 from the Legation of the twenty third of September. In addition, the Poles are awaiting German approval of travel of a representative whom Swedish Red Cross desires to send with consignment. The foregoing message was repeated to London as my 1214 of the fifth of October. This Legation will advise of method of shipment eventually utilized.

JOHNSON

DOR: HLG 12-4-44

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By E. H. Page dated SEP. 21, 1972
FROM: American Legation, Stockholm
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: October 5, 1944
NUMBER: 4039

U.S. URGENT

This cable refers to V/761, foodstuffs to Germany, and has today been repeated as No. 1210 to London.

Due to the fact that they believe opportunity of forwarding relief parcels to Germany for distressed Jewish internes may disappear shortly, a decision with regard to reference application is being urged by Jewish representatives in Sweden.

Unless it is possible for Department to communicate decision on entire application by October 9, approval of five tons by that date to cover most urgent cases is strongly recommended.

JOHNSON

10-17-44
Secretary of State,  
Washington,  

6625, October 5, noon
FOR ARR PROM HOODEL AND

Radio Sultao states they transmitted wire photo receipt card on September 22 and New York confirmed reception. Department's 3392, October 2. They are sending service check up; suggest meanwhile you ask Amcor to make further inquiries. Photo dispatched with designation for "For Amcor: Washington From Hoodeand, WORB".

HARRISON

For security reasons the text of this message must be closely guarded.
INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government Agency.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

MF-104

Bern

Dated October 4, 1944

Read 11:56 a.m.

SECRETARY OF STATE

Washington

6693, October 4, noon.

FOR WNB FROM MOORELAND

Department's 3361, September 29.

Received word October 3 from American Embassy London that food parcel proposal for French political internees in German camps has also been approved there.

Our sincere thanks for your successful efforts in obtaining so rapid a decision.

International Committee Red Cross advises consideration be given after consultation with American Red Cross to shipping balance 285,000 WNB parcels to Marseilles now rather than to Gothenburg. These are becoming increasingly necessary particularly for Jewish deportees in camps such as Bergen-Belsen as possibilities for International Committee Red Cross to purchase foodstuffs suitable for parcels in Europe are now practically nil.

HARRISON

RR
Cable to Minister Harrison, Bern, for McClelland from War Refugee Board.

Sample receipt card being forwarded to American Red Cross by wire photo September 22, re your 6263 of September 21, not yet received. Please follow up as failure to get receipt cards printed will automatically delay Amcross package production.

THIS IS WRR CABLE TO BERN NO. 195.

HULL

CONTROL COPY
CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON, HANK, FOR NG GLELLAND FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Sample receipt card being forwarded to American Red Cross by wire photo September 22, re your 6263 of September 21, not yet received. Please follow up as failure to get receipt cards printed will automatically delay across package production.

THIS IS WIRE CABLE TO HANK NO. 195.

9:40 a.m.
October 3, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mannon, McCormack, Cable Control Files

FJMccormack 10/3/44
October 2, 1944

Attention: Mr. McDonald

Dear Mr. O’Connori:

This is to confirm an agreement reached between Mr. McDonald of your staff and Mr. McCormack of my staff with respect to an additional item to be included in each of the 265,000 2-kilo parcels that will be packed and shipped by the American National Red Cross in conformity with our agreement of August 4, 1944.

It is recommended that, in addition to the items already suggested in our previous exchange of correspondence, there be added to each individual food parcel, one packet of ascorbic acid tablets, packed 7 to the packet and weighing 50 milligrams each. It will be appreciated if you will arrange to process the necessary requisitions covering the procurement of this item.

Very truly yours,

J. M. Pehle
Executive Director

The Honorable,
Basil O’Connor, Chairman,
American National Red Cross,
Washington 13, D. C.
This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government agency.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

October 2, 1944, 11 p.m.

Mr. Winant.

This recommendation in Department's 7949, September 29 concerning shipment of parcels to French political internees in Germany and Embassy has so informed Bern.

Mr. Winant.
September 20, 1944

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

This will acknowledge your letter of September 15, 1944, enclosing the memorandum from the President of the United States, and your letter of September 19, 1944, regarding food parcels for unassimilated persons in concentration and refugee camps located in Europe.

The War Food Administration will be glad to cooperate by acquiring the necessary food supplies.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]
Administrator
Favorable action on request set forth your 6586, September 23, has been recommended to London, with request that London communicate direct with Bern in regard thereto.

Hull

CONTROL COPY

Approved by:

MB - Miss Model
FRA - Mr. Kaiser

SEPTEMBER 27/44
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, London
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: September 28, 1944
NUMBER: 6097

Provided International Red Cross can substantiate the fact that the beneficiaries for whom they are intended will use foodstuffs, it is the feeling of EWO and JWW that consignment of ninety-three tons of foodstuffs to interned Jews in Germany (V/781) should be approved, in line with Foot - Berlin agreement. The approval of Legation should be contingent on approval by IRC of five kg parcels, or alternatively, of packaging of foodstuffs in three kg parcels in Sweden, in view of statement made formerly by IRC that three kg instead of five kg parcels are required for concentration camps. Embassy will advise Stockholm, should you concur in the above.

VIAHARI

ICORPJW
10-17-44

CONTROL COPY

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 21 1972
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

To: London
From: Secretary of State
Dated: September 27, 1944
Number: 7881

This message from FEA and Department,
We do not object to shipment of supplies in manner
described in Stockholm's 1146, September 25 to London,
repeated as 3866, September 25 to Department. You may
so inform Stockholm if NEW concurs.

In connection with the onward shipment of prisoner
of war supplies now in Goteborg, Department would be
interested in knowing by what means shipment is to be
accomplished of Polish relief supplies from Sweden.

HULL

CONTROL COPY

6600.48/9-2544

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 21 1972
KEM-368
This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government agency.

The following telegram has been sent to London:

Stockholm
Dated September 26, 1944
Read 10:14 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington,

3966, September 26, 6 p.m.

The following telegram has been sent to London:

1145, September 25, 6 p.m.

There is no representative of International Red Cross now in Sweden but Swedish Red Cross is satisfied that distribution of Polish relief for Pruskow (repeat Pruszkow) will be handled without supplies falling into enemy hands. It states transportation will be through Swedish and German Red Cross but will be checked by International Red Cross and distribution subject to International Red Cross control. My 3966, September 25, 6 p.m. repeats this telegram to Department.

Unless Washington or London has an objection, Legation assumes that this will be satisfactory and is so advising Poles. British concour. London's 459, September 19, 7 p.m. to Legation and Department's 7605, September 18, to London.

JOHNSON

WMF NFL
Honorable Basil O'Connor  
Chairman, American National Red Cross  
Washington, D. C.  

Attention: Mr. MacDonald  

Dear Mr. O'Connor:

As per a discussion between Mr. MacDonald of your Prisoner of War staff and Mr. McCormack of my staff, an agreement was reached with respect to the markings that are to appear on the outer shipping cartons in which will be packed six three-kilo parcels.

It was agreed that these markings would be as follows: On each of the two ends there would appear

TO: INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS COMMITTEE

WEIGHT: 43 lbs.  
CUBIC FEET: 1.32

There shall also appear on the two ends and two sides an identifying circle five inches in outside diameter with a 3/4" ring in color. The purpose of this identifying mark is to expedite the handling of that portion of any shipment which is directed to the International Committee for distribution to persons in concentration camps as opposed to the manner in which your regular prisoner of war packages are marked.

Attached you will find copies of our outgoing cable to Switzerland of September 16 in which was raised the specific questions as suggested by the Prisoner of War unit, together with the incoming answer from the American Mission in Switzerland, dated September 21.

Sincerely yours,

cc: Mr. George Smith  
Mr. Robert LeFevre

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Attachments

PMcCormack 9/25/44
FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: September 27, 1944
NUMBER: 6269

McClelland renders the following for the War Refugee Board:

Following referred to London.

You are informed that Legation's cable of today's date refers to Department's cable of August 11, 1944, no. 2769.

HARRISON

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 21 1972
Proposed Cable in Answer to 6306, September 23, from Bern in Collaboration with Koppinger and Kaler

To London

From Department, WFS and FA.

Be Bern's telegram September 23 repeated to London concerning ICRC request to forward to French political internees in Germany 40,000 parcels originally intended for French prisoners of war from North Africa. Parcels would be distributed in manner specified in Bern's 1252, July 18 to London.

We have no objection to this request and recommend that favorable action thereto be taken by the Relief Subcommittee. If we concur we suggest that Bern be so informed direct.

To Bern

Favorable action on request set forth your 6306, September 23 has been recommended to London with request that London communicate direct with Bern in regard thereto.
In line with ICRC's food parcel program for political prisoners in concentration camps in Germany following request was received from ICRC on September 22.

A stock of food parcels originally sent by relief organizations in French North Africa on behalf of next of kin has been stored in Switzerland for many months. These parcels were originally intended for French prisoners of war from North Africa scattered throughout prison camps in Germany and particularly for French colonial prisoners of war in camps in former German occupied France who cannot now be practically reached.

Delegation of Red Cross societies of French Empire acting for "commission for prisoners deportees and refugees" (pdrs) has expressed its urgent wish to ICRC to use 40,000 of these parcels out of total of approximately 280,000 for French political interned in Germany under ICRC-MWB parcel program for this category of Nazi victims.

But since...
But since these parcels were shipped to Switzerland
in agreement with blockade authorities for prisoners
of war special permission would be required as in
the case of salvaged CRISTINA goods to use them for
a different category of beneficiaries.

In view of fact that some time will elapse before
WRB's 285,000 parcels can reach camps in Germany and
that even 15000 recently unloaded at Gothenburg cannot
be dispatched immediately due to shipping difficulties
ICRC would be very grateful if with support of WRB the
necessary authorization could be secured to use forty
thousand of these parcels. I warmly second ICRC's
request since these parcels could be forwarded to
Germany at very short notice to take advantage of
rapidly dwindling transport facilities.

Such parcels would naturally be under the terms
agreed to and with ICRC guarantees as set forth in
Legation's 4578 July 18 (262 to London).

An early answer would be most appreciated.

Repeated to London:

HARRISON
McClelland sends the following to War Refugee Board:

Although I will endeavor to obtain more exact information in collaboration with IROC relative to camp of Frotigen and other recent concentrations of Baltic Jews in East Prussia, it is meanwhile respectfully pointed out that unfortunately IROC has no "program" which could be considered capable of preserving from death the inmates of such camps, particularly if they are under U.S. control which is probable. In addition attention is drawn to the fact that at present East Prussia is scene of very active military operations which will make it doubly difficult to render effective intervention on behalf of inmates of Jewish camps.

In an effort to obtain information on camps in Austria, Jewish and otherwise, all possible steps are being undertaken.

Reference is made in the foregoing to the Legation's September 21 cable No. 6255 and the Department's September 19 cable No. 6255.

HARRISON

0/22/44
Secretary of State,  
Washington.

6263, September 21, 6 p.m.
FOR WBE FROM MCCLELLAND.

Department's 3206, September 16.

ICRC has just received report from its delegates in Gothenburg concerning 15,000 parcels which arrived on GRIPSHOLM. Regarding one lot comprising 1,687 shipping cartons containing 10,000 parcels, he states that individual parcel cartons were too large for contents which had moved around with result that considerable portion of sugar, for example, was lost. Balance of 5000 parcels were packed in smaller cartons so that contents were intact although tape incircling them was too weak to permit reshipping by mail without reconditioning. ICRC delegate further reports that outside of individual parcel cartons bore various texts in English which will make mailing into Germany for concentration camps difficult.

As regards packaging of future shipment of 285,000 parcels, ICRC strongly recommends that individual parcel cartons be
cartons be compact, sturdy, not too large for contents, and bear on exterior no (repeat no) printing whatsoever in any language; outer shipping carton should also be plain with exception of address "Delegates of International Committee of The Red Cross, Gothenburg, Sweden."

Regarding receipt cards, those enclosed in original 15,000 parcels were unfortunately not entirely satisfactory. ICRC asks that American Red Cross have receipt cards printed according to sample being forwarded to American Red Cross by wirephoto September 22. Such receipt cards should be included in 185,000 parcels which will be sent into camps in collective shipments.

The balance of 100,000 parcels should contain no receipt cards whatsoever. ICRC will use these for individual mailing and will attach to each a special tag, back of which constitutes a receipt to be returned to ICRC, Geneva. Such tags have been used with considerable success so far.

Very encouraging results have been recently obtained with first batch of parcels made up from Cristina goods and ICRC has already gotten back about 1500 receipt cards from camp of Dachau alone, each one bearing signatures and numbers of from 1 to 15 prisoners so that valuable data on at least five times number of prisoners as parcels sent has been received.

ICRC states that
ICRC states that considerable difficulty is being encountered transshipping parcels Gothenburg to Germany concerning which I assume American Red Cross is keeping you posted.

Please express to American Red Cross ICRC's warm appreciation of their invaluable aid in making up these parcels.