

Programs with Respect to Relief
and Rescue of Refugees; Food Plans
for Unassimilated Persons

Food Packages for Unassimilated
Persons, Vol. 4 Folder 2
36-54

Back to front
filing

000216

FOOD PACKAGES FOR UNASSIMILATED PERSONS
(CONTINUED)

Cable #9 to American Consul, Johannesburg	Jan. 4, 1945	1
Memorandum to Mr. Penle from Miss Hodel	Jan. 5, 1945	2
WJS Letter and Letter from H.F. Brees, Director of Prisoner of War Information Bureau re: Parcel Labels	Jan. 10, 1945	3
Cable #212 from Bern	Jan. 12, 1945	4
Letter from American R. & Cross	Jan. 14, 1945	5
Memorandum to Mr. Penle from Mr. Meak	Jan. 15, 1945	6
Letter to Mr. Penle from Mr. McClelland, and Detailed Distribution Chart	Jan. 15, 1945	7
Letter to W. W. Parsons, Procurement Division, from Miss Hodel	Jan. 16, 1945	8
Letter to WRB from W. W. Parsons, Procurement Division	Undated	9
Memorandum to Sec. Morgenthau from Mr. Penle	Jan. 18, 1945	10
Letter to the President from Mr. Penle	Jan. 19, 1945	11
Draft of Memorandum for: Sec. of the Treasury Chairman of American Red Cross War Refugee Board Delivered to the Bureau of Budget by Mr. McCormack	Jan. 22, 1945	12
Cable #465 from Bern	Jan. 22, 1945	13
Letter to WRB from Arnold Feinberg, Reply 1/26/45	Jan. 28, 1945	14
Cable #142 (WRB 297) to Stockholm	Jan. 28, 1945	15
Letter to WRB from WJO	Jan. 28, 1945	16
Cable #254 from Stockholm	Jan. 30, 1945	17
Memorandum to Mr. McCormack from Miss Okun re: Phone Call from Mr. Latta's Office	Jan. 30, 1945	18
Letter to Mr. McCormack from H. W. Francis of WFA	Jan. 30, 1945	19
Cable #172 (WRB 301) to Stockholm	Jan. 31, 1945	20
Letter to WRB from WJO	Jan. 31, 1945	21
Memorandum for: Sec. of the Treasury Chairman of American Red Cross Executive Director of WRB Signed by President Roosevelt	Jan. 31, 1945	22
Memorandum to Mr. Meak from Miss Hodel with Attachments	Jan. 31, 1945	23
Cable #690 from Bern	Jan. 31, 1945	24
Cable #206 (WRB 134) to Lisbon	Feb. 2, 1945	25
Letter to Mr. McClelland	Feb. 2, 1945	26
Cable #744 (Copy) from Bern	Feb. 2, 1945	27
Cable #218 (WRB 304) to Stockholm	Feb. 3, 1945	28
Cable #893 (WRB 480) to Bern	Feb. 6, 1945	29
Cable #925 to London	Feb. 7, 1945	30
Memorandum to DVS, Bills, Bureau of Internal Revenue from Miss Hodel	Feb. 8, 1945	31
Letter to Procurement Division from Gen. O'Dwyer	Feb. 9, 1945	32
Letter to Basil O'Connor, American R. & Cross	Feb. 9, 1945	33
Memorandum to Mrs. Dean from Mr. McCormack	Feb. 9, 1945	34
Memorandum to Gen. O'Dwyer from Mr. Arzin & Mr. McCormack re: Trucks for IRC	Feb. 10, 1945	35
Letter from IORC of 2/7/45 and Copy of Letter to McClelland in Bern - Reply	Feb. 10, 1945	36
Letter to E. J. Roszbick, FEA from Miss Hodel	Feb. 12, 1945	37
Letter to Mr. Chick, OPA, from Miss Hodel	Feb. 12, 1945	38
Cable #256 (WRB 140) to Lisbon	Feb. 12, 1945	39
Cable #258 (WRB 309) to Stockholm	Feb. 12, 1945	40
Cable #322 (Lisbon 315) from Lisbon	Feb. 12, 1945	41

000217

Cable #1559 from London	Feb. 13, 1945	42
Letter from American Red Cross		
Reply 2/21/45	Feb. 16, 1945	43
Cable #1056 from Bern	Feb. 16, 1945	44
Memorandum to Files from Mr. McCormack	Feb. 16, 1945	45
Cable # 357 (Lisbon 325) from Lisbon	Feb. 16, 1945	46
Cable #358 (Lisbon 322) from Lisbon	Feb. 16, 1945	47
Memorandum to Gen. O. Pyper from Mr. McCormack	Feb. 19, 1945	48
Cable #676 (Stock 125) from Stockholm	Feb. 22, 1945	49
Cable #804 (WRB 417) to Bern	Feb. 23, 1945	50
Cable # 1897 from London	Feb. 23, 1945	51
Copy of Cable #1217 from Bern	Feb. 24, 1945	52
Letter to WRB from OPA	Feb. 28, 1945	53
Cable #1528 (WRB 49) to London	Feb. 28, 1945	54

000218

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000219

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. ()

February 28, 1945
8 p.m.

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES

MAR 1 PM 4 58

DC/L
LIAISON

CONTROL COPY

AMEMBASSY

LONDON
1528

Please deliver paraphrase of the following very confidential message (WRB 49) to Dr. Schwartz and Commander Linder from M. A. Leavitt of American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

QUOTE Assume Linder discussed with you projected feeding program through Intercross among internees concentration and labor camps for which substantial funds now available in Switzerland may be utilized. General ODwyer planning proceed Switzerland near future and suggest that you go Switzerland soonest possible in order explore with McClelland Saly Mayer possibility securing supplies trucks and so forth prior his arrival. We strongly approve your going, outlook encouraging for real program advise your plans. Question of Linder proceeding Switzerland awaiting clearance. UNQUOTE

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

WRB:MMV:KG
2/26/45

BC

WE

SWP

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

000220

CABLE TO AMERICAN EMBASSY, LONDON, FOR NAME FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Please deliver the following very confidential message to
Dr. Schwartz and Commander Linder from H. A. Leavitt of American
Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

QUOTE ASSUME LINDER DISCUSSED WITH YOU PROPOSED FEEDING
PROGRAM THROUGH INTERCROSS AMONG INTERCROSS CONCENTRATION
AND LABOR CAMPS FOR WHICH SUBSTANTIAL FUNDS NOW AVAILABLE
IN SWITZERLAND MAY BE UTILIZED. GENERAL OFFICER PLANNING
PROCEED SWITZERLAND NEAR FUTURE AND SUGGEST THAT YOU GO
SWITZERLAND SOONEST POSSIBLE IN ORDER REPLACE WITH MOBIL-
LAND BALLY MARKET POSSIBILITY SECURING SUPPLIES TRUCKS AND
SO FORTH PRIOR HIS ARRIVAL. WE STRONGLY APPROVE YOUR
GOING, OUTLOOK ENCOURAGING FOR REAL PROGRAM ADVISE YOUR
PLANS. QUESTION OF LINDER PROCEEDING SWITZERLAND AWAITING
CLEARANCE. UNQUOTE

THIS IS WRB LONDON CABLE NO. 49.

copy sent to JDC 2/23/45

3:15 p.m.
February 23, 1945

Miss Chauncey (for the Sect'y), Akzin, Cohn, DuBois, Gaston,
Hodel, Hutchison, McCormack, O'Dwyer, Files

RH Hutchison 2/23/45

[Handwritten initials]

000221

February 21, 1945.

Cable to Dr. Schwartz, London, thru WRB

ASSUME LINDER DISCUSSED WITH YOU PROJECTED FEEDING PROGRAM THROUGH INTERCROSS
AMONG INTERNEES CONCENTRATION AND LABOR CAMPS FOR WHICH SUBSTANTIAL FUNDS NOW
AVAILABLE IN SWITZERLAND MAY BE UTILIZED. GENERAL ODWYER PLANNING PROCEED
SWITZERLAND NEAR FUTURE AND SUGGESTED THAT YOU GO SWITZERLAND SOONEST POSSIBLE
IN ORDER EXPLORE WITH MCCLELLAND SALLY MAYER POSSIBILITY SECURING SUPPLIES
TRUCKS AND SO FORTH PRIOR HIS ARRIVAL. ^{We strongly approve your going,} OUTLOOK ENCOURAGING FOR REAL PROGRAM
PROVIDED INTERCROSS RECEIVES NECESSARY CLEARANCES. ADVISE YOUR PLANS.

LEAVITT - JDC

Question of
Linder proceeding Switzerland not yet brought
up with Board will advise somewhat

000222



000223

OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

File 3/17/45
FEB 28 1945 *JFW*

Executive Office of the President
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D. C.

Attention: Miss Florence Hodel,
Assistant Executive Director

In reply refer to: 702:MBB

Gentlemen:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated February 12, 1945 in which you request certificates with which to acquire rationed foods for export to the International Committee of the Red Cross.

We are referring your letter to the District Office of the Office of Price Administration in Washington, D. C. Under General Ration Order 17, covering the method of obtaining ration evidences for foods to be exported, certificates for that purpose are issued by the District Offices of the OPA upon proper application therefor. If you would get in touch with that office I am sure your request will be taken care of.

Very truly yours, |

Seymour Friedman
Seymour Friedman, Chief
Food Branch, Rationing



000224

62

000225

Hand Rky

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: February 24, 1945
NUMBER: 1217
X

The following message is from McClelland for WRB.

The nineteenth of February, I had occasion to discuss with Dr. Marti, Chief ICRC Delegate from Berlin the current situation in Germany of "Schutzhaeflinge" and Jewish deportees.

See Legation's 455 of the twenty second of January, 744 of the second of February and 1159 of the twenty second of February.

It seems that the Nazis are evacuating concentration camp inmates and regrouping them in two general areas: Between Hamburg and Luobek (with headquarters located at concentration camp of Neuengamme near Hamburg) and Munich, with headquarters at Dachau camp. It is reported by Marti that conditions of frightful crowding already existing in Neuengamme and Dachau where concentrates, who are almost all in very poor physical condition from prolonged undernourishment and mistreatment, after days on foot arrive in state of utter exhaustion. As a result of evacuation measures a great many have already died. A most convincing case for urgent need of transportation equipment was given by Marti, stating that invaluable aid could be rendered to at least some thousands if a few trucks were on hand. Marti forsooks no difficulty as regards permission to distribute relief parcels on spot in such assembly camps, in view of general willingness of SS officials to cooperate with ICRC repeatedly demonstrated since January and of general state of confusion.

For Hamburg region, parcels could come from WRB stocks at Goteborg where some 220 odd thousand of our parcels are stocked still. For Munich area, parcels could be trucked from Switzerland over this comparatively short distance. At this time we have 60,000 WRB parcels in Toulon unloaded from CARITAS II during January against which arrangement to borrow pending arrival these parcels in Switzerland could doubtless be made with ICRC.

As regards

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Akzin, Cohn, DuBois, Gaston, Hodel, Hutchison, McCormack, O'Dwyer, Files

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

000226

- 2 -

As regards reception parcels, situation all Allied POWs is essentially same as that of civil detainees due to impossibility for ICRC secure adequate rail transport, although POWs are in better physical condition in general and less liable to die of starvation.

I take liberty of renewing my request that WRB either arrange place my disposal four or five trucks for ICRC or, if this is not practical, authorize me attempt secure them in Switzerland, in light of urgency of this critical situation. Before they would permit vehicles to leave Switzerland for utilization in Germany, the Swiss Army would doubtless request guarantee of replacement within reasonable time of at least tires, if not trucks themselves. From amounts granted ICRC for POW trucks, small supply of fuel and oil could be made available.

Recommend serious and prompt consideration of this request as there are only few weeks or at most months remaining in which to take effective measures. We are positive action of this nature would serve to implement activities by Swiss officials and ICRC requested in your late messages.

HARRISON

DC/L:KLG
2-26-45

000227

000228

Food PKgs for
unassisted persons

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, London
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: February 23, 1945
NUMBER: 1897
X

War Ref Bd.
(Gen. of Dwyer)

CONTROL COPY

The following is for FEA and the Department.

British approval to transfer of 5000 pounds to Sweden for food parcels for Jews in Theresienstadt and Bergenbelsen has been asked by Mr. Zelmanovitz, Secretary General of the European Division of World Jewish Congress. Transfer of funds has been agreed to by British Treasury. MEM will inform the British Legation in Stockholm, unless you see objection, that it may approve shipments of food parcels provided (1) that parcels are sent through Swedish RBC Cross IRC or YMCA and bear labels of one of those organizations (2) that not more than 10003 three kilo parcels are despatched at one time and that additional shipments are not allowed unless following conditions are met; (A) IRC is notified of despatch of parcels and is requested to verify safe arrival whenever representatives visit camp (B) senders are notified by camp council of receipt of parcels and (C) receipts accompany each parcel; Legations to spot check returns.

We discussed foregoing with Surrey of Legation Stockholm when he was in London on way to Washington. Doubt was expressed by him whether condition (1) above would be met. You may want to discuss it with him further.

Early indication of your views would be appreciated by EWD.

MVB 12 JUN 11 12

EDWARD GEORGE BOYD
SECRETARY

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

000229



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000230

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

MS
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. ([redacted])
February 2 p.m.

Wm R. B.
Seeger

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FEB 27 1945
CONTROL COPY

AMERICAN

DEAN
804

The following for McClelland is WRB 417.

Reference your 1056 of February 16. Please
cable whether Schutzhaftlinge include persons
actively engaged in labor for Germany and whether
the national groups to which ICRC parcels are to
be sent comprise or exclude Jews of the respective
nationalities.

GREW
(Acting)
()

[redacted]
For security reasons the
text of this message must
be closely guarded.

WRB:LV:RG
2/23/45

RE

UWP

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

000231

CABLE TO AMERICAN LEGATION, BERN, FOR MCCLELLAND, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Reference your 1056 of February 16. Please cable whether Goinz-
haeftlinge include persons actively engaged in labor for Germany and
whether the national groups to which ICRC parcels are to be sent comprise
or exclude Jews of the respective nationalities.

THIS IS WUB BERN CABLE NO. 417/

4:30 p.m.
February 22, 1945

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Akzin, Cohn, DuBois, Gaston, Hodel,
McCormack, O'Dwyer, Files

BAkzin:ar 2/21/45

RA JA

000232



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000233

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

CONTROL COPY

near Ref Fed
O. Blum

LFG-701
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. (██████ W)

Stockholm

Dated February 22, 1945

Rec'd 3:45 a.m., 23rd

Secretary of State,
Washington.

676, February 22, 7 p.m.

THIS OUR 125 FOR WRB

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FEB 24 1945
DC/L
LIAISON OFFICE

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

Problem of sending food parcels to Bergen-Belsen,
the Resienstadt and other camps has been explored with
local representatives of World Jewish Congress and
other groups. I reply to WRB 301 (Department's 173,
January 31, 7 p.m.).

Local group now has license to send 93,000 kilos food.
Up to present 20,000 packages containing 50,000 kilos
food have been forwarded. Of this number 11,000 sent
to the Resienstadt, 7,000 to Bergen-Belsen and 2,000
to other camps. Local group has addresses of 25,000
in former camp, 7,000 in latter and 2 or 3,000 in
other camps so if only one package sent monthly to
each, license for 30,000 parcels or 70,000 kilos would
be required monthly. That packages arrived is confirmed
by wires from persons in Switzerland recently freed
from camps who stress vital importance of parcels.

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

000234

-2-#676, February 22, 7 p.m., from Stockholm

Plans being pushed to send soon balance of food parcels authorized under original license. At present packages 12,500 kilos ready to go. As WRB knows, packages being shipped through Hamburg forwarding agents against guaranteed reimbursement if parcels not delivered.

Local group proposed program for February and March requiring one million kronor distributed as follows: medical supplies 300,000, clothing 500,000, for (*) 24,000 food parcels 200,000. No arrangements made to obtain medicines or clothing and new licenses required for entire program. Olsen thinks program somewhat ambitious but will assist in pushing it if WRB is in favor and in position to arrange financing and necessary licenses. Regarding transportation best prospect seems to be Bergen-Belsen.

JOHNSON

RR

(*) apparent omission

000235



48

000236

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE
February 19, 1945

TO : The Executive Director

FROM : P. J. McCormack

Permit me to point out that there is, according to authorities such as OSS, State Department, and UNRRA, an over-all total of 8,500,000 United Nations nationals detained or held in concentration camps in German-controlled territory. Of these, an estimated 1,500,000 are categorized as military prisoners of war and civilian internees (United States and British nationals only), the treatment of whom is covered by the Geneva Convention of 1929. This leaves an estimated figure of 7,000,000 United Nations nationals who are under German control, unassimilated under the Geneva Convention, who may be categorized as either in concentration camps or members of slave labor battalions. This figure includes 200-520,000 Jews.

In connection with any proposed expansion of a feeding operation, under ICRC auspices, it should be noted that unless the program is completely unrestricted with respect to race, color, and creed, the ICRC will refuse to function (as they have in the past) unless there is complete freedom of action.

P. J. M.

000237

February 19, 1945

: The Executive Director

: P. J. McCormack

Permit me to point out that there is, according to authorities such as OSS, State Department, and UNRRA, an over-all total of 8,500,000 United Nations nationals detained or held in concentration camps in German-controlled territory. Of these, an estimated 1,500,000 are categorized as military prisoners of war and civilian internees (United States and British nationals only), the treatment of whom is covered by the Geneva Convention of 1929. This leaves an estimated figure of 7,000,000 United Nations nationals who are under German control, unassimilated under the Geneva Convention, who may be categorized as either in concentration camps or members of slave labor battalions. This figure includes 200-520,000 Jews.

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OK FJMcCormack:agr 2/19-45 P.J.M.

000238

February 19, 1945

: The Executive Director

: P. J. McCormack

Permit me to point out that there is, according to authorities such as OSS, State Department, and UNRRA, an over-all total of 8,600,000 United Nations nationals detained or held in concentration camps in German-controlled territory. Of these, an estimated 1,500,000 are categorized as military prisoners of war and civilian internees (United States and British nationals only), the treatment of whom is covered by the Geneva Convention of 1929. This leaves an estimated figure of 7,000,000 United Nations nationals who are under German control, unassimilated under the Geneva Convention, who may be categorized as either in concentration camps or members of slave labor battalions. This figure includes 200-520,000 Jews.

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PJM
OK PJMcCormack:agr 2/19-45

000239



47

000240

Food Packages

358
2/16

February 17, 1945

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Harold Trobe was received through the American Legation in Lisbon under date of February 16, 1945:

"Saly advises he recently gave Dutch Committee Swiss francs 100,000 permitting them purchase approximately 10,000 parcels. Also Saly regularly in touch with Dutch representative and rendering all possible assistance. Saly shipping parcels through intercross to all camps and taking maximum number parcels procurable this source."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Florence Hodel

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

Mr. M. A. Leavitt, Secretary,
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,
New York 16, New York.

RBH
RBHutchison: 2/17/45

000241

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

JFL-663

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
PLAIN

Mar Rep 2nd
Gen. Dwyer

1945 FEB 17 AM 10 05

Lisbon

Dated February 16, 1945

Rec'd 4:35 p.m.

COMMUNICATIONS
SECTION
(LISBON)

Secretary of State

Washington

CONTROL COPY

358, Sixteenth

WRB 322 JDC 176 FOR LEAVITT FROM HAROLD TROBE.

Your 140.

Saly advises he recently gave Dutch committee Swiss francs 100,000 permitting them purchase approximately 10,000 parcels. Also Saly regularly in touch with Dutch representative and rendering all possible assistance. Saly shipping parcels through intercross to all camps and taking maximum number parcels procurable this source.

CROCKER

DU

RECEIVED
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
FEB 17 1945

000242



46

000243

357
2/17/45
J. H. ...

February 17, 1945

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Mr. Trobe was received through the American Legation in Lisbon under date of February 16, 1945:

"Further our 171 Gottfarb reports Congress parcels to Theresienstadt started again February 13th and still going Bergenbelsen in all 500 per day. Expects Congress license finishing about 6 weeks when he will be ready step in our behalf. Negotiations started and proceeding well. We advised him use \$20,000 for medicines food clothing Poland from \$36,000 sent Margolis December. Suggest you replace funds soonest so he will have funds start parcels."

Very truly yours,

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

Mr. M. A. Leavitt,
Secretary,
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,
New York 16, New York.

RBH
RBHutchison: 2/17/45

000244

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

MES-660

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

PLAIN

War Ref. Bd.
Gen. O. Sawyer

1945 FEB 17 AM 10 15

Lisbon

Dated February 16, 1945

Rec'd. 4:46 p.m.

Secretary of State (LISBON)

Washington.

CONTROL COPY

357, Sixteenth

WRB 323 JDC 177 FOR LEAVITT FROM TROBE

Further our 171 Gottfarb reports Congress parcels to Theresienstadt started again February 13th and still going Bergenbelsen in all 500 per day. Expects Congress license finishing about 6 weeks when he will be ready step in our behalf. Negotiations started and proceeding well. We advised him use \$20,000 for medicines food clothing Poland from \$36,000 sent Margolis December. Suggest you replace funds soonest so he will have funds start parcels.

CROCKER

DU

000245

000246

February 16, 1945

Memorandum for the Files

A telephone call was made to Mr. George Hawthorne, Assistant Chief, Supplies, Treasury Procurement Division, in New York.

The purpose of the call was to advise Mr. Hawthorne that (1) War Refugee Board had formally requested the Blockade Division of FEA to issue an emergency food allocation covering the food items in the proposed WRB parcels, and (2) War Refugee Board had formally requested the Office of Price Administration Rationing Division to issue the necessary rationing certificates for the four items rationed in the WRB parcels--oleomargarine, cheese, meat, and sugar.

Mr. Hawthorne explained that he was still canvassing the field with respect to the contractor with whom Treasury Procurement would do business. In this connection, I informed him that in addition to the firms with whom he was already in negotiation--General Foods, Standard Brands, the Williams Company, the Prince Company, Sweetlife Food Corporation--~~that~~ War Food Administration had indicated that Lamont Corliss & Co. and Yardley & Co., Ltd., both of New York, had likewise been performers on behalf of the American National Red Cross when that organization had their prisoner-of-war parcels packed commercially. I also informed him that Mr. Philip E. Ryan of the American National Red Cross, Foreign War Relief Division, had offered as a possible suggestion the firm of Parcels for the Forces of New York City; also that Wallace, Burton & Davis Co., Inc., performed for the American Jewish Joint Distribution Company (acting as agent for WRB) in connection with the 15,000 food parcels the Board dispatched in August 1944.

I informed Mr. Hawthorne that informal clearance with War Food Administration officials has made it reasonably evident that that agency will make available such so-called "tight items" to whichever vendor or vendors Treasury Procurement finally designated. However, it will not be necessary to formally request this service of War Food Administration until such time as a contract has been consummated.

Mr. Hawthorne informed me that he plans to canvass the above field of private packers and any others that might be brought to his attention and will advise me when the contract has been let so that Miss Hodel can call the matter of clearance of the contract to the Chief Counsel's Office, Treasury Procurement.


P. F. McCormack

000247

February 16, 1945

Memorandum for the Files

A telephone call was made to Mr. George Hawthorne, Assistant Chief, Supplies, Treasury Procurement Division, in New York.

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P. J. McCormack

FJM:ar 2/16/45

000248

000249

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF THE RED CROSS

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: February 16, 1945
NUMBER: 1056
X

CONTROL COPY

From McClelland for the attention of the Department and WRB.
Reference is made herein to the Legation's cable of January 27, No. 581.

In regard to possible protective and relief action for all categories of unassimilated persons in Germany, particularly those termed Schutzhaeftlinge (SH), I have recently received the following extremely confidential information.

A member of ICRC's Berlin delegation, Dr. Schirmer, who was previously very active in Budapest and Vienna, submitted to ICRC on January 24, a confidential memorandum which in effect was as follows: Schirmer and a colleague were put in touch with Obersturmbann Fuehrer Dr. Berndorf, Chief Des Sicherheitsdienstes und Abwehr Fuer die Schutzhaeftlinge, whose office was located at Zimmerstrasse 19 Berlin, by a certain SS General Lieutenant Mueller. Following preliminary conversations with Schirmer, characterized as cordial, Berndorf took them to headquarters of Nazi concentration camp system at Oranienburg. Further conversations were held there with Obergruppen Fuehrer Glueck (also a General Lieutenant in Waffen SS) director of all concentration-camps, standartenfuehrer Dr.

Loling

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

000250

Poling head medical officer of concentration camps, and Glueck's adjutant Obersturmbannführer Hoess. Explaining that Dachau near Munich was to become central assembly and clearing camp for all SH, the SS men seemed most willing to discuss ways and means of needed ICRC relief to concentration camp inmates. Apparently, the transfer of large numbers of SH was already under way from east and north. In Dachau, where central administration including questions of food and transport would be located, there was to be a system of smaller subsidiary camps radiating from that point. Truck transportation facilities for distribution of relief parcels was offered to ICRC by the SS, and they explained that, as far as control was concerned, men of confidence of various national groups would be stationed at Dachau, and that the ICRC could maintain contact with these men. Since the SH were being continually transferred around now and parcels would doubtless never catch up with them, the SS felt it inadvisable to continue addressing parcels to individuals. Parcels of the ICRC could be distributed to the following national groups: French, Dutch, Belgians, Greeks, Norwegians and Danes (for the moment, Poles, Czechs, Slavs and Serbs to be excluded). Although Reichsführer Himmler was not willing to permit such a relief program, that he could not issue blanket permission for ICRC delegates to visit all concentration camps was explained to Schirrer by the SS.

It is most significant that, in spite of this rather important hitch, Himmler will now apparently officially permit relief for concentration

000251

concentration camps even if only to certain categories of SH, since hitherto Berlin has categorically refused such permission and only in a small number of camps was the reception of ICRC parcels by internees tolerated. No doubt refusal to grant blanket visiting permission is motivated by the fact that an increasingly large number of SH are being worked in war factories at present.

However, quite aside from the extent of external relief program it will be practically possible to launch, this seems to me a unique opportunity which should not be neglected for the ICRC to drive an opening wedge into the Nazi concentration camp system. Although I would hesitate to put pressure on Burckhardt and ICRC to inaugurate a large relief program, which might indirectly benefit the war effort of the Germans, it is my feeling that ICRC should immediately follow up this lead by dispatch of a special mission of their most capable men to Germany, and if possible that this mission be headed by Burckhardt. An invaluable opportunity to get more personnel into Germany, whose presence might well save the lives of thousands of men and women as the Nazi system collapses, might be afforded by this situation.

On February 11 I was informed by Nordling, the Swedish Consul General in Paris, whose forceful intercession with the German military commander in Paris resulted in the release of some four thousand political prisoners, whom the German Commander had orders to execute if they could not be evacuated at that time, that in

December

000252

December he had addressed a personal letter to Hitler requesting better treatment for all concentration camp inmates along the Geneva Convention lines. Even though he received no direct answer to his letter, Nordling learned through most reliable channels that on receipt of his letter Hitler had ordered the German Red Cross to study and report immediately on the possibility of improving the lot of Schutzhaftlinge. The maintenance of contact with Nordling was delegated to a German industrialist named Lehrer, long a resident in France and possessing direct contact with high Nazi officials, by Hitler. It is Nordling's belief that January SS overtures to ICRC men in Berlin are at least partly due to his representation and that Hitler is definitely interested in facilitating relief to SH, for reasons which are open to considerable speculation.

On February 10 and 12, Nordling, in the interest of exploiting this situation, conferred at length with Burekhardt of ICRC and attempted to persuade Burekhardt to take action since he, Nordling, felt that his going alone to Germany as a Swedish Consul General or as a private individual would not carry the necessary weight and that it was quite obvious that this job should be undertaken by ICRC.

In the face of evidence of mounting confusion within Germany and the resulting increased accessibility of individual German officials to psychological pressure as they become more isolated
by military

000253

- 5 -

by military events and hence more independent, I feel, in view of the foregoing, that ICRC should not neglect such an opportunity. As soon as possible I am consequently sending Burckhardt a letter from the Minister urging him to take action in line with my communication to Burckhardt based on Department's cable of January 9, No. 127 (WRB No. 356) and as soon as possible the result will be reported.

HARRISON

DC/L:HM: E
2-18-45

000254

Approximate distance
from Swiss border

Dachau	55 m.
Landsberg am Lech	40 m.
Terezin	250 m.
Rastatt	80 m.
Vienna	150 m.
Wiener Neustadt	150 m.
Erfurth	215 m.
Laufen	125 m.
Spital (Austria)	55 m.
Trier (via Rastatt)	170 m.
Köblentz	175 m.
Wuppertal	235 m.
Berg am Laim	160 m.

Some principal concentration camps.

000255

*Jews are organized
in Germany as people
who have no sense of
nationality -*

PAPAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: February 16, 1945
NUMBER: 1056

From McClelland for the attention of the Department and
WRB.

Reference is made herein to the Legation's cable of
January 27, Number 581.

*Political aspects
of protection
concerned
not in
camps*

In regard to possible protective and relief action for
all categories of unassimilated persons in Germany, particularly
those termed Schutzhaftlinge (SH), I have recently received the
following extremely confidential information.

A member of ICRC's Berlin delegation, Dr. Schirmer, who
was previously very active in Budapest and Vienna, submitted to
ICRC on January 24 a confidential memorandum which in effect was
as follows: Schirmer and a colleague were put in touch with
Obersturmbann Fuehrer Dr. Berndorf, Chef Des Sicherheitsdienstes
und Abwehr fuer die Schutzhaftlinge, whose office was located at
Zimmerstrasse 19 Berlin, by a certain SS General Lieutenant Mueller.
Following preliminary conversations with Schirmer, characterized as
cordial, Berndorf took them to Headquarters of Nazi concentration
camp system at Oranienburg. Further conversations were held there
with Obergruppen Fuehrer Glueck (also a General Lieutenant in Waffen
SS) director of all concentration camps, standartenfuehrer Dr.

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

Loling

000256

Lolling head medical officer of concentration camps, and Glueck's adjutant Obersturmbannfuehrer Hoess. Explaining that Dachau near Munich was to become central assembly and clearing camp for all SH, these SS men seemed most willing to discuss ways and means of added ICRC relief to concentration camp inmates. Apparently, the transfer of large numbers of SH was already under way from east and north. In Dachau, where central administration including questions of food and transport would be located, there was to be a system of smaller subsidiary camps radiating from that point. Truck transportation facilities for distribution of relief parcels were offered to ICRC by the SS, and they explained that, as far as control was concerned, men of confidence of various national groups would be stationed at Dachau, and that the ICRC could maintain contact with these men. Since the SH were being continually transferred around now and parcels would doubtless never catch up with them, the SS felt it inadvisable to continue addressing parcels to individuals. Parcels of the ICRC could be distributed to the following national groups: French, Dutch, Belgians, Greeks, Norwegians and Danes (for the moment, Poles, Czechs, Slavs and Serbs to be excluded). Although Reichfuehrer Himmler was now willing to permit such a relief program, that he could not issue blanket permission for ICRC delegates to visit all concentration camps was explained to Schirmer by the SS.

Dissemination to South

55 miles from Zurich

Travels routes - C through area of mountains

National groups

It is most significant that, in spite of this rather important hitch, Himmler will now apparently officially permit relief for concentration

concentration camps even if only to certain categories of SH, since hitherto Berlin has categorically refused such permission and only in a small number of camps was the reception of ICRC parcels by internees tolerated. No doubt refusal to grant blanket visiting permission is motivated by the fact that an increasingly large number of SH are being worked in war factories at present.

However, quite aside from the extent of external relief program it will be practically possible to launch, this seems to me a unique opportunity which should not be neglected for the ICRC to drive an opening wedge into the Nazi concentration camp system. Although I would hesitate to put pressure on Burckhardt and ICRC to inaugurate a large relief program which might indirectly benefit the war effort of the Germans, it is my feeling that ICRC should immediately follow up this lead by dispatch of a special mission of their most capable men to Germany, and if possible that this mission be headed by Burckhardt. An invaluable opportunity to get more personnel into Germany, whose presence might well save the lives of thousands of men and women as the Nazi system collapses, might be afforded by this situation.

100/1000

*More SH
for
a
prisoner.*

On February 11 I was informed by Nordling, the Swedish Consul General in Paris, whose forceful intercession with the German military commander in Paris resulted in the release of some four thousand political prisoners, whom the German Commander had orders to execute if they could not be evacuated at that time, that in

December

000258

December he had addressed a personal letter to Himmler requesting better treatment for all concentration camp inmates along the Geneva Convention lines. Even though he received no direct answer to his letter, Nordling learned through most reliable channels that on receipt of his letter Himmler had ordered the German Red Cross to study and report immediately on the possibility of improving the lot of Schutzhaeftlinge. The maintenance of contact with Nordling was delegated to a German industrialist named Lehrer, long a resident in France and possessing direct contact with high Nazi officials, by Himmler. It is Nordling's belief that January SS overture to ICRC men in Berlin are at least partly due to his representation and that Himmler is definitely interested in facilitating relief to SH, for reasons which are open to considerable speculation.

On February 10 and 13, Nordling, in the interest of exploiting this situation, conferred at length with Burckhardt of ICRC and attempted to persuade Burckhardt to take action since he, Nordling, felt that his going alone to Germany as a Swedish Consul General or as a private individual would not carry the necessary weight and that it was quite obvious that this job should be undertaken by ICRC.

In the face of evidence of mounting confusion within Germany and the resulting increased accessibility of individual German officials to psychological pressure as they become more isolated
by military

000259

- 3 -

by military events and hence more independent, I feel, in view
of the foregoing, that ICHG should not neglect such an opportunity.
As soon as possible I am consequently handing Burckhardt a letter
from the Minister urging him to take action in line with my
communication to Burckhardt based on Department's cable of January
9, No. 127 (WRB No. 356) and as soon as possible the result will
be reported.

HARRISON

DC/L:MAS:AN
2-19-45

000260

40

000261

FEB 21 1945

My dear Mr. O'Connor:

I am pleased to acknowledge your letter of February 16.

You may be assured that the War Refugee Board will notify the American National Red Cross at the earliest possible date that deliveries of the War Refugee Board's current 300,000 three-kilo parcels may be expected at Philadelphia so that satisfactory shipping arrangements may be completed.

Permit me to take advantage of the opportunity afforded by this letter to express the appreciation of the Board to the American National Red Cross for its performance on the Board's initial 300,000 food parcels which went forward in the last quarter of 1944.

Without the cooperation and splendid performance of such members of your staff as Maurice Pate, W. C. MacDonald, Ralph Stoddard, George G. Smith, and numerous others, the successful completion of this program could not have been realized. In a special way, the Board wishes to convey its appreciation to Mr. Brinkman, Director of your New York Packing Center, and the numerous volunteers who performed so ably on this undertaking.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) William O'Dwyer

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

Hon. Basil O'Connor
Chairman, American
National Red Cross
Washington, D. C.

W. J. A.
WJC
Public Affairs 2/20/45

000262



AMERICAN RED CROSS

WASHINGTON, D. C.

CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

February 16, 1945

My dear General O'Dwyer:

Thank you for your letter of February 8th, transmitting to me the memorandum signed by President Roosevelt, authorizing the commercial procurement of 300,000 three-kilo food parcels by the Procurement Division of the United States Treasury, to be consigned to the American Red Cross for shipment to the International Red Cross Committee, for ultimate distribution to unassimilated persons in refugee camps in enemy-held Europe.

It will be appreciated if the earliest possible notice be given us regarding the date when delivery may be anticipated, in order that satisfactory shipping arrangements may be completed without delay.

We are glad to cooperate with you and with the other agencies of the United States Government in making this relief program possible.

Sincerely yours,

Paul O'Connor

Chairman

General William O'Dwyer
Executive Director
The War Refugee Board
Executive Offices of the
President
Washington, D. C.

000263



42

000264

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF

Files
DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

War Dept Bd
Gen. O. P. ...

1945 FEB 14 AM 10 14

LFR-1732

London

This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government Agency. ()
Dated February 13, 1945
Rec'd 6:10 p.m.

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

Secretary of State,
Washington.

CONTROL COPY

1559, February 13, 7 p.m.

Embassy's immediately following telegrams text of Department's 945, February 7 to London.

Two. MEW agrees with the Department as regards shipments to Bergen-Belsen. MEW prefers to defer decision on Theriesenstadt pending reply from IRC to MEW inquiries regarding this camp.

Three. With reference to Washington's second proviso relating to shipments to Bergen-Belsen it is London's understanding confirmed by World Jewish Congress here that shipments authorized last November did not (repeat not) go forward. Assuming this is correct, Embassy and MEW agree that clothing parcels may be authorized provided results of food parcels shipments to Bergen-Belsen were satisfactory.

Sent Stockholm as 207, repeated Department.

WINANT

WMB

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

000265

41

000266

February 13, 1945

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Harold Trobe was received through the American Legation in Lisbon under date of February 12, 1945:

"JDC 171. Gottfarb Stockholm advises parcel service to Theresienstadt ex-Stockholm stopped January 27 due war situation."

Very truly yours,

Florence Hodel

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

Mr. M. A. Leavitt, Secretary,
American Jewish Joint Distribution
Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,
New York 16, New York.

RDrury 2/13/45

RPL

000267

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING STATE
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

1945 FEB 13 AM 9 33

*war rep. Ed.
Pelle*

AS-1485

GO PLAIN
1738
Lisbon
(Liaison)

Dated February 12, 1945

Rec'd 10:47 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

322, Twelfth
x
WRB 315 JDC 171
FOR LEAVITT FROM TROBE

CONTROL COPY

*Sent 2/13/45
PWS*

Gottfarb Stockholm advises parcel service to
Theresienstadt ex-Stockholm stopped January 27th
due war situation.

NORWEB

MRM

000268

40

000269

Good PKgs. your unassisted Jensen

DEPARTMENT

OF
STATE

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

Feb 14 1945 by DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

1945 FEB 14 PM 4 15

COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS
(TRANSON)

ALLEGATION

STOCKHOLM

258

The cable below for Olsen is WRB 309.

Please deliver paraphrase of following message to Mr. Fritz

Hollander, Congress Committee, Postbox 7306, Stockholm, from

Dr. Arieh Tartakower, of the World Jewish Congress:

UNCLTE Kindly have foodparcels forwarded following Bergen-

Olsen inmates: Ancker, Marion; Druyf, Abraham Lehsan,

Margaretha (nee Schelvis), Arnoldabraham, Willy (nee van Embden);

Hefteman, Siegfried, Martha; Levenbach, Henriette-Louise,

Harpenile, Clara, Emilcarla, Marianneva; Lenko, Sig. Ammarosa;

Wedeisen, HoritzHeinrich, Flora, JoshuaSimon, Solomon, Ernest-

Leufold (aufenthaltslager Bar. 11); Stern, Siegmund, Selma, Mirjam,

Toni; Swaad, Samuel, Margarete; Willi, Wolf, Mehrgut. UNCLTE

GREW
(Acting)
(GIW)

WRB:IMV:KG
2/12/45

NOE

SEF

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

CONTROL COPY

Wear Ref. Bel.
Mr. O. J. Sawyer

Security records are the property of the FBI and are not to be distributed outside the agency to which they are loaned. For security records the FBI must be notified if they are to be destroyed.

000270

CABLE TO AMERICAN LEGATION, STOCKHOLM, FOR OLSEN, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Please deliver following message to Mr. Fritz Hollander, Congress Committee, Postbox 7306, Stockholm, from Dr. Arieh Tartakower, of the World Jewish Congress:

QUOTE Kindly have food parcels forwarded following Bergen-Belsen inmates: Amster, Marion; Bruyl, Abraham; Lehman, Margaretha (nee Schelvis), Arnold; Abraham, Milly (nee van Embden); Heideman, Siegfried, Martha; Levenbach, Henriette-louise, Martin; Mile, Clara, Emil; Carla, Marianne; Eva; Menko, Sig. Emma; Rosa; Pressisen, Moritz; Heinrich, Flora, Joshua; Simon, Solomon, Ernest; Leopold (Aufenthaltslager Ber. 11); Stern, Siegmund, Selma, Mirjam, Toni; Swaab, Samuel, Margarete; Willi, Wolf, Mehrgut. UNQUOTE

THIS IS WRB STOCKHOLM CABLE NO. 309

12:15 p.m.
February 8, 1945

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Akzin, Cohn, Drury, DuBois, Gaston, Hodel, McCormack, O'Dwyer, Files

*copy sent WJC
2/9/45 RB
BAkzin:agr 2/7/45 RA*

000271

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS
CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL • CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

1834 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, 23, N. Y.

CABLES: CONGRESS, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 6-1900

LONDON
55 New Cavendish St., W 1

GENEVA
37 Quai Wilson

BUENOS AIRES
Corrientes 1979

JERUSALEM
Vaad Leumi P. O. B. 471

MONTREAL
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY
Sonora 1744

In reply refer to
No. 320

February 6, 1945

Brig. Gen. William O'Dwyer, Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Dr. Akzin

Dear Sirs:

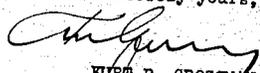
May I ask you to transmit, through the facilities of the
State Department, the following message to Mr. Hollander
in Stockholm:

"To: Mr. Fritz Hollander, Congress Committee,
Postbox 7306, Stockholm
From: Dr. Arieh Tartakower

Kindly have foodparcels forwarded following Bergen-
Belsen inmates: Amster, Marion; Druyf, AbrahamLehman,
Margaretha (nee Schelvis), Arnoldabraham, Milly (nee
van Embden); Heideman, Siegfried, Martha; Levenbach,
Henriettelouise, Martinemile, Clara, Emilycarla,
MarianneEva; Menko, Sig. Emmarosa; Presseisen, Moritz-
Heinrich, Flora, JoshuaSimon, Solomon, ErnestLeopold
(Aufenthaltslager Bar. 11); Stern, Siegmund, Selma,
Mirjam, Toni; Swap, Samuel, Margarete; Willi, Wolf,
Mehrgut."

Thank you for giving this matter your kind attention.

Sincerely yours,


ROBERT R. GROSSMAN
Rescue Department

KRG:bm

39

000273

*Don't know for
unclassified persons*
DEPARTMENT
OF PEN

STATE Distribution of trust
reading only by special
arrangement.

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION
February 12, 1945
7 p.m.

FEB 14 PM 3 57

COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS
(LIAISON)

*War Ref. Bd.
O. Sawyer*

AMEMBASSY

LISBON

256

The cable below is WRB 140.

Please deliver paraphrase of following message to Harold
Trobe from M. A. Leavitt of American Jewish Joint Distribution
Committee:

QUOTE Advise Schwartz Saly Mayer that Dutch Committee
Switzerland cabling urgently that Saly Mayer refusing provide
funds for parcels Bergenbelsen on theory that Dutch Government
should provide funds for Dutch nationals and our funds limited
to stateless. Although realize we must press for governmental
aid behalf their nationals in case of parcel service for internees
cannot insist this policy and urge maximum parcels be shipped
view reports malnutrition Bergenbelsen would appreciate report.

UNQUOTE

GREW
(Acting)
(CIV)

For security reasons the
text of this message must
be classified accordingly

WRB:MMV:KG
2/12/45

WE

NOE

SHF

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

000274

CABLE TO AMERICAN LEGATION, LISBON, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Please deliver following message to Harold Trobe from M. A. Leavitt
of American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee;

QUOTE ADVISE SCHWARTZ SALLY MAYER THAT DUTCH COMMITTEE
SWITZERLAND CABLING URGENTLY THAT SALLY MAYER REFUSING PROVIDE
FUNDS FOR PARCELS BERGENBELSEN ON THEORY THAT DUTCH GOVERNMENT
SHOULD PROVIDE FUNDS FOR DUTCH NATIONALS AND OUR FUNDS LIMITED
TO STATELESS. ALTHOUGH REALIZE WE MUST PLEAS FOR GOVERNMENTAL
AID BEHALF THEIR NATIONALS IN CASE OF PARCEL SERVICE FOR INTERNEES
CANNOT INSIST THIS POLICY AND URGE MAXIMUM PARCELS BE SHIPPED
VIEW REPORTS MALNUTRITION BERGENBELSEN WOULD APPRECIATE REPORT.
UNQUOTE

THIS IS WRH LISBON CABLE NO. 140.

10:15 a.m.
February 10, 1945

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Akzin, Cohn, Drury, DuBois, Gaston, Hodel,
McCormack, O'Dwyer, Files

*com sent
JPC
RS
2/9/45*
RDrury 2/9/45

000275

88

000276

February 12, 1945

Dear Mr. Quick:

The American and British blockade authorities have authorized the shipment of 300,000 food parcels from this country for consignment to the International Committee of the Red Cross for distribution to unassimilated persons in concentration and refugee camps in enemy and enemy-occupied Europe.

On January 31, 1945, Presidential Memorandum directed (a) Treasury Procurement Division to obtain these parcels commercially, (b) American National Red Cross to act as shipper, and (c) War Refugee Board to assume the over-all responsibility.

Although Treasury Procurement has not as yet formally consummated a contract with a private vendor for this purchase, it is our understanding that it is advisable at this time for War Refugee Board to request the Office of Price Administration to supply us with certificates covering the rationed items in these parcels.

Each of the individual 300,000 parcels will contain one each of the following rationed items: An 8-ounce tin of cheese (150,000 lbs.), an 8-ounce package of sugar (150,000 lbs.), a 16 oz. tin of clovermargarine (300,000 lbs.); 150,000 of the individual parcels will contain a 12 oz. tin of pork luncheon meat (112,500 lbs.) while the remaining 150,000 parcels will contain a 12 oz. tin of Kosher corned beef (112,500 lbs.).

In view of the dire need of the people who will benefit by this program, it is imperative to arrange for the immediate despatch of these parcels. Accordingly, it will be appreciated if you will arrange for the forwarding to us of certificates covering the above-named items as soon as possible.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Florence Hodel

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

Mr. Charles Quick, Chief Counsel
Rationing Division, Office of
Price Administration
Room 2126, Federal Office Bldg. 1
Washington, D. C.

PJMcCormack:ar 2/13/45

Original signed by
Mr. McCormack

000277

37

000278

February 12, 1945.

My dear Mr. Rossback:

As you may know, the American and British blockade authorities have authorized the shipment of 300,000 three-kilo food parcels from this country for consignment to the International Committee of the Red Cross for distribution to unassimilated persons in concentration and refugee camps in enemy and enemy-occupied Europe.

On January 31, 1945, by Presidential Memorandum, the Procurement Division of the Treasury Department was instructed to procure parcels commercially in this amount; the American National Red Cross was instructed to act as shipper; the War Refugee Board was assigned over-all responsibility for the program. These parcels will contain one each of the following items:

Biscuits, K 2 pkg.	7 oz.
Cheese	8 oz.
Whole Powdered Milk	16 oz.
Oleomargarine	16 oz.
Salmon or Tuna	7 3/4 oz.
Meat	12 oz.
Chocolate Bar pkg.	4 oz.
Bar of Soap pkg.	2 oz.
Sugar pkg.	8 oz.
Multi-Vitamin Capsules pkg.	--

It is respectfully requested that Foreign Economic Administration arrange for the issuance of the necessary emergency food allocation to cover these items in the following amounts:

Biscuits, K 2 pkg.	131,280 lbs.
Cheese	150,000 "
Whole Powdered Milk	300,000 "
Oleomargarine	300,000 "
Salmon or Tuna	146,312 1/2 "
Meat	225,000 "
Chocolate Bar pkg.	75,000 "
Bar of Soap pkg.	37,500 "
Sugar pkg.	150,000 "
Multi-Vitamin Capsules	300,000 pkgs.

000279

- 2 -

In view of the dire need of the people who will benefit by this program, it is imperative to arrange for the immediate dispatch of these parcels. Accordingly, it will be appreciated if you will arrange for the hand-processing of this request for emergency food allocation.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Florence Hodel

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

Mr. E. J. Rosback,
F.E.A., Blockade Division,
Room 404,
2801 "Q" Street, N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

*Original signed by
Mr. E. J. Rosback*

PM
FJMcCormack:agr 2-12-45

000280