

Programs with Purpose to Relief
and Rescue of Refugees: Food Pkgs
for Unassimilated Persons

206,000 POW Parcels

000838

206,000 POW PARCELS

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000839



000840

Memorandum for The Files

FEB 28 1946

Subject: Completion of Sale of 206,000 Food Parcels to URRA

I was advised on February 5, 1946, by Mr. Carlson of the Lend Lease Fiscal Division of the Office of Foreign Liquidation, Department of State that a new and satisfactory receipt had been received from Mr. Tyler and that the War Refugee Board voucher would be placed in line for payment as soon as funds could be transferred from Treasury Cash to Disbursing Officer's Cash. This transfer was completed on February 21, and the voucher was forwarded to the Disbursing Office for payment on February 25. A check was received by this office on February 26, and was deposited to the appropriate receipt account on February 27, as per the attached copy of Schedule of Collections number WRE-M-46-9.

FBB
Frank B. Gatchell

000841

Memorandum for The Files

FEB 28 1946

Subject: Completion of Sale of 206,000 Food Parcels to UNRRA

I was advised on February 5, 1946, by Mr. Carlson of the Lend Lease Fiscal Division of the Office of Foreign Liquidation, Department of State that a new and satisfactory receipt had been received from Mr. Tyler and that the War Refugee Board voucher would be placed in line for payment as soon as funds could be transferred from Treasury Cash to Disbursing Officer's Cash. This transfer was completed on February 21, and the voucher was forwarded to the Disbursing Office for payment on February 25. A check was received by this office on February 26, and was deposited to the appropriate receipt account on February 27, as per the attached copy of Schedule of Collections number WRE-M-46-9.


Frank B. Gatchell

FBGatchell:mj 2/28/46

000842

SCHEDULE OF COLLECTIONS

Schedule No. WEB-M-46-9

Sheet No. _____

War Refugee Board (In Liquidation by Foreign Funds Control) Treasury
(Department or Establishment) (Bureau or Office)

Received by E. J. Brennan, Chief Disbursing Officer at Washington, D.C.
(Name) (Title) (Station)

Period February-1946 D. O. Symbol No. 200-8750
(Month or quarter ended)

DATE RECEIVED	RECEIPT NUMBER	NAME OF REMITTER	DETAIL DESCRIPTION OF PURPOSE FOR WHICH COLLECTIONS WERE RECEIVED	AMOUNT	FUND TO BE CREDITED (Symbol and title in full)
February 26, 1946	Bill No. WEB-1	State Department, Office of Foreign Liquidation (FMA)	Payment for 206,000 standard feed packages, stored by the War Refugee Board at Geneva, Switzerland and delivered to the IGWRA Representative in Switzerland, for use by that agency.	\$690,100.00	11-6671.2 Deposits, Proceeds from Disposition of Surplus Property in Foreign Areas.
Check No. 19,025.271					
PLEASE RECEIPT AND RETURN					
TOTAL,				\$690,100.00	

Received _____, subject to collection. Forwarded February 26, 1946

By _____ (Disbursing clerk or accountable officer) Title _____
By _____ (Signed) Mabel E. Ballard
Title Administrative Assistant

Certificate of Deposit No. _____

DIVISION OF DISBURSEMENT
 FEB 27 1946
 RECEIVED
 TREASURY DEPARTMENT

000843



000844

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON
Office of Foreign Liquidation

In reply refer to:
FI-580-CWC

JAN 2 1946

Frank B. Gatchell, Jr.
Budget and Planning Officer
War Refugee Board
811 District National Bank Bldg.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Gatchell:

Reference is made to your reimbursement voucher, Bill No. WRB-1, asking payment in the amount of \$690,100.00 to the War Refugee Board for Food Packages transferred to UNRRA by the Red Cross in Geneva, Switzerland.

Mr. Brownold of this office explained to Mr. McFarland of UNRRA that the receipt signed by Royall Tyler, UNRRA representative in Geneva, was unsatisfactory. Mr. McFarland asked that this office retain the voucher while he arranged by cable for a proper receipt from Tyler.

This letter is to confirm the telephone conversation between you and Mr. Carlson of this office in which it was agreed that this office would retain the voucher until an acceptable receipt is obtained. Mr. McFarland indicated that this would take about four weeks. You will be advised immediately of any developments.

Yours very truly,

Robert W. Cavanaugh
Robert W. Cavanaugh, Chief
Lend-Lease Fiscal Division

*Noted
fms
JFK*

000845

Office of Foreign Liquidation

In reply refer to:
FI-580-CWC

JAN 2 1945

Frank B. Gatchell, Jr.
Budget and Planning Officer
War Refugee Board
811 Distrust National Bank Bldg.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Gatchell:

Reference is made to your reimbursement voucher, Bill NO. RRB-1, asking payment in the amount of \$690,100.00 to the War Refugee Board for Food Packages transferred to UNRRA by the Red Cross in Geneva, Switzerland.

Mr. Brownold of this office explained to Mr. McFarland of UNRRA that the receipt signed by Royall Tyler, UNRRA representative in Geneva, was unsatisfactory. Mr. McFarland asked that this office retain the voucher while he arranged by cable for a proper receipt from Tyler.

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Yours very truly,

Robert W. Cavanaugh, Chief
Lend-Lease Fiscal Division

CWCarlson:agb
12/28/45

cc: Lend-Lease Fiscal Div. Rm. 1007 WGL
Mr. Cavanaugh Rm. 1022 WGL
Mr. Brownold Rm. 1008 WGL
Mr. Stott " " "
Mr. Carlson " 1020 " ✓

000846



000847

**VOUCHER FOR TRANSFERS
BETWEEN APPROPRIATIONS AND/OR FUNDS
(DISBURSEMENT)**

D. O. Vou. No.
Eu.-Vou. No. 783-1
Bill No.

ACCOUNTS OF

U. S. State Department, Office of Foreign Liquidation (FRL)
(Department, establishment, bureau, or office billed) 1100 10th St., Wash. D.C.
To U. S. War Refugee Board, 111 Dist. Bldg., Wash. 25, D.C.
(Department, establishment, bureau, or office billing)

ORDER No.	DATE OF DELIVERY	ARTICLES OR SERVICES	QUAN- TITY	UNIT PRICE		AMOUNT	
				Cost	Per	Dollars	Cents
		Reimbursement for 200,000 standard food packages stored by the War Refugee Board at Geneva, Switzerland and delivered to Mr. Royal Tyler, UNRRA Representative in Switzerland, for use by that agency		3.35	ea.	690,100	00
TOTAL,						690,100	00

Remittance in payment hereof should be sent to—
111 Dist. Bldg., Wash. 25, D.C.

Accountable officer in whose account collection will appear
Name Ed. Brown, Chief Accounting Officer
Symbol 200-8750

DEC 1 1943
Frank De Gatchell, Jr.
Budget and Planning Officer

ACCOUNTING CLASSIFICATION (for completion by the billing office)

SYMBOL	TITLE OF APPROPRIATION OR FUND TO BE CREDITED	LIMITATION	APPROPRIATION
		Amount	Amount
<u>11001.1</u>	<u>Sale of surplus personal property</u>		<u>690,100.00</u>

MEMORANDUM

ACCOUNTING CLASSIFICATION (for completion by the office billed)

SYMBOL	TITLE OF APPROPRIATION OR FUND TO BE CHARGED	LIMITATION	APPROPRIATION
		Amount	Amount

ALLOTMENT SYMBOL	AMOUNT	OBLIGATIONS LIQUIDATED	COST ACCOUNT		OBJECTIVE CLASSIFICATION	
			Symbol	Amount	Symbol	Amount

Paid by check drawn on Treasurer of the U. S., No. _____, dated _____

000848

FOREIGN ECONOMIC ADMINISTRATION
Bureau of Supplies
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

July 20, 1945

IN REPLY REFER TO:
SU-920-JF

Brig. Gen. William O'Dwyer
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Main Treasury Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear General O'Dwyer:

This letter is your authority to deliver to the duly accredited representative of UNRRA in Geneva 206,000 standard food packages now stored by the War Refugee Board at Geneva, Switzerland. The Foreign Economic Administration will pay for this food out of UNRRA funds at the price established by the War Refugee Board, viz., \$3.35 each.

Your Geneva representative in making this transfer to UNRRA should obtain from the UNRRA representative eight copies of a receipt which the UNRRA representative should sign. Your representative should send one signed copy of the receipt to UNRRA, Washington, and one signed copy to the Movement and Records Staff, European Branch, FEA, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, Washington, D. C. Six copies should be sent to your main office. Your office here should provide the Appropriation Accounts Division of FEA with a Form 1080 in an original and four copies duly certified and supported by five signed copies of the receipt. The Appropriation Accounts Division will then process the Form 1080 and arrange for the transfer of funds to the War Refugee Board.

Very truly yours,



H. M. Reedall
Colonel, U. S. Army
Director, Property Control Branch

000849

RC/JF

c/o American Legation,
Berne,
October 29, 1945.

To : General William O'DWYER, c/o Miss Florence Hodel,
U.S. Treasury Department, Washington, D.C.

From : Royall Tyler, UNRRA Representative in
Switzerland.

Following instructions from UNRRA London,
I am sending you herewith enclosed eight
signed copies of a receipt for parcels bought
by UNRRA from the American Red Cross.

Royall Tyler.

000850

I, the undersigned, hereby certify
that I have been informed today by the Inter-
national Red Cross that they are holding for me,
as UNRRA Representative in Switzerland, and will
turn over the same to me on demand:

206,000 standard food parcels
49,247 standard invalid food parcels.

Royall Tyler,
UNRRA Representative in
Switzerland.

Geneva, October 29, 1945.

General William O'DWYER,
c/o Miss Florence Hodel,
U.S. Treasury Department,
Washington 25, D.C.

000851

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I have been informed today by the International Red Cross that they are holding for me, as UNRRA Representative in Switzerland, and will turn over the same to me on demand:

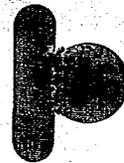
206,000 standard food parcels
49,247 standard invalid food parcels.

Royall
Royall Tyler,
UNRRA Representative in
Switzerland.

Geneva, October 29, 1945.

General William O'DWYER,
c/o Miss Florence Hodel,
U.S. Treasury Department,
Washington 25, D.C.

000852



000853

UNITED NATIONS
RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

1344 CONNECTICUT AVENUE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

17th October 1945

Mr. M. L. Hoffman
Treasury Department
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoffman:

This is in continuance of Mr. Cairns's letter to you of 12th October in which he indicated that we had twice requested our European Regional Office in London for information about the receipts for 206,000 prisoner of war packages purchased from the War Refugee Board. A cable received from that office today states the position "to be that no receipts yet signed because UNRRA has not taken title thus avoiding payment storage charges. This agreed by War Refugee Board Official Switzerland. Delay in shipment unavoidable and caused by problem transport from Switzerland to Yugoslavia." We have arranged that as soon as the receipts are signed copies will be sent to us in Washington and these in turn will be transmitted to you.

Sincerely yours,

James McAnsh

J. McAnsh
Acting Chief, Food Division

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10

000855

C A B L E

Addressed to: London No. _____

1. Reference

- (a) Cairns's 29 September letter to Gaumnitz and enclosures re POW parcels;
- (b) Levison's 25 August letter to Glasser with Dykstra's attached memorandum; and
- (c) American Embassy cable 8864, Treasury Washington.

Hoffman Acting Director Liquidation of War Refugee Board wrote Weintraub 25 September requesting UNRRA forward eight signed copies receipt for parcels in order execute payment. Cable soonest explanation delay and when we may expect by air mail signed copies receipts.

RECEIVED
10 25 10 32

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000858

Liquidation of
War Refugee Board

SEP 25 1945

Dear Mr. Weintraub:

Reference is made to the agreement made between the War Refugee Board and the UNRRA for the purchase by the latter of 206,000 standard prisoner of war parcels set forth in your letter to the Board of May 30, 1945. Payment for these packages has not yet been effected because of certain confusion which arose concerning the place of delivery.

The War Refugee Board was terminated by Executive Order No. 9614, providing for its liquidation by the Treasury Department. In order that this matter may be straightened out as promptly as possible, it is requested that the UNRRA forward to the War Refugee Board eight signed copies (as requested by the FEA) of a receipt for the parcels. In this connection, a copy of a cable dated August 30, 1945, and of a letter and enclosures to Mr. Harold Glasser of the Treasury Department are enclosed for your information. These documents indicate that appropriate instructions have been issued by the UNRRA and that receipts were to have been forwarded promptly to your office.

I would appreciate having a prompt reply from you on this long delayed matter.

Very truly yours,

B/ M. L. Hoffman

M. L. Hoffman
Acting Director

Mr. David Weintraub,
Chief, Bureau of Supply,
United Nations Relief and
Rehabilitation Administration,
Washington, D. C.

Enclosures.

JH
FH:hd 9/25/45

000859

DECISION BY MR.
JT. BOFFENBERG
ENTROBESU B
DAILY POLICE JOURNAL WID BE

To: Mr. Levison
From: Waling Dykstra
(Chief of Food Branch)

Mr. Feonov handed to me to-day your note of August 22nd and asked me to go and see you. I learned from your Secretary that you are at the Council Session and are not expected back before 7 o'clock this evening.

As you wish to provide Mr. Glasser with the latest information in regard to the present position of the 206,000 W.R.B. parcels, I use this minute to let you know how the matter stands.

On August 16th we wired Mr. Tyler, our UNRRA representative in Berne, to take title to the 206,000 parcels and to send us by airmail the signed receipts which are required by the W.R.B.

The reason why this had not been accomplished earlier can be explained by the fact that we were informed in June about the purchase of these parcels in the same cable in which the purchase of 1,200,000 American Red Cross parcels was announced, leaving it to our option where we wanted to take title to the goods.

Discussions with Red Cross officials lead to the assumption that the 206,000 W.R.B. parcels in Geneva could be substituted by 206,000 American Red Cross parcels in Gothenburg. As we had decided to take possession of the whole deal in Gothenburg if possible, we accepted the substitution idea.

Not before Mr. Cairns arrived here were we aware that the W.R.B. purchase stood entirely on itself and it took us a little while to separate the two purchases on the basis of the original agreements. This has now been done.

As soon as we obtain the receipts from Berne, we shall airmail same to our Head Office in Washington.

24th August 1945

/s/ Waling Dykstra

000861



000863

UNITED NATIONS
RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

1344 CONNECTICUT AVENUE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

30th August 1945

Brigadier General William O'Dwyer
Executive Director, War Refugee Board
Washington, D.C.

Dear General O'Dwyer:

1. This is to acknowledge with thanks your letter of 23rd August, addressed to Mr. Borders, on the subject of Red Cross packages.
2. According to our latest information, received by cable from London, our London office is confirming the purchase of 206,000 standard Red Cross packages from the War Refugee Board. We are further informed that the parcels will be delivered to UNRRA in Geneva. This is in agreement with the message we understand you have received from your Berne representative.
3. We have cabled our London office twice, inquiring about receipts covering the packages, and they have promised to transmit the receipts to Washington without delay.
4. We shall keep you informed of further developments.

Sincerely yours,

James McAnsh

J. McAnsh
Acting Chief, Food Division

000864



000865

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TREASURY DEPARTMENT

AIR MAIL
Office of the Treasury
Representative

Embassy of the United States
London, August 30, 1945

Air Pouch

No. 453

Dear Mr. White:

Enclosed herewith are a letter from the Office of the Director-General of United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration in London, a copy of a memorandum from the Chief of Food Branch of United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration to the Director and a letter from Mr. Pehle to Mr. Glasser. These documents cover the sale of certain War Refugee Board food parcels which United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration was supposed to buy in June. The letter and memoranda of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration's representative fully explain the present situation.

Sincerely,

/s/ Wm. H. Taylor

Wm. H. Taylor
U. S. Treasury Representative

Mr. Harry D. White
Assistant Secretary
Treasury Department
Washington 25, D. C.

000866

Telephone
LAngham 3090

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION,

European Regional Office
11, Portland Place, London, W.1.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL.

25th August, 1945

My dear Glasser,

Attached is a memorandum from Mr. Dykstra in connection with the W.R.B. parcels about which you were enquiring. It would appear that the receipts in question ought to be in our hands very shortly and we will forward them on to Washington just as quickly as possible.

Yours sincerely,

/s/ G. L. Levison

G. L. Levison

Mr. Harold M. Glasser
American Embassy
LONDON

Encl. #1 to ltr. #453 from Taylor

000867

Reference

Copies to: Mr. Feonov.
Mr. Gaumnitz.
Mr. Cairns.

To: Mr. Levison.

From: Waling Dykstra.
(Chief of Food Branch).

Mr. Feonov handed to me to-day your note of August 22nd and asked me to go and see you. I learned from your Secretary that you are at the Council Session and are not expected back before 7 o'clock this evening.

As you wish to provide Mr. Glasser with the latest information in regard to the present position of the 206,000 W.R.B. parcels, I use this minute to let you know how the matter stands.

On August 16th we wired Mr. Tyler, our UHRA representative in Berne, to take title to the 206,000 parcels and to send us by airmail the signed receipts which are required by the W.R.B.

The reason why this had not been accomplished earlier can be explained by the fact that we were informed in June about the purchase of these parcels in the same cable in which the purchase of 1,200,000 American Red Cross parcels was announced, leaving it to our option where we wanted to take title to the goods.

Discussions with Red Cross officials lead to the assumption that the 206,000 W.R.B. parcels in Geneva could be substituted by 206,000 American Red Cross parcels in Gothenburg. As we had decided to take possession of the whole deal in Gothenburg if possible, we accepted the substitution idea.

Not before Mr. Cairns arrived here were we aware that the W.R.B. purchase stood entirely on itself and it took us a little while to separate the two purchases on the basis of the original agreements. This has now been done.

As soon as we obtain the receipts from Berne, we shall airmail same to our Head Office in Washington.

24th August 1945.

/s/ Waling Dykstra

Encl. #1 to ltr. #453 from Taylor

000868

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON

August 3, 1945

Dear Harold:

I would appreciate it very much if you would take up with the appropriate UNRRA officials the following matter for the War Refugee Board:

In June of this year, the War Refugee Board, with the approval of the Surplus Property Board, made arrangements for the disposal to UNRRA of 206,000 standard prisoner of war food parcels in Switzerland which the Board had purchased from the War Department and which the Board had been unable to distribute to German concentration camps before VE-Day. It took over five weeks for the matter to be processed through FEA which advised the Board that, before arrangements could be made for the transfer of funds (the price is \$3.35 a package, or a total of \$690,000), the Board must obtain eight copies of a receipt, all of which must be signed by the UNRRA representative taking delivery of the packages from the War Refugee Board.

The Board immediately instructed its representative in Switzerland to effect the transfer in Switzerland to the UNRRA representative there and to obtain the necessary receipts for forwarding to Washington. He cabled back immediately to the effect that he had just been advised by the American Red Cross representative in Bern that UNRRA had taken delivery of the 206,000 food parcels in Gottenberg, Sweden. A check-up with UNRRA and Red Cross in Washington revealed that neither had any information concerning the matter. However, UNRRA Washington checked with UNRRA London and was advised that the 206,000 prisoner of war food parcels had been received in Sweden. Mr. McClelland, the Board's representative in Bern, Switzerland, upon further checking found that UNRRA London had dispatched a man named Dykstra to take delivery of the 206,000 prisoner of war food parcels from the American Red Cross stock in Sweden.

Encl. #2 to ltr. #453 from Taylor

- 2 -

The Board is now confronted with the problem of obtaining the eight signed receipts from the appropriate UNRRA representative. Could you obtain from UNRRA such a receipt stating that 206,000 standard prisoner of war food parcels were received on a certain date from the War Refugee Board and arrange to have all eight copies of the receipt sent to me. I understand that Mr. Cairns and Miss Keenleyside of the Washington UNRRA staff who handled the matter in Washington are now in London. They may be able to be of some help.

Since the Board expects to be completely liquidated by September first, this matter is quite urgent.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ J. W. Fehle

J. W. Fehle

Mr. Harold M. Glasser,
% United States Embassy,
London, England.

000870

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TREASURY DEPARTMENT

Embassy of the United States
London, August 30, 1945

AIR MAIL
Office of the Treasury
Representative

Air Pouch

No. 453

Dear Mr. White:

Enclosed herewith are a letter from the Office of the Director-General of United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration in London, a copy of a memorandum from the Chief of Food Branch of United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration to the Director and a letter from Mr. Fehle to Mr. Glasser. These documents cover the sale of certain War Refugee Board food parcels which United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration was supposed to buy in June. The letter and memoranda of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration's representative fully explain the present situation.

Sincerely,

/s/ Wm. H. Taylor

Wm. H. Taylor
U. S. Treasury Representative

Mr. Harry D. White
Assistant Secretary
Treasury Department
Washington 25, D. C.

Handwritten signature

000871

Telephone
LANGham 3090

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION,

European Regional Office
11, Portland Place, London, W.1.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL.

25th August, 1945

My dear Glasser,

Attached is a memorandum from Mr. Dykstra in connection with the V.R.B. parcels about which you were enquiring. It would appear that the receipts in question ought to be in our hands very shortly and we will forward them on to Washington just as quickly as possible.

Yours sincerely,

/s/ G. L. Levison

G. L. Levison

Mr. Harold M. Glasser
American Embassy
LONDON

Encl. #1 to ltr. #453 from Taylor

000872

Reference

Copies to: Mr. Feenoy.
Mr. Gausnitz.
Mr. Cairns.

To: Mr. Levison.

From: Waling Dykstra,
(Chief of Food Branch).

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The reason why this had not been accomplished earlier can be explained by the fact that we were informed in June about the purchase of these parcels in the same cable in which the purchase of 1,200,000 American Red Cross parcels was announced, leaving it to our option where we wanted to take title to the goods.

Discussions with Red Cross officials lead to the assumption that the 206,000 W.R.B. parcels in Geneva could be substituted by 206,000 American Red Cross parcels in Gothenburg. As we had decided to take possession of the whole deal in Gothenburg if possible, we accepted the substitution idea.

Not before Mr. Cairns arrived here were we aware that the W.R.B. purchase stood entirely on itself and it took us a little while to separate the two purchases on the basis of the original agreements. This has now been done.

As soon as we obtain the receipts from Bern, we shall airmail same to our Head Office in Washington.

24th August 1945.

/s/ Waling Dykstra

Encl. fl to ltr. #453 from Taylor

000873

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON

August 3, 1945

Dear Harold:

I would appreciate it very much if you would take up with the appropriate UNRRA officials the following matter for the War Refugee Board:

In June of this year, the War Refugee Board, with the approval of the Surplus Property Board, made arrangements for the disposal to UNRRA of 206,000 standard prisoner of war food parcels in Switzerland which the Board had purchased from the War Department and which the Board had been unable to distribute to German concentration camps before VE-Day. It took over five weeks for the matter to be processed through FEA which advised the Board that, before arrangements could be made for the transfer of funds (the price is \$3.35 a package, or a total of \$690,000), the Board must obtain eight copies of a receipt, all of which must be signed by the UNRRA representative taking delivery of the packages from the War Refugee Board.

The Board immediately instructed its representative in Switzerland to effect the transfer in Switzerland to the UNRRA representative there and to obtain the necessary receipts for forwarding to Washington. He cabled back immediately to the effect that he had just been advised by the American Red Cross representative in Bern that UNRRA had taken delivery of the 206,000 food parcels in Gotenberg, Sweden. A check-up with UNRRA and Red Cross in Washington revealed that neither had any information concerning the matter. However, UNRRA Washington checked with UNRRA London and was advised that the 206,000 prisoner of war food parcels had been received in Sweden. Mr. McClelland, the Board's representative in Bern, Switzerland, upon further checking found that UNRRA London had dispatched a man named Eykstra to take delivery of the 206,000 prisoner of war food parcels from the American Red Cross stock in Sweden.

Encl. #2 to ltr. #453 from Taylor

000874

- 2 -

The Board is now confronted with the problem of obtaining the eight signed receipts from the appropriate UNRRA representative. Could you obtain from UNRRA such a receipt stating that 206,000 standard prisoners of war food parcels were received on a certain date from the War Refugee Board and arrange to have all eight copies of the receipt sent to me. I understand that Mr. Cairns and Miss Keenleyside of the Washington UNRRA staff who handled the matter in Washington are now in London. They may be able to be of some help.

Since the Board expects to be completely liquidated by September first, this matter is quite urgent.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ J. W. Fehle

J. W. Fehle

Mr. Harold N. Glasser,
5 United States Embassy,
London, England.

000875



000876

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

ACTION-DC/L

INFO:

EUR-1 LYF-1646 -J

DC/L-C This telegram might be AM 10 00

WRB paraphrased before being

ITP communicated to anyone

LA other than a Government

OFD Agency. [REDACTED] (O)

FN

SWP-4

Secretary of State,

Washington.

8864, August 30, 1945, 7 p.m.

FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY FOR PEHLE FROM
TAYLOR.

UNRRA informed us that its Swiss representative was directed August 16 to take title to War Refugee Board parcels in Geneva and to issue appropriate receipts. Delivery has now been taken and receipts will be forwarded promptly. We are advised that delay was due to fact that availability of War Refugee Board parcels and some Red Cross parcels in Sweden was announced in same cable from UNRRA. UNRRA representative and Red Cross in Geneva thought parcels were interchangeable and accepted delivery of parcels in Sweden. UNRRA has now however bought both lots.

WINANT

DM cc: 9/4/45 Messrs. Glasser, Delaney, Bronz (3), Hoffman (2),
Miss O'Brien, E. Hebbard, Gunter, Miss Hodel

SECRET O

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of T.O. 160

By RAH Date SEP 21 1972

000877

London

Dated August 30, 1945

Secretary of State,

Washington.

8864, August 30, 1945, 7 p.m.

FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY FOR PENLE FROM
TAYLOR.

UNRRA informed us that its Swiss representative was directed August 16 to take title to War Refugee Board parcels in Geneva and to issue appropriate receipts. Delivery has now been taken and receipts will be forwarded promptly. We are advised that delay was due to fact that availability of War Refugee Board parcels and some Red Cross parcels in Sweden was announced in same cable from UNRRA. UNRRA representative and Red Cross in Geneva thought parcels were interchangeable and accepted delivery of parcels in Sweden. UNRRA has now however bought both lots.

DM

WINANT

SECRET

cc: 9/4/45 Messrs. Glasser, Delaney, Brons (3), Hoffman (2),
Miss O'Brien, E. Hebbard, Gunter, Miss Hodel

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of T.O. 160

By REP Date SEP 21 1972

000873



000874

AUG 22 1945

Dear Mr. Borders:

Reference is made to the agreement reached between the Board and the UNRRA for the purchase by the latter of 206,000 prisoner of war parcels as set forth in Mr. Weintraub's letter to the Board of May 30, 1945, and to which your letter of June 29, 1945, referred. Payment for these packages has not been effected to date in view of certain confusion which has arisen with respect to the place of delivery.

I enclose for your information a copy of a letter which the Board has received from the American Red Cross indicating that the packages in question have been placed at the disposal of the UNRRA in Goteberg, Sweden. Following the receipt of this letter, the Board received the following message from its representative in Bern, Switzerland, under date of August 15th:

"For your information, UNRRA London has now requested UNRRA representative Switzerland to investigate possibilities for accepting delivery in Switzerland instead of Goteberg of 206,000 WRB food parcels. We shall keep you advised of developments, meanwhile assume you are pursuing matter with UNRRA London."

The Foreign Economic Administration, as you will see from the enclosed copy of a letter the Board received under date of July 20th, requires eight copies of a receipt signed by the appropriate UNRRA representative, before arranging for the necessary transfer of funds.

The War Refugee Board has no objection to the delivery taking place in Goteberg, Sweden, if the UNRRA so desires.

000000

AUG 23 1945

Dear Mr. Borders:

Reference is made to the agreement reached between the Board and the UNRRA for the purchase by the latter of 206,000 prisoner of war parcels as set forth in Mr. Weintraub's letter to the Board of May 30, 1945, and to which your letter of June 29, 1945, referred. Payment for these packages has not been effected to date in view of certain confusion which has arisen with respect to the place of delivery.

I enclose for your information a copy of a letter which the Board has received from the American Red Cross indicating that the packages in question have been placed at the disposal of the UNRRA in Goteberg, Sweden. Following the receipt of this letter, the Board received the following message from its representative in Bern, Switzerland, under date of August 15th:

"For your information, UNRRA London has now requested UNRRA representative Switzerland to investigate possibilities for accepting delivery in Switzerland instead of Goteberg of 206,000 WRB food parcels. We shall keep you advised of developments, meanwhile assume you are pursuing matter with UNRRA London."

The Foreign Economic Administration, as you will see from the enclosed copy of a letter the Board received under date of July 20th, requires eight copies of a receipt signed by the appropriate UNRRA representative, before arranging for the necessary transfer of funds.

The War Refugee Board has no objection to the delivery taking place in Goteberg, Sweden, if the UNRRA so desires.

000000

- 2 -

However, since the Board will be terminated on September 15th, it is urgent that the matter be straightened out as soon as possible and that the requisite signed receipts be furnished the Board so that transfer of the funds involved may be processed before the Board's termination.

I would appreciate your advising me as soon as possible of UNRRA's decision concerning place of delivery and as to when the Board may expect to receive the requisite receipts.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) William O'Dwyer

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

Mr. Karl Borders,
Acting Chief, Bureau of Supply,
United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation
Administration,
Washington, D. C.

Enclosures.

FH Cleared with Silverman

FH:hd 8/22/45

000000



000004

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

200 000 Food Parcels

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

ACTION - WRB

INFO:

EUR

NEA

DC/L-C

WRB

ITP

LA

SWF-4

PC-9

A-D

IG-589-M
Distribution of true
reading only be special
arrangement. (WR-1)

Bern

August 15, 1945

Rec'd 3:45 p.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

3894, August 15, noon

FOR ODWYER WRB FROM KATZKI

AUG 15 1945

MAIL ROOM

Reference WRB 544 August 8, arrangements have been made for overland movement from Switzerland to Taranto Italy about August 20 of 700 Palestine certificate holders ex Bergen-Belsen and Theresienstadt proceeding to Palestine. Should this movement take place as planned I shall be able to return to Washington shortly thereafter and shall be guided by your instructions.

For your information UNRRA London has now requested UNRRA representative Switzerland to investigate possibilities for accepting delivery in Switzerland instead of Goteburg of 206,000 WRB food parcels (see Department's 2410 WRB 542 July 28 and Bern's 3733 July 30). We shall keep you advised of developments, meanwhile assume you are pursuing matter with UNRRA London.

HARRISON

MWB

WR-1

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

000885



000886



AMERICAN RED CROSS

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

WASHINGTON, D. C.

ZONE 13

August 9, 1945

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

Dear General O'Dwyer:

Referring to the transaction of the 206,000 standard American Red Cross food packages which were purchased by the War Refugee Board in Switzerland from the American Army, we understand that you have in turn resold these same packages to UNRRA.

UNRRA has informed us that they would like to take delivery of exactly this same number of packages at Goteborg, Sweden, and relinquish the 206,000 packages now earmarked for their account in Switzerland. Therefore, this is to advise you that we have already placed at the disposal of UNRRA 206,000 standard American Red Cross food packages at Goteborg, Sweden.

Yours truly,

Maurice Pate
Director
Relief to Prisoners of War

000887



000000

DEPARTMENT
OF STATE

PEM

arrangement.

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

August
4 p.m.
DES

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

9 33

AMLEGATION

BERN
2465

The following for Katzki is URB 543.

Reference Arr's 3733, July 30. UNRRA Washington

has been advised by UNRRA London that arrangements with
Ancross in Gothenburg included 206,000 PCW parcels in
substitution for Geneva lot. We will attempt to obtain
necessary receipts from UNRRA London.

GREW
(Acting)
(MMV)

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

WHL:MMVanco:ksq
8/6/46

WE

SWP

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

*control not used in
files 8/21/45*

000000

8/6/45
CABLE TO AMLEGATION, BERN, FOR MCCLELLAND FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Reference your 3733, July 30. UNRRA Washington has been advised by UNRRA London that arrangements with Amcross in Gothenburg included 206,000 POW parcels in substitution for Geneva lot. We will attempt to obtain necessary receipts from UNRRA London.

This is WRB Bern No. 543

August 6, 1945
10:50 a.m.

FH:hd 8/3/45

000890



000891

AUG 3 1945

Dear Harold:

I would appreciate it very much if you would take up with the appropriate UNRRA officials the following matter for the War Refugee Board:

In June of this year, the War Refugee Board, with the approval of the Surplus Property Board, made arrangements for the disposal to UNRRA of 206,000 standard prisoner of war food parcels in Switzerland which the Board had purchased from the War Department and which the Board had been unable to distribute to German concentration camps before VE-Day. It took over five weeks for the matter to be processed through FEA which advised the Board that, before arrangements could be made for the transfer of funds (the price is \$3.35 a package, or a total of \$690,000), the Board must obtain eight copies of a receipt, all of which must be signed by the UNRRA representative taking delivery of the packages from the War Refugee Board.

The Board immediately instructed its representative in Switzerland to effect the transfer in Switzerland to the UNRRA representative there and to obtain the necessary receipts for forwarding to Washington. He cabled back immediately to the effect that he had just been advised by the American Red Cross representative in Bern that UNRRA had taken delivery of the 206,000 food parcels in Gotenberg, Sweden. A check-up with UNRRA and Red Cross in Washington revealed that neither had any information concerning the matter. However, UNRRA Washington checked with UNRRA London and was advised that the 206,000 prisoner of war food parcels had been received in Sweden. Mr. McClelland, the Board's representative in Bern, Switzerland, upon further checking found that UNRRA London had dispatched a man named Dykstra to take delivery of the 206,000 prisoner of war food parcels from the American Red Cross stock in Sweden.

000892

DEPT. OF STATE
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
FOR REFUGEE AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Board is now confronted with the problem of obtaining the eight signed receipts from the appropriate UNRRA representative. Could you obtain from UNRRA such a receipt stating that 206,000 standard prisoner of war food parcels were received on a certain date from the War Refugee Board and arrange to have all eight copies of the receipt sent to me. I understand that Mr. Cairns and Miss Keenleyside of the Washington UNRRA staff who handled the matter in Washington are now in London. They may be able to be of some help.

Since the Board expects to be completely liquidated by September first, this matter is quite urgent.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle

Mr. Harold M. Glasser,
United States Embassy,
London, England.

JH

FH:hd 8/2/45

000893



000894

UNITED NATIONS
RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

1344 CONNECTICUT AVENUE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

2nd August 1945

Miss Hodel,
War Refugee Board,
Main Treasury Building,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Miss Hodel,

Confirming our telephone conversation and in accordance with Miss Keenleyside's request I am quoting below the text of a cable from our European Regional Office regarding Red Cross packages.

"Arrangements with American Red Cross in Gothenburg included 206,000, therein substitution for Geneva lot. American Red Cross Delegate Geneva so informed by Red Cross London office. Doubtful whether can take possession Geneva lot or any other additional lot since Pate informed Dykstra July 23 in Stockholm that all packages except 1,609,859 in Gothenburg are now Army property. UNRRA Berne cables July 23 accordingly that remaining Swiss stocks are now in hands War Department Washington."

Yours sincerely,



E.B. Cartmel
Food Division

000895



000896

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

ASB-1404

Distribution of this message by special
reading only by special
arrangement. (SECRET W)

Bern

Dated July 30, 1945

Rec'd 9:10 a.m., 31st

Secretary of State,
Washington

CONTROL COPY

US URGENT

3733, July 30, 8 p.m.

FOR O'DWYER OF WRB FROM MCCLELLAND

Department's 2410 WRB's 542 July 28

Am informed by Amcross that UNRRA London
despatched man named Dykstra mid July to Gothenburg
to take delivery on WRB's 206,000 POW food parcels
from Amcross stocks there. Whisler of Amcross
Stockholm and Deblonay and Ehrenhold of ICRC
Gothenburg have all been instructed to release these
parcels to UNRRA. No confirmation has been received
by Amcross Paris whether actual delivery these
parcels has yet taken place. Recommend you immediately
contact UNRRA London.

HARRISON

JMB

~~SECRET~~ W

Sp/Carins office (Carins & Ronald)

*Whisler got cable from London that 206,000 pleges
were rec'd in Gothenburg, that all pleges in Switz. belonged
to Army - Carins Carins calling Keenleyside Carins in London.*

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

000897



000898

COPY OF INCOMING CABLEGRAM

AMERICAN RED CROSS
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

NIGHT LETTER RATE

Date: July 27, 1945

To: AMERICAN (LEGATION)
STOCKHOLM (SWEDEN)
For Amcross - Whisler

QUOTE SS 152. Your 152 FOB price coal \$6.65 per ton. Overseas transportation not yet calculated. Please advise ownership and proposed disposition of coal.

Your 155. Unit price UNERA packages SFP \$3.10, SIFP \$3.80, A1 \$3.90 plus 60 cents transportation each cases. Repeated to Dunning.

Amcross UNQUOTE

LBL:lw
FW-57-J-C

cc Regular Routing
and
Mr. Geo. Smith
Mrs. Horchow
Miss Brookes
Miss Mattox
Miss Shotton

000899

COPY OF INCOMING CABLEGRAM

AMERICAN RED CROSS
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

NIGHT LETTER 400

Date: July 31, 1945

To: AMERICAN (RELATIONS)
MEMORANDUM (SECRET)
For /cross - Whisler

QUOTE SC 155. By SC 152. Change transportation cost parcels sold
BY from 60 cents per unit to 25 cents.

AMCROSS UNQUOTE

L3L:lw
FW-57-J-C

cc Regular Routing
and
Mr. Geo Smith
Mr. Horchow
Miss Brooke
Miss Hutton
Miss Shotton

000900



000901

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

PER
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. [redacted]

July 28, 1948
2 p.m.

*Wm. R. [redacted]
O. [redacted]*

15 21 12 04

US URGENT

DD/L
MANSCH

AMLEGATION

CONTROL COPY

BERN

2410

The following for McClelland is WRB 642.

Reference your no. 3092 July 26.

Both UERNA and American Red Cross Washington have
no information concerning delivery of WRB 206,000 POW
food parcels to UERNA in Gothenburg, Sweden. Suggest
you immediately telephone Danning or Fate of Amercross
in Paris for full information and advise Board.

CREW
(Acting)

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

WRB:MM Vance:KG
7/28/48

WE

SWP

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

000902

US URGENT

CABLE TO AMLEGATION, BERN, FOR MCCLELLAND FROM WILLIAM O'DWYER
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Reference your No. 3692 of July 26. Both UNRRA and American Red Cross, Washington, have no information concerning delivery of WRB's 206,000 POW food parcels to UNRRA in Gotenberg, Sweden. Suggest you immediately telephone Dunning or Pate of Amcross in Paris for full information and advise Board.

This is WRB Bern No.542

July 28, 1945

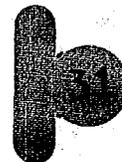
12:30 p.m.

(Dictated to Warren's office on phone)

FH:hd 7/28/45

Handwritten copy sent to file

000403



000904

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

GENEVA 2000 SES

DEPT. OF STATE 9 10
Bern

*Wear Ref Ad
C. Meyer*

MS-129

Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. (SECRET WR 1) HARRISON
Dated July 26, 1945
Rec'd 8 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

CONTROL COPY

US URGENT

3692, July 26, 5 p.m. ✓

FOR O'DWYER OF WRB FROM MCCLELLAND.

Department's 2378, WRB'S 540, July 24.

Ancross Geneva informs me that according to report
from Dunning of Ancross Paris UNRRA took delivery 206,000
POW food parcels about two weeks ago in Gothenburg, Sweden.
Tyler of UNRRA here is attempting check this. Meanwhile
recommend you consult UNRRA Washington.

HARRISON

RB

██████████ WR 1

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

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

000905

30

000906

206,000 food parcels

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Distribution of food parcels by special arrangement.
OUTGOING TELEGRAM
July 24, 1945
DISTRIBUTION
CENTRAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

127 JUL 25 AM 9 41

US URGENT

DC/L LIAISON

AMLEGATION

CONTROL COPY

DERN 2378

The following for McClelland from C'Dwyer is WRB 530
You are hereby authorized immediately to transfer the 206,000 standard U.S. prisoner of war food parcels which Board purchased from U. S. War Department to the duly accredited representative of UNRRA in Geneva, Switzerland. In making the transfer you should obtain eight (repeat eight) copies of a receipt of such packages from the UNRRA representative who should sign each of the eight copies. The eight signed copies of such receipt should be sent immediately to Board in Washington in order to arrange for necessary transfer of funds as soon as possible.

GREW (Acting)

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

WRB:MMVance:RG 7/24/45

WE

SWP

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

000907

1
US URGENT

CABLE TO AMLEGATION, BERN, FOR MCCLELLAND FROM O'DWYER, WAR
REFUGEE BOARD

You are hereby authorized immediately to transfer the
206,000 standard U.S. prisoner of war food parcels which Board
purchased from U. S. War Department to the duly accredited
representative of UNRRA in Geneva, Switzerland. In making the
transfer you should obtain eight (repeat eight) copies of a
receipt of such packages from the UNRRA representative who
should sign each of the eight copies.

The eight signed copies of such receipt should be sent
immediately to Board in Washington in order to arrange for
necessary transfer of funds as soon as possible.

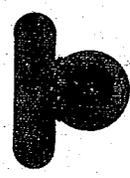
This is WRB Bern No. 540

5:00 p.m.
July 23, 1945

*Dispatched 7/24 noon
as Department's 2378*

FH:hd 7/23/45 *JH*

000908



000909

JUL 10 1945

Attention: Mr. Delmar B. Haverkamp

Dear Mr. Pate:

This is in reply to your letter of June 6, 1945, concerning disposition by the War Refugee Board to UNRRA of the 206,000 standard prisoner of war parcels purchased from the War Department in April 1945.

We have now received a communication from UNRRA, in which that agency, as the purchaser of these parcels, agrees to be bound with respect to the disposition of these 206,000 parcels after the manner of their letter to you of June 7.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Florence Hodel

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

Mr. Maurice Pate,
Director, Relief to Prisoners of War,
American National Red Cross,
Washington 13, D. C.

PJM *Checked with Miss Hodel*
PJM:FC:FH:hd 7/10/45 *via telephone*

000910



000911

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

DRM-1193

PLAIN

Rome

Dated July 5, 1945

Rec'd 4:40 p.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

1831, fifth
X

FOR MOSES LEAVITT, AJDC, NEW YORK CITY FROM RUBEN
RESNIK, AJDC, MILAN 56.
X

There are at least 206,000 prisoner of war parcels that were previously available to the War Refugee Board, apart from parcels especially prepared for this agency. Believe it desirable to explore possibilities obtaining at least 40,000 of these parcels for our use in Austrian camps and general distribution. Understand parcels can be obtained in vicinity. Urgent that speedy action be taken.

KIRK

JT

RECEIVED
DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
1945 JUL 6 AM 9:47
DC/L
LIAISON

000912



000913

UNITED NATIONS
RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

1344 CONNECTICUT AVENUE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

29 June 1945

Mr. William O'Dwyer
Executive Director
Executive Office of the President
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. O'Dwyer,

1. We wish to apologise for the delay in answering your letter of 12 June concerning the 206,000 standard prisoner of war packages which UNRRA has purchased from the War Refugee Board.
2. We are attaching a copy of our letter of 7th June to Mr. Haverkamp of the American Red Cross which outlines our agreement with that organization. You will note that this agreement covers the packages that we have procured from your Board as well as those procured from the Foreign Economic Administration and the American Red Cross.
3. As this agreement gives assurance on each of the points mentioned in your letter, we hope that this will be satisfactory.

Yours sincerely,

Karl Borders

Karl Borders
Acting Chief
Bureau of Supply

attachment

000914

copy

7 June 1945

BY HAND

Mr. Delmar B. Havercamp
Relief to Prisoners of War
American Red Cross
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Havercamp,

With reference to the American Red Cross prisoner of war parcels which we are procuring from the Foreign Economic Administration, the War Refugee Board, the American Red Cross or any other source, I write to confirm the substance of the oral understanding reached between the American Red Cross and UNRRA at a meeting held in your office on 23rd May and in subsequent conversations with representatives of our Food Division, to wit:

- (a) UNRRA will remove the foods from the cartons and dispose of the cartons and the receipt cards inside the packages, also in so far as practicable, any Red Cross markings on the cigarettes, in a manner which will ensure the obliteration of the Red Cross names and emblems;
- (b) UNRRA will distribute the packages free of charge;
- (c) with the possible exception of part of the contents which UNRRA may wish to distribute, under the supervision of its Mission concerned, to certain destitute families, UNRRA agrees to use the contents of the packages primarily in camps, assembly centres for displaced persons, hospitals, and child welfare clinics;
- (d) the distribution of all contents of the package will be supervised by representatives of UNRRA in the field and we are confident that our Missions will be able to devise ways and means to preclude any leakage into the black market as we, like you, would greatly deplore any such leakage; and
- (e) UNRRA will be glad to consult with representatives of the American Red Cross in Washington, and in the

000915

Mr. Delmar B. Havercamp

- 2 -

field as well, regarding methods of distribution which are consistent with UNRRA's policy of distributing commodities without any discrimination to the areas and people within areas in the greatest need. UNRRA will inform the Red Cross of the countries to which the packages or their contents are to be shipped.

Yours sincerely,

David Weintraub
Chief, Bureau of Supply

000916

JUN 12 1945

Dear Mr. Weintraub:

The War Refugee Board is in receipt of a letter from the American National Red Cross with respect to the sale to UNRRA by the War Refugee Board of approximately 206,000 standard prisoner of war parcels which the Board owned in Switzerland.

The American Red Cross has expressed concern over (a) the ultimate disposition of these parcels or their contents, (b) the safeguarding of the name and symbol of both the American Red Cross and the International Red Cross which appears on the inner and outer cartons, and (c) the possibility that these supplies might reach European "black markets."

The American Red Cross has requested the Board to assure them that, in the sale of these relief supplies, we exact from the purchaser the greatest measure of care to prevent these parcels or their contents from falling into the hands of unauthorized persons and further to provide suitable protection to cartons bearing names, symbols and labels of the American Red Cross and the International Red Cross until opportunity is presented for their complete destruction.

For your information, when the Board acquired these parcels from the War Department, it was agreed that the Board would arrange for repackaging the parcels before their delivery to civilian detainees in German concentration camps.

In view of the request received from the American Red Cross, it will be appreciated if you will confirm in writing to the Board that UNRRA agrees to meet the requirements specified by the American Red Cross.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) William O'Dwyer

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

Mr. David Weintraub, 1355
Chief of the Bureau of Supply,
United Nations Relief & Rehabilitation,
Washington, D. C.
FMO & TR: ve 6/12/45 JH. 16.S.

000417



000918

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

200,000 Parcels
PEM
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. [redacted]

June 9, 1945

1 p.m.

31 JUN 1945

11 30 AM

11 30 AM

11 30 AM

CONTROL COPY

1945 JUN 12 AM 9 27

CENTRAL SERVICES

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

The following for McClelland is WRB 534.

Reference your No. 3063, of June 6.

Board is arranging for sale of its surplus 206,000 POW
parcels in Switzerland to UNRRA. Accordingly, please advise
Intercross that none (repeat none) of these 206,000 parcels
be turned over to Intercross. Detailed instructions
pertaining transfer to UNRRA will be sent to you shortly.

Board is pleased to know that balance of 28,792 three-
star Refugee Board parcels will soon be exhausted. Please
express appreciation of Board to Intercross.

We do not understand your reference to 20,000 gallons of
gasoline (plus lubricants). Are they now available in Switzer-
land authorized by the Board.

GREW
(Acting)
(GHE)
ACTING

WRB:GML:ren:mg
6/9/45

WE

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

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

000919

TO: (14-00000)

CABLE TO AMB BERN, SWITZ, FOR SWITZERLAND FOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Reference your No. 2023, of June 6.

Board is arranging for sale of its surplus 205,000 POW parcels in Switzerland to IROSA. Accordingly, please advise Interross that none (repeat none) of these 205,000 parcels may be turned over to Interross. Detailed instructions concerning transfer to IROSA will be sent to you shortly.

Board is pleased to know that balance of 33,792 three-mile War Refugee Board parcels will soon be exhausted. Please express appreciation of Board to Interross.

We do not understand your reference to 30,000 gallons of gasoline (plus lubricants). Are they now available in Switzerland and owned by the Board.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 534

2:30 p.m.
June 8, 1945

Miss Ripple (for the Sec'y), Cohn, Hodel, Hutchison, McCormack, Files.

JH
Mishdave
6/8/45

000920

000921

AMERICAN RED CROSS
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
WASHINGTON 13, D. C.

FORM 787

June 6, 1945

General William O'Dwyer
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Main Treasury Building
15th & Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Mr. Paul McCormack

Dear General O'Dwyer:

We are advised that a limited number of prisoner of war food packages which we packed and processed for you, and which were to be distributed through the International Red Cross Committee, are, because of the cessation of hostilities in Europe and the release of prisoners of war from enemy hands, no longer needed for the purposes originally intended and are to be disposed of by you to UNRRA for relief work in Europe.

Having had such an intimate connection with the entire prisoner of war food package program from its inception, we naturally have a continuing concern over the ultimate disposition of packages originally packed and processed by us. This concern is heightened by the fact that the outside containers and the inside bulk containers all bear the markings and labels of the American Red Cross and the International Red Cross Committee, the distributing agency for all prisoner of war packages in Europe. The provisions of the Treaty of Geneva, as well as those of our own Congressional Charter, emphasize the protection which is to be accorded the Red Cross name and emblem and the restrictions placed on the use of the emblem and name in transactions of a commercial nature. Our own longstanding policy of providing services and relief without charge emphasizes this basic principle.

Reports reaching us from Europe indicate that supplies intended for relief have, at times, fallen into the hands of those engaged in "black market" operations. It can also be assumed that failure to guard such supplies with the utmost care will encourage pilferage in areas where the food shortage is so acute. In order that our organization, as well as the International Red Cross, may not be embarrassed by the handling of prisoner of war packages bearing the name and emblem of our organization and the label of the International Red Cross Committee, we request your assurance that, in disposing of your prisoner of war packages no longer needed for the feeding of prisoners of war, you will observe and exact from your recipient or purchaser the greatest measure of care to prevent these packages or their contents from falling into the hands of unauthorized persons, and provide that the cartons in which the contents are assembled and upon which the name and emblem of our organization and the label of the International Red Cross Committee appears, be carefully protected until the first opportunity is presented for complete destruction of the same, in the light of transportation necessities involved.

000922

Page 2
General William O'Dwyer

June 6, 1945

This subject has been informally discussed with representatives of UNRRA, and we have received assurances of cooperation in a letter dated June , copy attached. However, as your organization is the owner of the packages in question, these assurances should more properly in the first instance come from you. Once the packages leave our hands or any channels over which we have supervisory control, as in the case of sale by you and diversion of the packages into channels where we have no supervisory control, the primary responsibility for the proper protection and distribution of the food packages is yours.

Sincerely yours,

by Shlaverkauf

Maurice Pate
Director

Relief to Prisoners of War

cc: Mr. Paul McCormack
War Refugee Board
Washington, D. C.

000923

Mr. Delmar B. Haverkamp

- 2 -

field as well, regarding methods of distribution which are consistent with UNRRA's policy of distributing commodities without any discrimination to the areas and people within areas in the greatest need. UNRRA will inform the Red Cross of the countries to which the packages of their contents are to be shipped.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) David Weintraub
Chief, Bureau of Supply

000925



000925

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE June 5, 1945

TO Miss Hodel
FROM Mr. McCormack

As per our telephone conversation of yesterday, I telephoned Mr. Appleby of FEA regarding the status of the purchase by that agency for UNRRA of the WRB stockpile of parcels in Switzerland.

Mr. Appleby informed me that he had the matter on his desk and he expected to discuss it with the Budget Section today. He further explained that in normal procurement for UNRRA, FEA did their buying through the Procurement Division of Treasury, which Division normally charged them a 15% service charge for buying, apparently to cover administrative expenses. Mr. Appleby said that he thought Budget Division at FEA were attempting to work out a formula whereby this 15% charge would be eliminated in this particular transaction, inasmuch as the commodity to be purchased was already abroad. He said that he recognized our interest in speed and said that UNRRA, too, was interested in securing supplies as rapidly as possible and that he would call us within the next day or so to tell us that all of the mechanics attendant upon the purchase had been completed. He said that this would likely come to us in the form of a letter that would serve as a notice of intent to obligate FEA at the upset price already agreed upon.

JM

000927



000928

UNITED NATIONS
RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

1344 CONNECTICUT AVENUE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

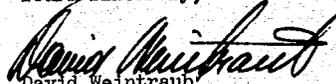
30th May 1945

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

Dear Mr. O'Dwyer,

1. This is to confirm the agreement reached to-day between Miss Hodell of your staff and representatives of our Food Division under which we will procure from your Board between 206,000 and 207,000 standard Red Cross prisoner of war packages in store Geneva, Switzerland, at a total cost of \$US762,200.
2. We are preparing to-day for submission to the Foreign Economic Administration a requisition under the terms of which that Administration will procure these packages from your Board and pay to Miscellaneous Receipts the sum of \$762,200.
3. We are making this purchase despite the fact that we feel that the price charged to you by the War Department is excessive in that the price of the packages in the United States is \$3.10 each, which indicates a price of approximately 60¢ for transporting them to Geneva, which cost of transport appears inordinately high in relation to the current freight and overland transport charges. Nevertheless, it is our understanding that you are not free agents to negotiate with us a price which would reflect current transport charges.

Yours sincerely,


David Weintraub
Chief, Bureau of Supply

000929



000930



IN REPLY REFER TO

SURPLUS PROPERTY BOARD
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

May 30, 1945

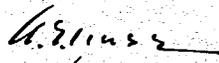
Brig. Gen. William O'Dwyer
Executive Director
The War Refugee Board
Washington, D. C.

My dear General O'Dwyer:

Reference is made to your letter of May 30, 1945, in which you indicate that the War Refugee Board proposes to dispose of approximately 206,000 food parcels in Geneva, Switzerland, to the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration under Temporary Regulation A of the Surplus Property Board provided that the Surplus Property Board interposes no objection.

This is to advise you that the Surplus Property Board interposes no objection to the consummation of this transaction as outlined.

Sincerely yours,


A. E. Howse
Administrator

000431

D R A F T

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

Dear General O'Dwyer:

Reference is made to your letter of May 30, 1945, in which you indicate that the War Refugee Board proposes to dispose of approximately 208,000 food parcels in Geneva, Switzerland, to the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration under Temporary Regulation A of the Surplus Property Board provided that the Surplus Property Board interposes no objection.

This is to advise you that the Surplus Property Board interposes no objection to the consummation of this transaction as outlined.

Sincerely yours,

000932

May 30, 1945

Col. A. E. Howse,
Administrator,
Surplus Property Board,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Colonel Howse:

The War Refugee Board, established under Executive Order No. 9417 of January 22, 1944, is in the process of winding up all of its operations. The Board owns approximately 206,000 standard prisoner of war parcels in Geneva, Switzerland, which it purchased from the United States War Department for distribution to civilian detainees in German concentration camps. These packages could not be distributed before the cessation of hostilities in Europe and are accordingly surplus property of the War Refugee Board.

The Board desires to dispose of these parcels, under Temporary Regulation A of the Surplus Property Board, to the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration at basically the same unit cost which the Board paid the War Department. The War Refugee Board will consummate this transaction provided that the Surplus Property Board interposes no objection.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) William O'Dwyer

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

TH & PMcC: ve
5/30/45

JH ✓

PM
A.S.

Cleared with
Gen. O'Dwyer

000433



000934

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM
DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

MB-1155 1945 APR 26 AM 10 11 Bern

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

Dated April 25, 1945

Rec'd 1 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

PRIORITY

2421, April 25 11 a.m.

FOR O'DWYER OF WRB FROM KATZKI AND MCCLELLAND

At meeting held April 23, ICRC made preliminary decision discontinue all shipments of food parcels from Switzerland to Germany. German territory NE of Swiss border has now become military operations zone which from technical point of view makes it impossible for moment to send either trucks or block trains via this route. Principal ICRC dispatching point for German bound shipments is at Kreuzlingen, now definitely excluded as point of departure. ICRC's present decision was also motivated by danger to life and limb incurred by personnel travelling through such zones of military operations as well as danger of plundering for which committee felt it could no longer assume responsibility certain of their personnel already having been injured through bombardment and aerial attack. As a result of this decision several convoys transporting WRB parcels and other supplies destined

000935

-2- 2421, April 25, 11 a.m., from Bern

destined for concentration camps have been held at Kreuzlingen and Geneva pending developments in the transport situation.

We urged ICRC to explore all possibilities for dispatching trucks by other routes than those heretofore used but now inaccessible. At a conference with Burckhardt on April 24 he informed us that single other possible route through Buchs-Feckkirch-Landect and from thence northward is under consideration. As this road runs directly through Reduit and in addition may be impassible due to snow at Arlberg Pass this possibility requires further exploration. We are meanwhile actively pursuing matter of WRB parcel shipments with ICRC in order take advantage of any opportunity relief supplies to civil detainees which may remain.

With reference to Department's 1493, WRB's 503 April 18; Ancross representative in Geneva has now received instructions from Washington to release to WRB in Switzerland 206,000 POW parcels purchased by board from War Department for our programs. Should developments make it impossible for ICRC to continue controlled deliveries of parcels to civil detainees in Germany it may be necessary to reconsider use to which these new

WRB parcels

000936

-3- 2421, April 25, 11 a.m., from Bern

WRB parcels will be put.

ICRC has informed us that because of limited facilities and backlog of other repackaging requirements they will not be able to begin repackaging these WRB parcels for at least three weeks. This will prove period to observe developments. Meanwhile we would welcome any suggestions you might wish to make.

Since March 23, ICRC has shipped from WRB stocks in Switzerland approximately 16,790 parcels destined for Theresenstadt, Vienna area and camp of Landsberg Am Lech. In addition substantial relief supplies furnished ICRC's DSA by JDC, union OSE and Sternbuch's organization have been shipped also largely as a result of fuel obtained through board's efforts.

In view of confused transport situation in Germany ICRC has not yet been able inform us how much of this will arrive at its destination.

HARRISON

BB

000937



000938

APR 20 1945

Dear Mr. May:

The War Refugee Board has just purchased from the War Department 206,000 United States prisoner of war food parcels stocked in Switzerland for delivery by the International Red Cross to civilian detainees in German concentration camps.

This letter will confirm to you that the parcels in question are regarded by the Board as a substitution for the 300,000 parcels which were to be shipped from the United States in accordance with blockade authorization contained in cable No. 10022 from London, dated November 16, 1944.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) WILLIAM O'DWYER

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

Mr. W. B. May,
Blockade Section,
Area Operations Division,
Foreign Economic Administration,
Washington, D. C.

JW RHrh 4/20/45

000939

5
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: AMERICAN EMBASSY, LONDON
TO: SECRETARY OF STATE, WASHINGTON
DATED: November 16, 1944
NRFB 21 10022

[REDACTED]
This message is for MRB, the Department and PAA.

As set forth in Department's 9419 of the tenth of November and WRB 21, the Relief Sub-Committee approves shipment of further 300,000 three kilo parcels. In approving consignment, MRB representative, drew attention to the present shortage of transportation to Geneva from Marseilles and stated he presumed that these parcels would be scheduled so that they did not conflict with essential Prisoner of War supplies' onshipment.

GALLKAR

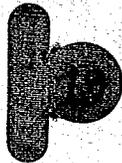
DCR:REG

11-17-44

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Ackermann, Akzin, Cohn, Drury, Lubin, Friedman, Gaton, Hodel, Lesser, Marks, Hannon, McCormack, Pehle, Files.

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

000940



000941



AMERICAN RED CROSS

WASHINGTON, D. C.

CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

April 20, 1945

Dear Bill:

Thank you for your letter of April 17th. In accordance with arrangements worked out with your office, and with the War Department, a telegram has already been sent to our representative in Geneva, authorizing him to carry out the transfer of 206,000 prisoners of war food parcels to the Geneva representative of the War Refugee Board. In this telegram were incorporated the conditions specified by the War Department in Major Sommers' letter of April 13th.

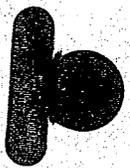
We are glad to have had the opportunity to work with you in this project.

Sincerely,

Chairman

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

000942



000943

RE CTED

April 26, 1945

TO: War Refugee Board
Paul J. McCormack

FROM: WRB - M.M. Vance.

Enclosed is copy of the
cable sent by American Red
Cross which you requested.

000944

RE CTED

NIGHT LETTER RATE

American Red Cross

April 18, 1945

AMCONSUL

GENEVA (SWITZERLAND)

161

For Amcross

QUOTE SW 1226. War Department has sold to War Refugee Board 206,000 POW
food parcels now Switzerland intended for AmPOWS. Please authorize Intercross
transfer to War Refugee Board representative Switzerland 206,000POW food parcels
from American Reserve for disposition in accordance with following conditions:

(1) Such food parcels will be distributed solely in concentration camps in
accordance with existing practices supervised by Intercross (2) All such food
parcels will be repackaged in containers not bearing any reference to United
States Army or to POWS before being introduced into or distributed in Germany.

War Department reports this transfer cleared with State Department, Foreign
Economic Administration and War Food Administration. Understand McClelland
WRB representative Switzerland is completing arrangements for repackaging in
Switzerland.

Amcross UNQUOTE

Richard F. Allen
Vice Chairman
Insular and Foreign Operations

000945

RE CTED

NIGHT LETTER RATE

American Red Cross

April 16, 1945

AMCONSUL

GENEVA (SWITZERLAND)

161

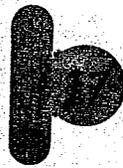
For Amcross

QUOTE SW 1226. War Department has sold to War Refugee Board 206,000 POW food parcels now Switzerland intended for AmPOWS. Please authorize Intercross transfer to War Refugee Board representative Switzerland 206,000POW food parcels from American Reserve for disposition in accordance with following conditions: (1) Such food parcels will be distributed solely in concentration camps in accordance with existing practices supervised by Intercross (2) All such food parcels will be repackaged in containers not bearing any reference to United States Army or to POWS before being introduced into or distributed in Germany. War Department reports this transfer cleared with State Department, Foreign Economic Administration and War Food Administration. Understand McClelland WRB representative Switzerland is completing arrangements for repackaging in Switzerland.

Amcross UNQUOTE

Richard F. Allen
Vice Chairman
Insular and Foreign Operations

000945



000947

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

Distribution of true copy only by special messenger.

4 p.m.

1945 APR 20 AM 9 48

US URGENT

AMLEGATION

BERN

1493

The following for McClelland is WHB 603.

Transfer of 206,000 United States prisoner of war parcels to War Refugee Board from War Department has now been effected. War Department has requested American Red Cross to hold these parcels for the War Refugee Board and to dispose of them in accordance with directions of War Refugee Board, subject to following conditions:

- QUOTE (a) That such food parcels will be distributed solely in concentration camps supervised by the International Red Cross Committee in accordance with existing practices;
 - (b) That all such food parcels will be repackaged in containers not bearing any reference to the United States Army or to prisoners of war before being introduced into, or distributed in, Germany. UNQUOTE
- Board has requested Amcross to make available the 206,000 parcels to you as War Refugee Board representative.

You are instructed to arrange at once for repackaging in accordance with the conditions specified by the War Department.

Please advise (1) when Amcross makes packages available to you,

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

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

000948

-2-, #1493, April 18, 4 p.m., to Bern.

you, (2) when repackaging has commenced, and (3) when Intercross starts sending these parcels to German concentration camps. Please report weekly to Board the number of Board parcels which have gone forward and the number remaining in Switzerland.

STETTINIUS
(G1H)

WRB:MMV:KG
4/18/46

WE

SUP

000949

US URGENT

CABLE TO HARRISON, BERN, FOR MCCLELLAND FROM WILLIAM O'DWYER,
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Transfer of 206,000 United States prisoner of war parcels to War Refugee Board from War Department has now been effected. War Department has requested American Red Cross to hold these parcels for the War Refugee Board and to dispose of them in accordance with directions of War Refugee Board, subject to following conditions:

"(a) That such food parcels will be distributed solely in concentration camps supervised by the International Red Cross Committee in accordance with existing practices;

"(b) That all such food parcels will be repackaged in containers not bearing any reference to the United States Army or to prisoners of war before being introduced into, or distributed in, Germany."

Board has requested Amcross to make available the 206,000 parcels to you as War Refugee Board representative.

You are instructed to arrange at once for repackaging in accordance with the conditions specified by the War Department.

Please advise (1) when Amcross makes packages available to you, (2) when repackaging has commenced, and (3) when Inter-cross starts sending these parcels to German concentration camps. Please report weekly to Board the number of Board parcels which have gone forward and the number remaining in Switzerland.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 503

10:45 a.m.
April 18, 1945

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

FH:hd 4/17/45

YH *Clear*
with Silverman

000950



000951

APR 17 1945

Dear Basil:

In connection with the 206,000 United States prisoner of war food parcels purchased by the War Refugee Board from the War Department, the Board has been advised by the War Department that the American Red Cross has been requested to hold these 206,000 food parcels for the Board and to dispose of them in accordance with the directions of the Board.

It will be appreciated if the American Red Cross will instruct its representative in Geneva to make these 206,000 parcels available to Roswell McClelland, the War Refugee Board's representative in Bern, Switzerland. Mr. McClelland will arrange for repackaging in accordance with the conditions specified by the War Department and for subsequent delivery by the International Red Cross to internees in German concentration camps.

The cooperation of the American Red Cross in this matter is greatly appreciated.

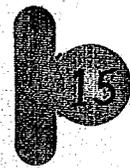
Sincerely,

W. Bill

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

FH:hd 4/18/45 *JH*

000952



000953

APR 16 1945

Dear Major Sommers:

I have received your letter of April 13, 1945, enclosing four copies of Form 1080, Voucher for Adjustments between Appropriations and/or Funds, in the amount of \$762,200, covering the 208,000 prisoner of war food packages which the War Department has agreed to sell the War Refugee Board.

This is to advise you that the certificate on Form 1080 has been executed and processed for payment. The Treasury Department Division of Disbursement has advised the Board that the check will be mailed to the War Department today.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) William O'Dwyer

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

Major Davidson Sommers,
Assistant Executive,
Office of the Assistant
Secretary,
The War Department,
Washington, D. C.

FH:hd 4/16/45

*Has discussed
with Maj. Sommers*

000954

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

13 April 1945

Brigadier General William O'Dwyer
Executive Director, War Refugee Board
Treasury Department
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear General:

There are enclosed four copies of Form 1080, Voucher for Adjustments between Appropriations and/or Funds, in the amount of \$762,200, covering the 206,000 food packages in Switzerland referred to in Colonel Gerhardt's letter to you of March 30, 1945.

It is understood that the transfer of these food parcels to you is made on the following conditions:

- (a) That such food parcels will be distributed solely in concentration camps supervised by the International Red Cross Committee in accordance with existing practices.
- (b) That all such food parcels will be repackaged in containers not bearing any reference to the United States Army or to prisoners of war before being introduced into, or distributed in, Germany.

If you will have the certificate on the enclosed Form 1080 executed and processed for payment, and advise me accordingly, that will constitute a record of the transfer and I will promptly forward to the Red Cross a letter in the form attached hereto.

Sincerely,

Davidson Sommers
DAVIDSON SOMMERS
Major, Air Corps
Assistant Executive

Encls.

Form 1080 - 4 cys.
Drft. ltr. to Red Cross fm. OASW



000955

WDOAS:DS:MAW

13 April 1945

Mr. Philip Ryan, Director
Civilian Relief, Insular and Foreign Operations
American Red Cross
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Ryan:

Referring to a letter dated March 30, 1945, from Colonel Gerhardt to General O'Dwyer, a copy of which was furnished to you, and to my letter to you of April 5, 1945, advising you that the War Refugee Board had accepted the War Department offer to transfer to it 206,000 food parcels belonging to the War Department and in the hands of the Red Cross in Switzerland for distribution to American prisoners of war, you are requested to hold 206,000 of such food parcels for the War Refugee Board and to dispose of them in accordance with the directions of the War Refugee Board, subject to the following conditions:

(a) That such food parcels will be distributed solely in concentration camps supervised by the International Red Cross Committee in accordance with existing practices.

(b) That all such food parcels will be repackaged in containers not bearing any reference to the United States Army or to prisoners of war before being introduced into, or distributed in, Germany.

Representatives of the State Department, the Foreign Economic Administration, and the War Food Administration have indicated that their organizations have no objection to this transfer.

Sincerely,

at. O'CALLAHAN
DAVIDSON SOMMERS
Major, Air Corps
Assistant Executive

(UNSIGNED DRAFT)

COPY FOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD

000956



000957

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

OUTGOING TELEGRAM
DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. (SECRET-W)

1945 APR 15 AM 10 56

Handwritten signatures and initials

US URGENT

DC/L
LIAISON

AMLEGATION

CONTROL UNIT

BERN

1430

The following for McClelland from O'Dwyer is WRB 497.

Reference Department's No. 1392 of April 9 (WRB No. 490).

It is clear that there is no alternative but to repackage in Switzerland 206,000 American Red Cross prisoner of war parcels being purchased by War Refugee Board. Accordingly, you are instructed to arrange for repackaging, using your discretion as to size and type of containers.

Advise immediately as to what action you take.

Instructions to Amcros representative in Geneva to turn over these parcels to War Refugee Board may be expected soon.

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

STETTINIUS
(GHV)

WHL:AV:KQ
4/12/45

WZ

SWP

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

000958

US URGENT

CABLE TO MOSELLELAND, BERN, FROM WILLIAM O'DWYER, WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Reference Department's No. of (WRB No. 490).

It is clear that there is no alternative but to repackage in Switzerland 206,000 American Red Cross prisoner of war parcels being purchased by War Refugee Board. Accordingly, you are instructed to arrange for repackaging, using your discretion as to size and type of containers.

Advise immediately as to what action you take.

Instructions to Amcross representative in Geneva to turn over these parcels to War Refugee Board may be expected soon.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 497

4:30 p.m.
April 11, 1945

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

Off for Department of O'Dwyer
FH:hd 4/11/45 *Classed with Neg. Services. War Dept.*

000959



000960

April 10, 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

Major Sumers telephoned today to advise the Board that he had cleared with War Food Administration the matter of the transfer of the 208,000 prisoner of war parcels to the War Refugee Board. War Food has no objection to this diversion.

Major Sumers stated that the Red Cross was insisting upon certain statements from the War Department before agreeing to the final transfer of these parcels. Specifically, Red Cross was asking the War Department to make assurances that the reserve for prisoners of war in Geneva would not be impaired by this diversion and that the matter be cleared with and approved by all interested government agencies. Major Sumers stated that the War Department did not intend to write a letter containing these statements to the American Red Cross because the War Department felt that, since it owned the packages, it had a right to undertake the arrangements with the War Refugee Board. On the question of repackaging, Major Sumers stated that he was of the opinion that mere blacking out of the symbols and labels would not be sufficient. The reason for this is that the Germans would then be encouraged to take prisoner of war packages destined for American and Allied prisoners of war, black out the symbols and labels and distribute the packages to German civilians. The real interest of the army here is to "keep the currency clean". Major Sumers stated that there was no objection whatsoever to repackaging in cartons of the same size as prisoner of war packages. He added that, if the War Refugee Board insisted on a more blacking out of Red Cross symbols and labels, the matter would have to be raised and cleared with General Marshall himself.

April 11, 1945.

I called Major Sumers today to clear with him the text of a cable being sent to McClelland instructing him to make arrangements for the repackaging in Switzerland of the prisoner of war parcels being purchased by the War Refugee

000961

Wash.

Major Street explained that the letter from the War Department to the Red Cross would not be sent until the transfer had taken place and that the War Department felt that the transfer could not take place until payment for the supplies had been made. The War Department will, accordingly, send Form No. 1090 to the Board requesting payment.



F. Hodel



000963

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

RECEIVED
DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES

Walt R. ...

EAS-205

1945 APR 11 AM 9:47

This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone DC/L
other than a Government
Agency. ~~(RESTRICTED)~~

Dated April 10, 1945

Rec'd 6:37 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

CONTROL COPY

US URGENT

2120, April 10, 11 p.m.

FOR WRB FROM MCCLELLAND

Division Special Assistance of ICRC informs me
(Department's 1392, WRB's 490 April 9 and our 2009,
April 6) it will be materially possible (containers are
obtainable) repackage these POW parcels in Switzerland
if this is considered absolutely necessary by our War
Department but it will be a time-consuming and expensive
process. Repackaging could begin in four to five days
at a rhythm of from two to three thousand parcels per
day and at minimum cost of one Swiss franc per parcel.
Working space to repackage more than three thousand
parcels per day is exceedingly difficult to obtain
immediately.

Output of three thousand parcels per day would be
sufficient

000964

-2- #2120, April 10, 11 p.m., from Bern

sufficient utilize trucks likely to be available to our program but insufficient to make use of railroad car space we should receive within next ten days on ICRC blocked trains to depot at Ravensburg.

If ICRC can satisfactorily demonstrate (if War Department considers this technically possible) that identity of origin these parcels can be destroyed, will it permit War Department to waive repackaging condition?

HARRISON

LMS

000965



000966

DEPARTMENT

OF STATE
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement. (██████████)

OUTGOING TELEGRAM
DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION
7 p.m. 4/11/45

1945 APR 11 PM 1 01

War Ref 31
O Sawyer

URGENT
RELATION

DC/L
LIAISON

BERN

1392

CONTROL COPY

The following for McClelland is RW: 490.

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

Reference your no. 1989 and our telephone conversation of 6th.

Our Department has agreed to sell Board 206,000 United States prisoner of war parcels now in Switzerland, on condition these parcels are repackaged before delivery by InterCross and that they will be delivered only to concentration camps. Our Department has requested American Red Cross to arrange these 206,000 parcels for transfer to War Refugee Board under arrangement being worked out between War Department and the Board.

Board must know at once (repeat at once) whether you can obtain new containers in Switzerland for repackaging. If so, can repackaging be done in sufficient time and in sufficient quantities to utilize all transportation facilities including trucks available for board relief supplies. Board would be unable to arrange for delivery in Switzerland of containers shipped from United States for many weeks.

In the meantime, in view of your no. 2009 of April 6, Board will bring to attention of War Department, that InterCross is of opinion that these parcels could be used as they are with

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

organization

000967

-2-#1392, April 9, 7 p.m., to Bern

exception of blacking out of markings, changing labels, etc.

STETTINIUS
(GHK)

WRB:MMV:RG
4/9/48

WE

SWP

000968

US URGENT

CABLE TO HARRISON, BERN, FOR MCCLELLAND FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Reference your No. 1989 and our telephone conversation of April 6th.

War Department has agreed to sell Board 206,000 United States prisoner of war parcels now in Switzerland, on condition that these parcels are repackaged before delivery by InterCross and that they will be delivered only to concentration camps. War Department has requested American Red Cross to earmark these 206,000 parcels for transfer to War Refugee Board under arrangements being worked out between War Department and the Board.

Board must know at once (repeat at once) whether you can obtain new containers in Switzerland for repackaging. If so, can repackaging be done in sufficient time and in sufficient quantities to utilize all transportation facilities including trucks available for Board relief supplies. Board would be unable to arrange for delivery in Switzerland of containers shipped from United States for many weeks.

In the meantime, in view of your No. 2009 of April 6, Board will bring to attention of War Department that InterCross is of opinion that these parcels could be used as they are with exception of blanking out of markings, changing labels, etc.

THIS IS MRB BERN CABLE NO. 490

12:02 p.m.
April 9, 1945

JH Cleared by *Silverman*
FH:hd *with* 4/9/45

000964

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

DDS-747
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. (W)

Bern

Dated April 6, 1945.

Rec'd. 12:35 p.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

US URGENT

1988, April 6, 11 a.m.

FOR O'DWYER OF WRB FROM MCCLELLAND.

Arrangements with ICRC for securing trucks
to transport WRB food parcels into Germany for
civil detainees are shaping up as follows: Six
Renault trucks will be available for loading morning
April 9 and should depart on April 10. ICRC's
Division of Special Assistance still hopes send
them to Berlin - Luebeck - Hamburg area to relieve
rapidly worsening condition of detainees in con-
centration camps of Oranienburg, Ravensbrueck
and Hamburg Neuengamme. If it proves impossible
to dispatch trucks this area they will be sent
Munich region and east.

Prospects are good getting four to six more
Renaults moving by April 13.

These French trucks, although new, all re-
quired light overhauling, painting with ICRC in-
signia, et cetera, which has delayed their use.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

With tires

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 21 1972

000970

-2- #1988, April 6, 11 a.m., from Bern.

With tires and diesel oil procured for ICRC by board's efforts committee hopes make at least four trucks available also next week for our program.

Since it is quite possible that only areas of Munich and to east and northeast thereof will be accessible in future it is planned to direct relief shipments by truck mainly to these regions taking in camps of Dachau, Landsberg Amlech, Flossenburg and Mauthausen near Linz, including emergency relief to evacuated deportees on roads. These shipments would be apart from any that might go to Luebeck area.

Recent news from Germany indicates that almost all internal telephone and telegraph communications are disrupted so that individual camp commanders are progressively more isolated. Little or no centralized SS control, therefore, appears to exist which may tend to preclude any general last minute extermination of large group civil detainees.

ICRC reported this afternoon that truck convoy carrying 300 French women and small children, presumably civil detainees, is expected to

arrive

000971

-3- #1988, April 6, 11 a.m., from Bern.

arrive Kreuzlingen tomorrow.

Exact area or camp from which these persons come is still unknown.

Herbert Katzki arrived this afternoon, April 5 from Paris and will actively work with me on these WRB programs.

All further significant developments in situation will be reported to Board.

HARRISON

JT

000972



000973

April 9, 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

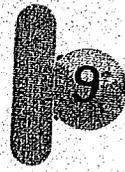
At the request of General O'Dwyer, I telephoned Mr. Ryan of the American Red Cross to find out if the Red Cross had mailed instructions to Geneva concerning the 200,000 prisoner of war parcels for War Refugee Board purposes. Ryan informed me that no cable had been sent; that this quantity of packages was merely being earmarked here in Washington for eventual transfer to the War Refugee Board; and that no cable or instruction would be sent to Geneva by the American Red Cross until the details of the transfer had been worked out between the Board and the War Department.

I also telephoned Major Sumers to advise him that General O'Dwyer had requested that Major Sumers be informed immediately that the War Refugee Board was now very anxious to obtain the transfer of all 200,000 parcels to the Board; that, in view of information received from McClelland, all War Refugee Board parcels now in Switzerland would be cleared out in two weeks, making it absolutely necessary for the Board to acquire the 200,000 prisoner of war parcels as soon as possible. Major Sumers advised me that he would get right on this matter. He raised the question of arrangement for repackaging and I advised him that we had today called McClelland asking him to go into certain questions on that matter and to advise the Board at once. Major Sumers then suggested that the matter of transfer be held up until the details on repackaging can be worked out and I requested that the transfer be effected at once and that we work out the details on the repackaging with our representative in Bern. He agreed to go ahead on this basis.

Major Sumers called back later in the day to find out if the Board had cleared on this matter with War Food Administration and I advised him that General O'Dwyer expected to call War Food when he came down on Wednesday. Major Sumers stated that, since American Red Cross was now insisting that the matter be cleared with all interested government agencies before the transfer be effected, Major Sumers said that he would clear the matter with War Food for the War Department. I advised him that the War Refugee Board would have no objection to this.

FH
F. Hodel

000974



000973

April 7, 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

Major Somers telephoned today with respects to the questions raised in General C'Duyen's letter to Colonel Gennardt of April 4, 1948. Major Somers stated that he had preliminary answers available but that further checking had to be done before a formal reply could be made to us. He stated that, with respect to the method of transfer, the War Department would do the following:

1. Write to the American Red Cross to earmark 208,000 prisoner of war packages and to dispose of them in accordance with the directions of the War Refugee Board;
2. A copy of this letter from the War Department to the American Red Cross will be sent to the War Refugee Board;
3. Treasury Form 1080 will be used for the transfer of appropriated funds from one government agency to another. With respect to the cost of the packages, he stated that the cost was \$3.10 and the approximate cost of shipping was 80%. This figure is presently being checked by the War Department but in the meantime, Major Somers suggested that we figure the total cost on the basis of \$3.70 per package. At this rate the total cost of the 208,000 packages is \$768,200.

Major Somers also stated that the War Department had notified and cleared with State and TEA the matter of this transfer. He stated that it would also be advisable to inform War Food Administration of this situation in order that war stocks to the War Refugee Board. He suggests that this can be done informally.

Major Somers also stated that he was waiting for the full go-ahead on this matter from the General, who in his last telephone conversation advised that the War Refugee Board might not need all of the packages at one time. With respect to the matter of rewrapping, Major Somers stated that the War Department had no objection to the use of the same size packages by the War Refugee Board. He stated,

000976

However, that both the War Department and the Red Cross would probably subject seriously to a check of the records of the subject in the various hospitals. I advised Major Somers that he would be in touch with him as soon as the matter had been discussed with General C. Dwyer.



F. Madal

000977



000970

Food Parcels

Secretary Morgenthau

William O'Dwyer

I am sure you will be interested to know that we have just made arrangements with the War Department for the sale to the War Refugee Board of 200,000 parcels of this Government's present reserve of prisoner of war packages now in Switzerland, on condition that the parcels be repackaged before shipment by the War Refugee Board into Germany. We are now working out the details of the transfer and repackaging.

We are very pleased over this because it now assures us of an adequate supply of food to be shipped by truck from Switzerland. During the past two weeks, we have thoroughly explored the problem of obtaining food from sources in the United States and it is clear that, even under the best circumstances, it would take many months before packages could be prepared for shipment to Europe.

(Signed) William O'Dwyer

FH:hd 8/6/45

Handwritten note:
J. Edgar Hoover
8/6/45

000979

10

000980

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM
DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

EEB-900

Distribution of true
reading only by [redacted] W)
arrangement.

Bern

1945 APR 7 11 AM '84
Dated April 6, 1945

Rec'd 6:35 p.m.

DC/L
LIAISON

Secretary of State

Washington.

US URGENT.

2009, April 6, 8 p.m.

FOR O'DWYER, OF WRB FROM MCCLELLAND.

CONTROL COPY

Immediately following your telephone call I contacted ICRC regarding possible need for repacking 206,000 Amcross POW parcels whose release to ICRC for WRB programs in Germany you have just obtained. ICRC states that under present conditions of distribution in Germany it will definitely not (repeat not) be necessary to repack these parcels. They can be used as they are with exception of possible blacking out of markings, changing labelling, et cetera, all of which can be done locally. These parcels will, therefore, be almost immediately available for our WRB relief shipments.

RE

[redacted] HARRISON

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

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

000981



000982



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR
WASHINGTON

5 April 1945

Brigadier General William O'Dwyer
Executive Director, War Refugee Board
Treasury Department
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear General O'Dwyer:

In accordance with your request I enclose
a copy of a letter which I am today sending to
the American Red Cross in connection with the
proposed transfer of 206,000 food parcels.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Davidson Sommers".

DAVIDSON SOMMERS
Major, Air Corps
Assistant Executive

Enc.
cc ltr. 5 Apr. '45 to Ryan, Red Cross,
fm. OASW

000983

5 April 1945

Mr. Philip Ryan, Director
Civilian Relief, Insular and Foreign Operations
American Red Cross
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Ryan:

This is to advise you, pursuant to our conversation today, that we have received a letter from General O'Dwyer, Executive Director of the War Refugee Board, accepting the conditions upon which the War Department stated, in Colonel Gerhardt's letter of March 30th, a copy of which was furnished to you, that it would agree to sell 206,000 food parcels now in Switzerland to the War Refugee Board for distribution to war refugees in concentration camps in Germany.

General O'Dwyer states that the War Refugee Board accepts the War Department offer.

Under the circumstances, while details as to payment and transfer are being worked out, it is requested that you earmark 206,000 of the food parcels, which you are holding in Switzerland for distribution to American prisoners of war, for eventual transfer to the War Refugee Board under arrangements to be worked out between it and the War Department.

Sincerely,

^{will}
SIGNED

DAVIDSON SOMMERS
Major, Air Corps
Assistant Executive

COPY FOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD

5

000985

APR 4 1945

Dear Colonel Gerhardt:

I have received your letter of March 30, 1945, concerning the proposal of the War Refugee Board to purchase food parcels from the stock of allied prisoner of war food packages now in Switzerland.

The Board is firmly convinced that in order to perform its most important function of bringing relief to civilian internees under enemy control it must obtain food now in Switzerland. The Board's efforts to obtain food parcels from sources in the United States have made it clear that even under the best circumstances it would take many months before such food could be prepared for shipment to Europe.

Accordingly, the Board accepts the offer of the War Department to sell the Board 206,000 parcels of this Government's present reserve of prisoner of war packages in Switzerland. The Board will arrange for the repackaging of the parcels before shipment to the refugees in German concentration camps under the supervision of the International Red Cross. You are assured that the Board's feeding program is for refugees in German concentration camps only.

It will be appreciated if you will advise the Board at once as to the cost of the 206,000 parcels and as to the steps to be taken by the Board to obtain title and possession of the parcels in order that appropriate instructions may be forwarded to its representative in Switzerland and to the International Red Cross.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) William O'Dwyer

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

Col. Harrison A. Gerhardt,
Executive to Ass't. Secretary of War,
Room 4E886, Pentagon Building,
Washington, D. C.

Sent by messenger 9:30am
4/5/45

FH:WO'D:hd 6/4/45

*Original signed by
General O'Dwyer*

110986

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

30 March 1945

Brigadier General William O'Dwyer
Executive Director, War Refugee Board
Treasury Department
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear General:

I refer to your recent request for the views of the War Department on a proposal that the War Refugee Board purchase 900,000 food parcels from the stock of 7,000,000 food parcels now in Switzerland and intended for use by United Nations prisoners of war in Germany.

This matter has been discussed with the American Red Cross and the following information has been obtained:

a. Only 2,000,000 parcels in the present reserve are owned by this Government, the balance being the property of other Governments of the United Nations whose nationals are prisoners of war in German custody. The United States alone cannot provide the desired 900,000 parcels, as to do so would reduce by almost one-half the reserve available for United States prisoners of war. It would therefore be necessary for the War Refugee Board to negotiate with the other Governments involved, on the basis of trying to obtain the desired number of parcels pro rata out of the total stockpile.

b. The American Red Cross strongly urges that no prisoner of war parcels be distributed to war refugees unless repacked, as distribution outside prisoner of war camps of parcels marked for prisoners of war would destroy the security provided at present against the misuse or diversion of these special parcels. In the opinion of the Personnel Division this position is sound, and it is understood, further, that the War Refugee Board has informally expressed concurrence therein to the Red Cross. Hence the necessity would arise for repacking the 900,000 parcels in Switzerland, and this, it is believed, would be difficult to do. In connection with the above, this Division is informed by the American Red Cross (Mr. Pate) that the Red Cross is in a position to package in its plants in the U.S. 15,000 special refugee food parcels per day, the necessary supplies to be furnished by the War Refugee Board.



The War Department has so far concurred only in the forwarding by the War Refugee Board of specifically packaged "refugee parcels" to war refugees in concentration camps in Germany. If it is now intended to feed refugees in Germany outside of concentration camps the question of blockade violation is presented. The War Department would appreciate a clarification of the intention of the War Refugee Board in this respect.

Assuming that the food parcels in question will be distributed solely in concentration camps, supervised by International Red Cross Committee in accordance with existing practice, I should like to ask the earnest consideration of the War Refugee Board to the matters set forth above and that the War Refugee Board make every effort, subject to available shipping, to provide the desired parcels from sources in the United States.

If the War Refugee Board considers that it must procure these parcels in Switzerland, the War Department will agree to sell its proportionate share of the requested total (i.e., 2/7 or approximately 206,000 parcels), on condition that these parcels be re-packaged before shipment into Germany.

Sincerely,


HARRISON A. GERNANDT
Colonel, General Staff Corps
Executive to Ass't Secretary of War

000988



000989

March 23, 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

In view of the possibility that the War Refugee Board stockpile of food packages in Switzerland might be quickly exhausted if adequate trucking equipment becomes available soon, on March 22 General O'Dwyer telephoned Colonel Gearhardt of Mr. McCloy's office to find out if it might be possible for an allocation to be made from existing prisoner of war stockpiles in Switzerland to the War Refugee Board against replenishment in kind or in money. Colonel Gearhardt advised General O'Dwyer that this was primarily a matter for the American Red Cross and he suggested that General O'Dwyer raise it with the Red Cross. He also stated that he would discuss the question at the War Department.

General O'Dwyer then telephoned Basil O'Connor, Chairman of the American Red Cross, and explained the problem to him. Mr. O'Connor appeared to be very sympathetic to the proposal and stated that he would raise the matter immediately with his staff and have someone call the General at once. Thereafter, Mr. Ryan of the American Red Cross called General O'Dwyer and explained that the stockpile in Switzerland contains only about 1,000,000 food packages for American prisoners of war and that the balance is made up of packages for other Allied prisoners. He stated that, in view of this fact, it would be impossible to allocate any quantity for War Refugee Board purposes since it is contemplated that all American prisoner of war packages on hand in Switzerland would be needed for American prisoners. Mr. Ryan indicated, however, that the Red Cross would be able to help the War Refugee Board by making available its packing center in New York for the packaging of War Refugee Board parcels to be shipped from this country.

In view of the fact that Mr. McClelland advised the Board that there is a stockpile of 80,000 tons of prisoner of war supplies in Switzerland, and in view of the fact that Mr. Currie and Orvis Schmiat, who had just returned from Switzerland, advised that the prisoner of war stocks in Switzerland are not only tremendous but in some cases spoiling, and in view of the Board's need to be prepared for additional supplies, General O'Dwyer decided to raise the matter with David Niles of the White House. General O'Dwyer suggested that a request to Mr. O'Connor from the White House might expedite the matter. Mr. Niles called back later and said that he discussed the

matter with Mrs. Boettiger and that a memorandum outlining the problem as stated to him by General O'Dwyer should be sent direct from the General to Mrs. Boettiger. Such a memorandum was prepared and was sent to Mrs. Boettiger at 2:15 p.m., with a copy to Mr. Niles.

General O'Dwyer advised Secretary Morgenthau of the foregoing and the Secretary indicated that he would be very glad to help if his personal assistance were necessary.

On March 23, General O'Dwyer reconvened the whole matter and decided that it would be inadvisable to press further for an allocation of prisoner of war supplies, at least until the Board was in a position to say it had trucks but no food. He therefore decided that every effort should be made to replenish the War Refugee Board stockpile in Switzerland as soon as possible with packages obtained under our second and third food programs which had been cleared with the Blockade authorities. With respect to the second program, it was decided to attempt to have the contract let by Treasury Procurement to three contractors in the hope that a shorter time would be consumed in accumulating the 300,000 packages. General O'Dwyer discussed this with Mr. Fehle who stated that he had no objection and arrangements were made with Treasury Procurement to effectuate this. With respect to the third program which has just been approved by the Blockade authorities, General O'Dwyer decided that he should immediately ask for the necessary allocation of funds from the President's Foreign Relief Appropriation and that we should take up the offer of Red Cross to package for us on this program. Since, as a matter of courtesy, we have always asked for American Red Cross approval to our request for such an allocation, General O'Dwyer called Mr. Ryan to find out if he had any objection to our request to the President. Mr. Ryan indicated that there were no unobligated funds in this appropriation; that there was a balance of about \$3,000,000 which had been obligated by the American Red Cross.

Mr. McCormack checked with Treasury Procurement and found that as of March 23, the amount of unobligated funds allocated to Treasury Procurement from this appropriation is \$3,610,822. It was decided to send the letter to the President requesting an allocation of \$1,125,000 for this War Refugee Board program and to omit from such letter any reference to prior clearance with the American Red Cross with respect to this allocation.

F. Hodel

000991

P 3

000992

2/2/45

FOOD PACKAGES FOR INTERNEES IN GERMAN CONCENTRATION AND REFUGEE CAMPS

The War Refugee Board expects that 50 tons of trucking and 3,000 gallons of gasoline a week will be made available very shortly from United States army stocks to the International Red Cross for the movement of War Refugee Board food parcels to internees in concentration and refugee camps in enemy Europe. Currently the War Refugee Board has approximately 284,000 of these parcels in Ostersund, Sweden, and in Lubek, Germany, and 80,000 parcels in Geneva. It can readily be seen that these stockpiles will be quickly exhausted when these trucks get moving.

The Board has funds for the procurement and shipment of an additional 300,000 parcels from the United States, but under the best possible circumstances private contractors are unable to guarantee delivery of these parcels in less than three months time. This being the case, we will have trucks and gasoline but no packages to distribute to the unassimilated internees who face certain death from starvation.

On the other hand, the American National Red Cross has a stockpile of over 7,000,000 prisoner of war parcels in the hands of the International Red Cross Committee in Geneva for distribution to United States military and civilian internees. The monthly distribution rate is approximately 283,000 parcels. At this rate, it will take 27 months to exhaust the existing stockpile. An additional 362,250 parcels go forward from this country each month to replenish this stockpile. Roughly this replenishment exceeds the monthly distribution rate by 35 per cent.

The Board desires to obtain an allocation of 5 thousand tons (slightly in excess of 900,000 parcels) from this stockpile to be earmarked for the Board's feeding program. The Board will arrange for reimbursement either in dollars or in kind.

This proposal has been discussed with Mr. Basil O'Connor, Chairman of the American National Red Cross, who is very sympathetic and is taking the matter up with members of his staff. This, undoubtedly, will result in considerable delay.

In view of the urgency, a request to Mr. O'Connor that the matter be expedited will probably save the lives of many people.

Original to Mrs. [unclear] 2:15 P.M. 3/22/45
Copy to [unclear] 2:15 P.M. 3/22/45

FJHC:GTH:md 3/22/45

000999



000995

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON
Office of Foreign Liquidation

In reply refer to:
FI-580-CWC

FEB 12 1945

Frank B. Gatchell, Jr.
Budget and Planning Officer
War Refugee Board
811 District National Bank Bldg.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Gatchell:

Attached herewith is the copy promised you of
the revised receipt obtained by the Washington offices
of UNRRA for the Red Cross Food Parcels of which the
UNRRA agent took possession in Geneva, Switzerland.

Yours very truly,

Robert W. Cavanaugh
Robert W. Cavanaugh, Chief
Lend-Lease Fiscal Division

Attachment (1)

*Noted
fms*

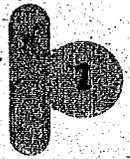
000991

I, the undersigned, on behalf of
UNRRA, have taken title to
206.000 standard food parcels (ex Ancross)
49.247 invalid food parcels.

Royall Tyler
UNRRA Representative
in Switzerland.

Geneva, October 29, 1945.

000997



100998

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 31, 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR: Secretary of the Treasury
Chairman of the American National Red Cross
Executive Director of the War Refugee Board

Since the procurement and shipment of the 285,000 food packages for distribution to victims of enemy persecution in Europe, referred to in my memorandum of September 12, 1944, have been successfully completed, the Executive Director of the War Refugee Board has recommended that an additional 300,000 three-kilo food parcels be procured by this Government for similar distribution to unassimilated persons in concentration and refugee camps located in that part of Europe now held or occupied by the enemy.

In order that this program may be put into effect as rapidly as possible, it is directed that the following steps be taken at once:

(1) The unobligated balances of funds allocated to the Treasury Department from the appropriations for Foreign War Relief, continued available until June 30, 1945, by the Second Deficiency Appropriation Act, 1944, shall be available to the Secretary of the Treasury up to a value of \$1,125,000 to procure commercially these parcels and for reimbursement to the American National Red Cross for the cost of warehousing within the United States and the ultimate transportation of these parcels to the International Committee of the Red Cross. As agreed between Treasury Procurement Division and the War Refugee Board, the Director of Procurement shall arrange for the purchase of these parcels for delivery to the American National Red Cross.

(2) As agreed between the American National Red Cross and the War Refugee Board, the Chairman of the American National Red Cross shall arrange for the warehousing within the United States and shipping of the 300,000 three-kilo food parcels to the International Committee of the Red Cross for ultimate distribution among such unassimilated persons.

(3) The Executive Director of the War Refugee Board shall exercise over-all responsibility for this project.

/s/ F. D. R.

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