War Refugee Board
American Legation
Bern, Switzerland

JEWs IN EUROPE
May & June
1944.

***
Jews in Europe

May 1944
sein. Ich habe mit Ihnen ausgesprochen, verpflichtet mich, den Schriftleiter der Zeitung, die Ihnen im Namen der Gesellschaft übermittelt werden, den Inhalt der Mitteilung zu überreichen. Ich bitte auch die Herren, die Ihnen in dieser Angelegenheit zustehen, um eine ordnungsgemäße Verarbeitung der Unterlagen.

1) Die Staatengesetzegebung wurde auf Grund der von Ihnen mitgeteilten Informationen beschlossen.

2) Die Genehmigung der deutschen Staatsangehörigkeit wurde auf Grund der von Ihnen mitgeteilten Informationen durchgeführt.

3) Die Genehmigung der deutschen Staatsangehörigkeit wurde auf Grund der von Ihnen mitgeteilten Informationen durchgeführt.

4) Unter dieser Bedingung ist für den Fall eines solchen Antrages, dass dieser genehmigt werden soll, bei Lieferung des Originals an die Behörden der Genehmigung der deutschen Staatsangehörigkeit durchgeführt werden soll.

5) Die Genehmigung der deutschen Staatsangehörigkeit wurde auf Grund der von Ihnen mitgeteilten Informationen durchgeführt.
Genf, den 1. Mai 1944.

Herrn M. Banyai
Granitweg 2
Zürich.

Sehr geehrter Herr Präsident,


Mit der "Eifersucht" habe ich es so gemeint: Wenn es bekannt wird, dass Menschen auf Grund ihrer persönlichen Beziehungen mit Hilfe ihres Geldes die Möglichkeit haben, Dokumente nach Ungarn zu senden, dann weckt dieses unbedingt die Eifersucht derjenigen Menschen, die kein Geld haben und besonders noch derjenigen, die dazu im Lager und ihrer Freiheit beraubt sind.

Da Ihr Weg für alle gangbar sein wird, haben Sie von vorneherein die Möglichkeit der Eifersucht ausgeschlossen, wofür Ihnen noch ein besonderer Dank ausgesprochen sein möge.

Ich glaube nicht, dass es mir möglich sein wird, Dienstag in Bern zu sein. Wenn ja, würde ich Sie noch rechtzeitig telefonisch oder telegraphisch benachrichtigen.

Die effektiven Auslagen der Dokumente (Photokopie in Positiv und Negativ, Beglaubigung, Stempelpapier, Ubersetzung durch vereidigten Dolmetscher) belaufen sich auf Fr. 10. – 11. –, wobei die Generalkosten nicht inbegriffen sind. Wir haben es deshalb bis heute so gehalten, dass wir es unseren Freunden aufgestellt haben, etwa Fr. 25. – per Dokument an die Hilfskasse der Agudas Jisroel bei Herrn Max Mannes, Brandschenkstr. 51, in Zürich einzuzahlen. So war zu gleicher Zeit die Möglichkeit gegeben, mittelloser Menschen zu helfen.

Sehe ich erfahren, dass Herr Mantello höchstwahrscheinlich heute abend hier eintreffen wird. Ich werde also die Möglichkeit habe, Ihre Wünsche wegen Ihrer Familie schnellstens erfüllen zu können.

In der Hoffnung, bald die Gelegenheit zu haben, mich mit Ihnen auszusprechen, verbleibe ich, mit vorzüglicher Hochachtung

Ihr sehr ergebener

Mathieu Müller
27, avenue Pictet de Rochemont
A.I. File

SEE 840.1 JEWS-EUROPE FOR A.I. NOTE NO. 8334

FROM American Interests Section, Bern DATED May 8, 1944.

TO NAME

REGARDING: JEWS IN EUROPE
occupied territory. It has, as you have undoubtedly observed, appointed special representatives in various neutral countries, and Mr. Howard D. McCormick, Representative of the American Friends Service Committee at Geneva, has recently been appointed an Assistant to attend to War Refugee Board matters in Switzerland.

Dear Harold:

I would like to invite your special attention to the Department's No. 1502 of April 29th, regarding certain war refugees in enemy and enemy-occupied territory, which has just been received here for transmission to you. The Department asks that I also send you paraphrases of my No. 2282 of April 13 and the Department's No. 1221 of April 10th, which are accordingly enclosed. In addition, I find that in one or another of these telegrams reference is also made to my No. 1958 of March 30th, and the Department's No. 1181 of April 7th. In order that your picture may be more complete I am also sending paraphrases of the two latter telegrams.

Reverting to the Department's No. 1502, I think you will find it sufficiently clear, although the instructions to you do not seem to be as understandable as they might be, due perhaps to faulty drafting in the Department. I have compared the enclosed paraphrase with the true reading, and I am not able as a result to simplify the context of the last three paragraphs of No. 1502. I hope, however, they will occasion you no difficulty.

5. To Department, 29 Apr 1942

The substance of the matter seems to be that the Department desires to obtain from the Vatican any information which might be suggested from a study of the contents of the Legation's No. 2282 of April 13, wherein, as you will note, I forwarded to the Department a summary of the information which I received here from the Papal Nuncio, Monsignor Bernardino.

The War Refugee Board is engaging in considerable activity on behalf of war refugees in enemy and enemy-occupied

Harold H. Tittmann, Esquire,
American Chargé d'Affaires,
Vatican City.
occupied territory. It has, as you have undoubtedly ob-
served, appointed special representatives in various neutral
countries, and Mr. Roswell D. McClelland, who has been
Representative of the American Friends Service Committee
at Geneva, has recently been appointed my Special Assistant
to attend to War Refugee Board matters in Switzerland.

I shall be glad to transmit to the Department any
material which you may prepare as a result of the representa-
tions made by you on the basis of the enclosures.

Sincerely yours,

Enclosures:

1. From Department, No. 1502,
   April 29;
2. To Department, No. 2282,
   April 13;
3. From Department, No. 1131,
   April 7;
4. From Department, No. 1221,
   April 10;
5. To Department, No. 1958,
   March 30.

JMH/mjb
My dear Mr. President:

I have the honor to inform you that I am just in receipt of telegraphic instructions containing a message from the War Refugee Board which I have been requested to deliver to the International Red Cross. It is a pleasure, accordingly, to inform you of this message as follows:

"The War Refugee Board and the American agencies interested in refugees request the International Red Cross to approach the German Government and the satellite governments with a view to obtaining for Jews and other persons who are detained, interned, or otherwise confined because of race, religion or political belief the following:

1. Treatment to compare with that which is accorded to civilian internees to whom the Geneva Convention is applied by analogy at the present time, or

2. Treatment of such persons comparable at least to the extent that they be granted, under the supervision of the International Red Cross, distribution and reception of food packages under guarantees similar to those in practice at the present time with respect to civilian internees referred to in (1) above mentioned.

I shall be very glad indeed to transmit the information of the War Refugee Board any report of action on the part of the Committee of the Red Cross may find it possible to take with reference to the foregoing or any comment which may be made to me with reference thereto.

Bern, May 2, 1944.

G. A. Della Porta

The Honorable
Max Huber,
President, International Committee of the Red Cross,
Geneva.

personal
personal support to the views of the War Refugee Board and to express the hope that they may find

"The War Refugee Board further requests the International Red Cross that it secure, both from local and domestic sources of supply, and channels of the International Red Cross, opportunities and facilities to obtain food and other necessaries for Jews and other subjects of Nazi oppression (who, though not actually interned, have been singled out as victims of persecution) as may prove possible on a basis of equality with the local population in the communities in which they live.

"The War Refugee Board also desires to call the attention of the International Red Cross to the efforts of the Board to rescue from the occupied areas in as large numbers as possible Jews and other persons who are victims of persecution. It is urged by the War Refugee Board that the International Red Cross, through considered approaches to the German authorities and other authorities of occupied areas and through any other possible means, do all that is possible to facilitate the departure of the refugees in question to neutral countries which may receive them. The War Refugee Board keenly appreciates the humanitarian activities in which the International Red Cross is engaged and is cognizant of the continuing efforts of the International Red Cross to bring into effect the general program outlined above. The War Refugee Board is ready to collaborate with the International Red Cross in every way possible."

The War Refugee Board feels strongly in connection with the above that the proposal described in the alternative numbered (1) above is preferable, and suggests that the proposal described in number (2) should be presented only if in the judgment of the Red Cross that proposed in number (1) cannot be obtained.

I shall be very glad indeed to transmit for the information of the War Refugee Board any report of action which the International Committee of the Red Cross may find it possible to take with relation to the foregoing or any comment which you might deem it desirable to make with reference thereto. Needless to say, I desire to lend my personal
personal support to the views of the War Refugee Board and to express the hope that the International Red Cross may find it possible to take some remedial action along the lines suggested.

Sincerely yours,

LEYLAND HARRISON

JKH/mjb
Bern, May 2, 1944.

Councillor:

I am enclosing, for your confidential use, a communication which I am today sending Huber of the International Committee at Geneva, which is self-explanatory.

I am glad that the War Refugee Board has come to the conclusion that efforts should now be concentrated, in the light of recent military developments, on an understanding with the Germans to better the situation of other persecuted groups in territories under enemy control. The War Refugee Board would be most appreciative if at any time the Swiss Government should find it possible to associate itself with such approaches as may be made by the International Red Cross to the German Government, having these general aims in mind.

Sincerely yours,

Enclosure:

Copy of letter to President Huber.

His Excellency
Marcel Filet-Colaz,
Federal Councillor,
Chief, Federal Political Department,
Bern.

JKH/mjb
Bern, May 2, 1944.

Dear Mr. Federal Councillor:

I have pleasure in enclosing, for your confidential information, a copy of a communication which I am today sending to President Huber of the International Committee of the Red Cross at Geneva, which is self-explanatory.

I am informed that the War Refugee Board has come to the conclusion that efforts should now be concentrated, having in mind recent military developments, on an endeavor to persuade the Germans to better the situation of the Jews and other persecuted groups in territories occupied by the enemy. The War Refugee Board would be most appreciative if at any time the Swiss Government should find it possible to associate itself with such approaches as may be made by the International Red Cross to the German Government, having these general aims in mind.

Sincerely yours,

Enclosure:

Copy of letter to President Huber.

His Excellency
Marcel Pillet-olaz,
Federal Councillor,
Chief, Federal Political Department,
Bern.

JKH/mjb
CROSS-REFERENCE SHEET

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

A.I. File

SEE 840.1 JEWS-EUROPE FOR Note No. 22241

FROM [Blank] (_______) DATED May 3, 1944.

TO [Blank] NAME *** 1-1944

REGARDING: JEWS IN EUROPE.
To: Department

Date: May 3, 7 p.m., 1944.

No: 2814

Charged to: C7

Paraphrase

Reference is made to the Department's no. 1503 of April 29.

On April 14 the subject matter of your 1221 of April 10 was taken up with the Foreign Office in person and in writing.

HARRISON

JKH:mjb:mf

In duplicate

Copy in Tel.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 22 1972
Bern, May 3, 1944.

His Excellency
Monsignor Philippe Bernardini,
Apostolic Nuncio,
60 Thunstrasse,
Bern.

Excellency:

Recalling the memorandum which you so kindly furnished me, giving in detail the results of the efforts of the Holy See and its several diplomatic representatives to alleviate the situation of persecuted Jews in Axis and Axis-occupied territory, I now have the honor to inform you that the Department of State has expressed the American Government's warm appreciation of the activities of the Holy See in this respect.

The Department of State has incidentally informed me that in contemplating the exchange of Germans in the Western Hemisphere for holders of Latin American passports, the United States Government has advised Latin American countries that they are not expected to admit any of these persons physically to their territories, but that provision will be made for them in temporary havens elsewhere.

The Department suggests that the foregoing be communicated to you for your confidential information.

I have the honor to be, Excellency,

Respectfully yours,

JKH/mjb
Monsieur le Ministre,

Je vous suis très reconnaissant de la lettre du 3 courant par laquelle vous avez bien voulu porter à ma connaissance la chaude appréciation du Département d'État concernant l'activité développée par le Saint-Siège en faveur des juifs persécutés par les nations de l'axe et dans les territoires occupés par elles. Je m'empresse d'en faire part à S.E. le Cardinal Secrétaire d'État.

Je pris Votre Excellence de bien vouloir transmettre au Département d'État mes remerciements pour m'avoir confidentiellement fait remettre le conseil donné par le Gouvernement des États-Unis aux Nations de l'Amérique latine. Si ce n'était pas prémunisseur de ma part, je voudrais dire que ce sont là des conseils très opportuns qui disposeront les nations à une plus étroite coopération dans cette œuvre de charité chrétienne.

A titre documentaire, je joins une copie du télégramme envoyé par le nonce de Madrid au Cardinal Magiçonne, à la suite des démarches faites par le nonce auprès du Gouvernement espagnol.

Je sais cette occasion pour vous renouveler, Monsieur le Ministre, l'assurance de ma haute considération.

Son Excellence
Monsieur Leiland Harrison
Ministre des États-Unis d'Amérique
BERNE
(avec annexe)

Philippe Bernadou
Oblat apostolique
Le nonce apostolique de Madrid a envoyé, au sujet des juifs de Vittel, le télégramme suivant à la Secrétairerie d'État de Sa Sainteté:

"En raison de la situation des juifs terriblement dominés par les autorités allemandes, ce Gouvernement, à plusieurs reprises, s'est occupé de leur sort; mais le Gouvernement de Berlin a fait connaître qu'il n'agréerait pas une semblable immixtion. On admet que l'Espagne s'intéresse aux juifs espagnols, mais non aux autres. Toutefois, en ce qui concerne les juifs de Vittel, ce Gouvernement fera les tentatives opportunes en vue d'échanges entre les civils allemands internés en Amérique et les juifs".

Berne, le 26 avril 1944
MEMORANDUM

May 5, 1944.

In handing me the attached note No. 22241 of May 3 this morning, Bisang said that according to a preliminary report he had received from Minister Feldscher, the latter had been told by an unnamed person in the German Foreign Office as follows:

1) The German Government would be disposed to arrange an exchange between the 238 Jews against German citizens in American custody, provided the Jews were able satisfactorily to establish that they had Latin-American nationality.

2) The person with whom Minister Feldscher spoke said further that the Germans were prepared even to propose such an exchange.

In conclusion, the German stated that as the German Government had frequently indicated, it wished to arrange for a general exchange of civilians.

Bisang said that he did not feel that he could give a note on this until a more complete report had been received from Minister Feldscher.

Enclosure:

Swiss Foreign Office note No. 22241 dated May 3, 1944.

GT/dmh
A.I. File

SEE 640.1 JEWS-EUROPE FOR Note No. 23067

FROM F.I.D. ( ) DATED May 6, 1944

TO NAME *** 1-1944

REGARDING: JEWS IN EUROPE
TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department  
Date: May 6, 7 p.m., 1944  
No: 1580  
Code:  
Received: May 7, 8 a.m.

PARAPHRASE

War Refugee Board requests transmission of the following to Tittmann, Vatican City.

Department's 1502 April 29 to Bern, with special reference to portion of Bern Legation's 2282 regarding Cuba's reply to the Vatican.

Please inform the Holy See that instructions have been given our Ambassador in Havana to convey to the appropriate authorities in Cuba the Department's appreciation of the Cuban attitude and also the assurance that this Government entertains no objection to recognition of such documents by Cuba. The American Ambassador to Great Britain has been requested to ask that the British give a similar assurance to Cuba. It is believed advisable for the Vatican to approach the British directly with a request that such assurances be given. It will be appreciated if the Vatican will take such action.

We have requested Ambassador Braden to ascertain Cuba's attitude with regard to actual admission. The Ambassador has been authorized to repeat to the Cuban Government the assurance that was given to other Latin American republics that we will not (repeat not) expect Cuba to admit to its territory the persons in question but that they will be routed elsewhere if he finds that the Government of Cuba is not (repeat not) agreeable to admitting to its territory the persons who hold Cuban documents.

It is hoped that the Vatican will pursue its efforts in Cuba on this basis. Appropriate instructions will be given Ambassador Braden if his assistance is required.

DECLASSIFIED  
Hull, Dept. State, 1:11-73
By H. H. Parks Date SEP. 22 1972

re Copy to Tittmann
Paraphrase

Cable No. 12 from the War Refugee Board.

The telegram which follows refers to the Legation's cable no. 2282 of April 13, particularly to the portion which concerns Cuba's reply to the Vatican.

The Department has requested Ambassador Braden to convey to the Cuban authorities the Department's appreciation of Cuba's attitude, together with the assurance that the United States interposes no (repeat no) objection to Cuba's recognition of such documents. Ambassador Winant has been instructed to request a similar assurance to Cuba from Great Britain. With a view to further action on the part of the Holy See, Tittmann has been requested to inform the Vatican in accordance therewith.

The Department has asked Ambassador Braden to ascertain the attitude of Cuba with regard to actual admission. Authorization has been given him to repeat to Cuba the assurance given to the Republics of Latin America stating that Cuba will not (repeat not) be expected to admit the persons concerned but that they will be routed elsewhere should he find that Cuba is not (repeat not) agreeable to admitting such persons who hold Cuban documents.

Ambassador Hayes has obtained the assurance that Spain will try to arrange the immediate return to Vittel of deported refugees.

Among the Latin American countries approached, Honduras and Venezuela have acceded already to all the requests contained in no. 1281 of April 11 from the Department.

Legation's speedy action respecting 238 deportees is appreciated. WRB has received an unconfirmed report that
most or all of the 238 deportees from Vittel have been placed in Camp Drancy near Paris or they are being so placed. All necessary steps should be taken, through the Swiss, the International Red Cross or otherwise, to assure their welfare. (Refer to your 2510 of April 20 in connection with this paragraph.)

With reference to our 1221 of April 14 and our 1269 of April 13, please inform us whether the démarches requested have been made by the Swiss authorities.

HULL

/nd
In duplicate

[Signature]
Geneva, May 8th, 1944.

for your card with wishes of
refugee Board venture. I am
these lines could not have
as the chances of a great
very small. One must go ahead,
as possible.

question of the "passports"
and I am afraid almost too much
talking to you about this whole
difficult matter some time in the near future. I plan
to be in Berne fairly regularly from Tuesday afternoon to
Friday evening, and can be reached at Elfenstrasse, No.
6, the Commercial Attaché's building (Tel. 30914). I
shall probably spend the week-ends in Geneva. Should you
be in Berne in the course of this week or the next you
might ring me up.

With kind regards, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Roswell McClelland,
Special Assistant to the American Minister.
Geneva, May 8th, 1944.

Dr. M. Kahany
73, Route de Ferney
Geneva.

Dear Dr. Kahany,

Thank you kindly for your card with wishes of success for this new War Refugee Board venture. I am only sorry that work along these lines could not have been begun some years ago, as the chances of a great deal of success are now very small. One must go ahead, however, and do all that is possible.

As you know the question of the "passports" continues to be "active," and I am afraid almost too much so. I should appreciate talking to you about this whole difficult matter some time in the near future. I plan to be in Bern fairly regularly from Tuesday afternoon to Friday evening, and can be reached at Elfenstrasse, No. 6, the Commercial Attaché's building (Tel. 30914). I shall probably spend the week-ends in Geneva. Should you be in Bern in the course of this week or the next you might ring me up.

With kind regards, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Roswell McClelland,
Special Assistant to the American Minister.

Es ist wichtig, dass die Männer sich nicht nur auf das Überleben konzentrieren, sondern auch auf die Zähigkeit der Frauen. Die Männerschaften müssen zu einem Stamm werden, der nicht nur überlebt, sondern auch eine Zukunft schafft. Der Kampf der Männer ist nicht nur ein Kampf um das Überleben, sondern auch um die Zukunft der Frauen. Dies ist wichtig, um sicherzustellen, dass die Zukunft der Frauen gelehrt wird, und nicht der Männerschaft.
Es ist unbedingt notwendig, dass die Familie die Wendland und Kohn sollen als ersten geholfen werden, den Equador ist schon isoliert, die haben keine Zeit zu verlieren.
Wire to War Refugee Board, sent May 9th.

Substance of a Swiss Note:

"The Dépt. Politique instructed the Swiss Legation at Berlin to obtain all information concerning the alleged transfer to an unknown location of 238 persons previously at Vittel. In letter of Apr. 28th, the Swiss Legation reports that a representative of the German Foreign Office stated it has no information in regard to this alleged transfer from Vittel. Accordingly, the Swiss Legation at Berlin instructed the Swiss Consulate in Paris to proceed to Vittel to make personal inquiry. The Legation will report promptly the results thereof.

Bissang told Tait, in course of informal discussion on May 5th, that according to a preliminary report from Feldscher the latter had been told the following by an unnamed official in the German Foreign Office:

1) The Germ. Gov. is disposed to arrange an exchange between 238 Jews against Germans in American custody provided the Jews are able to establish Latin-American nationality satisfactorily;
2) The German official further stated that the Germans were prepared even to propose such an exchange;
3) The German added that his Gov. had indicated frequently that the maxim it desired to arrange for a general exchange of civilians.

A complete report from Feldscher is expected shortly by the Swiss and a note will then be transmitted."
To: Department
Date: May 9, 4 p.m., 1944.
No.: 2928
Charged to: 

Paraphrase

Reference is made to interests of the United States in Germany and to deportations and repatriation.

The information which follows hereunder has been supplied by the Swiss Legation in Berlin and communicated in a Swiss note dated May 6.

The Swiss Legation at Berlin informs the Swiss Consular Chancery at Brussels that Mrs. Ellen Loeb-Meyer, an American citizen born in New York on January 17, 1873, and Sigmund Loeb, her stateless husband, born at Scheren, Germany, were interned at Dushag Westerhok on March 24, 1943. The representations which the Swiss Legation at Berlin made immediately resulted in the transfer of these persons to the family camp in Vittel.

The German Foreign Office states that unless the Government of the United States accords Mr. Loeb the right to inclusion in an American-German exchange group he will not be authorized to remain at Vittel.

The Swiss Legation in Berlin adds that in connection with the exchange of American and German civilians which took place in February 1944, the German authorities had proposed to include in the repatriable group the non-American spouses of citizens of the United States also. As this practice was opposed by the United States, some interested persons have been deported insofar as "non-aryan".

A spokesman of the German Foreign Office told a representative of the Swiss Legation Berlin in confidence that the competent authorities actually intend to deport all Jews interned with their American spouses to whom the right to be included in exchange groups would not be accorded.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter: 1-11-73
By R. H. Pecker Date SEP 22 1972
accorded by the American authorities. The Legation of the United States will understand that the Swiss Legation in Berlin is not in a position to prevent such deportations.

The observations of the Department are requested by the Swiss.

HARRISON

TJH:hs:mf
In duplicate
MEMORANDUM

May 9, 1944.

AI
Mr. Tait

Dear George:

Please refer to your file 840.1, Jews in Europe.

It would be of assistance to the War Refugee Board if you were to telegraph to the Department for the War Refugee Board the substance of the Swiss note of May 3, 1944, indicating the action which the Swiss authorities have taken in connection with the group formerly interned at Vittel whose status is not now clear, and also the substance of your memorandum of May 5 covering your conversation with Bisang which mentions the possibility of exchange of this group against Germans held in the Western Hemisphere.

Whether the information given to you by Bisang is subsequently confirmed or revoked, the information given in the note and the telegram is at the moment of such value that the War Refugee Board should have it.

Suggest routing your telegram through WRB-Mr. McClelland.

J.K.H.

JKH/mjb
Paraphrase

Following for War Refugee Board.

The substance of a Swiss note dated May 3 is given hereunder:

The Foreign Office instructed the Swiss Legation at Berlin to obtain all information concerning the alleged transfer to an unknown prison of 238 persons previously at Vittel looking toward their return to Vittel immediately. In a letter dated April 28 the Swiss Legation reports that a representative of the German Foreign Office stated it has no (repeat no) information in regard to this alleged transfer to prison from Vittel. Accordingly, the Swiss Legation at Berlin instructed the Swiss Consulate in Paris to proceed to Vittel to make a personal inquiry. The Legation will report promptly the results thereof.

Bisang told Tait, in the course of an informal discussion at the Foreign Office on May 5, that according to a preliminary report from Feldscher, the latter had been told the following by an unnamed person in the German Foreign Office:

1) The Government of Germany is disposed to arrange an exchange between 238 Jews against Germans in American custody provided the Jews are able to establish Latin-American nationality satisfactorily;

2) The German official further stated that the Germans were prepared even to propose such an exchange;

3) The German added that the Government of Germany had indicated frequently that it desired to arrange for a general exchange of civilians.

A complete report from Feldscher is expected shortly by the Swiss; a note will then be transmitted.
Reference is made to the Department's cable no. 1503 of April 29.

The confidential information contained in the second paragraph of the Department's telegram under reference was communicated by me to the Papal Nuncio in Bern. I informed the Papal Nuncio that warm appreciation of the Vatican's activities has been expressed by the Government of the United States.

An acknowledgement dated May 4th has been received from Mgr. Bernardini. In this note the Papal Nuncio expresses his appreciation and encloses a copy of a telegram which the Papal Nuncio at Madrid addressed to Cardinal Maglione on April 26 and which concerns the attitude of the Government of Spain. The matter had been taken up with that Government by the Papal Nuncio at Madrid. The following is a translation:

"In view of the situation of Jews terribly dominated by the German authorities, this Government has concerned itself with their fate on several occasions; but the Government of Berlin has made known that any such intervention is not favored by it. Spain can look after Spanish Jews but not other Jews. Regarding the Jews at Vittel, however, expedient efforts with a view to exchanging German civilian internees in America and Jews will be made by this Government."

HARRISON

DFB:mk:nf
In duplicate

Copy to Mr. Tittmann
MEMORANDUM

To: The Minister
From: Mr. Tait

May 11, 1944.

Dear Mr. Minister:

In accordance with your wishes, I have carefully reviewed the Chancery and A.I. files on Jews - Europe with a view to determining whether any response need be made at this time to the ultimate paragraph of the Department's 1595 of May 8, 1944, which reads in paraphrase as follows:

"With reference to our 1221 of April 10 and our 1269 of April 13, please inform us whether the démarches requested have been made by the Swiss authorities."

The Department's 1595 of May 8 and the Legation's 2937 of May 9, 1944, crossed in transmission and it would appear from the latter that the Swiss Legation at Berlin did in fact take up with the German Foreign Office, on the basis of A.I. Notices Nos. 8138 and 8143 of April 14, 1944, the subject matter of the Department's 1221 of April 10 and 1270 (not 1269) of April 13. As Minister Feldscher was informed, and as reported in the Legation's telegram No. 2937, the German Foreign Office claims to have no information regarding the transfer of the 238 persons in question from
from Vittel to an unknown prison. As also reported, a member of the staff of the Swiss Consulate at Paris has been instructed to proceed to Vittel to ascertain the facts. It should be clear therefore that further action by the Swiss Legation at Berlin will necessarily be based on whether the Swiss Consulate at Paris ascertains that the persons in question were or were not actually moved from Vittel.

You may desire to note that I have made reference above to the Department's telegram No. 1270 and not to No. 1269, both of which are dated April 13, 1944. The former called for representations by the Swiss Legation at Berlin but, insofar as I can determine, the latter did not. I am inclined to think therefore that the reference to 1269 is erroneous.

Please find attached for your consideration the draft of a telegram to the Department, which is intended to set matters right. I trust this will be in accord with your wishes.

G. T.

Enclosures
Enclosures:

No. 1 - Draft of telegram dated May 11, 1944, to Department;

No. 2 - Chancery file "840.1 JEWS IN EUROPE";

No. 3 - A.I. file "840.1 JEWS - EUROPE".
Sehr geehrter Herr Mc Clelland,

bezugsnehmend auf meine heutige Aussprache mit Herrn Ladd, erlaube ich mir, Ihnen das beigefügte Telegramm zu übergeben, mit der Bitte, dies auf Ihrem Weg an die angegebene Adresse abzusenden.

Ich bitte Sie sehr, uns bei der Weiterleitung des Inhalts aus den Ihnen vertrauenswürdigen Gründen behilflich zu sein. Es handelt sich namentlich um die Rettung, Auswanderung und Hilfe für die letzten betroffenen jüdischen Massen in Ungarn.

Anfang der nächsten Woche werden wir eine seltene Gelegenheit nach Slowenien, die diese letzten nach Ungarn war, haben. Sollten Sie, geehrter Herr Mc Clelland, Aufträge dafür haben, sind wir gerne bereit, Ihnen im Gegendienst behilflich zu sein.

Für Ihre Bemühungen und Hilfe im Voraus herzlichst dankend, verbleiben wir, mit

vorzüglicher Hochachtung

N. Schwabl
May 12th.

Dear Mr. Huddle:

The following is a wire sent to me by a very reliable Jew, Nathan Shwalb, head of the Zionist "Hechaluz" office in Geneva, for transmission, if possible, to one of his contacts in the Near East, Barlas Wenia, director of the Palestine Agency in Istanbul. The wire contains a certain number of code words, explained in the accompanying glossary. They refer in the main to the evacuation of endangered Jews to Turkey via Rumania.

Shwalb's organization is doing very creditable work in rescuing people and I should accordingly recommend that we send this wire for him. I think it would be worth while for the WHS to foot the bill as the Hechaluz group, the left-wing of the Zionists is none too well-off.

McClelland.
Bemerkung zum Telegramm.

Joel Kastner - aktiver Freund in Ungarn
Steprezach - Vermeidung von Moritaten
Ella - Die Leiterin der Hilfsarbeit in der Slowakei
Oskar - ihr Vertrager
Willy - Beoerde, Abt. fuer Juden
Tortakower - aktiver Freund (jued. Arbeiterpartei) in New-York
Enser - Rumaenien
Soby - Slowakei
Hoselplan - Rettungsplan
Darkia - Auswanderungsdokumente
TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department

Date: May 12, noon, 1944

No: 3019

Charged to:

PARAPHRASE

Reference Legation's 2937 of May 9, with regard to the ultimate paragraph of your telegram 1595 of May 8th.

It is assumed by the Legation that the Department's reference to its telegram 269 of April 13 should be to the Department's telegram 270 of April 13.

HARRISON

TJH/hs/mjb
Paraphrased in quadruplicate
(Copies to AI, PA, and WRB)
1. **May 1944**

**French Note of May 13th.**

"Comme déclaré à Léonce la Beuf, il a aussi rementionné récemment paraît que tel individu, le temps de l'examen, faisait penser à rencontrer à d'autres occasions, "surtout en intérieur, sont un moyen de fournir des preuves suffisantes de leur nationalité". Ils ne sont pas autrement briqués." En raison de ce, il est d'autant moins douteux que ces personnes ne peuvent pas être établies sans contestation possible qu'ils sont concernant à un des États américains, sont éloignés des camps. Les mesures sont prises aussi bien à Vittel qu'à Campagne.

2. **May 13th.** "Quelques-uns de ces individus ne sont pas le même de fournir une preuve jugée suffisante de leur nationalité étrangère (une mot "étranger" étranger ?) et qui est de supposés qu'ils seront transférés dans des camps spéciaux pour réétalement".

3. **June 2nd.** "Liste de ces 163 internés civils qui ont été déportés du camp de Vittel pour une destination intérieure."

4. **July 1921 - Cast 4.** "German's don't appear to agree to Honor much claims!"
Dept's F55 78 of Oct 26: "predicting that in question action in
renouncing postwar 7s / were negligently issued by French. From

Gt wrote in memo to CT: "O group has obtained false papers / 1
no claim in endeavored to obtain special treatment / o/
not otherwise have received!" Attempt to utilize someone / US
assisting / thus present compromising position.

"There has never been any assurance confirmation or direct indication
at camp subdecreet at Vittel received US. statement (15?) transmitted
through Swiss." Unfortunately Vittel question 237 5 to be attacked from both
Palestine / 5 v CA angle.

Since finally agreed to send an inspector to Vittel on Apr 26 to try
a clean up confusion. Unless where group of 237 at present a
thus 26.

On Apr 26 rep of Comm. F Office declared. // no information
concern transfers person 1 Vittel. Swiss Consul in Paris asked
to check up.

Note / Success of May 2: The terms "avant en effet l'interdiction de départier
pour les juifs internés avec leurs conjoints américains, auxquels les
autorités américaines ne reconnaissent que le droit d'être inclus dans
les groupes d'échange."
Tractive Tel-Boo to draw up lists of persons of admitted. 
Lists \( \rightarrow \) Exit Govt London \( \rightarrow \) Exit Dept. Bern. 
Lists \( \rightarrow \) Swiss \( \rightarrow \) Bern authorities. 
Macilloy said 8 men 8 Germans receive notice. Effect it has resulted in deportation (deported or definitely stopped. Some 90 of 10 such lists have been forwarded. Sometimes lists excluded persons whom Tel-Boo contemplated authorising entry at a later date."

Jewish Agency in Palestine also informs Tel. Office in Geneva of names, approved lead holders. state time advance 126 1 persons concerned.

Names all Jews at Villel were known. 4 lists sent to 
Switzerland Jan. 20, Feb. 25, March 10 & March 23. Rcht. requested confirm 
on Apr. 9. 2 lists of delivered to Bern.
sincerely for your kind
which you reproduce a message from
Committee of the Red Cross) to approach certain Governments
with a view to obtaining for Jews and other persons interned
with that which is accorded to civilian
internees to whom the Geneva Convention relative to
the treatment of prisoners of war is applied by analogy, or,
that such persons be placed on an
equal footing with civilian internees as regards permission
to receive relief.

two We desire, in the first place, to point out that
steps of this nature by the International Committee would
go far beyond the limits of their traditional capacity and
that the Governments to whom such a request might be
addressed would not fail to view this proposal from that
particular angle.

three In the provisions of the International agreements
the International Committee have only a slender basis upon
which to found their humanitarian activities. The latter
are, therefore, dependent upon the good will of belligerent
States, and can only take practical shape in so far as they
are accepted or solicited by the Governments concerned.

Consequently, (the International Committee of the
Red Cross) might lay themselves open to the objection that
they were going beyond the limits of their competences, and
Desp. 8203 5/17
2 Tels. to Dept.
Let. to Huber 5/18 KH/mb

COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE
AGENCE CENTRALE DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE

LEJATION OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA
REO'D MAY 13 1944
BERN

GENÈVE, May 12th, 1944.
Palais du Conseil-Général

My dear Mr. Minister,

I beg to thank you sincerely for your kind letter of 2 May 1944, in which you reproduce a message from (the War Refugee Board) requesting (the International Committee of the Red Cross) to approach certain Governments with a view to obtaining for (Jews) and other persons interned treatment comparable with that which is accorded to civilian internees to whom the Geneva Convention relative to the treatment of prisoners of war is applied by analogy, or, failing such treatment, that such persons be placed on an equal footing with civilian internees as regards permission to receive relief.

We desire, in the first place, to point out that steps of this nature by (the International Committee) would go far beyond the limits of their traditional capacity and that the Governments to whom such a request might be addressed would not fail to view this proposal from that particular angle.

In the provisions of the International agreements (the International Committee) have only a slender basis upon which to found their humanitarian activities. The latter are, therefore, dependent upon the good will of belligerent States, and can only take practical shape in so far as they are accepted or solicited by the Governments concerned.

Consequently, (the International Committee of the Red Cross) might lay themselves open to the objection that they were going beyond the limits of their competences, and
trespassing upon the internal concerns of a State, should they attempt to act on behalf of certain categories of persons whom that State considered to be subject exclusively to its domestic legislation.

The exceptional position of the International Committee of the Red Cross as neutral intermediary between belligerent countries precludes their seeking other solutions than those which offer practical hope of realisation, through appropriate action in quarters where the best results may be expected.

The proposal contained in point (1) of the message from (the War Refugee Board) has, we may add, been submitted on several occasions to (the International Committee of the Red Cross) by (the World Jewish Congress). On each occasion, (the International Committee) was obliged to answer that the numerous endeavours they had made on behalf of (the Jews) had invariably met with a negative answer, with the exception of certain concessions with regard to relief measures.

Under these circumstances, we must admit that application by (our Committee) to (the German authorities) in this matter would not only have no prospect of success, but might even, in the eyes of these authorities, appear quite unjustifiably — dictated by political rather than by humanitarian motives.

We deeply regret having to confine ourselves to purely relief activities on behalf of persons who do not enjoy the protection of the Convention applicable to prisoners of war and civilian internees. This circumstance is not due to absence of endeavours of all kinds by (the Committee) on behalf of such persons — irrespective of race — with a view to their assimilation with civilian internees, by reason of their enemy nationality. Unfortunately, not one of these approaches has been successful.

As regards point (2), (the International Committee) is compelled, in view of experiences in this field, to admit likewise the fact that such application would be considered incompatible with the domestic legislation of the detaining Power, and moreover would constitute serious menace not only to the general activities of (the International Committee of the Red Cross) on behalf of prisoners of war and civilian internees, but also endanger the limited possibilities which we enjoy of assisting the few groups of persons who are not protected, either directly or by analogy, by
international Conventions. (The International Committee) must, it will be remembered, take extreme care that a province, in which the belligerents have accepted our ministrations, should not be closed to future action.

The same observation applies to the proposal contained in the last paragraph of the message from (the War Refugee Board) "to rescue from the occupied areas (Jews) and other persons who are victims of persecution". Any such attempt by (the International Committee of the Red Cross) would at once have the most unfortunate consequences for their entire work -- an eventuality which they cannot conscientiously envisage.

Since repeated and conclusive experience in this field leads us to suppose that any steps of this kind would not only be altogether fruitless, but might even do more harm than good, (the International Committee) must, to their regret, abide by the proposals they have already submitted to the authorities in Washington and to the Intergovernmental Committee in London. After careful consideration of the problem and through exploration of all avenues in other fields of action, (the International Committee) are, in other words, compelled to confine themselves strictly to relief work, within the limits which circumstances prescribe.

The scheme for the relief of civilian war victims, irrespective of race and religion, with which (the War Refugee Board) is familiar, is to our mind, and for the present, the only province in which action by (the International Committee) can produce useful results. Moreover, the scope of such action can be widened, in obedience to conditions prevailing, only in so far as publicity of any kind is avoided. In this connection, we are happy to stress the fact that (the International Committee) have achieved encouraging results in the field of relief work. It was largely due to the kind support given to our suggestions by (the War Refugee Board) a short time ago, that relief activities on behalf of (Jews) in certain countries could be undertaken. This work is worth being pursued.

As regards the other countries mentioned in the message of (the War Refugee Board), and in which (the International Committee) are also engaged actively, here too we must confine ourselves to questions of purely material relief, and we shall be pleased to receive, as soon as possible, any assistance (the War Refugee Board) is able to give us, with a view to our taking practical action along the lines we have submitted to their consideration on behalf of civilian war victims without distinction of race or creed.
In certain countries of South-Eastern Europe, and as far as circumstances allowed, the International Committee have, nevertheless, been instrumental in facilitating Jewish emigration to Palestine. On 5 May, 1944, we forwarded to the United States Legation at Bern a note (C.59/5) on the work done during the preceding months. In this respect also -- the question concerns primarily safe-conducts -- the degree of responsibility we are in a position to assume, depends not upon ourselves, but on the extent to which circumstances and the Governments interested permit.

The International Committee of the Red Cross would be extremely grateful to you, my dear Mr. Minister, if you would inform the War Refugee Board of the above reply, and request them to consider this communication as confidential, since any publicity given to these matters can be prejudicial to the same persons whom we are endeavouring to assist.

I remain, my dear Mr. Minister,

yours sincerely,

Max HUBER
President of the International Committee of the Red Cross.
CROSS-REFERENCE SHEET
DOCUMENT FILE
NOTE

A.I. File
SEE 840.1 JEWS - EUROPE FOR Note No. 24134 (B.24.2 A-3 - E/Jw)

FROM Division of Foreign Interests ) DATED May 12, 1944.
TO

REGARDING: JEWS - EUROPE
SIEGBURG, SOSNOWITZ, SCHRODEL

Tatsachenbericht


Es waren dies pro Woche: 1,5 kg Brot, 10 ø Butter, 10 ø Marmelade, 10 ø Grieß oder Haferflocken, welcher als Zusatz z ø Margarine.

Es war aber möglich, vie Lebensmittel für teures Geld auf dem schwarzen Markt zu kaufen. Das Regiment in allgemeinem war sehr streng. Das kleinsste Vergehen, Nichtträgen des Judenabzeichens usw. wurde mit Verschickung nach Auschwitz (Vernichtungslager) bestraft.


Bis Samstag den 7. August kamen dann noch weitere Chawerim zu uns: Gleitmann Rutka, Rosenzweig Zeew, Frau Glatzenschein und 3 weitere mir namentlich nicht bekannte Personen.

Auf Grund der Mitteilungen der Chawerim (Mitglieder des Hechaluz) waren in Sosnowitz auf diverse Art "Verbunkert":


Von den Chawerim sind anlässlich der Aussiedlung auf verschiedene Art ums Leben gekommen,

Kosuch, Josef (Führer unserer Gruppe), Rosenzweig Nathan (Bruder Zeew im Gebirge) Jakob Zimmermann (Frau in Sosnowitz), Glatzenschein Alex (Mutter im Gebirge)
Josef Komuch und Nathan Rosenweig (Haganah-Selbtschutz) sind anlässlich der Aussiedlung in die Räume des Judenrates eingedrungen, um sich das dort befindliche Geld zu nehmen, um die Wache zu beobachten und zu retten, was möglich ist. Sie haben die Wache überwältigt, sind aber schliesslich erschossen worden. Jakob Zimmermann hat 4 Mädchen aus dem Ghetto in Sicherheit geholt, bei einem neuerlichen Versuch wurde er aufgehalten. Er hat die Wache erschossen, wurde aber schliesslich gefasst und hingerichtet.

Im Ghetto von Bendersburg und Sosnowitz befanden sich bis zum 1.8.1943 ungefähr 30.000 Seelen, die alle nach Auschwitz gebracht wurden. Wie bereits gesagt, ist Auschwitz ein Vernichtungslager.

Szewa Ingster

(Mitglied des schlesischen Mechalas.-
Geflochtet nach Ungarn und jetzt schon in Palästina)
CROSS-REFERENCE SHEET
DOCUMENT FILE
NOTE

A.I. File

SEE 840.1 JEWS - EUROPE FOR Note No. 25105 (B.2406 A HE/Ry)

FROM Division of For. Interests) DATED May 15, 1944.
TO NAME *** 1-1933

REGARDING: JEWS - EUROPE
US URGENT

Legation's 2928 May 9.

In view of the material in your telegram under reference, the Department is reluctant to take the action which was suggested in your 2964 of May 10 and your 3055 of May 13.

The Government of Costa Rica has undertaken to admit all persons who are approved for repatriation by the German Government on basis of alleged Costa Rican nationality. Responses not yet received from the other governments.

We are disposed to permit the exchange to go forward at Barcelona, perhaps leaving there those few persons who may be refused admission to the country whose documentation they carry, for later transfer to transit camp in Morocco.

HULL

In duplicate
The American Legation presents its compliments to the Division of Foreign Interests of the Federal Political Department, and has the honor to refer to the Division's kind note no. 24134 - 1, 24, 2, A-1 - E/W of May 12, 1944, which transmitted Minister Feldscher's report with respect to the removal of 163 persons from the civilian internment camp at Vittel, and forwarded certain observations made by him in connection with the documentation of these and other persons by the United States Government and other American Republics.

The Division is respectfully informed that the Legation is forwarding by telegraph to the Department of State at Washington the substance of the Division's note under reference. Sd., May 16, 1944.

It would be greatly appreciated if the Division might find it possible to request the Swiss Legation at Berlin to forward for the Legation's guidance the list of the 163 persons who have been removed from Vittel, together with an indication of the nationality which they allegedly claim. It would further be greatly appreciated if the Division might furnish the

To the

Division of Foreign Interests,
Federal Political Department.

BRF.
Legation with the names of such other detainees at Vittel whose documentation status is such as to lead to the belief that they may be threatened by deportation measures.

Inasmuch as it appears from the Division's note under reference that the situation at Compiègne with respect to deportation is similar to that found to exist at Vittel, it would also be greatly appreciated if a representative of the Swiss Consulate at Paris might find it possible to proceed to Compiègne at the earliest possible date to ascertain the facts regarding the removal of civilians from that camp.

The Legation avails itself of this occasion to renew to the Division the assurance of its highest consideration.

Bern, May 15, 1944.
Reference is made to the Department's 1498 of April 29.

A letter dated May 12, containing 15 paragraphs, has been received from Judge Max Huber, President of Intercross, in reply to the Legation's letter of May 2 which presented to him the contents of the Department's telegram cited above. The Legation's 3147 of May 17 transmits the text of the first 13 paragraphs of Judge Huber's letter of May 12. In cable 3147 the following terms are used: "Inquirer"; "Respondents"; "Subjects"; "League"; "Umpire". These terms mean, in the order named: "The War Refugee Board"; "The International Committee of the Red Cross"; "the Jews"; "The World Jewish Congress"; "The German authorities".

Hereewith a paraphrase of the fourteenth paragraph of the Judge's letter: "Nevertheless, Intercross has been instrumental in facilitating the emigration of Jews to Palestine from some southeastern European countries so far as permitted by conditions. A memorandum dated May 5th, which describes the work done, has been furnished to the Legation of the United States in Bern. (Note by Legation: If and when mailing facilities permit, this memorandum will be forwarded by microfilm.) The responsibility we can assume, primarily in the matter of safe conduct for vessels, depends, not upon ourselves, but on circumstances and the interested governments."

The fifteenth paragraph follows: "It is the wish of the IRC that the War Refugee Board be informed and also it requests that since any publicity can be prejudicial to the same persons we are endeavoring to help, communication be kept confidential."

HARRISON

JHK:mjb:nf
In duplicate
COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE
Agence Centrale des Prisonniers de Guerre
Rappelée dans le règlement de 1929
Genève, May 17th, 1944
Palais du Conseil-Général
No. 8203
Bern, May 17, 1944.

My dear Sir:

I beg to take the liberty of entering in reply to your request of the 2nd May 1944, in which you referred to the treatment of Jews and other persons detained, interned or otherwise confined in the name of the Red Cross to Germany and its satellites countries, to obtaining for Jews and other persons interned treatment which in accordance to the Convention relative to the treatment of prisoners of war is applied by analogy, or, failing such treatment, that each person be placed on an equal footing with regard to relief.

I have the honor to enclose herewith a copy of a letter from the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross dated May 12, 1944 on the above-indicated subject, which is in reply to my communication of May 2, 1944 to President Huber.

Respectfully yours,

Leland Harrison.

Enclosure:
Copy of letter from International Committee of the Red Cross,
May 12, 1944.

File No. 840.1
JKB/mjb
In triplicate to Department.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Leg 714-72
by B. R. Bush SEP 22 1972
COMITE INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE
Agence Centrale des Prisonniers de Guerre

Rappelez dans la réponse Genève, May 12th, 1944
G.59/7 G.59/4
Palais du Conseil-Général

My dear Mr. Minister:

I beg to thank you sincerely for your kind letter of 21 May 1944, in which you reproduce a message from the War Refuges Board, requesting the International Committee of the Red Cross to approach certain Governments with a view to obtaining for Jews and other persons interned treatment comparable with that which is accorded to civilian internes to whom the Geneva Convention relative to the treatment of prisoners of war is applied by analogy, or, failing such treatment, that such persons be placed on an equal footing with civilian internes as regards permission to receive relief with civilian internes, by reason of their necessity and capacity. Unfortunately, not one of these approaches has been successful, in the first place, to point out that steps of this nature by the International Committee would go far beyond the limits of their traditional capacity and that the Governments to whom such a request might be addressed would not fail to view this proposal from that particular angle.

In the provisions of the International agreements the International Committee have only a slender basis upon which to found their humanitarian activities. The latter are, therefore, dependent upon the goodwill of belligerent States, and can only take practical shape as far as they are accepted or solicited by the Governments concerned.

Consequently, the International Committee of the Red Cross might lay themselves open to the objection that they were going beyond the limits of their competences, and trespassing upon the concern of a State, should they attempt to act on behalf of certain categories of persons whose State is 'considered to be subject exclusively to its domestic legislation' and which accordingly is 'liable to be expropriated'. Any such attempt by the International Committee of the Red Cross would be immediately challenged. The exceptional position of the International Committee of the Red Cross as neutral intermediary between belligerent countries precludes their seeking other solutions than those which offer practical hope of realization, through appropriate action in quarters where the best results may be expected.

The proposal contained in point (1) of the message from the War Refuges Board may, we may add, have been submitted on by the authorities in Washington to the International Committee in London. After careful consideration of several problems and thorough exploration of all avenues in other His Excellency, the International Committee are, in other words, Mr. Gmelin-Hannass, the themselves strictly to relief work, with American Minister,

Legation of the United States of America,
Bern, relief of civilian war victims, irrespective.
In several occasions to the International Committee of the Red Cross by the World Jewish Congress. On each occasion, the International Committee was obliged to answer that the numerous endeavours they had made on behalf of the Jews had invariably met with a negative answer, with the exception of certain concessions with regard to relief measures. In connection, we are happy to stress the fact that the International Committee under these circumstances, we must admit that application by our Committee to the German authorities in this matter would not only have no prospect of success, but might even, in the eyes of these authorities, appear—quite unjustifiably—dictated by political rather than by humanitarian motives.

We deeply regret having to confine ourselves to purely relief activities on behalf of persons who do not enjoy the protection of the Convention applicable to prisoners of war and civilian internment. This circumstance is not due to absence of endeavours of all kinds by the Committee on behalf of such persons—irrespective of race—with a view to their assimilation with civilian internment, by reason of their enemy nationality. Unfortunately, not one of these approaches has been successful.

As regards point (2), the International Committee is compelled, in view of experiences in this field, to admit likewise the fact that such application would be considered incompatible with the domestic legislation of the detaining Power, and moreover would constitute a serious menace not only to the general activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross on behalf of prisoners of war and civilian internment, but also endanger the limited possibilities which we enjoy of assisting the few groups of persons who are not protected, either directly or by analogy, by international Conventions. The International Committee must, it will be remembered, take extreme care that a province, in which the belligerents have accepted our ministrations, should not be closed to future action.

The same observation applies to the proposal contained in the last paragraph of the message from the War Refugees Board "to rescue from the occupied areas Jews and other persons who are victims of persecution". Any such attempt by the International Committee of the Red Cross would at once have the most unfortunate consequences for their entire work—an eventuality which they cannot conscientiously envisage.

Since repeated and conclusive experience in this field leads us to suppose that any step of this kind would not only be altogether fruitless, but might even do more harm than good, the International Committee must, to their regret, abide by the proposals they have already submitted to the authorities in Washington and to the Intergovernmental Committee in London. After careful consideration of the problem and thorough exploration of all avenues in other fields of action, the International Committee are, in other words, compelled to confine themselves strictly to relief work, within the limits which circumstances prescribe.

The scheme for the relief of civilian war victims, irrespective
irrespective of race and religion, with which the War Refugee Board is familiar, is to our mind, and for the present, the only province in which action by the International Committee can produce useful results. Moreover, the scope of such action can be widened, in obedience to conditions prevailing, only in so far as publicity of any kind is avoided. In this connection, we are happy to stress the fact that the International Committee have achieved encouraging results in the field of relief work. It was largely due to the kind support given to our suggestions by the War Refugee Board a short time ago, that relief activities on behalf of Jews in certain countries could be undertaken. This work is worth being pursued.

As regards the other countries mentioned in the message of the War Refugee Board, and in which the International Committee are also engaged actively, here too we must confine ourselves to questions of purely material relief, and we shall be pleased to receive, as soon as possible, any assistance the War Refugee Board is able to give us, with a view to our taking practical action along the lines we have submitted to their consideration on behalf of civilian war victims without distinction of race or creed.

In certain countries of South-Eastern Europe, and as far as circumstances allowed, the International Committee have, nevertheless, been instrumental in facilitating Jewish migration to Palestine. On 5 May, 1944, we forwarded to the United States Legation at Bern a note (9.53/5) on the work done during the preceding months. In this respect also—the question concerns primarily safe-conducts—the degree of responsibility we are in a position to assume, depends not upon ourselves, but on the extent to which circumstances and the Governments interested permit.

The International Committee of the Red Cross would be extremely grateful to you, my dear Mr. Minister, if you would inform the War Refugee Board of the above reply, and request them to consider this communication as confidential, since any publicity given to these matters can be prejudicial to the same persons whom we are endeavouring to assist.

I remain, my dear Mr. Minister,

Yours sincerely,

MAX HUBER
President of the International Committee of the Red Cross.
One. I beg to thank you sincerely for your kind letter of 2 May 1944 in which you reproduce message from inquirer requesting respondents to approach certain governments with view to obtaining for subjects and other persons interned treatment comparable with that which is accorded to civilian internees to whom Geneva Convention relative to treatment of prisoners of war is applied by analogy or failing such treatment that such persons be placed on equal footing with civilian internees as regards permission to receive relief.

Two. We desire in first place to point out that steps of this nature by respondents would go far beyond limits of their traditional capacity and that governments to whom such request might be addressed would not fail to view this proposal from that particular angle.

Three. In provisions of International agreements respondents have only slender basis upon which to found their humanitarian activities. Latter are therefore dependent upon good will of belligerent states and can only take practical shape insofar as they are accepted or solicited by governments concerned.

Four. Consequently respondents might lay themselves open to objection that they were going beyond limits of their competences and trespassing upon internal concerns of state should they attempt to act on behalf of certain categories of persons whom that state considered to be subject exclusively to its domestic legislation.

Five. Exceptional position of respondents as neutral intermediary between belligerent countries precludes their seeking other solutions than those which offer practical hope of realization through appropriate action in quarters where best results may be expected.

Six. The proposal contained in point (1) of message from inquirer has we may add been submitted on several occasions.
occasions to respondents by League. On each occasion respondents were obliged to answer that numerous endeavors they had made on behalf of subjects had invariably met with negative answer with exception of certain concessions with regard to relief measures.

Seven. Under these circumstances we must admit that application by respondents to umpire in this matter would not only have no prospect of success but might even in eyes of umpire appear—quite unjustifiably—dictated by political rather than by humanitarian motives.

Eight. We deeply regret having to confine ourselves to purely relief activities on behalf of persons who do not enjoy protection of Convention applicable to prisoners of war and civilian internees. This circumstance is not due to absence of endeavors of all kinds by respondents on behalf of such persons—irrespective of race—with view to their assimilation with civilian internees by reason of their enemy nationality. Unfortunately not one of these approaches has been successful.

Nine. As regards point (2) respondents are compelled in view of experiences in this field to admit likewise fact that such application would be considered incompatible with domestic legislation of detaining power, and moreover would constitute serious menace not only to general activities of respondents on behalf of prisoners of war and civilian internees but also endanger limited possibilities which we enjoy of assisting few groups of persons who are not protected either directly or by analogy by international conventions. Respondents must it will be remembered take extreme care that province in which belligerents have accepted our ministrations should not be closed to further action.

Ten. Same observation applies to proposal contained in last paragraph of message from inquirer "to rescue from the occupied areas subjects and other persons who are victims of persecution". Any such attempt by respondents would at once have most unfortunate consequences for their entire work—an eventuality which they cannot conscientiously envisage.

Eleven. Since repeated and conclusive experience in this field leads us to suppose that any steps of this kind would not only be altogether fruitless but might even do more harm than good respondents must to their regret abide by proposals they have already submitted to authorities in Washington and to Intergovernmental Committee.
Committee in London. After careful consideration of problem and thorough exploration of all avenues in other fields of action respondents are in other words compelled to confine themselves strictly to relief work within limits which circumstances prescribe.

Twelve. Scheme for relief of civilian war victims irrespective of race and religion with which inquirer is familiar is to our mind and for present only province in which action by respondents can produce useful results. Moreover scope of such action can be widened in obedience to conditions prevailing only insofar as publicity of any kind is avoided. In this connection we are happy to stress fact that respondents have achieved encouraging results in field of relief work. It was largely due to kind support given to our suggestions by inquirer short time ago that relief activities on behalf of subjects in certain countries could be undertaken. This work is worth being pursued.

Thirteen. As regards other countries mentioned in message of inquirer and in which respondents are also engaged actively, here too we must confine ourselves to questions of purely material relief and we shall be pleased to receive as soon as possible any assistance inquirer is able to give us with view to our taking practical action along lines we have submitted to their consideration on behalf of civilian war victims without distinction of race or creed.

HARRISON

JKH/mjb

Copy in F.A
Bern, May 18, 1944.

My dear Mr. President:

I have received with appreciation your letter of May 12, 1944 answering my communication of May 2, 1944, in which was transmitted to you a message from the War Refugee Board inviting the International Red Cross to approach the German Government and its satellite governments regarding the treatment to be accorded by these governments to Jews and other persons who are detained, interned, or otherwise confined because of race, religion, or political belief.

I have observed with interest your explanation of the position of the International Red Cross in this matter, and have not failed to transmit your communication to the Department of State for the attention of the War Refugee Board.

Sincerely yours,

Leland Harrison,
American Minister.

The Honorable Max Huber,
President, International Committee of the Red Cross, Geneva.

JKH/mjb
The following is for the War Refugee Board with reference to the Department's 1270 April 13 and to the Legation's 2937 of May 9.

A note dated May 12 from the Swiss Foreign Office states that the Swiss Legation at Berlin, during a recent visit to the German Foreign Office, discussed the question of internees allegedly removed from Vittel.

Feldscher was informed that the police authorities are actually proceeding with the most careful examination of the identity papers of citizens of the American Republics who are held in camps of internment. These internees are not disturbed when they are able to furnish satisfactory proof of their nationality. Those who are not able to establish beyond any possible doubt that they are citizens of an American Republic are, however, removed from the camps. This action is applicable both to Compiègne and Vittel.

Feldscher added, in communicating the foregoing by letter dated May 5, that he knows a large number of Polish citizens and citizens of other Eastern Europe countries have obtained passports of Paraguay, Honduras, Nicaragua, etc., without having the right to claim such nationalities. It is, however, extremely difficult to verify whether there are among the deported persons citizens of countries whose interests Switzerland protects. The Swiss Consulate at Paris, which had been instructed to investigate the matter firsthand, has reported the removal from Vittel of 163 persons. The Consulate has a list of these persons and the Swiss Legation in Berlin will thus be able to determine whether citizens of Latin American countries whose interests Switzerland protects are among the internees formerly at Vittel.

Further,
Further, Feldscher calls attention to the fact that the German authorities are also proceeding by degrees to apply stricter measures to persons who claim nationality of the United States. On the basis of the files of the Swiss Legation at Berlin, some internes who are held in camps up to the present do not possess U.S. nationality, or they are still considered as "alien relatives" of American citizens. It appears that the German authorities will apply general regulations to all persons to whom the Government of the United States refuses its protection. Substance of the Swiss note ends here.

The Foreign Office was requested by the Legation to endeavor to furnish the list of 163 deported civilians with an indication of their alleged citizenship claims; also a list of the persons at Vittel who documentation status is such as to lead to the belief that they may be treated in a like manner. The Legation also requested the Foreign Office to have a representative of the Swiss Consulate at Paris proceed to Compiègne to undertake an investigation similar to that which was carried out at Vittel.

HARRISON

TJH:hs:nf
In quadruplicate
2 copies to AI
2 copies to WRB files
Dear Sir,

a person who visited a relative interned at Vittel has asked me to communicate the information contained in this letter to you. You will understand the lack of a signature and an introduction of the writer under the circumstances but I am sure you will have no doubt of the bona fide character by reason of the details I give you.

I believe all the members of your family are in security although they have all been transferred from Vittel. You perhaps received the few words the writer tried to send you when your father and sister Mary was transferred on April 18th. That convoy comprised 65 of the Polish interned here who held south american passports. It might be said in passing that the announced of the transfer caused much terror among the Poles and there were three suicides (Madame Schorr and two Baumberger, husband and wife) and a dozen attempted suicides. That convoy was sent to Drancy and after a week left Drancy for a destination unknown but believed to be Bergen-Belsen (or Bergen-Belgen) in Germany where they were split up part of them going to Bergau a working camp.

Your mother escaped the first convoy by reason of having a broken foot not yet mended and Lea was allowed to stay with her. A month later however (May 15th) all those who had escaped the first convoy and were not very sick were sent away, and among them I am sorry to say your father and sister. Both were courageous and Lea looked forward to seeing her father again to whom as you know she is much attached.

She hopes to be able to practice her profession in any camp she is sent to. According to German law I believe she is exempt from deportation as the wife of a prisoner of war. Her friends at Vittel were extremely sorry to see her transferred and sincerely hope to see her after the war.

The transfer of these Polish interned from Vittel is probably a diplomatic move to force recognition by the South American republics of their papers. It is unlikely that they will have their lives endangered otherwise than by being forced to live in camps where hardship reigns. Therefore if anything can be done from Switzerland to hurry official action in their recognition I am sure you will know what steps to take.

I should add that it was announced several weeks ago that official recognition had been received from Chile (there were only 3 of these), and it is possible that Paraguay has taken the same action. If so they should be able to insist on their mentinals receiving proper humane treatment until a transfer can be arranged.

It is known perhaps to you that the copies of palestinian certificates were received at the camp at Vittel before the first convoy on April 18th. They were not received officially however and the Germans naturally refused to recognize them.

I trust you will receive this letter and that you will be able to do something for those who have left Vittel and the few remaining ones. You can advise the writer that you have received this letter by writing to Elle Germaine Rey lol Grand Pre, Geneva and asking her to tell her cousin in her next letter that you have written to her.

Sincerely yours

Bei den deutschen Behörden bestehen Zweifel über die Richtigkeit unserer Papiere. Sorgen sich dafür, dass unsere Regierungen via Schutzmacht unserer Papiere als richtig anerkennen und dass wir vollgültige Londoner Palästina-Austauschzertifikate erhalten.


ges. S. Eisenzweig


Herzlichen Grüßen für Sie, Ihren Geschwister sowie für Herrn "saac Sternbuch.

ges. S. Eisenzweig

18. Juni.

Seitens der deutschen Behörden wurde uns erklärt, dass wir für den Palästina-Austausch in Betracht genommen werden können, falls - gemäß der erhaltenen Verständigung des Palästinaamtes Genf - die Londoner Regierung uns für diesen Austausch akzeptieren wird. Bemüht mich deshalb, dass dies wie am schnellsten geschafft und dass die bessere Kommandantur hiervon via Schutzmacht telegrafisch verständigt wird.

Sie können keine Verständigung der Schutzmacht bezüglich der Anerkennung unserer Papiere angenommen werden. Trachten, dass dies schnellstens telegrafisch erfolgt.

Einige unserer verehrten und würdigen Freunde haben weder eine Mitteilung des Palästinaamtes Genf wegen Austauschzertifikate erhalten, noch figurieren sie auf der betreffenden hier angegebenen Liste. Ergänzet bitte diese mit folgenden Namen und was in dieser Richtung wegen Anerkennung getan wird, soll auch unbedingt für diese geschehen:

Paniemie Szajna, Zofia; Koenig, Bechik, und Frau Sara Mayer, Mariam und Stefan; Leon Koenig; alle Hondurasbürger Vittel Theres, Herr Brastraj, Paraguayischer Bürger, Vittel Yerman.

Meine Frau Jina und Tochter Gute, die mit hier sind, sollen auch auf die Palästina-Austausch-Liste, denn dies ist hier erforderlich.

Erwartet Ihre umgehende Antwort ich...

ges.
Très chere Monsieur,

ayant appris que vous avez été appelé à la direction de l’œuvre de secours Américain pour les réfugiés, je tiens à vous en féliciter de tout cœur.

Je forme mes vœux très sincères pour que votre nouveau champ d’activité vous donne la satisfaction intérieure d’un grand et noble travail accompli au service de l’humanité blessée et souffrante.

Beaucoup espèrent avec moi qu’il vous sera donné d’aider et d’apporter un peu de secours parmi tant de ruines et de désolation.

Ma femme se joint à moi pour vous présenter ainsi qu’à Madame Mc Cllland nos hommages respectueux.

[Signature]
MEMORANDUM

May 19, 1944.

At de Saussure's request, I called at his office this morning, where he received me with Bisang.

The purpose of this was to inquire whether the American Government would be disposed to conclude an agreement with the Germans, through the good offices of the protecting power, for the general repatriation of civilians, whether interned or not, in the territory of the enemy, including occupied territory.

I told Messrs. de Saussure and Bisang that my Government would undoubtedly be very keenly interested, provided, of course, proper safeguards were given.

De Saussure then told me that after approximately two years intensive labor, the Swiss had succeeded in getting the British and Germans to agree to such an exchange and that this agreement had been signed about April 1, 1944. It provides that civilians, whether interned or not, residing in the territory of the enemy or in occupied territory, are eligible for repatriation, except for the following three classes:

1) those charged with criminal offences;

2) those whose presence in the country of citizenship
ship would be considered as a danger to public safety; and

3) those who declined repatriation.

Additionally, males between the ages of 18 and 60 would be required to sign a formal undertaking that they would not take up arms against the then detaining power.

The DROTTNINGHOLM has been chartered for this purpose and makes its first trip about June 1 from Sweden, from where it will proceed to South Africa to pick up Germans who have been gathered in a pool at Capetown from various areas in that part of the world. The vessel will then proceed to Lisbon to unload Germans and embark British.

It is contemplated that the DROTTNINGHOLM will continue these voyages to a number of widely separated parts of the British Empire.

I expressed the desire to have a copy of the Anglo-German agreement which de Saussure said he would forward me today subject to Minister de Purys consent.

During the course of this afternoon, I brought this to the Minister's attention orally.

G. T.

GT/dmh
Vatican City, May 19, 1944.

Dear Leland:

I received on May 17 your letter of May 2, 1944 with five enclosures regarding certain war refugees in enemy and enemy-occupied territory.

I immediately prepared and submitted the necessary documentation to the Vatican and hope to be able to send you something as soon as I receive the Vatican's observations thereon.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

The Honorable
Leland Harrison,
American Minister,
Bern, Switzerland.
Reference is made to your airgram no. 45 of February 7, relative to American interests in Germany.

In a note dated May 15 from the Swiss Foreign Office it is stated that, according to a letter of April 21 from the Swiss Legation in Berlin, the German authorities appear recently to have taken up the passports of those internees not considered Aryan. This does not involve withdrawal as such but a control measure, because, after verification of the identity and nationality of the bearers, the passports are returned to them. It may be assumed that interested persons are transferred to special Jewish camps when they are not able to furnish sufficient proof of their nationality.

The Swiss Legation in Berlin thus far has knowledge of no case in which an American passport has not been returned to the bearer after control. The German authorities, it appears, are more particularly interested in bearers of Palestine passports and certain passports of Latin America.

Such supplementary information as may be obtained has been promised by the Swiss.

HARRISON

TWH:ha:nf
In duplicate to AI
In duplicate to RMCoC
CROSS-REFERENCE SHEET

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

A.I. File

SEE 840.1 JEWS - EUROPE FOR Note No. 26139 (B.24, USA (2) 3 HAGER, B/Mh.)

FROM Division of Foreign Interests DATED May 23, 1944.

TO NAME *** 1-1944

REGARDING: JEWS - EUROPE
Sehr verehrter Herr Legationsrat,

Im Nachtrage zu meinem Heutigen gestatte ich mir Ihnen die dort erwähnten Beilagen, u. zw. die beiden Schreiben aus Vittel in Original und Abschrift zu übersenden und wäre Ihnen verbunden, wenn Sie mir die Original nach Einsichtnahme freundlich retournieren würden.

Mit vorzüglicher Hochachtung:

[Unterschrift]

4 Beilagen
2 Originalschreiben aus Vittel
2 Abschriften

Herrn
Legationsrat J. Klahr Huddle,
Gesandtschaft der Vereinigten Staaten
Bern

Legation of the United States of America
MAY 25 1944
Bern

Auch heute würde ich auf diese Angelegenheit nur persönlich auf- zuklären suchen trachten, wenn nicht die angelegten soeben eingelangten Nachrichten mich dazu verhalten würden nochmals auf die Angelegenheit zurückzukommen.

Ich erhielt nämlich von einem meiner Freunde und seiner Frau, die sich in Vittel aufhalten, Beigeschlossene Briefe, deren Abschrift ich Ihnen einsende.

The fact & exchangeable commended
To Swissen on Apr 14.
Herrn
Legationar J. Klahr Huddle,
Am. Gesandtschaft Bern

Sehr verehrter Herr Legationar,


Da ich nicht die Taktik der Familie Sternbuch Weingort, die 50 Familienmitglieder in Vittel haben, nicht davor, dass sie ihnen wollte, habe ich es vorgezogen, nicht mehr in der Sache bei Ihnen vorzustellen zu werden. Es entspricht das einem, was schon früher gefassten Sachen, der sich darauf basiert, dass man in diesen delikaten Sachen einheitlich vorgehen muss.

Auch heute würde ich auf diese Angelegenheit nur persönlich aufzuklären suchen trachten, wenn nicht die eingesandten eingelagerten Nachrichten mich dazu verhalten würden nochmals auf die Angelegenheit zurückzukommen.

Ich erhielt nämlich von einem meiner Freunde und seiner Frau, die sich in Vittel aufhielten, beigeschlossene Briefe, deren Abschrift ich Ihnen einsende.
Platt 2. zum Schreiben an Herrn Leg. Rat Huddle. v. 26.5.1944

Aus diesen Briefen, die aus Vittel kommen, geht hervor, dass doch zumindest, vielleicht aber 200 Leute deportiert worden sind und dass sie deswegen deportiert worden sind, weil die Lagerleitung in Vittel bisher, von dem Delegierten der Schweizer Schutzmacht resp. von Deutschen Ausserministerium nicht verständigt worden ist. Von dem Umstande, dass diese Leute sich unter der Obhut der Schutzmaacht befinden und austauschfähig sind.

Es geht einen jeden Monat ein spezieller Gesandte (Bote) der Schweizerischen Gesandtschaft in Berlin, in Begleitung eines deutschen Offiziers, in alle Zidlinternierten-Lager für fremdstaatliche Bürger und es ist anzunehmen, dass auch wahrscheinlich ein spanischer Bote geht.


Meine Bitte geht also dahin, durch eine entsprechende Intervention zu veranlassen, dass die schweizerische Berliner Gesandtschaft ersucht werde, effektiv durch einen Sonderbotten die Nachricht und Tatsache, dass die Leute um die es geht, sich unter dem Schutze befinden und austauschfähig sind, dem Lagerleiter in Vittel und wenn nötig der Lagerleitung in Dancy Mitteilungen soll.


Empfangen Sie sehr geehrter Herr Legationsrat den Ausdruck meiner vorzüglichen Hochachtung.

[Unterschrift]
Abschrift

Vittel, 1. April 1944.


Erklärungen:

(1) Betty = a/bedewut von den hier zurückgebliebenen
(2) Majotska = Hundert
(3) Machnovsky = Lager, wahrscheinlich Drancy,
(4) Kahn = Lager Vittel
(5) Mavette = Tod
(6) Ani = ich
(7) Nizar = zurückgeblieben
(8) Nezala = Rettung
(9) Als Mair = rasches Handeln

Der Unterstrichene Satz ist folgend zu verstehen: Aus dem Lager Vittel sind 200 Leute in ein anderes Lager (wahrscheinlich Drancy) gebracht worden, was erfahrungsgemäß mit dem Tode gleichzustellen ist.

Der Schreiber dieser Mitteilung ist Dr. Nathan Eck, ein früherer Journalist und Freund aus Folen. Als Absender figuriert ein anderer Internierter J. Kipper. Nathan Eck atmet sich unter den in Vittel zurückgebliebenen.
Abschrift


Deine Klara, Eck.
MEMORANDUM

May 26, 1944.

To: Mr. McClelland
From: Mr. Tait

Reference is made to your memorandum of May 25, 1944, in which you requested, on the basis of the Department’s telegram No. 1786 of May 23, that the Swiss Foreign Office be requested to obtain certain information regarding the treatment of Jews in Hungary.

Enclosed please find, for your information and guidance, a copy of Notice No. 8533 of today's date which I personally presented to an official of the Swiss Foreign Office this afternoon.

In accepting the document in question, the Swiss Foreign Office official concerned informed me that, of all the Latin American countries, Switzerland represents only Chili and Uruguay in Hungary. I was accordingly told that the Swiss Legation at Budapest would not be in a position to take any action on behalf of nationals of San Salvador or any other Latin American republic other than the two named, should they appeal.
to the Swiss representative in Hungary for protection.

I shall inform you promptly of the nature of such report as may be received from the Swiss regarding the more general aspect of the Jewish situation in Hungary.

Enclosure:

Copy of Notice No. 8533 of today's date.

And the Swiss show willingness to secure any information from us through their official channels on general set & treatment of Jews in Hungary? I'm not

Did Mr. Taft answer the Dept's 1786 of May 23rd?
LOCATION at Budapest to take favorable action and is it possible for that location to report the
A. I. No. 8533

NOTICE

The location understands, in connection with the
The Division of Foreign Interests of the Fo-
renunciation, that a recent Hungarian decree provides
federal Political Department is respectfully informed
that persons who are recognized as non-Hungarian
that the American Legation has received a telegram
and who are under the protection of a protecting
dated May 25, 1944, from the Department of State at
power are not subject to the extirpation and severe
Washington which states that the American Government
anti-Jewish laws (that is to say they are not liable to
takes a grave view of reported measures having for
departure, at least for the present), it would
take their purpose the mass extermination of Jews resident
accordingly to very greatly appreciated if the in-
vasion might find it possible also to inquire of

The Legation is instructed, in connection with
the Swiss Legation at Budapest another persons of
the foregoing, to request the Division to be so good
the Jewish race the near Latin American Conven-
as to have the Swiss Legation at Budapest forward as
action are, following application to the representa-
expeditiously as possible detailed information con-
tive of the Protecting Power, placed in a special
concerning the treatment of Jews in Hungary.

It would be particularly valuable to the lega-
department treatment were favorable than that accorded
ation to learn what happens, for example in the Budapest
Jews who are fully affected by the anti-Jewish in-
district, to the Jew who appears at the Swiss Legation
ation at Budapest and requests protection of the Protecting
The Division's kind cooperation in obtaining
Power on the basis of Latin American "nationality" from
the Swiss Legation at Budapest as expidited-
papers, especially those of San Salvador. Is it
so possible such information as the latter any
possible in cases of this character for the Swiss
to fix in a position to obtain the precise respect-

To the

Division of Foreign Interests,
May 26, 1944,
Federal Political Department,
Legation at Budapest to take favorable action and is it possible for that Legation to report the names of the individuals concerned to the special police bureau where they are registered as “foreigners”?

The Legation understands, in connection with the foregoing, that a recent Hungarian decree provides that persons who are recognized as non-Hungarian and who are under the protection of a protecting power are not subject to the extensive and severe anti-Jewish laws (that is they are not liable to deportation, at least for the present). It would accordingly be very greatly appreciated if the Division might find it possible also to inquire of the Swiss Legation at Budapest whether persons of the Jewish race who bear Latin American documentation are, following application to the representative of the Protecting Power, placed in a special camp and, if not, whether they are in any wise accorded treatment more favorable than that accorded Jews who are fully affected by the anti-Jewish legislation.

The Division's kind cooperation in obtaining from the Swiss Legation at Budapest as expeditiously as possible such information as the latter may be in a position to obtain and provide is respectfully solicited.

Bern, May 26, 1944.
PARAPHRASE

Legation's 2937 May 9.

Information given in your telegram was received with pleasure and the promised further report is awaited with interest.

Swiss Government should be advised that we are undertaking the preliminary steps which are required to place before the Government of Germany a concrete proposal or to give consideration to any proposal which that Government may care to make.

The first step is to obtain the adoption of a resolution by the Emergency Advisory Committee for Political Defense at Montevideo which would broaden the exchange standards in its outstanding Resolution XX. The latter as it now reads places narrow restrictions upon the repatriation of German nationals from the Western Hemisphere. Action to the desired end is being expedited.

The proposal to be presented by the Department as it is contemplated at the present time will suggest that all non-Germans, including Jews and persons of doubtful nationality, who are interned or otherwise confined in German territory be exchanged progressively against German nationals who are now residing in this hemisphere. It will be suggested that first consideration should logically be given to those persons who carry passports, visas or other documents which indicate a destination abroad. Such a proposal will be independent of any that is now under negotiation, and it will contain the suggestion that lists be formulated and exchanged for prior approval by both parties. It is probable that such exchanges would in the main, be dependent for transportation on existent neutral passenger vessels which ply between the two hemispheres.
The German Government may be informed, with specific reference to Legation's 2928 of May 9, that provision will be made, in future exchanges of German and United States nationals, for the inclusion of close alien relatives accompanying American citizens. Those to be included with American citizens would normally be limited to alien minor children and alien spouses, although consideration might be given to other relatives for general exchange. In addition, provision will be made for the exchange of those alien relatives of Americans repatriated in 1942 who are still held in German internment camps. The German Government, in view of the foregoing, might wish, if contemplating the transfer of individuals who are susceptible of inclusion in the contemplated exchanges, to move them to localities whence their delivery for exchanged would be facilitated rather than impeded.

It will be appreciated if we can receive as soon as possible the report of the Swiss Government on the German Government's reaction to the foregoing possibilities, in order to assist the Department in giving further consideration to the possibility of making arrangements for such exchanges.

HULL

In quadruplicate.

re
TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department Date: May 31, 1944, 4 p.m.
No: 3455 Charged to:

Code: Secret

Paraphrase

Refer to U.S. interests in Germany and to your 1344 of April 19.

The Swiss Legation in Berlin states that, according to its records, Malka Hager, née Rapaport, never resided in the United States. Aaron Rapaport, her father, was born at Ostrołęka (formerly Poland) on June 15, 1892. In 1935 he emigrated to the United States and in 1939 he returned to Europe. He is the bearer of a U.S. reentry permit No. 1250528 issued on June 9, 1939. On August 13, 1942, his application for a Swiss protective certificate was disapproved.

The Swiss state that the German authorities have been requested to supply information regarding Malka Hager's whereabouts, even though she apparently does not have claim to American citizenship.

HARRISON

TJH/hs/nf
In duplicate.
MEMORANDUM

June 1, 1944.

I telephoned to Dr. Burckhardt this morning in view of the first paragraph of the Department's telegram No. 1846, and told him that we had yesterday prepared note A.I. No. 8551 regarding the possible transportation to the Western Hemisphere of the 238 Jews held at Vittel.

I gave him the background with regard to Mr. Tait's conversation of May 5 with Mr. Bisang and asked Dr. Burckhardt whether, to his knowledge, the full repatriation report had been received from Minister Feldscher.

Dr. Burckhardt said that a letter came in from Minister Feldscher yesterday and that, although he has not yet had time to go through it carefully, it appears to deal with the matter of Jewish repatriation, without making any special mention of the number involved. He added that we might expect to receive a note within a day or two based on Minister Feldscher's letter.

I asked him urgently to communicate with Berlin regarding the full repatriation report, in the event that, upon further study, he ascertains that the
letter received yesterday from Minister Feldscher does not contain the promised full repatriation report. He said that he would be guided accordingly.

T. J. H.

TJH/hs
Following is from Sternbuch for the Union of Orthodox Rabbis:

"The situation at Vittel is not clear. For some time there has been no direct news. The number of internees remaining at Vittel is not known nor who are among those at the concentration camp of Drancy near Paris. The necessary steps to bring the internees back to Vittel has been taken by the American Legation at Bern.

"With reference to the work camp of Bergau near Dresden and Bergen-Belsen, we wish to refer to our last explanations. Unfortunately, the situation there has not yet changed. The Red Cross has no authorization to send food parcels nor to contact or visit this camp. Your intervention is expected by us.

"You are urgently asked to solve the problem of proposed passports without regard to the situation at Vittel. We receive up to the present moment these papers from one consulate only, which is absolutely insufficient for our rescue work. These papers are a useful means at various places and so far they have helped in Slovakia and in Hungary. Hungarian Jews are asking for them to be emitted by different states most urgently.

"Concerning the increasingly terrible situation in Hungary we are quite desperate. There are already one the deportation lists 300,000 Jews. It is urgently asked by the Rabbi of Neutra and others that airmail be sent to the towns of Munkacs, Kaschau and Prescov. 15,000 Jews daily are deported over this route to Poland since May 15th. The people are in despair that nothing has been done up to the present. Do not miss another hour in this matter. This is one means of rescue. Do Intervene! All this is strictly
strictly confidential.

Chief Rabbi Hager of Wysnitz with family are safe and yesterday arrived at Bucharest. Lithuania courier has not yet returned.

We have started, with the aid of the Vatican, negotiations with Slovakia in order to open further labor camps for Hungarian refugees. Cost of setting up these camps has been underwritten by us, provided that the new refugees are admitted without restriction.

Message has been received from Rabbi of Neutra wherein he bitterly complains that he has insufficient money for this salvation work. Besides those who come from Poland about ten people from Hungary are saved daily whom he must support. Further, all Jews in hiding must be fed. as well as numerous labor camps. Rabbis are all without livelihood. Further 200,000 francs has been put at his disposal by us. However for vast rescue program he wires that this sum is ridiculous and that he expects at least 1 million dollars. He calls heaven and earth as witnesses that if he had had more money he could have saved the Gaon of Tschechoiw and many others.

A message from President Preudiger of Budapest was brought by courier as follows: Along the whole line the situation is assuming catastrophic proportions. Nearly all over the country ghettos are being set up in the most inhumane way; in east and south ten frontier comm.-
tates under the dictate of the Germans and in other areas under the direction of the local authorities. These are quite as brutal as in the East. Having been allowed to carry hardly anything with them, the Jews of Galanta are concentrated in Stranikow. Szombathely is an absolutely closed ghetto now and there is no knowledge of the nearer circumstances. In the concentration camps of Kassa and Zsaged circumstances cannot be described by me. The Deser are in a wood without cover. About 20,000 in Ungvar, and 15,000 are housed in brick factories in Kaschau. They are in houses in Nagyvard, but about 13,000 in a few streets walled off with planks. It is the same in Munkacs, but they are often beaten at night at that place. It is declared by our Pleitum of Remu that this is the technique practices to psychologically break down resistance of the masses to prepare them for the worst, which has come true.
Deportation is carried on mercilessly and has become the naked truth, in Kaschau, Nyierghaza, Munkacs, etc. today. Other transports are to follow tomorrow. These measures are now being applied to about 310,000 of our brethren, the orthodox reservoir of the country. Avoidance of further misfortune depends solely on your coming to our assistance and on your grasping the situation. If you can and will help us then we can perhaps be partially or totally saved. If not we are lost. We are absolutely dependent on you for life and death. Awake up those who can help us as long as there is still time, do not think about it long, do not sit still, act.

Above is true extract from message from Professor Freudiger. At once we promised by telegraph one million Swiss francs but they ask us for a million dollars. Your instructions are requested."

$186.87

HARRISON

RDM/mjb
Paraphrased in triplicate
Copy sent McClelland.
FOR INFORMATION

CROSS-REFERENCE SHEET

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

A.I. File

SEE 840.1 JEWS - EUROPE FOR Note No. 27742
(B.24.2A - 3.-K/mb.)

FROM Division of Foreign Interests) DATED June 2, 1944.

TO

NAME

*** 3-DES

REGARDING:

JEWS - EUROPE
The following telegram relates to Latin-American interests in Germany and France.

With reference to the last paragraph of our 3171 of May 16, the Legation has received from the Swiss Foreign Office a list of 162 persons who have been removed from Vittel for an unknown destination. Of these 162 persons 87 allegedly claim Peruvian citizenship, 3 Venezuelan, 3 Chilean, 4 Haitian, 5 Nicaraguan, 7 Peruvian, 8 Ecuadorian, 8 Costa Rican, 9 Honduran and 28 unknown.

The Legation is requesting the Swiss to confirm whether 162 or 163 persons are actually involved since there is an error in numbering in the list.

Legation would appreciated instructions as to whether the Department desires a nominal list, including date and place of birth, to be transmitted by cable. A large proportion of the persons concerned were born in Poland.

HARRISON

TJH:dmh:nf
In triplicate

2 copies to AI
1 copy to Mr. McClelland
CROSS-REFERENCE SHEET
DOCUMENT FILE
NOTE

A.I. File
SEE 840.1 JEWS EUROPE FOR A.I. NO. 8585

FROM American Interests Section DATED June 5, 1944
TO NAME

REGARDING: JEWS - EUROPE.
TELEGRAM RECEIVED

Date: June 5, 5 p.m., 1944
No.: 1921
Received: June 6, 9 a.m.

To: Mr. McClelland

From: [Redacted]

Subject: [Redacted]

The information and references you have noted and have been issued in the names of such countries, as set forth in Department's 1221 April 10 and 1269 April 13.

Legation's 3171 indicates somewhat that the Germans still undertake to pass on the merits of individual claims, while it does not mention that protests have been made by the Swiss. The position taken by the United States Government, you will recall, is that Germany should honor such claims until the country whose nationality is claimed or in whose name the document has been issued notifies the German Government that it rejects such claim.

You should urge the Swiss to insist upon this point, and information as to the status of the entire matter should be sent to the Department.

STETTINIUS ACTING

In triplicate/re
Memorandum to Mr. McClelland, June 6, 1944, A.I. Note No. 839 June 9, 1944, to DFI, A.I. Notice No. 8640 June 9, 1944 to DFI.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department

Date: June 5, 5 p.m., 1944

No.: 1921

Code: 

Received: June 6, 9 a.m.

PARAPHRASE

WRB No. 31. For Harrison and McClelland.

Kindly ask the Swiss Government and the International Red Cross to furnish you with all available information with regard to the conditions in the concentration camps of Bergau near Dresden and Mostortost in Silesia, covering the number of persons who are held there, inclusive of those who hold Latin American documents, the treatment accorded them, the facilities which Intercross enjoys in the camps, and so forth.

With reference to Legation's 2937 May 9 and 3171 May 10, it is not (repeat not) clear to what extent the Swiss authorities have noted and have urged upon the German Government the attitude of the United States Government with respect to the status and treatment of persons who claim United States and Latin American nationality and persons holding documents which have been issued in the names of such countries, as set forth in Department's 1261 April 10 and 1269 April 13.

Legation's 3171 indicates somewhat that the Germans still undertake to pass on the merits of individual claims, while it does not mention that protests have been made by the Swiss. The position taken by the United States Government, you will recall, is that Germany should honor such claims until the country whose nationality is claimed or in whose name the document has been issued notifies the German Government that it rejects such claim.

You should urge the Swiss to insist upon this point, and information as to the status of the entire matter should be sent to the Department.

STATTIBUS ACTING

In triplicate/re

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By H. H. Parrs Date SEP 22 1972
DRAFT of a letter to His Excellency, Mr. Ventura G. CALDERON
Peruvian Minister, 46 Quai Gustave Ador, Geneva.

*****

My dear Mr. Minister:

I am happy to acknowledge receipt of your letter of May 30th, and wish to thank you for receiving Mr. McClelland who came to you on my behalf (at my request?) to explain orally the background of developments in both Europe and the U.S. which undoubtedly occasioned the telegram regarding Peruvian passports issued in Switzerland that you recently received from your government.

While we are not advised in exactly what terms our Gov't in Washington approached yours, we know that they were motivated by a sincere humanitarian concern felt in our country for the tragic fate of countless persecuted refugees, particularly Jews, at the hands of the German Gov't and by the desire to undertake whatever steps possible to save at least a few of these unfortunate victims of enemy oppression.

Realizing the possession of passports or other documents issued in the names of Latin American countries seemed to preserve the holders from deportation, and indeed caused them to be placed in regular internment camps (for the nationals of belligerent countries), our Gov't decided that the only way to attempt to save these persons was to initiate negotiations with the several countries of South and Central America concerned by means of which the internees in question would be considered as eligible for exchange against the nationals of Germany in the western hemisphere.
The Swiss Gov., as Protecting Power for the majority of these Latin American countries, was simultaneously asked to inform the Germ. Gov. that the U.S. Gov., expected the holders of such documentation to be granted the same immunities, rights and privileges as the Germ. Gov. expected would be accorded German nationals located in the western hemisphere. In pursuance of its attempt to safeguard the lives of these unfortunate victims of German persecution the U.S. Gov., on purely humanitarian grounds, requested the various Latin American Gov., concerned to take no action, at least until after the war, to cancel or otherwise revoke such passports of their countries held by these persons, and if possible to indicate to the Germ. Gov. through their respective protecting powers that these internees were considered eligible for exchange. In this respect it was understood that the Latin American countries would not be expected to physically admit such refugees into their territories, even on a temporary basis, but that it would be the entire responsibility of the U.S. Gov. to make all arrangements to find havens elsewhere for these refugees.

The Gov. of the U.S. further took the view that the validity of such passports was not to be considered an issue at this time, but, on humanitarian grounds and in the interest of saving these unfortunate refugees, should be postponed until after the termination of the war.

In the hope that this information will assist you in framing an answer to your government, I am, my dear Mr. Minister,

Sincerely yours,
Information on camps of German origin in Slavon

1) The information above is specific to German camps in Slavon, in Serbia.

2) The camps consist of

   a) Concentration camps for political prisoners, including Jews
   b) Work camps for forced labor
   c) Internment camps for displaced persons

Information from German authorities:

- The camps are supervised and controlled by German authorities
- The camps are considered safe and necessary for national security
- The camps are necessary for the protection of German citizens
- The camps are designed to prevent further cases of terrorism

Requests for information from German authorities:

- Information on the number and location of the camps
- Details on the treatment of prisoners in the camps
- Requests for access to the camps

840.1 Time in Europe

Diese Papiere werden auch durch eine Organisation des Dr. Silberstein vermittelt und rechnet dieses Büro keinerlei Spesen, unter der Voraussetzung, dass diese Papiere wirklich für die betreffenden bestimmt sind. Dieses Büro sorgt auch für den Transport nach den besetzten Ländern, wenn ein Courrier nach dort reist.

Hingegen habe ich erfahren, dass ein Herr Gerhard Kahn, Fisch, Flüchtling, 135 Rue de Lausanne, Schwiegersohn von Herrn Frohwirt diese Papiere ebenfalls vermittelt. Er bedient sich der Agudas Achim, einer jüdisch-religiösen Gemeinde um für die Vermittlung eine Gebühr von minimal Fr. 25.-- zu verlangen. Herr Kahn warnt aber die Interessierten nicht vor einer gewöhnlichen Sendung mit der Post, im Gegenteil er behauptet, dass diese Papiere volle Gültigkeit haben, was nicht der Fall ist und daher ruhig auch mit der Post gesendet werden können. Unter diesen Umständen, ist zu befürchten, dass der kleine Wert, den diese Papier eventuell an einzelnen Orten haben zurücktekt wird und wäre es daher wünschenswert, wenn die Ausgabe und Vermittlung dieser und ähnlicher Papiere an einer vertrauensvollen Stelle zentralisiert wurde.

Genf Juni 1944
Sehr geehrte Herren,

Zürich, 9. Juni 1944

Ich gestatte mir, nachfolgende Zeilen an Sie zu richten:


Ich danke für geiß. Existenzsorge und bitte Sie, die Ihnen verursachten Bemühungen zu entschuldigen.

Genehmigen Sie die Versicherung meiner verzöglichen Hochachtung:

P. Tisch

Heilige: Karte
MEMORANDUM

To: The Minister.
From: R. McClelland.

With reference to the Dept.'s 1921 of June 5th, in which information concerning the two camps of BERGARL, near Dresden, and DOSTORTOST in Silesia, was requested I have been able to gather the following data.

Neither of them is in anyway accessible to or controlled by either the IRC or the Swiss Gov. as protecting power. BERGARL and there is even some doubt as to this as the exact name of the camp - appears to be a camp for Jewish refugees holding Palestine certificates or Latin American "nationality" documents. It was set up fairly recently (not over three months ago), and according to Sternbush houses about 1400 internees. According to Riegner they appear to be mostly women.

DOSTORTOST, on the other hand could not even be located in the gazetteer. It is undoubtedly one of the many villages in Upper Silesia where Jewish work detachments are located. Private organizations have had some success in sending individual packages to persons in such "camps."

Mr. Schwarzenberg of the IRC could tell me nothing specific about either of these camps.

June, 9th/44. 
MEMORANDUM

To: S.A. Mr. McClelland

From: Mr. Tait

June 8, 1944

Dear Mr. McClelland:

I enclose the Department's telegram No. 1921 of June 5 - 5 p.m., which has reference to:

1) conditions in concentration camps at Bergau and Dostortost; and

2) the treatment by the Germans of persons claiming Latin-American nationality (American also included).

You may note that the Minister has expressed the desire that we consult with him about the attached telegram. Accordingly, I enclose A.1's entire file 640.1 JEWS - EUROPE for convenient reference and would ask you to return it to me as promptly as possible, and at the same time to let me know when you will be able to discuss this matter with the Minister.

G. T.

Enclosures:

1. - Department's telegram No. 1921, dated June 5, 1944;

2. - A.I. file 640.1 JEWS - EUROPE.
JUNE 1941

VITTIEL - False Transport affair.

Note of Sept. 9th 30384 of June 20th stating that only 3
countries: Venezuela, El Salvador & Honduras have asked Swiss
to request German's recognize such deeds held by Jewish refugees.

If so, how much sent in such a request (not surprising in view of
Calderson's attitude)." Swiss positive action. (See Rep's FSS 73 of Oct 26th).

> Are there any others?

Jan 1221 of Apr. 9th 38 says it is communicating with various S.A
countries concerned.

Switzerland to PM for Hails in Germany, France & Italy.
Hails answered no. to Vatican's request. (It seems no Hails' act quite
of great men faire).

2/28 of Apr. 11th did come to Swiss PM's economist in Berlin of letter of date 4
does an eligible for exchange.

Polish certificate: 80 of letters forwarded to German's via Swiss. Swiss also
endeavor to notify individuals in question.

Harek stated (see 9th's memo of Apr. 19th/49) 6 woman of all Jews
interred in Vittel of communicated. 80 of letters transmitted to the
Swiss on Jan 27, Feb. 25, Mar 10 & Mar 25. On Apr. 9th a British leg.
requested Swiss to confirm fact of letters delivered to German's.

Was any such confirmation received?

See 9th's memo of Apr. 19th. "All records regarding Jews having received
Polish certificate in London. Dept 1408 of Apr 23. /Bure of W.T. Letter to
Stembridge."

Witold's method I outlined by 20 to then Spamars on Apr. 25th about Vittel etc.
Several requests transmitted by US go to Spain asking to return 233 persons to Vittel.

1500 of April 29 contains request from Spain, asking Germany to return 233 persons to Vittel. Fapp.

See copy 1500 of April 29 in same subject.

Since 423 note 15241 of May 3 acknowledges 423 note asking a request be addressed to German to obtain return of 233 persons.

Pilcher Berlin never replied C 1/2 no information. From German in Paris no transfer. Swede-Berlin asks them C 1/2 in Paris to investigate.

In Sept's 1545 of May 5. Hager-Brann has received assurance Spain - try to arrange immediate return to Vittel of

refugee removed from a camp. (and to Stambach.)

Harely intervened in same question on Apr 26 via Vatican.

Haiti asked in request continued in Sept's 1531 of Apr 21.

Swedes note 141341 of May 12th (state C) discussed matter in

Berlin. Germans replied C 1/2 Investigation claims persons at

Vittel to date. Anmer. nationality. If C 1/2 establishes same

answering possible ... (12) send clearances on camp.

1st mention of 163 "clearance." Dr. would appreciate advice to

Haiti does not appear to have notified Swedes of this desire.

Pilcher held A. documentation be recognized by Germans.

Great number of Haitian delegation here. To W 15.

In our note 1539 of June 1. Swedes are asked to prevent German's removal on 162-3.
In our note # 8642 of June 9th, we ask you to ascertain what reason Germans gave for "deporting" these people. Present vs. seems willing to pass on merits of individual cases. Request informed.

Several as to what do men, sometimes have request shown as PP to 1900g, individual claims to each nationality pending review cases.
CROSS-REFERENCE SHEET
DOCUMENT FILE
NOTE

A.I. File

SEE 840.1 JEWISH EUROPE FOR A.I. Note No. 8639

FROM American Interests Section DATED June 9, 1944.
TO NAME *** 1-051

REGARDING: JEWISH EUROPE
MEMORANDUM

To: The Minister
From: R. McClelland.

With reference to the Dept.'s 1921 of June 5th. in which information concerning the two camps of BERGAU, near Dresden, and Dostortost in Silesia, was requested I have been able to gather the following data.

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Mr. Schwarzenberg of the IRC could tell me nothing specific about either of these camps.

June, 9th./44.

[Handwritten notes on the bottom of the page:]
F.O. knows about 2 camps: Bergau, Dostortost.
F.O. told me about 2 camps: Bergau, Dostortost.
6/12/44
From: Department
Date: June 10, midnight, 1944.
No.: 2ool
Code: 
Received: June 12, 9 a.m.

Paraphrase

So as to avoid garbled transmission, which otherwise is inevitable, it will be preferable to transmit to the Department by airmail despatch at earliest possible opportunity the list (Latin American Interests) which was referred to in Legation's 3579 of June 5.

STETTIINIUS ACTING

In duplicate

re
No. 8466

Via Air Mail Pouch

Bern, June 12, 1944.

Subject: Latin American Interests - France
Transmission of list of persons removed by German authorities from Vittel internment camp.

The American Minister at Bern has the honor to enclose, pursuant to the Department's telegram No. 2001 of June 10, 1944, a copy of the list of 162 persons who have been removed by the German authorities from the civilian internment camp at Vittel to an unknown destination and who allegedly claim citizenship of various Latin American republics.

Enclosure:

Copy of list of 162 persons removed from Vittel by German authorities - with original of despatch only.

File No. 840.1
TJR/hs
In quintuplicate to Department.
Dr. A. Silberschein  
22, rue des Pâquis,  
Geneva.

Dear Dr. Silberschein:

Mr. Huddle referred your letter of May 24th. to me and asked me in replying to express his thanks to you for your good wishes.

The whole discouraging matter of what has gone on at Vittel has had our attention during the past weeks, but it is still difficult, if not impossible, to secure a clear idea of what has happened. As you doubtless know, we received official confirmation through the Dépt. Politique that 163 persons had been transferred from Vittel to an unknown destination. The only explanation for this fact which one can deduce is that the Germans, according to a statement made to the Swiss in Berlin, apparently did not consider the claims of these people to Latin American nationality "sufficiently well established." If such persons could not "furnish adequate proof" of such "nationality" the Germans more or less indicated that they would take steps accordingly. I fear this can only mean deportation.

On the other hand, our Legation transmitted to the Swiss Dépt. Politique, "Division des Intérêts Étrangers," an official memorandum on April 14th. 1944 in which it was expressly requested that the Swiss, as protecting power for certain of these Latin American countries, inform the German authorities that the "United States considered all persons at Vittel and elsewhere holding passports or documents issued in the names of Latin American countries as eligible for exchange." The Swiss transmitted this message to the German Foreign Office. Whether in turn the Germans chose to send this information to Vittel is almost impossible for us to know. In any case one has the impression that at least certain elements in Germany are more interested in deporting such unfortunate souls that in ultimate possibilities of exchange. The matter, however, is still being investigated, and the Swiss are being urged once more to make the U.S. attitude known to the German authorities. We shall not fail to let you know if there are further developments.

Sincerely yours,

R. D. McClelland, Special Assistant.
CROSS-REFERENCE SHEET

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 840.1 JEW- EUROPE FOR A.I. Note 8663

FROM A.I. SECTION ( ) DATED June 13, 1944

TO NAME

** 1-3506

REGARDING: persecution of Jews and other minorities in Europe. Note also transmitted extract of President's statement of March 24, 1944 from Radio Bulletin No. 72.
MEMORANDUM

To: WRB Mr. McClelland

From: Mr. Tait

June 14, 1944.

Dear Mr. McClelland:

I have had your file JEWS - EUROPE (840.1) brought up to date by the inclusion of all material contained in the Chancery and A.I. files on this subject other than copies of notes exchanged with the Swiss Foreign Office. As you may, however, observe, there is an indication on your copy of any note that has been sent to, or received from, the Foreign Office.

At the same time, I have had copies made of any papers which you had and which were not a part of the A.I. file. The latter will be treated as the master file on the subject of Jews - Europe and will accordingly contain a copy or the original of all documents.

G. T.

Enclosure:

Your file 840.1 JEWS - EUROPE.
MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. McClelland

From: Mr. Tait

June 15, 1944.

I should like to attach the original copy of
Mr. Pilet-Golaz’s memorandum that he handed to the
Minister on June 13, as well as two copies of its
English translation. I have retained in the files of
A.I. the second copy of the above-mentioned memo-
randum as well as copies of the translation.

I am taking no further action in the matter
until I hear from you or the Minister.

G. T.

Enclosures:

1 memorandum with
two copies of its
English translation.
Aide-mémoire

Le 10 avril 1944, le Ministre des États-Unis à Berne a bien voulu adresser au Chef du Département Politique Fédéral un mémorandum relatif au sort des détenteurs de passeports délivrés par les agents de certains pays ibéro-américains et se trouvant soit en Allemagne, soit dans les territoires occupés par le Reich. Le Gouvernement américain demandait, en particulier, que les autorités suisses envisagent de s'entremettre auprès du Gouvernement du Reich pour obtenir que la validité des passeports en question soit reconnue, afin d'assurer à leurs détenteurs le bénéfice du traitement réservé aux ressortissants de puissances ennemies pouvant être inclus dans un échange de civils.

En même temps, la Légation des États-Unis invitait la Division des Intérêts étrangers du Département Politique Fédéral à indiquer au Gouvernement du Reich la perspective d'un nouvel échange de ressortissants allemands établis dans l'hémisphère occidental contre des personnes se trouvant dans les territoires sur lesquels l'Allemagne exerce son autorité. La Division était priée de signaler que le Gouvernement des États-Unis estimait que tous les détenteurs, à Vittel et ailleurs, de passeports et d'autres documents délivrés au nom des pays ibéro-américains devraient être admis à bénéficier de cet échange. En même temps, la Division était sollicitée d'expliquer à Berlin le point de vue du Gouvernement américain quant au traitement des Juifs détenteurs de passeports ibéro-américains en attendant
qu'ils puissent être compris dans un échange, en faisant notamment ressortir l'élément de réciprocité que constituent les Allemands naguère établis dans les pays de l'Amérique latine et actuellement internés aux États-Unis pour le compte de ces pays.

Des rapports reçus de la Légation de Suisse à Berlin résulte, en substance, ce qui suit:

Depuis le début de la guerre, des passeports des États ibéro-américains (Honduras, Costa-Rica, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Équateur, Salvador, Vénézuéla, Haïti, Paraguay) circulent parmi les Juifs des territoires occupés par l'Allemagne et en particulier en Pologne. Ces passeports ont été établis par les consulats des divers États mentionnés en Portugal, en Suède et en Suisse, mais en partie aussi à New-York, au Japon et peut-être en Pologne. Quand de tels passeports de pays dont la Confédération défend les intérêts en Allemagne sont arrivés à échéance et que la Division spéciale de la Légation de Suisse à Berlin a été priée, par les titulaires, de les renouveler, des instructions ont été demandées aux gouvernements intéressés, qui, en général, ont refusé d'accorder la prolongation de ceux des passeports qu'ils ne reconnaissent pas. Les autorités allemandes n'ont pas été informées de cette circonstance, mais la Division spéciale était désormais privée de la possibilité d'accorder sa protection à ces personnes.

Un assez grand nombre de ces passeports sont paraguayens, le Paraguay étant représenté en Allemagne par l'Espagne, dont il semble que l'Ambassade à Berlin a reçu du Gouvernement paraguayen une liste des
personnes en nombre limité qui, seules, bénéficieraient
de la protection de cet État. Le Département Politique
ignore si, ultérieurement, le Gouvernement espagnol a
reçu des indications rectificatives conformes à la dé-
claration du Gouvernement paraguayen dont il a été fait
état au deuxième paragraphe du mémoire du 10 avril
1944.

Un certain nombre de titulaires de passeports ibéro-américains, en général originaires de l'Est
européen, se firent admettre dans les camps d'internés
civils américains qui sont soumis le contrôle du Ministère
des Affaires étrangères de Berlin et soumis par analo-
ge au régime conventionnel des prisonniers de guerre;
en même temps, ils sont virtuellement devenus candidats
t à un échange de civils entre l'Allemagne et les États
américains. En revanche, ceux qui demeurèrent en Polon
ne restèrent soumis au régime appliqué aux autres Juifs
de l'Est. Les internés de Vittel de Compiègne furent récemment recensés et un groupe de Juifs fut éloigné de
ces camps. Il s'agit, semble-t-il, dans certains cas,
de détenteurs de passeports ibéro-américains dont la va-
lidité était contestée.

Au moment où furent communiquées au Gou-
vernement allemand les indications contenues dans la no-
tice de la Légation du 14 avril, la Police allemande
avait déjà éloigné de Vittel et de Compiègne des Juifs
qui n'avaient pas pu prouver leur nationalité améri-
caïne. Des explications données verbalement à la Légation
de Suisse par un fonctionnaire de l'Office allemand des
Affaires étrangères, il résulte que celui-ci se serait
félicité d'être en mesure de faire valoir, alors qu'il en était encore temps, que toute personne alléguant d'une attache quelconque à un État ibéro-américain est considérée par le Gouvernement des États-Unis comme un élément d'échange. L'Office des Affaires étrangères serait prêt à considérer désormais comme susceptibles d'échange tous les Juifs munis de papiers d'identité ibéro-américains internés dans des camps, de même que ceux qui se trouvent ailleurs et qui sont connus de l'Office, contre des Allemands se trouvant aux États-Unis qui désiraient rentrer en Allemagne.

Il semble donc y avoir des raisons d'admettre que, désirant constituer une base aussi large que possible pour les échanges envisagés, l'Office allemand des Affaires étrangères fera ce qui est en son pouvoir pour soustraire à la déportation les Juifs titulaires de passeports ibéro-américains, pour autant que ces Juifs seront effectivement visés par un accord d'échange.

Selon la Division spéciale de la Légation de Suisse à Berlin, il y aurait encore en Pologne des porteurs de passeports ibéro-américains qui, jusqu'à présent, n'ont été ni internés, ni prévus pour un échange. Il semble que la meilleure protection qui pourrait leur être donnée serait que les Gouvernements que cela concerne reconnaissent officiellement tous les passeports ibéro-américains des Juifs se trouvant en territoire allemand ou occupé et le déclarent formellement par la voie des puissances protectorices. Des pays dont la Suisse défend les intérêts à Berlin, seuls, jusqu'ici,
le Vénézuela et le San Salvador ont fait, tout récemment, des notifications dans ce sens par l'intermédiaire de la Division spéciale du Département Politique Fédéral. Le Honduras, le Costa Rica, l'Equateur, le Guatemala et le Nicaragua n'ont pas encore confirmé individuellement l'attitude qui devrait résulter de la démarche du Département d'État auprès des divers Gouvernements sud-américains dont il est fait mention au deuxième paragraphe du mémorandum de la Légation du 10 avril.

Sans comporter aucune garantie, les indications qui précèdent permettent d'espérer que l'Office allemand des Affaires étrangères entre dans les vues du Département d'État. La proposition concrète, tendant à un échange de listes, contenue dans la nouvelle communication au Reich et confiée par la Légation des États-Unis à la Division des Intérêts étrangers du Département Politique le 31 mai, devrait constituer une base de discussion pratique à cet effet.

Le Département Politique doit, toutefois, soumettre à l'attention de la Légation ce qui suit:

L'arrangement en perspective ne pourra déployer ses effets que pour autant que le nombre des titulaires de passeports et autres papiers d'identité émis au nom des républiques ibéro-américaines est du même ordre que celui des ressortissants allemands dont le rapatriement peut entrer en ligne de compte. Or il est revenu au Département Politique que, récemment encore, des documents de cette nature auraient été établis par centaines.

Enfin, le statut essentiellement précaire que l'on espère assurer aux détenteurs juifs de pas-
Les sports ibéro-américains pourrait être compromis par n'importe quelle publicité sur l'objet des démarches en cours.

13. 6. 144
Aide-Mémoire

On April 10, 1944, the American Minister at Bern addressed to the Chief of the Swiss Federal Political Department a memorandum regarding the fate of the persons who hold passports issued by agents of certain Latin American countries and who are either in Germany or in territories occupied by Germany. The American Government requested in particular that the Swiss authorities consider making representations with the German Government to the end that the validity of the documents mentioned be recognized so that their bearers might be assured the treatment accorded citizens of enemy countries who can be included in a civilian exchange.

At the same time the Legation of the United States requested that the Division of Foreign Interests of the Federal Political Department indicate to the German Government the prospect of a further exchange of German citizens in the Western Hemisphere against persons who are residing in the countries over which German authority extends. The Division was requested to point out that the United States Government judged that all persons at Vittel and elsewhere holding passports or other documents issued in the name of Latin American countries should be permitted to benefit from this exchange. At the same time the Division was asked to set forth at Berlin the American Government's point of view regarding the treatment
treatment of the Jews who hold Latin American passports while awaiting their inclusion in an exchange and especially to emphasize the element of reciprocity which is represented by the Germans who formerly resided in Latin American countries and who are now interned in the United States for these countries.

Reports received from the Swiss Legation at Berlin set forth in substance the following:

Since the outbreak of war passports of Latin American countries (Honduras, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Ecuador, El Salvador, Venezuela, Haiti, Paraguay) circulate among the Jews residing in German-occupied territories and especially in Poland. These passports were issued by the Consulates of the various countries mentioned situated in Portugal, Sweden and in Switzerland and even also certain ones at New York, in Japan and perhaps in Poland. When such passports of the countries the interests of which are protected in Germany by Switzerland expired and when the Special Division of the Swiss Legation at Berlin was requested by the bearers to renew them, instructions were requested of the interested Governments which in general refused to authorize the extension of those passports which they did not recognize. The German authorities were not informed of this fact, but the Special Division was henceforth deprived of the possibility of according these people its protection.

A rather large number of these passports are Paraguayan. Paraguay being represented in Germany by Spain, it seems that the Spanish Ambassador at Berlin received from the Paraguayan
Paraguayan Government a list of a limited number of persons who alone should benefit from the protection of this country (Spain). The Federal Political Department does not know whether the Spanish Government subsequently received instructions rectifying this situation in conformity with the statement of the Paraguayan Government which is mentioned in the second paragraph of the memorandum of April 10, 1944.

A certain number of bearers of Latin American passports, generally of Eastern European origin, had themselves admitted into American civilian internment camps which are under the control of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Berlin and, by analogy, are administered in accordance with the Prisoner of War Convention; at the same time these persons virtually became candidates for an exchange of civilians between Germany and the American countries. On the other hand, those who resided in Poland remained under the regulations governing Eastern Jews. Recently an examination was made of the internees at Vittel and Compiègne and a group of Jews was moved from these camps. It seems that in certain cases the bearers of Latin American passports the validity of which was questioned were concerned in this measure.

By the time the contents of the Legation's notice of April 14, was delivered to the German Government, the German police had already moved from Vittel and Compiègne some Jews who had not been able to establish their American nationality. From verbal statements made to the Swiss Legation
Legation by an official of the German Foreign Office, it appeared that the latter seemed glad to be in a position to advance, while there was still time, the fact that anyone claiming any ties whatsoever with a Latin American country is considered by the United States Government as someone to be exchanged. The German Foreign Office would appear to be ready to consider in the future as eligible for exchange all the Jews bearing Latin American identity documents who are interned in camps as well as those who are elsewhere and who are known to the German Foreign Office against Germans in the United States who desire to return to Germany.

It would therefore seem logical to admit that, desiring to establish as large a basis as possible for the exchanges under consideration, the German Foreign Office will do all it can to exempt from deportation the Jews bearing Latin American passports provided these Jews will be effectively covered in an exchange agreement.

According to the Special Division of the Swiss Legation at Berlin, there are still supposed to be in Poland bearers of Latin American passports who until the present have neither been interned nor considered for an exchange. It would seem that the best protection that might be given to them might be that the interested Governments officially recognize all Latin American passports held by Jews who are in Germany or German-occupied territories and make, via the Protecting Powers, precise declarations to this effect. Of the countries the interests of which
which are protected in Germany by Switzerland, until
the present only Venezuela and El Salvador have recently
made such declarations via the Special Division of the
Federal Political Department. Honduras, Costa Rica,
Ecuador, Guatemala and Nicaragua have not as yet indi-
vidually confirmed the attitude which should result
from the steps taken by the Department of State with
the various Latin American countries mentioned in the
second paragraph of the Legation's memorandum of April
10.

Without including any guarantee, the foregoing per-
mits it to be hoped that the German Foreign Office will
concur with the views of the Department of State. The
concrete proposal leading to an exchange of lists, which
was contained in the recent communication to the German
Government and which was submitted by the American Lega-
tion to the Division of Foreign Interests of the Federal
Political Department on May 31, should constitute a basis
for practical discussion in this matter.

The Federal Political Department must, however, sub-
mitt the following to the attention of the Legation:

The arrangements under consideration will be effective
only to the extent that the number of persons bearing
passports and other identity documents issued in the name
of the Latin American Republics is equal to that of the
German citizens whose repatriation may be considered.
However, it has come to the attention of the Federal Poli-
tical Department that recently again documents of this
type
type are said to have been issued by the hundreds.

Finally it should be noted that the essentially precarious status which one hopes to assure to the Jewish bearers of Latin American passports might be compromised by whatever publicity might be given to the action now being taken.

June 13, 1944.
Aide-Mémoire

Division was requested to point out that the United States Government judged that all persons by virtue of and presented to the Chief of the Swiss Federal Political Department in the name of Latin American countries should be present a memorandum regarding the fate of the persons who hold passports or other documents issued to benefit from this exchange. At the same time passports issued by representatives of certain Latin American countries and who are either in Germany or in territories occupied by Germany. The American Government requested in particular that the Swiss authorities consider making representations with the German Government to the end that the validity of the documents mentioned be recognized so that their bearers might be assured the treatment accorded citizens of enemy countries who can be included in a civilian exchange.

Reports received from the Swiss Legation at Berlin.

At the same time the Legation of the United States in Berlin set forth in substance the following:

It was requested that the Division of Foreign Interests of the Federal Political Department indicate to the German Government the prospect of a further exchange of German citizens in the Western Hemisphere against persons who are residing in the countries over which German authority extends. The
Division was requested to point out that the United States Government judged that all persons at Vittel and elsewhere holding passports or other documents issued in the name of Latin American countries should be permitted to benefit from this exchange. At the same time the Division was asked to set forth at Berlin the American Government's point of view regarding the treatment of the Jews who hold Latin American passports while awaiting their inclusion in an exchange and especially to emphasize the element of reciprocity which is represented by the Germans who formerly resided in Latin American countries and who are now interned in the United States for these countries.

Reports received from the Swiss Legation at Berlin set forth in substance the following:

Since the outbreak of war passports of Latin American countries (Honduras, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Ecuador, El Salvador, Venezuela, Haiti, Paraguay) circulate among the Jews residing in German-occupied territories and especially in Poland. These passports were issued by the Consulates...
the statement of the Paraguayan Government which is
mentioned in the second paragraph of the memorandum of
Portugal, Sweden and in Switzerland and even also certain
ones at New York, in Japan and perhaps in Poland. When such
a certain number of bearers of Latin American passports,
passports of the countries the interests of which were assumed
generally of Eastern European origin, had themselves admitted
in Germany by Switzerland expired and when the Special Division
into American civilian internment camps which are under the
control of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Berlin and, by
to renew them, instructions were requested of the interested
Governments which in general refused to authorize the ex-
War Convention; at the same time these persons virtually
enjoyed the passports which they did not recognize. The
became candidates for an exchange of civilians between
German authorities were not informed of this fact, but the
Germany and the American countries. On the other hand, those
Special Division was henceforth deprived of the possibility
who resided in Poland remained under the regulations governing
to accord these people its protection.

Eastern Jews. Recently a census was taken of the interned
A rather large number of these passports are Paraguayan.
at Nittel and Compiègne and a group of Jews was moved from
Paraguay being represented in Germany by Spain, it seems
these camps. It seems that in certain cases the bearer of
that the Spanish Ambassador at Berlin received from the
Latin American passports the validity of which was questioned
Paraguayan Government a list of a limited number of persons
who alone should benefit from the protection of this

By the time the contents of the Legation's notice of
country (Spain). The Federal Political Department does not
April 14 had been delivered to the German Government, the
know whether the Spanish Government subsequently received
instructions rectifying this situation in conformity with
some Jews who had not been able to establish their
American
the statement of the Paraguayan Government which is
mentioned in the second paragraph of the memorandum of
legation by an official of the German Foreign Office, it
April 10, 1944.
A certain number of bearers of Latin American passports,
to state, while there was still time, that anyone claiming
generally of Eastern European origin, had themselves admitted
any visa whatever with a Latin American country is con-
to American civilian internment camps which are under the
cerned by the United States Government as someone to be
control of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Berlin and, by
echanced. The German Foreign Office is reported to be
all like Jews bearing Latin American identity documents
became candidates for an exchange of civilians between
who are interned in camps as well as those who are else-
Germany and the American countries. On the other hand, those
who resided in Poland remained under the regulations governing
Eastern Jews. Recently a census was taken of the internes
at Vittel and Compiègne and a group of Jews was moved from
It would therefore seem logical to admit that, desiring
these camps. It seems that in certain cases the bearers of
to establish as large a basis as possible for the exchanges
Latin American passports the validity of which was questioned
under consideration, the German Foreign Office will do all
were concerned in this measure.
It was to avoid from deportation the Jews bearing Latin

By the time the contents of the Legation's notice of
American passports provided these Jews will be effectively
April 14, had been delivered to the German Government, the
avers in an exchange agreement.

German police had already moved from Vittel and Compiègne
According to the special mission of the Swiss Legation
nationality
some Jews who had not been able to establish their American
nationality. From verbal statements made to the Swiss
Legation by an official of the German Foreign Office, it
appeared that the latter seemed glad to be in a position
to state, while there was still time, that anyone claiming
any ties whatsoever with a Latin American country is con-
sidered by the United States Government as someone to be
exchanged. The German Foreign Office is reported to be
ready to consider in the future as eligible for exchange
all the Jews bearing Latin American identity documents
who are interned in camps as well as those who are else-
where and who are known to the German Foreign Office
against Germans in the United States who desire to return
to Germany.

It would therefore seem logical to admit that, desiring
to establish as large a basis as possible for the exchanges
under consideration, the German Foreign Office will do all
it can to exempt from deportation the Jews bearing Latin
American passports provided these Jews will be effectively
covered in an exchange agreement.

According to the Special Division of the Swiss Legation
at Berlin, there are still supposed to be in Poland
with the view of his Department of State. The concrete
bearers of Latin American passports who until the
proposal leading to an exchange of lists, which was
present have neither been interned nor considered for
contained in the recent communication to the German
an exchange. It would seem that the best protection that
Government which was submitted by the American Legation
might be given to them might be that the interested
in the Division of Foreign Interests of the Federal Political
governments officially recognize all Latin American
department on May 21 should constitute a basis for practical
passports by Jews who are in Germany or German-occupied
territories and make, via the Protecting Powers, precise
declarations to this effect. Of the countries the interests
in the following are of attention of the Legation:
of which are protected in Germany by Switzerland, until
the present only Venezuela and El Salvador have recently
made such declarations via the Special Division of the
Federal Political Department. Honduras, Costa Rica, Ecuador,
Guatemala and Nicaragua have not as yet individually con-
formed the attitude which should result from the steps
taken by the Department of State with the various Latin
American countries mentioned in the second paragraph of
the Legation's memorandum of April 10.

Without including any guarantee, the foregoing permits
it to be hoped that the German Foreign Office will concur
in Latin American passports might be compromised by whatever
publicity might be given to the action now being taken.

June 13, 1944.
with the views of the Department of State. The concrete proposal leading to an exchange of lists, which was contained in the recent communication to the German Government and which was submitted by the American Legation to the Division of Foreign Interests of the Federal Political Department on May 31 should constitute a basis for practical discussion in this matter.

The Federal Political Department must, however, submit the following to the attention of the Legation:

The matter under consideration will be effective only to the extent that the number of persons bearing passports and other identity documents issued in the name of the Latin American republics is equal to that of the German citizens whose repatriation may be considered. However, it has come to the attention of the Federal Political Department that recently again documents of this type are said to have been issued by the hundreds.

Finally it should be noted that the conditions entirely precarious which one hopes to assure to the Jews bearers of Latin American passports might be compromised by whatever publicity might be given to the action now being taken.

June 13, 1944.
Translation

On April 10, 1944, the American Minister at Bern addressed to the Chief of the Swiss Federal Political Department a memorandum regarding the fate of the persons who hold passports issued by agents of certain Latin American countries and who are either in Germany or in territories occupied by Germany. The American Government requested in particular that the Swiss authorities consider making representations with the German Government to the end that the validity of the documents mentioned be recognized so that their bearers might be assured the treatment accorded citizens of enemy countries who can be included in a civilian exchange.

At the same time the Legation of the United States requested that the Division of Foreign Interests of the Federal Political Department indicate to the German Government the prospect of a further exchange of German citizens in the eastern Hemisphere against persons who are residing in the countries over which German authority extends. The Division was requested to point out that the United States Government judged that all persons at Vittel and elsewhere holding passports or other documents issued in the name of Latin American countries should be permitted to benefit from this exchange. At the same time the Division was asked to set forth at Berlin the American Government's point of view regarding the treatment
treatment of the Jews who hold Latin American passports
while awaiting their inclusion in an exchange and especially
are alone should benefit from the protection of this
to emphasise the element of reciprocity which is repre-
seen by the Germans who formerly resided in Latin Amer-
countries and who are now interned in the United
States for these countries.

Reports received from the Swiss Legation at Berlin
are set forth in substance the following:

Since the outbreak of war passports of Latin American
Honduras, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Guatemala,
countries (Honduras, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Guatemala,
ports, generally of Eastern European origin, had these long
Ecuador, El Salvador, Venezuela, Haiti, Paraguay) circulated
among the Jews residing in German-occupied territories and
under the control of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs es-
especially in Poland. These passports were issued by the
Consulates of the various countries mentioned situated in
Portugal, Sweden and in Switzerland and even also certain
persons virtually become candidates for exchange of
ones at New York, in Japan and perhaps in Poland. When
such passports of the countries the interests of which
were protected in Germany by Switzerland expired and when
the Special Division of the Swiss Legation at Berlin was
requested by the bearers to renew them, instructions were
requested of the interested Government which in general
refused to authorize the extension of these passports
which they did not recognize. The German authorities were
not informed of this fact, but the Special Division was
henceforth deprived of the possibility of according these
people its protection.

A rather large number of these passports are Paraguayan.
Paraguay being represented in Germany by Spain, it seems
that the Spanish Ambassador at Berlin received from the
Paraguayan
By an official of the German Foreign Office, a list of a limited number of persons who alone should benefit from the protection of this country (Spain). The Federal Political Department does not know whether the Spanish Government subsequently received instructions rectifying this situation in conformity with the statement of the Paraguayan Government which would appear to be under the control of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Berlin, and, by analogy, are administered in accordance with the Prisoner of War Convention, at the same time these exchange with the German Government, the German Foreign Office persons virtually became candidates for an exchange of persons with the other hand, those who resided in Poland remained under the regulations governing Eastern Jews. Recently an examination was made of the internments at Vittel and Compagnie, which no one is supposed to be in Poland and a group of Jews was moved from these camps. It seems that in many cases the bearers of Latin American passports were sent back to their point of departure, the validity of which was questioned by the Swiss Legation.
Legation by an official of the German Foreign Office, it appeared that the latter seemed glad to be in a position to advance, while there was still time, the fact that anyone claiming any title whatsoever with a Latin American country is considered by the United States Government as someone to be exchanged. The German Foreign Office would appear to be ready to consider in the future as eligible for exchange all the Jews bearing Latin American identity documents who are interned in camps as well as those who are elsewhere and who are known to the German Foreign Office against Germans in the United States who desire to return to Germany.

5) It would therefore seem logical to admit, desiring to establish as large a basis as possible for the exchanges under consideration, the German Foreign Office will do all it can to exempt from deportation the Jews bearing Latin American passports provided these Jews will be effectively covered in an exchange agreement.

b) According to the Special Division of the Swiss Legation at Berlin, there are still supposed to be in Poland bearers of Latin American passports who until the present have neither been interned nor considered for an exchange. It would seem that the best protection that could be given to them might be that the interested Governments officially recognize all Latin American passports held by Jews who are in Germany or German-occupied territories and make, via the Protecting Powers, precise declarations to this effect. Of the countries the interests of which
whose interests Switzerland protects in Germany, which are protected in Germany by Switzerland, until the present only Venezuela and El Salvador have recently made such declarations via the Special Division of the Federal Political Department. Honduras, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala and Nicaragua have not as yet individually confirmed the attitude which should result from the steps taken by the Department of State with the various Latin American countries mentioned in the second paragraph of the Legation's memorandum of April 10.

\[4\) Without including any guarantee, the foregoing permits it to be hoped that the German Foreign Office will concur with the views of the Department of State. The concrete proposal leading to an exchange of lists, which was contained in the recent communication to the German Government and which was submitted by the American Legation to the Division of Foreign Interests of the Federal Political Department on May 31, should constitute a basis for practical discussion in this matter.

\[5\) The Federal Political Department must, however, submit the following to the attention of the Legation:

The arrangements under consideration will be effective only to the extent that the number of persons bearing passports and other identity documents issued in the names of the Latin American Republics in equal to that of the German citizens whose repatriation may be considered.

However, it has come to the attention of the Federal Political Department that recently again documents of this type...
type are said to have been issued by the hundreds.

9) Finally it should be noted that the essentially precarious status which one hopes to assure to the Jewish bearers of Latin American passports might be compromised by whatever publicity might be given to the action now being taken.

June 15, 1944.
Bern, June 14, 1944.

Dear Dr. Klee:

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 12th of June enclosing a document giving information about the camp at Bergen-Belsen. Unfortunately it was information concerning the camp at Bergau, near Dresden, which I desired, and I should consequently appreciate anything that you can send me in this respect. We have also received inquiry concerning a camp called "Dostortost" in Silesia. I presume that this is merely a work detachment, but if by any chance you possess information about it or regarding the situation among the work camps in Upper Silesia in general, it would always be of interest to us.

Sincerely yours,

Roswell D. McClelland,
Special Assistant to the American Minister.

Dr. Hans Klee,
Care of Dr. Silberschein,
7 Rue Gautier,
Geneva.

RDM/mjb
Monsieur,

J'ai l'honneur de vous faire savoir que M. Mathieu Muller, domicilié à Genève, 27, ave Pictet-de-Rochemont, aimerais avoir un entretien avec vous, pour pouvoir vous parler des questions dont il est mention dans l'annexe ci-incluse. Il m'a prié de vous soumettre son désir de vous voir.

Je vous serais donc très reconnaissant si vous pouviez accorder un entretien à M. Muller et de lui fixer un rendez-vous.

En vous remerciant d'avance pour votre compréhension, je vous prie d'agréer, Monsieur, l'expression de ma parfaite considération.

Dr. J. Kopecky,
Délégué Permanent.

Monsieur Roswell McCLELLAND,
Genève.

(Se hongrois)

Personal information.

André, generate, et aucun des deux, ne peut vous aider, 'cause, bien que bien, tout, vous n'avez pas de démarche, pas de quoi, pour vous, ces personnes, de bien rien, encore, même, on serait le d'aller, ou pour rien, il est.
Das Generalkonsulat von El Salvador in Genf hat in völlig uneigennütziger Weise Staatsangehörigkeitszeugnisse für Menschen ausgestellt, die in den von Deutschland besetzten Gebieten wohnhaft und in Todesgefahr sind.

In der Schweiz lebende Verwandte und Bekannte haben für die betr. Personen die moralische Garantie übernommen.

Nach der Proklamation des Präsidenten Roosevelt, der gewissermassen die verfolgten Juden unter seinen persönlichen Schutz nahm, wurde um die Anerkennung dieser Rettungsaktion durch die zuständigen Instanzen in Amerika angestanden.

Diese Anerkennung ist nunmehr erfolgt, wie aus einem aus Washington der polnischen Botschaft in Bern übermittelten Telegramm hervorgeht.


Die Interessen El Salvador's gegenüber Deutschland werden von der Schweiz wahrgenommen.

Diese Regularisierung ist umso eiliger und umso dringender wegen folgender Tatsachen:


b) In der Slowakei wird dieselbe Praxis bereits geschah, obwohl gesetzliche Bestimmungen noch nicht ergangen, wie in Ungarn.

c) In verschiedenen besetzten Ländern wurden letzten eine Anzahl unserer "Neusalvadorianer" verhaftet. Diese befanden sich noch in Zwischenlagern zur Klärung ihrer Nationalität, ihnen droht somit die Deportation, wenn nicht sofort Schritte des Eingangs Politischen Departements durch die Konsularbehörden, bei den zuständigen deutschen Amtsstellen erfolgen.
Reference is made to the following telegrams: the Department's 1181 of April 7; 1281 of April 10; 1245 of May 27; and 1921 of June 5; the Legation's 2297 of April 13 and the Department's 1400 of April 22.

The following is a translation of the material part of an Aide-mémoire dated June 13 from the Foreign Office:

"1) Passports of Latin American countries (Honduras, Paraguay, Costa Rica, Haiti, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Guatemala, El Salvador, Ecuador) have circulated among Jews residing in German-occupied territories and especially in Poland since the outbreak of hostilities. The consulates in Portugal, Sweden, New York, Switzerland, Japan, and perhaps Poland of the various Latin American countries mentioned issued these passports. When such passports of the countries whose interests Switzerland protects in Germany expired and when the Swiss Legation in Berlin was asked by the bearers to renew them, instructions were requested of the interested governments. In general, the latter refused to authorize the extension of these passports which they did not (repeat not) recognize. The German authorities were not informed of this fact, but the Swiss Legation in Berlin was henceforth deprived of the possibility to accord these people protection.

2) A rather large number of these passports are Paraguayan. Paraguay being represented by Spain in Germany, it seems that the Spanish Embassy in Berlin received a list from the Government of Paraguay of a limited number of persons who alone should benefit from the protection of Spain. The Federal Political Department does not know whether the Spanish Government received subsequent instructions rectifying this situation in conformity with the statement of the Paraguayan Government mentioned in the second paragraph of the American Legation's

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 22 1972
Legation's memorandum of April 10 (please see Department's no. 1181).

3) Admission to American civilian internment camps was secured by a certain number of bearers of Latin American passports, generally of eastern European origin. These camps are under the control of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Berlin, and are being administered by analogy in accordance with the Prisoner of War Convention. Thus, these persons virtually became candidates for an exchange of civilians between the American countries and Germany. On the other hand, those who stayed in Poland remained under the regulations which govern other Eastern Jews. A census was recently taken of internees at Vittel and Compiègne and a group of Jews were removed from these camps. In certain cases, this seems to have involved bearers of Latin American passports whose validity was questioned.

4) At the time the contents of the U.S. Legation's notice of April 14 (Department's 1221) was delivered to the Government of Germany, the German police had already removed from Vittel and Compiègne Jews who had been unable to establish their American nationality. It appeared, from verbal statements made to the Swiss Legation in Berlin by an official of the German Foreign Office, that the latter seemed glad of the opportunity, while there was still time, to support U.S. recognition of anyone who claimed ties with a Latin American country as eligible for exchange. The German Foreign Office would be ready to consider in future as eligible for exchange all Jews who bear identity documents of Latin America and are interned in these camps as well as those elsewhere known to the German Foreign Office, against Germans in the United States who desire to return to Germany.

5) Therefore, it would seem logical to admit that, desiring to establish as large a basis as possible for foreseen exchanges, the German Foreign Office will do everything possible to exempt from deportation Jews who hold Latin American passports, on condition that these Jews will be effectively covered in an exchange agreement.

6) According to the Swiss Legation in Berlin, there are still said to be bearers of Latin American passports in Poland. Until now, these persons have neither been interned nor considered for exchange. It seems that the best protection they could be given would be for the interested governments to give official recognition to
all Latin American passports held by Jews in Germany or German-occupied territories and to declare this formally through the protecting power. Until the present, only Venezuela and El Salvador, of the countries whose interests Switzerland protects in Germany, have recently made such declarations through the intermediary of the Federal Political Department. Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, Ecuador and Costa Rica have not as yet individually confirmed the attitude which should result from the steps taken by the Department of State with the various Latin American countries mentioned in the second paragraph of the April 10th memorandum of the American Legation.

7) Without implying any guarantee, the above permits one to hope that the German Foreign Office concurs with the Department's views. The concrete proposal leading to an exchange of lists should constitute a basis for practical discussion on the subject. This proposal was contained in a recent communication to the German Government and was submitted by the American Legation to the Federal Political Department on May 31 (Department's 1846 of May 27, 11 a. m.).

8) However, the Federal Political Department must submit the following to the attention of the Legation:

The arrangement under consideration will be effective only to the extent that the number of persons holding passports and other documents of identification issued in the names of Latin American Republics corresponds to that of German citizens whose repatriation may be considered. However, it has come to the attention of the Federal Political Department that recently again documents of this type are said to have been issued by the hundreds."

9) In fine, the essentially precarious status which one hopes to assure Jewish bearers of Latin American passports could be compromised by any publicity whatever given to the action being taken at the present time.

Bern would appreciate information regarding the success of the steps undertaken by the American Embassy with the Spanish Government and to which reference is made in paragraph 2 of the foregoing note.

HARRISON

OT:RMCC:dmh:nf
In quadruplicate
2 copies to AI
2 copies to RMCC one in 7A.
Sehr geehrter Herr McClelland,

wir nehmen höflich Bezug auf die Besuche unserer Herren J. Sternbuch und Dr. Weingart und wären Ihnen sehr verbunden, wenn Sie uns eine Abschrift der Liste der von Vittel nach unbekannten Ziel wegetrachten Personen zugehen lassen würden. Wir möchten gerne unsere Kartothek in Ordnung halten und diese Liste auch dem Roten Kreuz auf dessen Verlangen hin einsenden.

Im Voraus bestens dankend, zeichnen wir

hochachtungsvoll

2soaük S.

Vio.
Sehr geehrter Herr McClelland,

wir gestatten uns hiermit, Ihnen das Originalschreiben der Legation de la République de Haïti vom 15. Juni zu überreichen, das wir als Antwort auf eine Bitte wegen Intervention für die 4 darin erwähnten Internierten erhielten.

Da wir aus New York die Nachricht erhielten, dass alle südamerikanischen Staaten die bisher ausgestellten Visieren anerkannt haben, versuchen wir den Inhalt des Schreibens, das wir uns nach Bern übermitteln verpflichten, nicht und wir waren Ihnen sehr dankbar, wenn Sie mit der erwähnten Legation Zählung nehmen würden, um zu erfahren, aufgrund welcher Instruktion wir die Antwort erhielten.

Zu Ihrer Information teilen wir Ihnen noch mit, dass die Familien Benier und Buszynski an St. ihre Spüre direkt von Südamerika erhielten.

Wir sehen Ihrer Rückkasserung mit Interesse entgegen und danken Ihnen im Voraus für Ihre Intervention.

Mit voriglicher Hochachtung

[Unterschrift]

[Handwritten notes in the margins]
Messieurs,

En possession de votre communication du 14 juin 1944 au sujet de:

BERGER Abraham
BERGER Eugénie
MUSZYNSKI Leon
MUSZYNSKI Lili

la Légation d’Haïti a le regret de porter à votre connaissance que les personnes précitées ne sont pas des ressortissants haïtiens. Les passeports en leur possession ont été fabriqués clandestinement sans aucune autorisation du Gouvernement de la République d’Haïti. Ils sont sans aucune valeur.

La Légation n’est pas autorisée à s’entremettre pour des personnes qui ne sont pas ses ressortissants.

Berne, le 15 juin 1944.
Berne le 21 Juin 1944.

{Ask Mr. Taint of 42 issues an exact list of people removed from Vittel.
Please find one column of figures.
We are not sure of the nature.

Monsieur,

Donnant suite à l’entretien que vous avez eu avec M. le Dr. J. Kühl je vous prie de bien vouloir me faire parvenir une liste nominative de personnes qui ont été éloignées du camp de Vittel.

Je vous serai aussi très reconnaissant si vous pouvez m’indiquer l’endroit où ces personnes ont été emmenées.

En vous remerciant d’avance, je vous prie, Monsieur, d’agréer l’expression de ma parfaite considération.

Monsieur Roswell Mc. Clelland
Special Assistant to the
American Minister.
Berne.

Aleksander Ładoś
Ministre Plénipotentiaire
de Pologne
Dear Dr. Kopecky:

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 15th of June concerning the desire of Mr. Muller to see me in regard to the El Salvador passports. Since I saw not less than five separate persons last week in connection with the same matter, I frankly do not see the utility of talking to Muller, who I understand is directly connected with the issuance of these documents. We are doing all we can from Bern in this matter, and have already informed the War Refugee Board of this sending of Salvadoran nationality documents into Hungary and the desire as a result of the many people concerned that El Salvador be "protected" in Hungary by Switzerland. The War Refugee Board and the State Department will, I am sure, take whatever action is possible with the Government of El Salvador in an effort to rescue these people. The whole matter, however, rests on very thin ice, and I personally doubt that the present Hungarian Government would accept Switzerland's role as protecting power should the Swiss agree to undertake it at the request of the El Salvadoran Government. Secondly, and for your personal information, I must add that the large increase of such illegal Latin American documents going into German-occupied territory (i.e. Hungary) may quite possibly jeopardize the precarious safety of those persons already in German internment camps and the nationals of belligerent countries, such persons having been recognized on the basis of this documentation as exchangeable against Germans in the Western Hemisphere. There is unfortunately a rather dangerous element of digging one's own grave about this whole matter.

Sincerely yours,

Roswell D. McClelland,
Special Assistant to the American Minister.

Dr. Jean Kopecky,
24 Avenue de Champel,
Geneva.
Barn, June 22, 1944.

Dear Dr. Sternbuch:

I acknowledge receipt of two recent letters of the 16th and 19th of June, respectively, addressed to me by the Schweiz Hilfsverein fur jud. Fluchtlinge am Ausland. As the signature were illegible, I do not know who addressed the letters to me. I should appreciate it if you could send me a list of the active officers of your organization so that I may have them on record.

I herewith enclose a list of the 162 persons removed from the camp at Vittel. Since this list belongs in my file, and I do not have another copy, I would appreciate your returning it to me at an early date. You are naturally free to make copies for your own use.

In regard to the matter mentioned in the letter of the 19th of June, we have asked the War Refugee Board to secure information as to whether the Haitian Government has or intends to notify the Swiss Government that it (Haiti) recognizes such passports held by Jews in Germany and German-controlled territory. In this respect it might be useful if you would inquire directly yourself of the Swiss Political Department if they have received any such notification from the Haitian Government. I also informed the War Refugee Board of the answer which you recently received from the Haitian Legation in Barn. All four persons mentioned in this letter were included in the 162 removed from Vittel. I return herewith the original letter concerning this matter.

For your information I wish to state that we were notified on May 8th that the United States Ambassador in

Dr. Issak Sternbuch,
Care of the American Consulate General,
Zurich.

Ralph B. McClanahan,
Special Assistant to the American Minister.

Enclosures:
List (as be required);
Original letter from Haitian Legation, June 15, 1944.
in Madrid had received assurance that the Spanish Government (as protecting power for Paraguay) would try to arrange for an immediate return to Vittel of persons holding documentation for which Spain is the protecting power.

There is quoted below a message for you from Vadha Hatzala (Abraham Kalmanowitz):

"Please advise telegraphically whether a foreign consular letter which states that the government in question has registered the individual's application for citizenship and thereby extends its protection to the applicant as a citizen is sufficient, and likewise whether it is still feasible to effect rescue through passports.

"With regard to the plans of Rabbi Neutra and Freudiger, we shall appreciate having details as to rescue already accomplished by means of the money which has been remitted, so that we can send additional sums. Please also furnish details with regard to rescue already accomplished in France, Holland and Belgium.

"You are requested to give your assistance to Griffel Wolbe in all their rescue plans and also contact McClelland and explain your plans to him, trying to obtain his help. Freudiger should be requested to contact Saly Mayer and ask for major financial assistance from Joint Distribution.

"Remitting in Swiss francs the equivalent of $100,000 for all rescue projects, with further funds to be forthcoming before long."

Sincerely yours,

Roswell D. McClelland,
Special Assistant to
the American Minister.

Enclosures:
List (to be returned);
Original letter from Haitian
Legation, June 15, 1944.
RDM/mjb
TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department

Date: June 22, 7 p.m., 1944

No: 4004

Charged to:

PARAPHRASE

Latin-American Interests in Germany.

Stated in Swiss note dated June 20 following in reply to the Legation's request for an explanation of the omission of Peru from the countries listed in my telegram 3871 of June 17th, paragraph numbered six:

The list of countries had only an indicative value and did not purport to enumerate all the countries whose names the passports were issued and delivered to Jews resident in Germany and territory occupied by Germany.

This nomenclature, for the sake of completeness, should also include Chile and Peru since the bearers of passports of these two countries are among the 163 persons who were deported from Vittel. It would appear, in addition, although no confirmation has been obtained by the Swiss Foreign Office, that the bearers of passports of Colombia and Uruguay are among Jews resident in Germany also.

Honduras, in addition to Venezuela and El Salvador, has notified the Swiss Foreign Office of its desire that the German authorities recognize passports whose bearers are Jews resident in Germany. Peru has not thus far made a similar request.

HARRISON

TJH/mjb
Para. in tripl. (2 Copies to AI
Copy to Mr. McClelland)
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This Mission would appreciate being advised as to whether the Republic of Haiti has acceded to the request contained in the Department’s cable no. 1221 of April 10 and whether it intends to notify the Government of Switzerland that it recognizes Haitian passports held by Jews in Germany and territory occupied by the Germans. On the list of 162 persons removed from Vittel, there are four persons who hold such documents. When approached by an interested Jewish organization recently, the Haitian Legation here replied in regard to these four that as far as the Legation was concerned such passports were fraudulent and worthless. (From McClelland for the War Refugee Board.)

HARRISON

RDM:mjb:nf
In quadruplicate
2 copies to AI

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State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 22 1972
GHETTO Theresienstadt

Visité le 23.6.44.

Note préliminaire:

Tout le rapport est à considérer comme confidentiel. Tous les documents et plus particulièrement les photos sont également à ne pas publier. Nous n'ayons pas établi des relations avec les services SS.

Sont présents également lors de la visite deux Domains dont nous nous plions à relever l'ambiance et l'active collaboration:

Mr. Frans HVAAS, Ministerialdirktor
Dr. E. Juel HENNINGSEN, Vice-directeur du Service de Santé.

Du côté Allemand:

Le chef de la Police SS du Protectorat
le chef du Service SS (Sicherheits-Reichshauptamt à Berlin)

un membre de l'Auswärtiges Amt, chargé de liaison avec les Services SS
un représentant de la Croix-Rouge allemande

Le Chef de la Police SS du Ghetto

Arrivée au Ghetto: — nous pensions, grâce à une allusion d'un membre des SS, que 240 ressortissants de Theresienstadt, après avoir quitté Prague, étaient passés à droite la "Kleine Festung", petit bastion où sont actuellement détenus des prisonniers politiques arrêtés sur le territoire du Protectorat. A gauche de la route se trouve le Ghetto. Il n'est séparé de la route que par une palissade en bois d'une hauteur approximative de deux mètres. Pour tout le pourtour de la ville il n'est pas besoin de palissades. Theresienstadt est en effet une ville-forteresse construite à la Vauban, de larges fossés se trouvent devant les murs. Cette fortresse n'ayant jamais subi de siège, est

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Le représentant des Hollandais, l'artiste-peintre XPUR (7), est encore parfaitement conservé, les murs n'ont aucune brèche. Cela facilite l'isolement de la ville et on ne voit nulle part de barbelés. Voir photo No. 5 qui vaut mieux que toute explication.

Nous sommes reçus par les Autorités allemandes dans la seule maison allemande de Theresienstadt, maison où loge la garde. Pour garder toute une ville il y en a tout et pour tout 12 soldats SS (douze).

Nous nous rendons bientôt à la mairie juive où le Judenführer, Mr. Eppstein, nous proclame par une courte introduction sur l'organisation du Ghetto et nous propose de commencer immédiatement notre tournée. Il termine par ces mots : "Vous allez visiter une ville normale de province!"

Population :

La population compte environ 35,000 âmes.
Elle se subdivise de la façon suivante :

Territoire du Reich et Ostmark 94 %
Hollande, Norvege, Danois, Autrichien, etc. 5 %
Pologne, etc. 0,1 %

Remarques : 1. - il n'y a à Theresienstadt aucun Juif d'une autre nationalité. Cela nous fut affirmé à plusieurs reprises par le Judenführer.
2. - nous pensons, grâce à une allusion d'un membre des SS, que 240 ressortissants du Reich sont en possession d'un passeport suédois. Passeports non reconnus, valables par les Autorités SS.

Judenführung : composée des membres les plus influents de l'administration.
Représentant des Hollandais
l'artiste-peintre SPIEN (?),
ateur des aquarelles annexées
au rapport.

Nous avons pu obtenir d'autres détails in-
téressants: la population du Ghetto, comme toute
population citadine, montre une nette prédominance
des personnes âgées, c'est la fameuse pyramide
de la population. Le caractère est ici d'autant
plus marqué que Theresienstadt fut au début un camp
pour les Juifs âgés seulement:

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<td>2,000</td>
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<td>70+</td>
<td>1,000</td>
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Naissances au Ghetto depuis le début (juillet
42) environ 400.

Age moyen 48 ans,
Age moyen de décès 72 ans.
12 à 15 décès par jour.

Après 60 % de la population (voir
chapitre "Travail")

Le camp de Theresienstadt est un "Endlager",
normalement personne une fois entrée au Ghetto
n'est envoyée ailleurs. Aucun Arbeits-Kommando
dépend de Theresienstadt, les équipes de travail
 vont au camp pendant la journée, mais rentrent dans
l'enceinte de la ville chaque soir.

Pas d'autres ghettos ou camps juifs dans les
environs.

Administration.

Le Ghetto date de juillet 1942. La police SS
laisse aux Juifs la liberté d'organiser leur adminis-
tration à leur convenance. Cette administration est
maintenant bien au point.

La police SS qui contrôle la ville ne compte
que 12 hommes, la police juive par contre a un ef-
fectif très élevé.

Voir photo No. 6; un membre de la police juive.

Judenrat: ce poste est tenu de façon
satisfaisante par Mr. Bepstein,
qui détient un pouvoir très étendu.
Il a en pratique le contrôle de
tous les organismes de la ville.
Il décide sans appel et ne se réfère
que rarement au Judenrat.

Judenrat; composé des membres les plus
influents de l'administration.

Représentants
Désinfection: la désinfection de tous les locaux habités se fait par une équipe spécialisée. Cette équipe revient tous les trimestres, la désinfection est obligatoire, bien qu'il n'y ait pas actuellement de vermines au sein des ateliers. Voir photo No. 1. Vue sur la cour d'un des blocs de caserne.
Voir photo No. 2. Place publique avec orchestre.
Voir photo No. 4. Une rue.
Voir photo No. 3. Exercice du corps des sapeurs-pompiers.

Nourriture.

Dès l'entrée au Ghetto, nous pouvons nous convaincre que la population ne souffre pas de sous-nourriture. Les rations accordées à Theresienstadt sont celles du Protectorat de Bohême et Moravie avec cette différence qu'on ne touche pas les œufs, le fromage et que le beurre est remplacé par la margarine. Nous avons appris d'ailleurs à l'extérieur (Prague) que la population civile, malgré les cartes, ne peut obtenir ces articles. Il arrive même au Ghetto certaines choses quasi impossibles à trouver à Prague. Nous attribuons cela au fait que les commandes visées par la Kommandantur SS sont satisfaites étant donné les risques qu'elles y a à mécontenter les Services SS. Les médecins hygiénistes, spécialistes du contrôle de l'alimentation, ont calculé les rations à 2,400 calories. Avec des suppléments, pour les travailleurs lourds, les rations sont suffisantes. Partout on peut se convaincre que la population est suffisamment nourrie et à cet effet il suffit de contrôler les documents photographiques, principalement les groupes d'enfants.

Les répartitions des rations se font de différentes manières. Pour les personnes vivant dans les maisons particulières, disposant d'une cuisine, il y a la possibilité de préparer ces repas à volonté. Les gens vivant dans les grandes casernes ou dans les baraquements préfèrent en général aller manger dans les cantines communes. Ces cantines, très spacieuses, sont agréables. La personne qui vient manger est promptement servie, cela par une jeune fille en tablier et en bonnet amidonné comme dans tout restaurant.

Les cuisines sont équipées de façon moderne. Le plus part des chaudières se chauffent à la vapeur d'eau, sont maniables et faciles à nettoyer. Il y a différents types de cuisine. Certaines grandes cuisines communes livrent jusqu'à 9,000 portions par jour.

Boucherie: répond aux besoins normaux d'une petite ville.

Boulangerie:
Boulangerie, très bien équipée avec 4 fours, le dernier de ces fours est d'un type très moderne, équipé récemment, entièrement par les ateliers de Theresienstadt. Le travail est contrôlé soigneusement pour chaque danse, toute personne du ghetto a droit à une ration de pain.

Les jardins très bien entretenus, surtout par les équipes de jeunes, fournissent le maximum de légumes verts. Les pommes de terre actuellement distribuées sont malgré la saison avancée d'excellente qualité.

La ville de Theresienstadt n'est évidemment pas indépendante, elle reçoit de l'extérieur un fort contingent de son ravitailllement, farine, pommes de terre.

Habillement

Le main d'œuvre à Theresienstadt est naturellement édifiante. Les gens que nous rencontrons dans la rue sont correctement habillés, avec les différences que l'on rencontre normalement dans une petite ville entre gens plus ou moins riches. Les élégantes ont toutes des bas de soie, des chapeaux, des foulards, des sacs à main modernes. Les jeunes gens sont également bien mis, on rencontre même le type du "mazou".

Chaque soir entrant au ghetto, quelqu'un doit donc consulter les documents photographiques, essentiellement des calendriers. Ces calendriers sont les groupements de base de la main d'œuvre, leur spécialisation.

Les magasins d'habillement disposent d'assez grands stocks. Ce sont tous d'anciens habits usagés réparés dans un atelier de couture et vendus au prix de 80 à 120 Theresienstadt-Kronen contre coupons. Le rationnement est en effet introduit pour que chacun puisse disposer d'habits de la même quantité quelque soit son salaire.

Les gens sont tous chaussés de façon satisfaisante, mais les réparations par manque de matériel sont dans ce domaine plus difficiles. De temps en temps, le Ghetto effectue un envoi massif aux usines Bata qui réparent les chaussures.

Buanderie: Une buanderie communale lave 110,000 kg. de linge par mois. Chaque personne a le droit de porter à laver un ballot de linge de 4 kg. C'est facultatif, beaucoup de personnes effectuent leur propre lessive.

Travail
Les femmes sont plutôt employées dans les services d'hygiène, dans les travaux managères, dans l'atelier de confection, mais également à l'atelier d'atelier de confection. 

L'aptitude au travail est contrôlée soigneusement pour chaque cas. Toute personne du ghetto a sa fiche particulière à la carthétique communale, les médecins décident de l'aptitude au travail et de la classe dans laquelle rentre l'individu.

Quatre catégories de travailleurs:
1. - totalement apte au travail,
2. - apte aux travaux légers,
3. - invalides, convalescents, aptes à des travaux spéciaux,
4. - inapte au travail.

Le main d'œuvre à Theresienstadt est naturellement en quantité plus que suffisante. L'important ici n'est pas d'obtenir de chaque individu un rendement maximum. On cherche plutôt à occuper tout le monde, les personnes âgées aussi, en faisant qu'une ou deux heures par jour, pour donner à chacun le sentiment d'être utile et si possible créer un intérêt pour son travail.

Chaque Juif entrant au Ghetto, quelle qu'en soit sa situation ou son titre civil, doit entrer pour commencer dans une centurie. Ces centuries sont les groupements de base de la main d'œuvre non spécialisée. Chacun doit y faire un stage et si son travail il se montre digne, il pourra, soit arriver à la tête de cette centurie, soit travailler dans la branche qui fut avant le ghetto sa profession. Il est évident que cette règle subit quelques exceptions, les médecins sont d'emblée attachés à un service d'hôpital, les infirmières également.

On trouve à Theresienstadt toutes les professions que l'on peut imaginer dans une petite ville. Citons: les membres de l'administration communale, le corps de police, des détectives, un corps de sapeurs-pompiers, des employés de voirie, des employés de transport. Les jeunes gens sont employés de préférence à l'agriculture, aux ateliers de menuiserie, d'ébénisterie, à la forge. Il y a une importante corporation de bouchers, de boulangeries. On trouve même des domestiques, les membres du Juden-Alteaterat étant autorisés à prendre un domestique.

Les allocations.
Les femmes sont plutôt employées dans les services sanitaires, dans les travaux managés, les buanderies, mais également à l'atelier de menuiserie et, ce qui est très apprécié, au jardinage et à l'agriculture. Un grand nombre de jeunes filles est occupé dans les hôtels d'enfants et dans les jardins d'enfants.

Dépendant aux questions 2 et 3 de la note

Economie - Banque

La banque de Theresienstadt n'est pas un organisme indépendant, elle dépend du Conseil des Anciens, c'est un organisme communal qui régit toute l'économie du Ghetto. C'est en effet une banque d'émission. Les Theresienstadt-Kronen de 100, 50, 20, 10, 5 et 1 sont en effet mises en circulation et servent de monnaie d'échange. Chacun touche son salaire payé avec ces billets. La couverture est sonne toute, le salaire travaillé. Chaque habitant de Theresienstadt dispose d'un carnet de dépôt. Il peut hésiter à économiser l'argent reçu sur son salaire et toucher les Reichsmark envoyés de l'extérieur en Theresienstadt-Kronen. Un habitant du Ghetto ne peut en effet posséder des Reichsmark, ces Reichsmark sont portés au compte de l'ensemble du Ghetto, ce compte servant à payer les achats faits à l'extérieur: médicaments, réparations, etc., etc. L'individu qui est adressé un envoi d'argent depuis l'extérieur en profite pourtant grâce au fait qu'il touche une contre-partie en argent de Theresienstadt.

Le roulement journalier de la Banque est très important: environ 100,000 Th.Kr. La totalité de l'argent déposée est de 14 millions. Le directeur de la banque nous explique qu'il a fallu arriver à trouver toutes sortes de moyens pour faire rentrer l'argent dans la caisse communale, c'est-à-dire à la banque. Au début les Th.Kr. auraient à subir une dangereuse inflation, mais actuellement la monnaie a une stabilité très satisfaisante.

Etant donné l'organisation collectiviste de toute la vie au Ghetto, bien des choses sont gratuites. Les salaires seront de ce fait suffisants, quoique très bas. Ils variant de 65 à 300 Th.Kr. Chacun touche un salaire minimum. C'est le cas par exemple des vieillards. Certaines catégories (infirmes, blessés) sont également au bénéfice de conditions spéciales. Les blessés de guerre (14-18) au bénéfice d'une pension, touchent, ici aussi, une allocation.
Bains: Il y a chaussures, blanchiment central de bains avec jouets, aliments pour les jeunes enfants, produits laitiers, vitamines, installation de bains articles de sport de tous genres. L'envoi de sardines, une obligation portugaise, un contrôle rigoureux est exercé à cet effet. Lui, comme pour la désinfection, voir également notre chapitre "Soins médicaux", les emballages de médicaments.

Poste:

Nous avons visité le bâtiment de la poste, où se fait un trafic extrêmement important. Chaque paquet est en effet délivré contre signature et la distribution est bien contrôlée. Le directeur de la poste nous dit qu'il n'y a pas de limitation dans le nombre de cartes et de lettres. Nous savons pourtant que la poste avec l'extérieur est mauvaise, les délégations danois eux aussi, nous disent que les relations postales avec Theresienstadt sont déplorables. Le directeur de la poste ne peut nous donner une explication satisfaisante de cet état de choses; il y aura peut-être lieu de demander à la Croix-Rouge allemande qui est chargée d'acheminer tout notre courrier sur Theresienstadt quelles voies et quels délais sont utilisés.

On peut envoyer au Judenbrief n'importe quelle demande d'adresse, il nous dit avoir la liberté de répondre si les personnes en question sont au Ghetto. Nous lui avons remis en mains propres, la liste des noms que le CIOR nous avait signalée, selon l'affirmation de M. Eppstein, la réponse doit nous arriver prochainement.

Eau - Installations sanitaires.

La prise d'eau est conforme aux exigences d'une ville moyenne. L'eau est chlorée.

Les égouts sont normaux, le désinfectant en quantité suffisante.

Les avocets, douches, sont très bien installés, et sont assez nombreux. Les installations dans les hôpitaux d'enfants sont particulièrement remarquables.

La prise d'instrumentation et de l'appareillage médico-chirurgical est à tous points de vue satisfaisante.
Bains: Il y a un grand établissement central de bains avec douches et piscines où l'eau est tempérée et chlorée. Chaque district a en outre son installation de bains et les maisons particulières ont souvent leur chambre de bains. Il y a à Theresienstadt une obligation de se baigner, un contrôle rigoureux est exercé à cet effet. Ici, comme pour la désinfection trimestrielle des logements, ces mesures n'ont rien d'exagérées, c'est une mesure de prudence qui se justifie dans une acclamation surpeuplée.

Soin médicaments:

Nombre de médecins: 500 dont 400 actifs (plusieurs professeurs célèbres)

État sanitaire: l'état sanitaire est satisfaissant. Chaque habitant est soumis à un contrôle extrêmement rigoureux, chacun étant enregistré dans une cariérocardiographie médicale. Actuellement aucune épidémie ne s'élève à Theresienstadt. Nous trouvons au service des infectieux

4 cas de typhus en convalescence
2 méningites
1 scarlatine
1 diphtérie
3 encéphalites d'un type assez léger avec troubles cardiaque-vasculaires et généralement d'une rémission facile.
Aucune affection vénérienne, pas de gonorrhée, pas une seule source d'infection. Au point de vue luies quelques rares cas de lues tardiaire.

Établissements hospitaliers:

30 infirmeries,
8 ambulances médico-chirurgicales avec toutes les spécialités,
8 stations dentaires plus 1 laboratoire central,
1 hôpital (2,150 lits, 1,700 malades),
1 salle de viséilles (260 lits, tous occupés, le doyen des pensionnaires à 94 ans, 15 médecins sont attribués à cet aile).

Instruments chirurgicaux:

L'état de l'instrumentation et de l'appareillage médico-chirurgical est à tous points de vue satisfaisant.
faisant. Il y a certainement peu de populations qui soient aussi surveillées que celle de Theresienstadt. Les médecins sont souvent arrivés au Ghetto avec une trousse personnelle; cela explique la très grande richesse de l'instrumentation.

Médicaments:

Voir annexe No.15; une photocopie d'une lettre parti de Theresienstadt le 30 novembre 1943. La Commission mixte nous avait adressé cette photocopie, étant très étonnée de l'affirmation que contient cette lettre, affirmation disant que les quantités de médicaments sont plus que suffisantes. Nous avons présenté cette photocopie au Jüdischerstei qui a bien voulu la signer une seconde fois et qui nous a déclaré de vive voix que les médicaments, achetés par le compte de Theresienstadt dans le Protectorat, sont bien suffisants. Nous avons eu beaucoup de peine à le croire, mais nous avons pu nous convaincre que c'est en effet la cas. Theresienstadt possède une pharmacie centrale et plusieurs filiales. Les stocks sont très importants et très variés, les pharmaciens nous ont assuré pouvoir satisfaire à toutes les demandes des médecins. Les médicaments ne peuvent être achetés par des particuliers, ils sont mis gratuitement à disposition contre présentation d'une ordonnance médicale. Ce système fonctionne à la satisfaction de chacun.

La note 3659 du 1,6,44, Division pharmaceutique, est vraiment résolue par cette abondance de médicaments. Quelle incroyable que cela soit, nous ne pouvons que constater avec plaisir cette heureuse exception de richesse en médicaments.

En résumé, les 400 médecins travaillant au Ghetto ont la possibilité d'effectuer un contrôle serré de chaque cas. Tous les malades sont examinés par plusieurs spécialistes, des conférences entre médecins permettent de discuter chaque symptôme. L'étude scientifique est poussée au maximum, travaux de labe, préparations microscopiques, dessins scientifiques, etc.
La famille à Theresienstadt.

Culte - Études - Distractions.

Le culte est célébré régulièrement et sans aucune entrave.

La bibliothèque dispose de 150,000 volumes, une partie formant une bibliothèque circulante, une autre partie restant à la bibliothèque même, les lecteurs peuvent profiter d'une grande salle de lecture agréable.

Les études sont assez limitées, il s'agit plutôt pour la population juive de s'adapter à des travaux manuels, ce qui n'est pas toujours facile. Chacun garde pourtant un grand intérêt pour la branche qui a fait sa spécialité et étudie pour rester au courant. Les étudiants en médecine ne peuvent préparer aucun examen, malgré le personnel enseignant extrêmement qualifié, le Juden-Ratsenrat n'ayant estimé que les conditions nécéssaires à un enseignement normal étaient présentes.

Musique: le Ghetto dispose de différents orchestres, un orchestre joue les après-midi dès 17.00 h sur la place publique (voir photo No. 2). Il y a d'autres ensembles de musique de chambre. Nous avons entendu une répétition du Requiem de Verdi (voir photo No. 20).

Théâtres: le programme actuellement deux pièces de Shakespeare et "Spiel im Schloss". Ce théâtre est très spacieux, la scène est bien installée, les décors sont suffisamment riches.

Voir photos No. 7 à 15 et en particulier photo No. 8.


Sports: le football est pratiqué sur une grande échelle, les équipes se recrutent de deux façons, suivant le travail, par exemple: cuisine contre boulangerie, ou suivant l'origine des joueurs, par exemple: Berlin contre sélection Vienne-Prague (voir photo de ce dernier match No. 18). Le sport le plus répandu chez les Juifs tchèques est le volley-ball.
Le famille à Theresienstadt.

Du fait du surpeuplement, la vie de famille est malheureusement difficile à Theresienstadt. Beaucoup de personnes vivant dans les baraques collectives sont séparées. Ces personnes ont naturellement toute liberté de se retrouver dès le matin et comme il s'agit en général de personnes âgées, il n'y a pas de réclamations. Les ménages plus jeunes disposent d'un petit logement, soit dans les casernes, soit dans la partie de la ville où habitait autrefois la population civile mais il peut arriver que deux ou trois ménages doivent se partager un seul appartement.

Tous les actes officiels qui se passent au Ghetto ne sont pas reconnus par le droit allemand. Cela crée une situation délicate pour les mariages contractés au Ghetto. Si deux jeunes gens se désirent ou si pour régulariser un état de choses, le Jüdisches Institut, un mariage a lieu. Le Jüdisches Institut a librement décidé et la police SS autorise l'avortement facultatif. Sur simple demande de la femme, l'avortement est pratiqué par les médecins gynécologues. D'autre part, les moyens anti-conceptionnels sont sans difficulté mis à disposition. Toute femme désireuse de garder son enfant est naturellement libre de la faire.

Les poupounnières, les hôpitaux d'enfants, pavillons et jardins d'enfants, sont très bien installés. Une cuisine spécialisée prépare les aliments pour les petits. L'éducation se fait également très soigneusement en classes de 4 à 5 élèves, selon les méthodes pédagogiques les plus modernes.

Voir photos No. 7 à 13 et en particulier photo No. 8, l'intérieur confortable d'une chambre d'enfant, d'arrêts différents, parlant de langues différentes. De conditions, de forme et d'expression, il est un certain nombre de ces instructions qui sont sur le point de se perdre.

Nous venons de dire que les actes officiels du Ghetto ne sont pas reconnus par les tribunaux allemands, une exception est faite pour les certificats de décès. Un tribunal allemand peut, au vu d'un certificat de décès, émanant de Theresienstadt, prendre une décision dans une affaire d'héritage.

Police - Tribunaux.

Nous avons déjà dit, la police de contrôle des SS ne compte en tout que douze hommes, c'est la police juive qui s'occupe de toute la surveillance, de la recherche des délinquants.
Les différents tribunaux de Theresienstadt sont indépendants de l'administration du Juden-
Haltaste. Le corps se met en train courageu-
sement, sans trop regarder en arrière et
Nouveau sans délai pendant un court instant,
à une séance d'un tribunal, affaire de vol. La séance
avec juge, accusation, défense, citation des témoins,
ne diffère encore d'une séance dans une ville normale;
eachun était libre de condamner l'attitude
prise par le Nazi pour résoudre le problème juif.
Si pourtant les punitions infligées par les tribunaux juifs
avant de quelques jours d'arrêtés à 6 mois.

En tout 1,200 cas ont été jugés, tous de vols (produits alimentaires, instruments de première
nécessité). Aucun cas d'affaires de meurtres, aucun
crime.

Conclusion : les documents photographiques et
sections numérotées de 1 à 38 et brochés

Si notre rapport devait laisser des questions
en suspens, nous nous en excusons, nous avons classé
et résumé tous les renseignements disparates, les
choses les plus élémentaires, les plus simples furent
souvent difficile à obtenir. Les photographies furent
prises malgré le mécontentement des SS.

Nous dirons que notre étonnement fut immense de
trouver dans le Ghetto une ville vivante d'une vie
presque normale, nous nous attendions au pire. Nous
avons dit aux officiers de la police SS, chargés de
l'accompagnement, que le plus étonnant est la dif-
ficulté que nous avons rencontrée pour être autorisé
t à visiter Theresienstadt.

Cette ville juive est vraiment surprenante.
Arrivés d'endroits différents, parlant des langues
différentes, de conditions, de fortunes différentes,
il fallait créer entre ces Juifs une unité, un esprit
de communauté. Ce fut très difficile. Le Ghetto de
Theresienstadt est une société communiste dirigé par
un "Stalinien" de haute valeur; EPPSTEIN.

Les Juifs sont là, de l'avis même de leur Juden-
Haltaste, de deux types:

1. - les passifs, végétatifs. Gens qui vivent
pour se souvenir et pour espérer une fin
à cette guerre. Ce sont naturellement sur-
tout les personnes âgées.
2. - les actifs, les jeunes qui, conscients de l'unité juive, sensibles à l'esprit de corps, se mettent au travail courageusement, sans trop regarder en arrière et sans trop s'illusionner sur le proche avenir.

Notre rapport ne changera la jugement de personne; chacun étant libre de condamner l'attitude prise par le Reich pour résoudre le problème juif. Si pourtant ce rapport dissipe un peu le mystère entourant le Ghetto de Theresienstadt, c'est suffisant.

Dr. M. Rossel
Délégué du C.I.C.R.

 Annexes: voir les documents photographiques et autres numérotés de 1 à 59 et brochés en deux cahiers.
z.Zt. Lugano, den 23. Juni 1944
Hotel Bristol

Mr. Roswell D. McClelland
7, Rue des Charbonniers
Genf

Sehr geehrter Mr. McClelland!


Was die Deportierten aus Vittel betrifft, war es doch interessant festzustellen, welche 163 Leute deportiert worden sind, in Vittel befinden sich viel mehr ausländische Bürger mit ähnlichen Dokumenten. Wovon hat man sich, bei der Auswahl dieser Leute ge-richtet? Ich vermute, dass es sich in erster Reihe um die Besitzer der Paraguay-Paesse und zwar um diejenigen, die Ihre Paesse nicht haben gehabt, sondern nur Papiere, die die Ausstellung solcher Paesse in Aussicht gestellt haben. Sollte diese Vermutung stimmen, dann musste man trachten, den Leuten diese Paesse zuzustellen. Und zwar gibt es viele Paesse, die sich noch in der Schweiz befinden dürften, da seinerzeit nicht die Originalen sondern nur beglaubigte Kopien vorsichtshalber zugeschickt wurden. Ein Teil dieser Originalpaesse befindet sich noch bei den Schweizer Behörden, das sind die seinerzeit bei mir beschlagenen Papiere. Wenn diese von Ihnen sein sollten, musste man sich bestreben, diese Papiere frei zu bekommen, was keine Schwierigkeiten bieten dürfte, nachdem die betreffende Untersuchung eingestellt worden ist. - Für diejenigen, für

Desgleichen musste auch genau die Sache mit den Palästina-Austausch Zertifikaten geklärt werden.

Ich vermute auch, und nehme fast als sicher an, dass die aus Vittel deportierten Leutennach Drancy gekommen sind, vielleicht befinden sie sich noch dort. Man musste nochmals die Schweizer Schutzmaßnahm bitten, dass sie energisch darauf bestehen soll, dass diese Leute nicht weiter deportiert werden. Diese Vermutung beruht auf einem Telegramm welches aus Tel-Aviv via New-York angekommen ist und folgenden Inhalt hat:

TEL-AVIV 12.6.44
LIVER NEW YORK CABLES THAT ISAC SCHAAN LAMEK SCHAAN AND WIFE FROM VITTEL SENT TO CONCENTRATION CAMP DRANCY FRANCE STOP CERTIFICATES M47/43/445 AND A4/44 GRANTED SOME MONTHS AGO AND SWISS PROTECTING POWER BEEN ADVISED ACCORDINGLY INQUIRE THERE STOP UNIV AUS AUSTRIA PLACE THEM ON USA EXCHANGE LIST OR ARRANGE OTHER POSSIBLE STEPS TO SAVE THEIR LIVES APPROACH DR SHEPS GENEVA AND OTHERS CABLE RESULT-
CHAIR SZANN

LIVER ist offenbar ein Verwandter von Arieh Liver, der früher in Tittmoning und jetzt in Laufen interniert ist. Er ist unser Vertrauensmann und gewöhnlich gut informiert.

Es ist wahrscheinlich, dass die Annahme jemanden läge es in Berlin darin, die Leute zu deportieren, richtig ist, dann aber ist es nicht zu verstehen warum man z.B. in Laufen und Liebenau bis jetzt die Leute in Ruhelassen.

Aus dem Vorhergesagten folgt, dass man durch die Schweizer Schutzmaßnahm um eine Liste der aus Vittel Deportierten bitten muss, dass man gleichzeitig zuschneiden muss, dass man die Leute nicht weiter aus Drancy fortschickt und dass nochmals bei der deutschen Regierung nachgefragt werden muss nach der Ursache der Deportation, indem man genau fragt worauf denn die Zweifel um die Echtheit der Papiere und der in Betracht kommenden Personen als Austauschobjekte beruhen.

Ich wiederhole uebri gens meine Bitte den Herrn Felix Ajzenstadt, dass Vittel entnommen ist und die Verhältnisse gut kennt, einzuladen. Er befindet sich z.B. in Montreux, Hotel de l'Europe. Er dürfte Vieles zur Aufklärung beitragen können.

Indem ich Ihnen, zugleich im Namen meiner Frau, für Ihre Gläubigenschuld manlänglich unserer Vermählung dank, verbleibe ich mit vorzüglicher Hochachtung

Dr. A. Silberschein
PARAPHRASE

Interests of Guatemala in Enemy Territory.

A copy and translation of a memorandum dated May 19, 1944 from the Guatemalan Foreign Office, which was received by the Department under cover of despatch 1144 of May 23, 1944 from the Embassy at Guatemala, is being forwarded to the Legation by airmail.

The text of the memorandum in question, in translation, is as follows:

"Reference is made to the kind memorandum of the Embassy of the United States of America, dated yesterday, relative to the instructions issued by the Department of State for the immediate protection of all persons who are in possession of documentation as nationals of the United States or who claim said nationality pending the results of the investigations to be conducted in each case. The Secretariat for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Guatemala has taken due note of this memorandum.

Such protection, it is understood, is extended to people who find themselves in territory occupied by the enemy whose lives are in danger.

The Guatemalan Government respectfully requests the Embassy of the United States of America to lend its good offices in transmitting a similar declaration on behalf of the Government of Guatemala in the sense that the fullest protection, and the rights, privileges and immunities enjoyed by Guatemalans whose nationality has been duly proved be extended to all persons who find themselves in territory occupied by the enemy and who are in possession of Guatemalan documents or claim the right

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 22 1972
right to Guatemalan nationality.

Prompted by humanitarian sentiments, the Government of Guatemala requests that such protection be granted to persons claiming Guatemalan nationality, but it reserves the right to undertake an investigation of each specific case and to reject at a later date persons whose nationality cannot be conclusively proved.

The protection which the Government of Guatemala thus solicits in favor of persons claiming Guatemalan nationality does not involve economic assistance of any kind nor the right of the interested persons to be admitted to the national territory of Guatemala until such time as their nationality shall have been duly established.

The cooperation of the Embassy of the United States in this matter is appreciated by the Secretariat for Foreign Affairs."

The substance of the foregoing should be brought to the knowledge of the Federal Political Department.

HULL

/nrm

in quadruplicate

Copy to Mr. McClelland
For Harrison and McClelland.

Department and WRB have received reports which a number of persons who are unquestionably or who claim to be nationals of the United States or of other American republics are held in Germany and in territory under German control, at which the protecting powers and the International Red Cross Committee have either been granted no access or have been allowed such strictly limited forms of access that they have not been able to render effective aid to individuals in question. It is known that there are such camps at Theresienstadt, at Drancy near Paris, Kelsen-Bergen near Hanover, and at Bergau near Dresden. Since the latter part of last year the camp at Tost in Silesia seems to have been placed in this category, and there may possibly be in existence other camps of the same kind.

2. We are informed that Interchurch has exerted itself to visit these camps but has not succeeded thus far. Please express to the International Red Cross Committee the Department's and WRB's appreciation for these efforts and the hope that they will not be abated.

The Swiss Government should be requested, as protecting power of the United States, kindly to investigate this situation. Please ask the Swiss to make efforts to have their representatives visit camps referred to in order to report on claims of individuals detained in these camps to United States citizenship, or in applicable cases to citizenship of other American republics whose interests the Swiss protect. It is requested that similar efforts be made with respect to camps and other establishments which may exist in Rumania, Hungary, Bulgaria, or any other area controlled by authorities which are allied with Germany or dominated by the Germans.
WRB No. 36. For Harrison and McClelland.

1. Department and WRB have received reports which indicate that a number of persons who are unquestionably nationals or who claim to be nationals of the United States or of other American republics are held in camps situated in Germany and in territory under German control, to which the protecting powers and the International Red Cross Committee have either been granted no access or have been allowed such strictly limited forms of access that they have not been able to render effective aid to individuals in question. It is known that there are such camps at Theresienstadt, at Drancy near Paris, Kelsen-Bergen near Hanover, and at Bergau near Dresden. Since the latter part of last year the camp at Tost in Silesia seems to have been placed in this category, and there may possibly be in existence other camps of the same kind.

2. We are informed that Intercross has exerted itself to visit these camps but has not succeeded thus far. Please express to the International Red Cross Committee the Department's and WRB's appreciation for these efforts and the hope that they will not be abated.

The Swiss Government should be requested, as protecting power of the United States, kindly to investigate this situation. Please ask the Swiss to make efforts to have their representatives visit camps referred to in order to report on claims of individuals detained in these camps to United States citizenship, or in applicable cases to citizenship of other American republics whose interests the Swiss protect. It is requested that similar efforts be made with respect to camps and other establishments which may exist in Rumania, Hungary, Bulgaria, or any other area controlled by authorities which are allied with Germany or dominion by the Germans.
Request to visit such camps should be based on Article 86 of Geneva POW Convention as applied, by mutual agreement of belligerents, to interned civilians. It should be pointed out that the extraordinary restrictions which German authorities have placed on communications with these camps have deprived the protecting power and the persons detained in the camps of normal means of dealing with their claims to the protection of foreign states, and that consequently it is essential for the protection of vital interests of such detainees that visits be paid to these camps. In this connection, reference is made to Department's A-199 of April 24 and previous with regard to Franz Kahn, verification of whose claim to American citizenship has been impeded unjustifiably by the extraordinary regulations which have been imposed on correspondence.

HULL

In quadruplicate

re

[Signature]
From: Department  
Date: June 26, 7 p.m., 1944  
No: 2173  
Received: June 27, 10 a.m., 1944  

PARAPHRASE

WRB No. 44 for McClelland and Harrison.

Your despatch 8103, May 6. WRB and Department, with reference to Pifferling case, consider that the following telegrams apply: Department's 1181, April 7, 1221 of April 10, and paragraph two of Department's 1921 of June 5. In view of Pifferling's claim of Honduran nationality the Department's telegram 1632 of May 10 is also applicable and requests to the Swiss Government should not be further delayed by you that it kindly take appropriate action necessary to safeguard Pifferling's life as a national of Honduras.

Legation, taking into account the Department's telegram No. 1632, as well as other messages above referred to, may consider itself authorized, without awaiting affirmative word from Honduras, to request the assistance of the Swiss in such cases. Avoidance of just such delays was intended by the messages under reference, that is, delays as might be incident to awaiting confirmation of claims to their protection by Latin American Governments. Pursuant to the Department's telegram 1269 of April 13, this applies also to claimants to citizenship of the United States.

Answering your 3579 of June 5th, the Department's 2001 of June 16th specified means of forwarding list. For the present this list is not to be used for purpose of investigating nationality claims. Main value of names is to enable you to take more effective protective action eventually in accordance with the Department's telegram 1270 of April 13th.

WRB and Department should be kept informed.

Hull

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 1-11/72
By R. H. Doris Date SEP 22 1972
MEMORANDUM

June 27, 1944.

To: Mr. McClelland
    Mr. Huddle

From: Mr. Tait

I attach a draft telegram dated today which is based on Foreign Office Notice No. 31296 of June 23, 1944, which was handed to me on June 26 at the Division of Foreign Interests. I have also incorporated in the draft telegram the oral observations made by Mr. de Saussure when he handed me the subject notice.

G. T.

Enclosures:

No. 1 - Draft telegram to the Department, dated today;

No. 2 - A.I. File 840.1 JEWS - EUROPE.

TJH/hs
A. I. No. 1

The American Legation presents its compliments to the Division of Foreign Interests of the Federal Political Department, and has the honor to refer to the Division's kind note 30554 - B. 24.2 A-3 - RM/36 of June 20, 1944, which indicated that of the several Latin American republics only the Governments of Venezuela, El Salvador and Honduras have notified the Division of their intention to recognize passports whose bearers are Jews resident in Germany.

The Legation has now received a telegram dated June 24, 1944, from the Department of State at Washing- ton, which instructs it to bring to the attention of the Division the following text, in translation, of a memorandum dated May 19, 1944, from the Guatemalan Foreign Office which was received by the Department of State under cover of a communication dated May 23, 1944, from the American Embassy at Guatemala:

"Reference is made to the kind memorandum of the Embassy of the United States of America, dated yesterday, relative to the instructions issued by the Department of State for the immediate protection of all persons who are in possession of documentation as nationals of the United States or who claim said nationality pending the results of the investigations to be conducted.

To the

Division of Foreign Interests,

Federal Political Department,

BERN."
conducted in each case. The Secretariat for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Guatemala has taken due note of this memorandum.

"Such protection, it is understood, is extended to people who find themselves in territory occupied by the enemy whose lives are in danger.

"The Guatemalan Government respectfully requests the Embassy of the United States of America to lend its good offices in transmitting a similar declaration on behalf of the Government of Guatemala in the sense that the fullest protection, and the rights, privileges and immunities enjoyed by Guatemalans whose nationality has been duly proved be extended to all persons who find themselves in territory occupied by the enemy and who are in possession of Guatemalan documents or claim the right to Guatemalan nationality.

"Prompted by humanitarian sentiments, the Government of Guatemala requests that such protection be granted to persons claiming Guatemalan nationality, but it reserves the right to undertake an investigation of each specific case and to reject at a later date persons whose nationality cannot be conclusively proved.

"The protection which the Government of Guatemala thus solicits in favor of persons claiming Guatemalan nationality does not involve economic assistance of any kind nor the right of the interested persons to be admitted to the national territory of Guatemala until such time as their nationality shall have been duly established.

"The cooperation of the Embassy of the United States in this matter is appreciated by the Secretariat for Foreign Affairs."

The legation avails itself of this occasion to renew to the Division the assurance of its highest consideration.

Bern, June 27, 1944.

TJI/hs

A true copy of the signed original: ☑
GRAM RECEIVED

Date: June 23, 8 p.m., 1944
No: 2196
Received: June 29, 3 p.m.

PARAPHRASE

Mr. McLean—Please let me know just what they refer to. I think in fact it has often been done.

For Harrison,
your 3144 and 3147 May 17. We are pointed by the negative response made by the American Red Cross Committee.

It does not appear that you have availed yourself yet of the authorization which was contained in final sentence Department's 1498 April 29, it is requested that you approach the Swiss Government in this connection informally. It is confidentially hoped that Switzerland, because of her great humanitarian traditions, will be willing, in the interest of insuring the survival of these helpless people, to exert her influence in this connection with the German authorities.

HULL

In duplicate

re copy in TA
TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department

Date: June 28, 8 p.m., 1944

No.: 2196

Received: June 29, 3 p.m.

PARAPHRASE

Rec. July 4, 1948
Tel. No. 4324

No. 40. For Harrison.

Reference your 3144 and 3147 May 17. We are very much disappointed by the negative response made by the International Red Cross Committee.

Since it does not appear that you have availed yourself yet of the authorization which was contained in final sentence Department's 1499 April 29, it is requested that you approach the Swiss Government in this connection informally. It is confidentially hoped that Switzerland, because of her great humanitarian traditions, will be willing, in the interest of insuring the survival of these helpless people, to exert her influence in this connection with the German authorities.

HULL

In duplicate

re copy in FA

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-12-72
By R. H. Fuchs Date - 22 1972
Date: June 30, 2 p.m., 1944
No: 2219
Received: July 1, 10 p.m.

PARAPHRASE

Department's 1846 of May 27. Form the Swiss Government, in continu-
ject which was discussed in telegram
that a resolution along the lines
adopted by the Committee for Political

Defense on May 31 and is now being communicated to the
American republics. Three of the American Embassies
in other American republics have, under directions
from the Department, begun to compile lists of
Germans who desire repatriation, with a view to
their classification in order to determine which
of them on grounds of security may be permitted
repatriation in exchange for the persons mentioned
in telegram under reference.

HULL

In quadruplicate

\[\text{DECLASSIFIED}\
\text{State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72}\
\text{By H. H. Pinks Date SEP 22 1973}\]
Reference Department's 1346 of May 27.

Please inform the Swiss Government, in continuation of the subject which was discussed in telegram under reference, that a resolution along the lines indicated was adopted by the Committee for Political Defense on May 31 and is now being communicated to the American republics. Three of the American Embassies in other American republics have, under directions from the Department, begun to compile lists of Germans who desire repatriation, with a view to their classification in order to determine which of them on grounds of security may be permitted repatriation in exchange for the persons mentioned in telegram under reference.

HULL

In quadruplicate

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TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department

Date: June 30, 4 p.m., 1944
No: 2221
Received: July 1, 11 a.m.

PARAPHRASE

WRB No. 62. For Harrison and McClelland.

After discussions with Bruggmann here, Pehle, Executive Director of the War Refugee Board, suggests that you engage in informal and confidential discussions of the war refugee problem with the Swiss Foreign Office, placing particular emphasis on the following points.

1. The appreciation which is felt here both in government circles and by the American public of the contribution which Switzerland has made and is making to the solution of the refugee problem.

2. Our desire to receive any and all suggestions from the Swiss Government, on an informal and confidential basis, as to what further can be done to meet this problem.

3. WRB's appreciation of the fact that there are certain phases of the matter which can better be handled by informal arrangements with the Swiss Government than by formal requests to the Swiss to make demands on the German Government. In general, before making formal requests, WRB is willing, where such action would be of help, for you to discuss particular problems informally and confidentially with the Swiss.

Bruggmann believes, and the Department concurs, that cooperation between the United States and Swiss Governments on refugee matters would be facilitated by the following of the above suggestions.

HULL

In duplicate

re 21 - 7A

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 1-11-72
By R. H. Parker Date SEP 22 1972
Following telegram has been sent to London.
Repeated to Bern, Lisbon, Madrid, Stockholm.

For your information only, we are repeating to
you herewith a paraphrase of a telegram from WRB which
was sent to Steinhardt in Ankara today:

Congressman Bloom, Chairman of House Committee
on Foreign Affairs, has introduced the following
resolution in the House of Representatives:

"It being recognized that the Government of the
United States is determined to take all measures in
its power to save Jews and other victims of enemy
oppression who are in imminent danger of death at
the hands of the Nazis, and also that great oppor-
tunities for evacuating refugees in the Balkan
countries through Turkey have only been partially
embraced, it is therefore resolved that the House
of Representatives request the Secretary of State
to urge the Government of Turkey, in the interest
of humanity, to facilitate the entry into its
territory of refugees who can escape from German
control, and to establish in Turkey a camp in which
such refugees can be provided temporary shelter."

You may, in your discretion and if you believe
that it will be helpful, give local publicity to
this pending resolution and use it to bring further
pressure to bear on the Government of Turkey.

HULL