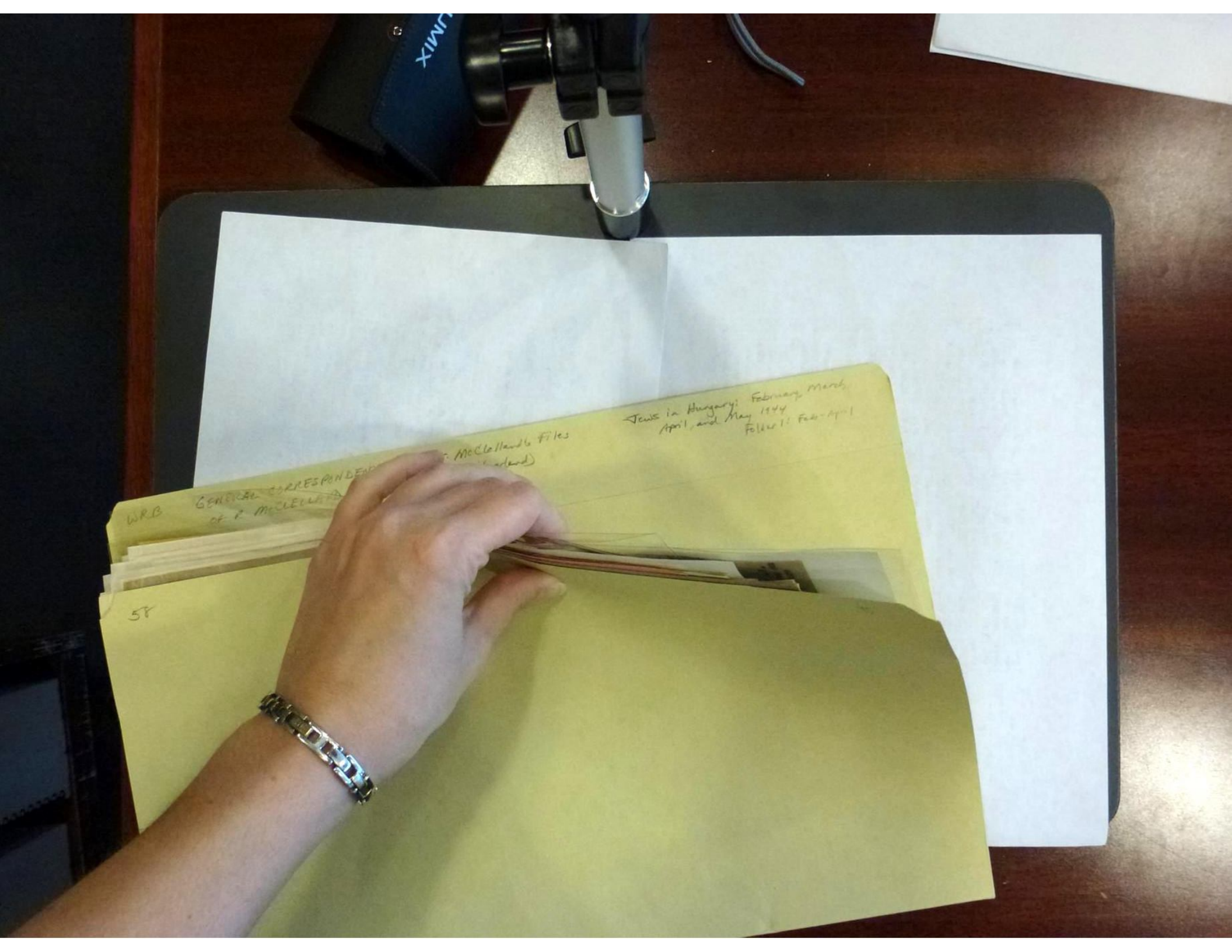
WRB
58
McClelland's Files
Jews in Hungary: February, March,
April, and May 1944
Folder 1: Feb-April

War Refugee Board
American Legation
Bern, Switzerland

JEWS IN HUNGARY

February, March, April & May

1 9 4 4

****

Juris-Mappe Nr. 1000 (32×24 cm)
Kaiser & Co. A.-G., Bern

Jews in Hungary

February

1944

Let. to Squire 2/[illegible]/44 JKH/mjb

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department

Date: February 8, 11 p.m., 1944

No: 417

Code: [redacted]

Received: February 9, 11 a.m.

Did this wire have anything to do with WRB?!

PARAPHRASE

Following repeated to Embassy London.

Under date of January 28, a report of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency from London quotes "official Czechoslovak circles here" as charging Hungary with deporting to occupied Poland "as a measure against undesirable foreigners" 65,000 Jews, including 40,000 from Carpatho-Russia. In explanation of the phrase concerning undesirable foreigners, the report added that this is because Jews whose ancestors have lived in Hungary since 1852 and paid taxes in Hungary since 1872 are not included in the mass deportation. This charge was made, the report stated, in order to counteract reports which Budapest is disseminating through neutral countries to the effect that the Nazi demand for a stricter anti-Jewish policy is being defied by Hungary; it is added that the 40,000 Jews from Carpatho-Russia were only recently deported. The remaining 25,000 were, it is stated, Hungarian Jews.

Department will appreciate knowing whether there is any information as to the accuracy of this charge in the possession of the Legation.

HULL

In duplicate

Copy in WRB

re

840.1 JEWS IN HUNGARY

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

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
REC'D FEB 18 1944
BERN

1944-2211

Bern, February 12, 1944.

(C.L)

Mr. Huddle,

In referring to your telephone call with respect to anti-Jewish measures in Hungary, I am setting forth below the data available from published sources in the premises.

1. Recent reports in Axis press (November, 1943 - February, 1944) indicate that numberous Jews from Croatia, Slovakia and the General Government (of Poland) seek to take refuge in Hungary apparently because treatment accorded Jews there is milder than in the former countries. During the summer months at least 3,100 Jews succeeded in entering Hungary from Slovakia and Croatia, but many others were apprehended at the frontier and forced back. This movement was on such a large scale that the Hungarian authorities sent additional guards to the frontiers to prevent refugees from crossing into Hungary. Jews from Slovakia and the General Government normally cross into the Subcarpathian Russian section of Hungary.

2. Slovakia has just embarked upon a new anti-Jewish campaign calling for additional restrictions on both confessional and baptised Jews and insisting on the forced emigration of the 21,000 Jews still in the country. This campaign has provoked a new wave of refugees attempting to flee into Hungary. The reinforced Hungarian frontier guards have prevented numerous groups from entering, but no publicity is given to those Jews who succeed in crossing the border. It would appear that Slovakia (formerly an integral part of Czechoslovakia) is far more rigorous in its treatment of Jews than Hungary. Many Slovak Jews have been deported to German or German controlled territory as compulsory laborers.

3. Anti-Jewish circles in Slovakia, Hungary, Rumania, and other Balkan countries are now charging Jews with engaging in whispered defeatism, espionage, and Soviet propaganda, particularly in connection with the advance of the Russian troops in the East. This campaign seems to be directed from Berlin and designed to prevent anti-German activities by Jews in the Eastern European and Balkan districts. The situation regarding Hungary is somewhat peculiar in that the French, Croat, and German press are charging Hungarian authorities with permitting Jews to engage in anti-Axis activities. Imredy, leader of the Hungarian Nazi group, is including the usual anti-Jewish propaganda in his current political campaign in Hungary.

4. Hungary has a labor service for Jews. It is normal that a

fairly

840.1 JEWS IN HUNGARY

fairly large number of Jews will be called this spring for service in labor battalions directed by the Honved. There were unsubstantiated reports last year that some of these battalions might be sent to work in the General Government of Poland and possibly in the occupied Ukraine. It is likely that Hungarian Jews (many live in Subcarpathian Russia) may have sent reports abroad of expected deportation in connection with impending mobilization in labor battalions.

5. My impression at the present time is that Slovakia, - a Benes preserve - accords far worse treatment to Jews than Hungary. The report from Czech sources may well be a political maneuver by emigré Czechs in their present press and radio polemic with Hungary. It may even have originated in Moscow as an additional measure of pressure on Budapest. Certainly, Hungary has adopted and practices anti-Semitism, but apparently not to the same degree as Rumania, Slovakia, Croatia and other German satellites.

I have made inquiries of sources over-town who have promised to let me know anything that they can learn regarding recent anti-Jewish measures in Hungary. I shall not fail to inform you of anything that they may ascertain.

Landreth M. Harrison.

Confidential

(CL)

Bern, February 9, 1944.

Dear Mr. Squire:

A press report has been seen by the Department of State to the effect that official Czechoslovak circles in London charge Hungary with deporting to German-occupied Poland "as a measure against undesirable foreigners" 65,000 Jews, including 40,000 from Carpatho-Russia. In explanation of the phrase concerning undesirable foreigners, the report added that they were considered undesirable because Jews whose ancestors have lived in Hungary since 1852 and paid taxes in Hungary since 1872 have not been included in the mass deportation.

It is added that the 40,000 Jews from Carpatho-Russia were deported only recently, and that the remaining 25,000 of the deportees were Hungarian Jews.

Will you kindly consult Dr. Gerhard Riegner at your earliest opportunity with a view to ascertaining whether he has any information which would throw light on the authenticity of this report, and inform the Legation immediately.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,

J. Klahr Huddle,
Counselor of Legation.

Paul C. Squire, Esquire,
American Consul,
Geneva.

JKH/mjb

840.1 JEWS IN HUNGARY

IN REPLY REFER TO PCS/dh
FILE No.

Ack'd by ferm

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
REC'D FEB 14 1944
BERN

AMERICAN CONSULATE

Geneva, Switzerland, February 14, 1944

[redacted]

Dear Mr. Huddle:

Referring to your letter of February 9 regarding the authenticity of a report charging Hungary with the deportation to German-occupied Poland of 65,000 Jews, Dr. Gerhart Riegner, Secretary General of the World Jewish Congress at Geneva, knows nothing of this alleged measure, adding that the information appears inaccurate and to be in opposition with Hungarian policy. Dr. Riegner, however, is endeavoring to check this report from his contacts in Budapest and will share with us any telegraphic reply which he expects to have in the middle of the week.

Sincerely yours,

Paul C. Squire

Paul C. Squire
American Consul

P.S.

J. Klahr Huddle, Esquire,
American Legation,
Bern.

540.1 JEWS IN HUNGARY

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

P.S. 12:30 p.m.

Dr. Riegner has just phoned me that the reply from Budapest has come in, to the effect that there have been no such deportations during the last six months and that the Jews in question are still in Hungary. Dr. Riegner recalled only one deportation of Jews (about 17,000) from Hungary some two years ago to eastern Galicia and to Poland . Dr. Riegner described his Budapest contact as a very good source but declined to reveal its identity over the telephone but will give it to me later.

PS

TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department

Date: February 15, 8 p.m., 1944

No.: 938

Code: [redacted]

Charged to:

PARAPHRASE

Reference Department's 417 of February 8.

Careful inquiry has been made in informed circles here and has failed to verify the report of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency which you cite. An important Jewish authority, who was without information on the subject, telephoned his private contacts in Budapest and was advised by them that there had been no such deportations during the past six months. His own comment was that such action would be in opposition to the policy of the Hungarian Government. There is likewise no knowledge of the reported deportations in press circles here.

HARRISON

JKH/re

840.1 JEWS IN HUNGARY

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

IN REPLY REFER TO
FILE NO. PCS/lc

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
RECD FEB 16 1944
BERN

THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

File

See Tel to ARA
Accepted 1-5-44

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Ack'd by form [redacted]

AMERICAN CONSULATE

Geneva, Switzerland.
February 15, 1944.

Dear Mr. Huddle:

Referring to my letter with postcript of February 14, Dr. Gerhart M. RIEGNER has prepared a report, a copy of which is enclosed, in connection with the absence of information on any measure of deportation of Jews taken up recently by the Hungarian authorities.

Dr. Riegner stresses that it is not Hungary's policy today to deport Jews although he has not forgotten the deportation from that country at the end of 1941. My informant is at a loss to even suggest the basis of the report we have been endeavoring to confirm unless it has reference to the enrollment of Jews in the so-called labor battalions dispatched to the Russian Front, as set forth in paragraph 5 of Dr. Riegner's letter. Off the record Dr. Riegner informs me that his check-up at Budapest was through the Director of the Palestinian Office in that city. Dr. Riegner had a friend telephone him and use a sort of Hebrew jargon in ascertaining the desired information. Recently the Hungarian authorities permitted the reopening of the Palestinian Office at Budapest and the resumption of its activity. All this he regards as a clear sign of the times and the desire of Hungary to curry favor with the Democratic cause.

Sincerely yours,

Paul C. Squire

Paul C. Squire
American Consul

Enclosure:

Copy of Dr. Riegner's letter of February 15.

J. Klahr Huddle, Esquire,
Counselor of Legation,
American Legation,
BERN.

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

840.1 JEWS IN HUNGARY

COPY

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

IIf/41.843 Geneva, February 15, 1944

Paul C. Squire Esq.,
American Consul
G E N E V A

Dear Mr. Squire,

Referring to your letter of February 11, 1944, PCS/dh, and to the enclosed press report relative to the alleged deportation of the Jews by the Hungarian Authorities, I beg to submit the following report:

1. Having watched very closely the situation of Jews in the various countries during the last months, I have received personally no information on any measure of deportation taken up recently by the Hungarian Authorities.

2. I have ascertained at one of the Jewish officials in Budapest, and to whose judgement one may trust absolutely, that the alleged recent deportation of the Jews from Hungary and Carpatho-Russia is unfounded. The above mentioned Official confirmed with assurance that in any case no deportation from Hungary, Carpatho-Russia included, has taken place during the last 6 months.

3. To our knowledge, at the end of 1941 only, certain measures of deportation had taken place in Hungary. According to reports received, about 17,000 Jews were deported at that moment from Hungary, as stateless persons. In fact, this group included not only stateless but also Polish and Hungarian Jews who were not able to produce the certificate stating their Hungarian nationality. Such certificate was delivered on the proof only that their ancestors have lived in Hungary since 1852 and paid taxes in Hungary since 1872. These some 17,000 Jews, the greatest part of whom resided in Carpatho-Russia and in the frontier regions of Hungary bordering Poland, were brought to the frontiers of Eastern Galicia and have been reported massacred. Reference to these facts has already been made in Annex 1 to the Aide-Memoire submitted to Minister Harrison on October 22, 1942.

4. I have ascertained at Dr. J. Kopecky, Geneva Representative of the Czecho-Slovak Government, that he has no knowledge of any deportation of Jews from Carpatho-Russia during the last months. On the other hand, he also knew about the deportation measures having taken place from Carpatho-Russia about 2 years ago. He promised me to ask the official Czecho-Slovak circles in London, as to upon

what

what ground the charge against the Hungarian Government made in the press report, has been based. I shall inform you immediately as soon as I shall have received Dr. Kopecky's reply.

5. It may be added that although Hungarian Jews are excluded from the Hungarian Army, a great part of young Jews of Hungary including Carpatho-Russia, have been enrolled into the so called labour battalions and dispatched to the Russian Front. These Jewish youth have nearly all been sacrificed by the Hungarian Authorities and, with little exception, have never given any sign of life since their departure to the Eastern Front. The loss of Jewish lives is estimated to be of several tens of thousands of young Jews.

I should be very much obliged to you if you would kindly inform the State Department of the content of this report.

With kindest regards, I am

yours sincerely

(Signed) G.M. RIEGNER

Gerhart M. Riegner

A true copy of the signed original LC

Jews in Hungary?

March

1944

"Jews" sent into Hungary before German occupation – 9/3/44 March 9/1944

Copy of draft

"It is on the basis of the preceding considerations that the Government of the United States, acting through the War Refugee Board set up in conformity with the order of the President of the United States of January 22, 1944; i.e. the Department of State

urgently desires clarification as to the policy of different countries in regard to refugees.

The newly appointed Special Attaché to the United States Legation in Berne, charged with carrying out the aims of the War Refugee Board urges the Royal Hungarian Government to suuply him with information, as to whether Hungary would undertake

to develop and assist in the development of programs and implentations of measures for the RESCUE, TRANSPORTATION, MAINTENANCE and RELIEF of refugees or other victims of persecution - racial, religious or political - who are in imminent danger of death

that is to say:

1.) to TOLERATE the activities of persons, groups and organizations on the territory of the Kingdom of Hungary, having contacts or affiliations with persons, groups and organizations outside the territory of that country, who could assist with or undertake the transportation of refugees to the borders of the Kingdom of Hungary;

2.) to ALLOW refugees to ENTER, i.e. not to oppose their infiltration;

3.) NOT TO PERSECUTE refugees within the country, but rather to GRANT them reasonable protection;

4.) to LOOK AFTER refugees who are in the country as far as housing, feeding, clothing & cultural facilities concerned, in a humane way.

If the Royal Hungarian Government sees any practical possibility of taking steps in this direction, a general outline of the plan of action, including as many details as possible, would be welcome."

KSWC

Geneva, 9 March 1944.

It is on the basis of ~~these~~ the preceding considerations that the Government of the ~~Refugee Politics~~ U.S. acting through the War Refugee Board set up in conformity with the Order of the President of the United States of January 22, 1944 (~~resp.~~ referring through the the Department of State):

wishes to make it ~~clear the most~~ urgently ~~that~~ the policy of different countries in (refugee ~~matters would be.~~

The (newly appointed) Special Attaché to the Legation ~~of the United States~~ on War Refugee Matters ~~asked~~ charged with carrying out the duties of the WRB, US ~~me to give him~~ ~~urgent~~ information, whether would Hungary undertake

~~1.)~~ to develop and assist in the development of programs and implementation of measures for the rescue, transportation, maintenance and relief of refugees in grave danger of persecution — special categories for political — who are in immediate danger of death i.e.

1.) to tolerate the activities of persons, groups and organizations on the territory of the Kingdom of Hungary, ~~in operating in order to~~, having contacts ~~with~~ or affiliations with persons, groups or organizations outside the territory of the country, who could assist, ~~help~~ or undertake the transportation of refugees to the borders of Hungary;

2.) to ~~let~~ enter ~~the~~ refugees, ~~resp.~~ not to oppose their infiltration;

3.) not to pursue refugees within the country, ~~resp.~~ to save them ~~before present~~ persecution;

4.) to look after (housing, feeding, clothing, cultural facilities) the refugees who are in the country in a humane way.

(or within and to grant them suitable protection.)

(or concerned)

To look after all who are in the country in a humane way.

If the Emigration Gov. was any prospect possibility of taking steps in this direction, further details of the plan of action would be welcome.

TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department

C.L.

Date: March 14, 1944.

No.: 1548

Code: En Clair-PRESS

Charged to:

C.L.

SUBJECT: Repatriation of Hungarian Jews from France.

Hungarian Legation Vichy March 11 requested Jews residing in southern zone whose Hungarian citizenship has already been established to register for eventual repatriation to Hungary. Action possibly taken in connection with Vichy labor laws.

HARRISON

LMH/jmg

Copy to LMH

Mar 14 1944

840.1 Hungarian Jews

IN REPLY REFER TO
FILE NO. PCS/dh

Ack. 3/27 JKH/mjb

ack's by form

Please ack, asking Mr S to thank Mr R for his reports and interest in this matter. JKH

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA
REC'D MAR 24 1944
BERN

C.I.

AMERICAN CONSULATE

Geneva, Switzerland, March 24, 1944

Dear Mr. Harrison:

With reference to your interest in checking the alleged deportation of Jews by the Hungarian authorities, as set forth in Mr. Huddle's letter of February 9, 1944, Dr. Gerhart M. Riegner has written to me on this subject, a copy of his letter being enclosed together with a copy of an extract from the Jewish Chronicle, London, No. 3904 of February 4, 1944 entitled "65,000 Jews Deported Hungary's 'Humanitarian' Treatment".

Sincerely yours,

Paul C. Squire

Paul C. Squire
American Consul

Enclosures:

Copy of Dr. Riegner's letter
of March 23, 1944

Extract from Jewish Chronicle

The Honorable
Leland Harrison,
American Minister,
Bern.

840.1 JEWS

Copy

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

IIf/42.001

Geneva, March 23, 1944

Paul C. Squire Esq.,
American Consul
G E N E V A.

Dear Mr. Squire,

I am referring to your letter of February 11, 1944, and to my reply of February 15, concerning the alleged deportation of the Jews by the Hungarian authorities.

As I have informed you in point 4 of my above mentioned reply, I have asked Dr. J. Kopecky, Geneva Representative of the Czecho-Slovak Government, to kindly ask the official Czecho-Slovak circles in London as to upon what ground the charge against the Hungarian Government was made in the press report.

Dr. Kopecky is now in possession of an answer from his Government informing him that they have no knowledge of any official or unofficial protest concerning this matter and asking him to indicate the source of the press report referred to.

Meanwhile, I have seen in the Anglo-Jewish newspaper, "The Jewish Chronicle" of February 4, 1944, No. 3904, page 7, the report denominated: 65,000 Jews deported; Hungary's "humanitarian" treatment - which in substance contains the same information as the press report which you kindly communicated to me. I am enclosing herewith copy of the article published in the Jewish Chronicle.

I have equally called the attention of Dr. Kopecky on this article and asked him to establish as to on what grounds this publication was made. Dr. Kopecky has accordingly cabled to his Government in London and will keep me informed of the reply he may receive.

Although the whole matter referred to in this letter is no more of great actuality, I have felt obliged to communicate to you the informations I have obtained.

Yours very sincerely

(Signed)
Gerhart M. Riegner

A true copy of the signed original.

Extract from the "Jewish Chronicle", London, No.3904, February 4, 1944.

65,000 Jews Deported

Hungary's "Humanitarian" Treatment

The Hungarian Government has lately been trying to create the impression abroad that it has been treating its Jews humanely. Reports reaching Czechoslovak circles in London, however, effectively dispel any such impression.

Forty thousand Jews of Carpatho-Russia, the Hungarian-occupied easternmost province of Czechoslovakia, were deprived of all their belongings and deported to Eastern Poland some time ago, state the reports.

The reports also show that in addition to these 40,000 Jews, a further 25,000 Jews from Hungary proper were delivered to the Germans for deportation. The Hungarian authorities claim that they have not deported these 65,000 as Jews but as "undesirable foreigners". (Czechoslovaks and Poles). Only those Jews who can prove either that their ancestors lived in Hungary before 1852, or that they themselves or their ancestors had paid taxes in Hungary before 1872 are not considered as "foreigners". Since very few Jews kept their tax receipts the majority lost their Hungarian citizenship and became "unlesirable foreigners".

Hundreds of Jews in Carpatho-Russia between the ages of 17 and 50 were put into labour battalions and sent to the Soviet front. Many perished there; a few managed to escape to Russia.

Jews are excluded from obtaining clothing and shoe ration coupons and are not allowed to purchase firewood, which is the only domestic fuel obtainable particularly in the Eastern part of the province.

Tel. to Dept. Let. to Squire 3/25/44

IN REPLY REFER TO
FILE NO.

PCS/dh ack'd by form JKH jb

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
RECD MAR 24 1944
BERN

C.L.

AMERICAN CONSULATE

Geneva, Switzerland, March 24, 1944

Dear Mr. Harrison:

Dr. Gerhart M. Riegner, Secretary General of the World Jewish Congress at Geneva, has just sent to me the enclosed draft of a telegram which he would like to have sent through the Legation to the Department of State for the information of Dr. Stephen S. Wise.

In his letter Dr. Riegner goes on to say:

> "I am sure you will understand the urgency of the matter referred to in the cable. Hungarian Jewry, numbering some 800.000 persons is in fact the only section of European Jewry which has until now been spared from the policy of brutal extermination. Everything should, therefore, be done in order to prevent them from sharing the fate of their coreligionists in the other German occupied countries."

Sincerely yours,

Paul C. Squire

Paul C. Squire
American Consul

Enclosure:

Text of telegram

The Honorable
Leland Harrison,
American Minister,
Bern.

840.1 JEWS IN HUNGARY

To:

Dr Stephen S. Wise, President, World Jewish Congress,
330 West 42nd Street, NEW YORK.

From:

Gerhart M. Riegner, World Jewish Congress, GENEVA.

Owing to recent political developments in Hungary being most anxious about destiny Hungarian Jewry only important section European Jewry still in existence and numbering about 800.000 stop suggesting world wide appeal of Anglo-Saxon personalities non-Jewish and Jewish including leaders of Protestant and Catholic Churches and outstanding Americans of Hungarian origin to Hungarian people warning them not to admit application of policy of extermination of Jews by German butchers or Hungarian Quislings and to help Jews by all possible means in order to prevent their falling into hands of Germans stop warning should particularly insist upon fact that attitude Hungarian people towards Jews will be one of the most important tests of behaviour which United Nations will remember in peace settlement after war stop Similar broadcasts should be made every night in Hungarian language during the next weeks.

Geneva, March 23, 1944.

TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department

Date: March 25, 4 p.m., 1944

No: 1840

Code: [redacted]

Charged to:

PARAPHRASE

Following for Dr. Stephen S. Wise, President of the World Jewish Congress, 330 West 42nd Street, New York, from Gerhart M. Riegner, World Jewish Congress, Geneva:

"Because of recent political developments in Hungary most anxious about destiny of Hungarian Jewry which numbers about 800,000 and is the only important section of European Jewry still in existence. Suggest world wide appeal by Anglo-Saxon personlities, non-Jewish as well as Jewish, including leaders of the Catholic and Protestant churches and outstanding Americans of Hungarian origin addressed to the people of Hungary warning them not to permit the application of a policy of extermination of Jews by Hungarian quislings or German butchers and to endeavor to keep Jews from falling into the hands of the Germans by every possible means. The warning should insist particularly upon the fact that the attitude of the people of Hungary towards the Jews will be one of the most important tests of behavior to be considered by the United Nations in peace settlement after the war. Similar broadcasts should be made in Hungarian language every night during the next few weeks."

HARRISON

JKH/mjb
In single copy

840.1 JEWS IN HUNGARY

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

CI

Bern, March 25, 1944.

Dear Mr. Squire:

Answering your letter of March 24, 1944, you may inform Dr. Riegner that the message which he requested be sent to Dr. Wise has been transmitted by the Legation.

Sincerely yours,

J. Klahr Huddle,
Counselor of Legation.

Paul C. Squire, Esquire,
American Consul,
Geneva.

JKH/mjb

C.I.

Bern, March 27, 1944.

Dear Mr. Squire:

The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of March 24, 1944, enclosing a copy of a letter from Dr. Gerhart M. Riegner, together with a copy of an extract from the JEWISH CHRONICLE, London, No. 3904 of February 4, 1944, enclosed therewith.

Will you kindly thank Dr. Riegner on behalf of the Legation for his efforts and interest in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

J. Klahr Huddle,
Counselor of Legation.

Paul C. Squire, Esquire,
American Consul,
Geneva.

/mjb

Box 1 JEWS

Let. to Pres. Intercross
3/29 JKH/mjb

Rep. Tel 2312, Apr 13, 44

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department

Date: March 27, 1944, 7 p.m.

No: 1023

Code: [redacted]

Received: March 28, 3 p.m.

PARAPHRASE

Please transmit following message to the International Red Cross Committee from the War Refugee Board.

In view of the German occupation of Hungary, the War Refugee Board urges that Intercross send to that country effective representation in order to protect the wellbeing of groups in Hungary who are facing persecution.

HULL

In triplicate

re

840.1 Hungary

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73
By R. H. Fecko, date SEP 22 1972

Sent Express Registered March 29

(a)

Bern, March 29, 1944.

My dear Mr. President:

At the request of the Department of State, I take pleasure in giving you below a message for the International Red Cross Committee from the War Refugee Board of the United States:

> "In view of the German occupation of Hungary, the War Refugee Board urges that Intercross send to that country effective representation in order to protect the well being of groups in Hungary who are facing persecution."

If there is any information regarding your present or future representation in Hungary which you can consistently give me for transmission to the Department of State for the War Refugee Board, I should be glad indeed to receive it.

Sincerely yours,

LH

(a)

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

JKH/mjb

Hungary 1.048

Please refer to J.H.'s signing of FEB 9, 1944.
PS

File

ACK'D BY EOM

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
RECD MAR 31 1944
BERN

IIf/42.036

Geneva, March 31, 1944.

Paul C. Squire Esq.,
American Consul,
G E N E V A.

Dear Mr. Squire,

I am referring to your letter of February 11, 1944, and to the subsequent correspondence with you on the matter of the alleged deportation of the Jews by the Hungarian authorities. Following to the information contained in my letter of March 23, I am glad to inform you that I have just got a word from Dr. J. Kopecky, informing me of the reply of the Czecho-Slovak Government in London to his enquiry.

The Czecho-Slovak Government in London has dealt with the matter and has ascertained the following:

The World Jewish Congress in New York or in London has not been the author of the alleged report. The World Jewish Congress' Offices have had knowledge of this report which was made public by JTA (Jewish Telegraphic Agency) who on their part had obtained the news from the CTK (Czecho-Slovak News Agency).

The report was made on the basis of the material the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Czecho-Slovak Government had received from Jerusalem. The report was composed of the statements made by several Czecho-Slovak citizens of Jewish origin who had at the end of the last year been still in Hungary or Carpatho-Russia. The Czecho-Slovak Government state that they had in no way made any official protest with regard to this matter, and that the news which had come to the knowledge of the American authorities constituted evidently a misinterpretation of the telegraphic report passed on by the Czecho-Slovak News Agency. It is furthermore stated that the same report was published also, as an article, in "The New Judaea", London.

In submitting to you herewith the result of the enquiry, I consider the matter as closed.

With kindest regards, I am,

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed) G.M. RIEGNER
Gerhart M. Riegner

540.1 JEWS IN HUNGARY

Jews in Hungary

April

1944

Tel. to Dept.
Let. to Squire 4/4 JWF/mjb

Respectfully referred to Legation at Bern for appropriate action. pgs

ADV. BY FOTE

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

CONGRÈS JUIF MONDIAL (C.I.) CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

GENÈVE 37, QUAI WILSON TELEPH. 2.81.25
NEW YORK 330 WEST 42nd STREET TELEPH. LONGACRE 5-8400
LONDON W.1 1, HARLEY STREET TELEPH. LANGHAM 1316
BUENOS AIRES CORRIENTES 2024 UNION TELEF. 47 (CUYO) 5860

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES
REC'D APR 3 1944
BERN

IIf/42.044

Geneva, April 3, 1944

AMERICAN CONSULATE
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND
Rec'd APR 3 1944
12.45 p.m. PS
POLITICAL SECTION

Paul C. Squire Esq.,
American Consul,
G E N E V A.

Dear Mr. Squire,

On behalf of Mr. Richard Lichtheim, Director of the Geneva Office of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, and on behalf of myself, I have the honour to send you a draft of the telegram which we should like to have sent, through the Legation of the United States of America in Bern, to the Department of State for information of Dr. Stephen Wise. The telegram contains a number of important informations on the planning of the anti-Jewish policy to be carried on in Hungary.

Hoping that you will kindly pass the telegram on to your Legation in Bern, and thanking you in advance, I am

yours very sincerely

G. M. Riegner

Gerhart M. Riegner

Enclosure: 1 telegram-draft in 2 copies.

840.1 JEWS IN HUNGARY

To : Dr. Stephen S. Wise, World Jewish Congress ,
330 West, 42nd Street, New York

From : Richard Lichtheim, Gerhard Riegner - Geneva.

/URGENT/

We know from reliable sources that german government has worked out plans to control economic life of hungary by establishing in budapest special german administration which will send foodstuffs and workers to germany stop these plans also include special provisions for destruction of the jews numbering 800,000 by concentrating all of them in the following three zones : first the heath of Zenta secondly the marshes of Mohacs third a place called Semendria at Serbo-Croatian border stop this plan is to be carried out within six months stop the usual preliminary steps have just been announced id est registration and wearing of yellow badge stop arrest and deportation will follow under supervision of german SS-guards who will deal with the jews at the above-mentioned three isolated places as they have done in poland stop we suggest that this plan should be vigorously and repeatedly denounced over the radio, that the jews should be told to seek shelter by all conceivable means inside or outside hungary or if possible to join the partisans stop jews should be warned not to commit same mistake as jews of poland and netherlands but to avoid registration and destroy in time all relevant lists of communities stop at same time hungarian officials and population should again be encouraged to counteract these german measures and to help the jews .

Geneva, April 3rd, 1944

TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department

Date: April 4, 1944, 6 p. m.

No: 2082

Code: [redacted]

Charged to:

Paraphrase

Following from Lichtheim and Riegner, Geneva, for Dr. Wise, World Jewish Congress, 330 West 42d Street, New York.

It is reliably reported that the German Government is planning to control the economic life of Hungary by establishing a special German administration at Budapest to send foodstuffs and workers to Germany. A special provision is included in these plans for the destruction of 800,000 Jews within six months by concentrating all of them in the three zones which follow: 1) Heath of Zenta; 2) Mohacs marshes; 3) Semendria on the Serbo-Croatian border. The usual preliminary steps, such as registration and the yellow badge, have just been announced. There will follow arrest and deportation under the supervision of German SS guards. The Jews at the three isolated places named above will be dealt with by guards as has been done in Poland.

It is proposed that these plans should be denounced by radio repeatedly and vigorously and that the Jews should be told to seek shelter in all ways conceivable, inside or outside Hungary, or if possible, to join the partisans. The Jews should be warned not to commit the same mistake as the Jews in the Netherlands and Poland but to avoid registration and destroy in time all relevant lists of communities. Hungarian officials and the populace should, at the same time, be encouraged to help the Jews and counteract measures of the Germans.

HARRISON

JKH:mjb:nf
One paraphrase

840.1 JEWS IN HUNGARY

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

C.L.

Bern, April 4, 1944.

Dear Mr. Squire:

Please inform Dr. Riegner that the telegram sent to you with his letter of April 3rd, and received by the Legation this morning, has immediately been transmitted to the Department of State for Dr. Wise.

Sincerely yours,

J. Klahr Huddle,
Counselor of Legation.

Paul C. Squire, Esquire,

American Consul,

Geneva.

JKH/mjb

840.1 JEWS IN HUNGARY

IN REPLY REFER TO
FILE NO. PCS/dh

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
REC'D APR 5 1944
BERN

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AMERICAN CONSULATE

Geneva, Switzerland, April 5, 1944

FIRST PRIORITY

(TD)

Dear Mr. Harrison:

With reference to Mr. Salmanowitz's preliminary inquiry on Monday as to whether in the light of the War Refugee Board you might be willing to receive the representatives of a recently formed Relief Committee composed mainly of Swiss Jews of Hungarian origin and of Hungarian Jews residing in Switzerland, I am now able to submit a memorandum on this subject presented to me by our friend Dr. Gerhart Riegner.

It may be observed that the president of the new Committee is Mr. Michael Banyai, 2 Granitweg, Zurich. Mr. Banyai is said to be a naturalized Swiss of seventeen years' standing and to own an underwear factory. Dr. Reigner and Mr. Richard Lichtheim, whom I believe you already know, are expected to accompany Mr. Banyai and also probably Mr. Braunschweig, president of the Federation of Jewish Communities in Switzerland with headquarters at Zurich.

It is my understanding that a similar audience has been requested from the British Minister.

The gentlemen concerned are prepared to call on you at any day and any hour you may suggest, allowing them of course sufficient time to reach Bern.

While

The Honorable
Leland Harrison,
American Minister,
Bern.

File

RUMANIA IN ITEMS 1-68

While I expect to be absent from Geneva from 10:30 a.m. Thursday, April 6, until the following Tuesday afternoon, any message you may have will of course be passed promptly to those concerned.

With best wishes for a pleasant Easter, I am

Sincerely yours,

Paul C. Squire

Paul C. Squire
American Consul

Enclosure:

"Memorandum concerning the Jews of Hungary"

Incorporated in file of Banyai's organization "Swiss Relief Committee for Jews in Hungary"

Sét à l'Immigration Juifs - Jalons Français

M

C.L

Michael Banyai

ZÜRICH

RICHARD LICHTHEIM

THE JEWISH AGENCY
FOR PALESTINE

GENÈVE
27, QUAI WILSON
TÉL. 2.91.74

GERHART M. RIEGNER
Secrétaire du Congrès Juif Mondial

27, Quai Wilson
Téléph. 2.91.74

Genève

85

Set of Hungarian Jews - False Passports
Palestine Certificates

Not Under File

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

(C.I.) April 7, 1944.

Messrs. Lichtheim, Riegner and Banyai called on the Minister this morning to pay their respects and discuss the situation of persecuted Jews in Axis and Axis-occupied territory.

Their first concern was with the fate of the one million or less Jews who now, they say, face deportation or death in Hungary under the new Nazi regime. They repeated information which either their own organizations or other sources have already provided the Legation on this subject. Dr. Riegner stated, however, that he thought some progress has been made in extricating a few Jews from their precarious situation.

In this connection, the question was raised regarding Jewish children who might possibly escape from Hungary into Switzerland or Turkey. The authority of the American Government for the issue of immigration visas does not extend to Jewish children coming from countries other than France. It was suggested to Dr. Riegner and his colleagues that the question was one which might well be raised by their organizations with the appropriate authorities in Washington. It was likely that the matter would have to be handled specifically. (In this connection, it is observed that quota numbers were not given for persons born in Italy, Hungary, Bulgaria and Rumania.)

During the conversation the problem of Jews discovered in internment camps in France and also Germany, who are provided with false documentation alleging citizenship in South American countries came up. These gentlemen gave no additional information on this particular subject, and it appears that the Legation's advices regarding these persons which have been received from Isaac Sternbuch are more up to date. (I feel that the gentlemen who visited us this morning have never been quite in sympathy with the false documentation process as it was carried on, and that it was done by persons not directly associated with these gentlemen and their organizations, who nevertheless were aware of what was going on.)

NB

It developed that the idea first heard several weeks ago when Dr. Kullmann was in Bern that the primary purpose of this false documentation was to provide a reservoir of Jews for possible exchange with Germans from Allied countries, has taken hold, and according to these gentlemen they would like to put it into practice. They hoped that something could be done with the South American governments whose consular officers have been issuing false passports,

as

JEWS IN HUNGARY 1943

as a result of which the South American Governments would accord some sort of recognition to the victims. It was pointed out to Messrs. Lichtheim, Riegner and Banyai that it was not likely that the persons in question could be recognized as nationals of the countries whose false documentation they held, but a suggestion was made that perhaps some other arrangement, such as promising them a haven when they could be transported away from Europe, might be tried.

This turn of the conversation developed the information from the callers that some time ago the Palestinian Government had evolved a system whereby certificates were issued for a limited number of Jews in Axis or Axis-occupied territory, providing that they would be accorded permanent homes in Palestine. The originals of these certificates were not sent to Germany, but assurance was given that the certificates had been individually issued, and on the basis of this assurance the Germans collected the individuals in question, interned them and treated them with more consideration than other Jewish internees have received. They were held by the Germans, according to statements of our visitors, for exchange against Germans in United Nations territories. Specifically arrangements were on foot to exchange for them a number of Germans from Australia. These arrangements were interfered with by the British Government some time ago when the British objected that they were unable to carry it out because of lack of shipping space.

Messrs. Lichtheim, Riegner and Banyai hoped that the American Minister in Bern could take up this matter and obtain reconsideration by the British, using such means as lay within his power. It was pointed out to them that the authority of the Bern Legation was limited in this respect, and that it was a matter which might be taken up more profitably by the International Committee on Refugees in London, and by the organizations represented by our visitors, both in London and Washington. At the same time, the gentlemen were given to understand that the Legation was humanely interested in the problem.

Assurance was given to the visitors that the Legation was ready at any and all times to be of such assistance to them as lay in its power, but they were requested to conduct as much of their telegraphic correspondence direct with their respective organizations in London and Washington as possible to relieve the strain on the physical facilities of the Legation.

J.K.H.

False Passport Requests

MEMORANDUM

April 8, 1944

File

Mr. Huddle:

Referring to your memorandum covering the visit yesterday of Messrs. Lichtheim, Riegner and Banyai, and in particular to the question of false documentation, mentioned in the fourth paragraph of your memorandum, this morning when calling on the Apostolic Nuncio I referred again to the mention that had been made in one of the letters from Dr. Sternbuch regarding the assistance rendered by Monsignor Bernardini. In reply, he stated that he had received visits from various Jewish delegations and that the matter had been presented to him on the basis of a question of "saving lives". At his suggestion the Vatican had telegraphed instructions to the Nuncio in Madrid to endeavor to obtain from Franco instructions to the Spanish Ambassador in Berlin to lend his protection to the Jews in question. Furthermore, instructions had been sent by the Vatican to various Latin American countries to ask them to recognize these false passports that had been issued by their consular representatives in Europe. Most of them had replied in the sense of non possumus, and one or two, particularly the Cuban Government, had replied that if they should do so it would be contrary to the wishes of the United States Government. I told the Nuncio that I had no information to confirm this. However, he took occasion to express the hope that the American Government might be able to intervene in the matter. Monsignor Bernardini also stated that it was his understanding that none of the South American Governments concerned were prepared to accept these Jews. He suggested that they might be received temporarily in Palestine and that it would perhaps satisfy the South American countries concerned if they were given assurances that they would not be expected to receive these Jews who would be, or were, given false documentation.

What would happen?

I referred to the so-called Palestinian certificates mentioned in our conversation yesterday. The Nuncio apparently was not informed.

Monsignor Bernardini also intimated that he had taken occasion to advise these various Jewish delegations, who seemed to be operating entirely independently of one another, that it would be well for them to get together before they came with suggestions for his intervention on their behalf.

L. H.

Box 1 Jews in Hungary

IN REPLY REFER TO FILE NO. PCS/dh

FORM

THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
APR 12 1944
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BERN

C.I.

AMERICAN CONSULATE

Geneva, Switzerland, April 12, 1944

Dear Mr. Harrison:

As of possible interest in connection with the sad plight of the Jews in Hungary, I am quoting below from a letter written to a local friend by Mr. Géza Pallai of Zurich, a Hungarian Jew who, I believe, is known to the Legation:

"As you may well understand, the information reaching Switzerland is very incomplete. Yet I have been compelled to learn the news of the arrest of several friends and acquaintances principally in important economic circles. It seems that the Gestapo arrived with lists actually prepared in advance and that arrests were carried out during the first 24 hours.

"Officially, the entire Jewish question is left in the hands of the Hungarian authorities. However, the Germans took along with them about 20,000 Hungarians from whom the preceding Hungarian Government had taken the Hungarian nationality, owing to Nazi activities. These persons had taken refuge in Germany, where they were formed into a special school of the Gestapo. These 20,000 persons have been incorporated in the Hungarian police and they are the ones who are holding all the levers of command with the German minority residing in

Hungary

The Honorable
Leland Harrison,
American Minister,
Bern.

840.1 JEWS IN HUNGARY

Hungary which is likewise known for its Nazi sentiments. I am also told that it is no longer a question of deportation, this being too complicated in the actual military situation, and that one has the intention of finishing off the victims on the spot, always under the cover of the Hungarian police."

Sincerely yours,

Paul C. Squire

Paul C. Squire
American Consul

Tel. to Dept. Let. to Huber
4/13 JKH/mjb

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
REC'D APR 13 1944
BERN

C.I.

COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE

AGENCE CENTRALE DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE

Rappeler dans la réponse:

GENÈVE, le 12 avril 1944.
Palais du Conseil-Général

840.1 JEWS IN HUNGARY

Monsieur le Ministre,

Par votre lettre du 29 mars, vous avez bien voulu nous faire part d'un message par lequel le War Refugee Board demande que le Comité international de la Croix-Rouge envoie en Hongrie une délégation qui serait chargée de protéger certaines catégories de populations. Vous avez fait savoir, en outre, que vous seriez heureux de recevoir sur la représentation actuelle et future du Comité international en Hongrie toute information qui pourrait être communiquée au Département d'Etat à l'intention du War Refugee Board.

Nous avons l'honneur de vous indiquer le point de vue du Comité international sur la question qui préoccupe le War Refugee Board, et nous serions heureux si Votre Excellence voulait bien en informer le Département d'Etat de la manière qu'elle jugera appropriée.

Le Comité international se préoccupe précisément depuis quelque temps de renforcer sa délégation à Budapest pour lui donner une plus grande efficacité. Il n'a pas envisagé pour le moment d'envoyer en Hongrie une délégation spéciale chargée d'y assumer la protection particulière visée dans le message du Département

Step B transcript please

Son Excellence
Monsieur Leland HARRISON
Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire
des Etats-Unis
B E R N E

d'Etat, une telle mission pouvant être considérée dans les circonstances actuelles comme exorbitante des attributions conventionnelles et traditionnelles du Comité. Mais le War Refugee Board peut être assuré, comme tous les Gouvernements et les institutions humanitaires des divers Etats belligérants, que, sans s'immiscer dans la politique intérieure d'aucun de ces Etats, le Comité international continuera, comme par le passé, à vouer son entière attention à toutes les catégories des victimes de la guerre. Sur le plan qui lui est propre, il cherchera toujours à intensifier et à étendre son action en faveur de ces victimes dans toute la mesure commandée par les circonstances et selon les moyens qui lui seront accordés.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur le Ministre, les assurances de ma haute considération.

Max Huber

Max HUBER
Président.

Translation of Fabri's letter - essential portions

The International Committee, as a matter of fact, has concerned itself for some time in enlarging its delegation at Budapest in order to give it more ~~influence~~ efficacy. It has not, for the time being, considered the sending to Hungary of a special delegation instructed to assume the particular protection referred to in the message from the Department of State, as such a mission might be considered under present circumstances as unrelated to the conventional and traditional competence of the Committee. But the War Refugee Board may rest assured, as well as all the Governments and humanitarian institutions of the several belligerent States, that without intruding into the domestic policy of any of those States, the International Committee shall continue, as in the past, to devote its entire attention to all categories of war victims. Along its own lines of activities, it shall always attempt to increase and broaden its action in favor of those victims within the full scope which circumstances demand and according to the means placed at its disposal.

C.I.

Bern, April 13, 1944.

My dear Mr. President:

I wish to thank you for your letter of April 12, replying to my communication of March 29 regarding the plans of the International Red Cross as related to Hungary and assistance of persecuted groups in that country. I have not failed to convey the International Committee's comments on the subject to the Department of State for the information of the War Refugee Board.

Sincerely yours,

LH

The Honorable

Max Huber,

President, International

Committee of the Red Cross,

Geneva.

JKH/mjb

Hungary

TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department

Date: April 13, 1944, midnight

No: 2312

Code: [redacted]

Charged to:

Paraphrase

C.I.

Your 1023, March 27.

Under date of April 12, Judge Huber, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, made the following reply to the request conveyed in the Department's telegram under reference:

"As a matter of fact, the ICRC has for some time concerned itself in enlarging its delegation at Budapest in order to give it more efficacy. For the time being, it has not considered sending to Hungary a special delegation instructed to assume the particular protection referred to in the State Department's message, as, under the present circumstances, such a mission might be considered as unrelated to the Committee's conventional and traditional competence. But the War Refugee Board, as well as all the governments and humanitarian institutions of the several belligerent states, may rest assured that, as in the past, the International Committee shall continue to devote its entire attention to all categories of war victims, without intruding into the domestic policy of any of those states. Along its own lines of activities, the Committee shall always attempt to increase and broaden its action in favor of those victims within the full scope which circumstances demand and in accordance with the means placed at its disposition."

HARRISON

840.1 Press in Hungary

JKH:mjb:nf
One paraphrase

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

TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department

Date: April ~~13~~ 14, 1944, 9 am

No: 2320

Code: Brown

Charged to:

SUBJECT: Jewish Situation in Hungary.

Reliable sources here give the following information on recent developments in the Jewish situation in Hungary:

(1) The Hungarian personalities actively carrying out the German influenced anti-Semitic campaign of the Sztojay government are: Imredy, Interior Minister Jaross, his special assistant Laszlo Endre, Interior Undersecretary Laszlo Baky, and Government Commissioner for Intellectual Professions Stefan Kultsar, with Endre and Kultsar in direct charge. The Hungarian military authorities support the program, the army definition of Jew has been made of general application, and the restrictions relating to the use of motor car and telephone, prohibition to travel except on urban transportation facilities, and prohibition to leave Budapest or cross the frontier are enforced as military measures authorized by Hungarian National Defense Act. Other restrictions relating to public and professional activities, yellow star, exclusion from press, radio, theatrical and motion picture enterprises are based on the racial laws of 1939 and 1941, and the program thus finds its legal basis in legislation enacted prior to the accession of the present government.

(2) Kultsar began on April 1 to place pressure on banks and large commercial and industrial enterprises to force them to discharge immediately at least one half of their Jewish personnel with the remainder to be dismissed by September 30. Aryanization of the smaller private enterprises is expected to take some time and to require new legislation. It is to be carried out on the French, Dutch, and Polish models. Establishment of Ghettos in the Polish style or internment centers as in the Protectorate is foreseen but mass deportations eastwards will depend upon military developments.

(3) Jews have been forbidden to leave Budapest despite the official evacuation of the city. However, many are being evicted from their apartments to furnish living quarters for bombed out Hungarians. Those among the 80,000 refugee Jews who seek to return to their original homes

in

840.1 JEWS IN HUNGARY

in Slovakia, Serbia, and Croatia, are not permitted to cross the frontier. It is expected that younger Jews of both sexes will be drafted into military labor battalions for auxiliary service under the direction of the Army. Such service has been required on a relatively small scale during the war years but may now be greatly expanded.

HARRISON

LMH/nog

SZTOJAY

A Főméltóságu Kormányzó Dr Sztójay Döme m. kir. miniszterelnököt az első világháborúban szerzett érdemeiért vitézzé avatta.

Premier Ministre et Ministre des Affaires étrangères: Dôme SZTOJAY (auparavant Domislaw Stoinkovitch) d'origine croate. Ne parle pas correctement le hongrois. A Berlin depuis 1925, d'abord comme Attaché militaire, puis comme Ministre. Grand administrateur du nazisme.

BARDOSSY

rdossy László szombathelyi és kőszegi útja során meglátogatott egy továbbképző tanfolyamot.

Bárdossy László ny. miniszterelnök, Szombathely és a kőszegi választókerület képviselőjelöltje mindkét városban programbeszédet tartott. Képünk: Bárdossy László Szombathelyen beszédét mondja.

CHURCH

Gröer József kalocsai érsek a kalocsai hadikórház júniális ünnepségén a sebesült katonákkal beszélget.

JAROSS

Vitéz Jaross Andor belügyminiszter rádióbeszédet tartott Szent László király nemzetpolitikai jelentőségéről.

Vitéz Jaross Andor belügyminiszter az amerikai magyarokhoz rádiószózatot mondott a budapesti rádióban. (M.F.I.)

Vitéz Jaross Andor belügyminiszter háromnapos körutat tett a Székelyföldön, hogy a helyszínen tájékozódjék a délkeletmagyarországi időszerű kormányzati kérdésekről. Képünk: a belügyminiszter körútja során Székelyudvarhelyt mond beszédet. —

Intérieur: André JAROSS, autrefois chef de l'Association des étudiants des universités hongroises en Tchécoslovaquie. Opinions de droite notoires (Lire sa déclaration sur la dissolution des partis progressistes "Mars" dans le Pester Lloyd, 29.3.44, Morganblatt).

ENDRE, Laszlo

Vitéz Endre László államtitkár rádióelőadást tartott a zsidókérdésről.

Ladislas ENDRE , auparavant haut-fonctionnaire à l'administration regionale de Pest, fut appelé au Ministère de l'Intérieur à peu près en même temps que BAKY et fut chargé d'une "besogne spéciale". Il souligna qu'il ne ferait pas de déclaration sur sa "mission "; il préférait résoudre sa tâche aussi vite que possible (Pester Lloyd, 30.3.44. Morgenblatt) (Sa nomination officielle, Pester Lloyd 12.4.44, Morgenblatt). Il accuse les Juifs d'être responsable de "Trianon" (UJ MAGYARSÁG, 1.4.44). Anti-sémite notoire, il publia il y a quelques années un livre (A ZSIDOKROL) dans lequel il attribue tout les malheurs de ce monde aux Juifs et affirme entr'autre qu 'ils pratiquent le meurtre rituel et que les Protocoles des Sages de Sion n'étaient pas falsifiés.(Biographies dans UJ MAGYARSÁG, 12.4.44).

KUNDER.

Kunder Antal kereskedelem- és közlekedésügyi miniszter az „1919 Júniusi Bajtársak Szövetségének" ünnepélyén emlékbeszédet mondott.

Les Ministres des Finances et du Commerce: Louis REMENYI-SCHNELLER et Antoine KUNDER (1) respectivement sont d'origine allemande. Le premier a été ministre depuis 1937. Le dernier parut en scène sous Bárdossy, et après une courte disparition sous Kallay a maintenant fait une brillante rentrée.

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(1) Lire son discours dans Pester Lloyd, 24.3.44. Abendblatt.

JMREDY

Felül: Imrédy Béla beszél a lobogókkal díszített emelvényen. — Alul: Kép a zsúfolásig telt Tattersall épülete (Oerlly felv.)

Vitéz Imrédy Béla a Keleti Arcvonal Bajtársi Szövetségének nagytáborozásán, a budapesti Tattersallban hatalmas beszédben ismertette a keleti háború kitörésének évfordulóján a magyar politika célkitűzéseit.

A diztáborozáson vitéz Szójay Dóme miniszterelnök vezetésével a kormány több tagja, valamint a magyar közélet számos vezető személyisége résztvett. Képünk: a megjelent előkelőségek a hallgatóság élén sorban.

VÖRÖS

Vitéz Nemes Vörös János vezérezredes, a honvédvezérkar főnöke, a Honvédnap keretében rádióbeszédet intézett a honvédséghez.

Stephen VÖRÖS a été nommé Chef de l'Etat -Major en place de SZOMBATHELYI-KNAUSER , pro-allemand notoire également.

Pictures from Hungarian Ghettoes.

Picture above

Shows the terrific hygienmic conditions

Middle

Two Jewish women with Yellow Stars go to buy food. (Concentration camp near to Budapest.)

Below

Jews of the capital, 400.000, live in specially assigned houses. Discriminatory mark of these houses.

The Inscription: "Jewish quarter. It is forbidden to Christians to enter."

(SE - Stockholm. July 13/20, No. 29.)

APPORTERAR FRÅN FRONTERNA

På detta sätt tvingas judarna att leva bakom de nya ghettonas taggtråd. En fruktansvärd trängsel medför otidliga hygieniska förhållanden.

Kung Gustaf vädjade i 'mänsklighetens namn'

Ungern levde ostört av kriget till den 19 mars, men i och med den tyska ockupationen infördes de mest drastiska metoder av känt nazistiskt märke — i form av judeförföljelser och massarresteringar. Under tiden bombarderas Ungern häftigt av de allierade. Dessa bilder är de första som utsmugglats från Ungerns ghetton. Den svenska konungen har i »mänsklighetens namn» vädjat om humanitet i behandlingen av judarna.

Ovan: två judiska mödrar med Davidsstjärnan på brystet på väg till matkön vid koncentrationslägret för judar utanför Budapest. Under t. v.: Ghettona räcker inte till för de 400,000 judarna och särskilda med stjärnan föreskrivna fallfärdiga hus har evakuerats för dem. Under t. h.: »Till träde förbjudet för kristna», står det på skylten.

Keresztleveleket!

Valami rejtélyes úton az a hír terjedt el a budapesti zsidók között, hogy akik július közepéig kikeresztelkednek, azokat mentesítik a zsidótörvény hatálya alól... Az elsuttogott jótanácsra hisztériás lázba verte a jobbmódú hebereket s megindult a dühödt roham a plébániák ellen. Vad jelenetek zajlottak le az utcán. Izrael népe ürlapok után kiáltott s valóban megkezdődött egyes helyeken a jelentkezési lvek kiosztása, amelyeket a keresztségre vágyó zsidók, csak úgy a kapu alatt százával töltötték ki s adták át a plébániai alkalmazottaknak. Elképzelhető, hogy milyen „mélységes" vallásos érzés hajtotta a zsinagóga hívait a keresztény templomok felé!... A hit kigúnyolása volt ez a szégyenletes roham, amely csak elkeseredést és undort válthatott ki az igazi keresztényekből! Elég volt ebből a nemtelen játékból. Remeljük, hogy az ilyen botrányos jeleneteket nem engedik meg többé a rendet biztosító hatóságok!...

7. AZ EGYHÁZFI BESZEDI A JELENTKEZŐ LAPOKAT. Az egyik zsidónak, már kimenőcsíkja (szalagcsíkos) ruhában néz a bemutatott igazi keresztségre...

8. 9. 10. AZ ÚJ KERESZTÉNYJELÖLTEK... Háromszáz, a számítása és a kipakolása szerint valóban, az utolsó résztvevőjéig bezárólag, — vagy elkerülik azokat a kávéházakban, a sínen annyi keresztelőt szeretnék lemosatni róluk a bolygó zsidók erős, kiszáló fajt jellegét!...

TELEGRAM SENT

TO

To: Department

Date: April 20, 1944.

No.: 2505

Charged to:

Code: En Clair-PRESS

SUBJECT: Anti-Jewish Measures in Hungary.

Budapest press sixteenth reports government decree requiring (1) registration all Jewish property including real estate valued more than 10,000 pengoes and all luxury articles including rugs, silverware, art objects with any transactions therein subsequent March 22 void except customary commercial transactions Jewish firms, (2) delivery by Jews to specified financial institutions all precious metals, currency and securities in their possession and blocking their vaults and bank accounts from which only 1,000 pengoes monthly withdrawable, (3) blocking all commodities and raw materials of Jewish enterprises and appointment if desirable government administrators for Jewish firms and firms with one Jewish member. Non-compliance decree punishable by imprisonment and confiscation property. Press comments measure will provide basis for evaluation Jewish property, and abolition inequality distribution Hungarian national wealth crushing black market speculation.

HARRISON

LMH/jmg

Copy to LMH

(2 copies to AI)

TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department

Date: April 21, 1944., 3 pm.

No.: 2550

Code: BROWN

Charged to:

SUBJECT: Jewish Situation in Hungary.

My telegram No. 2320 of April 14, 9 am.

It is reported from Budapest that Hungarian Jewish Commissioner Endre declared there April 18 that while Jews are not now to be concentrated into a ghetto they will be accomodated in districts where quote terroristic aviation attacks are to be expected unquote. Hungarian press early in April announced the evacuation of residential quarters in the exposed factory and other districts of the capital and its suburbs. Endre's statement which has been publicized in the German press apparently refers to such areas and is intended to make propaganda use of the some 400,000 Jews now resident in the Hungarian capital.

HARRISON

LMH/jmg

Copy to LMH and M.A.

840.1 JEWS IN HUNGARY

TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department

Date: April 24, 1944.

No.: 2800

Code; Mn Clair-PRESS

Charged to:

SUBJECT: Jewish Situation in Hungary.

Budapest despatches 20-21 report decree creating Union of Hungarian Jews to contain all Jews required wear yellow star and appointment by Jaross provisional Jewish committee nine members to organize Union on country-wide basis. Central Council Jews on Warsaw-Bucharest model under Presidency Samuel Stern already active at Budapest on evacuation and resettlement measures. Numerous Jews reportedly now being settled near factories and railway installations and several city districts including region around Dob-Ucca designated for residence exclusively by Jews in ghetto style.

HARRISON

LMH/jmg

Copy to LMH

840.1 JEWS IN HUNGARY

Draft outline

April 30, 1944.

A. Information on the situation of Jews, Poles and other persecuted people in Hungary

I. Before March 20th, 1944.
II. After March 20th, 1944.

Schedule:

To make available documentation contained by Hungarian and foreign newspapers and other publications.

To get inside informations through other channels: pouch, travellers, underground channels.

B. Measures susceptible to carry out the policy of the WRB in Hungary

I. To help people "Surplace"

("to afford such victims all possible relief and assistance consistent with the successful prosecution of the war")

a Financial help (private clearing; to convert debts etc.)
b Material assistance (food parcels; cloths; medicaments etc.)
c Legal means (forged passports; certificates of nationality etc. intervention on the basis of international law as far as there is any such basis) (Control of camps etc.)
d Psychologic means
(warnings through wireless; dropping leaflets from airplanes etc.
Bases: Statements of Richard Law (1-3-44) Eden (30-3-44); Roosevelt(24-3-44):
"Not to persecute, but help, possibly hide".

Schedule:

a. Conseil oecum.; private businessmen; Jewish organisations; WRB
b. Mixed Commission of the International Red Cross (M.de Schwarzenberg)
c. Latin American Consulates (Slavador; Paraguay etc.) Mr. Madon — International Red Cross — Switzerland - Nuncio -
d. Mr. Dulles - Mr. Mayer - BBC - Moscow - RAF and ~~XXX~~ USAF in Bar

II. "To take all measures in within its power to rescue the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death"

a. Legally: Palestine Certificates (good offices of M.B. with the Roumanian and Bulgarian Ministers ~~in Berne~~)

a.(cont.) Precedent: Roumanian Jews - Turkey [Ira H. Ankara)

Switzerland: Prominent non-Jewish elements - to pay Germans (?)

Illegally

b. Tito - Switzerland - other countries

Channels: Partisans - Mr. Dulles -

MNFP - Communist Party - Austrian Resistance movement - etc.

LH.

A CONCISE SURVEY OF THE SITUATION OF HUNGARIAN JEWS:

No. 1

WRB

Geneva, 30th April 1944.

Contents

I. The Situation from

A) 1920 to 1938 pp. 2 to 7
B) 1938 to 1943 pp. 8 to 12

II. Anti-Semitic Decrees and Persecution since the German Occupation (20th March 1944) pp. 12 to 16

III. Personalities in Key Position since that Date. pp. 17 to 22.

This report is compiled in an exceedingly short space of time, and the data for the period between 1920 to 1943 are comparatively scarce. This circumstance may, at least partly, account for the shortcomings of the present survey.

The purpose of this short review being the enumeration of hard and fast facts, no particularly critical attitude is taken, e.g. the reporter has refrained from going into the underlying motives, the deep-rooted social, economic, etc. causes of the Anti-Semitic policy of successive Hungarian governments from 1920 up to this day. Such considerations will be limited to what is strictly necessary.

Chapter 1.A. will be longer than it was planned first. This is due to the fact that an almost 20 years' evolution is at the basis of what is happening now in Hungary and that Chapter 1.A. is crammed with statistical data which are likely to give useful indications for one who examines the present situation.

1.A) THE SITUATION FROM 1920 to 1938.

It is a long-standing and time-honoured policy of reactionary governments to use "the Jew" as a scapegoat and to exploit latent emotions, prejudices, tendencies by singling out a group of the population, perhaps not quite assimilated and, in some cases, of "divided loyalty", as being guilty of revolutionary propaganda and of capitalistic robbery. Anti-Semitism, under certain circumstances, can be made a keystone of government policy : Jews are then accused of being bent on Marxian revolutionarism and having a capitalist stranglehold on world economy at the same time. Such a campaign, unreasonable as it may seem, is likely to score a success if conditions form a suitable background for reactionary agitation.

In addition to the general economic depression which followed the Great War of 1914-18 and the Treaty of Trianon provoking a feeling of frustration and embitterment, the situation in Hungary became even more aggravated by the class struggle within the country. The White Terror followed hot foot a shortlived Soviet Republic (1919). When Nicholas HORTHY brought down the dictatorship of Béla KUN, he declared that he regards it as his task to purge Hungary from elements which are "foreign to the race" (AUFBAU, Zurich, 18.2.44). A period of pogroms, terror, conflicts and strife had set in. The "Awakening Magyars" (Ébredő Magyarok), in particular, began a wave of mass assassinations. Radical nationalist groups were given tacit support by the more "respectable" elements of the upper and middle classes, as well as by the Horthy regime, especially by General GOEMBOES*), founder of the MOVE ("Association for the Protection of Hungary").

After the country had attained some stability, the problem of the landless peasantry and the town proletariat still remained unsolved. The reactionary governments and parties found it to their advantage to direct social dissatisfaction into anti-Jewish and revisionist-chauvinist channels, as convenient methods of maintaining the status quo. The fact that the HORTY regime did not turn threat into reality, can be ascribed to the following circumstances :

1. At that time, campaigns of terror were not pursued as relentlessly and as systematically as nowadays.

2. Complete elimination of Jews of Hungarian life would have meant economic chaos at the time.

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*) Later Minister of War and Prime Minister.

3. The existence of close ties between Jewish financial aristocracy and Aryan nobility.

4. Often, the Hungarian Jews living in the towns of the successor States (Roumania, resp. Transylvania, Yugoslavia,etc:) have been adherents of Hungarian revisionism.

5. Outright elimination would have made a bad impression in the U.S.A., Britain, etc., etc. countries where revisionist claims have met with some sympathy.

A law was passed, however, in Hungary, in September 1920 which provided that on Hungarian universities the number of Jewish students be limited to 6% of the student body. This restriction was officially abolished under the pressure of the League of Nations by a law of February, 1928. Instead, the government instituted preferential admissions for different categories, such as children of government officials, of war veterans, etc., thus "legally" restricting the number of Jewish students on the universities.

Beside these measures, the authorities gave their backing to Jew-baiting on the universities. The civil service, the administration, the army were, to all intents and purposes, purged of Jews. In everyday life, all kinds of "chicaneries" have not been a rare phenomenon. The equality before the law of Jews were merely formal. The latent anti-Semitism was an evil foreboding of things to come.

Yet, on the whole, religious freedom was safeguarded, and Jews went about their business comparatively undisturbed. Their unequal distribution in different economic fields, their concentration in certain professions, provided even for welcome propaganda material in the hands of the reactionaries. This

brings us to the inevitable statistical data.

Year	Whole population of Hungary.	Proportion of Jews.	Percentage.
1920	7,990,202.	473,355	5,9
1930	8,688,319	444,567	5,1

(These figures refer to Trianon Hungary and are taken from the MAGYAR TAJÉKOZTATÓ ZSEBKÖNYV, Budapest, 1943, p. 472.)

For the sake of comparison, let us see the figures for the Hungary of 1941 (MAGYAR STATISZTIKAI ZSEBKÖNYV, Vol.XI, 1942, p.66) :

Year	Whole population of Hungary.	Jews.	Percentage.
1941	14,679,573	724,326	4,9

Note the decrease in the percentage of Jews. It should be mentioned here that the denomination "Jew" does not extend, in Hungarian statistics, to baptized Jews, but only to people of Jewish faith. Officially, up to 1944, Jews were not outright considered a "race", but a "group"; before 1938, only a "religion"; never a "nationality" or a "minority". On conservative estimates, there are about a million Jews in presentday Hungary, if the figure is to comprise those who fall under the restrictive provisions of post-1938 legislation.

Only about 130,000 Jews in Hungary regard Yiddish or Hebrew as their mother tongue. (MAGYAR STATISZTIKAIZSEBKONYV, vol. XI, 1942, p. 66). They are concentrated in Ruthenia. The overwhelming majority of the rest are of Hungarian mother tongue. The general degree of assimilation of Hungarian Jews is very high.

The birth-rate of Hungarian Jews has for long been on the decline.

About 250,000 Jews live in Budapest, making about 1/3 of the total of Hungarian Jews (in the nineteenthirties this proportion was 45%) and 20% of the population of the capital. (Other towns : MISKOLC 11,000, DEBRECEN 11,000, SZEGED 6,000, GYOER 6,000 etc. etc.. according to "Situation économique des Juifs dans le monde", Congrès Juif Mondial, Paris 1938. p.126).

This brings us to the occupational division of the Jewish population :

In Budapest in 1935 :

1.8 %	of	the	civil servants
2.4 %	"	"	town and country officials
2.5 %	"	"	prosecutors and judges
52.1 %	"	"	lawyers
45.8 %	"	"	student employees in lawyers' offices
38.8 %	"	"	physicians (doctors)
26.9 %	"		chemists (apothecary)
35.4 %	"	"	veterinary surgeons
35.3 %	"	"	journalists (*)
26,7 %	"	"	actors and actresses
38.4 %	"	"	private engineers

were non-baptized Jews.

In Hungary, in 1930 :

40 % of all the owners, employers, employees and staff in trade, finance, credit and insurance were non-baptized Jews (45.6 % of owners and employers, 47.6 % of employees, 29.1 % of assistant staff). (MAGYAR TAJTKOZTATÓ ZSEBKONYV, Budapest 1943. pp. 473-4).

It is clear that the Jews represent a large part of the middle classes. The "national" middle strata are only in the process of formation.

Only 4.15 % agricultural land and forests belonged to

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*) very evenly distributed between newspapers of various political currents.

Jews who constituted 0.28% of the agricultural population. ("Situation économique des Juifs dans le monde",Congrès Juif mondial, Paris 1938. p. 127). (Please consult this book (pp. 125-142) for other statistical data, should the necessity arise).

In industrial training schools, the proportion of Jews fluctuated between 5.5 - 7 % ("Situation économique....)

Note the decrease in the proportion of Jewish students (figures meaning, as always, non-baptized only) on Hungarian universities : (MAGYAR TÁJÉKOZTATÓ ZSEBKÖNYV, Budapest, 1943. p. 473).

Departments	1917/18	1920/21	1930/31	1935/36	
Law	21	10.8	11.4	7.4 %	of all the students were Jews.
Medecine	51.6	22.1	14.3	14.2 %	
Letters	20.5	5.8	10.1	9.1 %	
Apothecary	34	8.8	10.6	5.8 %	
Sciences, polytech.	37.1	7.4	10.7	11.9 %	
	34	12.6	10.5	8.3 %	"

A last point concerning Jewish immigration into Hungary : in 1935, among 1990 foreigners applying for a permit of settlement there were but 104 Jews ("Situation économique....).

P.S. to this chapter : The book of Jakob LESTSCHINSKY : Das jüdische Volk im neuen Europa, Prague, 1934. supplies interesting data on the situation, especially p. 26.

I.B.) THE SITUATION FROM 1938 to 1943.

The position just described provided a favourable ground for the extension of anti-Semitism on legislative and other lines. Hitler's rise to power greatly strengthened reactionary tendencies in Hungary. Under the impulse of the "Anschluss" (March 1938), the Hungarian government of Koloman DARÁNYI took the initiative in pushing through anti-Jewish legislation. One of the motivations was that "the wind ought to be taken out of the sails of a Nazi revolution" the actions of which "should be forestalled by appropriate legislative measures". "Anti-Jewish legislation means no humiliation to the Jews", - authoritative circles proclaimed. Nevertheless, Jew-baiting, anti-Semitic agitation was fostered and continued unabated in politics, public life, in newspapers, articles, cartoons, etc.. subsidized by the governments of DARÁNYI, IMRÉDY, TELEKI, BÁRDOSSY, KÁLLAY - not to speak about the Nazi dailies. Only TELEKI tried to stem the rot that had set in and it was said that he confirmed but most reluctantly the Second. Anti-Jewish Law (4.5.1939), introduced as a bill by the IMRÉDY Government.

Let us enumerate the anti-Jewish laws and decrees enacted between 1938 and 1943.

Bernard Dov WEINRYB writes in his pamphlet entitled : Jewish Emancipation under Attack" (The American-Jewish Committee, New York, 1942. pp. 69-70) : "The Law for the more efficient protection of the social and economic Balance, known better as the first Jewish Law, was introduced by the government before the Parliament on April 8, 1938. It was passed by the Lower House on May 13, and by the Senate on May 24. It became effective on June 28. This law ordered for Jews a numerus clausus of 20%

for industrial, commercial and banking enterprises employing ten or more salaried employees, to be attained by June 30, 1943 (in special cases, by June 30, 1948). Similar restrictions, to take effect gradually, were also introduced into the medical, legal, and engineering professions, as well as in the commercial and industrial occupations. In the motion picture, theatrical and journalist professions the numerus clausus of 20 % was to come into effect immediately. Jews who were baptized before August, 1919, war veterans and their children were exempted from these restrictions. (*)

On May 4, 1939 the Second anti-Jewish Law was passed. It was officially called "The Law to restrict Jewish participation in public and economic life". It further restricted the number of Jews in the professions and economic life, in some cases excluding them entirely and in others, reducing the percentage (12-15%) allowed by the First Law. Rights of the priviledged groups such as the front fighters were also reduced. The quota in the liberal professions was fixed at 6 %, and in commercial and industrial enterprises at 12 %. Jews were to be immediately discharged from all civil service positions and eliminated from places of importance in the press, the theatre and the motion pictures by the end of 1939. Jews naturalized after July 1, 1914 were deprived of their citizenship. The law also provided for the expropriation of Jewish land-holdings and real estate. The time limit for the enforcement of all other restrictions was reduced to five years"(**)

(*) For the full text of this Law (1938: XII) one has to consult temporary newspapers (Jewish Lloyd), as WEINRYB does not publish the full text of this law.
(**) For the full text of the law of 4.5.1939 (alias 1939 :IV see WEINRYB, op. cit.pp. 70-80.

After the period of official restrictions (represented by the first two anti-Jewish Laws), the stage of outright racial discrimination was reached in August 1941 when "The Law for the Protection of the Race" was passed. This forbid marriage or extra-marital relations between "Jews" (extending this notion to those hitherto left unscathed) and "non-Jews".

Step by step, Jews have been excluded from economic and public life, by means of ministerial decrees and other orders(*):

1940 : Dismissal of Jewish war veterans from the postal administration;

1940 : Jews are not to obtain drivers's licences, concessions for chemists'shops, wireless shops, etc.

1940 : Jews not to receive sugar rations in the town of SZEGED ;

1940 : 35,000 Jews deprived of their trade licences in UNGVAR and MUNKACS (Ruthenia) ;

1940 : 49 "non-Aryan" members of the Budapest Opera given notice ;

1940 : Two M.P.s deprived of their mandates, on account of Jewish descent ;

1940 : Flogging introduced as a punishment for Jews in Ruthenia ;

1941 : In Northern Transylvania, Jews are deprived of licences for trade and industry ;

1941 : 80,000 Budapest Jews arbitrarily deprived of their right to vote.

Let us mention further important legislative measures : by the law 1942 : XIV Jews were enrolled into Auxiliary Service Units on the Eastern Front (this was an extension of the Labour Camp system called to absorb the young Jewish threatened in their existence and proletarianized under the impact of the

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(*) . Read AUFBAU, Zurich, 18.2.44.

anti-Jewish laws). They have often been subject to outrageous treatment; they have been granted but primitive winter equipment and the death-rate was exceedingly high in their ranks.

The law 1942 : XV (a supplement to the law 1940 : IV) provided for the expropriation of agricultural land and forests in Jewish hands. It was very timidly that the government set about it, for they were afraid of bringing thus to the foreground the issue of large-scale agricultural reform. Still, under the two anti-Jewish agricultural laws (1940 : IV, 1942 : XV), out of 1,300,000 "Katasterjoch" Jewish agricultural and forest property some 400,000 "Katasterjoch" have been expropriated till the end of 1942. (MAGYAR TÁJÉKOZTATÓ ZSEBKÖNYV, p. 361).

According to the same official source (M.T.Z.S. p. 361), war-time managed economy greatly furthered the elimination of Jews from economic life, as "allocation of goods depends on the Government."

Religious freedom has been, by and large, respected. (A few small-scale attacks on synagogues have been committed by full-blown Nazi elements). Jews could walk about freely, on principle; cafés, cinémas, swimming pools were open to them. They suffered "only" marriage, employment and ration-card restrictions.....

As a face saving device, some Jews from Slovakia, Poland, etc. have been granted refuge in Hungary by the Kallay-government. (AUFBAU, Zurich, 18.2.44. p. 53). Great play was made with this fact while the real position of Hungarian Jews was veiled in the smokescreen of euphemistic propaganda. The men who have spread it, have retired on March 20, 1944 and their double-dealing gave place to the all-out, militant anti-Semi-

tiem of their even more reactionary successors.

II. ANTI-SEMITIC DECREES AND PERSECUTION SINCE GERMAN OCCUPATION (20th March, 1944).

The Germans have motivated the occupation of Hungary, inter alia, with the will to "liquidate the Jewish question in Hungary once and for all", as "the one million Jews in the back of the Balkan front constitute a heavy menace to the security of the Wehrmacht". (For this assertion of a somewhat tragi-comical nature, see all Swiss papers, 23-24.3.44).

Tribune de Genève (26.3.44) had it from Reuter that the Germans will demand the promulgation of new anti-Jewish decrees in Hungary.

As a forerunner of this to come the Hungarian Chamber of Lawyers demanded, in a memorandum, the introduction of the numerus nullus (Pester Lloyd, 31.3.44).

UJ MAGYARSÁG, a government newspaper expressed satisfaction about the fact that the Jewish question in Hungary will be liquidated at once and for all. (24.3.44).

On the same day, George SCHROE ER, correspondent of a German news agency writes: "Slovak political circles are glad that more than a million Jews living in Hungary will be eliminated from the political and economic field". (Gazette de Lausanne, 24.3.44).

"The Times" wrote on 27.3.44. : "It is stated... that 10,000 Jews have already been arrested and that plans are being made to round up the rest. There are 1,000,000 Jews in the country and they face persecution of the most savage kind.

The same fate threatens the 15,000 Poles who found a refuge in Hungary after the end of military resistance in 1939. President Roosevelt's pledge that the German authors and their Hungarian, Roumanian and other accomplices will be brought to account and his appeal to the free peoples to open their frontiers to the refugees are timely." My underlinings.)

Gazette de Lausanne and Tribune de Genève of 30.3.44. reported numerous suicides in the ranks of the Jewish population of Budapest, the arrest of the chief rabbi and of Leo Goldberger, great industrialist. Basler Nachrichten completed this information by writing about the deportation to Germany of other leading Jewish personalities. (A. Weiss, MADARASSY-BECK, etc.).

Israelitisches Wochenblatt, Zurich, of April 14.4.44. writes about deportation and suicides. The Gestapo has put thousands of Jews into concentration camps. Those who are deported are not allowed to take with them but 10 Kilos of luggage and 100 Pengö. It is also alleged that many Hungarian Jews have escaped and rallied to the troops of Marshal Tito in Yugoslavia.

A cabinet meeting in Budapest, called to promulgate new anti-Jewish measures, is reported by Gazette de Lausanne (30.3.44). About its results read Neue Zürcher Zeitung (3.4.44/572) and La Suisse (1.4.44).

Let us enumerate the anti-Jewish decrees issued so far (the notion "Jew" is interpreted on ground of the law 1941 :XV) (Read also N.Z.Z. 3.4.44/572).

1) According to decree 1240 : 1944 ME, Jews have to wear the yellow star from the 5th April 1944. (Full wording : Pes-

ter Lloyd, 31.3.44, Morgenblatt). Supplements and instruction to this decree have been fully published in Pester Lloyd, 5.4.44. Morgenblatt.

UJ MAGYARSÁG of 6.4.44. brings a long report, gleeing with pleasure about what is called the "premier of the Jewish star".

MAGYARORSZÁG of 11.4.44. published details about the place where the Jewish star has to be worn. (Full text also in Pester Lloyd, 12.4.44, Morgenblatt : "Das Tragen des gelben Sterns wird streng kontrolliert".)

UJ MAGYARSÁG of 9.4.44. published a list of people on whom heavy fines (ranging from 1000 to 4000 Pengö) have been imposed for not having worn the Jewish star or not having worn it in conformity with regulations.

2) Jews will have to be cancelled from the list of the Chamber of Lawyers, of the Press, of Actors and Film till the 31st May 1944 latest. They must be purged of State, town, country and public institutions. (Decrees 1210, 1220/1944 ME. Pester Lloyd, 31.3.44, Morgenblatt (*)).

3) Jews are to declare immediately full data about vehicles in their possession (Pester Lloyd, 31.3.44, Morgenblatt) (120/1944,ME).

4) Jews have to declare immediately full data about their telephones (OMKS, 1.4.44.) (I.140/1944 ME).

(*) In the Press Chamber, the proportion of Jews was 3,43 % hitherto, instead of 6 % allowed by the law 1939 : IV (Pester Lloyd, 1.4.44, Morgenblatt). UJ MAGYARSÁG published a list of the members cancelled from the lists of the Chambers of Actors and Film (2.4.44.). Again UJ MAGYARSÁG (4.4.44.) writes about a resolution of the National Medical Chamber demanding the numerus nullus. The Operahouse and theatres in Szeged dismissed their Jewish members too. (UJ MAGYARSÁG 7.4.44).

5) Jews can have no "Aryan" servants. (UJ MAGYARSÁG, 31.3.44 and La Suisse 1.4.44). (1200/1944 ME).

6) Jews must not wear military uniforms (Pester Lloyd, 5.4.44). (26.666/ME. 1944 HM).

7) The use of private automobiles, motocycles, taxis, buses, trains and ships is prohibited to Jews (Pester Lloyd, 6.4.44. Morgenblatt).

8) Jews are prohibited to have wirelesses or wireless licences (Pester Lloyd, 8.4.44, UJ MAGYARSÁG, 8.4.44) (1300/1944. ME).

9) Pharmacy licences are withdrawn from Jews. (Pester Lloyd, 14.4.44.) (1370/1944. ME).

10) Fortunes of Jews are to be announced and blocked (shares, buildings, cash, etc.) (Pester Lloyd, 16.4.44. Morgenblatt*).

11) Jewish shops are to be closed immediately. (Neue Zürcher Zeitung, 22.4.44/679, Gazette de Lausanne, 27.4.44).

12) In private enterprises, Jews are to be eliminated till the 30.9.44. (Israelitisches Wochenblatt, Zurich, 21.4.44.), half of them immediately (UJ MAGYARSÁG, 31.3.44.); of this half, 50 % again can be retained till 31.5.44. (MAGYARORSZÁG, 11.4.44. SZABADSÁG, 13.5.44.), UJ VILÁG, 6.4.44. publishes an article about the "Aryanisation of whole Sale Trade.

13) Jewish children are not evacuated from Budapest; flats

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*) UJ MAGYARSÁG hinted to this step on 5.4.44 when distinguishing between what is called "honest profit" on the one hand and "trickery" on the other. It announced at the same time the intention of the government to do away with the "Strohmann" system ("Aryan" cat's paws to cover Jewish property and employment, system very much in vogue since 1939).

of Jews, however, must be put to the disposal of families who have suffered by bombing. (Israelitisches Wochenblatt, 21.4.44.).

The Zionist Association has been dissolved. (Israelitisches Wochenblatt, Zurich, 21.4.44.). On the other hand, a Central Council for Jews has been set up by the Hungarian government which will negociate with that body made responsible for the conduct of Jews; it has (and through it, naturally the government has) full powers over Hungarian Jews and can dispose of the "intellectual, material and labour forces" (MAGYARORSZÁG, 8.4.44.).

Anti-Jewish campaign in papers goes on more than ever. UJ MAGYARSÁG wrote on 1.4.44. that the decrees issued just now are but a beginning, showing Hungary the way. The same paper publishes (7.4.44.) the memorandum to the Kallay government of the Imrédy-party (February 1944), accusing the Jews with "destructive work". Rude cartoons and accusations of ritual murder (concerning the past, of course; see UJ MAGYARSÁG, 5.4.44. critique of L. MARSCHALKO's book on TISZA-ESZLÁR) are on the order of the day. UJ MAGYARSÁG (15.4.44) appeals to the sense of duty of every Hungarian to denounce Jews who infringe the new regulations.

According to Gazette de Lausanne of 27.4.44. (the D.N.B. is indicated as source!) 300,000 Hungarian Jews, chiefly of N.E. Hungary and Transylvania, have been put into concentration camps so far.

III. PERSONALITIES IN KEY POSITIONS SINCE 20th MARCH 1944.

1. Government.

(For biographies of members of the Government, see also "Gazette de Hongrie", 25.3.44.).

Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs : Döme SZTÓJAY (formerly Domislaw Stoiakovitch) of Croat origin. Speaks imperfect Hungarian. Since 1925 in Berlin, first as Military Attaché, then as Minister. Great admirer of Nazism.

Vice-Premier ; Eugene RÁTZ, member of the Imredy Party ("National Socialist Alliance of Hungarian Renewal").

Home Affairs : Andrew JAROSS. Once Leader of the Hungarian university students association in Czechoslovakia. Notorious right-wing views. (Read his statement on dissolution of "Martian" parties in Pester Lloyd, 29.3.44, Morgenblatt).

Justice and Education : Stephen ANTAL, "the Hungarian Goebbels". Right-hand man of late Premier GOEMBOES. Notorious Fascist and anti-Semite, Great rôle in Governments since 1939, as Minister of Propaganda.

War Minister : Louis CSATAY (formerly TUTZENTHALLER).Comes from the "Swabian line"and Germanophile wing of Hungarian Officers.

The Ministers of Finance and of Commerce (Louis REMÉNYI-SCHNELLER and Anthony KUNDER (*) respectively) are of German origin. The former has been Minister since 1937. The later came to the surface under Bárdossy, and after a short eclipse under Kállay, has staged a triumphant come-back now.

(*) Read speech in Pester Lloyd, 24.3.44. Abendblatt.

The Ministers of Supply and Industry and of Agriculture (Louis SZÁSZ and BÉLA JURCSEK respectively) are not new men either. They are well known for their counter-revolutionary views.

MAGYARORSZÁG writes (28.3.44.) that Hungary is looking ahead to a glorious age of reforms. It considers that the government fulfils the programme of the late GOEMBOES.

2. Newly appointed Under Secretaries of State.

Home Affairs : Ladislas BAKY, (appointed 27.3.44.), formerly captain of the County Police, notorious anti-Jew and anti-Democrat. In a statement (Pester Lloyd, 30.3.44.Morgenblatt): he declared that he makes his position dependent on a speedy elimination of Jewish and left-wing elements. He initiated the amnesty given by Horthy to Nazis hitherto detained on political charges, by lifting the ban on some of their chiefs and on their assemblies.

Ladislas ENDRE, formerly high official of the County of Pest, was called to the Ministry for Home Affairs almost together with BAKY, and was given a "special assignment". He pointed out that he will not give a statement on this "mission", but rather solve his task as soon as possible. (Pester Lloyd, 30.3.44. Morgenblatt). (his official appointment :Pester Lloyd, 12.4.44. Morgenblatt). He accuses the Jews being guilty of "Trianon" (UJ MAGYARSÁG, 1.4.44.) A notorious anti-Semite, he has published a book a few years ago (A ZSIDOKROL) in which he ascribes every evil in this world to the Jews, asserts inter alia that they practice ritual murder and that the Protocols of the Elders of Zion were not forgery. (Bio-

graphy in UJ MAGYARSÁG 12.4.44.).

Ministry of Agriculture : Daniel MOCSÁRY, played an outstanding rôle in the years 1935-41 when anti-Semitism and Nazism were at their peak in Hungary (Pester Lloyd, 5.4.44.).

Ministry of Industry : Louis VASVARI, formerly a joiner, member of a Christian Trade-Union. Anti-Socialist. Asserts that "80 % of the workers are conservative" and content with their lot (MAGYARORSZÁG, 6.4.44. Pester Lloyd, 7.4.44. Morgenblatt).

Other State Secretaries : Michael JUNGERTH-ARNÓTHY, former Minister in Moscow and Sofia, has been appointed Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs (NEMZETI UJSÁG, 9.4.44, Pester Lloyd,9.4.44. Morgenblatt).

Louis HUSZOVSZKY, legal Adviser to the Government Party and to the Hungaro-German Friendship Society (Huszovszky has studied the organisation of the N.S.D.A.P. very carefully) has been appointed Secretary of State subordinated to the Prime Minister (MAGYARORSZÁG, 11.4.44.).

Baron Stephen SPLÉNY has become Under-Secretary of State in the Ministry of Commerce, Andrew KISS de BALÁZSFALVA in the Ministry of Supplies (Pester Lloyd, 4.4.44. Morgenblatt).

Among the old Under-Secretaries of State confirmed in their positions, the names of Charles KÁDAS (Industry), (MAGYARORSZÁG, 6.4.44) and of Alois BÉLDY, (Ministry of War and Ministry of Education) must be mentioned. Latter is the leader of the pre-military LEVENTE movement. In a broadcast (reported in Pester Lloyd 3.4.44.) he exhorted Hungarian youth saying that "the time for action has come at last".

3. Government Commissars.

Stephen KULTSÁR has been appointed Government Commissar for the Problem of intellectual Unemployment (MAGYARORSZÁG, 28.3.44.). In 1938, he has been entrusted with the supervision of the enforcement of anti-Jewish laws, a job which he has kept ever since.

Michael KOLOZSVÁRY-BORCSA, has been appointed Government Commissar for the Press (UJ MAGYARSÁG, 15.4.44.). An old hand at propaganda, he played a major part in launching the Hungarian propaganda campaign against Czechoslovakia in September 1938. He is a well-known counter-revolutionary.

Eugene ZILAHI-SEBESS has been appointed Chief of Press in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, while Stephen HAEFFLER has been confirmed in his position of Chief of Press of the Prime Minister. (Gazette de Hongrie, 1.4.44.).

4. Town of Budapest

(Pester Lloyd, 11, 12, 13.4.44.).

Tibor KELEDY and Koloman BECSKE have been appointed Mayor, resp. Vice-Mayor, of Budapest in place of HOMONNAY and SZENDY who resigned.

5. Law Court.

Stephen SZENTKUTHY has been appointed new president of the Upper Court of Budapest (UJ MAGYARSÁG, 31.3.44.).

6. Military.

New appointments or pro-Nazi utterances : speech of Major-General Cornelius SZLÁNYI, reported in Pester Lloyd, 9.4.44. Morgenblatt.

BÉLA RICSÓY-UHLARIK, is to ensure "harmonious collaboration" of Hungarian and German troops in Transylvania, as Government Commissar (Pester Lloyd, 1.4.44. Morgenblatt).

Stephen VORÖS has been appointed Chief of the General staff in place of SZOMBATHELYIKNAUSER, also a notorious pro-German.

7. Police.

Peter HAIN is the new Chief of the Political Police (UJ MAGYARSÁG, 1.4.44.); George PETRÁNYI, has been appointed Police Prefect of Budapest (Pester Lloyd. 13.4.44. Morgenblatt).

8. Youth Movements.

Reference is made to the speech delivered by BÉLDY, mentioned elsewhere.

The MOVE organised an "Anti-Bolshevist Youth Camp". Koloman TÉNYI delivered the speech of inauguration (reported in UJ MAGYARSÁG, 1.4.44.). He insisted on the necessity of "Protecting the Race".

9. Art.

According to unconfirmed news, Franck KISS, President of the Chamber of Actors, is going to be manager of the National Theatre, while Anthony PÁGER has been appointed President of the Film Chamber. Both are excellent actors but notorious Nazis.

10. Press.

Beside correspondents of long-standing Nazi-papers like the old MAGYARSÁG, NEVEDÜN VAGYUNK, ÖSSZETARTAS, etc., journalists of government newspapers, always pro-Nazi, have taken now an entirely orthodox Nazi line.

The editor of ESTI UJSÁG, Franck RAJNISS reproaches Budapest with its exaggerated tolerance towards Jews.

Editors of the FUEGGETLENSÉG and the UJ MAGYARSÁG are leading men of the new order. MILOTAY and VASTA ought to be mentioned. The best to the last : Vincent GOERGEY, is the Jew-baiter-in-Chief of this paper.

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Beschreibung zu beigefügter Karte über

Karpathorussland .

I. INDUSTRIE - ZENTREN.

a. Bičkiv. Hier befindet sich eine der grossten chemischen Fabriken Karpathorusslands, Klothild A.G. Die Anlagen liegen flussabwärts von Bičkiv. In der Nähe der Fabrik führt eine wichtige Strassenbrücke über den Theissfluss, Pfeiler aus Steinmauerwerk mit eisenem Oberbau. Der ungarischen Presse ist zu entnehmen, dass die Fabrik heute in vollem Betriebe steht. Entfernung per Luft von Jablonica ca. 53 km.

b. Svalava. Ebefalls chemische Werke, Tochterges. der Klothild-A.G. Es wird Holzsprit und Schwefelsäure in grossen Mengen erzeugt. Die Fabrik liegt ausserhalb des Ortes, von oben gut sichtbar, hart am Bahnhof. Entfernung von Jablonica ca. 105 km gebirgiges Gelände.

c. Perečin. Fast gleiche Verhältnisse wie vor. Etwa 150 km. Luftlinie von Jablonica entfernt.

d. Strasky. Einige Kilometer vor Humenné (Slovakei), liegt hart am Bahnhof eine kleine aber hochmoderne Petroleumraffinerie. Flaches Gelände, ausserordentlich gut sichtbar.

f. Nyir Bogdany. (Ungarn) Sehr grosse und hochmoderne Petroleumraffinerie, an der Strecke zwischen Nyireghaza und Čop gelegen.

II. VERKEHRSLINIEN

1. Knotenpunkt und Brücken bei und in Čop.
Wichtiger Eisenbahnknotenpunkt mit einer grossen Reparaturwerkstätte. Im Norden und Süden des Dorfes befinden sich je zwei Eisenbahn- und Strassenbrücken. Die Eisenbahnbrücken sind aus Stahlkonstruktion auf Stein- oder Betonpfeilern. Die Strassenbrücke im Norden, Richtung Užhorod ist modernste Eisenbeton - Bogen- Brücke. Die Strassenbrücken im Süden Richtung Ungarn ist Eisenfachwerks-Konstruktion. Von oben sind die grossen Brücken leicht sichtbar, jedoch vom Boden aus durch Bäume grossstenteils verdeckt.
Die Bedeutung dieses Knotenpunktes ergibt sich aus der Zeitungsnotiz vom 4.6.44 der Karpati Hirado, in welcher ausdrücklich erwähnt wurde, dass Čop von den letzten Fliegerangriffen nicht betroffen wurde.

2. Eine weiter wichtige Brücke für die Verbindung von den Karpathen mit Ungarn, befindet sich bein Sathmar über den Szamos. Grosse Brücke in Eisenkonstruktion.

3. Desgleichen eine wichtige Brücke bei Kralovo n.T. Ausserordentlich lange Brücke in Eisenkonstruktion auf Betonpfeilern. (Verbindung zwischen Čop und Jasina).

4. Viadukt bei Hukliva. Ca. 25 m hoch , in Steinkonstruktion, errichtet zwischen 1914 und 1918. Dieser Viadukt ist auf den Landkarten nicht eingezeichnet, da es ein Tal überbrückt. Hukliva liegt hart an der CSR - poln. Grenze bei Lawoczne.

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5. Eisenbahnbrücke bei Kolčino. (Munkačevo)

6. Eisenbahnbrücke in Užhorod in Mitten der Stadt zwischen dem kleinen und grossen Bahnhof.

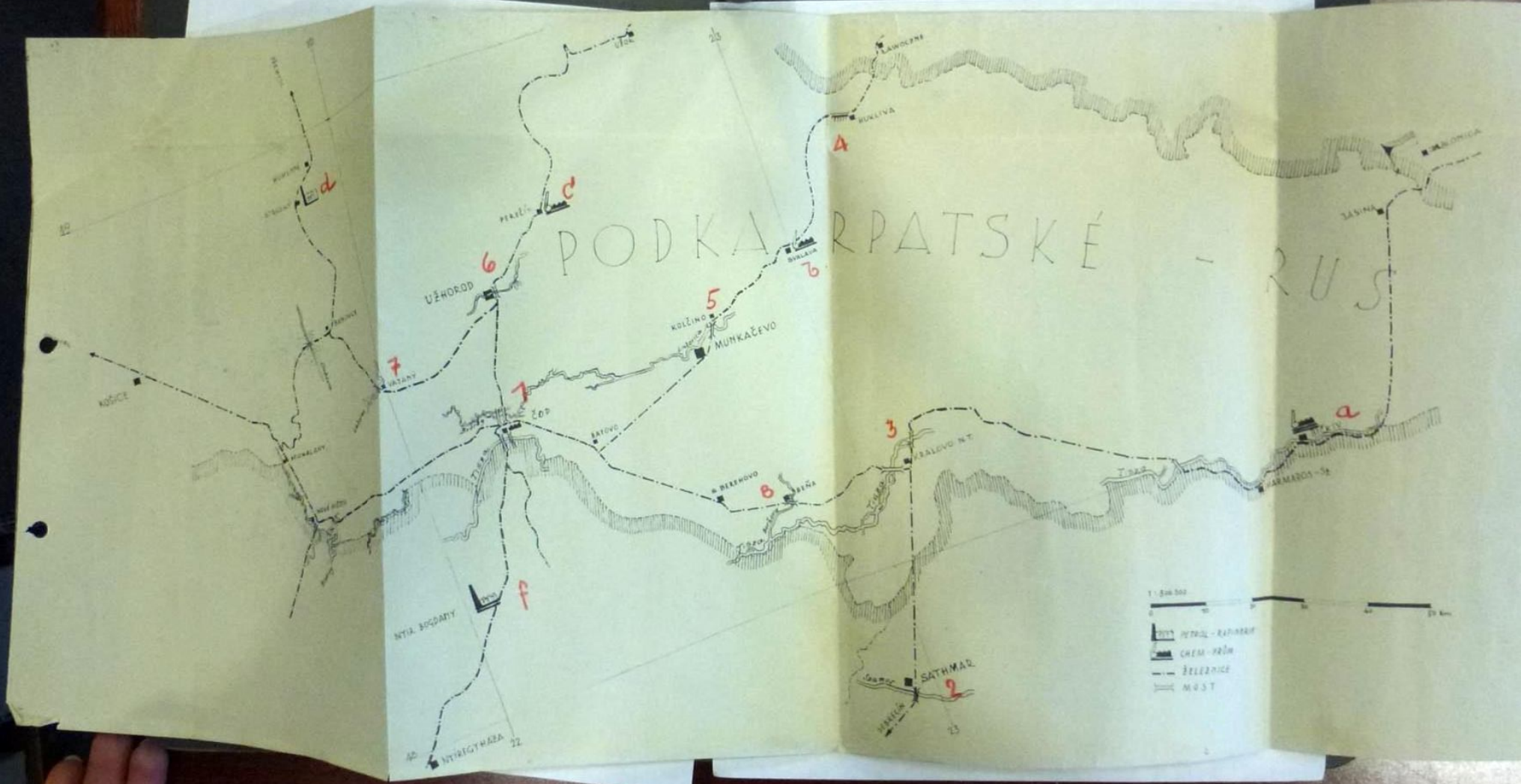
7. Eisenbahnbrücke bei Vojan. Sehr wichtige Strecke ,sehr grosse Brücke, Entlastungsstrecke für die Hauptlinie, von Užhorod 25 km entfernt.

8. Eisenbahnbrücke bei Beňa an der Hauptstrecke Čop - Jasina, Eisenkonstruktion auf Steinpfeilern.

Vom strategischen Gesichtspunkt aus kann eine Zerstoerung der Brücken bei ~~e~~ Čop (1), Sathmar (2) und bei Vojan (7) der gesamte Eisenbahnverkehr nach den Karpathen unterbrochen werden. Beigefügte Landkarte wurde nach einer Karte der Čechsolovakischen Republik und nach genauer oertlicher Kenntnisse verfasst. Wenn moeglich folgen weitere diesbezügliche Berichte

Mitte Juni 1944.

Map of communication lines in Carpatho-Russian area, scene of first deportation of Jews from Hungary: Apr.-May 1944


PODKARPATSKÉ - RUS
UŽHOROD
MUNKAČEVO
KOLČINO
VRANOVO
VRATNY
KOŠICE
ŽOP
BATOVO
KRÁLOVO N.T.
SATHMAR
SIGHETU MARAMAJEI
VISEU
SASINA
SVALJAVA
PEREČIN
NYIR. BOGDANY
NYIREGYHAZA
TISA
TISAR
SAMOS
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PETROL - RAFINERIE
CHEM. PRŮM
ŽELEZNICE
MŮST