

Texas in History: August 1944

Folder 2

101

ack 8/18/44

in letter to ICRC

D. ABRAHAMSON DES SCHWEITZ

Suisse en Hongrie

IN REPLY REFER TO

000

E No.

SEW/iwl



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dec. 7.

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL



Zurich, August 15, 1944

Dear Mr. McClelland:

I am enclosing herewith a letter which
Dr. Grim asked me to forward to you.

With every good wish,

Sincerely yours,

Sam E. Woods

Sam E. Woods
American Consul General

Enclosure:

Letter.

Mr. Roswell McClelland,

Care of American Legation,

Bern.

840.1 JEWIS IN HUNGARY

840.1

JEWIS IN HUNGARY

Mr. McClelland's Files

Jews in Hungary: August 1944

Folder 2

ack 8/18/44

in letter to ICRK

GEN/AM CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. McClelland's File

Copy in Hinton's August 1944
Folder 2

840.1 JEWIS IN HUNGARY

840.1 JEWIS IN HUNGARY

TWWS

IN REPLY REFER TO
FILE NO.

800

Jews in Hungary
ack'd by form

Mixteler

WRB RAM



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA
BERN
REG'D AUG 16 1944

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL

Zurich, August 15, 1944



The Honorable
Leland Harrison,
American Minister,
Bern.

Sir:

As of possible interest and for what-
ever consideration the Legation deems
appropriate, I have the honor to submit
herewith a translation of an exposé
"Possibilities of Rescue for the Hungarian
Jews", which was prepared and voluntarily
submitted to the Consulate General by a
prominent Zurich Zionist.

Hecht, no doubt

Respectfully yours,

Sam E. Woods

Sam E. Woods
American Consul General

Enclosure:

Translation.

POSSIBILITIES OF RESCUE FOR THE HUNGARIAN JEWS

The situation for the Jews in Hungary is still very dangerous. Deportations on a small scale secretly continue. If concrete possibilities of rescue fail to materialize immediately and if the watchful public interest slackens, the danger of new mass deportations within a short period of time exists. A Hungarian Government crisis is expected. Radical circles and the (German Wehrmacht), as well as the SS, are increasing their influence and are aiming at quickly liquidating the Jewish problem. The Hungarian Government has officially stated that the deportations are only "temporarily" suspended until the possibilities of emigration have been solved, and that with the aid of the Red Cross "several thousand" Jews will emigrate from Hungary. Help comes too slow. (Radio Ankara announced, according to the NEUE ZÜRCHER ZEITUNG No. 1329 of August 7, 1944, that the Turkish Consulates in Budapest, Bucharest and Sofia are issuing an average of 40-50 visas per week to Jews who are seeking refuge in other countries, that is 6-7 visas a day, while hundreds of thousands of Jews are threatened with death). Before the time of grace elapses and the situation becomes more aggravated the present pause should be used for rescue. As the Hungarian proposals for rescue were not immediately accepted new threats were made, as well as the ominous proposal to barter human beings against goods.

*Typical
Zionist pt of
view*

Hungary officially proposed to the International Red Cross not to deport any Jews, and to grant them the permission to emigrate, if they could get Palestine-Certificates. In this greatest danger for the European remainder of Israel the British Mandatory Power remains silent and becomes thereby implicated in the crime. The mandate for the establishment of a Jewish National Home and the protection of the right of living of the Jewish people in the world has been supported by the United States. It is entrusted to England. England should have declared immediately that the Jewish National Home would, in agreement with its purpose, protect all Jews without exception. With this all persecutions would have been stopped and the claim for a home by the Jews, who cannot find a small place on this earth to live, would have been guaranteed. The silence which the Mandatory Power has so far kept represents, however, an immense threat to the life of the Jews, and this not only for the Hungarian Jews, who for the moment are spared, but in general for all Jewish people

in all

840.1
Jews in Hungary
August 1944
Folder 2

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in all states of oppression, and this in the most critical hour of the Jewish people. England demonstrates thereby not only to Hungary, but also to the Third Reich and all countries where Jews are persecuted, that it is not willing to grant them a place to live, not in the whole wide world, nor within the democratic states, nor even within the National Home of the Jews. It does not really intend to give the Jews an asylum, and it merely protests verbally against their persecution in the Fascist states without willingness, however, to accept the threatened Jews. Hungary has declared its readiness to permit the emigration of Jewish children under 10 years, if they are permitted to go somewhere else. In the vast unpopulated countries like, for instance, Australia, North Africa, et cetera, no voice was heard in favor of their acceptance. Is it not enough, that already on May 15, 1944, 260 railway cars crammed full of Jewish children of 2-8 years of age left Hungary for the extermination camp of Auschwitz? Measures aimed at rescuing the children without their parents would, however, work out to be only a provisional and half-solved solution for a minority. The general rescue of all Jews on a productive and definitive basis would, however, only be possible by virtue of an immediate general declaration, that the Jewish National Home will accept all of them. Otherwise the Mandatory Power becomes implicated in the bloodshed, especially as there are indications of new pogroms. It would mean mockery of the Jewish martyrdom and of the assassination of 4 million Jews, a part of whom could have been rescued, if the Mandatory Power had not prevented the immigration of the Jews to their home country years ago. The Third Reich is officially waging war against the Jews and it has in a most inhuman way realized its brutal threats of extermination of babies, women and aged people. The Jews are making very large sacrifices, both of blood and property, on the side of the Allies. There are more than one million Jewish soldiers in the Allied armies. If after all these blood sacrifices, the remainder of Israel in Europe should not be protected and accepted by the Jewish National Home, this will be the heaviest blow of the Allied Mandatory Power against the life of the Jewish people, which would be incompatible with the democratic principles of justice, liberty and the Atlantic Charter. The Mandatory Power at present demonstrates to the persecutors that the Jews have no home, no right to live.

The Red Cross also submits its suggestions to Washington. The United States have always supported the
National

*This part certainly
is a Zionist!*

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

840.1 JEWISH NATIONAL HOME

Folder 2

National Home and generously established a committee for the rescue of the persecuted. The Jewish people are basing their confidence in the Government of the United States, hoping that it will make free immigration of the Jews to Palestine possible. In view of the fact, that protests against the Fascist Government of a Hungary under German pressure have been successful, an American intervention in Democratic England will surely meet understanding. The humanitarians of the United States, headed by their great President, have already many times promoted the victory of justice. The unparalleled extirpation of innocent people has been made possible only because the Jewish nation has no home and no right. As soon as the right of living of the Jewish people as an allied nation will be recognized by the Allies, the inhuman extirpation of these people will no longer be possible. If all Jews of Hungary and the other endangered German-controlled territories are immediately and generally issued certificates, or possibly Palestine passports, and if this problem is being generally solved, the lives of all Jews will be protected. With the aid of the International Red Cross and the neutral countries, such as Sweden, offices could be opened for the realization of these measures in Budapest, Bucharest and other cities, and equally for the surviving Jews already deported to German camps. Red Cross trains could bring these Jews to the coast, and Red Cross ships could then transport them to Palestine. The emigration could be organized with temporary collecting stations, so that in these intermediary stations - neutral countries - a large number of refugees could be temporarily admitted, provided their further emigration to Palestine would be guaranteed. Hungary's promise should simultaneously be kept in mind, and sharp reprisals, as well as consequences in the peace terms, should be threatened, in case Hungary should break its word. Other countries, such as Germany, Rumania, et cetera, could be requested to submit the same plan or that suggested by Hungary. Only by such broad-minded measures can the remainder of Israel in Europe still be saved, provided the intention of rescue is serious. Any narrow-minded measures are useless. Soon, however, it will be too late, as prior to its collapse the Third Reich in its "furor teutonicus" could assassinate the rest. The Jewish people place their confidence in the Government of the United States which can bring them help.

August 8, 1944.

Konferenz in Bern

Aug 22/44

WRE

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. MacLelland's File

Jews in Hungary August 1944

Folder 2

ack 8/18/44

in letter to ICRC

RABBINERVERBAND DER SCHWEIZ

UNION DES RABBINS DE SUISSE

ack. to R. Tauber

Töchter 66
Zürich

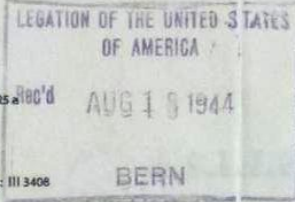
St. Gallen, 15. August 1944.

Präsident: Rabbiner S. Brom
Luzern, Sälistraße 33

Sekretär: Rabbiner Dr. L. Rothschild
St. Gallen, Lindebühlstraße 25a

Kassier: Rabbiner Dr. E. Messinger
Bern, Sulgenbachstraße 20

Postcheckkonto des Rabbinerverbandes: III 3408



Mr. Roswell Mac Lelland
Belegierter für Flüchtlingsfragen
Amerikanische Gesandtschaft
B e r n .

Sehr geehrter Herr,

wir möchten nicht versäumen, Ihnen für die Einladung zu dem
Mittwoch vom 10. ds., an der unser Verband durch den Beleg-
leiter vertreten war, bestens zu danken, aus dem wir
vielen wertvollen Ratschlägen und Berichten

Sehr geehrter Herr,

wir gestatten uns, Ihnen in der Beilage von einem Schreiben
Kenntnis zu geben, das wir an das Internationale Komitee
vom Roten Kreuz gerichtet haben. Wir hoffen gern, dass es
den Bemühungen des Roten Kreuzes gelingen wird, noch möglichen-
falls viele Menschen vor dem Untergang zu retten.

Wir wollen nicht versäumen, auch Ihnen für Ihre stete Hilfs-
bereitschaft, die Sie auch bei dem Vorgehen gegen die Ge-
schehnisse in Ungarn bewiesen haben, unseren tiefinnigen
Dank zum Ausdruck zu bringen.

Mit vorzüglicher Hochachtung
RABBINERVERBAND DER SCHWEIZ:

i.A.

S. Tauber
Rabbiner in Zürich.

J. Rothschütz
Rabbiner in St. Gallen

enclosed a message

2 men to ack. receipt of letter of
Aug 15, addressed by "Union des
Rabbins de Suisse" to ICRC in regard
to present & future role of the ICRC
in assisting Jews in Hungary. set as
only hope at a critical moment that
it is possible to protect & unfortunate
people.

2 y.

840.1 JEW IN HUNGARY

840.1

JEW IN HUNGARY

RABBINERVERBAND DER SCHWEIZ
UNION DES RABBINS DE SUISSE

Präsident: Rabbiner S. Brom
Luzern, Sälistraße 33
Sekretär: Rabbiner Dr. L. Rothschild
St. Gallen, Linsebühlstraße 25a
Kassier: Rabbiner Dr. E. Messinger
Bern, Sulgenbachstraße 20

St. Gallen, 15. August 1944.

Postcheckkonto des Rabbinerverbandes: III 3408

== C O P I E ==

An das Internationale Comité vom Roten Kreuz
Metropole
G e n è v e .

Sehr geehrte Herren,

wir möchten nicht versäumen, Ihnen für die Einladung zu der Sitzung vom 10. ds., an der unser Verband durch den Rechtsunterzeichneten vertreten war, bestens zu danken. Aus dem Mund der sehr geehrten Herren Professoren Huber und Burckhardt durften wir vernehmen, dass alles getan werden soll, was in den Kräften des Roten Kreuzes steht, um das den Gliedern des jüdischen Volkes angetane Unrecht zu mildern. Millionen unserer Glaubensbrüder sind der Ausrottung zum Opfer gefallen, und unsere Gemeinschaft ist in Europa in noch nie dagewesener Weise dezimiert worden.

In diesem furchtbaren Geschehen haben Sie, zuletzt anlässlich der Vorgänge in Ungarn, die Stimme der Menschlichkeit erhoben und wir danken Ihnen für Ihre Demarchen. Wir bitten Sie jedoch gleichzeitig, wachsam darauf zu achten, dass die Ihrer Institution gegebenen Zusagen auch genau eingehalten werden, da nur Ihre Institution die Möglichkeit hat, als Hüterin des moralischen Menschenrechtes die Interessen der in Todesgefahr schwebenden Menschen wahrzunehmen. Wie der Rechtsunterzeichnete an der erwähnten ^{Sitzung} ausführte, erblickt die Welt, soweit sie humanitär gesinnt ist, im Roten Kreuz eine hohe moralische Instanz, von der sie erwartet, dass sie überall gegen ungerechte Verfolgung auftritt. Noch sind Deportierte zu retten, noch sind Lagerinsassen und Ghettobewohner zu betreuen, noch können Kinder zur Auswanderung gebracht werden, Erwachsene evakuiert werden. Für all diese Aufgaben vertrauen wir auf Ihre Arbeit, die im Namen der Menschlichkeit geleistet wird. Sollten unsere schwachen Kräfte Ihnen Hilfe leisten können, stehen wir Ihnen gern zur Verfügung.

Wir danken Ihnen nochmals für alles, was Sie bisher geleistet haben und zeichnen

mit vorzüglicher Hochachtung
RABBINERVERBAND DER SCHWEIZ:

i. A. *S. Guttmann* Rabbiner in Zürich. *Dr. Rothshild* Rabbiner in St. Gallen

GENÈVE CORRESPONDENCE
840.1
Mr. McClelland's File
Tous les Hébrieux: August 1944
Folde 2

DE KURT W. GRIMM

Dec. 2

Information on
individuals.

Zürich, den 15.8.44

Mr. Roswell McClelland
c/o Legation of the USA
Elfenstrasse 6
B e r n

(C.I.)

Lieber Mister McClelland,

Interesting

Ich hatte Gelegenheit, mich über Herrn Ing. Kastner, Budapest zu erkundigen. Derselbe kommt von der ungarischen Freihafengesellschaft und ist ein Verwandter des ungarischen Aussenministers Kanya. Er soll mit dem deutschen Gesandten Vesenmayer auf sehr freundschaftlichem Fuss stehen und gilt in deutschen Kreisen als seriös. Die Interkommerz A.-G. wurde als Verkaufsgesellschaft für den ungarischen Besitz an jugoslawische Blei- und Erzvorkommen gegründet und hat sich später auch mit dem Benzin- und Oelgeschäft befasst. Es sollen erste ungarische Banken hinter dieser Gesellschaft stehen, (Pester ung. Kommerzbank und ung. Escompte und Wechslerbank). Die Gesellschaft befasst sich heute auch mit verschiedenen Handelsgeschäften anderer Art.

Herr Odry ist ein Vermittler und soll insbesondere für die italienischen Fiatwerke in Ungarn und in der Slowakei gearbeitet haben. Der Genannte gilt als weniger seriös.

- 7 Herr Schranz in Bratislava ist Volksdeutscher, slowakischer Staatsbürger, gehört zu obigem Interessenkreis, wird jedoch recht zweifelhaft beurteilt. Wenn eine Transaktion von Herrn Ing. Kastner oder der Interkommerz (Intercommerce) A.-G. kommt, besteht die Möglichkeit der Durchführbarkeit. Bei den andern Personen muss dies stark bezweifelt werden.

Herr Link ist meinen Gewährsleuten nicht bekannt.

Die Einreise Dr. Spitzky ist bewilligt und telegrafisch nach Wien gegangen. Ich erwarte ihn für Anfang nächster Woche.

Odry is Link's
telegraphic address

Mit den herzlichsten Grüssen
bin ich Ihr

Kurt Grimm

840.1 JEWS IN HUNGARY

840.1

JEWS IN HUNGARY

Mr. McClelland's files

Jews in Hungary August 1944

Folder 2

Mr. Reaga:
Mr. M. Chetani:
what Altaper says about picking
Fesseler, Hoch or Engli is probably true, but
Schaeffer was picked by B. in Los Angeles to
meet with S. of Budapest, so that others
probably couldn't fit in as well.

L.R.

The Honorable
Leland Harrison,
American Minister,
Bern.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to Mr. Reaga
marked "Secret" dated August 10, 1944, when
Schaeffer, General Manager

CONSULA
rland,

IN REPLY, REFER TO

FILE NO. 711.2 MWA/elm

Ask'd by form



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL

Zürich, Switzerland, August 15, 1944.

The Honorable
Leland Harrison,
American Minister,
Bern.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to Mr. Reagan's letter marked "Secret" dated August 10, 1944, wherein he inquires whether Mr. Alfred Schaeffer, General Manager of the Union Bank of Switzerland, Zürich, is a suitable person to be contacted for the purpose of conducting certain matters of a very confidential nature. He states that, as he recalls, Mr. Altaffer knows Mr. Schaeffer and may, therefore, be able to assist in determining whether the latter is suitable for the work in mind.

Mr. Schaeffer is known to the Consulate General from contact with him several years ago in a matter of interest to the Department. As far as can be determined here, he is a man of good repute and is cooperative where Allied interests are concerned. The Union Bank of Switzerland is not as well known to this office, neither has it been as cooperative, as several of the other big banks, however, it is believed that all of them, without exception, are engaged in activities from time to time which do not coincide with our interests. The best that can be said for them is that several of them have members of their staffs who are very friendly to, and cooperative with, the Allied Cause. It is believed that these men are picked for their ability to maintain contact with the Allied countries, while other members in the past have been picked in the same manner to maintain contact with Axis countries.

Having the foregoing in mind, therefore, I would say that any responsible bank director in Zürich, if he were

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 25 1972

840.1 JEWIS IN HUNGARY

840.1

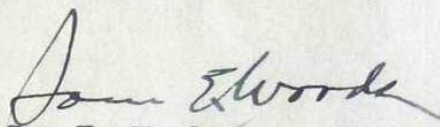
JEWIS IN HUNGARY

Aug 1944

asked to conduct certain matters of a very confidential nature for our Government, would most probably make this fact known to his Government and to the other directors of his bank. Mr. Walter Fessler, who has an American wife, and who is a Director of the Crédit Suisse, has always been very helpful and cooperative and could probably be trusted as far as any local bank director in Zürich to carry out a confidential mission for us. The same may be said of Mr. Ernst T. Hoch, Director of the Schweizerischer Bankverein. Mr. Jules Egli, Manager of the American Express Company, is likewise a very trustworthy person who, it is believed, could well be entrusted with work for us, and he has this additional interest that his is an American firm.

Trusting that the foregoing observations may prove of value to you, I am

Respectfully yours,


Sam E. Woods
American Consul General

R 10 AOUT 1944

840.1 JEWIS IN HUNGARY

840.1 JEWIS IN HUNGARY

Aug 1944
Folder 2

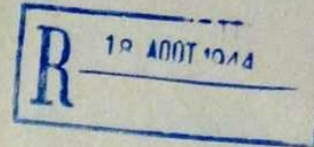
ZÜRICH MAGYAR EGYESÜLET
ZÜRCHER UNGARISCHER VEREIN

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Stefan Eisenberg
Zürich, 6.
Hofwiesenstr. 77

*File in Hungary -
Hungarian students' assoc.
in Zürich*

Zürich, den 16. August 1944



Herrn
Rosswell McClelland
Flüchtlingsoffizier
Genf

Sehr geehrter Herr,

wir danken Ihnen aufrichtig für
Ihren Brief vom 14. ds. und für das, darin enthaltene
Geld. Auch wir sind uns darüber im Klaren, dass unter den
obwaltenden Verhältnissen kein Einreisevisum eine sichere
Garantie gegen Verschleppung bieten kann. Umso mehr müssen
wir Ihnen dankbar sein, dass Sie uns das Geld trotzdem
zu dem Zweck zur Verfügung gestellt haben. Wir hoffen zu-
versichtlich, dass die zusammengefassten Bemühungen, um
das Leben der noch in Ungarn weilenden Juden zu retten,
vielleicht doch noch ihr Ziel erreichen werden.

Mit bestem Dank und

vorzüglicher Hochachtung

im Namen des ZÜRCHER UNGARISCHEN VEREINS:

Stefan Eisenberg

Präsident

Beilage: Empfangschein über Fr. 600,-

*Funds for
wages to
Palestine*

840.1 JEW IN HUNGARY

840.1 JEW IN HUNGARY

Mr. McClelland's File

August 1944

COPY
hs

Jews in Hungary
Reply from Dr. Huber.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

G.59/5/65 G.85
JES/MHA/HL

Geneva, August 16, 1944.

My dear Mr. Minister:

May I thank you for your letter of August 11, 1944, concerning a communication from the Department of State regarding the departure of Jews from Hungary. I should be grateful to you for transmitting to the Department of State the deep gratitude of the International Committee of the Red Cross for their statement which the Committee will immediately forward to the Hungarian Government.

We should be glad to know whether we may be perhaps authorized to publish this statement.

According to the terms of your communication, the United States Government gave an assurance that "arrangements will be made by them for the care of all Jews who reach territory of the United Nations or neutral countries". It would be of primary importance to know whether this sentence may be interpreted to mean that the United States Authorities are disposed to give the neutral countries an assurance that all Jewish refugees in their territory may be evacuated as soon as possible to other countries which are ready to receive them, or whether the word "care" refers solely to the relief which these people will require.

Thanking you in anticipation for your kind answer, I am, my dear Mr. Minister,

Sincerely yours,

MAX HUBER
President

His Excellency,
Mr. Leland Harrison,
American Minister,
Legation of the United States
of America,
Bern.

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE
Mr. McClelland's Files
Jews in Hungary, August 1

CASE FILE

WRB RSM

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department

Date: August 17, 9 p.m., 1944

No: 2836

Code: [REDACTED]

Received: August 18, 9 a.m.

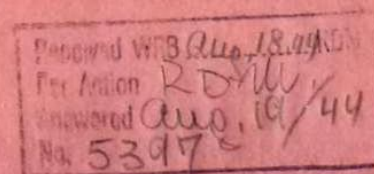
PARAPHRASE

C.I.

WRB No. 126. We suggest transmission to Intercross of the following message, signed Jacob Rosenheim, President of Agudas Israel World Organization.

Jewish Telegraph Agency reports from Bern indicate that deportations from Hungary, according to reliable letters of the last days of July from that country, are continuing at night in spite of Horthy's promises. This is causing great anxiety in Jewish circles here. Please ascertain the facts.

HULL



In duplicate

re

Copy in FA.

840.1 JEWIS IN HUNGARY

840.1 JEWIS IN HUNGARY

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 25 1972

CASE FILE

34

2: Hechalutz rescue
activities in Balkans
as supported by
WKB.

TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department



Date: August 17, 7 p. m., 1944.

No: 5343

Code :

Charged to:

Paraphrase

For WRB from McClelland with reference to the Department's 2603 of July 28.

During the past few months, I have received regular reports (the most recent is dated July 28 from Budapest) regarding the underground rescue work that is being carried on intensively by the Jewish Hechaluz organization working out of Bratislava, Bucharest and Budapest, in particular. In early July I contributed 100,000 Swiss francs from WRB funds and a similar amount on August 10 to this program which, although an expensive mode of rescue (from 1,000 to 2,000 Swiss francs to evacuate one person), has yielded satisfactorily positive results. This money has gone to Slovakia, Rumania and Hungary. Hechaluz has utilized to the utmost the uneasy breathing spell in Hungary since the suspension of deportations on July 9th by taking advantage of the willingness of certain Hungarian officials (soldiers and non-commissioned officers, for example, in Army units along the Hungro-Rumanian frontier) to assist with the flight of Jews who are imperilled. A Bucharest report dated July 20 places at 1,650 the number already evacuated to Rumania, with 210 waiting in the Arad region to cross the border. Points of relay have been set up on either side of the frontier at Arad and Temesvar, Brasso and Segesvar, and a regular liaison is maintained between these towns, Bucharest and Budapest. All categories of endangered Jews have been aided to flee, including orphaned children and particularly those who have escaped from ghetti, prisons and military forced labor battalions in Hungarian provinces. Funds are used to pay transportation, maintenance, false papers, "passeurs," administrative personnel and to obtain the collaboration of minor

Rumanian

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 25 1972

840.1 JEWIS IN HUNGARY

M. M. N. I. L. d'Elles

Received August 1944

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Rumanian and Hungarian officials. According to all reports received, the Rumanians seem to be making no difficulties. If you approve, I will continue to support this program as long as it produces results and as long as the fate of Jews in Hungary is uncertain.

Also being promoted is the flight of smaller groups (especially of those who had been there previously) to Slovakia, where the situation is less critical.

HARRISON

RDM:nf
Copy to RDM

840.1 JEWS IN HUNGARY

Bilder 2

Many thanks for the letter of August 15th. and for the trouble have gone to get it for me. I should very much appreciate it if you would let me know on the occasion of Dr. S's return to Switzerland suggestions or information.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA

AUG 21 1944

BERN

(C.I.)

Alfred Schaeffer

Aug 17, 1944. Mr. McClelland

Shawmut S.

Aug

Ed Wight believes Schaeffer would be an excellent and a reliable contact for Mr. McClelland to have. We also highly recommend one other director at Bankgesellschaft, Zurich -- Hans Mueller.

Loofbourow.

*American banker
in Zürich*

*Assistant to OSS
at Zürich*

840.1 JEWIS IN HUNGARY

840.1 JEWIS

840.1 JEWIS IN

Jews in Hungary

August, 17, 1944.

C.I

Dear Dr. Grimm:

Many thanks for the information contained in your letter of August 15th. and for the trouble to which you have gone to get it for me.

I should very much appreciate it if you would let me know, on the occasion of Dr. S's return to Switzerland, whether he has any suggestions or information which might be of value to the Legation in our effort to assist in the Hungarian situation.

I may quite possibly be in Zurich during the latter part of the coming week (possibly Thursday) and if so shall take the liberty of ringing you up before I come.

Meanwhile, with kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Roswell D. McClelland
Special Assistant to
the American Minister

RDM/mb

Dr. Kurt Grimm
Hotel Bellerive;
Utoquai, ZURICH.

840.1 JEWS IN HUNGARY

1944

File 2

Jews in Hungary



Bern, August 18, 1944.

Dear Dr. de Schwarzenberg:

In answer to your letter of the 11th of August, which was presented to me last Monday in Mr. Bachmann's Office, I can only state that the Federal Political Department transmitted to the Legation on August 2nd the request of the German Legation in Budapest as to how many Hungarian Jewish emigrants the United States was willing to receive. This request was forwarded to the Department of State on August 2nd. At the date of writing this letter we have received no specific answer to this inquiry. As far as the desire of the Hungarian Government to know how many of its Jewish nationals the United States Government would be willing to admit to our country, I refer you to our Minister's letter of August 11th, addressed to the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

For the confidential information of the International Committee of the Red Cross, I may state that the assurance of our Government that all Jewish refugees from Hungary accepted in Switzerland would be evacuated as promptly as possible to the territory of the United Nations was given to the Swiss Government on August 4th.

Sincerely yours,

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

Dr. J. de Schwarzenberg,
International Committee of the Red Cross,
Hotel Metropole,
Geneva.

RDM/mjb

840.1 JEW IN HUNGARY

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE
R. McCLELLAND
Mr. McClelland's Files
(Switzerland)
Jews in Hungary: August 1944
Folder 2

File Copy

Bern, August 18, 1944.



Dr. Z. Taubes,
Tödistrasse 66,
Zurich.

Dear Sir:

I wish to acknowledge the receipt of the letter of August 15 from your organization enclosing a message addressed by the Union to the International Red Cross Committee in regard to the present and future rôle of the International Red Cross in assisting Jews in Hungary. Let us hope at this critical moment it will be possible to protect these unfortunate people.

Very truly yours,

Roswell McClelland,
Special Assistant to
the American Minister.

RMCC/imp

A true copy
of the signed
original

840.1 JEWIS IN HUNGARY

Mr McClelland's Files
(Switzerland)
Jews in Hungary: August 1944
Folder 2

18.VIII.44

AIDE MEMOIRE i. S. UNGARN (ARBA)

I. Grundregel für S.M:

Sich unter keinen Umständen dazu verleiten zu lassen, einen Vorschlag zu machen, so lange die ARBA nicht geäußert haben, was sie wollen.

II. Nachweis der Vollmacht durch ARBA:

In wessen Auftrag kommen die Ungarn; in wessen Auftrag kommen die Deutschen. Nachweis ihrer Verhandlungsfähigkeit bzw. Vollmacht.

S.M. hat ebenfalls eine Vollmacht. Joint. ~~1944~~

III. Was schlagen die Konferenzteilnehmer (ARBA) vor?

Was fordern sie?

1) Wenn sie Güter fordern, so muss zum Voraus gesagt werden, dass S.M. nicht in der Lage ist, heute irgend welche Zusagen zu machen, da die Lieferung von Gütern irgend welcher Art nach den gesamten internationalen Verpflichtungen der Schweiz ohne Zustimmung von Behörden nicht möglich ist. Das heisst nicht, dass nicht verhandelt werden kann.

2.) Wenn eine Transaktion vorgeschlagen wird, nach welcher auf Deportationen oder andere Handlungen der Dtsch. od. Ungarn gegen Leistungen oder Zahlungen verzichtet werden soll, so muss dafür eine Form gefunden werden, die die Transaktion nicht zum Voraus nach schweiz. Gesetzen als unsittliche und widerrechtliche charakterisiert. (OR Art. 20).

Ein Vertrag, welcher unter Druck oder Zwang eingegangen wird, kann einseitig d.h. seitens desjenigen, der unter Druck stand, als gültig anerkannt werden; ein absolut unsittlicher Vertrag ist nichtig; daher muss darauf gesehen werden, dass Leistungen ausgetauscht werden, die in irgend einer Art anhängig sind. XIII

IV. Forderungen der Gegenpartei.

4. Was wird effektiv verlangt?

5. Wann sollen die Leistungen vorgenommen werden?

Wie viel auf einmal, in Raten?

6. Wo soll geleistet werden?

Lissabon, Schweiz, Ungarn, USA (ev. nach dem Kriege), wo sonst?

7. Wie soll geleistet werden (Modalität).

Falls in der Schweiz, an einen Treuhänder?

Falls in Ungarn, in welcher Form? Dollars, nach dem Kriege, jetzt? S. frs. ? Pengös? Ev. wie sonst?

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. McCallum's Files

Trans. in History, August 1944

Page 2

Vorbehalt.

- a) V.S.M. kann sich zum Begehren bezw.den Offerten der ARBA nicht äussern, ehe er mit seinen Freunden^xgesprächen hat, die die Transaktion(en) finanzieren müssen.
- b) Falls Kastner da ist

Me!

S.M. stellt das Ersuchen, eine Besprechung mit Herrn Kasztner vorzunehmen, den er bisher nur aus der Korrespondenz bezw. einigen Telefongesprächen(?) kennt, und dessen Auffassung von der Sachlage er gerne kennen würde.

S.M. kann zwar erklären, dass er selbstverständlich im Grundsätzlichen seine Auffassung mit seinen Freunden festgelegt hat; dass er aber mit Herrn Kastner, der die Nächstbeteiligten vertritt, gerne sprechen würde, falls dies Herrn Kastner selber recht ist.

Note : es wäre denkbar, dass Kastner verzichtet; er mag Angst haben, denn er ist tatsächlich am Nächsten beteiligt, weil er die "Vergeltung" für ein Misslingen des Beutezugs zu erwarten hätte.

Modus vivendi gefunden werden.

VI. Vorläufige Erkundigungen :

Um sich ein Bild machen zu können, möchte S.M. die ARBA anfragen, wie e mit den Personen steht, welche zu den bereits zugestandenen Visen gehören würden:

Spanisches Visum 1500 Personen, sind diese ausgesondert, ist das Visum bekannt? Werden diese Personen ohne weiteres ziehen gelassen, wenn die Reise finanziert wird.

{ do. do 500 Personen, sind diese ausgesondert, ist das Visum bekannt. Werden sie ziehen gelassen, wenn die Reise finanziert ist.

TANGER

Visum für Spanien : 170 spanische Juden. Werden diese frei gegeben. Sind sie ausgesondert? Wo sind sie.

Transport, avisiert, von 500 Personen Was kann über diesen Transport gesagt werden. Sind sie ein Teil der s.Zt. nach Bergen Belsen(?) instradierten? Gehen Sie also von den 1691 Personen ab, die avisiert wurden, oder ist es eine separater Transport? Genue Angaben erbeten. Es ist mit P.A. + auch dem I.R.K. bereits von diesen Personen gesprochen worden. P. S. 4/4

Transport von 1691 Personen Bergen-Belesen

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Mr Mclelland's Files

Trans in H. B. ... August 1944

Folder 2

Transport von 10 000 Personen nach W i e n (Strasshof) & Wien-Lobau

VII. VERWANDTE : Sind ARBA bereit, diejenigen Sequestrierten, die Verwandte in der Schweiz haben, ohne weiteren Bedingungen, als die Finanzierung der Einreise, nach der Schweiz reisen zu lassen? (Also nicht zu verkaufen?).

VIII. Was beabsichtigen ARBA bzw. ihre Auftraggeber hinsichtlich der grossen Masse der ungarischen bzw. dort sequestrierten Personen (Juden) zu tun?

Borne
Dr. Schinner. Diese Frage kann ganz unabhängig von jeder geschäftlichen Transaktion gestellt werden; die HM. der Arba sind nicht feinfühlig genug, um sich dadurch allzu verletzt zu fühlen, und wenn sie nicht antworten sollten, so weiss man ohne weiteres, woran man ist. Dann wollen sie einfach eine Anzahl von transitierenden Juden gegen finanziellen Leistungen verkaufen, statt anderswo darüber zu disponieren.

IX. Wie stellen sich ARBA zur Auswanderung nach Palästina?

x resp. unterstützt
Wird diese unter allen Umständen unterstützt, bzw. gestattet und wird der Transit durch die Nachbarländer nicht vereitelt? Da gilt besonders von denjenigen, die Inhaber von Erez Israel Zertifikaten sind.

Zweite Verhandlung

S.M. müsste dann mit seinen Freunden verhandeln.

Was mit den ARBA GESCHIEHT, ist aus den Notizen nicht ersichtlich. Jedenfalls dürfte dafür gesorgt werden, dass dieselben keine Freizügigkeit in der Schweiz haben? Hr. Mr.!

a) Unter der Voraussetzung, dass S.M. mit N.Sch., und nach den briefl. Ausführungen mit M.W. der Auffassung ist, dass ein einfacher Menschenhandel, ohne Rücksichtnahme auf die in Ungarn verbleibenden Juden, nicht durchgeführt werden soll, oder, dass er mindestens auf die eventuell bereits in Reichweite befindlichen 500 beschränkt werden sollte, um diese nicht schlechterdings in den Tod gehen zu lassen (übrigens ein Gegenstand, der ohne weiteres zur Gattung Kriegsverbrechen gehören würde, obwohl es nicht unsere Sache ist, diese festzustellen), min ist nur der Bezug eines festen Standpunktes möglich: Es wird verlangt, dass die Deportationen aufhören und dass für die in allen Lagern befindlichen (deutschen und ungarischen) Juden soweit als möglich gesorgt werden könne. Immerhin wäre denkbar, dass aus taktischen Gründen

aa) zuerst die Frage der 500 in der Nähe

tive to persecution and death.

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. McCallum's File

Trans. in 1944

Folder 2

- 4 -

der Grenze befindlichen Personen behandelt werden, ja, falls diese Frage akut wäre, auch sofort als die brennende erledigt werden könnte.

Auf jeden Fall würde sich also S.M. auf den Standpunkt stellen, dass die in Ungarn und eventuell noch in deutschen und ausländischen Lagern befindlichen Juden der Kontrolle des I.R.K. unterstellt werden, und dass für dieselben aus jüdischen und solchen Mitteln, die ev. zur Verfügung stehen, gesorgt werden könne.

b) Es soll ein Schutzkomitee gegründet werden, welches aus Vertretern neutralen Länder (Schweiz, Schweden, Spanien, Portugal) zusammengesetzt wäre.

c) Es soll eine jüd. Adresse in Budapest aufgegeben werden, mit der sich S.M. in Verbindung setzen kann, und die freie Korrespondenz (im Rahmen der üblichen Zensur, womöglich mit Präferenz) haben soll.

d) Das Palästinaamt in Budapest(?) soll anerkannt werden. siehe g)

d) Transporte nach Erez Israel sind zu gestatten, zu begünstigen. Werden offiziell begleitet. Von ? JAK

e) Die Slowakei ist in dem Zustande, soweit es die jüdische Situation anbetrifft, zu belassen, in dem sie sich vorfindet, soweit aber Lager etc. bestehen, sind auch diese der Kontrolle des I.R.K. zu unterstellen.

f) Verwandte von Ungarn (Juden) die in der Schweiz wohnen, sind ohne weiteres nach der Schweiz reisen zu lassen, falls dh. sobald sie Visa erhalten.

g) Zertifikatsinhaber für Palästina zu begünstigen, ~~zu~~ s. d) Es ist die Möglichkeit zu eröffnen, sämtliche Lager in Deutschland, Belsen, Bergen, Theresienstadt, Birkenau, Oberschlesien, Strasshof, Waldsee, Rosensau, Zarphat, Westerbork; in Frankreich, Belgien, Drancy, Italien, Zagreb, Sofia, durch das Internationale Rote Kreuz/kontrollieren laufend zu lassen. - Es ist dafür zu sorgen, dass diese Lager unter menschlichen Bedingungen weiter geführt werden. Dass Nahrungsmittel, Medikamente etc. gesandt werden können und die Insassen erhalten. Ärztliche Behandlung, eventuell durch Rotkreuzärzte, od. durch qualifizierte jüd. Ärzte, die früher in den betr. Ländern tätig waren, durchführen lassen.

Hungarian Jews
tive to persecution and death.

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. McCalland's File

Trans in H... August 1944

File 2

XI. Besonders Kinderfürsorge in Ungarn.

XII. Regiefragen.

Stellung von Bahnmateral.

Transit Balken.

Sicherheit für Schiffe.

XIII. Vertrag od. Durchführung.

Es muss ein Vertrag abgeschlossen werden.

Auf keinen Fall werden Zahlungen ohne jede Garantie geleistet.

Nur eine Methode Zug um Zug kann arbeiten.

Soweit es sich um Leistungen in Geld handelt, können solche nur nach gewissen Grundsätzen dann erfolgen, wenn wieder eine gewisse Anzahl vorbestimmter, auf Listen geführter, nachgewiesener Personen die Bestimmungsorte erreicht.

Das gilt zunächst für die ev. ersten 500, dann für weitere Transporte.

Die Einzelheiten können hier noch nicht genau festgestellt werden.

18.VIII.44 5.45

2 Mufti question of a group not intended for Palestine (not certificate holders) should be brought up - a then immigration. This would sidetrack Willy's aversion to people going to Palestine (Mufti angle).

CASE 15

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department

Date: August 18, 1944

No.: CIRCULAR

Code: Clear

Received: August 19, 10.30 a.m.

(C.L.)

CIRCULAR.

Radio Bulletin of August 17 contains the joint declaration of the British and United States Governments in response to the offer of the Hungarian Government to permit the emigration of certain categories of Jews from Hungary. As you have done with previous press releases on refugee matters, kindly secure the widest possible distribution for this declaration. The original offer of the Government of Hungary was made public in Switzerland by the Interpress on July 18 as follows:

"Following steps taken in Budapest by ICRC in Geneva, Hungarian authorities have given the Committee official assurances that transportation of Jews beyond Hungarian frontiers has ceased and that the ICRC are authorized to furnish relief of Jews who are interned or in forced residence in Hungary. The Committee are furthermore empowered to cooperate in the evacuation of all Jewish children under ten years of age who are in possession of visas to reception countries and all Jews in Hungary holding entrance visas to Palestine will receive permission from the authorities to leave for that country."

HULL

re

Copy - 7a

Kingdom and the United States emphasize that, in accepting the offer which has been made, they do not in any way condone the action of the Hungarian Government in forcing the emigration of Jews as an alternative to persecution and death.

Minister
14RB-REM

(Copy sent to PWI
with request to advise
re results - JH)

1-114

840.1 Jews in Hungary

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. McClelland's Files

Jews in Hungary, August 1944

Folder 2

RADIO BULLETIN NO. 198

Department of State.
Washington, D.C.
August 17, 1944.

American Legation.
Bern, Suisse.
August 18, 1944.

Note: This digest is compiled from press and other sources and is in no way an expression of official opinion.

STATE DEPARTMENT. Following is reply made by Secretary to Governor Dewey's statement to the press in which he asserted that he was "deeply concerned" over proposals advanced for the scheduled conference of the four powers in Washington Monday:

"Governor Dewey can rest assured that the fears which he expressed in his statement are utterly and completely unfounded. No arrangement such as described by him, which would involve a military alliance of the four major nations permanently to coerce the rest of the world, is contemplated or has ever been contemplated by this government, or, as far as we know, by any of the other governments. In the Moscow Declaration, the four nations placed themselves on record as advocating a 'general international organization, based on the principle of sovereign equality of all peace-loving states and open to membership of all such states, large and small, for the maintenance of international peace and security'; this statement was embodied in the Connally Resolution passed in the United States Senate by an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 85 - 5. The meeting at Dumbarton Oaks is for the purpose of a discussion among the signatories of the Moscow Declaration as to the most feasible and desirable methods of establishing the kind of organization envisaged in that declaration and in the Senate resolution preliminary to similar discussion and early conference among all the United Nations and other peace-loving countries, large and small. Any reports to the contrary are absolutely without foundation in fact".

Secretary made following statement:

"The Honorable William Phillips, who has been serving as political adviser to General Eisenhower, has for several months been considering relinquishing his present duties and returning to the United States for urgent family reasons. In accepting this post, Mr Phillips originally expected to remain in London only during the period of planning for military operations on the continent but his service has been so effective that he consented to stay on at the insistent request of both the State Department and General Eisenhower. He feels, however, that he can no longer postpone his return to this country and is consequently resigning to the great regret of all of us. His departure from Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Expeditionary Forces will take place in September".

Department announced that the International Committee of the Red Cross has communicated to the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States an offer of the Hungarian Government regarding the emigration and treatment of Jews. Because of the desperate plight of the Jews in Hungary and the overwhelming humanitarian considerations involved the two governments are informing the Government of Hungary through the International Committee of the Red Cross that, despite the heavy difficulties and responsibilities involved, they have accepted the offer of the Hungarian Government for the release of Jews and will make arrangements for the care of such Jews leaving Hungary who reach neutral or United Nations territory, and also that they will find temporary havens of refuge where such people may live in safety. Notification of these assurances is being given to the governments of neutral countries who are being requested to permit the entry of Jews who reach their frontiers from Hungary. The Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States emphasize that, in accepting the offer which has been made, they do not in any way condone the action of the Hungarian Government in forcing the emigration of Jews as an alternative to persecution and death.

Mr. Jews in Hungary

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. McClelland's File

August 1944

Folder 2

Copy to Mr. McClelland

(C.L.)

Bern, August 18, 1944.

My dear Mr. President:

The Minister has referred to me your kind letter of August 16, 1944 (your reference: G.59/5/65 G.85 JES/MHA/HL) to him concerning the departure of Jews from Hungary. In accordance with your request the Legation has been pleased to transmit to the Department of State the gratitude of the International Committee of the Red Cross for the Department of State's statement which your Committee has been so good as to forward to the Hungarian Government.

With reference to your inquiry regarding your wish to publish the statement of the United States Government, it appears that the Department of State released this statement on August 17. Accordingly there would seem to be no objection to your publication of this announcement.

With regard to the penultimate paragraph of your letter under acknowledgement concerning the assurance given by the United States Government, the Legation can only repeat that part of the instructions received from the Department of State to which you refer. This reads as follows:

"The Government of the United States taking into account the humanitarian considerations involved as regards the Jews in Hungary, now specifically repeats its assurance that arrangements will be made by it for the care of all Jews who in the present circumstances are allowed to leave Hungary and who reach

territory

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

840.1 JES IN HUNGARY

FROM CORRESPONDENCE
R McCLELLAND

Mr McClelland's Files
(Switzerland)

Jews in Hungary: August 1944

Folder 2

-2-


territory of the United Nations or neutral countries, and that it will find for such people temporary havens of refuge where they may live in safety."

Please believe me, my dear Mr. President,
with the greatest respect,

Very sincerely yours,

George Tait
First Secretary

GT/hs

A true copy
of the signed
original: 

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. McCallum's Files
(Switzerland)

News in History: August 1944
Folder 2

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA
REC'D AUG 21 1944
A1 BERN

177/68/44

FOR ACTION

BRITISH LEGATION,
BERNE

18th August 1944.

~~HRB ROM~~

13

Dear Mr. Huddle,

/-

I enclose a copy of a telegram which reached us during the night and on the receipt of which I telephoned to our Consulate in Geneva asking them to make the necessary communication to the International Red Cross. I understand that this was done at about 11.5 p.m. yesterday.

I tried to ring you up at your hotel, but there was no answer, so I spoke to Dale Maher on the telephone and told him briefly what we had been instructed to do.

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

Yours sincerely,

MacKillop

Mr. J. Klahr Huddle,
Legation of the
United States of America,
B e r n e.

840.1 JEWIS-HUNGARY

840.1 JEWIS-HUNGARY

18th 1944

CASE FILE
Minister
WBB Rom 100
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at.
840.1
JEWIS IN HUNGARY
M. M. 111
1944
Folder 2

COPY OF TELEGRAM NO.2682 of 17th August
FROM : FOREIGN OFFICE
TO : MR. NORTON

His Majesty's Government are publishing following declaration jointly with U.S. Government at midnight to-night.

"The International Red Cross has communicated to Governments of U.S. and U.K. the offer made by Hungarian Government with regard to immigration and treatment of Jews. Because of desperate plight of Jews in Hungary and overwhelming humanitarian considerations involved, the two Governments are informing Government of Hungary through International Red Cross that despite heavy difficulties and responsibilities involved, they have accepted offer of Hungarian Government for release of Jews and will make arrangements for care of such Jews leaving Hungary who reach neutral or United Nations territory and also that they will find temporary havens of refuge where such people may live in safety. Notification of these assurances is being given to governments of neutral countries who are being requested to permit entry of Jews who reach their frontiers from Hungary. Governments of U.S. and U.K. emphasize that in accepting the offer which has been made they do not in any way condone action of Hungarian Government in forcing emigration of Jews as an alternative to persecution and death."

Minister
WRB Rom (Please confer with Mr. Tait, to whom copies have been sent, for drafting action), checked action taken with Mr. Tait.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department

Date: August 19, 1944, 10 p.m.

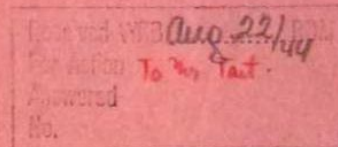
No: 2863

Code: [REDACTED]



Received: August 21, 8 a.m.

PARAPHRASE



WRB No. 130 for McClelland.

Reference is made to the Legation's 5040 of August 5 and to portion of Section 3 of that cable.

1. Similar information contained in a note of the Hungarian Legation at Stockholm to the Swedish Foreign Office is substantially as follows: "In order that further charges of brutality may be avoided, the right of supervision by a representative of the Hungarian Red Cross has been granted to future deportees for labor service".

2. Because of the issue involved, which is the possible extermination of 400,000 Jews said to have been deported already, kindly suggest to the ICRC the urgency of contacting Hungarian officials and the Hungarian Red Cross with regard to the immediate establishment of Red Cross supervision over all camps which in the past have housed Jews who were deported from Hungary.

3. The Swiss Foreign Office should be requested to transmit to the appropriate Hungarian authorities a message substantially as follows: "The Government of the United States refers again to the communication from the Hungarian Government (see your 5040 of August 5) which contains the explanation regarding Jews from Hungary who have been 'placed as workers at the disposal of the German Government as for years was the case of thousands of workers of Christian faith and Hungarian nationality'.

In

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, T-11-73
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 25 1972

Regarding In protest
to Canadian ...
Copy for Mr. McClelland

Aug. 22/44

WRB
GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

CASE FILE

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

Minister
WRB Rom (Please confer
with Mr. Tait, London
espies have been
sent for drafting
action).
taken with
Mr. Tait.

From: Department

Date: August 19, 1944, 10 p.m.

No: 2863

Code: [REDACTED]

(C.I.)

Received: August 21, 8 a.m.

PARAPHRASE

Aug. 22/44
To Mr. Tait
Forwarded
Re.

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AI out
Mr. G
ICRC

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This
to Dept. Nat.

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In

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By H. H. Parks Date SEP 25 1972

840.1 JEWS IN HUNGARY

Mr. ...

Folder 2

Regarding the protection
to be made by the U.S. Government
Copy for Mr. McClellan

Aug. 22/44
S. H.

WIRE

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

M. A.

-2-

2863

In view of the policy of the German Government concerning Jews, which the Government of the United States assumes is well known to the Hungarian Government, this Government would appreciate a statement of the measures which have been taken and are being taken by the Hungarian authorities to safeguard Jews placed at the disposal of Germany against starvation and other forms of persecution and to insure their humane treatment.

The Hungarian authorities will readily perceive that, unless such measures are taken concerning all Jews 'put at the disposal of the German Government' the explanation offered would seem to vary markedly from the acts and that the Hungarian authorities responsible for placing such Jews at the disposal of Germany would be responsible for any cases of abuse.

The U.S. Government awaits with extraordinary interest an early reply to the inquiry made in the present communication."

In transmitting the foregoing to the Swiss Foreign Office, the Legation may naturally adjust the language in its discretion.

HULL

mf/
Copy to RDM
Copy in FA

1944
Folder 2

Regarding Swiss protection
to Geneva
Copy for Mr. McClelland

Aug. 22/44

WRE

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

840.1 JEW IN HUNGARY

840.1 JEW IN HUNGARY

TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department

Date: August 19, noon, 1944.

No: 5397

Code: [REDACTED]



Charged to:

Paraphrase

Reference is made to the Department's 2836 of August 17.

The above cable will be conveyed to InterCross at once with the urgent request that the matter be checked through channels of the Committee. During the past ten days I have also received several unconfirmed reports that the Gestapo, with the collaboration of the German "Feldpolizei" has continued to deport small groups of Hungarian Jews, particularly from camps in the provinces. It is not known how many are involved. This appears to be purely German action. I will attempt to secure confirmation also.

From McClelland for WRB.

HARRISON

RDM:nf
In duplicate

Copy to RDM

Copy in file

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 25 1972

Hotel Métropole,
Geneva.

Special Assistant to
the American Minister

Aug 1944
File 2

Jews in Hungary

C.I.

Geneva, August, 19th. 1944.

Dear Dr. de Schwarzenberg:

Following up my telephone call of yesterday I wish to transmit to you in writing the message which we received on August, 18th. from the President of the AGUDAS ISREAL WORLD ORGANIZATION, Jacob Rosenheim. This communication came to us through the War Refugee Board with the suggestion that it be transmitted to the International Committee of the Red Cross. The text is as follows:

"Jewish Telegraph Agency reports from Bern indicate that deportations from Hungary, according to reliable letters of the last days from that country, are continuing at night in spite of Horthy's promises. This is causing great anxiety in Jewish circles here. It would be appreciated if you could ascertain the facts."

It has been my understanding that the Gestapo has been continuing arrests and probable deportation of certain Jews on an individual or small group basis, even in Budapest. I have no knowledge, however, of deportations on a larger scale.

I never heard of a correspondent of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in Bern; there is one in Zürich, nevertheless.

Any information you might receive concerning such deportations would interest me also.

Dr. J. de S.
I.C.R.C.
Hotel Métropole,
Geneva.

Very sincerely yours,

Roswell D. McClelland
Special Assistant to
the American Minister

840.1 JEWIS IN HUNGARY

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE
OF R. McCLELLAND

Mr. McClelland's Files
(Switzerland)

Jews in Hungary: August 1944

Folder 2

COPY

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department

Date: August 21, 10 p.m., 1944

No: 2877

Code: [REDACTED]

Received: August 22, 4. p.m.

PARAPHRASE

WRB No. 122. From Department and WRB for Harrison and McClelland.

Department's 2605 July 28.

Authorization given in Department's 891 March 18 and 2236 July 3 for issuance of visas to refugee children is amended so as to allow consular officers in Switzerland to issue visas to refugee children who reach Switzerland from Hungary. In order that visas may be issued to children who were born in Hungary, non-preference Hungarian quota numbers 72 through 176 are hereby allotted to Zurich, one third of these numbers for issuance each month during August, September and October at consular offices in Switzerland.

Please inform appropriate Swiss authorities and make appropriate arrangements for facilitating the release to Switzerland of refugee children in Hungary who qualify for visas.

HULL

In sextuplicate.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 25 1972

840.1 JEWIS IN HUNGARY

Mr. McClelland's Files

August 1944

Folder 2

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Gifts in Hungary
Re: Visas for Hungarian children in S/Land.

C.I.

to be made... protection... Copy for Mr. McClelland

Aug 22/44

WRE

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. McClelland's File

March 1944

Folder 2

CASE FILE

Nix 1-65 *ARB RDM*
(Copy sent to SDR)

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

*Negotiations with Germans
in behalf Jews in Hungary.*

From: Department

Date: August 21, 11 a.m., 1944

No.: 2867

Code: [REDACTED]

Received: August 21, 8 p.m.

McC 22 VIII

(D.L.)

PARAPHRASE

840.1 JEWIS IN HUNGARY

For McClelland from the War Refugee Board.

Reference is made to the Legation's telegram No. 5197, of August 11, 1944, with regard to the situation in Hungary.

The matters referred to in your telegram have received full and careful consideration. The views of the Board are set forth below for your information and guidance:

1. While the Government of the United States still intends to pursue all practicable means with a view to relieving the desperate plight of the Jews in Hungary, it cannot enter into or authorize ransom transactions of the nature indicated by the German authorities.

2. If it is felt that a meeting between Saly Mayer and the German authorities would result in gaining time, the Board has no objection to such a meeting. In the event that a meeting should take place, Saly Mayer should participate as a Swiss citizen and as a leader of the Swiss Jewish community and not (repeat not) as a representative of any American organization.

HULL

/nrm
in duplicate

copy in F.A

RECORDED AND INDEXED
Aug 22/44
For Action R.D.W.
Approved Aug 26/44
No. 5588

Copy to CA

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 25 1972

Legation,
XXXXXXX
Bern, August 21, 1944.

Dear Dr. Schaefer:

My friend and colleague, Mr. Roswell McClelland, Special Assistant at the Legation, and particularly charged with matters relating to refugees, has in hand a matter which he would like to discuss with you, and hopes to call on you in Zurich some day this week, either Thursday or Friday, in case you are in your office. Mr. McClelland will probably give you a telephone call to ascertain when it might be convenient for you to see him.

Faithfully yours,

Dr. A. Schaefer,
Director General,
Union Bank of Switzerland,
Zürich.

840.1 JEWIS IN HUNGARY

Suisse
12/14/44

Arrivée de Juifs hongrois en Suisse
BALE, 22 — Hier après-midi est arrivé à
Bâle, sous le contrôle de la Croix-Rouge suisse,
un train spécial amenant d'Allemagne 320 Juifs
hongrois venant de Budapest et des
Le convoi
Jews from Hungary
S.S.
irons.
fem-
dans

320 persons (Hungarian Jews)
arrived at Basel. They are
persons from Budapest &
Kolozsvár: Ages ranging
from 2 - 82. Came from
Bergen-Belsen where they report
conditions are tolerable. They
have been en route for 6
wks. Among them: a Rabbi
Deutsch & a Rabbi Glaser
(check Nathan's letters).

It is stated that 200 more
are to arrive this morning.

SM says: no money desired, only
goods, but in colossal amounts.
SM said 'an revoir' to K. & ARBA (?)
1. rec'd promise of no catastrophe
place for moment.

Regarding Swiss protection
to provide "unconfirmed" US.
Copy for Mr. McClelland

Jews in Hungary

GER



Confédération

Arrivée de Juifs hongrois en Suisse

BALE, 22 — Hier après-midi est arrivé à Bâle, sous le contrôle de la Croix-Rouge suisse, un train spécial amenant d'Allemagne 320 Juifs hongrois venant de Budapest et des environs. Le convoi comprenait des hommes, des femmes et des enfants. Ils seront internés dans un camp suisse.

Suisse
22/9/44

NOUVELLES DE SUISSE

M. McClelland's Files

Jews in Hungary

August 1944

Felder 2

with regard to certain American citizens in Hungary
affected by the so-called "Bula"

MEMORANDUM

August 21, 1944.

For: Mr. McClelland



From: A. W. D.

Attached is a copy of my letter to
Dr. Schaefer.

Enclosure:

Letter, dated August 21, 1944.

840.1 JEWS IN HUNGARY

944.

Regarding Swiss protection
to Stateless & "unconfirmed" US
Citizens in Hungary.

Copy for Mr. McClelland

Aug. 22, 44
Jews in Hungary

C.I.

A. I. No. 9318

The American Legation presents its compliments to the Division of Foreign Interests of the Federal Political Department, and has the honor to refer to the Legation's note A.I.No. 9171 of August 4, 1944, with regard to certain American citizens in Hungary affected by the so-called "Rule C".

The Legation is now under instructions dated August 19, 1944, from the Department of State with regard to this matter, to communicate the following to the appropriate Swiss authorities:

"Provided native citizens have not definitely expatriated themselves, they should be given documentation and accorded protection regardless of the length of their foreign residence. Protection should for the time being be given to persons whose cases are doubtful and documents of limited validity should be given to them."

In requesting that the Division be so kind as to communicate the foregoing to the Swiss Legation at Budapest, the Legation avails itself of this occasion to renew to the Division the assurance of its highest consideration.

Bern, August 22, 1944.

To the

Division of Foreign Interests,
Federal Political Department,
BERN.

840.1 JEW IN HUNGARY

Copy to Mr. McClelland

Jews in Hungary.
Based on Sept's 2863
Aug. 19, 1st part.

(C.I.)

Bern, August 22, 1944.

My dear Mr. President:

Please permit me to refer to recent correspondence exchanged with your Committee regarding the treatment of Jews in Hungary. This matter has, as you are doubtless aware, been the subject of a considerable exchange of correspondence with the appropriate Swiss authorities.

The Legation is now in receipt of instructions from the Department of State to the effect that, according to a note addressed by the Hungarian Legation at Stockholm to the Swedish Foreign Office, the Hungarian authorities have granted to a representative of the Hungarian Red Cross, in order that further charges of brutality may be avoided, the right of supervision to future deportees for labor service.

Because of the issue involved, which is the possible extermination of 400,000 Jews, whose deportation is said to have been already effected, the Department of State has directed the Legation to suggest to you the urgency of getting in touch with Hungarian officials and the Hungarian Red Cross with regard to the immediate establishment of Red Cross supervision over all camps which in the past have housed Jews who were deported from Hungary.

The Department of State adds that it awaits with extraordinary interest an early reply regarding what action the Committee feels it can take.

Accordingly the Legation would be most appreciative if it might be informed in the premises at

as

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

840.1 JEWS IN HUNGARY

-2-

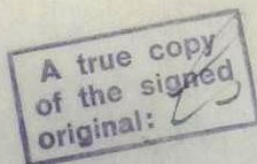
as early a date as possible.

Please believe me, my dear Mr. President,
with the greatest respect,

Very sincerely yours,

George Tait
First Secretary.

GT/hs



FROM CORRESPONDENCE
R Maclellan

Mr Maclellan's files
(Switzerland)

Jews in History: August 1944

File 2

In re Jew (treatment of) sent
to Germany from Hungary for
"Labor Service".

Aug. 22/44
Copy for Mr. McClelland

Jews in Hungary.

Based on Sept's 2863
of Aug. 19th.
2nd part.

A. I. No. 9319

The American Legation presents its compliments to the Division of Foreign Interests of the Federal Political Department, and has the honor to refer to the Division's kind notice No. 37951 of August 2, 1944, (B.24.25 c - B/Jw) with its enclosed note verbale dated July 18 and annex which was delivered to the Swiss Legation at Budapest by the Hungarian Foreign Office concerning the then state of measures taken by the Hungarian Government with regard to Jews.

The Legation communicated the substance of the foregoing to the Department of State at Washington which has now replied in a telegram dated August 19. The Department of State instructs the Legation to request that the Division be so kind as to transmit to the appropriate Hungarian authorities a message in the following sense:

"The Government of the United States refers again to the communication from the Hungarian Government (as communicated to the Legation in the Division's kind note under reference) which contains the explanation regarding Jews from Hungary who have been 'placed as workers at the disposal of the German Government as for years was the case of thousands of workers of Christian faith and Hungarian nationality'.

To the

Division of Foreign Interests,

Federal Political Department.

BHNS.

840.1 JEW IN HUNGARY

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. McClelland

Mr. McClelland's Files
(Switzerland)

Jews in Hungary: August 1944

File 2

"In view of the policy of the German Government concerning Jews, which the Government of the United States assumes is well known to the Hungarian Government, the American Government would appreciate a statement of the measures which have been taken and are being taken by the Hungarian authorities to safeguard Jews placed at the disposal of Germany against starvation and other forms of persecution and to insure their humane treatment.

"The Hungarian authorities will readily perceive that, unless such measures are taken concerning all Jews 'put at the disposal of the German Government' the explanation offered would seem to vary markedly from the acts and that the Hungarian authorities responsible for placing such Jews at the disposal of Germany would be responsible for any cases of abuse.

"The United States Government awaits with extraordinary interest an early reply to the inquiry made in the present communication."

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

Bern, August 22, 1944.

Mr. McClelland
Mr. McClelland

Mr. McClelland's Files
(Switzerland)

News in History: August 1944

Reply 8/25 RDM/mjb

to arrival of B-Belren
group.

Géza Pallai
Hotel Waldhaus Dolder
Zürich.

Zürich, den 22. Aug. 1944

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA

Rec'd AUG 23 1944

BERN

(C.L.)

Sehr geehrter Mr. Mc Clelland,

Wieder erlaube ich mir Ihre Zeit in Anspruch zu nehmen, indem ich Ihre geschätzte Aufmerksamkeit auf nachfolgendes lenke, und ich bitte Sie mir dies nicht zu verübeln.

Heute erschien in der schweizer Presse eine Mitteilung, laut welcher 320 nach Deutschland deportierte ungarische Juden in der Schweiz eingetroffen sind.

Diese Tatsache an und für sich und der Ton in dem diese Nachricht gehalten ist, lassen darauf schliessen, dass wir nicht einem glücklichen Zufall gegenüber stehen, sondern einem Trick der deutschen Propagandamaschine. Was dahinter steckt kann mangels Kenntnis der näheren Umstände noch nicht mit Sicherheit festgestellt werden. Es ist möglich, dass die Deutschen mit dieser

Aktion die Weltöffentlichkeit irre führen möchten. Es kann auch ihre Absicht sein, auf diese Weise bei der erschrockenen ungarischen Naziregierung durchsetzen zu können, dass die suspendierten Deportationen wieder aufgenommen werden.

Es können auch noch andere Gründe dahinter stecken. Auf alle Fälle muss versucht werden zu ersuchen, dass die entgegengesetzte Wirkung hervorgerufen wird, als diese Goebbelsche Machination bezweckt.

Wenn die Hintergründe dieser mysteriösen Angelegenheit aufgeklärt werden können, wenn diese Menschen zum Sprechen gebracht werden können, so werden Sie, sehr geehrter Mr. Mc Clelland, wie bisher immer sicher den richtigen Weg finden, damit dieses Ereignis in entsprechender Beleuchtung vor die Weltöffentlichkeit gebracht wird. Hierdurch wird nicht den bösen Absichten, sondern Ihrem guten Zweck gedient werden.

Immer zu Ihren Diensten zeichne ich
mit vorzüglicher Hochachtung:

Géza Pallai

848 W.R.D.

840.1

Jews in Hungary

Mr. McClelland's File

Teuch 111

August 1944

Felder

WRE GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

WRE

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

848 W.R.B. - RELIANT - REASON

Mr McClelland's File

Jews in Hungary: August 1944

File 2

Personal notes on conversation with Selye in Hungary & negotiations with Nazis Aug. 23/44

Conversation of SM - St. Gall. Wed. Aug 23rd

Quote in order of SM. consult zuständigen Stellen said delegation *10,000 trucks for 1 million Jews.

Nazis maintained continually of proportion did not negotiate with them but with Kartners (Menschenhandel vs Waren)

Hung. Gov. indifferent: couldn't & wouldn't do anything.

Doesn't cost us anything to spare Jews & maybe we can get something.

The party - not individuals - this time

Cars were to be brought to Stettin.

This whole conversation with Arba was a dream.

SM. promised them that no names mentioned.

obtained an armistice of 10 days on grounds that he naturally not decide such questions alone.

Buelitz wished to see Arizoni & Oldavai, & seemed to be part of delegation. B. apparently wished to see these people who never turned up.

Arba were not killing boys - but Verhandlers.

Killings wished to on Aug 19th

Work on basis of what Blockade has or has - let out neutral countries. They submit list.

SS papers & Pol. certifs - no good as protection.

SM asked concession of relatives - persons in S/land should priority all & visas. Spain, Tangiers, etc. no good.

Geatapo are real rulers - Hung. Orthodox depl. methods - no value to boys.

Relief - Budapest side mine until it settled & remain.

Attempts to send food to Bergen B. made.

No Vermehrung negotiations. Becker - see to it!

What Jewish money in Hung.?

(Kugellager Antenne) 2
Machine tools, lathes, cylinder boring machine, Zylinder-schneid-
maschine.

Immoral contracts, Attitude & Swiss Gov. toward such a contract,
conversations.

US & UK → ask neutral states to hold goods ready.

Arba approved & Schutz committee if contract of

no emigration whatsoever unless terms — fulfilled.

"Die Deutsche erlauben Abreise nicht".

Horthy's promises can't be taken seriously. He —
be passive onlooker to (unbeteiligt) anything Germans do.

What (attitudes &) goes wrong Jews — involved
(Gutach?)

At present no further funds sent to Bern.

Kast. arbeitet nach dem Prinzip SM's - "Captain's last".

K. & once kidnapped by Arba's competitors. Drendiger's departure
occasioned arrest & Hofrat Stern

Gesamtzahl of H. J's arriving in Sfland: 318 Now in Basel
— moved to Montreux.

Forfeited due on tractor deal due: St. must furnish all Unterlagen
SM must handle this.

All 6 foreign nationalities — interned by Aug. 26th.

Should put whole thing up to "WRB" ask for Antwort de Principe.
only — not details

Some firm, lawyer — have to act on behalf of Gestapo.

Nothing for immediate delivery but copy & contract sent

(3)

to Arbia - credit opened - more time gained

Santhert SM sees is a credit of \$2 m. Bank & open credit &) actually this money - & within realm - possibility.

* & whole thing → done in 4 weeks. Keep people alive for next 4 wks. Repriser for 170,000 Jews for 4 wks in work a m. \$. Keynote: 1 mth repriser. SM has already gained 2 wks + 10 days.

Repriser No longer US alone. Poland, Holland, Belgium, Italy, Norway - their Jewish nationals &

An Allied state affair

Jewish question must not be overdone.

Have we reached pt. where it is no longer possible to gain time. You can't gain & (willing to pay or do & to gain time.

Was word thru Hitler's Sagen?

SM ask fine are you & in alibi or money for yourself personally.

How → can JBC raise?

Schwartz expected back to Lisbon tomorrow

SM already gave figure of \$50-70 m. First tranche of \$5-10 m.

Main question: Persons who → decide sincerely wish to do something, & question

SM quote "what we heard from conference amounts to 1st payment of \$5-10 m. (necessary).

(4)

H is not approached & offered merchandize. Not SM.
 Play off killing group vs undecided group pushing goods
 for nothing. "Wir bieten ihnen etwas in Sie geben uns etwas".
 Group I is in favor of last bal. & Jewish not be done in
 especially if something can be obtained for ____.
 Group II not vs barter (Hummel is 57 groups {approver plan & knows conference
 Group III killing group (at no price whatsoever bal. to be relinquished)
 G II needs ____ to silence Group III.

* Hummel has never openly mentioned openly Jewish question.
 It is Hitler who is really _____. Hum. has never utilized Juden-
 frage to great extent

Basic: payment & removal of Jews so G. I & II says
 we get rid of them.

"Wir verlieren nichts dabei in letting Jews go"

No sign whatever of men were ____ or hoped to make
 money for themselves.

SM feels they sincerely indicated that were not for killing.
 kept saying, Rubber Kauter, K. Horen-Sie mal, etc.
 Not ideological boys!

They are not undecided - more vs killing & Jews until
 they got hold of proposition.

One of in Wash. doubtless know can find out from
 Russians what unit at as regards Hum. is likely to be in 4 wks

* Fact such a conference can take place at all
 is in itself a good sign. a certain proof.

Rejected idea of Membranhandel completely. They
 didn't need to come at all. They went for some
 purpose? But is it as moral or as good as SM maintains.

GENEAL CORRESPONDENCE
 848 W.R.B. - REUTHER - REA MORN
 Mr. McClelland's Files
 Jews in History: August 1944
 Folder 2

"It is worth while for us, if one is come to us," said Arba. They tried their utmost to bring SM away from Minschenhandel, moral aspects & get — to accept simple exchange idea.

Put whole report as a rapportage - not personal opinion of SM or anyone else.

"Was ihnen vorschwebte wurde ich durchsetzen bei ich nichts weiter zu sagen habe."

* SM clearly wants to believe in this whole thing, which is quite understandable.

More practical considerations from USA.

Auto-Eastwagen 10,000 - how — per month?

Not — in comparison to normal military standards.

S. Jrs 15 - 20,000 / truck.

SM says I'm technical - he can only listen.

Arba did not state trucks of any specific weight.

Trucks was Kastner's idea.

Arba didn't state how — per month. Move by move.

I favors idea P & C are not out to kill. Indicated P wouldn't want on all trucks at once.

SM said — manner you — it easy for us to say

no

SM said re I party to anything P I need vs us. boys?

Erläuterungen

Us to use its influence & neutral states are allowed to deliver goods / prevented by blockade. There — articles not such outspoken military I said SM.

GENE CORRESPONDENCE

848 W.R.B. - RELIABLE - FRANCO

Mr McClelland's File

Texas in History: August 1944

"Himmler wenn in belagert diesen 'Barter'!"

Idea: Lastwagen from US shaken. SM said: I not going home. Entweder oder. Arba told SM not to forget Lastwagen.

Sax Wort Lastwagen hat gezündet.

SM feels M. Grünert (Fackman) can be bought

Baileys ausgesprochene Zumpenhund

(Mantello's - 'certified cannery')

Quite sure negotiations can be done not on basis

of Lastwagen alone. Arba - provide list

Items I am safeguarding allied to:

A) Offer money as money! (Arba said it works & SM said don't frame it so you put no in their mouths)

Where - money come from? Who - provide it?

Outright transfer - loan (to be raised in 9land by SM - security in US) Will sources accept \$ apiece? for instance?

Between in various countries - modus vivendi - credit at their disposal

B) instalments - more by more.

C) Events which might stop worst automatically. Timing time.

D) Pending items: Which country - take & refugees?

Who - protecting organ? Which one can be named?

Neutral committee in Budapest & worst - happen & rather than supervising barter. 7 ICRC?

SM - ask GSC. if agree to 1st instalment of \$ 2 m.

- Becker, Kurt - Hamburg 1909 Hamburg
- Grünert, Max Hptm. SS Sturmbf. Niedrigburg
- Kunze, Hermann - Schönau - München

CONFIDENTIAL

848 W.R.B. - RELIER. REANON

Mr McClelland's File

Teas in History: August 1944

Folder 2

CASE FILE

TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department

Date: August 23, 7 p. m., 1944.

No: 5519

Code: [REDACTED]

Charged to:

Paraphrase

Your 2668, August 3.

A preliminary investigation reveals that Alfred Schaeffer is a reliable person to contact and that he is acceptable to the Legation. Unfortunately, he is absent from Zürich on military service until September 12th, but, if possible, I will try to see him sooner.

From McClelland for WRB.

HARRISON

RDM:nf
Copy to RDM

copy in F.A.

Aug. 24, 1944

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 25 1972

CONFIDENCE
848 W.R.B.-RELIEF-FRANCE x 840.1

840.1 JEWIS IN HUNGARY

JEWIS IN HUNGARY

McClelland's file

Jews in Hungary: August 1944

Folder 2

CASE FILE

TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department



Date: August 23, 5 p. m., 1944.

No: 5517

Code: [REDACTED]

Charged to:

Paraphrase

Reference is made to our 5197 of August 11.

On August 21 320 of the 500 Hungarian Jews transferred to the camp of Bergen-Belsen, who were to be released unconditionally by the Gestapo, arrived in this country. 200 more are due to arrive August 22 or 23 in Switzerland. They appear to be a mixed group of both sexes, ranging in age from 2 to 82, from Koloszar and Budapest chiefly. Among the 320 who have reached Switzerland are certain Rabbis and other members of the original convoy of 1200 (your 2834 of August 17), which turned out in reality to be composed of 1690 persons.

The above is from McClelland for the War Refugee Board.

HARRISON

RDM:nf
Copy to RDM

copy in F.A.
AUG. 24. 1944

* Union of Verbl. Rabbis - 848

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 25 1972

840.1 JEWS IN HUNGARY x 848 REFUGEES IN S/LAND

848 W.R.B.-RELIEF-FRANCE x 840.1 JEWS IN HUNGARY

Mr McClelland's Files

Jews in Hungary, August 1944

Folder 2

Jews in Hungary
WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

COPY

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department

Date: August 23, 5 p.m., 1944

No: 2895

Code: [REDACTED]

Received August 24, 8 a.m.

PARAPHRASE

WRB No. 138. For McClelland.

Reference Legation's *4904 July 31 and 5343 August 17.

War Refugee Board approves your supporting the two programs in question, including financial assistance. You are hereby authorized to continue such support as long as you may judge it to be advisable.

HULL

In duplicate

re

*848 W.R.B.-RELIEF-FRANCE

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 25 1972

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 25 1972

copy in FA

848 W.R.B.-RELIEF-FRANCE x 840.1 JEWS IN HUNGARY

Mr. McClelland's File

Jews in Hungary: August 1944

Folder 2

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

E
33

CASE FILE

WRB-RDM
(Copies sent to A.I.)

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

1-114

From: Department

Date: August 23, 9 p.m., 1944

No.: 2899

Code: [REDACTED]

Received: August 25, 8 a.m.

PARAPHRASE

C.I.

Nop 137 from the War Refugee Board for McClelland.

There is given below the substance of information which the American Embassy at San Salvador forwarded to the Department of State on August 10, 1944:

"1. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of El Salvador some time ago requested the Government of Switzerland to assume the representation of Salvador interests in Hungary and that the Swiss have now definitely assumed such representation.

2. The following further statements were made by him:

(a) The Government of El Salvador has informed the Swiss Government of the fact that passports and other documents issued in the name of El Salvador to persons in Hungary subject to persecution will be recognized and confirmed.

(b) That the Hungarian Government is to be so informed; also that it is expected that holders of such passports and other documents will be accorded the treatment, rights, immunities and privileges to which nationals of El Salvador are entitled, and

(c) That the Foreign Minister is being given authorization to negotiate for the exchange of such persons; that the United States, in the event that such negotiations take place, will give every preference to unquestioned nationals of El Salvador; that physical receipt of other persons will not be expected of the Government of El Salvador, and that, in case exchanges take place, such persons will be sent to their destinations." *What destination?*

In view of your telegram No. 5233, of August 12, 1944, we leave to your discretion the use to be made of the foregoing information.

nrm
in triplicate
copy to A.I.

copy in F.A.

Received WRB AUG 25 1944
For Action
Answered
No.

HULL

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 25 1972

840.1

JEWIS IN HUNGARY

840.1 JEWIS IN HUNGARY

ENEMY CORRESPONDENCE

Mr McClelland's File
(Switzerland)

Jews in Hungary: August 1944

Folder 2

Jews in Hungary

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Mr McClelland's Files
(Switzerland)

Jews in Hungary: August 1944

Folder 2

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL

CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

GENEVE
57, QUAI WILSON
TELEPH. 2. 81. 25

NEW-YORK N.Y.
1834 BROADWAY
TELEPH. CIRCLE 6-1900

LONDON W.1
1, HARLEY STREET
TELEPH. LAMHAM 1316

BUENOS AIRES
CORRIENTES 2042
UNION TELEF. 47 (CUYO) 5880

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA
Rec'd AUG 25 1944
BERN

O.L.

Genève le 23 août 1944

~~Personnel et confidentiel~~

840.1 JEWIS IN HUNGARY

Cher Monsieur,

Comme promis je vous envoie ci-joint l'article de la National-Zeitung de Bâle (n° 374 du 12/13 août) que je vous ai montré lors de notre dernière entrevue. Peut-être vous sera-t-il possible de demander à votre légation à Stockholm sur quoi l'information "de source hongroise" est basée.

Je voudrais, d'autre part, vous communiquer un petit renseignement complémentaire au sujet des 320 juifs hongrois qui viennent d'arriver à Bâle. Si vous ai bien compris il s'agit ici d'une avance librement consentie et pour ainsi dire "gratuite" de la part des autorités allemandes en vue de la conduite des négociations qui sont imminentes. Or, selon les informations que mon ami qui a pu approcher ces gens, a recueillies auprès de plusieurs de ces personnes il paraît que ces personnes elles-mêmes ont "sûrement" certaines personnes ou autorités allemandes dans le sens voulu. L'action des Allemands ne semble donc être ni désintéressée ni gratuite, alors même qu'il est vrai que de l'échanger aucune raison n'a été payée. Mon ami a ajouté qu'il s'agissait d'ailleurs d'un groupe de personnes assez aisées et qu'on pouvait bien admettre que tout le monde se trouvait dans le même cas. Je suis sûr que ce renseignement change, dans une certaine mesure, l'aspect de toute la question et qu'il est utile de le retenir en vue

100 familles en 1944-1945 group of 1670 paid for the more abrupt

des négociations à venir.

Veuillez croire, cher Monsieur, à mes sentiments les meilleurs

G. L. Riquier

Copy

Mr. Tait has made up 2 notes: # 9343 based on part I
a 2nd one on p. 2 asking various questions mostly of Hanks then
Swiss. - Aug 29 1944

CASE FILE

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department

Date: August 23, 10 p.m., 1944

No.: 2900

Code: [REDACTED]

Received: August 24, 5 p.m.

PARAPHRASE

WRB No. 129. For McClelland.

Following, which is being repeated to Embassy
London, is in reference to Legation's 4604 July 19
and 5040 August 5.

1. In addition to taking the action which was
requested in Department's 2715 August 7, you are
requested to express to the Swiss Foreign Office the
United States Government's appreciation for the
information which was given in your telegrams mentioned
above. So that the Swiss may be fully informed of this
Government's attitude, you may make available to the
appropriate Foreign Office officials the text of the
reply which this Government made on August 11 to the
International Red Cross Committee in accordance with
Department's 2715 and its 2657 August 2.

While the United States Government has taken
note of the communication which was reported in Legation's
5040, it does not accept the reasoning therein and it
reserves the right to return later to the purported facts
which are related in that telegram. Foreign Office should
be requested so to inform the Hungarian authorities. They
should, furthermore, be informed that the assurances given
by the Hungarian Government are too limited in character
to be satisfactory. The Government of the United States
therefore reiterates its public warning that all who share
in the responsibility for persecuting Jews and other
minorities will be brought to justice. Please request
that they be informed likewise that the foregoing includes
deportation of any category of Jews and that there must,
as a minimum, be extended to all categories of Jews
permission to emigrate freely and Red Cross supervision
of the treatment and living conditions accorded them.

2.

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Dale

SEP-25 1972

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

840.1 JEWS IN HUNGARY

Mr. McClelland's File
(Switzerland)

Jews in Hungary, August 1944

Folder 2

2. Wide discrepancies are found in communications and reports with regard to the offer of the Hungarian Government relating to treatment of Jews. For obvious reasons, the position of the United States Government is based on the version in Legation's 4604, received from the Hungarians through the Swiss Foreign Office. This Government proposes to maintain this position, but it is anxious nevertheless to ascertain the exact nature of the offer and the Hungarian attitude. Without departing from this Government's above-stated position, therefore, please inquire informally and discreetly, from such sources as are available to you, concerning the following principal uncertainties. Answers to any of these questions should be submitted as soon as possible.

In view of the internal situation of Hungary, to what extent can the promises of the Hungarian Government be counted on as being made effective and continuing for the duration of the war?

Have deportations of all categories been definitely stopped? If they are only suspended, for how long is the suspension and to what categories does it apply?

Is it possible, even in absence of actual sizable Jewish emigration from Hungary during hostilities, to expect the continuance of stoppage of deportations and other forms of actual danger to life? If so, to what extent?

Will Jews in Hungary be allowed and, in fact and aside from ICRC action, enabled to obtain food and other necessities through ordinary commercial channels? If so, to what extent?

Might it be possible to conduct emigration so as to prevent breaking up families? (This is related to question of separating children under ten from their parents.)

To what extent are Jews over ten years old allowed to emigrate to countries other than Palestine?

In the light of the current military and political situation, it appears here that main emphasis should now be placed on inducing the appropriate Hungarian circles to maintain and to strengthen the relaxation of the Jewish regime in Hungary which was recently reported and to apply such relaxations to all categories of Jews in Hungary. It seems less important now to promote the clandestine escape of individuals and groups than to prevent deportations and assure all Jews in Hungary tolerable living conditions. It will be appreciated if you will report any information and developments thereon.

Narrow

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. McClelland's File
(Switzerland)

Jews in Hungary? August 1944

Folder 2

Copy.
August 23rd. 1944

86 BAHNHOFSTRASSE / TELEPH. 33819 / ZÜRICH 1

- 3 -

(No. 2900)

scope of
Narrow/approach suggested by London's 230 might
place in jeopardy the broad program which is envisaged
above and in Department's 2657. Consequently, it is not
(repeat not) considered advisable that your demarches be
limited to items covered in London's No. 230, that is
the supply problem and children under ten years. However,
you are naturally authorized to give the assurance with
respect to availability through the blockade of supplies
for Hungarian refugees, in line with London's 230.

HULL

In quadruplicate

re

By K. H. Parks Date

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Maclelland's Files
(Switzerland)

Jews in Hungary: August 1944

Folder 2

August 23rd. 1944

86 BAHNHOFSTRASSE TELEPH. 33019

CASE FILE

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department

Date: August 23, 8 p.m., 1944

No.: 2908

Code:

Received: August 24, 3 p.m.

WRB No. 140. For McClelland.
Approved 8/24/44
No. 5721

PARAPHRASE

WRB No. 140. For McClelland.

The United States Government is warmly appreciative of the Swiss Government's consent to afford temporary refuge to 8000 holders of Palestine certificates from Hungary in addition to the proposed asylum for children and expectant mothers. You are requested so to inform Mr. Pilet-Golaz.

Please suggest informally to the Swiss authorities that it would be helpful if a public statement of the action of the Swiss Government were issued, so that it would be impossible for the Germans and Hungarians to claim that emigration is not feasible, and so as to give an example to other governments.

HULL

In duplicate

re

copy in F.A

If I recall correctly, it was issued. Sometime WRB may learn that others know something about managing their own affairs.

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date

SEP 25 1972

840.1 JEWS IN HUNGARY x 848 REFUGEES IN S/LAND

840.1 JEWS IN HUNGARY

Mr. McClelland's file

Jews in Hungary, August 1944

ENGLISH CORRESPONDENCE

I have no record or knowledge of Swiss Gov. ever having publicly issued such a statement. KDW.

1 CORRESPONDENCE
Please file: J in Hungary

(C.I)

Personal

Bern, August 23, 1944.

Dear Dr. Schaeffer:

Following the letter of August 21st which my friend and colleague, Mr. Dulles, kindly addressed to you in my behalf, I telephoned your office yesterday afternoon and learned that you were absent from Zurich on military service until September 12.

As I have a rather important matter which I wish to discuss with you concerning Mr. Eugene Bogdanffy of Los Angeles, California, I should much appreciate seeing you at your earliest convenience. I am generally at the American Legation at Bern (Elfenstrasse 6, telephone 30914) from Tuesday afternoon to Friday evening of each week, then in Geneva (7 rue des Chaudronniers, telephone 58061) over the weekend and Mondays.

In the hope that I may soon have the pleasure of meeting you, I am,

Sincerely yours,

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

Dr. Alfred Schaeffer,
General Manager,
Union Bank of Switzerland,
Zurich.

RDM/mjb

(Envelope addressed to Paradeplatz 6)

640.1 JEWS IN HUNGARY

You told me that Mr. Kasztner had informed you that the "side-memoire" which you had submitted to him did not contain what was the chief...

Copy.

at Jews in Hungary

August 23rd.1944

86 BAHNHOFSTRASSE / TELEPH. 33819 / ZÜRICH 1

From Marcus Wyley -
Sally Mayer's lawyer

Mr. Sally Mayer
St Gall.

AUG 24 1944

Re: Hungary etc.

Dear Sir,

This is a short report on the conversation we had yesterday, when you explained to me how things stand with the Jews at bay in Hungary and with those who are actually on the way, in Germany and elsewhere.

Although I want to make a few paragraphs in order to bring the narrative into some form, yet they will not show any logical conception or arrangement, they are only to put matters into a certain sequence.

1. You handed me some papers in the morning, and I read them, but it would be impossible for me to distinguish the contents clearly. I had not time enough to take notes, as you know.

The papers were partly written by Mr. Kasztner, one of them, the chief one, being a report by him to one of the SS or Gestapo people, whom he wants to defer further deportation, by offering to him goods in other countries. The gist of that letter is that the Jews in Hungary are, whatever be done or left undone, always in the power of the German forces, and therefore are always a sort of pawn or pledge of the Germans, and that they will always have a chance of murdering them, if the business by which they shall be liberated or partly liberated, does not come off.

If the position of the writer were not a desperate one, one might be inclined to call the letter rather bad literature, but any one who can see the position of the man who wrote that, will understand that he knew he had to do with people without any kind of human feeling; or perhaps, what may be possible, to the henchmen of such people, who, themselves are in no enviable position, unless they are upright men..

The papers then contain a great number of goods which have already been proposed for delivery, when, I cannot remember. (I had reserved myself a second reading of the papers, and presumed matters would be cleared up in the meantime, but our further conversations went in a slightly different direction. I remember you telling me that those proposals were no longer "actual" (aktuell) but that what the Germans were after, were tractors. Still, I remember that there were sheepskins and quite a number of other goods, textile and other ones, and that there was a relation as to gold, jewellery, watches, and what not, had already been delivered, further shares and stock. I could not yet make out whether these goods and chattels were partly goods and valuables which had been stolen or otherwise sequestered with or from the Hungarian Jews, or even had been handed over by them under pressure, without being actually wrenched away from them. This is all I have kept in memory of the papers.

From Marcus Wyley -
Sally Mayer's lawyer

Mr. McClelland's files

Jews in Hungary August 1944

SM.Joint.23.VIII.44 - 2 -

You told me that Mr.Kasztner had informed you that the "aide-mémoire" which you had submitted to him did not contain what was the chief point. The Germans were absolutely and definitely resolved to kill off all the Hungarian Jews, unless certain offers were made to them and the goods which they required, were handed over to them.

Your report was rich in particulars, but I have not always been able to make out how things went in order of time, when and where Mr.Kasztner was present and when not. I understood that you have talked to several men, of whom the chief party seems to have been one "Direktor Becher" of Hamburg, a representative of the "Wirtschaftsamt" (Office of Public Economy), and who had full power to deal with the matter.

Then there was one Hauptmann Gräson of the SS., one Grumelli(?) It would seem that Becker had dealt with the Weiss (and perhaps von Chörin) family arrangements, by which these families were bought off from destruction and have been expedited by air to Spain.

2. It is said that 16 300 persons have been brought to "Old Austria" (Altösterreich), and that these are chiefly "prominent persons of the Jewish community or life" and children.

I presume it was Kasztner who told you that the Hungarian Government was indifferent as to whether the Jews were to be killed or saved, but that the Germans were resolved, at least to murder off the Jews, if they should not be able to be victorious as against other better armed peoples.

It was certain that Himmler knew of the transaction to come off.

There was as yet no "Judenrat". Miklosch Krausz was not the Chief. There were still some 170 000 Jews in Budapest.

3. The things, Germans were after, were 10 000 trucks or transport cars. Nobody would be able to deliver them except the United States. Herr Becher had stated that it would be a perfectly simple thing for USA to send cars by transport ships or freighters and that by each freighter 2500 Jews could go back to the States.

S.M. could tell the Americans in all certainty that the cars would not be used for War purposes, but for After-War use.

4. Herr Becher had declared that this interview was only a preliminary one (eine Präambel), and that the definitive ones would follow.

S.M. had declared that it was impossible to deal just only with trucks, for he believed he could already tell the answer of the American side, it would be NO.

S.M. said: it would be impossible to offer this. It will be necessary to give me indications as to money required, and as to other eventual articles.

The party in USA or the USA would have to influence the Neutrals, so that certain articles would be taken off the list of non-exportable articles. I can imagine that Switzerland might be inclined to deliver certain goods.

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Mr McClelland's Files (Switzerland)

Jews in Hungary: August 1944

Folder 2

SM.I have to find together with yourselves a form which I could submit to America.

I have made a calculus and find that the Jews of USA cannot find the money for 10 000 trucks.
The opposite party(Becher?) said:"No,also "(Just so).

I have however advice by my friends that the transaction must be realized.

I find that Germany needs still other things but trucks. S.M. mentioned certain articles which were in want there,not of a War material kind.
The question is one of an immediate program(Sofort-programm), and afterwards of a realization(?)

It was however necessary that in the meantime nothing would happen to Hungarian Jews.

Hr.Becher seems to have said, he would take it upon him,(ich werde mich stark machen),to obtain that nothing detrimental would be done.

I have a note on San Salvador passports and on the Palestine Office(Palamt),but nothing definite seems to have been talked about this.Hungarians with relatives in Switzerland might travel to Switzerland. eventually others too.

The Contracting parties of an Agreement would be "SS.Sonderstab Max Grison of the one part, and the JOINT of the other part.

Becher or some other man seems to have talked of the establishment of a German Economic Office(Deutsche Wirtschaftsstelle) in Switzerland.Eventually other firms, either German ones or such who were in good relations with Germany would be entrusted with the execution of the deal.

5. Budapest for the present was in no need on either money, nor of clothing or medicaments. It was best to wait whether a deportation would take place,or not.

In case of a deportation ,miney,victuals,clothes,medicaments might be sent to the Campas and not to Budapest., all this under the protection of the I.R.C.
Pending the duration of these preliminary talks"no annihilation" (keine Vernichtung) would take place.

There were other articles,besides the trucks, that might be useful or would be required:(Drehbänke = lathes ? Zylinderbohrwerk: cylindre boring machines and others).

6. S.M.Mentioned that the whole object was"trade in humanity" (Menschenhandel,slave trade) against goods,Barter.
He would have to put in int such a form that it would not be against the Swiss law of obligations,i.e.that it would not be considered "immoral business" and against Sect.20 of the Code of Obligations.

The German counterparty(Hr.Becher?) was visibly annoyed over this and tried to pretend it was a different thing.

23.VIII.44 21.15

Not reread for reason
of ready delivery

Yours sincerely
Haven Miller

CONFIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. McClelland's File

Trans in History August 1944

Folder 2

alu

bp

SM.23.VIII. 44. - 4-
Second part of Report on conversations of 22.VIII.44

6. The second part of our conversation was between S.M. and Mr. Nathann Schwab, in presence of M.W.

A most important part of this conversation was the statement of S.M. that one of the Germans, or several of them, repeatedly stated "Man ist zu uns gekommen, um uns das anzubieten" (Kasztner had come to them or had approached them in order to offer a deal to them.) He S.M. had said: "I should forgive this to Kasztner, even if ~~he~~ I were on my death bed". I perfectly understand that he did it.

NSch. Was there not some idea to create a political conflict.

S.M. This cannot be entirely refuted, although one cannot see where it comes in.

(So by me understood. MW)

S.M. Whether or not this can come off, it will be to the point that 111 e g a l Exodus from Hungary can take place.

N.Sch. Freudiger and Link have departed.

S.M. of the people who have been in Belsen Bergen, 320 will come to Switzerland.

It has already been said that this was the doing of I.B.C.

N.Sch. It will be impossible to send goods to Hungary.

How could goods come from Spain, Portugal, Swede, to Germany?

Under the actual circumstances?

It is necessary to tell Kasztner and the others that this is not within our power.

S.M. Kasztner has said, if the Nazis lose the War, they want at least to kill off the Jews. This is a tenet of their programme.

S.M. I have arranged with Kasztner. What Kasztner wrote about our interview of Aug 21st. 1944, this must be executed. What you write, I intend to do? I understand your reasons.

(This is not quite complete, but these are the chief matters.)

23.VIII.44

M.W.

PS. Wanting to send this off still to-night, I have left it uncorrected.

WRE

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE
McClelland

McClelland's Files
(Switzerland)

Trans in History, August 1944

Folder 2

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department Date: August 24, 9 a. m., 1944.
 No: 5527
 Code: [REDACTED] Charged to: (C.I.)

Paraphrase

Reference is made to the Legation's 4502 of July 14, 3 p. m.

The following supplemental information from the Swiss Legation at Budapest concerning the treatment of Jews in Hungary is contained in a notice dated August 17 from the Swiss Foreign Office:

Replying to the request of the Swiss Legation for further information concerning "Schutzhaft" as applied to Jews claiming foreign nationality, the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that Schutzhaft is distinguished from internment in that Jews are placed under Schutzhaft not as hostile manifestation but in their own interests, and that without assembling them under police control the Hungarian authorities are unable to give them guarantees for their security. Jews under Schutzhaft are permitted to leave detention unaccompanied by police when they have private or professional affairs to regulate; if the Jews are interned, they are not permitted to do this.

Seven American citizens entitled to protection and 30 affected by "Rule G" as well as alien relatives of American citizens are among the Jews affected. (The notice states parenthetically that this statement was made before the receipt of the Department's ruling in its telegram 2584 of July 27.)

The persons affected are lodged in two vast premises, one reserved for men and one reserved for women, at the Deaf and Dumb Institute in Festetich-utca, Budapest. Sleeping accommodations consist of mattresses and bedding placed partly on iron frames and partly on the floor. Jews with means are allowed

to
 DECLASSIFIED
 State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73
 By R. H. Parks Date SEP 25 1972

340.1 JEWIS IN HUNGARY

Mr. McClelland's File

Jews in Hungary August 1944

Folder 2

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to buy foodstuffs but since they receive no ration cards they must purchase on the black market. The Jewish Council provides for those without resources.

Following a recent inspection in which he was accompanied by Dr. Schirmer, delegate of the ICRC, a representative of the Swiss Legation in Budapest found that the subsistence provided by the Jewish Council is insufficient, particularly for children, who receive no milk, and that sanitary installations are satisfactory although there are only four water closets, which are odorous and insufficient.

The delegate of the Red Cross stated that the conditions are the worst he had recently encountered among civilian internees in Europe, although the inmates are permitted to leave the premises and exercise in a court.

In addition the notice states that the situation is possibly due to the attitude of the authorities and local functionaries who consider the conditions in Festetich-utca excellent as compared with other camps in Hungary, to such an extent that it is difficult to persuade them to improve the conditions, and the Legation and Red Cross delegates agree that it is impossible to distinguish between Schutzhaft and internment except that the former grants freedom to leave the premises.

It is reported by the Swiss Legation that a certain number of American citizens in provinces liberated ghettos following its intervention are held in local prisons at present but must be transferred to Budapest shortly, and that the Legation and the Red Cross are making every effort to ameliorate conditions in Festetich-utca.

Arrangements have been made by the Intercross delegate to deliver weekly food parcels to all internees who have a right to the protection of the Swiss.

HARRISON

DWM:mak:nf
In duplicate to AI
Copy to RDM

copy in FA

Folder 2

Trans in History: August 1944

Mr. McClelland's File

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Trans in Hungary to US I Vmas for certain categories of

COPY
mak

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department

Date: August 24, 7 p.m., 1944

No.: 2918

Code: [REDACTED]

Received: August 25, 6 p.m.

PARAPHRASE

No. 133 from the War Refugee Board and the Department.

For the Minister and McClelland.

1. With reference to section 2 of your telegram No. 4983, of August 3, the policy of the Government of the United States is not (repeat not) to deal in specific numbers. You may, however, in your discretion, authorize the Swiss Federal Political Department to answer the inquiry of the German Legation in Budapest by referring to the position of the Government of the United States indicated by paragraphs 2 to 5 inclusive of the Department's telegram No. 2605, of July 28, Department's 2657, of August 2, and Department's 2877, of August 21, and paragraph 3 hereunder.

2. Notwithstanding recent developments as indicated in your telegram No. 5197 of August 11, it is the intention of the Government of the United States to pursue further the reported offers of the Hungarian authorities as typified by your 4604, of July 19.

3. The Department therefore desires you to request the appropriate officials of the Swiss Government to inform the enemy governments, particularly Germany and Hungary, that the issuance of an immigration visa to the alien husband, wife, parent and unmarried minor child of an American citizen and the wife and unmarried minor child of an alien resident of the United States who have been in an area controlled by Germany or by any of the allies of Germany has been authorized provided that such person presents himself to an American consular officer in a neutral country and is found not to be disqualified therefor. You should at the same time endeavor to obtain the prompt agreement of the Government of Switzerland to inform enemy governments that permission will be given to persons falling within the categories described above to enter Switzerland. Assurance may be given to Swiss officials

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 25 1972

that

840.1 JEWIS IN HUNGARY

See File: US
Immigration
Visas for
persons in enemy
or enemy-occupied
territories
action taken

Jews in Hungary Re US I Visas for
certain categories of
persons in Hungary

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Visas in Hungary August 1944
Folder

Note

that any such persons so admitted will be adequately maintained and that any such persons found not (repeat not) qualified for visa issuance will be evacuated at the earliest time possible. Similar approaches are being made to Sweden, Spain, Portugal and Turkey.

4. Authorization is hereby given to consular officers in Switzerland to issue immigration visas to any alien who is the husband, wife, parent or unmarried minor child of an American citizen and on whose behalf non-quota or first preference status has been established by the approval by the Department of Justice of a petition filed by each citizen relative or who is the wife or unmarried minor child of an alien lawfully admitted into the United States for permanent residence and as such entitled to second preference immigration status. The issuance of visas, however, is subject to the provisos that:

1. The consul does not affirmatively find such person to be inadmissible under the law into the United States;
2. The case is not considered by the consul to be one which should be recommended for consideration under the committee procedure, or
3. Such person other than a child under sixteen years of age is found upon telegraphic reference to the Department for security check not to be the subject of an adverse report or to be open to reasonable suspicion because of cases circumstances such as those attending the release of a male applicant of military age.

In order that the filing of petitions by citizen and resident alien relatives of victims of persecution may be expedited, the foregoing is being brought to the attention of private agencies. You will receive periodically by telegraph the names of persons whose status is established within the categories mentioned above. You are requested to inform the Board promptly of the names of persons and the names and addresses of relatives claimed to reside in the United States if any persons within such categories arrive in Switzerland after the Swiss authorities have informed enemy governments in accordance with paragraph 3 above but before the establishment of their status is communicated to you.

5. You should report any developments in this program. With reference to your 3042, August 5, and 5249, August 12, please express to Mr. Pilet-Golaz our deep appreciation of

the

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. McClelland's File

News in History August 1944

File 2

-3-

the active interest he shows in this matter.

HULL

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Mr McClelland's File
1. 1. 1. 1

Texas in History: August 1944

Folder 2

Weltzentrale des Hechaluz

Hechaluz Geneva Office

53, rue des Paquis, Geneva

המרכז העולמי של ה"חלוצ"

בשרר זינבה

23528

Mrs L. Please place in
Green Hechaluz file in
upper drawer.

Jews in Hungary

Bern, August 25, 1944.

Dear Mr. Schwalb:

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 25th of August with thanks, and was happy to note that our recent transfers arrived safely. In view of the recent sudden changes in the political and military situation in Rumania and their probable repercussion in Hungary, I am very glad that we were able to send your people this additional support for their rescue work.

I had a long talk the other day with Saly Mayer, and can only say that matters are developing as well as could be expected under such difficult circumstances.

Sincerely yours,

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

Mr. Nathan Schwalb,
Weltzentrale des Hechaluz,
53 rue des Paquis,
Geneva.

RDM/mjb

Sehr freundlichen Dank,
Ihr
Roswell D. McClelland

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. McClelland's File

Jews in Hungary, August 1944

Folder 2

Reply 8/25 RDM/mjb

Weltzentrale des Hechaluz

Hechaluz Geneva Office

53, rue des Paquis, Geneva

Telephon 2 36 28

המרכז העולמי של ה"חלוץ"

משרד זינבה

GENF, 25.8.44

זינבה

Ack.

Mr. Roswell D. McClelland
Special Assistant to
the American Minister
Bern

Lieber Herr McClelland,

In der ung. Angelegenheit haben Sie inzwischen ausfuehrlich von Herrn S.M. gehoert. Es sollte wenigstens ein kleiner Anfang gemacht werden, um das Moegliche in der letzten Stunde aus den Haenden der schlimmsten Elemente zu retten. Es handelt sich nicht mehr, wie nur um Zeit zu gewinnen. -

Heute wurde die letztgesandte Hilfe unseren Freunden in Bratisl. telegr. bestaetigt.

Zur gleichen Zeit bestaetigen auch die Freunde aus Bdp. die ihnen gesandte Unterstuetzung fuer die Rettungsarbeit am 10.8. laut Brief (Perez) vom 17.8.

Unter Anderem schreibt er Folgendes:

"Sonst nur noch so viel, dass wir Deine letzte Post vom 8.9.d.M. vollkommen erhalten haben, dass wir Euch vielen Dank fuer das Geschenk und Hilfsbereitschaft aussprechen. Unsere Familie tut in ihrem Rahmen ihr Moeglichstes (fuer die Rettung) und auch die Resultate, von denen uns vor allem die Briefe unserer Freunde aus Rum. zeugen, bezeugen dies. Wir bereiten Euch ja fuer die kommenden Tage wieder Post vor und werden Euch wieder genau ueber den Verlauf der Arbeit (Rettung nach Rum. und Slov.) informieren.

Nicht einmal die so fuerchtbar tragische und leider schon bestaetigte Nachricht ueber das Sinken des "Merkur", wird unseren Willen schwaechen. Wir wissen nicht mal wen wir unter den Ungluecklichen Kennen koennen, nur sovieler haben uns unsere Freunde heute aus Rum. berichtet, dass auf dem "Merkur" sich viele Freunde der rum. Bewegung befanden. Das Schicksal ist unserem Volke gegenueber leider sehr konsequent.

Diese traurige Lage erheilt nur das Bewusstsein, dass vielleicht schon in diesen Stunden zu Euch unsere teuren Freunde aus Bergbals ankommen und damit ihr langer, erwartungsvoller Weg bis zum Kriegsende ein Ziel erreicht hat... Unendlich viel wird Euch Israel (Kast.) erzaehlen koennen und unerhoert gross werden die Aufgaben sein, die er persoenlich auf Eure Schultern aufbauen muss. Wir, die Euch durch lange Jahre der schweren Galuth kennen gelernt haben, sind ueberzeugt, dass ihr mit Hilfe des Onkels und aller unseren Freunden, alles ueberbruecken werdet, was sich dieser grosszuegigen Rettung in den Weg stellt".

Perez sandte diesmal die ersten Listen der Rettungsarbeit in Bdp. nach Rum. und Slov. Den Listen nach wurden 498 Menschen - meist Jugendliche - gerettet. Davon 152 Leute nach der Slowakei (darunter 15 aus Polen, die in Ungarn weilten), und 346 nach Rum. (darunter 50 Jugendliche aus Polen, die in Ungarn eine laengere Zeit weilten). Die weitere Liste kommt mit der naechsten Post. -

Diese Rettungsarbeit wurde mit Ihrer Hilfe ermoeeglicht, wofuer wir Ihnen nochmals bestens danken.

Ihnen Erfolg in Ihrer weiteren Hilfsarbeit wuenschend, verbleibe ich mit

den freundlichsten Gruessen,

Ihr *W. F. H. H.*

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE
McClelland
Mr. McClelland's File
(Switzerland)
Jews in History: August 1944
Folder 2

Nitra vom 25.8. 1944.

Aug 1944

ENCRH

Vogel
in Zürich und

Re: Threatened continued Jews in Hungary
deportation of Jews from Hung. if Nazi terms are not met!

Aug 25/44.
Stunde - Heure - Ora

No.

Datum - Date - Data

Wörter-Mots-Parole

Telegramm - Télégramme - Telegramma

Taxe - Tassa

Befördert - Expédié - Spedito

nach - à - a

Stunde - Heure - Ora

Name - Nom - Nome

Bureau - Ufficio

Total - Totale

Mitzubefördernde Vermerke - Indications à transmettre
Indicazioni da trasmettersi

„Via Radiosuisse“

K O P I E

deportations are rumored
to have begun again on
Aug 26th at rhythm of
12,000 per day. Noefner
states this not true. When
to believe?

NITRA 25/8

ABMACHUNG FERTIG STOP REIMAN (DEUTSCHE) LIEFERT EIGENMOECHTIG AB 26/8

TAEGLICH 12 TONNEN PROVINIENZ HELLER (UNGARN) AN ALBUS (AUSCHWITZ) STOP
AUSFUHR FREI FRANCO GRENZE (GALANTA, LEOPOLDOV, WRUTKI-ZILINA) STOP KONDITION

UNMOEGlich DA DIESE KONKURRENZ (ASCHKENASY-DEUTSCHE) ERFOLG AUSSCHLIESSLICH

EUERE VERSCHULDUNG STOP VERANLASSET WENIGSTENS RASCHEST SOFORT EXPEDITION

EBENFALLS AUSFUHR FREI FRANCO GRENZE (GALANTA, LEOPOLDOV, WRUTKI-ZILINA) STOP
DRAHTBESTAETIGT TAETIGKEIT MICHELBERGER

Michel Beer son in law of the "Wonder-Rabbi" of Nitra.
The old "Notzgeschrei"
technique!

Adresse - Indirizzo
des Aufgebers - de l'expéditeur - del mittente

In der Hoffnung, dass Sie, lieber Herr MacClelland, diesbezuglich
das Noetige veranlassen werden, wuensche ich Ihnen alles Beste

freundliche Gruesse
Ihr

N. Schwalb
N. Schwalb.-

Mr. Roswell D. McClelland
Special Assistant to
the American Minister.-

Die Telegraphenverwaltungen übernehmen keinerlei Verantwortlichkeit für
die telegraphische Korrespondenz. — Les administrations télégraphiques
n'acceptent aucune responsabilité au sujet de la correspondance télé-
graphique. — Le amministrazioni telegrafiche non assumono alcuna re-
sponsabilità per la corrispondenza telegrafica.

Highly
dubious

Col. 71.010

Je
Lass
wches.

Telephon 2 36 28

GENF. 26.8.44 זינבה

Lieber Herr McClelland:

Ihr w. Schreiben vom 25/8 habe ich dankend erhalten u. hoffe, dass die ung. Angelegenheit sich im gewuenschten Sinne entwickeln wird.

Inzwischen kam heute ein Telegramm von Herrn Michael Ber, Nitra, nach Zuerich, dessen Wortlaut ich Ihnen lt. Beilage zitiere. Soeben erhielt auch ich vom Genannten ein Telegramm, dem nach ich von diesem nach Zuerich Gesandten Kenntnis nehmen soll u. er bittet rasch zu handeln.-

Unsere Taktik: Zeit zu gewinnen und jede Deportation aufzuhalten. Diese Taktik-wie jede andere- ist begrenzt, bis man doch auch unsererseits Einiges leisten muss, besonders wenn die zweite Seite (Partner moechte ich nicht sagen) uns gegenueber letzstens ein Positivum gezeigt hat.

Es scheint, dass auch wir muessen etwas zeigen bis diese oder jene Antwort von den hoeheren Stellen anlangen wird. Wenigstens in diesem Sektor, ueber welchem wir alle uns einig sind: die genannten Orte unter d. "Kontrolle des Himmels" s o f o r t zu nehmen. Dies wird die Deportation verunmoeglichen, dies hilft uns auch Zeit zu gewinnen.

In der Hoffnung, dass Sie, lieber Herr MacClelland, diesbezuglich das Noetige veranlassen werden, wuensche ich Ihnen alles Beste

freundliche Gruesse

Ihr

N. Schwalb.-

Mr. Roswell D. McClelland
Special Assistant to
the American Minister.-

Ought to present this RR line as militarily important
Nachschub for the Russian fronts. It has been suggested
that Jewish flyers be asked to volunteer especially those
who come from this region's know it. Also question of
Manfred Weiss Bridge

Willy is higher than men who met SM. Willy may) news to Bratislava
before Korym received it. Accounts for Rav Ungar's wine above. Willy is 7 in
an alibi's money for himself. What Montreux new arrivals said.

The explanation: Nazi manœuvre. H. G. - make Hungarians do it so the H's
would then be so incriminated that they go along with Nazis.
Since WRT & US initiative, Nazis felt, US can take 13 Jews.
Create trouble - Allies, a keynote.

Based on Sept's 2877
August 21st.

Bern, August 25, 1944.

gave in
Neutr

itra vom 25.8. 1944.

Max Vogel
Jewish banked in Zürich who
also brought me copies of the
wires.

Col. 71.010

Hürich
Coedistrasse 52

Reiman liefert eigenmächtig
onnen Provinienz Heller an
ize stop Konditionen anmögl

da dieser Konkurrenzserfolg ausschliesslich euere
veranlasset wenigstens sofort rascheste Expedition
ausfuhrfrei franco Grenze stop verständiget sofor
et Natanskycomp sowie Hugo stop drahtbestätiget
Bratislava

Uebersetzung:

Abmachung fertig stop Deutschland liefert eigenmächtig
(d.h.: ohne Zustimmung Ungarns) ab 26. August t
12000 Personen (Ungarn) nach Auschwitz (Vernicht
über Galanta-Leopoldov-Vrutky-Zilina-Cadca stop
Da dieser Konkurrenzser

Highly
doubtful!

Based on Sept's 2877
August 21st.

Bern, August 25, 1944.

gave in Hungary
Neutral Telegrams.

Depesche aus ~~Bratislava~~ Nitra vom 25.8. 1944.

Aug 1944

Original:

Abmachung fertig stop Reiman liefert eigenmächtig ab
August 26 täglich 12 Tonnen Provinienz Heller an Albus
ausfuhrfrei franco Grenze stop Konditionen anmöglich stop
da dieser Konkurrenzerfolg ausschliesslich euere Verschuldung
veranlasst wenigstens sofort rascheste Expedition ebenfalls
ausfuhrfrei franco Grenze stop verständigt sofort Mayer
et Natanskycomp sowie Hugo stop drahtbestätigt Hotel Centre
Bratislava

Uebersetzung:

Abmachung fertig stop Deutschland liefert eigenmächtig
(d.h.: ohne Zustimmung Ungarns) ab 26. August täglich
12000 Personen (Ungarn) nach Auschwitz (Vernichtungslager!)
über Galanta-Leopoldov-Vrutky-Zilina-Cadca stop Ziel:
Vernichtungsanstalt stop Da dieser Konkurrenzerfolg ausschliess-
lich euere Verschuldung veranlasst sofort raschesten
Luftangriff auf die Routen die befahren werden/ ebenfalls
Galanta-Leopoldov-Vrutky-Zilina-Cadaca stop verständigt
sofort Mayer et Natanskycomp sowie Hugo stop drahtbestätigt
Hotel Central Bratislava

Der Vorwurf ("ausschliesslich euere Verschuldung") hat folgende
Bewandnis:

Die Ungarn verlangten Lieferung von diversen Ma-
schinen und Tractoren als Lösegeld für das Nicht-
deportieren. Diesem Verlangen schlossen sich die
von der Deportation Bedrohten an. Die hiesigen Freunde
lehnten die Lieferung von Maschinen ab, erklärten
sich aber bereit, bei den Alliierten zu intervenieren,
obschon die Mittel für die Maschienn zur Verfügung
stünden.

Bern, August 25, 1944.

Depesche vom 28. August.

Original:

"sprechet sofort Natanskycomp stop aufhöret mit leeren
Versprechungen erwarten angekündigte Expedition ausfuhrfrei
franco Grenze vergebens täglicher Ausfall an Konkurrenz
10 Tonnen stop machen euch für alle Folgen verantwortlich"

Uebersetzung:

sprechet sofort Nathan stop aufhöret mit leeren Versprechungen
erwarten angekündigten Luftangriff Galanta-Leopoldow-Vrutky-
Zilina-Cadoa vergebens täglicher Ausfall an Konkurrenz
10.000 Personen stop machen euch für alle Folgen verantwortlich"

Note

These Telegrams went sent to
a certain Bela Rebovic, Staufacher Quay 18
from Michel Beer in Bratislava.

Alexander
Duscheck

} Union Bank, Switzerland - Acct
210,000 frs.

Max Vogel

Men who received "Schmergeld" in Bratislava affair &
who continue to receive it.

This information was passed on to
the CA's office for eventual
action. K5200. 18 Nov. 1944.

Mr. McClelland's Files

Mr. McClelland's Files

Trans in Hddrn: August 1944

Re: Present intentions of Hungarian Gov. toward the Jews. COPY FOR MR. MCCLELLAND

Based on Sept's 2900 Aug 23rd.

URGENT

- COPY -

Jews in Hungary
Based on Sept's 2877
August 21st.

Bern, August 25, 1944.

My dear Mr. Federal Councillor:

Supplementary to my letter of Aug. 4th., in which it was a pleasure to be able to assure you that the United Nations were willing to receive Jews whom the Hungarian Gov. might see fit to release for admission to Switzerland, I now have to inform you that American Consular Officers in Switzerland have been instructed that an allotment of visas has been made for refugee children who were born in Hungary to enable them to proceed to the United States. These visas will be issued separate and apart from the visas which you were informed in the Legation's note of March 22, 1944 were authorized in the cases of refugee children arriving in Switzerland from France.

Please accept, my dear Mr. Federal Councillor, the renewed assurance of my highest consideration.

LELAND HARRISON

His Excellency
Marcel Pilet-Golaz
Federal Councillor,
Chief, Federal Political Dept.
Bern.

840.1 JWS IN HUNGARY

840.1 JWS IN HUNGARY

WRE
GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE
McCLELLAND

(Switzerland)

CL

Bern, August 25, 1944.

My dear Mr. Pallai:

I thank you for your letter of August 22nd. I am unfortunately well acquainted with the circumstances of the arrival of this recent convoy of 320 Hungarian Jews who reached Basel last Sunday. Arrangements, however, have been made to talk to those responsible persons among them in order to obtain supplementary information.

I hope that in due time and course it will be possible to shed further light on this whole question, but for the moment this is not the case.

Sincerely yours,

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

Mr. Géza Pallai,
Hotel Waldhaus Dolder,
Zurich.

RDM/mjb

840.1 JEWS IN HUNGARY

RESPONSE
CLELLAND

Mr McClelland's file

Jews in Hungary

CASE FILE

Re Tall Time Certificate for
Jews in Hungary - German
to 2000 400 to

CASE FILE

WRB (RAM)

(action as prisoner
to A1-9T)

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department

Date: August 25, 10 p.m., 1944

No.: 2933

Code: [REDACTED]

Received: August 26, 10 p.m.

PARAPHRASE

WRB No. 142.

Legation Stockholm has been informed substantially as follows by a person who is considered to be thoroughly reliable:

We have been
receiving similar
information for
several months.

"There had been in open-air concentration for four or five days some 20,000 Jews of both sexes and of all ages, with nothing to sit on but the ground. They were later crammed into box cars which were nailed shut and despatched to destinations outside of Hungary. With 80 persons to a car, they were so packed that no one could sit down or even move, and many must have died during the journey. The personnel which handled this movement were not Germans, but Hungarian gendarmes."

This report confirms statements from various sources that Hungarian police have been principally instrumental in the arrest and deportation of Jews from Hungary under tragically cruel conditions.

WRB is operative!

You are requested to transmit this information to the Swiss authorities for forwarding to the Government of Hungary, which should be informed that its comment is attentively awaited with respect to these reports, which are regarded as authentic.

HULL

Received WRB Aug 28/44
For Action
Answered
No.

re

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 25 1972

840.1 JEWS IN HUNGARY

(Switzerland)

Jews in Hungary, August 1944

Feld

Based on Sept's 2900 Aug. 23rd.

URGENT

CASE FILE

Re Palestine Certificate for
Jews in Hungary - German
objections to allowing Hqs to
go to Palestine, at
least directly?

TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department

Date: August 26, 10 a. m., 1944.

No: 5579

Code: [REDACTED]

Charged to:

Paraphrase

From McClelland for WRB.

Intercross recommended during recent conversations that in concert with the British Government our Government indicate to the Hungarian Government its willingness to transport to some specified haven of refuge in Allied territory a certain number of Hungarian Jews whose removal is not (repeat not) based on the possession of certificates for Palestine and who do not intend to go to the latter country. Such an offer, Intercross feels, might have a greater chance of success than the current proposals of emigration to Palestine for Hungarian Jews as it would offset German disapproval of Palestine emigration, which disapproval is based on the alleged German desire not to jeopardize their good relations with the Arabian Mufti. It is Intercross' opinion that such evacuation could best be effected through Rumania as a more practical and safer route than through German-controlled territory to Switzerland. I feel that the proposal is worth trying as it has definite points in its favor and would involve Hungarian Jews who would ultimately desire to return to their country. The attention of WRB is called in this respect to the offer of 500 entry visas made by Tangier.

Referring to the Legation's 5397 of August 19, it is strongly recommended that propaganda pressure be maintained on the Hungarian Government. The Hungarian Government is showing a tendency to "relax on its laurels" following its "generous" offer to allow Jews to emigrate, meanwhile passively permitting the Germans to carry out further deportation of people who are Hungarian nationals, after all. The fact should be emphasized that such acquiescence constitutes common guilt with the Germans for which the Hungarians will also be held responsible after the war. This sort of

pressure

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 25 1972

BERN.

840.1 JEWIS IN HUNGARY

(Switzerland)

Jews in Hungary, August 1944

Based on Sept's 2900, Aug 23rd.

URGENT

5579

-2-

pressure would also strengthen the hand of those Hungarians of good-will in the country who from the start have opposed such persecution of the Jews. The use of pamphlets in Hungarian, as well as warnings via the radio, is recommended by competent Hungarian circles in Switzerland.

HARRISON

RDM:nf
Copy to RDM

RE
GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

McClelland

Mr. McClelland's File
(Switzerland)

Index in History: August 1944

Folder 2

Based on Sept 2900 Aug 23 1944

URGENT

CASE FILE

Info Negotiations

TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department

Date: August 26, 2 p. m., 1944.

No: 5588

Code: [REDACTED]

Charged to:

Paraphrase

Reference is made to your 2867 of August 21.

On August 23 I had a long talk with Saly Mayer (referred to as SM hereinafter) in St. Gall. He informed me that the projected meeting mentioned in the Legation's 5197 of August 11 took place finally on Sunday August 20th between SM, three German agents and Isreal Kasztner at St. Margarethen, a town on the Swiss-German border. The Germans arrived on the morning of August 19 but SM could not see them until 24 hours later. The Swiss authorities did not grant border passes to either side.

The head of the German delegation (a member of the German "Wirtschaftsamt") characterized as "preliminary" the discussion held during this meeting.

There follows the substance of the discussion which took place as reported to me by Mayer.

The backbone of the proposition which the Germans advanced was the delivery of 10,000 trucks, which could probably come only from the United States. The Germans in return would release not only the Jews remaining in Hungary but also all Jews in their hands, numberly one million roughly. In reply, Mayer stated that putting the matter on such a basis would most certainly mean categoric refusal on the part of the United States Government, and further, that he could not be party to any deal that involved the delivery of war material which could be used against Allied troops. Another formula would have to be found if the Germans wished to avoid such a refusal. The Germans retorted that the proposition of 10,000 trucks was not theirs but had originated with Jewish circles in Budapest and had been made by Kasztner. When SM reproached them for wishing to trade human beings for goods ("Menschenhandel") the Germans heatedly repudiated this accusation and declared that they were simply willing

to take up a proposition that had been made to them and which

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 25 1972

840.1 JEWIS IN HUNGARY

Mr McClelland's File (Switzerland)

Jews in Hungary: August 1944

Folder 2

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

McClelland

which interested certain Gestapo circles.

Mayer was permitted to talk alone to Kasztner. The latter painted the following picture of the present situation of the Jews in Hungary. Some 170,000 Jews are left in Budapest. The extreme faction of the Gestapo (called Group C hereinafter) was impatient to continue the deportation and extermination of Jews and had wanted to begin again in Budapest on August 19. The attitude of Group C (which is the attitude of Hitler) is that they wish at all costs to liquidate the Jews even though Germany loses the war. The present Government of Hungary is either indifferent to the whole question or powerless to act. Horthy himself could be no more than a passive ("unbeteiligt") onlooker to the continued deportation. The Gestapo holds all real power in this respect. No emigration whatever of the Jews is allowed by Group C. "Orthodox" diplomatic intervention or protests are more or less useless and have no influence on Group C's plans and intentions.

The feeling of other Gestapo circles in Budapest and in Germany in general is that the whole program of the extermination of the Jews as a policy is undesirable and should not be pursued.

Himmler's faction (Group B) represents a middle course. The attitude of this group towards the Jewish question is more or less indifferent. They do not oppose the release of Jews who remain in German hands, particularly if goods of value to the Reich can be obtained in exchange for them. The delegation which met SM represented Group B and mentioned specifically that Himmler knew and approved of the negotiations and the meeting. They told SM: "It will cost us nothing to release the Jews. On the other hand there is something to be gained by doing so."

Kasztner explained to SM that Group B had to advance substantial counter-propositions in order to be in a position to offset the arguments of Group C. That is why they accepted Kasztner's proposals and agreed to negotiate.

Mayer feels that the fact that such a meeting took place at all is a hopeful sign in itself. Equally significant is the arrival in Switzerland of 320 Hungarian Jews, for which these negotiators were directly responsible. Throughout the whole discussion, which they held to an objective basis, SM saw no evidence

that

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE
D. McLELLAND

840.1 JEWS IN HUNGARY

Mr. Mclelland's file
(Switzerland)

Jews in Hungary: August 1944

Folder 2

personal
that these men were interested in/financial gain. Their relationship to Kasztner seemed quite matter-of-fact.

Regarding the material terms proposed, Saly Mayer's point of departure in arguing the matter was that insistence on the 10,000 trucks would certainly condemn the whole proposal to failure in advance, therefore what other proposals had the delegation to make? They stated that Allied permission to neutrals, such as Switzerland, to deliver goods (machine tools, for example) might be acceptable as a compromise. If authorization in principle to go ahead would be secured by SM, they would furnish him with a list of goods available in Switzerland and other neutral countries that would be of interest to them. The hope was expressed by SM that they could propose goods of not such an out-and-out military character.

SM asked them for a breathing spell of ten days (until August 31), arguing that such arrangements would take time and that the decision did not depend on him. SM succeeded in eliciting a definite promise from the head of the delegation that he (the head) would do all he could to prevent the further deportation of Jews from Hungary and their extermination during this delay, but he warned SM that the moment might soon arrive when the matter could go beyond his control.

Saly Mayer feels strongly, and in this I agree, that having gained three precious weeks already, no effort should be spared to find a formula by which to gain more time. Your opinion as to whether the point where it is impossible to gain more time has yet been reached would be welcomed. Do you feel that further steps can be taken without committing ourselves irrevocably but also without breaking off negotiations? While awaiting your advice we agreed that as a preliminary sign of willingness to continue, SM could request permission from the Swiss for the entry of the German agent who is to carry on further negotiations. SM feels that in order to keep negotiations going he should have some form of evidence showing that at least \$2,000,000 were available in the United States, if necessary. Various dilatory tactics of a technical nature, just short of actual delivery of any goods, might then be indulged in. The Germans could be requested to submit a list of the items they desire. The military and political developments in the Balkans are meantime increasingly in favor of saving these Jews.

From McClelland to the WRB.

RDM:nf

HARRISON

Copy to RDM *Copy in 7A*

840.1 JEWIS IN HUNGARY

Mr McClelland's File
(Switzerland)

Trans in History, August 1944

Folder 2

9352
The American Legation presents its compliments
to the Division of Foreign Interests of the Federal
Political Department, and has the honor to refer to

Conversation, SM - Sun. Aug 27th at Comayon.
(2nd part).

200 may come on Mon. 28th. Jews & Hungarians

Justification: SS - out for whitewashing & money
Confirmation again if it is for SS things
much worse in Hungary. more money & SS than Hungarians

Not slightest doubt P. Hummer knows & approves.
Fischer, Krümmel & Brünson also want whitewashing &
protection.

All Jews in H. were supposed to be deported - sooner
when Hitler found out the Germans in Budapest, annexed
P. & promise goods for all those not deported.

Joel B. & strict orders to be back in a fortnight
with or without results. When did not return
Bs were considerably "geangert".

Political aspects rather than goods are main motives

300 here in S/Land up to letter F - P were
selected alphabetically in B.-B. Germany.

Ghetto & non-ghetto, Oberabbauers Glaser.

Out of 318 at Montheuse 69 "Stembuchhüter".
1200 Rabbin et al never left as 1200

Nathans. is not pleased P. 318 are not all Nathans

* Church in Hungary was v. ineffective from
start. Deportations stopped because Germans
said don't send anymore - can't handle them.
Church really did nothing to prevent deportation.

Federal Political Department,

BERN.

The American Legation presents its compliments
to the Division of Foreign Interests of the Federal
Political Department, and has the honor to refer to

-Only foreigners who enjoy any protection
soldiers & ports / registered. Paraguay
power around.

Eichmann hat erklärt er liefert jüdischer Leben
wenn die Juden wären liefern."
Sein Hauptberuf ist in jüdischen Quartieren. Wachen zu
halten in Hitler Anschlag. Collects money at & left.

Hungary is definitely more guilty than Germany in
the whole affair.

Eichmann & Krumey are not to be bribed.
They want goods & rescue SS-men after the
war.

Federal Political Department,

BERN.

840.1 JEWIS IN HUNGARY

840.1 JEWIS IN HUNGARY

ies:

2.

Re: Present intentions of Hungarian Gov. toward the Jews.

COPY FOR MR. MCCLELLAND

URGENT

Aug. 28, 44

Based on Sept's 2900, Aug. 23rd.

(V.L.)

A.I. No. 9352

The American Legation presents its compliments to the Division of Foreign Interests of the Federal Political Department, and has the honor to refer to the Legation's note A.I. No. 9343 of August 28, 1944 concerning the treatment of Jews in Hungary.

In this connection, the Department of State has informed the Legation that the United States Government has found wide discrepancies in communications and reports regarding the offer of the Hungarian Government to permit the emigration of Jews from Hungary, that it has based its position on the assurances of the Hungarian Government as set forth in the Division's note No. 34786 of July 18, 1944, that it proposes to maintain its position but that it is anxious nevertheless to ascertain the exact nature of the offer and of the Hungarian attitude.

The Department of State accordingly instructed the Legation to make inquiries, without departing from the position taken by the United States Government, concerning the following principal uncertainties:

1. In view of the internal situation of Hungary, to what extent can the promises of the Hungarian Government be counted on as being effective and continuing for the duration of the war?

2.

To the

Division of Foreign Interests,

Federal Political Department,

BERN.

840.1 JEWIS IN HUNGARY

NEAR CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. McClelland's Files

Jews in Hungary

2. Have deportations of all categories of Jews been definitely stopped? If they are only suspended, for how long have they been suspended and to what categories does the suspension apply?
3. Is it possible, even in the absence of actual sizable Jewish emigration from Hungary during hostilities, to expect that the Hungarian Government will continue to stop deportations and other acts which actually endanger the lives of Jews? If so, to what extent?
4. Will Jews in Hungary be allowed and be enabled to obtain food and other necessities through ordinary commercial channels, aside from the action of the International Committee of the Red Cross? If so, to what extent?
5. Might it be possible to conduct emigration so as to prevent breaking up families? (This question is related to the question of separating children under ten years of age from their parents.)
6. To what extent are Jews over ten years old allowed to emigrate to countries other than Palestine?

It would be very much appreciated if the Division would be good enough to communicate the foregoing to the Swiss Legation at Budapest with a request for any information that it is able to provide concerning the points of uncertainty mentioned above.

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

Bern, August 28, 1944.

A true copy
of the signed
original: *help*

Union Bank of Switzerland

Union de Banques Suisses

Management

Rec'd Aug. 29th

Personal

Zurich, 28th August, 1944

Dear Mr. McClelland:

Dr. Schaefer who is at present on military service has sent to us your letter addressed to him on August 23rd regarding Mr. Eugene Bogdanffy of Los Angeles, California.

He asks us to inform you that owing to the present military situation all leave has been suspended and that for this reason he is unfortunately not in a position to meet you in the near future.

We are, however, pleased to say that Mr. Eugene Bogdanffy is well known to us. He emigrated a few years ago to the United States of America owing to the Régime in his native country, and we have arranged for monthly payments of \$400.- in his favour from funds which were deposited with us already before the war.

Should you wish to receive any further details regarding Mr. Eugene Bogdanffy we would be glad to furnish you with them.

Always with much pleasure at your disposal, we remain,

Very truly yours,
UNION BANK OF SWITZERLAND

Fineman

Mr. Roswell D. McClelland
Special Assistant to
the American Minister
Elfenstrasse 6
B e r n e.

840.1 JEWS IN HUNGARY

RE GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE
McClelland

Mr. McClelland's Files
(Switzerland)

Jews in History: August 1944
Folder 2



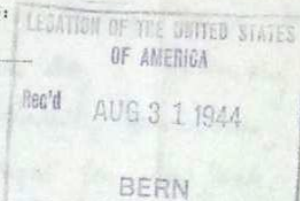
COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE
AGENCE CENTRALE DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE

Chèques postaux 1.5327
Téléphone 4 23 05
Télég. "INTERCROIXROUGE"

Rappeler dans la réponse:

G 85 G 59/5/56

PK/vmc



GENÈVE, le 29 août 1944

Monsieur McClelland
Légation des Etats-Unis
Alpenstrasse, 29
B e r n e
-.....-

(C.L.)

Monsieur,

Concerne : déportation d'Israélites hongrois

Nous avons l'honneur d'accuser réception de la lettre du 19 juillet 1944 par laquelle vous nous transmettez un message de l'organisation Agudas Israel World Organization, relatif aux déportations des Israélites de Hongrie.

Nous avons immédiatement porté le contenu de ce message à la connaissance de notre délégation à Budapest en la priant de procéder à une enquête sur ces faits et nous ne manquerons pas de vous tenir au courant de sa réponse.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur, l'assurance de notre considération la plus distinguée.

Pour le Comité International
de la Croix Rouge:

Division d'Assistance
Spéciale

848

JEWIS IN HUNGARY

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. McClelland's File

Jews in Hungary: August 1944

Folder 2

Aug. 31/44

Mr. 1 BELLIAND

Jews in Hungary

Aug. 30/44.

Conversation, SM. Wed. Aug. 30th.

4 cables from Rabbi of Neutra since Friday! Claims each day 10,000 persons deported per day! Customary "Notzschrei": Always such wires are addressed to Schwarz, Bornbaum, Aches, et al.

Joe Schwartz left last night for New York. Joe said nothing — be done with regard to "Sechora".

Bornbaum's 230,000 — now 173,000 — Antennecommmerz. Trieste.

How can funds be deposited so as to / nothing to do with goods.

Varkel's Mobilian AB.

* WKB — informed of all possibilities to help. it has been decided ✓ BSM & SM that SM shall have a free hand as far as funds in SM's possession — concerned. With exception: actions prejudicial to / satisfactory prosecution ✓ was.

SM must hold to terms of JDC's cable #96.

Montello called on SM last Sat. — stormy interview. Then Zevenstein on subject of Trumpy. Who is T. seen? our Wirtschaftsverhandlungen people ARBA. or opposition group? Has T. crossed things up?

* Trumpy is now claiming that he brought 318 in for Bundesbank f. T. told Bundesbank P. is ✓ in individuals on basis of money / T. claimed he got 2 SM! Nothing to do with goods.

Should SM speak to Arba in a more ultimative, categorical tone?

What / consequences? — "Intermezzi of not leaving well enough alone"

SM has tranquilized Kahany, Perlman & Pozner — re all this morning to & from Karlas. (Pozner wished to wire: "Es ist keine präzisere Erklärung erhältlich von SM")

Joe S. apparently let SM know P. / probably got his \$2 m.

SM may tell Arba that Joe Schwarz is — to NSA.

- ① Is it advisable for SM to go on with Arba?
- ② " " " " this to be done by SM?
- ③ Or should one take a strong, reversed stand (feeling Germans set us very bad) & they can't really kill off the Jews.

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. McClelland's Files (Switzerland)

Jews in Hungary, August 1944 Folder 2

CASE FILE

AKB 13A-1 *Misfiter*
~~URG RDM~~
~~CA DR~~

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department

Date: August 30, 8 p.m., 1944

No.: 2989

Code: [REDACTED]

Received: August 31, 8 a.m.

Received VNB *Aug 31 1944*
 For Action
 Answered
 No.

PARAPHRASE

C.L.

US URGENT

Leavitt of Joint Distribution in New York has received from Schwartz JDC in Lisbon a cable referring to the interview by Saly Mayer which was described in your 5588 of August 26. Embassy Lisbon's cable of August 29 commenting on the Schwartz message is as follows in substance:

Schwartz requested in his message instructions as to (1) whether JDC in New York was willing to make the payments requested, and (2) whether or not the Department and the Treasury would grant license under the conditions stated. Today the Embassy at Lisbon from an entirely reliable source received information to the effect that the Chargé d'Affaires of Hungary at Lisbon on August 28 received a telegram from the Hungarian Foreign Office dated August 27. In this telegram the policy of the Hungarian Government, based on the new situation arising in Rumania, was outlined. The following is a paraphrase of the substance of the text of the telegram with reference to the Jewish problem:

"Hereafter the Hungarian Government will handle the administration of all Jewish affairs and Jews will not hereafter be deported. This decision has been made by the Regent."

The Hungarian representative at Lisbon expressed considerable doubt that the Germans could any longer carry out deportations of Jews in large or even small numbers. He stated, although he could not be altogether certain, that his understanding is that during the past two weeks there have been a growing opposition in Hungary to the Nazis, both in official circles and among the

eyewash!

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73

SEP 25 1972

By R. H. Parks Date

general

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE
 OF R McLELLAND

Mr Mclelland's File
(Switzerland)

840.1 Jews in Hungary

Jews in Hungary: August 1944

Folder 2

DEPT.

Re: Hung. treatment of
Jews (Swedish).

COPY TO Mr. T. LEEHAN

- 2 -

(No. 2989)

general population. From this opposition there would result an active resistance to any purification by the Germans. It was further stated by the Chargé d'Affaires that it would be physically impossible to carry out any large movement at the present time. In the opinion of the Chargé d'Affaires, any transaction of the kind suggested in the Schwartz message is purely an attempt at blackmail by the Gestapo. The Chargé d'Affaires expects to be in possession of further information on this subject before long. Such information will without delay be transmitted to the Department and to the Embassy at Lisbon.

With reference to the questions raised in your telegram No. 5588 of August 26, 1944, the War Refugee Board will reply later today.

HULL

In duplicate

re

Copy in 7A

*Hung. Charge d'Affaires in Lisbon is probably
Eugen UJPETERY - a former Sec of
Gombor & colleague of Bardossy. Very
unreliable man - unsavory past connections.*

of R McLELLAND

(Switzerland)

RECEIVED

Folder 2

Re: Hung. treatment of
Jews (Swedish).

COPY TO Mr. I LELIAND

Aug. 31/44

(C.L.)

A.I. No. 9368

The American Legation presents its compliments to the Division of Foreign Interests of the Federal Political Department, and has the honor to refer to the Legation's note A.I. No. 9319 of August 22, 1944 which requested the Division to transmit to the Government of Hungary a message requesting a statement concerning the measures which have been taken by the Hungarian authorities to safeguard, against starvation and other forms of persecution, Jews placed at the disposal of the German Government.

The Legation is now in receipt of a telegram from the Department of State which contained the following report, received from a source considered to be thoroughly reliable, concerning the mistreatment of Jews despatched by Hungarian authorities to destinations outside of Hungary:

"There had been in open-air concentration for four or five days some 20,000 Jews of both sexes and of all ages, with nothing to sit on but the ground. They were later crammed into box cars which were nailed shut and despatched to destinations outside of Hungary. With 80 persons to a car, they were so packed that no one could sit down or even move, and many must have died during the journey. The personnel which handled this movement were not Germans, but Hungarian gendarmes."

The Legation is under instructions to request that

the

To the

Division of Foreign Interests,
Federal Political Department,
BERN.

840.1 JEWS IN HUNGARY

the Division be good enough to transmit this report to the Government of Hungary and to inform it that its comment thereon is attentively awaited by the United States Government, as the report confirms statements from various sources that Hungarian police have been principally instrumental in the arrest and deportation of Jews from Hungary under tragically cruel conditions.

The Legation avails itself of this opportunity to render to the Division the assurance of its highest consideration.

Bern, August 31, 1944.

11-15-44

Jews in History: August

Letter to S.M. of Sept. 4th. RDM

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

WRB/REA

From: Department

Date: August 31, 8 p.m., 1944

No.: 3004

Code: [REDACTED]

Received: September 1, noon.

PARAPHRASE



No. 152 from the War Refugee Board.

You are requested to deliver a paraphrase of the following message to Saly Mayer:

"The Government of Mexico has sent instructions to the Mexican Legation in Bern to obtain from you a list of the four hundred outstanding Jewish communal leaders, rabbis, etc., to whom the Swedish Legation at Budapest will issue documents on behalf of the Government of Mexico. You should contact the Legation in Bern. The bearers of these documents will be entitled to the protection of Sweden as the protecting power for Mexican nationals. It is presumed that you will compile the list of such outstanding personalities on the basis of your own knowledge and after consultation with whomever you deem desirable. N. A. LEAVITT, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee."

HULL

/nrm

in duplicate

COPY IN FA

840.1 JEW IN HUNGARY

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date

SEP 25 1972

let to Mayer 9/1/44

CASE FILE

APR 2
Saly
WRB-RSM

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department

Date: August 30, 7 p.m., 1944

No.: 2990

Code: [REDACTED]

Received: August 31, 4 p.m.

PARAPHRASE

(C.L.)

LEGATIONS

Department's 5588 August 26.

Following is from WRB for Harrison and McClelland.

WRB will appreciate your expressing to Saly Mayer the appreciation of the Board for the excellent way in which he is handling a most difficult task. It agrees that every effort must be made to extend the negotiations and to gain time, and it feels confident that Mayer will be able to prolong the negotiations, making no commitments but avoiding the breaking off of negotiations. He should be advised that there are no materials of military value available. He can, however, proceed with the knowledge that there are available to him in this country at least two million dollars, and he may gain time by referring to this amount since without approval from the United States no arrangement can be entered into for any payment from this fund. We do not believe that under the present circumstances monetary payments are practical, and no approval can be given for such payments.

Please advise Saly Mayer that he should inform conferees that he is unable (repeat unable) to secure any authorization for the export of goods to Germany from any neutral country without a list of the nature and the quantity of the materials that are desired. In order to gain time he should ask for a list of such materials. Discussion of the list might furnish the means of procuring at least two adjournments of the conferences. Discussion may be prolonged on a technical basis when the list is presented. WRB relies on Mayer, with your assistance, to use every possible dilatory tactic to gain time, the foregoing being offered merely as suggestions.

HULL

In duplicate/re

copy in F.A

Received WRB 9/1/44 RSM
For Action
Answered
No.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Pucka Date SEP 25 1972

840.1 JEWIS IN HUNGARY

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE
OF R. McCLELLAND
McClelland's File
(Switzerland)
Jews in Hungary August 1944
Folder 2

WRE
GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE
OF R MACLELLAND

Mr Maclelland's Files
(Switzerland)

Texas in History: August 1944
Folder 2