





Union of Orthodox Rabbis of America
in Switzerland (I. Sternbach)
June 1955

105
Total: 300 pp

WRB Records
Box 62

Typical of Stambach's

WRB

War Refugee Board
American Legation
Bern, Switzerland.

UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS: REPRESENTATION
IN SWITZERLAND (I. STERNBUCH): "SCHWEIZ.
HILFSVEREIN FÜR JUED. FLÜCHTLINGE
IM AUSLAND."

January through June 1944.

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

Typical of Standard's
allure

Reliance ~~is~~

Union of Orthodox
Rabbinical

January 1900

Typical of Sternbuch's
affairs.

Return with

Let to Sternbuch 1/26/44
CASE FILE

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department Date: January 22, 9 p.m., 1944
No: 329
Code: [REDACTED] Received: January 23, a.m.

PARAPHRASE

Received CA 24/1/44 DIR
For Action
Answered Jan. 27/44
No. 615

US URGENT.

There is quoted below, in paraphrase, the text of a license which the Treasury Department has issued to the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada (referred to hereinafter as the Union). The representative of the Union is Mr. Isaac Sternbuch, St. Gall, Switzerland, and you are requested to transmit to him urgently the substance of the message quoted below:

"(A) Authorization is hereby granted to your representative in Switzerland, together with such agents as he may appoint, notwithstanding General Ruling No. 11, by any means which may be deemed by him expedient or necessary, to communicate with persons in enemy territory or in territory occupied by the enemy for the purpose of arranging the evacuation of persons in such territory, whose lives may be in imminent danger, to such areas of safety or relative safety as such representative may select, and, until such time as such evacuation is possible, to arrange for the safeguarding and sustenance of such persons, and to pursue any other action which may be appropriate for said purposes, including the payment of funds to persons in enemy territory or in territory occupied by the enemy who may have provided either services or goods in connection with the foregoing. For the purpose of acquiring the necessary local currency for the purposes of financing the operations referred to above, the following three methods are authorized, provided that method number 3 should not be used if it is feasible to obtain the local currency by either of the other two methods mentioned:

(1) By purchasing in Switzerland the currency or exchange of the country in which the operations are to take place, provided your representative is reasonably that the sellers of such currency have held it since before the date as of which such country was frozen by this Government, or that, if the currency was acquired subsequently thereto, the acquisition took place under circumstances from which the enemy did not benefit, your representative when possible

to

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

By R. H. Paine Date SEP 26 1972

*Typical of Sternbuch's
affairs.*

Return with

- 2 -

(No. 229)

to consult with the American Legation Bern. Sellers of such local currency or exchange may be reimbursed in Swiss francs at the prevailing unofficial rate of exchange in Switzerland.

(2) By purchasing in enemy or enemy-occupied territory the local currency or exchange of the country in which the operations are to take place, provided reimbursement is to be made only after the war. In order to insure reimbursement to the sellers of such exchange or local currency after the war, blocked accounts in a bank in Switzerland or the United States may be established on your books in the United States, provided that without specific approval of the Treasury in each case there shall be no assignment of any interest in such blocked account or payment from it.

(3) By purchasing in enemy or enemy-occupied territory the necessary local funds, goods, services, or exchange, reimbursement to be made in foreign exchange or free currency notes, provided that such reasonable steps as are possible are taken by your representative to prevent such notes or exchange from being acquired by persons from whom the enemy may receive them.

(B) The total sums paid out from any blocked account which is established in pursuance of this license, plus the claims established against it, shall not, during the six months beginning January 1, 1944, exceed 430,000 Swiss francs or the dollar equivalent thereof.

(C) Your representative should report fully to the American Legation Bern on the financial transactions which are completed under this license, and should insure to whatever extent possible that the persons from whom the exchange or local currency is purchased are acceptable to the Legation. Your representative should be satisfied, so far as possible, that any payments made to such persons will not be of benefit to the enemy.

(D) Periodic reports on the operations carried out pursuant to this license should be filed by your representative with the American Legation."

Please advise Mr. Sternbuch that, unless the Union advises him to the contrary, his authority in connection with the above license is to be exercised in collaboration with Mr. Rosenbaum and Mr. David Rubinfeld. Please advise him further that this license has been issued as a result of reports that considerable numbers of Jews are now hiding in the forests bordering several European countries,

particularly

Typical of Stambuch's
affairs.

Return ~~with~~

- 3 -

(No. 229)

particularly Poland and Hungary, where living conditions are most extreme and they suffer greatly from hunger and disease. Furthermore we are advised that active attempts can be made to rescue these people if the necessary funds are provided, their evacuation to Hungary from Poland being specifically contemplated.

Approval of these operations has been given by the Department and the Treasury, and the Legation is requested to take such reasonable steps as may be required to facilitate their being carried out. The Legation's attention is invited to paragraph A, clause 3 above, in which specific authorization is granted for direct transfers of free foreign exchange into enemy or enemy-occupied territory if it should prove impracticable to adopt either of the two other methods of financing the program.

Please report promptly to the Department on the progress made with the program, and on any difficulties that may be encountered, especially as regards the financial operations.

HULL

In triplicate
re

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affairs

Return with

File Copy

Bern, January 26, 1944.

feasible to obtain the local currency by either
of the other two methods mentioned:

"(1) By purchasing in Switzerland the
currency or exchange of the country in which
the operations are to take place, provided
Mr. Isaac Sternbuch, representative in Switzerland,
Villa Colondalles, of such currency have held it
Montreux. For the date as of which such country
was frozen by this Government, or that, if
the acquisition took place under circumstances

Dear Sir:

The Legation has received from the Department
of State, Washington, D.C., a telegram directing it
to communicate to you, as the representative in Swit-
zerland of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United
States and Canada (hereinafter referred to as the
Union), the text of the following license which has
been issued to the Union by the Treasury Department:

"(A) Authorization is hereby granted to your
representative in Switzerland, together with such
agents as he may appoint, notwithstanding General
Ruling No. 11, by any means which may be deemed
by him expedient or necessary, to communicate with
persons in enemy territory or in territory occupied
by the enemy for the purpose of arranging the eva-
cuation of persons in such territory, whose lives
may be in imminent danger, to such areas of safety
or relative safety as such representative may select,
and, until such time as such evacuation is possible,
to arrange for the safeguarding and sustenance of
such persons, and to pursue any other action which
may be appropriate for said purposes, including
the payment of funds to persons in enemy territory
or in territory occupied by the enemy who may have
provided either services or goods in connection
with the foregoing. For the purpose of acquiring
the necessary local currency for the purposes of
financing the operations referred to above, the
following three methods are authorized, provided
that method number 3 should not be used if it is

"(B) The total sum paid out from any blocked account
which is established in pursuance of this license
the claims established against it, shall not, feasible
six months beginning January 1, 1944, exceed 430,000
Swiss francs or the dollar equivalent thereof.

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

Typical of Stornbach's
affairs.

Return with

- 2 -

feasible to obtain the local currency by either of the other two methods mentioned:

"(1) By purchasing in Switzerland the currency or exchange of the country in which the operations are to take place, provided your representative is reasonably sure that the sellers of such currency have held it since before the date as of which such country was frozen by this Government, or that, if the currency was acquired subsequently thereto, the acquisition took place under circumstances from which the enemy did not benefit, your representative when possible to consult with the American Legation, Bern. Sellers of such local currency or exchange may be reimbursed in Swiss francs at the prevailing unofficial rate of exchange in Switzerland.

"(2) By purchasing in enemy or enemy-occupied territory the local currency or exchange of the country in which the operations are to take place, provided reimbursement is to be made only after the war. In order to insure reimbursement to the sellers of such exchange or local currency after the war, blocked accounts in a bank in Switzerland or the United States may be established on your books in the United States, provided that without specific approval of the Treasury in each case there shall be no assignment of any interest in such blocked account or payment from it.

"(3) By purchasing in enemy or enemy-occupied territory the necessary local funds, goods, services, or exchange, reimbursement to be made in foreign exchange or free currency notes, provided that such reasonable steps as are possible are taken by your representative to prevent such notes or exchange from being acquired by persons from whom the enemy may receive them.

"(B) The total sums paid out from any blocked account which is established in pursuance of this license, plus the claims established against it, shall not, during the six months beginning January 1, 1944, exceed 430,000 Swiss francs or the dollar equivalent thereof.

"C

Typical of Stenbach's
affairs

Return with

CASE 11-1
TELEGRAM SENT

- 3 -

"(C) Your representative should report fully to the American Legation Bern on the financial transactions which are completed under this license, and should insure to whatever extent possible that the persons from whom the exchange or local currency is purchased are acceptable to the Legation. Your representative should be satisfied, so far as possible, that any payments made to such persons will not be of benefit to the enemy.

"(D) Periodic reports on the operations carried out pursuant to this license should be filed by your representative with the American Legation."

The Legation is further requested to inform you that unless you are advised to the contrary by the Union your authority in connection with the above license is to be exercised in collaboration with Mr. Rosenbaum and Mr. David Rubinfeld.

Very truly yours,

Daniel J. Reagan,
Commercial Attaché.

DJR/RGG/imp

A true copy
of the original

SEP 28 1972

Typical of Sternbach's affairs.

Return with

CASE FILE

TELEGRAM SENT

(9)

To: Department

Date: January 29, 7 p. m., 1944.

Code: [REDACTED]

No: 615

Charged to:

Paraphrase

The message quoted in your 229, January 22, was contained in a letter dated January 26 which was delivered personally to Sternbach on January 27. In accordance with the third from the last paragraph of the telegram from the Department under reference, Sternbach was orally advised. He stated that he would consult with Joseph Rosenbaum and Leo (not David) Rubinfeld with regard to the action to be taken pursuant to the license and he promised to report to the Legation concerning the plans at an early date. Sternbach inquired respecting the intentions of the Union with regard to the transfer of the funds referred to under (b) of the telegram from the Department.

HARRISON

\$23.60
DJR:RCG:nf
In triplicate

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73
By R. H. Parker Date SEP 26 1972

Typed of Stambach's
affairs.

Return with

Union of Orthodox Rabbis
February 1944.

Typical of Sternbuch's affairs.

Return with

Letter to Sternbuch 2/4/44

CASE FILE

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

R
RG

C.L.

From: Department

Date: February 2, 9 a. m., 1944.

No: 341

Code: [REDACTED]

Received: February 3, 9 a. m.

Paraphrase

Received CA 2/3/44 DJR
Action RG
wired Feb 17/44

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

"428,632 Swiss Francs, the equivalent of \$100,000. have been transmitted to you by cable by us. The amount aforementioned is transmitted under Treasury license No. 602472-R and it is to be used by you in accordance with the license that was transmitted to you through the American Legation at Bern, Switzerland. The money comes from the Vaadha Hatzala Emergency Committee; it was raised by Orthodox Jewry of all classes for the purpose of rescuing Jews as set forth in letters of Rabbis of Satmar and Nitra. Please consult the American Legation and, in so far as practicable, you should follow its advice. Periodic reports regarding your operations should be furnished to the Legation to be transmitted to us. Communicate with us only through the Legation at Bern. Please confirm that the money has been received.

We should know how much Swiss Jewry has raised for the purpose in order to prosecute our holy campaign to rescue Jews. Together with the names of Dr. Rubinfeld and Rosenbaum, your name was submitted to the Department of State as heading a committee 21, but we now recommend the addition to that committee of the following persons: Mendel Wilner, Dr. F. Rom, Zalmon Pines, Alfred Berlowitz and Dr. Marcus Kohn. You are requested to comment regarding latter additions. Signed: Union of Orthodox Rabbis of United States, the Vaadha Hatzala Emergency Committee, Rabbis Abraham Kalmanowitz, E. L. Silver, Jacob Levison, Israel Rosenberg, Aron Kolter."

Substance of foregoing message, which refers generally to our 229, January 22, is for Isaac Sternbuch, of St. Gallen.

With reference to Department's no. 229, the second sentence of paragraph A(2) should read as follows:

"By the establishment on your books in the United States

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 1-11-78
By R. H. Foster Date SEP 26 1972

Typical of Stombach's
affairs.

Return with

-2-

States of a blocked account, reimbursement subsequent to the war to the sellers of such local currency or exchange may be insured; or such blocked account may be in a bank in the United States or Switzerland etc."

The last sentence of the Legation's 615, January 29 should be answered by the message quoted above.

HULL

jh:nf
In triplicate

Typical of Sternbuch's
affairs

Return with

File
RCG

File Memorandum

February 4, 1944

Subject: Union of Orthodox Rabbis - relief measures.

I telephoned Mr. Sternbuch at his Montreux address. He is in bed with the grippe but hopes to call at the Legation on Monday or Tuesday to receive the message transmitted in the Department's 341 of February 2, 1944 and to inform me of the steps taken pursuant to the license transmitted to him in the Legation's letter of January 26.

RCG
RCG

RCG/imp

- Feb. 11. Tried to reach Sternbuch in St. Gall and Montreux. He is still sick at his home in St. Gall and his house has no telephone. I left a message for him to get in touch with me as soon as possible.
R.C.G.
- Feb. 12. Tried to reach Sternbuch. Not in St. Gall. No answer from the number in Zurich where he was supposed to be. ~~XXXXX~~ Left message for him to call me.
R.C.G.
- Feb. 15. Called Sternbuch's business. They stated he might show up in the afternoon. Called later and arranged with his secretary for S. to pick up letters from Zurich Consulate General.

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

Union of Orthodox Rabbis in the U.S.

Typical of Sternbuch's
affairs.

Return with

File Copy

Bern, February 4, 1944
Bern, February 4, 1944
Bern, February 4, 1944

Mr. Isaac Sternbuch,
Villa Colondalles,
Montreux.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the Legation's letter of January 26, 1944, which transmitted to you the text of a license issued by the Treasury Department to the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada. The Legation has now received a telegram from the Department of State stating that the second sentence of paragraph A(2) of the license transmitted to you should read as follows: "The project for the evacuation of Jewish refugees or the acquisition of funds to 'by the establishment on your books in the United States of a blocked account, reimbursement subsequent to the war to the sellers of such local currency or exchange may be insured; or such blocked account may be in a bank in the United States or Switzerland, provided that without specific approval of the Treasury in each case there shall be no assignment of any interest in such blocked account or payment from it.'"

It would be appreciated if you would acknowledge the receipt of this letter and the fact that you have taken note of the alteration in the text of the license issued to the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada.

Very truly yours,

Daniel J. Reagan,
Commercial Attaché.

DJR/ROG/imp

A true copy
of the signed
original: [initials]

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

Typical of Stambach's
affairs.

Return with

File Copy

Bern, February 4, 1944
Bern, February 4, 1944

Mr. Isaac Sternbach,
Mr. Isaac Sternbach,
Villa Colondalles,
Montreux.

Dear Sir:

Legation has been requested to transmit to you the following telegraphic message which has been received. Reference is made to your interview at the Legation with Mr. Getsinger on January 27, 1944, concerning the license issued by the Treasury Department to the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada and the authorization given you to arrange for the evacuation of Jews from enemy territory. I should like to refer to Mr. Getsinger's oral instruction that under no circumstances is the Legation's name to be used or reference made to the Legation in connection with the project for the evacuation of Jewish refugees or the acquisition of funds to carry out evacuation without the Legation's specific authorization. Jews as set forth in letters of Rabbis of Betmar and Nitra. Please consult it would be appreciated if you would acknowledge this letter and confirm your understanding of these instructions. Reports regarding your operations should be furnished to the Legation to be transmitted to us. Communicate with Very truly yours, the Legation at Bern. Please confirm that the money has been received.

Daniel J. Reagan,
Commercial Attache, has raised
"We should know in order to prosecute our holy
for the purpose in order to prosecute our holy
DNR/RCG/lmp rescue Jews. Together with the names
of Dr. Rubinfeld and Rosenbaum, your name was submitted to the Department of State as heading a
committee

A true copy
of the original
original:

Typed of Sternbuch's
affairs.

Return with

File Copy

Bern, February 4, 1944

Mr. Isaac Sternbuch,
Villa Colondalles,
Montreux.

Dear Sir:

The Legation has been requested to transmit to you the following telegraphic message which has been received through the Department of State, Washington, D.C.:

"Swiss France 428,632, the equivalent of \$100,000, have been transmitted to you by cable by us. The amount aforementioned is transmitted under Treasury license No. 602472-R and it is to be used by you in accordance with the license that was transmitted to you through the American Legation at Bern, Switzerland. The money comes from the Vaadha Hatzala Emergency Committee; it was raised by Orthodox Jewry of all classes for the purpose of rescuing Jews as set forth in letters of Rabbis of Satmar and Nitra. Please consult the American Legation and, in so far as practicable, you should follow its advice. Periodic reports regarding your operations should be furnished to the Legation to be transmitted to us. Communicate with us only through the Legation at Bern. Please confirm that the money has been received.

"We should know how much Swiss Jewry has raised for the purpose in order to prosecute our holy campaign to rescue Jews. Together with the names of Dr. Rubinfeld and Rosenbaum, your name was submitted to the Department of State as heading a

committee

348 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

Typical of Stambach's
affairs.

DRB

Re: [illegible]

- 2 -

committee of 21, but we now recommend the addition to that committee of the following persons: Mendel Wilner, Dr. F. Rom, Zalmon Pines, Alfred Berlowitz, and Dr. Marcus Kohn. You are requested to comment regarding latter additions. Signed: Union of Orthodox Rabbis of United States, the Vaadha Hatzala Emergency Committee, Rabbis Abraham Kalmanowitz, E.L. Silver, Jacob Levison, Israel Rosenberg, Aron Kolter."

It would be appreciated if you would acknowledge the receipt of this letter and telephone to the Legation for an appointment when you have prepared the reply requested to the message quoted above.

Very truly yours,

Daniel J. Reagan,
Commercial Attaché.

DJR/RCG/imp

A true copy
of the signed
original.

Typical of Sternbach's
affairs.

Return with

J. STERNBUCH
MONTREUX

TEL. 830 58
TELEGR. ADRE. STERNBUCH

Feb 12/44

St. Gall, February 6th, 1944.

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEB 9 - 9. FEV. 1944
• BERN •

To the Legation of
the UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA,

B e r n e .

Dear Mr. Götzinger,

In the name of Mr. Sternbuch I herewith
beg to refer to the telephonic call with you and further to
your esteemed letter dated January 26th. which he had the
honour of receiving from you personally. Mr. Sternbuch
expresses you his deepest recognition for all your efforts
in the matter in question and wishes to apologize that owing
to his falling ill he has been unable to let you have any
communication before.

Mr. Sternbuch has taken the necessary
steps and will be pleased to give you a full report about
the matter after his recovery which he hopes will be the case
within a few days.

In the meantime he begs to remain,
dear Sir,

Yours most respectfully.

February 12 - Endeavored to reach Sternbach.
He was not in Montreux and no answer
was received from the number in Zurich
where he was supposed to be.
F. G.

648 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

true copy
the signed
original

Typical of Sternbuch's affairs.

288

Return with ~~Direct~~

E.L.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA

DJR/RCC/mla
848 - UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS.

Bern, Feb. 15th, 1944. **File Copy**

To the Legation of the United States
of America
Bern, Switzerland

Bern, February 15, 1944.

BY COURIER

Dear Mr. Woods:

It would be appreciated if you would deliver personally the enclosed three letters dated February 4, to Mr. Isaac Sternbuch, representative in Switzerland of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada. Mr. Sternbuch, according to arrangements made by telephone between Mr. Getsinger and Mr. Sternbuch's secretary, will call at the Consulate General in the next few days.

Will you please explain to Mr. Sternbuch that the Legation regrets the delay in the delivery of these letters. However, since this material could not be entrusted to the open mail and since Dr. Sternbuch because of illness was unable personally to accept their delivery, the delay was unavoidable.

It would be appreciated if you would inform me by phone as soon as the letters have been delivered to Mr. Sternbuch. If he fails to call by Thursday, February 17, please telephone me.

Mr. Sternbuch may desire to forward a report to the Legation through you. Any messages he may desire to transmit to the Legation through you should be accepted and forwarded to Bern by the next courier.

Enclosures:
3 letters to Mr. Sternbuch.

Sincerely yours,
For the Minister:

Sam E. Woods, Esquire,
American Consul General,
Zurich.

Daniel J. Reagan
Commercial Attaché

Wednesday, Feb. 16. Mr. Woods called at five P.M. to state delivery had been effected.

A true copy of the signed original: *[Signature]*

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

SEP 26 1972

Typical of Stambach's affairs

Return with

E.L.

St.Gall, Febr. 15th, 1944.

Re: clearing of relief funds into Hungary

J. STERNBUCH
MONTREUX
TEL. 030 56
TELEGR. ADRES. STERNBUCH

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

To the Legation of
the UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA
B e r n e .

Dear Mr. Göttinger,

Will you please excuse the delay of my reply to your esteemed letter of Jan. 26th. which is due to a case of illness.

Firstly I want to confirm that I have taken best note of all the details in your letter and that I will keep your instructions in every respect.

As regards your propositions No. 1-3 regarding the remittance of the money I beg to say that in my opinion only No. 2 of your propositions could be taken in consideration. By that way we do the best in order that the money should remain in Switzerland.

In order to make the first trial in our action to save people, we did pay 100,000 Pengös each to three personalities in Hungary who were prepared to occupy themselves with the work of rescue.

The payment to these persons has been made through a friend of my brother Ing. N. Sternbuch St. Gall at the cheap rate of 13 Pengö for 1 Swiss Frano. altogether frs. 23076.90 The friend in Hungary is interested to have his money in Switzerland and this is the reason that he grants this cheap rate. In this way we are saving people without sending off money from Switzerland.

I am also looking for a way to send a big amount to the Grand Rabbi of Neutra (Slovakia) according to the telegraphic instructions of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States. This wellknown Rabbi the place of concealment of different people and is certainly able to save them. I hope that a payment could be made in the course of the next days under the same supposition that the counter-value will remain in Switzerland.

I will not fail to let you have, as requested by you, a periodical report as soon as the first saved people will arrive in Hungary. Meanwhile, I beg to express you, dear Mr. Göttinger, my heartiest thanks for all your efforts.

I beg to remain, dear Sir,

Yours very sincerely.

[Handwritten signature]

843. UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE UNITED STATES

Typical of Sternbuch's
affairs.

Return with
D. H.

J. STERNBUCH
MONTREUX

Ack. February 29, 1944.

Re: Latin Amer. div. holders
in Berlin - Belgen.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES

CASE FILE

TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department

Date: February 17, noon, 1944.

No: 987

Code: [REDACTED]

Charged to:

Paraphrase

Reference is made to your no. 341 of February 2.

The message contained in the Department's telegram cited above and the correction of paragraph A2 of the license transmitted in the Department's no. 229 of January 22 could not be received by Sternbuch until February 16 because of S's illness. Delivery was effected through the Consulate General at Zürich on February 16. Sternbuch has been requested to transmit reply to the Union of Orthodox Rabbis through this Legation.

HARRISON

DJR:RCG:nf

In triplicate

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 26 1972

Typical of Sternbuch's
affairs.

Return with
D-4

Ack. February 29, 1944.

Re: Latin Amer. div. holders
in Bergen-Belsen.

J. STERNBUCH
MONTREUX

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA

Zurich

CASE FILE

TELEGRAM SENT

CL

To: Department

Date: February 19, 9 p. m., 1944.

No: 1054

Code: [REDACTED]

Charged to:

Paraphrase

Please refer to Legation's 987 of February 17.

It is reported by Sternbuch that he has purchased 100,000 pengoes for Swiss francs 23,077, the francs remaining in Switzerland. This purchase was in accordance with provision A2 of license transmitted in your 229 of January 22. S. states that the pengoes have been turned over to three persons in Hungary who are prepared to undertake rescue work. Through a similar arrangement he is endeavoring to make available a large amount of funds for rescue work in Slovakia. Since A2 avoids the possibility of transferring foreign exchange in enemy territory, Sternbuch considers it the only feasible method of operation.

Correct
when
Sternbuch
reports
in the
attach.

HARRISON

DJR:RCG:nf
In triplicate

348 INDEX OF CRYPTIC BOX PAPERS IN THE U.S.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 26 1972

*Typical of Stambach's
affairs.*

288

*Return with
D.H.*

Ack. February 29, 1944.

*Re: Latin Amer. det. holders
in Bergen-Belsen.*

J. STERNBUCH
MONTREUX

TEL. 6 30 50
TELEGR. ADRES. STERNBUCH
Zürich, Schweizergasse 14
Telephon: 5 95 44

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA
REC'D FEB 25 1944
BERN

Zürich, Febr. 24 th, 1944.

*To the
respective
South American
governments
in Bern*

To the honorable

Legation of the U.S.A.

B E R N .

*during
a telephone
call to the
informant - 7th 18
CH*

Dear Mr. Göttinger,

I herewith take the liberty of calling your attention, dear Sirs,
to the fact that the citizens of various south-american states,
who are interned at Belson-Bergen, respectively at the camp of
Zelle near Hannover, are completely cut off from the outer world.
Contrary to other camps no news can be received from these people
and also the Red Cross is not in a position to pass on the ordinary
parcels to them. Some hundred or even some thousand people are
said to be deported there, but the names of these are not known.
Only to-day I received a card from a relative of mine from the
camp at Tittmoning, dated Febr. 20 th. In this letter the man writes
me that a family whom I know (being South-American subjects of
latter days from camp at Westerbork in Holland) which was liquidated
partly in the meantime, have also been brought to the camp of
Zelle near Hannover some of these days together with other whole families.
This means that from now on no more news will be had by these
people, too, nor will they ever get the parcels through the Red
Cross.

Perhaps it would be possible for you, dear Sirs, to clear this
urgent question up through your Government or through the Red Cross
and to intervere somehow in a energetic way. Mr. Locher of the
Red Cross, though, informed me by telephone that he is not able
to do anything in this matter and advised me to try to get in
contact with you. Therefore I beg to ask you, dear Sirs, to do
all the necessary in order to attain that these interned are

848
UNION OF CATHOLIC STATES IN THE U.S.

3)

Typical of Sternbach's
affairs.

J. STERNBUCH
MONTREUX

TEL. 63056
TELEGR-ADR. STERNBUCH

- II -

treated in the same way as the other interned people of other American camps in Germany. I believe that for the moment the Red Cross is most suitable for the intercourse in order to get some information through the help of the Swiss Embassy in Berlin. I suppose that the Chief, Prof. Burkhard would attend to this matter if the same came to his hands and if you instructed your representative with the Red Cross accordingly. Will you, dear Sirs, kindly accept my deepest and sincerest apology for causing you so much trouble, and believe me to be, dear Sirs,
Yours most respectfully

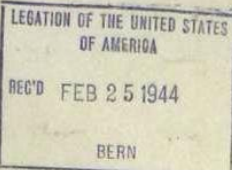
St. Sternbach

Typical of Stambuch's
affairs.

Return with
Diet

J. STERNBUCH
MONTREUX

TEL. 630 50
TELEGR. ADRES. STERNBUCH



Ack. February 29, 1944.

Zürich, Febr. 24th, 1944.
Schweizerergasse 14
Telephon : 5 95 44

To the Legation of
the United States of America

B e r n e .

Dear Mr. Göttinger,

On Febr. 16th I had the honour to receive your esteemed letters through the Consulate General in Zurich. Thanking you again for your kind efforts, I herewith beg to confirm, according to your wish, that I have taken note of the following:

1. to consider the relations with the Legation as strictly confidential. I will act exactly according to your instructions although I could not admit any responsibility for an indiscretion which could be caused through other members of the committee. At any rate, I did everything necessary to exclude that possibility. I also confirm you the details respecting

2. the remittance of the money. It has been taken care that the money remains in Switzerland in any case. However, the way proposed by you could not be used by any means as nobody would be prepared to have his money locked up. Such guarantees are given which can be considered as sufficient for the fact that the money remains in Switzerland. We are not making these remittances through banking houses or unknown persons but only through men whom we know and who merit absolute confidence. The undersigned will take the liberty of discussing this question with you at the beginning of the coming week.

3. I cannot yet report to you much about the rescue-action. All steps in this direction have been commenced; however, owing to the coldness and the snowfall on all frontiers no results have been obtained up to this day. We are in steady connection with Budapest and are expecting further reports every day. On the beginning of the coming week I will take the liberty of sending you a detailed report for the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of USA regarding the different questions they submitted to me. I will perhaps remit to you this report Tuesday next at the latest.

I also would be greatly thankful to you if you would help with regard to another important matter which concerns the Union of orthodox rabbis. Since 10 days I am in connection with the International Committee of the Red Cross, Messrs. Hasli and Locher (Chief of the American service) regarding the supply of about 600 kgs. of Passover bread (Mazzen) to the orthodox American interned persons in the camps of Wittmoning and Vittel. The said gentlemen were so kind to make a telegraphic inquiry, but have not yet received any reply. It would certainly be useful if you would be so kind as to get into telephonic connection with these men

Also the
Union of
Orthodox Rabbis
in the U.S.

This is
the Red Cross
Mazzen

Not in
position to ask
Red Cross to
send parcel

not US
citizens
wishes
to relay
information

MAZZEN

648 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

Union of Orthodox Rabbis in the U.S.

Typical of Sternbuch's
style.

288

Ret. with

J. STERNBUCH
MONTREUX

TEL. 630 55
TELEGRAMS: STERNBUCH

Febr. 24th, 1944.

To the Legation of
the USA in Berne.

- 2 -

or perhaps ask an accelerated settlement of this matter
in Washington. For the transport of these Mazzen several
weeks will be needed and it could happen that they will arrive
too late or even could not be obtained eventually next week.
The interned persons have asked these Mazzen every year.

With repeated thanks for your valuable efforts and
best regards, I beg to remain,

dear Mr. Göttinger,

Very sincerely yours

J. Sternbuch

848 HITHIN 20 FEBRUARY 1944

Union of Orthodox Jewish Communities

Union of Orthodox Jewish Communities

Typical of Stambach's affairs.

URS

Return with
to D.H.

Let to Sternbuch 2/29/44

J. STERNBUCH
MONTREUX

TEL. 93020
TELEGR. ADD. STERNBUCH

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA
REC'D FEB 28 1944
BERN

Zürich, Febr. 28 th, 1944.

To the honorable
Legation of the United States of
America,
B E R N .

Dear Mr. Getsinger,

Referring to my last letter I herewith beg to hand you the answer for the Union of orthodox rabbis of the United States with the request to pass this contents of.

At the same time we give you the names of those, to whom money has been sent to save people. This action is among others also controlled by the president of the Jewish Community of Budapest, Mr. Freudiger, with whom we are in telephone-contact.

The undersigned will take the liberty of calling upon you next Tuesday and will not fail to ring you up before. With my very best thanks for all your kindness and with best regards, I am,
dear Sir,

Yours most respectfully

M. Sternbuch

Enclosure:

100,000 Pengö...	Mr. Silber, Budapest, Hungary	} fr. 23.076 90
100,000 " ... "	Chief Rabbi Titelbaum, Sotmar, Hungary	
100,000 " ... "	"" Cohn Ungvar ""	
240,000 Slov. Kr. ... "	"" Ungar, Nitra, Slovakia	

fr. 12.000.--

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

944.

this matter
several
will arrive
next week.
year.

rts and

ours
leery

Typical of Stambuch's
affairs.

Return with
to Dept

To the

Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States
Vaad ha Hatzala Emergency,

March 1.
I phoned to say
this is premature
and to be
disregarded
in present. CH.

1)

We have started an action for saving and so far totally 35,000 abt. transmitted to the rabbis of Neutra and Sotmar and also to some persons in Budapest, who are giving their advices to one another. Further remittances are to be made as soon as a list of the first saved people is to be got. The action is also controlled by some orthodoxical personalities in Budapest. To save people has become much more difficult since some weeks and nearly impossible on account of the snow and cold weather at all frontiers. When the first results will be known, we shall let you know. We shall also report about all to the American Embassy. Furthermore we have informed the following gentlemen, that they have been completed to our committee; they are: Messrs. Pines, Wilner, Rom, Berlowitz and Cohn.

2)

The journey through Turkey to get to Palestine is very difficult now. There are men with certificates in the Slovakia and Hungary, who cannot depart for that reason and who have to keep themselves hidden. Enormous sums must be paid to get in a circumstantial way a permit to pass through the above named country. Thus there is a terrible state there. At present only 8 souls per week are allowed. For this matter the rabbis Mr. Herzog and Dr. Eliasch are staying at Istamboul at present. Try to find a way and a chance to intervene with the Turkish Government, that at last greater relief is given, or that free passing to all, being owners of Palestine-certificates and who do not intend at all to remain, while passing through, in Turkey.

3)

Lately also people from Belgium, France and Holland, being kept hidden, were deported to the East. Various people might have saved themselves to Switzerland, if they only had had the necessary money. Every day we are getting such urgent calls for help of such people. And besides many people starve in their hiding-places. Please, try to begin a great action in favour of those people among the many Belgian as well as French refugees in America.

Typical of Sternbuch's
affairs.

II.)

It would not be clever to wait any longer with the help for saving them, until they might also be deported to the East without the chance of being found afterwards. Or may we also save meanwhile with that money the refugees from those countries.

~~strictly confidential~~

"Alleged
refugees"

The possibility of saving the refugees from those countries to Switzerland is granted only to a few categories of elderly men of more than 60, to women with little children or such who may have some certain relatives in Switzerland. Other categories of refugees, as for instance, younger men are in accordance with the order of Switzerland's Foreign-Police-Department prohibited at the borders of the country by the officers there to enter Switzerland and driven back without any court, quite regardless of the consequences to be driven to death. Such refugees are not even allowed to speak through the telephone with their acquaintances just to enable every kind of intervention. - It is not difficult to imagine what such a treatment means for men, who succeeded after terrible troubles, that might be even deadly, to get to Swiss territory and there to find themselves refused.

Just for that reason and such risks lately only very few refugees have tried from France or Belgium to come over to Switzerland. It would be of great importance to influence the Swiss Government to stop at last such refusals of persecuted Jews, who have to flee from the Nazis, and to take them as political refugees. The Nunciature apostolique at Bern with whom we have excellent relations and who have been so helpful to us in all things for a considerable time, they have according to our request also tried to intervene several months ago with the Swiss Government for the Vatican. Facilities were granted then, but the refusals are still going on in a quiet way and will be increasing when the number of refugees should be increasing again.

Sternbuch Rubinfeld Rosenbaum

Typical of Stambuch's
affairs

Return with
file to ~~Det~~

C.L.

File Copy

Bern, February 29, 1944.

J. Sternbuch, Esquire,
Schweizergasse 14,
Zurich.

Sir:

I refer to your letter of February 24, 1944, to Mr. Getzinger, in which you request that the Legation take action with regard to certain citizens of various other American republics who are interned at Belson-Bergen, at the camp of Zelle near Hannover.

The Legation regrets to state that although it communicates with the Federal Political Department regarding the affairs of certain of the other American republics, it does so merely as a channel of communications and serves only to transmit messages between the Swiss Government and the governments of the other American republics whose interests in enemy territory are represented by Switzerland.

In view of this fact, the Legation is unable to take any action with regard to your communication under reference and suggests that, should you desire to pursue further the matter, you communicate with the representatives of the interested governments at Bern or their consular offices in Switzerland.

Yours very truly,
For the Minister:

Dale W. Maher
Second Secretary

A true copy
of the signed
original:

GMG/dmh

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.
848 UNION OF THE ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

Typical of Stambuch's
affairs.

Return with
file to Dept

File Copy

File Copy

C.I.

Bern, February 29, 1944.

Post to Zurich

J. Starnbuch, Esquire,
Schweizergasse 14,
Zurich.

Sir:

I refer to the penultimate paragraph of your letter of February 24, 1944, to Mr. Getzinger, with regard to your desire that the Legation assist in having forwarded to the camps at Tittmoning, Germany, and Vittel, France, six hundred kilos of passover bread.

As the Legation is not in a position to ask the Red Cross to send special parcels to camps in Germany, it regrets exceedingly that it is unable to take any action with regard to your request.

Very truly yours,
For the Minister:

Dale W. Maher
Second Secretary

GMG/dmh

A true copy
of the signed
original: *GMG*

A true copy
of the signed
original: *GMG*

SAS UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

Typical of Stombach's affairs

Return with file to ~~DET~~

File Copy

File Copy

to: purchase of Hungarian
Crown

Bern, February 29, 1944

Pouch to Zurich

Via Pouch to Zurich

Mr. Isaac Sternbach,
Villa Colondalles,
Montreux.

Dear Sir:
I refer to your letter of February 13 and
your letter of February 23 regarding purchase of Hungarian money for
240,000 Slovakian korunas have been bought for
12,000 Swiss francs. According to the terms of the
license granted to you, you are required to confer
with the American Legation and secure its approval
wherever possible before concluding such transactions.
In order that I may report the details of this trans-
action under reference to the proper American authorities
I would like to receive information as to the seller of
this Slovakian currency as well as his address and in-
formation concerning his acquisition of this money.
American Government subsequent transaction. In
that if acquired subsequently transaction. In
did not benefit, in compliance with the terms of the
would you therefore, in compliance with the Legation before
license granted to you, confer with the Legation before
concluding purchase of foreign currency.

Very truly yours,

Daniel J. Reagan,
Commercial Attaché.

DJR/CH/imp

Very truly yours,

Daniel J. Reagan,
Commercial Attaché.

A true copy
of the signed
original: ~~17~~

648 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABIS IN THE U.S.
643 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABIS IN THE U.S.

Typical of Sternbuch's affairs

Return with file to Dept

purchase of Hungarian pengoes

File Copy

February 29, 1944

Bern, February 29, 1944

To: Mr. Reagan
From: D.J.R.

Sternbuch's brother
telegram has been sent
and dispatched. Tell you directly
to inform him

Via Pouch to Zurich

I have received a letter from Rabbi Sternbuch, Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the Villa Colonelles, Canada, to which was attached a copy of an enclosed memorandum whose contents Rabbi Sternbuch requested be forwarded by telegraph through the Department of State to his organization, Isaacach as the contents of the memorandum of February 15 and February 28 regarding purchase of Hungarian money for relief activities there. In your letter of February 15 you state that 300,000 pengoes were bought through a friend of your brother's at 13 pengoes for 1 Swiss franc. You neglect to state in either letter the name of the seller of this money as well as his address. Under the terms of the license issued to you you are required to consult with this Legation wherever it is possible before consummating such transactions and it must be reasonably sure that the sellers of currency have held it since before the date upon which the American Government froze the currency in question or that if acquired subsequently thereto that the enemy did not benefit from this transaction. In the future would you therefore, in compliance with the terms of the license granted to you, confer with the Legation before concluding purchases of foreign currency.

Would you please inform the Legation of the details of the purchase of the 300,000 Hungarian pengoes.

Very truly yours,

Daniel J. Reagan,
Commercial Attaché.

Government, that at least greater relief is
free passing to all, being owners of Palestine, and
who do not intend all to remain, while passing

True copy
to be sent

Typical of Stornbuch's
allures

Return with
file to ~~Dist~~

MEMORANDUM

February 29, 1944 R G

To: Mr. Huddle
From: D.J.R.

Mr Stornbuch's proposed
telegram has been paraphrased
and dispatched. Will you kindly
so inform him?

JK

I have received a letter from Rabbi Stornbuch representing the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada, to which was attached a copy of the enclosed memorandum whose contents Rabbi Stornbuch requested be forwarded by telegraph through the Department of State to his organization. Inasmuch as the contents of his memorandum are not within the realm of economic warfare, I am forwarding it to you for such action as you may wish to take.

D.J.R.

Enclosure as stated.

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

Government, that at least greater relief is given, or that free passing to all, being owners of Palestine-certificates and who do not intend at all to remain, while passing through, in Turkey.

Typical of Sternbuch's
affairs.

- copy -

Enclosure to Sternbuch's letter of February 28, 1944.
In CA Files 848 Union of Orthodox Rabbis in the U.S.

To the
Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States
Vaadna Hatzala Emergency,

1)
We have started an action for saving and so far totally 35.000
abt. transmitted to the rabbis of Neutra and Sotmar and also to
some persons in Budapest, who are giving their advices to one
another. Further remittances are to be made as soon as a list
of the first saved people is to be got. The action is also
controlled by some orthodoxical personalities in Budapest.
To save people has become much more difficult since some weeks
and nearly impossible on account of the snow and cold weather
at all frontiers. When the first results will be known, we
shall let you know. We shall also report about all to the
American Embassy. Furthermore we have informed the following
gentlemen, that they have been completed to our committed;
they are: Messrs. Pines, Wilner, Rom, Berlowitz and Cohn.

March 1:
Sternbuch
phoned to say
this was
premature &
to disregard
CH.

2)
The journey through Turkey to get to Palestine is very difficult
now. There are men with certificates in the Slovakia and
Hungary, who cannot depart for that reason and who have to keep
themselves hidden. Enormous sums must be paid to get in a
circumstantial way a permit to pass through the above named
country. Thus there is a terrible state there. At present
only 8 souls per week are allowed. For this matter the rabbis
Mr. Herzog and Dr. Eliasch are staying at Istamboul at present.
Try to find a way and a chance to intervene with the Turkish
Government, that at least greater relief is given, or that
free passing to all, being owners of Palestine-certificales and
who do not intend at all to remain, while passing through, in
Turkey.

3)

3)
Lately also people from Belgium, France and Holland, being kept hidden, were deported to the East. Various people might have saved themselves to Switzerland, if they only had had the necessary money. Every day we are getting such urgent calls for help of such people. And besides many people starve in their hiding places. Please, try to begin a great action in favour of those people among the many Belgian as well as French refugees in America. It would not be clever to wait any longer with the help for saving them, until they might also be deported to the East without the chance of being found afterwards. Or may we also save meanwhile with that money the refugees from those countries.

~~Strictly confidential~~

4)
The possibility of saving the refugees from those countries to Switzerland is granted only to a few categories of elderly men of more than 60, to women with little children or such who may have some certain relatives in Switzerland. Other categories of refugees, as for instance, younger men are in accordance with the order of Switzerland's Foreign-Police-Department prohibited at the borders of the country by the officers there to enter Switzerland and driven back without any court, quite regardless of the consequences to be driven to death. Such refugees are not even allowed to speak through the telephone with their acquaintances just to enable every kind of intervention. It is not difficult to imagine what such a treatment means for men, who succeeded after terrible troubles, that might be even deadly, to get to Swiss territory and there find themselves refused.

Just

Typed of Sternbach's

- 3 -

Just for that reason and such risks lately only very few refugees have tried from France or Belgium to come over to Switzerland. It would be of great importance to influence the Swiss Government to stop at last such refusals of persecuted Jews, who have to flee from the Nazis, and to take them as political refugees. The Nunciature apostolique at Bern with whom we have excellent relations and who have been so helpful to us in all things for a considerable time, they have according to our request also tried to intervene several months ago with the Swiss Government for the Vatican. Facilities were granted then, but the refusals are still going on in a quiet way and will be increasing when the number of refugees should be increasing again.

Sternbuch Rubinfeld Rosenbaum.

Typical of Sternbach's
affairs.

WRB

Interview with Sternbach
re various questions.

DEFER

Union of Orthodox Rabbis
March 1944

bbis

Mr. M. J. L. F. F. F.

Union of Orthodox Rabbis

Typical of Sternbach's
affairs.

Interview with Sternbach
re various questions.

DJR

File Copy

848
DJR/CH/imp
DJR/CH/imp

Bern, March 1, 1944
Bern, March 1, 1944

~~_____~~ via Courier.
~~_____~~ via Courier.

Dear Mr. Woods:
It would be appreciated if you would deliver
the two enclosed letters dated February 29 to Mr.
Isaac Sternbach, representative of the Union of
Orthodox Jews of the United States and Canada.

Sincerely yours,
For the Minister:

Daniel J. Reagan,
Commercial Attaché.

Enclosures as stated.
Enclosures as stated.
Sam E. Woods, Esquire,
Sam E. Woods, Esquire, Consul General,
American Consul General,
Zürich.

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.
848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

CLASIFIED COPY
of original
original

DECLASSIFIED
PROCESSED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 26 1972

*Typical of Sternbuch's
affairs.*

*Interview with Sternbuch
re various questions.*

DERR

TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department

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

Code: [REDACTED]

No: 1321

Charged to:

Paraphrase

Refer to Department's no. 341, February 2.

In Department's discretion please inform Vaadha Hatzala Emergency Committee of the following, which comprises the substance of a report by Sternbuch, Rubin-feld and Rosenbaum.

1. The rescue work has begun but lately difficulties have been greatly increased by snow and cold. 35,000 francs have been transmitted to Rabbis Neutra and Sotmar to date, and also to persons in Budapest where orthodox personalities control action. All are cooperating. You and Legation in Bern will be informed of results.

2. It is very difficult at present to reach Palestine through Turkey. The cost of permits for transit through Turkey are enormous and conditions there are terrible. Only eight persons are admitted for transit each week. Consequently men in Slovakia and Hungary with certificates cannot leave and must remain in hiding. In connection with this matter, Rabbis Herzog and Dr. Eliasch are staying in Istanbul. Endeavor to intervene with Government of Turkey to secure greater relief or free transit to all holders of Palestine certificates who do not intend to remain in Turkey.

3. Deportations of persons in hiding occurred lately; if funds had been at hand these persons might have reached Switzerland. We get appeals from such persons every day; many of them are starving in these places of hiding. Please institute a big movement in their favor among Belgian and French refugees in America. Delay threatens them with deportation East beyond the possibility of rescue. May we use for refugees in these countries the funds that have been made available to us?

4. Following is strictly confidential. The possibility of refugees from Holland, Belgium and France to enter

Switzerland

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 26 1972

648 INDEX OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

Mr. McLaughlin's File

Union of Orthodox Rabbis Represented

Typical of Stambach's
affairs.

Interview with Stambach
re various questions.

DEFER

-2-

Switzerland is limited only to those who have relatives in Switzerland, women with minor children, and to elderly men over sixty. In accordance with an order of the Swiss Foreign Police Department, other categories, such as younger men, are prohibited entry at the border and regardless of consequences to be driven to death they are rejected without hearing. Such refugees are not even allowed to telephone to acquaintances to initiate intervention. It is not difficult to imagine what such treatment means for men who, after facing even death to attain Swiss territory, find themselves refused there.

Very few refugees from France or Belgium have recently tried to enter Switzerland for these reasons. It would be of great importance to influence the Government of Switzerland to admit as political refugees persecuted Jews fleeing from the Nazis. At our request several months ago the Nunciature Apostolique at Bern, with whom we have excellent relations and who has long been of help to us, intervened for the Vatican with the Swiss Government. At that time facilities were granted but refusals continue in a quiet way and if the number of refugees rises again they will increase. Signed ROSENBAUM, RUBINFELD, and STERNBUCH.

This paragraph for Department only. Please read Legation's telegrams nos. 1303 and 1304 of March 4, which contain official statement of the policy of the Swiss Government regarding the admission of refugees, in connection with the statements made in the confidential paragraph numbered 4 above.

HARRISON

\$129.00

JKH:mjb:nf
One paraphrase

COPY MADE FOR FA
FILES MAR. 28, 1944

Typical of Sternbach's affairs.

Interview with Sternbach re various questions.

CH/mla
848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE US

File Copy

Bern, March 7, 1944.
March 7 confirming that the message contained in the letter of February 28 had been despatched in accordance with his request. He expressed his appreciation.

Mr. J. Sternbach,
Schweizergasse 14,
Zurich.

Sir:

I refer to your letter of February 28, 1944, enclosing the text of the telegram which you requested the Legation to send to the Union of Orthodox Rabbis in the United States.

I wish to inform you that your telegram has been sent in the meantime.

Yours very truly,

Daniel J. Reagan
Commercial Attaché

Handed to Mr. Sternbach on March 7, 1944

I pointed out to Mr. Sternbach that under the conditions of the license he had been granted, it was possible with the Legation before him to make a full report of all transactions and of these conditions and to be allowed under the license to make the necessary report to the Treasury Department. He agreed to do so at an early date. I also pointed out to him that in the future he would consult with us before making further purchases of currency.

A true copy of the original

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

72

Typical of Sternbuch's affairs.

Interview with Sternbuch re various questions.

DERR

Memorandum for the Files

March 7, 1944.

Mr. Sternbuch handed the Legation's letter of March 7 confirming that the message contained in his letter of February 28 had been despatched in accordance with his request. He expressed his appreciation.

Attachment of
refugees at
Swiss border

Mr. Sternbuch referred to difficulties encountered by Jewish refugees in obtaining entry into Switzerland. He stated he considered this question of urgent importance and hoped that diplomatic intervention by the Legations in Bern of the occupied countries and by the Nuncio and this Legation could be arranged. He stated that he was preparing a memorandum concerning a proposal which he will submit shortly.

Pengoes

I questioned Mr. Sternbuch concerning the financial transactions which have been arranged for the purchase of pengoes and Slovakian ~~korunas~~ ^{crowns}. He stated that in the case of the pengoes a check for Swiss francs signed by him and two other members of the Committee has been given to his brother, N. Sternbuch, of St. Gall. He declared that the latter will hold this check until after the war when he will make payment to the persons in Hungary who supplied the pengoes. He stated that his brother has declined to name the persons in Hungary who supplied the pengoes but has assured him that they are eminent members of the Jewish community in Budapest. Mr. Sternbuch stated that he received telephonic confirmation from Budapest (a code in Hebrew was used) that the pengoes were delivered to the agents designated by him, namely, Silber, Titelbaum, and Cohn.

Slovakian
crown

Mr. Sternbuch stated that the Slovakian ~~korunas~~ ^{crowns} transaction mentioned in his letter of February 28 is being arranged in a similar manner although in this case a written confirmation of the receipt of the ~~korunas~~ ^{crowns} will be required before the check for 12,000 francs is given to his brother.

Consultation
with Legation
re such financial
transactions

I pointed out to Mr. Sternbuch that under the conditions of the license he should consult when possible with the Legation before engaging in financial transactions and that full report should be made to the Legation of the financial transactions which are completed under the license. Neither of these conditions had been observed and I urged upon him the necessity, in future, following the terms of the Treasury license in his operations. He agreed to make at an early date a full written report concerning the pengo and ~~koruna~~ ^{crowns} transactions and stated that in the future he would consult with us before making further purchases of currency.

1972

Typical of Stambach's
affairs.

- 2 -

I also pointed out to him that the manner of the purchases of ~~coronas~~ and pengoes does not fall strictly within the authorization of A2 of the Treasury license in that the blocked accounts have not been established but that the Swiss francs have been paid to his brother. He stated that persons would not be willing to supply funds were the counter-payment to be made in the form of a blocked account.

R.C.G.

RCG/imp

Typical of Sternbuch's affairs.

RG

March 15

Re: Sternbuch's concern
over refundment of
refugee's entrance
fund. Take with
a grain of salt! *Mr. Hendell*

DOR

SHANBAI Rabbis

CASE FILE

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

C.L.

From: Department

Date: March 9, 1944, 5 p. m.

Code: **[REDACTED]**

No: 784

Received: March 10, 8 a. m.

Paraphrase

The message which follows is to be signed by Isaac Sternbuch, whose reply the Legation should forwarded to the Department immediately.

License W-2148 has been issued by the Treasury to Vaadha Hatzala Emergency Committee, of New York (which will be referred to as "vaad" hereinafter) covering the transaction which follows hereunder:

Vaad desires to communicate with Rabbi Chaim Szmulewicz, whose address is 21/3 Baikal Road, Shanghai, China, but he is eager that the authorities do not regard such communication as having its origin in the United States. In accordance therewith, the following message should be delivered to Isaac Sternbuch, of St. Gallen, Switzerland, with Vaad's request that it be transmitted to Rabbi Szmulewicz at once as having originated from him. Although, of course, the Legation should deliver a paraphrase of the message in question, special care should be taken in this connection that Rabbi Szmulewicz will be able to understand the full implication of the message received by him. Rabbi Szmulewicz will understand the reference to "fifty" to mean dollars fifty thousand. Following is the message:

"Support fifty additional Rabbis available from Kalmanowitz. You should arrange therefore distribution to be among all scholars of rabbinical colleges, together with post graduate students, Rabbis and their families. Please make suitable arrangements and reply."

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

Mr. McCallum's File
(Switzerland)

Union of Orthodox Rabbis Represented
in Switzerland (I. Sternbuch, Secretary)

6 PM. March 10. Enclosed unsuccessful
to reach Sternbuch by
Mantoux, 2 and 8 St. Gall.
/nr
In triplicate *RL*

Hen Sternbuch will be in Bern on
Monday and will see me. at
3:00 PM *RL*

STETTINIUS ACTING By R. H. Parks Dec 26 1972

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-78
Received CA 1013/101 DJR
for Action
Reviewed March 14/44
No. 1568

STERNBUCH
MONTREUX

TEL. 8 00 86
TELEGR. ADDR. STERNBUCH

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
RECEIVED 14 MARS 1944
BERN

Zürich, the 13 th of March, 1944.
Tel. 5 95 44

To the honorable
Embassy of the United States
of America .

B E R N

Dear Mr. Getzinger,

Referring to our meeting I herewith beg to confirm that the first

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enough to pass the attached letter on to the Union of Orthodox
Rabbies of U.S.A.

At the same time I take the liberty of referring to my inter-
view with you regarding your help concerning this action through the
American Embassy in favour of such refugees. I beg to ask you once
more to submit this letter of mine to your respectable Mr. Harrison,
in you please. If my work, with which I was entrusted through
Washington, for the rescue of persued persons from the territory of

inling with him to say all new possibilities for the rescue.

STERNBUCH
MONTREUX

TEL. 930 50
TELEGR. ADH. STERNBUCH

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
RECEIVED 14 MARS 1944
• BERN •

Zürich, the 13th of March, 1944.
Tel. 5 95 44

To the honorable
Embassy of the United States
of America .

B E R N .

Dear Mr. Getzinger,

Referring to our meeting I herewith beg to confirm that the first remittance to those people mentioned in my last letter, has been made by my brother Ing. N. Sternbuch of St. Gall. Such remittances are a most delicate matter, as those friends, helping us abroad, wish on no account that their names should be mentioned, since such transactions might cause severe penalties by the enemy as long as people did not succeed in saving themselves.

Nevertheless there is an absolute certainty as regards keeping the amount in Switzerland, for they are no professional dealers, but private persons who are interested to keep their fortune in this country. You may, dear Mr. Getzinger, rest assured that I shall never perform any transaction without being quite sure of such a guarantee.

Unfortunately, however, it is not always possible to let you know of this beforehand, for instance in a case when I get informed at night-time that certain people are near the Hungarian borders with a view of being saved; then, as you will surely understand, I am unable to delay my assent, not even for a moment. In future, however, I intend to let you know before whenever this will be possible, practically possible. May I ask you, dear Sir, to be good enough to pass the attached letter on to the Union of Orthodox Rabbies of U.S.A.

At the same time I take the liberty of referring to my interview with you regarding your help concerning this action through the American Embassy in favour of such refugees. I beg to ask you once more to submit this letter of mine to your respectable Mr. Harrison, in you please. If my work, with which I was entrusted through Washington, for the rescue of persecuted persons from the territory of

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STERNBUCH
MONTREUX
TEL. 930 80
TELEGR. ADRES. STERNBUCH

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
RECEIVED 14 MARS 1944
• BERN •

To the honorable
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Mr. Sternbuch
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STERNBUCH
MONTREUX

TEL. 4 30 55
TELEGRAMS: STERNBUCH

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
RECEIVED 14 MARS 1944
• BERN •

To the honorable
Embassy of the United States
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J. STERNBUCH
MONTREUX

- II -

TEL. 83656
TELEGR. ADH. STERNBUCH

the enemy, is to be successful, it does not suffice to place money only at my disposal for that purpose, as you will understand, dear Mr. Getzinger. If this task, being not quite easy, should be of any use at all, your kind and valuable assistance is of no less importance and I assure you that I will treat the whole matter absolutely confidentially in every way. Of what use could it be in the end, if these people, being brought to a safe place, were driven back in a most cruel manner to the German hell.

At the present moment the intervention with the Swiss authorities is of considerable importance and to my opinion it is also in the interest of America as well and also to the allied. As you know well, all male refugees of less than 65 years are sent back at the borders, and this after having succeeded in getting to Switzerland after many dangerous hardships and even often viewing death itself. Only old people, being over 65 years, are permitted to remain, but not younger ones between 15 - 65 years of age. These are deported by the Hitlergang in France as well as Holland and Belgium to Germany in order to work there very much against our own interest. Just in the latter days such actions have been developing in a tremendous measure and most alarming reports and despaired calls for help have reached us now. These poor people are being caught in the streets just like dogs and then deported somewhere.

Would it be right of me, dear Sir, to keep quiet after all this? Is not everyone of us in the face of God and his own conscience compelled to help wherever and whenever this is possible? Were I not convinced as a Swiss citizen of the correctness of an absolute neutrality of Switzerland, I should have to think that such refusals of such refugees of less than 65 years is caused by a command of the enemy or from fear of him. Though it may be a regrettable error or misunderstanding of certain Swiss authorities, though not intended by our country, the fact is, no doubt, of help to the enemy. But are we allowed to be silent and to agree to such deportations of men, being in the prime of their life and thus being forced to work against us over there?

Furthermore a direct instruction of the honorable Government of Washington has to be stated, namely the one to support the rescue

being with him to say all new possibilities for the rescue.

Typical of Sternbuch's affairs.

J. STERNBUCH
MONTREUX

- III -

TEL. 80050
TELEGRAM-ADR. STERNBUCH

of the refugees of occupied countries as far as this can be done. This direction, I am confident, cannot be meant for American citizens who are in any case sure of the help of all American consulates at any time, but is certainly intended for a l l men, no matter what subjects they may be or which their religion may be. In short, to a l l men who are friends with a good will in favor of the allied, and who are starving in the occupied territory and besides have to lead a most miserable life at present. To these men all help ought to be given, -that is my idea.

My request of to-day is, therefore, to get the intervention of the Swiss Federal Government for suspending the rejection of the refugees being under 65 years of age, who are fleeing from the Nazis and as well to attain that these people are accepted without any regard of their race or religion as purely political refugees.

If I am informed rightly, the committee with President Roosevelt as the chairman have dealings exclusively with the rescue of men, suffering from the terror of the Gestapo.

I further beg to call your attention, dear Sir, to the fact that also the Nonce Apostolique, the highly respected Mr. Bernardini, is doing good work for the deliverance of the prosecuted people with all his might. His aid, indeed, has helped to save thousands of persons and mankind will never forget him for this and that all the less when time will arrive to bring all these happenings to light in the future.

Mr. Bernardini will intervene in this matter some of these days moreover.

We cannot presume that the honorable American Embassy should wish to stand back in supporting these humanitarian demands. Perhaps your worthy minister, Mr. Harrison, would be good enough to get in contact with the Nuncio Apostolique in order to converse with him about this subject and to co-ordinate a demarche.

The fear that an influx of too many refugees might follow, or that these people might remain in this country when the war will be over, is entirely unfounded. At any rate Switzerland need not be afraid of a Jewish influx, since a great many of them have been either captured or killed by the Germans during their flight. Thus hardly 10,000 men will be lucky enough to reach Swiss soil in the

being with him to say all new possibilities for the rescue.

MR. McLELLAN'S FILE
(Switzerland)
Union of Orthodox Rabbis Represented in Switzerland (J. Sternbuch), January

Typical of Sternbach's
affairs.

STERNBUCH
MONTREUX

- IV -

TEL. 800 36
TELEGRAMS: STERNBUCH

course of 1944 and perhaps not even this number, if that awful catching of people in masses in the streets in the occupied territories will last for some more time. Furthermore no Dutchman and no Belgian will wish to remain in this country after the war, which would mean to them to give up their freedom in their native-country - precious to all of them as Switzerland is to all Swiss - for a life in a Swiss working-camp. All refugees really long for the day to come when they may return to their former homes the same way as they have come here. No sooner will Hitler and his regime vanish than all refugees will, you may rest assured, avail themselves of the first opportunity to go homewards from our country in masses, with the expectation of taking up their previous professions and to lead again the life of free men and not one of inferior beings. Switzerland may risk some inconveniences, caused maybe by the refugees, even if their number should increase somewhat. All these drawbacks are a trifle in comparison with the sacrifices of a war, which by God's Providence our country has been spared so far and -let us hope- will be spared in the future.

Will you kindly excuse me, dear Mr. Getzinger, for my troubling you with my letter of to-day. But I think it is my duty to explain all this in a frank way to the American Embassy, being the representatives of the leading and most respected democracy of the world, and to ask them at the same time to examine it.

I have the honor to be, dear Sir,

Your obedient Servant

St. Sternbach

ining with him to say all new possibilities for the rescue.

MRB
GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE
MR. McLELLAN
MR. McLELLAN'S FIVE
(Switzerland)
Union of Orthodox Rabbis Represented
in Switzerland (St. Sternbach) January

Typical of Sternbuch's
affairs.

STERNBUCH
MONTREUX

TEL. 6.30.00
TELEGR. ADD. STERNBUCH

To the
Union of Orthodox Rabbies
of the United States of America

The first twenty-two persons were saved and
got to Hungary, there under the brother from Rabbi of
Wysnitz. This work for the rescue is well organized. We
are expecting a great success after the weather will
get better.

The following gentlemen: Mr. Donati, Mr. Va-
lobra and Mr. Lopez as the representatives of the Ita-
lian Colony in this place request the Italians of Ame-
rica to place at their disposal some greater amounts as
there is the possibility to save the Jews of the Northern
part of Italy. This action is managed and controlled
by us.

In the meantime the situation in France has
become in a terrible manner worse. People are caught
in the streets and sent to camps for deportation. There
is a frightful panic there

Sternbuch, Rubinfeld
Rosenbaum, Pines.

going with him to say all new possibilities for the rescue.

WRB
GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE
R. McLELLAN
Mr. McLeelland's file
(Switzerland)
Union of Orthodox Rabbis Represented
in Switzerland (S. Sternbuch), January

Typed of Sternbuch's
affairs.

By pouch to Zurich

File Copy

Bern, March 16, 1944.

March 14, 1944

Mr. Isaac Sternbuch, representative
of Orthodox Rabbis.
Villa Colondalles,
Montreux.

Dear Sir:

Mr. Sternbuch was called at the Legation's request,
and a paraphrase of the message quoted in the
Department's 784, March 9, with the request that a tele-
gram Reference is made to your letter of February
28, 1944, with which you enclosed a report for the
Union of Orthodox Rabbis which you requested be
forwarded by the Legation. As you were informed
by the Legation's letter of March 7, your message
was transmitted to the United States.

The Legation has now received a reply to your
observations concerning the necessity for relief
of refugees in Belgium, France, and Holland. The
Legation has been requested to inform you that the
Union of Orthodox Rabbis authorizes you to use the
funds already remitted for the purpose of carrying
on relief and evacuation operations in any territory
whatsoever occupied by the enemy, including France,
Holland, and Belgium. The Legation is further re-
quested to inform you that the license issued by the
Treasury Department to the Union permits operations
in accordance with its terms throughout enemy terri-
tory and territory occupied by the enemy, and individual
countries are not specified.

Very truly yours,

I emphasized the importance that I when possible
consult the Legat Daniel J. Reagan, for engaging in
financial transactions. Commercial Attaché, Treasury license and
that he report fully concerning transactions completed.
that the rescue action taken under the terms of
the license was a matter concerning which we need not be
consulted in advance.

DJR/RCG/imp

RCG/imp

A true copy
of the signed
original

ining with him to say all new possibilities for the rescue.

Typed of Sternbach's
affairs

CRB

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. McCallum's File
(Switzerland)

Union of Orthodox Rabbis Representative
in Switzerland (I. Sternbach), January

(File 76)

Shanghai

Memorandum for the Files

March 14, 1944

Subject: Interview with Mr. Sternbach, representative
of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis.

Mr. Sternbach, who called at the Legation's request, was delivered a paraphrase of the message quoted in the Department's 784, March 9, with the request that a telegram containing this message be dispatched by him to Szmulewicz, Shanghai, as emanating from him. He understood the necessity of avoiding any indication that the message originated from the United States and he stated he would report to us as soon as he has received a reply from Shanghai. He stated that Szmulewicz is the leader of a group of Jewish refugees established in Shanghai and that the Kalmanowitz referred to is a Lithuanian Rabbi now in Shanghai. He stated that some years ago he had formed the Hilfsverein für Jüdische Flüchtlinge in Ausland, Montreux, to assist this group of refugees which numbers about 450. Some months ago he dispatched to them 20,000 francs collected in Switzerland for their relief but according to recent information these people were starving. He stated that he understood that the Joint Distribution Committee has in the past also interested itself in their relief.

In reply to his inquiry, S was informed that his letter of March 13 would be forwarded to the Chancery for its attention. He was also informed that the Legation would forward by telegraph a summary of the message attached to this letter which reports to the Union of Orthodox Rabbis the results so far achieved by S's rescue program.

I emphasized the importance that S when possible consult the Legation in advance before engaging in financial transactions under the Treasury license and that he report fully concerning transactions completed. I stated that the rescue action taken under the terms of the license was a matter concerning which we need not be consulted in advance.

R.C.G.
N/C

RCG/imp

being with him to say all new possibilities for the rescue.

Typical of Sternbuch's affairs

WRB

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

MR. McLELLAN'S Files
(Switzerland)

Union of Orthodox Rabbis Represented in Switzerland (I. Sternbuch), January

CASE FILE

TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department

Date: March 14, midnight, 1944.

No: 1568

Code: [REDACTED]

Charged to:

Paraphrase

(C.L.)

Reference is made to your telegram no. 784 of March 9.

On March 14 a paraphrase of the message contained in the telegram under reference was delivered personally to Sternbuch, who will transmit the message as emanating from him to Szmulewicz.

HARRISON

DJR:RCG:nf

In triplicate

348 TION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Order, 1-11-72
SEP 20 1972

ining with him to say all new possibilities for the rescue.

Typical of Sternbuch's affairs

Det. 3/16/44
CASE FILE

ET

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

Rbr
Pls get this to
S. in some
manner.

From: Department

Date: March 14, 11 p.m., 1944

No: 843

Code: [REDACTED]

Received: March 15, 3 p.m.

PARAPHRASE

CL

The message which follows has been approved by the Department, the Treasury and the War Refugee Board.

The contents of paragraph (3) of your telegram No. 1321, of March 4, 1944, have been considered by us with the Union of Orthodox Rabbis. The Department desires you to advise Sternbuch without delay that he is authorized by the Union to use the funds already remitted for the purpose of carrying on relief and evacuation operations in any territory whatsoever occupied by the enemy, including France, Holland and Belgium. You should advise Sternbuch that the license issued by the Treasury Department to the Union permits operations in accordance with its terms throughout enemy territory or territory occupied by the enemy, and individual countries are not specified. It is understood, however, that only Hungary and Poland were mentioned in the instructions previously given to Sternbuch. It was not intended that this instruction should operate to preclude operations elsewhere.

HULL

/nrm

in triplicate

Received CA [initials] DJR
For Action RG
Answered
No.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Exemption 1.11-72
By R. H. [initials] SEP 26 1972

ining with him to say all new possibilities for the rescue.

843 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

MR. McLELLAND'S FILE
(Switzerland)

Union of Orthodox Rabbis Representative
in Switzerland (I. Sternbuch), Geneva

Typed of Sternbuch's
affairs

WRB

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. McClelland's Files
(Switzerland)

Union of Orthodox Rabbis' Representatives
in Switzerland (I. Sternbuch, January)

CASE FILE

TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department Date: March 15, 6 p. m., 1944.
No: 1597
Code: Charged to:
Paraphrase

(1)

Refer to our no. 1321 March 4.

"1. The first 22 persons saved have reached Hungary. They are in latter country with brother of Rabbi of Wysnitz. The rescue work is well organized and when there is an improvement in the weather great success is expected. here

"2. As representatives of the Italian colony, Valobra, Lopez and Donati request the Italians in the United States to place greater amounts at their disposal as the possibility of saving Jews of northern Italy exists. We are managing and controlling this action.

"3. The situation in France is worsening. People are seized in the streets and sent to camps for deportation. A frightful panic exists there. Signed by STERNBUCH, ROSENBAUM, PINES and RUBINFELD."

The above is a paraphrased message from Sternbuch for transmission, in the discretion of the Department, to the Union of Orthodox Rabbis.

HARRISON

\$34.75

DJR:RCG:nf
In triplicate

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. [unclear] SEP 20 1972

inag with him to say all new possibilities for the rescue.

Typical of Sternbuch's
affairs

CASE FILE

TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department

Date: March 15, 10 a.m., 1944

No: 1578

Code: [REDACTED]

Charged to: (C)

PARAPHRASE

With reference to the Legation's telegram 1054 of February 19 and No. 1321 of March 4, the amount of pengoes mentioned in the first reference should read 300,000 and not 100,000. Sternbuch states that compensation was given to his brother, N. Sternbuch of St. Gall, in the form of a check for Swiss francs 23,077. N. Sternbuch arranged the purchase of pengoes from persons in Hungary and, according to Sternbuch, will hold the Swiss francs until after the war. Sternbuch states that his brother declines, in the interests of secrecy, to reveal the sources of pengoes in Hungary. S. states that he received confirmation by telephone from Budapest that the pengoes were turned over to the agents designated. S. says that through his brother he has arranged for a similar purchase of 240,000 Slovakian crowns for 12,000 Swiss francs but this transaction has not been completed yet. S. states that in the case of the crowns he is demanding written confirmation of the receipt thereof by the agent before he gives a check for the Swiss franc equivalent to his brother. The Legation was not consulted before these transactions were undertaken.

Legation would appreciate instructions from the Department in view of future transactions of this character which S envisages and which technically do not appear to fall within the authorization from the Treasury transmitted in Department's 229, January 22.

HARRISON

DJR:RCG:nf
In triplicate

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 26 1972

is going with him to say all new possibilities for the rescue.

Typical of Stambuch's
affairs.

Per Union of Orthodox Rabbis file

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

Extract from telegram no. 851 march 15 from Department
in 848 American Committee for Christian Refugees Inc.

Received: March 18, 3 p.m.

PARAPHRASE

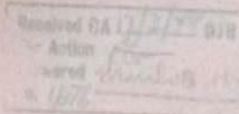
In reply to your telegram No. 1054, of February 19, 1944 concerning the license of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States, the Department has received a message from the War Relocation Authority. The licenses mentioned above together with all others identified with them are to be construed as specifically permitting operations looking only towards effecting the relief of persecuted persons in territory occupied by the enemy. The Department desires you to bring the representatives of other organizations to which similar licenses have been issued, informing them that all three methods may be used in the acquisition of the local currency required. The third method, while it may make foreign exchange available in territory of the enemy, should be utilized if it proves to be the most effective one for the speedy execution of the operations of relief and evacuation authorized by the license.

With a view to avoiding delay, you are requested to make liberal interpretations of the provisions of all the licenses issued, keeping in mind always that time is important and that the operations authorized by these licenses should be initiated without delay. The Department of State, the War Refugee Board and the Treasury Department consider the saving of lives of paramount importance in the present situation.

/s/

HULL

In triplicate



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAR 22 1944
SEP 22 1944

is going with him to say all new possibilities for the rescue.

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

Mr. McClelland's File
(Switzerland)

Union of Orthodox Rabbis Represented
in Switzerland (I. Stambuch), Treasury

Typical of Sternbach's
affairs.

CASE FILE

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department

Date: March 15, 9 p.m., 1944

Code: [REDACTED]

No: 856

Received: March 16, 3 p.m.

PARAPHRASE

In reply to your telegram No. 1054, of February 19, 1944, concerning the license of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada, the following message is from the War Refugee Board.

The Treasury Department and the Department of State would like to make clear, with reference to Sternbach's comment with regard to clause A(2) specified in the license, that all three (repeat all three) methods detailed in this and similar licenses can be used for carrying out the operations described in the licenses. The Department desires you to bring the foregoing to the knowledge of Sternbach immediately; also to the representatives of other organizations to which similar licenses have been issued, informing them that all three methods may be used in the acquisition of the local currency required. The third method, while it may make foreign exchange available in territory of the enemy, should be utilized if it proves to be the most effective one for the speedy execution of the operations of relief and evacuation authorized by the license.

With a view to avoiding delay, you are requested to make liberal interpretations of the provisions of all the licenses issued, keeping in mind always that time is important and that the operations authorized by these licenses should be initiated without delay. The Department of State, the War Refugee Board and the Treasury Department consider the saving of lives of paramount importance in the present situation.

/nrm

HULL

in triplicate

Received CA 11/3/44 DJR
Action [REDACTED]
Forwarded March 13, 1943
No. 1676

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 1-11-72
By R. H. [REDACTED] SEP 26 1972

ining with him to say all new possibilities for the rescue.

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS

Mr. McClelland's File
(Switzerland)

Union of Orthodox Rabbis Represented
in Switzerland (I. Sternbach), Treasury

Typed of Stambach's
affairs.

WRB

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. McCallum's Files
(Switzerland)

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

Union of Orthodox Rabbis Represented
in Switzerland (Stambach) Traveling

CASE FILE

File Copy

TELEGRAM SENT

848
DJR/RCG/imp

Bern, March 16, 1944.

FIRST PRIORITY

To: ~~Stambach~~ - via Courier.

Date: March 18, 1944

No. 1676

Code: Dear Mr. Woods:

Charged to:

It would be appreciated if you would deliver the enclosed letter of today's date to Mr. Sternbuch, representative of the Union of Orthodox Jews of the United States and Canada, and inform the Legation by telephone when this has been done.

Mr. Sternbuch has given his Zurich address as Schweizergasse 14.

Sincerely yours,
For the Minister:

Daniel J. Reagan,
Commercial Attaché.

Enclosure as stated.

Sam E. Woods, Esquire,
American Consul General,
Zurich.

HARRISON

DJR/RCG/imp

Paraphrased in triplicate

A true copy
of the signed
original: *[Signature]*

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-1-73
By E. H. Parks Date SEP 26 1972

ining with him to say all new possibilities for the rescue.

*Typical of Sternbuch's
affairs.*

WRB

*GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE
OF R. McLELLAND*

548 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

*Mr. McLelland's files
(Switzerland)*

*Union of Orthodox Rabbis Represented
in Switzerland (I. Sternbuch), Tarry*

CASE FILE

Review questions

TELEGRAM SENT

70

To: Department

Date: March 18, 2 p.m., 1944

No: 1676

Code: [REDACTED]

Charged to:

PARAPHRASE

With reference to the Department's No. 856 of March 15, it is thoroughly understood by Sternbuch and the representatives of other organizations which have received similar licenses that they are at liberty, under the terms of the licenses, to employ any or all of the methods stated in section A of the licenses. In attaining the aim in view, the saving of lives, their choice of methods is governed by their discretion as to the methods' relative efficacy. Sternbuch's observation concerning clause 2A, which he made in a letter to the Legation, dated February 15, and which was transmitted in the Legation's No. 1064 of February 19, was prompted by his lively appreciation of the fact that the transfer to enemy territory of foreign exchange risks encouraging revival of the ransom traffic by the enemy (which is stated by the British and American authorities to be against the interests of the refugees themselves; see circular telegram of the Department dated November 24, 1942).

HARRISON

DJR/RCG:mk

Paraphrased in triplicate

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 26 1972

...ing with him to say all new possibilities for the rescue.

Typical of Sternbuch's affairs.

Let. to Sternbuch 3/23/44

CASE FILE
TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department Date: March 22, 3 p.m., 1944
No: 950
Code: [redacted] Received: March 23, 8 a.m.



PARAPHRASE

Received CA [initials] OIR
for Action [initials]
Answered [initials]
No.

War Refugee Board requests transmission of following message to Isaac Sternbuch, Teufenerstrasse 3, St. Gallen, from Rabbi Aron Kotler and Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz, Vaadha Hatzala Emergency Committee:

Interventions you requested in your communication via the American Legation are being taken. Necessary funds are being raised to do everything possible to expand the rescue work in Belgium, Holland, Lithuania, France, and wherever else possible. Please advise whether you and Jacob Grifill in Istanbul can carry on rescue work for Jews in Rumania and for those who entered Hungary."

HULL

In triplicate
re

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. M. Parks Date SEP 26 1972

ining with him to say all new possibilities for the rescue.

WRB
GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE
OF R. McLELLAND

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBI IN THE U.S.

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBI IN THE U.S.

Mr. McLelland's File
(Switzerland)

Union of Orthodox Rabbis Represented
in Switzerland (I. Sternbuch), Geneva

Typed of Stambach's
affairs.

URB

CENTRAL CONFERENCE
OF R. McLELLAND

Mr. McLelland's File
(Switzerland)

Union of Orthodox Rabbis
in Switzerland (T. Stambach) Secretary

File Copy

File Copy

Bern, March 23, 1944.
Bern, March 23, 1944.

848
DJR/RCG/imp

FIRST PRIORITY

[redacted] via Courier.
St. Gallen.

Dear Mr. Woods:

Dear Sir: It would be appreciated if you would deliver the enclosed letter of today's date addressed to Mr. Sternbuch, representative of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada. Will you be good enough to telephone the Legation when the message has been delivered.

"Sincerely yours, stated in your communication via For the Ministers: being taken. Necessary funds are being raised to do everything possible to expand the rescue work Daniel J. Reagan, Lithuania, France, and was Commercial Attaché. Please advise whether you and Jacob Griffl in Enclosure as stated, on rescue work for Jews in Rumania and for those who entered Hungary."

Sam E. Woods, Esquire, stated if you would acknowledge the rescue work.
American Consul General,
Zürich.
Very truly yours,

Daniel J. Reagan,
Commercial Attaché.

DJR/RCG/imp

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 26 1972

A true copy
of the original
original

Ising with him to say all new possibilities for the rescue.

Typical of Sternbach's
affairs.

File Copy

File Copy

Bern, March 23, 1944.

CROSS-REFERENCE SHEET

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

Mr. Isaac Sternbach,
Teufenerstrasse 3,
St. Gallen.

SEE LEGATION'S FILE FOR TELEGRAM NO. 983
FROM THE DEPARTMENT

Dear Sir:

FROM The Legation has been requested to deliver to
you the following telegraphic message from Rabbi
Aron Kotler and Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz, Vaadha 1944
Hatzala Emergency Committee:

TO "Interventions you requested in your
communication via the American Legation are
being taken. Necessary funds are being
raised to do everything possible to expand
the rescue work in Belgium, Holland, Lithuania,
France, and wherever else possible. Please
advise whether you and Jacob Grifill in
Istanbul can carry on rescue work for Jews
in Rumania and for those who entered Hungary."

RECORDING: It would be appreciated if you would acknowledge
the receipt of this letter.

Very truly yours,

Daniel J. Reagan,
Commercial Attaché.

DJR/RCS/imp

A true copy
of the signed
original

being with him to say all new possibilities for the rescue.

Typical of Stambuch's
affairs

WRB

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE
OF R. MCELLEND

Mrs. McEllelland's Files
(Switzerland)

Union of Orthodox Rabbis Represented
in Switzerland (I. Stambuch) January

File Copy

CROSS-REFERENCE SHEET
DOCUMENT FILE
NOTE

SEE . LEGATION'S FILE FOR . TELEGRAM NO. 983
FROM THE DEPARTMENT

FROM (.) DATED . MARCH 24, 1944
Name

TO

REGARDING:

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

ing with him to say all new possibilities for the rescue.

Typical of Sternbuch's
affairs.

File Copy

let to Sternbuch 3/28/44

CASE FILE

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

CA-AR
RC

From: Department

Date: March 25, midnight, 1944

Code: [REDACTED]

No: 1012

Received: March 26, 8 p.m.

PARAPHRASE

C.I.

Department's 229 of January 22.
Legation is requested, in connection with
Treasury license W-2117 which was transmitted in
the above telegram for the Union of Orthodox
Rabbis, to advise Sternbuch that Section (B) has
been amended to authorize, in place of 430,000
francs as now provided, the remission during six
months beginning January 1, 1944 of 860,000 Swiss
francs or the dollar equivalent thereof. It is
the purpose of this amendment to permit the trans-
mission by the Union of Orthodox Rabbis to Sternbuch,
in addition to amounts previously licensed, of the
Swiss franc equivalent of \$100,000. Amendment has
been approved by Treasury, War Refugee Board, and
Department.

HULL

In triplicate
re

Received CA-27/44 DJR
For Action RCT
Answered March 30/44
No. 1958

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 26 1972

ining with him to say all new possibilities for the rescue.

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE
OF R. McLELLAND

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

Mr. McLelland's File
(Switzerland)

Union of Orthodox Rabbis Represented
in Switzerland (S. Sternbuch), January

Typed of Stambach's
affairs.

File Copy

Bern, March 28, 1944.

March 27, 1944

MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Huddle

From: D. J. R.

Dear Mr. Woods:

I enclose herewith a letter addressed to Mr. Sternbach of Orthodox Rabbin. It I understand from the Code Room that telegram 1304 dealt with the War Refugee Board question taken up with the Foreign Office by the Chancery.

In view of this and under instructions from the Minister to refer to the Chancery questions on Jewish relief requiring communication with the Political Department, I am enclosing Department's 983, March 24, which calls for such action but which came to this office without having crossed your desk. ^{See Mr. Woods, Consul General, Zurich.}

We have retained one copy of this telegram for our chronological file.

D. J. R.

TELETYPE
British Consulate, London, 1-11-44

My R. H. P. Date SEP 26 1972

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/1/01 BY 60322

being with him to say all new possibilities for the rescue.

Typical of Sternbuch's
affairs.

File Copy

File Copy

Bern, March 28, 1944.

Bern, March 28, 1944.

848
DJR/CH/imp

~~_____~~ - via Courier

Dear Mr. Woods:

I enclose herewith a letter addressed to Mr. Sternbuch of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis. It would be appreciated if the Consulate would pass this letter on to Mr. Sternbuch.

Sincerely yours,

For the Minister:

I have received from the Department of State Treasury license A-2117 issued to the Union of Orthodox Rabbis. In section (B) of the license, a copy of which is enclosed, I am advised that in my possession, I am authorized to begin January 1, 1944, during the six months as now provided 360,000 francs or the dollar equivalent thereof, is authorized.

Enclosures stated.

Amendment has been approved by the Department of State, the Department of the Treasury, and by the War Refugee Board.

Sam E. Woods, Esquire,
American Consul General,
Zürich.

Daniel J. Reagan,
Commercial Attaché.

DJR/CH/imp

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 26 1972

True copy
Hand signed
original: ✓

Working with him to say all new possibilities for the rescue.

Typical of Sternbuch's
affairs.

To: Passover Bread

File Copy

Bern, March 28, 1944.

File Memorandum

March 30, 1944.

Mr. Isaac Sternbuch, called this morning and
delivered Schweizerergasse 14,
Zurich. Rabbis.

Sir: Sternbuch stated that he has no definite news con-
cerning developments in Hungary although he has received
telex I have just received a cable from the Department
of State amending Treasury license W-2117 issued to
the Union of Orthodox Rabbis. In section (B) of the
license, a copy of which is in your possession, I am
advised that instead of 430,000 francs as now provided
during the six months beginning January 1, 1944,
860,000 francs or the dollar equivalent thereof, is
authorized.

This amendment has been approved by the Department
of State, the Department of the Treasury, and by the
War Refugee Board.

Very truly yours,

Daniel J. Reagan,
Commercial Attaché.

DJR/CH/imp

A true copy
of the signed
original

ining with him to say all new possibilities for the rescue.

Typed of Sternbuch's
affairs.

K. Passover Bread

File Memorandum

March 30, 1944.

Mr. and Mrs. Sternbuch called this morning and delivered the enclosed draft telegram with the request that it be dispatched urgently to the Union of Orthodox Rabbis.

Sternbuch stated that he has no definite news concerning developments in Hungary although he has received telegraphic communications indicating that certain persons in whom he is interested have up to the present been able to hide successfully. He will keep us informed.

R.C.G.

RCG/imp

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

Reproduced from the Franklyn T. Rosenwald Library

thing with him to say all new possibilities for the rescue.

Typical of Stambach's
affairs

To, Passover Bread

Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the
United States of America
Rabbi Aaron Koller

We receive an urgent and desperate appeal from the 238 Jews interned in the American camp in Vittel, France, amongst whom the most distinguished Rabbis and personalities who could be saved one year ago in handing them passports of various Southamerican States. After steps undertaken some months ago Paraguay and other states have acknowledged passports, some states have not yet acknowledged.

Nevertheless all 238 Jews of whom 132 Paraguayans have been isolated on March 20th from internment camp Vittel and separated for deportation under the argument that they possess accomodation passports and are therefore no real objects for exchange.

The acknowledgment of these passports can therefore only then be a means of safety when these people of whom we have here a detailed list are also considered as exchange objects.

Schabse Frenkel Wilson Street 113 Brooklyn has written to his parents in Vittel some months ago that most of these interned in Vittel appear on the exchange list of the War department at Washington. This is however useless as long as Germany is not informed by the protecting powers officially that the exchange of these people is being prepared.

Besides the 238 in Vittel, ^{Germany} another few thousand such distinguished interned in Tittmoning, and different other camps would come into consideration but of whom we have so far in part received no cry for help nor ^{interned} possess any news.

There are a few hundred Germans in Texas and their wives at Cuba who are expecting the exchange. This would be a means for stopping at once the deportation of our interned. Help at the last moment, it may be too late at any hour!

Vaadhay Kapala
Sternbach, Rubinfeld
Rosenbaum Pines

being with him to say all new possibilities for the rescue.

Typical of Stambuch's
affairs

to, Passover Bread

Should the exchange really become effective the persons
will not be a burden to the United States. They all
possess veteran certificates and could emigrate from Lisbon
to Palestine direct.

ing with him to say all new possibilities for the rescue.

MRB
GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE
MIR McLeod's File
(Switzerland)
Union of Orthodox Rabbis Represented
in Switzerland (I Stambuch) January

Typical of Sternbuch's affairs.

to. Parosser Bread

CASE FILE

CA VITTEL

TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department

Date: March 31, 10 p.m., 1944

Code: [REDACTED]

No: 1994

Charged to:

PARAPHRASE

URGENT U.S.

Isaac Sternbuch has approached the Legation respecting the situation of Jews who have reportedly been interned in Vittel. (Refer also to my No. 1958 of March 30.) 238 persons are involved, comprising adults and children, by most of whom documentation has been obtained of ten Latin American Governments--Peru, Paraguay, Costa Rica, Honduras and others.

It is represented by Sternbuch that some kind of remedial action is being attempted by interested persons with the governments whose officials abroad have issued the false documents which are possessed by these persons. Also, it has been repeatedly stated that the State Department has interested itself and that the governments concerned are being urged by it to find some means of alleviation by either complete recognition of nationality or in some other way assuming responsibility for victimized persons. (Advice respecting the authenticity of this report is requested.)

There has now been received clandestinely information to the effect that the German authorities are about to or may have already removed these persons elsewhere largely because of some alleged action by the Spanish Embassy at Berlin as the protecting power of Paraguayans. The Swiss Division of Foreign Interests has told me informally that the Spanish Government had been requested by the Germans to inquire into the bona fides of all suspected claims--not only Paraguayan--and that claims and responsibility were denied by other governments. There is no complete picture of the affair available to me.

The following four names of persons who claim United States nationality are contained in the list of internees concerned: Halka Hager, Hirsch, Lieba and Nettie Wachtel.

There

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 26 1972

going with him to say all new possibilities for the rescue.

843 UNION OF ORTHODOX RAHIBS IN THE U.S.

CRB
GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE
OF R. McLELLAND

Mr. McLelland's File
(Switzerland)

Union of Orthodox Rabbis Represented
in Switzerland (I. Sternbuch, January)

Typical of Sternbuch's
affairs.

Re. Passover Bread

-2-

There is no record in the Legation of the submission of applications to the Department for documentation as American citizens of Hirsch, Lieba and Nettie Wachtel. In a list received from the Swiss authorities and transmitted to the Department (please refer to the Legation's despatch No. 6037 of September 3) Malka Hager was reported as an American citizen. The decisions of the Department respecting the citizenship claims of these persons have not yet been received.

The interested Jewish circles in Switzerland and Sternbuch are fearful of the fate awaiting the above-described group and it is felt by them that it may be possible to arrange with the German authorities an exchange of members group for Germans who now may be in North and South America. Such exchange arrangements, it is realized, would require time for negotiations and in the meantime Sternbuch, pending the submission of such a proposal to the German authorities, hopes that the German authorities might be prevailed upon to delay any summary action affecting the group. The possibility was therefore suggested to the Legation by Sternbuch that the Department might be willing to telegraph the American Embassy at Madrid requesting it to communicate with the Spanish Foreign Office with a view to communicating appropriately with the Spanish Ambassador at Berlin in the premises. It was suggested by Sternbuch that in such an arrangement the Spanish Ambassador at Berlin might be requested to ask the German authorities to withhold any action while the possibility of arrangements for an exchange against Germans could be explored.

Accordingly, I am submitting Sternbuch's proposal to the Department. Urgency is stressed by him. Representations may also, I have reason to believe, have been made to the International Committee in London and possibly also in Washington.

Respecting the Hager and Wachtel cases, I am asking the Swiss authorities to request the Germans to take no action until their status is definitely determined.

In my despatch No. 6921 of December 27 sent to the Department in microfilm No. 33X the developments reported in the foregoing were portended.

JRH/mjb:mk
Paraphrase to AI-Mr. Tait
3 paraphrases to CA

HARRISON

ing with him to say all new possibilities for the rescue.

ORR
GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE
OF R. McLELLAND

Mr. McLELLAND'S FILE
(Switzerland)

Union of Orthodox Rabbis Represented
in Switzerland (I. Sternbuch, January)

Typical of Sternbach's
affairs.

No. Passover Bread

Copy for SA

Money goes to Basel
15,000 Swiss
Basel

10,000 for brother

Nahum Sternbach -
whom he has
account.

Vittel

WRB
GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE
OF R. McLELLAND

MR. McLELLAND'S FILE
(Switzerland)

Union of Orthodox Rabbis Represented
in Switzerland (I. Sternbach) January

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being with him to say all new possibilities for the rescue.

Typical of Sternbuch's affairs.

To, Passover Bread

WRB

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE
OF R. McLELLAND

Mr. McLelland's Files
(Switzerland)

Union of Orthodox Rabbis Representative
in Switzerland (T. Sternbuch, Secretary)

CASE FILE

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

RG
TO
April 1, 1944
applied to the
Passover Bread

From: Department Date: March 31, midnight, 1944
No: 1088
Code: [REDACTED] Received: April 1, 2 p.m.

PARAPHRASE

Received CA 3/31/44 DJR
for Action
answered 4/1/44
No. 2117

You are requested to contact Sternbuch and
to report the present status of the matter
referred to in Department's 784 of March 9 which
discussed Treasury license 2148.

HULL

In triplicate
re

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

Retrieved from the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 26 1972

being with him to say all new possibilities for the rescue.

Typical of Stombach's
affairs.

Re. Passover Bread

Copy for SA

CASE FILE

Vittel

TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department

Date: March 30, midnight, 1944

No: 1958

Code: [REDACTED]

Charged to:

PARAPHRASE

Reference Department's 1012 dated March 25th.

Following summary of message to Union of Orthodox Rabbis from Sternbuch:

"238 Jews interned in American camp in Vittel have sent urgent appeal. Group, which includes distinguished rabbis, saved by receiving various South American passports year ago. Paraguay and some states recognized these passports, but other states have not recognized them. These people were isolated for deportation on March 20th on the grounds that they are not eligible for exchange as they possess merely accommodation passports.

"A letter from Schabse Frenkel, 113 Wilson Street, Brooklyn, to his parents in Vittel stated that most of this group is included in the exchange list of the United States War Department. The only chance of saving them is for the protecting powers to inform the Germans officially that preparations are being made for the exchange of these people. They will be no burden to the United States if the exchange is effected since all could go from Lisbon to Palestine and have veteran certificates.

"In addition to the Vittel group there are another few thousand distinguished persons interned at Tittmoning and other camps whose rescue should be considered. Possess little news and no appeal received.

"As a means of preventing deportation there are a few hundred Germans in Texas and their wives in Cuba. Rubinfeld, Rosenbaum, Pines, Sternbuch, Vaadha Hatzala."

HARRISON

DJR/RCG/imp/mjb
Para. in duplicate (Copy to CA7)

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972

Doing with him to say all new possibilities for the rescue.

DRB

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE
OF R. McLELLAND

Mrs. McLELLAND's File
(Switzerland)

Union of Orthodox Rabbis Registered
in Switzerland (T. Sternbuch, Secretary)

846 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.
Retrieved from the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

Typical of Stambuch's
affairs.

Re: Passover Bread
in Shanghai

Union of Orthodox
Rabbis
April 1944.

Reprinted from the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

going with him to say all new possibilities for the rescue.

Reprinted from the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

URB

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. McCallum's file
(Switzerland)

Union of Orthodox Rabbis represented
in Switzerland (St. Stambuch) January

Typical of Sternbuch's
affairs.

J. STERNBUCH
MONTREUX

TEL. 03050
TELEGRAMS: STERNBUCH

Re: Passover Bread
2 Shanghai

Zürich, April 3rd, 1944.
Schweizerstrasse 14
Tel. 5.95.44

To the

Honorable Embassy of the United
States of America,

B E R N .

Dear Mr. Getsinger,

Owing to my request, which I submitted to you when speaking
with you over the 'phone a short time ago, you were good enough
grant me your assistance for a permit to export Easter-bread
to the interned people abroad.

The Red Cross received this permit on the following day and
thus it was possible to forward the parcels in time. I am
convinced that this permit was given in consequence of your
intervention, by which the interned people get the Easter-
bread in due time. Let me, dear Mr. Getsinger, express once
more my very deepest thanks for your kind help in this matter.
I farther beg to hand you enclosed a Message for Washington,
and believe me to be, dear Sir,

Yours faithfully

[Handwritten signature]

1 Enclosure.

being with him to say all new possibilities for the rescue.

648 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

MRB

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE
OF R. McLELLAND

MR. McLELLAND'S FILE
(Switzerland)

Union of Orthodox Rabbis Represented
in Switzerland (J. Sternbuch), January

Typical of Sternbuch's
affairs.

J. STERNBUCH
MONTREUX

TEL. 920 50
TELEGR. ADL STERNBUCH

Delivered personally
by Sternbuch April 4, 6pm.

AL
076

Shangai answer "for about 500 Benethora monthly Budget
20,000 Swiss francs." We just request a precise reply to
your inquiry. We ^{are working for} treat ~~actually~~ their evacuation.
There are good prospects for success for a large party.

ining with him to say all new possibilities for the rescue.

MRB
GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE
OF R. McCLELLAND

Mr. McClelland's File
(Switzerland)

Union of Orthodox Rabbis Represented
in Switzerland (J. Sternbuch's) (Switzerland)

Typical of Sternbuch's affairs

WRB

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE
OF R. McLELLAN

Mr. McLeelland's File
(Switzerland)

Union of Orthodox Rabbis Represented
in Switzerland (J. Sternbuch, Secretary)

STERNBUCH

April 5th 1944.

CASE FILE

TELEGRAM SENT

(C.L.)

To: Department

Date: April 5, 8 p. m., 1944.

Code: [REDACTED]

No: 2117

Charged to:

Paraphrase

Refer to your 1088, March 31 and 784, March 9.
According to Sternbuch, the reply from Shanghai
reads as follows: "For about 500 Benethora monthly
budget Swiss francs 20,000." Sternbuch believes
Szmulewicz did not understand reference to "fifty" to
mean \$50,000 and asks if he should be more specific.
Sternbuch states that he is working, with good prospects,
on a plan for evacuation of these people.

HARRISON

\$20.80

DJR:ROG:nf

In triplicate

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U. S. A.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 1-11-73
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 26 1972

... contact by wire with Griffel and are exam-
ining with him to say all new possibilities for the rescue.

Typical of Sternbuch's
affairs.

J. STERNBUCH
MONTREUX
TEL. 83040
TELEGR. ADD. STERNBUCH

Received personally
from Sternbuch April 11

Zurich, April 5th 1944.

file
JRC

To the Legation
of the United States of
America,
B e r n e .
=====

Dear Mr. Getsinger,

Will you please be so kind as
to send on the following report. I thank you very
much for all your efforts and I beg to express you
my sincerest wishes for the Easter-holidays.

I beg to remain, dear Mr. Getsinger,

Yours faithfully.

[Signature]

Union of orthodox Rabbis of the United States
We have ^{placed} ~~sent by wire~~ 25,000.-- Swiss francs ^{at disposal of} ~~to~~
Griffel. further details follow. *

Waad Hazala
Sternbuch, Rubinfeld,
Rosenbaum, Pines.

* Sternbuch explains money not actually
telegraphed to G. S. fr. 15,000 deposited
at Annexes Basel and Sfr. 10,000 with his
brother Nahum Sternbuch pending further
orders. *File*

... contact of wire with Griffel and are exam-
ining with him to say all new possibilities for the rescue.

MRB
GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE
OF R McLELLAND
Mr. McLelland's Files
(Switzerland)
Union of Orthodox Rabbis Represented
in Switzerland (Sternbuch), Bern

File Memorandum

Typical of Sternbuch's
affairs.

CASE FILE

Vittel, Spain's role
as PP for CA
Paraguay.

TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department

Date: April 6, 1944, 5 p. m.

Code: [REDACTED]

No: 2159

Charged to:

US URGENT

PARAPHRASE

Following is for the Union of Orthodox Rabbis
Vaadha Hatzala from Sternbuch.

In my last report with regard to the interned Jews
at Vittel, the substance of which the Bern Legation sent
you through the Department of State, the energetic action
of the Spanish Ambassador in Berlin is urgently necessary.
The Spanish Ambassador ignores or watches insufficiently
the interests of Paraguayan citizens. (For the Department:
refer to Bern's 1994 of March 31.) The ruling against
Jews, according to the Red Cross in Geneva, has been
particularly drastic for about three weeks so that firmness
by the Spanish Ambassador is urgently necessitated. You
are requested to act urgently and at once in Paraguay
for intervention in Madrid with the Spanish Government.

HARRISON

JKH:mjb:nf
In quadruplicate

3 copies to CA

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. T. [REDACTED] SEP 26 1972

only.
4) We are in permanent contact by wire with Griffl and are exam-
ining with him to say all new possibilities for the rescue.

MRB
GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE
OF R. McLELLAND
Mr. McLELLAND's File
(Switzerland)
Union of Orthodox Rabbis Represented
in Switzerland (St. Sternbuch), January

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

File Memorandum

Typical of Sternbuch's
affairs

Let to Sternbuch 4/11/44

CASE FILE

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

For transmission to Sternbuch -

He promised that Am (Sgt) that he
would be in Bern Tuesday -

From: Department

Date: April 6, 7 p.m., 1944

No.: 1174

Code: [REDACTED]

Received: April 7, 3 p.m.

PARAPHRASE

It is requested that Sternbuch be advised by the Legation to get in touch with Joseph Weil and Mathieu Mueller, who are believed to be in Zurich, and invite them to serve as members of his committee for administering the rescue operations which are envisaged in the license that was contained in the Department's telegram No. 229 of January 22. Mueller and Weil should further be advised that, provided they associate themselves with Sternbuch in his rescue and relief operations, important sums for use under the license, especially in France, Holland and Belgium, will be provided by Baron Edouard de Rothschild, who is President of the Association of French Jews in America.

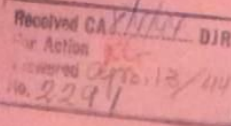
Upon completion of the arrangements which are indicated above, a telegram should be dispatched by Sternbuch through the Legation confirming the arrangements and the appointment of Mueller and Weil. A report on Sternbuch's activities to date should also be given in the telegram, which should be signed by either Weil or Mueller in addition to Sternbuch. You should advise Sternbuch that the signature of either Mueller or Weil is required only in order to give Rothschild further assurances.

HULL

In quadruplicate

To C.A. in triplicate

re



DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Order, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parker Date SEP 20 1972

4) We are in permanent contact by wire with Griffler and are examining with him to say all new possibilities for the rescue.

File Memorandum

Typical of Stombach's
affairs.

J. STERNBUCH
MONTREUX

TEL. 83086
TELEGR. ADM. STERNBUCH

Hand to Date: ~~1/1/44~~
Mr Hugale ~~CA 2/R~~
"Vatican Certificates" 2163
"Vatican Certificates" 1958

To the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States of
America.

Delivered
except
2163 April

- 1) We have sent a courier to Hungary in order to get new in-
formations about the situation there. Considering the fright-
ful misfortune we request you to examine at the hand of the
American Government, if it is not possible to suggest a forced
exchange of the Jews in Hungary for German private population
in Africa or some other places being occupied by the Allies. Per-
haps the German Government might be interested in a return home
of these people.
- 2) Help us to procure an unlimited number of Vatican certificates.
We could make lists of many thousands of families in Hungary
and could wire to Jerusalem. Up to the present time they were
useful in the occupied countries, for being interned against
exchange.
- 3) Another possibility for the rescue-work would be passports of
South-American states for say 10,000 families at first, which
ought to be given to us through the consulates of those states
in Switzerland confidentially. Never could any mis-use be made
with such papers; they would have to serve only that people
would be interned as foreigners. All the receivers know very
well, of course, that such passports are valid exclusively
during the war-time just to save their lives. ~~You may also~~
You may also guarantee that these passports will be given only
to well-known rabbis and very reliable and trustworthy persons
only.
- 4) We are in permanent contact by wire with Griffel and are exam-
ining with him to-day all new possibilities for the rescue.

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.A.

CRB
GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE
OF R. McLELLAND

Mr. McLellan's File
(Switzerland)

Union of Orthodox Rabbis Represented
in Switzerland (J. Stombach), January

J. STERNBUCH
MONTREUX

- II -

TEL. 0 30 56
TELEGR-ADR. STERNBUCH

It would be of the utmost importance, to influence Turkey to drop the rigorous restrictions for the transit of those who are in the possession of certificates.

- 5) We have extended our actions for the rescue of people to all the occupied territories.

The connection with Lithuania has been interrupted completely since the time of occupation. A courier is in the meantime on the way there with instructions and the possibility to give help to 150 Rabbis and prominent persons.

- 6) ~~We received no answer yet to our telegram Shanghai.~~

Waad Hazala: Sternbuch Rubinfeld Rosenbaum
Pines

MR. McLELLAN'S Files
(Switzerland)
Union of Orthodox Rabbis' Representative
in Switzerland (J. Sternbuch), January
1941

File Memorandum

*Typical of Sternbuch's
affairs.*

CASE FILE

TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department

Date: April 7, 8 a. m., 1944.

Code: ~~SECRET~~

No: 2163

Charged to:

Paraphrase

Reference is made to the Legation's no. 1994 of March 31.

There follows herunder the summary of a message to the Union of Orthodox Rabbis from Sternbuch.

"1. I have despatched a courier to Hungary to report on the situation. I suggest that you examine with the American Government the possibility of arranging an exchange of Jews in Hungary against German civilians from Africa or other territory occupied by the Allies.

2. Please help us procure an unlimited number of Vatican certificates. I could wire to Jerusalem lists of thousands of families in Hungary. The certificates were, up to the present time, useful in occupied countries for obtaining internment against exchange.

3. South American passports for 10,000 families as a start would be another possibility for rescue. The passports should be handed to us confidentially through the consulates in Switzerland of those countries. Since the recipients are aware that the passports are valid only for wartime as a means of saving lives, the passports could not be misused. The passports would be given to well-known rabbis and other reliable persons only.

4. With regard to rescue possibilities, I am in constant telegraphic contact with Griffel.

5. I have extended rescue activities to all territories that are occupied. Since October contact with Lithuania has been interrupted but there is now en route a courier with instructions to help prominent persons and 150 rabbis.

Signed: Sternbuch, Rosenbaum, Pines, Rubinfeld."

HARRISON

DJR:RCG:nf
In quadruplicate
3 copies to CA
1 copy to FA

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 26 1972

MRB
GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE
R. McLELLAND

Mr. McLELLAND's File
(Switzerland)

Union of Orthodox Rabbis Represented
in Switzerland (Sternbuch), Hungary

File Memorandum

Typical of Stambach's affairs!

TELEGRAM SENT

For GA

*RG Lett
JHK pushing
this report and
asking about
it today*

To: Department

Date: April 7, 10 p. m., 1944.

Code: ~~SECRET~~

No: 2194

Charged to:

Paraphrase

Reference is made to the words "Veteran Certificates" appearing in the second paragraph of the Legation's no. 1958 of March 30 and "Vatican Certificates," appearing in the third paragraph of the Legation's no. 2163 of April 7. These words mean certificates of approval issued by the Government of Palestine for permanent immigration of individual Jews to Palestine.

HARRISON

JKH:mf

In triplicate
Copies to CA and FA

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date **SEP 26 1972**

on Sternquach by rallying influential Jews in America.

File Memorandum

Typical of Stambuch's
affairs.

CASE FILE

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

File Copy

Bern, April 11, 1944.
Bern, April 11, 1944.

Mr. Isaac Stambuch,
Mr. Isaac Stambuch,
Schweizerstrasse 14,
Zürich.

Dear Sir:

The Legation has been requested by the Department of Reference is made to the Legation's letter of today's date concerning a proposal that Joseph Weil and Mathieu Mueller be associated in your relief activities. your committee for administering the rescue operations envisaged by the license which was granted. With regard to the request that either Mueller or Weil sign with you the telegram to be dispatched through the Legation concerning the arrangements made with these men, the Legation is requested to inform you that the signature of either Weil or Mueller is required only in order to give Baron de Rothschild further assurances. France, Holland, and Belgium, will be provided by Baron Edouard de Rothschild, who is President of the Legation of French Jews in America. The Legation is requested to inform you that, upon completion of the arrangements indicated above, you should dispatch Daniel J. Reagan, a telegram confirming the arrangements, a pointment of Mueller and Weil. This telegram should also include a report of your activities to date and should be signed by either Weil or Mueller in addition to you.

DJR/RCG/imp

It would be appreciated if you would acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Very truly yours,

Daniel J. Reagan,
Commercial Attaché.

DJR/RCG/imp

A true copy
has been
originally

on Sternquach by rallying influential Jews in America.

File Memorandum

Typical of Sternbuch's affairs.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

File Copy

Bern, April 11, 1944.

Mr. Isaac Sternbuch,
Schweizergasse 14,
Zürich.

Dear Sir:

The Legation has been requested by the Department of State to suggest to you that you get in touch with Joseph Weil and Mathieu Mueller, who are believed to be in Zurich, and invite them to serve as members of your committee for administering the rescue operations envisaged by the license which was transmitted to you in the Legation's letter of January 26, 1944.

Messrs. Mueller and Weil should be advised that, provided they associate themselves with you in your rescue and relief operations, important sums for use under the license, especially in France, Holland, and Belgium, will be provided by Baron Edouard de Rothschild, who is President of the Association of French Jews in America. The Legation is requested to inform you that, upon completion of the arrangements indicated above, you should dispatch through the Legation a telegram confirming the arrangements and the appointment of Mueller and Weil. This telegram should also include a report of your activities to date and should be signed by either Weil or Mueller in addition to you.

It would be appreciated if you would acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Very truly yours,

Daniel J. Reagan,
Commercial Attaché.

DJR/RCG/imp

A true copy
of the signed
original

on Sternbuch by rallying influential Jews in
on Sternbuch by rallying influential Jews in America.

File Memorandum

Typical of Stambuch's
affairs.

CASE FILE

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department TO Date: April 11, 10 p. m., 1944.
No: 1231
Code: File Received: April 12, 9 a. m.

Paraphrase

Received CA DJR
For Action RJR
Answered no answer
No. no

Reference is made to the Legation's telegram no. 1578 of March 15.

The Treasury Department has given consideration to the above telegram and it has been decided that the terms of license W-2117 cover the transaction which that telegram described.

The Department and the Treasury again emphasize that all the three specified methods are available in licenses of this type for financing the envisaged operations.

HULL

Re purchase of Tenzole for Hungary

/nf

In triplicate

COPY IN FA

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 1-11-72
By R. H. Fiske Date SEP 26 1972

on Sternquch by rallying influential Jews in America.

on Sternquch by rallying influential Jews in America.

File Memorandum

Typical of Sternbach's affairs

April 12, 1944.

Sternbach called by appointment and I delivered to him the Legation's letter of April 11 concerning the proposed inclusion of Weil and Mueller in his committee.

Sternbach stated that he is acquainted with Weil and that last week he had invited him to join the committee because of his intimate knowledge of French relief problems. He explained that Weil is a French Jewish doctor who had headed the "OSA", a children's relief organization. He is uncertain whether Weil can join the committee since he is already overburdened with work.

Sternbach said that Mathieu Mueller is a swindler, a French Jewish lawyer who has tried to capitalize on the refugee problem to make money by selling false papers at exorbitant prices, etc. He was a member of Sternbach committee for a short time but he had been ousted a few weeks ago. Recently a shipment of "Matzen" for refugees in Hungary was planned; Mueller proposed to send it to Hungary on a compensation basis; the committee approved and Mueller tried to exploit the business to make a private profit. As a result, Hungary was occupied before the Jews could get their Matzen. Sternbach stated that Mueller's closest associate is Mantello, a Rumanian who is "chancellor of the San Salvador Consulate". Mantello does a big business in false papers and, believing that there is good money to be made out of refugee relief, has been trying to manoeuvre himself unto Sternbach's committee. Sternbach has refused to consider his proposal and Mantello and Mueller have threatened to bring pressure on Sternbach by rallying influential Jews in America.

DECI Agency
State Dept. Letter 1-11-73
By B. H. Parks Date

SEP 26 1972

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

Mr. McClelland's files
(Switzerland)

Union of Orthodox Rabbis represented
in Switzerland (St. Sternbach, January)

CASE FILE
TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department

Date: April 13, 11 a. m., 1944.

Code: [REDACTED]

No: 2291

Charged to:

Paraphrase

Reference is made to your 1174 of April 6. Sternbuch is preparing a reply to the information contained therein.

It is requested by S. that the following message be delivered to the Union of Orthodox Rabbis: "The sum of twenty-five thousand Swiss francs have been placed by us at Griffel's disposal. Further details in the matter will follow." Sternbuch explains that Griffel, who is the Istanbul agent of the Union, requested him to deposit the sum of fifteen thousand francs at the American Express Company in Basel and 10,000 francs with his brother, Nahum Sternbuch. Instructions concerning the employment of the funds will be sent later to Nahum Sternbuch.

HARRISON

\$23.30

DJR:RCG:sb:nf
In triplicate

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Order, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 26 1972

648 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

Mr. McCallum's File
(Switzerland)

Union of Orthodox Rabbis Represented
in Switzerland (T. Sternbuch), January

File 1-15-14-11

J. STI
MO
TELETYPE

Zürich, April 13 th, 1944.

To the Honorable
Legation of the United States of America,

B e r n e . . .

Dear Mr. Getzinger,

To-day I beg to request you to be good enough to pass
the following messages on. At the same time I wish to thank
you repeatedly for all the trouble I am causing you and am,
dear Sir, with my best regards,

Yours faithfully

Handwritten signature

2 enclosures.

April 15 - Telegrams Stenbach and others
messages were not done. He
agreed to hold them until he can
call on 17th to discuss.

RK

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

(Switzerland)

Union of Orthodox Rabbis Represented in Switzerland (T. Stenbach) January

File 1-50-10-10-1

To the

(full - RL)

Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States of America:

From Shanghai the following wire received: "Rosenheim's support
advisable 5000 Swissfrance weekly wondering not yet answered
stop regarding 50 Rabbis matter of time stop Oles ^{FP} Podlaskuk
married Kletzker and Tels Isochor Schmulewitz"
Inform of this Rosenheim

Sternbuch

Telegram sent April 14

DRB
GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE
OF R. McLELLAND

MR. McLELLAND'S FILE
(Switzerland)

Union of Orthodox Rabbis Representation
in Switzerland (Z. Sternbuch), January
File 1: Jan-April

To the

Agudas Israel World Organisation

Formerly the following consulates have issued such papers:

Paraguay, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Uruguay, Peru, Honduras

Nicaragua, Venezuela, Haiti, Chile, ~~Bolivia~~. Bolivien

Presently these papers can be had only from the consulate

of Salvadore. In Order to save people in Hungaria it is

firstly necessary that consulates in Switzerland should ~~be~~

~~be~~ be authorised to issue to us confidentially

passports or citizenship documents to be distributed gratis

to refugees. This would ~~not~~ end to sale of passports at

exorbitant prices. Committee would assume responsibility

that passports would be used only for ~~Switzerland~~

temporary protection and would be returned to issuing states.

Sternbuch

Sternbuch says all above did not give

false passports in Switzerland - some

did it in other countries but not

here. Paraguay, Peru, Honduras

Nicaragua and Haiti issued false

papers in Switzerland according to

his knowledge - Chile may have

too but not certain.

RI

Telegram sent April 14

(in Channing file with

immediate previous

RI

R.C.G.

CASE FILE

TELEGRAM SENT

Date: April 19, 9 a. m., 1944.

No: 2464

Code

Charged to:

Paraphrase

Reference is made to your 1153 April 5.

The following message is from Sternbuch for Agudas Israel World Organization with reference to the above telegram:

of the countries

"The consulates/listed hereunder issued such papers formerly: Bolivia, Chili, Costa Rica, Haiti, Honduras, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. These documents are now available only from the consulate of San Salvador. In order to save people in Hungary, it is of primary importance that consulates in Switzerland be authorized to issue passports or citizenship documents to us confidentially. These documents would be distributed to refugees free of charge. This measure would put an end to the traffic in false passports. Responsibility that the passports would be employed for temporary protection only and that they would be returned to the states who issued them when the emergency is past would be assumed by the Committee. Signed Sternbuch."

Following is for the Department: S. states that according to his knowledge, only the consulates of Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, San Salvador, Peru and Paraguay have issued false passports in Switzerland, although such passports have been issued in other parts of Europe by consulates of the other countries named above.

HARRISON

\$42.60

DJR:RCG:imp:nf
In triplicate

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 26 1972

RCG/imp

R.C.G.

J. STERNBUCH

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA

REC'D APR 22 1944

From BERN Department

Code: [REDACTED]

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FOR ACTION

Date: April 20, 1 p.m., 1944

No: 1354

Received: April 21, 9 a.m.

PARAPHRASE

The Department desires you to deliver to Sternbuch the following paraphrased message from the Vaad Hatzala emergency committee by Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz:

"An amount of Swiss francs 85,800 has been transmitted from us by the Polish Ministry of Finance to the Polish Embassy in Bern to be delivered to you for transmission to Rabbi Szmulewicz at Shanghai. You should arrange for immediate transfer and advise us when the transaction has been completed".

With a view to facilitating the transmission of these funds the Department requests you to take such steps as may be reasonably possible.

HULL ✓

/nrm

in triplicate

Copy to acts

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 1-11-72
By R. H. Marks Date SEP 26 1972

RCG/imp

R.C.G.

704 POL. POLISH INTERESTS X 848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

(Switzerland)

Union of Orthodox Rabbis Represented in Switzerland (J. Sternbuch, Secretary)

File: Jan-Apr

J. STERNBUCH

Mr. Huddle:

Reference in Bern to this document in
the second copy of the letter to Mr. Huddle.

848
DJR/RCG/imp

Bern, April 22, 1944.

PHOTO COPY

~~SECRET~~ - via Courier April 22, 1944

Dear Mr. Woods:

Mr. Isaac Sternbuch,

It would be appreciated if you would deliver
the enclosed letter of today's date to Mr. Sternbuch
of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis and inform the
Legation by telephone when this has been done.

Sincerely yours,

For the Minister: to deliver to
you the following message from the Vaudin National
Emergency Committee:

Daniel J. Reagan,
Commercial Attaché.
"An amount of 100,000 Swiss francs has been
transmitted from us by the Polish Ministry of
Finance to the Polish Embassy in Bern to be
transmitted for transmission to Rabbi
Sternbuch at Shanghai. You should arrange for
immediate transfer and advise us when the trans-
action has been completed."

Sam E. Woods, Esquire,
American Consul General,
Zürich.

Daniel J. Reagan,
Commercial Attaché.

April 26 - Hubbard signed to state
message delivered
DJR/RCG/imp

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Order, 1-11-73
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 26 1972

A copy
of the
original: [initials]
PHOTO COPY

RCG/imp

R.C.G.

Union of Orthodox Rabbis Representative
in Switzerland (J. Sternbuch), January
Feb. 1 - Jan. 1944

J. STERNBUCH

Mr. Huddle:

Reference in Dent's 1429 originated in
Ca. Should copy of reply go to CA7

BFL

File Copy

Bern, April 22, 1944

Mr. Isaac Sternbuch,
Schweizerergasse 14,
Zürich.

Dear Sir:

The Legation has been requested to deliver to
you the following message from the Vaadha Hatzala
Emergency Committee:

"An amount of Swiss francs 85,800 has been
transmitted from us by the Polish Ministry of
Finance to the Polish Embassy in Bern to be
delivered to you for transmission to Rabbi
Szmulewicz at Shanghai. You should arrange for
immediate transfer and advise us when the trans-
action has been completed."

Very truly yours,

Daniel J. Reagan,
Commercial Attaché.

DJR/RCG/imp

A true copy
of the signed
original:

RCG/imp

R.C.G.

WRB

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE
OF R. McLELLAND

848 UNIT OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

Mr. McLelland's File
(Switzerland)

Union of Orthodox Rabbis Represented
in Switzerland (I. Sternbuch), January

Feb 1 - Jan 4/45

J. STERNBUCH
MONTREUX

Zurich, April 25th 1944

CASE FILE

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department

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

Code: Brown

No: 1429

Received: April 26, 9 a.m.

For the Minister from the War Refugee Board.
WRB No. 4.

Please deliver a paraphrase of the following
message from the War Refugee Board to Isaac Sternbuch,
Postfach 167, St. Gallen, Switzerland:

"Greatly pleased with your April 7th
message. Suggest necessity that such couriers
be supplied with larger sums and that such
funds be given to outstanding personalities
leaders of communities and former heads of
Yeshiveth to save themselves in whatever
possible manner. Ready supply you additional
funds on request. Vaadhatzalah emergency
committee Rabbis Rosenberg Kotler Kalmanowitz."

HULL

/nm

in duplicate
to files

Received CA	25/4/44	DJR
For Action	25/4/44	
Answered	No answer	
No.		

RCG/imp

R.C.G.

WRB

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE
OF R. McLELLAND

Mr. Mclelland's File
(Switzerland)

Union of Orthodox Rabbis Represented
in Switzerland (I. Sternbuch, Secretary)

File: Sternbuch

J. STERNBUCH
MONTREUX

Zurich, April 25th 1944

Mr. Huddle:

reference in Dept's 1429 originated in
CA. Should copy of reply go to CA?

DJL

*Leaving sup the copy in file
The notes not taken there.
Z/L*

RCG/imp

R.C.G.

DRB

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

OF R. McLELLAND

MR. McLELLAND'S FILE
(Switzerland)

Union of Orthodox Rabbis Represented
in Switzerland (J. Sternbuch), January

File: Sternbuch

J. STERNBUCH
MONTREUX

TEL. 830 56
TELEGR.-ADR. STERNBUCH

Zurich, April 25th 1944

To the honorable
Legation of the United States of
America

Berne
=====

Dear Mr. Götsinger,

Re: Matthieu Müller & Dr. Weil

With regard to your esteemed letter of
the 11th April I shall be very much obliged to you, dear
Sir, if you will be good enough to pass this following
lines to the Departement of State:

"Mr. Müller has been two month belonging to our
Committee, which he has misued for his private
matters. We were happy when he left the same short
time ago much in accordance with our intention.
As regards Dr. Joseph Weil we asked this respectable
man already middle of March to direct our work of
help for France. He is very busy with the work
for children, in spite of that he is showing great
interest in co-operating. Unfortunately the former
appointment could not take place, because he fell
ill about that time. We are in contact with him
and hope to meet him shortly and do all to get his
co-operation. We hope to be able to give you news
about this soonest."

Waad Hazala Sternbuch

I beg to thank you for your kindness in
advance. I remain, dear Mr. Götsinger, with the best regards.

Yours very faithfully
Waad Hazala Sternbuch

RCG/imp

R.C.G.

DRB
GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE
OF R. McLELLAN
848
UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN SWITZERLAND
M. McLELLAN'S FILE
(Switzerland)
Union of Orthodox Rabbis Represented
in Switzerland (J. Sternbuch), Bern
Feb 1 - 5th April

J. STERNBUCH
MONTREUX

TEL. 830 50
TELEGR. ADDR. STERNBUCH

Zurich, April 25th 1944

*Received personally
from Sternbuch
April 29*

Re

To the Orthodox Rabbis of the United
States of America

NEW YORK

*Telegram sent
May 1*

We have just received following
Cable: "Arrangement fifty Rabbis temporarily very
difficult Rosenheims support urgent
advance two months save Szmulewicz"

Received also amount 85800 Swiss Francs,
which dispatched by telegraph Rabbi Szmulewicz.

Waad Hazala Sternbuch

M. M. M.

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.A.

*Mr. McClelland's Files
(Switzerland)*

*Union of Orthodox Rabbis Represented
in Switzerland (J. Sternbuch), January*

File 1-50-1944

... this question was clarified. ... he would

RCG/imp

R.C.G.

Union of O. Rabbis Let. to Sternbuch 4/29 JKH/mjb

File Memorandum

Subject: Union of Orthodox Rabbis.

April 26, 1944.

Sternbuch called by appointment and presented a letter concerning the proposed inclusion of Weil and Mueller in the refugee committee (please see Department's letter of April 11 stated that he should draft a telegram for dispatch through the Legation concerning this matter and that the Legation could not accept the responsibility of summarizing the statements he made in his letter. Sternbuch agreed to draft the necessary telegram.

Sternbuch stated that he is having difficulty with his own organization here in Switzerland. It seems that Mannes and Rubinfeld, two members of his committee, mustered a majority of the committee in favor of spending 50,000 francs for a Jewish relief home in Switzerland, the funds to be taken from the money remitted by the Union of Orthodox Rabbis for relief and evacuation activities in occupied territory. Sternbuch stated that he has refused to comply with this proposal on the basis that neither he nor the committee has the authority to use the funds for any purpose except for relief and evacuation activities outside Switzerland. He stated that he will not depart from this point of view and that if an open break occurs in the committee he will inform the Legation and put the matter up to the Union of Orthodox Rabbis for decision.

Sternbuch presented the letter dated April 25 (attached) concerning the evacuation of refugees from France to Switzerland. He stated that he understands fully that under his license he is authorized to spend funds for the evacuation of refugees into Switzerland. He has ascertained that the Swiss Fremdenpolizei will not turn back refugees at the frontiers. Nonetheless he fears that if he organizes and finances from Switzerland the evacuation of refugees from France into Switzerland, the Fremdenpolizei will intervene and possibly confiscate the funds remitted by the Union of Orthodox Rabbis. He stated that the financing and organizing of evacuation of refugees from foreign territory into Switzerland is against Swiss law. He desired my advice. I informed him that he as a Swiss citizen must interpret his own obligations to Swiss law and it was not the position of the Legation to instruct him to disobey what he considered to be Swiss regulations. This was a matter for him alone to decide.

Sternbuch requested that we ascertain from the Swiss authorities whether the Fremdenpolizei have any objection to the refugee committee arranging for the evacuation of Jews from France into Switzerland. He asked that this matter be brought to Mr. Huddle's attention and stated that he would take no action until this question was clarified.

RCG/imp

R.C.G.

~~DO NOT~~

Please see final
January 11, 1945
to Mr. Huddle's
RV

Mr. Huddle

DRB
GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE
OF R. McLELLAN
Mr. McLELLAN's File
(Switzerland)
Union of Orthodox Rabbis Represented
in Switzerland (i.e. Sternbuch), January
File: Sternbuch

DRB

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE
OF R. McLELLAND

Mr. McLelland's File
(Switzerland)

Union of Orthodox Rabbis Represented
in Switzerland (I. Sternbach, Secretary)

348 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

Feb. 1, 1944

File Copy

File Copy

Bern, April 27, 1944.

848
JKH/RCG/imp

Mr. Isaac Sternbach,
Schweizerstrasse 14,
Zürich.
~~Mr. Sternbach~~ - via Courier.

Dear Sir:

Dear Mr. Woods: It has been requested to deliver to you the following message from the Executive Board:
It would be appreciated if you would transmit to Mr. Sternbach the enclosed letter of today's date and confirm to the Legation when delivery has been effected.

Sincerely yours,
For the Minister:

J. Klahr Huddle,
Counselor of Legation.

It would be appreciated if you would acknowledge Enclosure as stated. present letter.

Very truly yours,

Sam E. Woods, Esquire,
American Consul General,
Zürich.

JKH/RCG/imp

A true copy
of the signed
original:

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 26 1972

WRB

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE
OF R. McLELLAND

Swiss Union of Orthodox Rabbis in the U.S.

Mr. McLelland's File
(Switzerland)

Union of Orthodox Rabbis Represented
in Switzerland (Z. Sternbach), January -
Feb. 1 - 5th April

file
b3c

File Copy

Note: To be forwarded to Mr. Sternbach
through American Legation, Bern, April 27, 1944.
Zurich.

Bern, April 29, 1944

Mr. Isaac Sternbach,
Mr. Schweizergasse 14,
Zurich.

Dear Sir:

The Legation has been requested to deliver to
you the following message from the War Refugee Board:

"Greatly pleased with your April 7th
message. Suggest necessity that such couriers
be supplied with larger sums and that such
funds be given to outstanding personalities
leaders of communities and former heads of
Yeshiveth to save themselves in whatever
possible manner. Are ready to supply you with
additional funds on request. Rabbis Rosenberg,
Kalmanowitz and Kotler of the Vaad Hazala
Emergency Committee." as you fully with reference

It would be appreciated if you would acknowledge
the receipt of the present letter.

Very truly yours,
For the Minister:

J. Klahr Huddle,
Counselor of Legation.
Counselor of Legation.

JKH/ROG/imp

A true copy
of the signed
original: *[Signature]*

C O P Y

Note: To be forwarded to Mr. Sternbuch
through American Consul General,
Zurich.

Bern, April 29, 1944

Mr. Isaac Sternbuch,
St. Gall.

Sir:

With reference to certain matters which you
discussed with Mr. Getsinger of the Legation on
April 26th, and to your letter of April 25th, you
are informed that the conditions of entry into
Switzerland of refugees from Axis or Axis-occupied
territory is a matter falling only within the
competence of the Swiss Government.

The Legation does not doubt that the appropriate
Swiss authorities will be pleased to advise with you
on the subject and to inform you fully with reference
thereto.

Very truly yours,
For the Minister:

J. Klahr Huddle
Counselor of Legation.

WRB

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. McCallum's File

Union of Orthodox Rabbis Represented in
Switzerland (I. Sternbuch), January

File 1: Sternbuch