



005 INFO 9

Mr. McClelland's Files  
(Switzerland)

A true copy  
of the signed  
original:

Union of Orthodox Rabbis: Representation  
in Switzerland (II Sternbach, Tamari -  
Apr 21 May 1956

Mr. Huddell

J. STERNBUCH  
MONTREUX

TELEPHONE 2 88 24  
TELEGRAM-ADD.: STERNBUCH

Zurich, May 2nd 1944

3

To the

Union of Orthodox Rabbis of The  
United States of America

New-York  
\*\*\*\*\*

Assistance to those

The work of help in Hungary is very difficult. We are  
~~to date~~ <sup>to date</sup> no feasible success resulted up  
~~to date~~ <sup>to date</sup>

ear yet. We have  
ican passports, there  
grate illegally, if  
This is not the  
for ~~the~~ people,  
is family Bobow-Hal-  
st.

San

Union of Orthodox Rabbis

May 1944

Such  
pe

As long as ~~the~~ transit  
is not hindered great  
no possibilities to  
do  
commend you not to send

do ~~not~~ <sup>larger</sup>  
any ~~small~~ amounts there. He can ~~not~~ <sup>can</sup> get money from us, as much  
as he ~~has~~ needs if he ~~could~~ do something positive.

For this work ~~in~~ <sup>are available</sup> rescue only ~~the~~ papers of the  
Consulate of San Salvador at our disposal. Please ~~to~~ <sup>take whatever steps are</sup> ~~all~~  
~~the~~ (necessary) that ~~some~~ <sup>so</sup> other consulates in Switzer-  
land ~~grant~~ <sup>can also</sup> such papers.

The Wisnitzer Rabbi Hager of Grossewardein asks ~~for~~  
help for his family of 27 persons in order to save them.  
We have sent him ~~through~~ <sup>via</sup> a courier ~~20,000~~ <sup>Swiss</sup> francs ~~through~~.

The Jewish Agency of Jerusalem is handling our tele-  
graphic requests for certificates very slowly, which are  
passed on by Jim Lewin. We ~~feel~~ <sup>feel</sup> that your intervention by

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

Mr. Hubbell

J. STERNBUCH  
MONTREUX  
TELEPHON 4 30 04  
TELEGR. ADRES: STERNBUCH

Zürich, May 2nd 1944

3

To the  
Union of Orthodox Rabbis of The  
United States of America  
New-York  
\*\*\*\*\*

Assistance to those

~~The work of help~~ in Hungary is very difficult. We are  
trying various things, ~~but with~~ <sup>to date</sup> no feasible success ~~resulted up~~  
~~to the present~~. The situation is not clear yet. We have  
sent a courier again with 80 south-American passports, ~~there~~.  
Many families would like to try to emigrate illegally, if  
~~the~~ Turkish transit <sup>permits</sup> were given, however this is ~~not~~ the  
case till now. ~~this transit~~ urgent, ~~and~~ for ~~the~~ people,  
who escape from or through Rumania. The family Bobow-Hal-  
berstamm <sup>has</sup> happily arrived in Bukarest.

San Salvadorian  
Passports?  
Such transit  
possibilities are

We are in contact with Griffel. As long as ~~the~~ transit  
through Turkey is not allowed, he ~~has no possibilities to~~ <sup>cannot render great</sup>  
~~do great~~ <sup>assistance</sup> for the work of help. We recommend you ~~not to~~ <sup>do</sup> send  
any ~~larger~~ <sup>larger</sup> amounts there. He can get <sup>can</sup> money from us, as much  
as he ~~may~~ needs if he ~~could~~ <sup>can</sup> do something positive.

For this work ~~we~~ <sup>rescue</sup> only ~~the~~ <sup>are available</sup> papers of the  
Consulate of San Salvador ~~at our disposal~~. Please ~~at all~~  
~~take whatever steps are~~ <sup>necessary</sup> that ~~some~~ <sup>some</sup> other consulates in Switzer-  
land <sup>(Can also)</sup> <sup>so</sup> grant such papers.

The Wisnitzer Rabbi Hager of Grosswarden asks ~~for~~  
help for his family of 27 persons in order to save them.  
We have sent him <sup>via</sup> ~~through a~~ courier 20,000 <sup>Swiss</sup> francs ~~through~~.

The Jewish Agency of Jerusalem is handling our tele-  
graphic requests for certificates very slowly, which are  
passed on by Jim Lewin. We ~~feel~~ <sup>feel</sup> that your intervetion by

648 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

Mr. Huddell

Mr. Sternbuch asked me

4

wire would be most helpful.

We <sup>have begun</sup> ~~begin~~ with the rescue <sup>ing</sup> ~~men~~ from France and Italy to Switzerland <sup>with</sup> ~~and~~ have various good results.

We are getting pressing calls for help from Theresienstadt, Krakau <sup>and</sup> ~~as~~ well as other towns <sup>for</sup> ~~on~~ account of food-parcels and <sup>clothing</sup> ~~pieces~~ for people who are ~~being~~ hidden and must be kept alive. Also for working-camps in Poland. Please tell us, if we may participate in this matter, too.

Some hundred ~~all~~ children without parents have ~~come~~ <sup>crossed</sup> ~~over~~ the border <sup>into</sup> ~~of~~ Switzerland. These are the children of our best families <sup>in</sup> ~~of~~ Holland and Belgium whose parents have been deported. <sup>Part of these</sup> ~~These~~ children could be <sup>placed</sup> ~~brought~~ <sup>in</sup> ~~to~~ some families and a part of them had to go to Klosters <sup>necessarily</sup> ~~as~~ <sup>available</sup> ~~at the~~ ~~Manera~~ as there were not sufficient private places ~~at the~~ ~~disposal~~. Through the <sup>support</sup> ~~of~~ the Polish Embassy we received ~~the~~ Swiss permits <sup>to</sup> ~~bring~~ these children <sup>in</sup> ~~to~~ homes and <sup>supervise</sup> ~~take~~ care for their education. ~~A~~ child costs Fr. 150.- per child per month. We can raise however only 50 per cent of this sum. We ~~beg~~ <sup>also request permission</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~permit~~ us <sup>in</sup> ~~for~~ this work.

at the present moment, in one home for 100 to 150 children it

— Waad Hazala Sternbuch

#

*[Handwritten signature]*

Factually one home for 100 to 150 children

Mr. Huddell

Mr. Sternbuch asked me

Message ready for transmission

J. STERNBUCH  
MONTREUX  
TELEPHONE 43034  
TELEGRAM-ADD.: STERNBUCH

Zürich, May 2nd, 1944. (1)

From Sternbuch to

To the  
~~World-Organization~~  
Agudas Israel World-Organization,  
New-York.

CC

Perlberger has been brought from Westerborg to Bergen; we do not know, however, if this means <sup>his</sup> rescue. All further endeavours have been in vain until now. He is <sup>possesses</sup> in the possession of a passport and ~~has~~ a certificate.

Re Rabbi Lewin: it was merely <sup>our</sup> a conjecture ~~at the time~~ that he might be at Bergen. ~~But~~ This does not seem to be the case. ~~His~~ News from that camp part <sup>in</sup> most unfavourable. The <sup>Chilean</sup> Embassy ~~at~~ Berne <sup>in</sup> has tried to get information from the protecting power, but so far no result <sup>with</sup> ~~has been obtained~~.

We get in touch <sup>with</sup> Rabbi Kaplan Lyon and <sup>are</sup> ~~are~~ expecting his suggestions about help.

We are very happy to get a report that <sup>also</sup> the American Embassy <sup>in</sup> Madrid is <sup>energetically</sup> intervening with all strength, <sup>as it seems</sup> ~~as it seems~~ with good results. <sup>we</sup> ~~are~~ hoping that people will be <sup>returned</sup> ~~sent back~~ to Vitell <sup>and</sup> ~~are~~ waiting <sup>with</sup> ~~for~~ news <sup>of</sup> a new courier.

Waad Hazala Sternbuch

*Waad Hazala Sternbuch*

Just wire received from  
Sept. 3 1556 of May 4<sup>th</sup>

Waadha Hatzala Emergency

Just wire sent  
deputations 2779 of May 3<sup>rd</sup> (Union of Orthodox)

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

848 Union of Orthodox Rabbis in the U.S.

(4)

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Mr. Huddle

Mr. Sternbuch asked me  
of the auto man. He

ack 5/10/44

IN REPLY REFER TO  
FILE No. 848  
CS/df



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ack'd by 1078

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
OF AMERICA  
MAY 3 1944  
BERN

THE FOREIGN SERVICE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL  
Zürich, Switzerland, May 3, 1944.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The Honorable  
Leland Harrison,  
American Minister,  
Bern.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of  
the Legation's confidential letter of April 27, 1944  
(file no. 848 JKH/RCG/imp) enclosing a letter to be  
transmitted to Mr. Sternbuch and requesting the  
Consulate General to inform the Legation when delivery  
had been effected.

At the request of the Consulate General, Mr.  
Sternbuch called at this office on May 1, 1944, when  
the letter was handed to him.

Respectfully yours,

*Sam E. Woods*

Sam E. Woods  
American Consul General

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

848 UNION OF SWITZERLAND BERN IN THE U.S.

Mr. Huddell

Mr. Sternbuch asked me  
if the notes were the

ack 5/10/44

CASE FILE

CASE FILE

### TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department

Date: May 3, 10 a.m., 1944

No: 2798

Code: [REDACTED]

Charged to:

PARAPHRASE

Reference Department's telegram 1174 dated April 6.  
Sternbuch sends the following:

"For two months Mueller was a member of our committee. He misused the position for private matters. He resigned a short time ago in accordance with our wishes. We requested Weil to direct our French relief work in March. He shows great interest in cooperating, although very busy with work for children. Because of illness he was unable to accept our appointment. We hope to see him shortly and will do our utmost to obtain cooperation from him. It is hoped that further news will be given to you shortly."

HARRISON

DJR/RCG/mjb  
In triplicate to CA

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

848 UNIT OF SECTION 848-11-13 U.S.

Mr. Huddell

Mr. Sternbuch asked me  
to get the notes from the

ack 5/10/44

CASE FILE

TELEGRAM SENT

Let to Sternbuch  
5/9/44

CASE FILE

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

WRB-ROA  
81-8912  
009  
722C

From: Department Date: May 4, 7 p.m., 1944  
Code: [redacted] No: 1556  
Received: May 5, 8 a.m.

PARAPHRASE

(C.L.)

No. 13 from WRB.  
For the Minister and Sternbuch.

"You are requested to inform Szmulewicz that  
Rosenheim Agudas Israel can give no financial  
support. All requests for assistance for Kollelim  
families, scholars and rabbis must be directed to  
Rabbi Kalmanowitz Vaadha Hatzala Emergency Committee.  
Please inform him also that 85,800 Swiss francs  
being sent through you and that additional such  
remittances are being arranged. Should this arrange-  
ment prove preferable temporary postponement support  
additional fifty rabbis deemed advisable".

Foregoing message is for delivery to Isaac Sternbuch,  
3, Teufenerstrasse, St. Gallen, from Rabbi Abraham  
Kalmanowitz of the Vaadha Hatzala Emergency Committee.

HULL

/nrm  
in triplicate  
Copy to FA

Received CA [initials] DJR  
Action RE-RMC  
Answered  
No.

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

348 UNIT OF COMMEX NEWS IN THE U.S.

Mr. Huddell

Mr. Sternbuch asked me  
to get the notes from the

ack 5/10/44

CASE FILE

# TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department

Date: May 3, 11 a. m., 1944.

No: 2799

Code: [REDACTED]

Charged to:

(C.L.)

### Paraphrase

Reference is made to our no. 2467 of April 19.

Sternbuch requests that the Union of Orthodox Rabbis be informed of the following telegram which he states has been received from Shanghai:

"Arrangement 50 Rabbis temporarily very difficult Rosenheims support urgent advance two months save Szmulewicz"

HARRISON

DJR:RCG:nf

In triplicate

Copy in 7a

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

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

Mr. Huddle

Mr. Sternbuch asked me  
to get the letter to you. He

ack 5/19/44

J. STERNBUCH  
MONTREUX  
TELEPHON 4 50 54  
TELEGR.-ADR.: STERNBUCH

Zurich, May 4th 1944

(O.L.)

LEGATION OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
RECORDED - 6. MAI 1944  
• BERN •

To the  
Honorable Legation of the United States  
on America

B e r n e  
-----

548 DIVISION OF CUSTOMS AND TRADE IN THE U. S.

Dear Mr. Getzinger,

Herewith I beg to ask you if I am authorized to pay the  
sum of Fr. 50,000.- for the establishing a home for  
children. I must mention that my Committee has contrary  
to my will decided to do this and the majority declined  
to ask Washington about this matter before. As I refused  
to make such a decision I should be much obliged to you  
for letting me know your opinion with regard to this.  
Thanking you in advance for your kindness I beg to  
remain, dear Mr. Getzinger,

Yours very truly

*J. Sternbuch*

Mr. Hubbs

Mr. Stembach asked me

2-9

Referring to your inquiry, if you may execute a resolution which has been made by the Committee against your explanation, with regard to a payment of Fr.50,000- for a home for children without asking for a permission from Washington, we mention that this would mean an action not permitted, even a break of confidence. It is of no interest to us, how you are forming your Committee, neither is it our business to interfere with the details. We have told you formerly that we are dealing only with you and you have taken over the responsibility for a loyal management and use of the money. Therefore it is up to you to take the steps which enable you to fulfil your duties towards us in every respect. These obligations can never be changed by Committees or their resolutions.

2 take it this is Stembach's proposed answer.

ds,

3

Mr Huddle

Mr Sternbuch asked me

Minister

WRB-ARM

Zürich, May 5 th ,1944.

J. STERNBUCH  
MONTREUX

TEL. 03050  
TELEGR-ADR. STERNBUCH

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

To the  
Honorable Chancellor  
M r . H u d d l e , of the Legation  
of the United States of America ,  
B e r n e .

Dear Sir,

Herewith I beg to refer to your esteemed letter of April 24th last with regard to the interned at Vittel and other camps in Germany as well as other territories occupied by that country , and I wish to say that I am really not able to give words to my sincere and great joy; neither can I express my very deep thanks to you, dear Mr. Huddle, for your useful intervention in the matter of the rescue of private persons from a sure death.

Believe me, dear Sir, that it was with the utmost regret that I had to trouble you repeatedly by my numerous calls and telephone-talks and also by letters. Considering the great need and worries of so many people I simply felt that I must do it. But it was a great relief to me feeling convinced after leaving your office after my first call already that you would certainly do all that possibly can be done in this sad matter , to help.

To use many words for my true feelings and just to thank you and also to the honorable Minister Harrison would seem like a profanation to me. I suppose I better leave this fact to History and to the many thousands of persons who will be saved through your intervention, also at some other camps, and who will express their sentiments not through the medium of words, but through the language of their hearts.

As to my poor self I will just request you to accept the expression of the deepest thank and respect of

Your most obedient Servant

*[Handwritten signature]*

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

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Mr Huddle  
Mr Sternbuch  
+ this letter on

507/0.

J. STERNBUCH  
MONTREUX  
TELEPHONE 8 38 26  
TELEGRAM-ADD.: STERNBUCH

Zürich, May 5 th, 1944.

2

Continue

To the  
A g u d a s I s r a e l World Organization  
N e w - Y o r k :

1) Every passport has to be filled in normally with the name and year of birth. With an accompanying letter everyone is asked to have his or her photo added in his or her <sup>place of residence</sup> town-of-abode. For us the passports have some worth only in case we have them here. I t would be best to get a <sup>permission</sup> permit <sup>empowering</sup> for the consulates of the respective countries in Switzerland <sup>to hand the</sup> passports will be handed over to us promptly.

2) We ~~are~~ expecting the return of a courier from Vittel to bring us news about the situation of to-day.

essentially the same as the Union of Orthodox Rabbis

3) At Titmoning there are no disturbances known. We <sup>receive</sup> are getting good news, but the situation at Bergen Belsen near Hannover is still uncertain. Celle is <sup>not a</sup> camp, but <sup>name of</sup> a province and the place of a camp. We <sup>estimate</sup> guess the number of interned with south-American papers in these camps of to-day at about 150 to 200 persons. <sup>as</sup> Besides There is also a large camp at Bergau near Dresden with about 1,400 <sup>internees</sup> interned people, who are in possession of South-American papers and for whom Spain <sup>and</sup> as well as Switzerland are the protecting powers. The situation is those two camps is very bad and deportations <sup>are taking place</sup> are going on there.

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

We ~~have~~ transmitted to Griffel <sup>francs</sup> \$ 25,000.- on the 5 th of April last. Kindly let us know if we are to transmit further \$ 25,000.-. If so, please state the respective amount in Swissfrancs. -

#

Signed → Wass Havals Sternbuch  
*[Signature]*

Mr. H. H. H. H.

Mr. Sternbuch asked me to pass this letter on to you. He

55/10

Zurich, 5th May 1944

J. STERNBUCH  
MONTREUX

TEL. 43030  
TELEGR. ADM. STERNBUCH

LEGATION OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
REF. 1 - 6 MAI 1944  
o BERN o

To the  
Legation of the United States  
of America

6, Elfenstrasse  
B e r n .

Dear Mr. Göttinger,

I just find an error in the message, I sent you to-day  
for the Agudas <sup>ISRAEL</sup> Israel world Organisation, New-York.  
Please be good enough to strike out in paragraph 3 the  
following words:

"but a province and the place of a camp."

and write:

"but the name of a province where Bergen-Belsen is  
situated".

Please excuse the mistake and I thank you very much  
for the endeavor.

I am remaining. Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully

*J. Sternbuch*

348 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

348 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

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348 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

Mr. Huddell

Mr. Sternbuch asked me to pass this letter on to you. He states he will phone you to see if you wish to see it.

Schweizerstrasse, 14 Zürich

J. STERNBUCH  
MONTREUX  
TELEPHONE 8 99 28  
TELEGR.-ADR.: STERNBUCH

Zürich, May 5 th ,1944.

01

LEGATION OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
RECEIVED - 6. MAI 1944  
BERN

To the honorable  
Legation of the United States of  
America,  
BERNE.

Dear Mr. Getzinger,

Enclosed please find some news .Will you be good enough to Forward the same soonest. Kindly accept my best thanks for your kindness in advance and believe me to be, dear Mr. Getzinger, as always

Yours very truly

*W. Huddell*

1 enclosure.

348 UNION OF GETZINGER HARRIS IN THE U.S.A.

Mr. Huddle

Mr. Sternbuch asked me  
to pass this letter on to you. He  
states he will phone you  
the day to set it.

J. STERNBUCH  
MONTREUX

TEL. 84088  
TELEGR. ADRES. STERNBUCH

Zürich, 5th May 1944

528/1

To the  
Honorable Chancellor  
Mr. H u d d l e  
of the League of the  
United States of America  
29, Alpenstrasse  
B e r n .

Dear Sir,

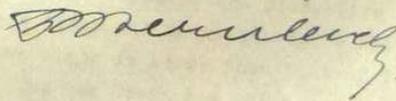
I just find an error in the message, I sent you  
to-day for the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the  
United States of America, New-York, care of the  
War Refugee Board.

Please be good enough to correct the 3rd line  
as follows:

Instead of: "and the place of that camp"  
write: "where Bergen-Belsen is situated"and"

Please excuse the trouble and I remaining, dear Sir,

Yours most respectfully



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

Mr. Sternbuch asked me to pass this letter on to you. He states he will phone you the day to all of,

Cable in re Bergen-Belsen

REC'D: WOPB-RSM

J. STERNBUCH  
MONTREUX

Zürich, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 1944.

TELEPHONE 42224  
TELEGR. ADDR. STERNBUCH

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

To the  
Honorable Chancellor  
Mr. Huddell, of the Legation of the  
United States of America,

BERNE.  
Alpenstr. 29.

Dear Sir,

I herewith beg to refer to your esteemed letter dated April 24<sup>th</sup> last regarding an inquiry about the camp of Zelle and request you to be good enough to pass the following news on to the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States of America, New - York, care of the War Refugee Board.

The camp ~~is~~ at Bergen Belsen near Hannover ~~is~~ <sup>has</sup> an existence since March 1943. Celle is only the name of a province and the place of that camp, ~~in~~ <sup>where</sup> there are unfortunately not more than 150 to 300 people at present, ~~in~~ <sup>in</sup> possession of South-American papers. We ~~sup-~~ <sup>gather</sup> pose that many have been deported. But there is another larger camp with at least 1400 inter-~~ed~~ <sup>ed</sup> at Bergau near Dresden, the protective powers of which are Spain and Switzerland. The situation in these two camps is worse than that of Theresienstadt. The Red Cross has ~~had~~ <sup>not been</sup> admittance ~~to them~~ <sup>to them</sup> so far to our surprise. The interned ~~there~~ <sup>es</sup> receive no Red-Cross-Parcels and are actually starving. <sup>(said to be)</sup> There is not even a postal intercourse existing. <sup>They are apparently not permitted to dispatch or receive mail.</sup>

Very rarely <sup>only</sup> news can be had from there and the camp is also secluded from the outer world. ~~deportations were made as no news.~~

It is very urgent to ~~make~~ <sup>that</sup> the protecting powers take the necessary steps for both camps as they ~~were~~ <sup>took</sup> ~~made~~ for other camps according to the letter of the Department of States dated April 22<sup>nd</sup> last, addressed to the American ./.

We hear that there have been

What about this?

848

UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

Mr. Huddle

J. STERNBUCH  
MONTREUX

TELEPHONE 4 80 34  
TELEGRAMS: STERNBUCH

- II -

(2)

Zürich, May 5 th ,1944.

*Legation in*  
Embassy of B e r n e. The interned <sup>is</sup> of the mentioned  
camps should be handled <sup>accorded</sup> with regard to Red-Cross-  
parcels and free post <sup>similar to</sup> the same way as the other  
camps. ~~While~~ <sup>Transferring</sup> bringing the people to Vittel <sup>of</sup>  
*in* France or other safer places might be promoted.

Waad Hazala Sternbuch

For the endeavor which I am causing you, dear Sir, by  
my to-day's request I wish to thank you in advance. I  
beg to remain, with the best regards

Yours most respectfully

*[Handwritten signature]*

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

original ~~XX~~

WC

Mr. Huddell

Mr. Sternbuch asked me to pass this letter on to you. He states he will phone you later in the day to set up.

Let. to Woods 5/12 JKH/mjb

2 RB - RM

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

File Copy

File Copy

Bern, May 9, 1944.

Bern, May 9, 1944.

848  
RMcC/imp

Mr. J. [redacted] - via Courier  
Schweizerstrasse 17,  
Zürich.

Dear Sir:

Dear Mr. Woods:

The Legation has been requested to deliver to you the following message from the War Refugee Board: We should appreciate it if you could transmit the enclosed message of May 4 to Mr. Sternbuch and confirm to the Legation when delivery has been effected.

All requests for support for Kollektiv families, schools, rabbis must be directed to Rabbi Kalmanowitz's Emergency Committee. Kindly advise the Swiss Legation in Bern of any support for additional families.

Sincerely yours,  
For the Minister:

Roswell McClelland  
Special Assistant to the  
American Minister.

Enclosure as stated.

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

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

Roswell McClelland  
Special Assistant to the  
American Minister.

RMcC/imp

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

A true copy

A true copy  
of the original

RMcC

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

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Handwritten scribble

Mr. Hudell

Mr. Sternbuch asked me to pass this letter on to you. He states he will phone you later in the day to set up.

Let. to Woods 5/12 JKH/mjb

2-28-1944

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

File Copy

Bern, May 9, 1944.

From: Department

Date: May 10, 8 P.M., 1944

No. 1831

Code:

Received: May 11, noon.

Mr. Isaac Sternbuch,  
Schweizergasse 14,  
Zürich.

Dear Sir: IS from the War Refugee Board.

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

"Please tell Szmulewicz that no financial assistance can be given by Rosenheim Agudas Israel. All requests for support for Kollelim families, scholars and rabbis must be directed to Rabbi Kalamanowitz Vaadha Hatzala Emergency Committee. Kindly tell him also that 85,800 Swiss francs are being sent through you and that additional such remittances are being arranged. If this arrangement proves preferable it is thought advisable to temporarily postpone support for additional fifty rabbis - Rabbi Abraham Kalamanowitz of the Vaadha Hatzala Emergency Committee."

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

Very truly yours,

Roswell McClelland  
Special Assistant to the  
American Minister.

RMCC/imp

A true copy of the signed original:

848 UNIT OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

Mr. Huddell

Mr. Sternbuch asked me to pass this letter on to you. He states he will phone you later in the day to see if you wish to discuss with

Let. to Woods 5/12 JKH/mjb

JKH - RSM

(Perhaps I would wish to review his telegrams after seeing this JKH)

**TELEGRAM RECEIVED**

Re: VITTEL

From: Department Date: May 10, 8 p.m., 1944  
No: 1631  
Code: [redacted] Received: May 11, noon.

13

PARAPHRASE

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

No. 16 from the War Refugee Board.

The War Refugee Board requests that a paraphrase of the following message be delivered to Isaac Sternbuch, Postfach 168, St. Gallen, Switzerland. The message is signed by the Vaadha Hatzala Emergency Committee, Rabbis Kalmanowitz and Kotler:

"Everything possible is being done for the Vittel internees. We are hopeful. Please let us know if the place of detention of deportees from Vittel is known; also advise us if details with regard to the condition of internees at the Belssen-Bergen and other internment camps are in your possession. We question the effectiveness of the use of the proposed large number of passports but if, after the Vittel matter, you have positive definite hopes of the usefulness of such passports, we are ready to cooperate on the receipt of your report. We suggest the transmission of funds to Rumania, Hungary and Lithuania via couriers to religious leaders, rabbis and scholars for use in redeeming themselves and communities from extinction through all possible methods. Please let us know if reports are received from couriers to Hungary and Lithuania."

HULL

/nrm

in duplicate

COPY IN PA

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

Mr. Huddell

Mr. Sternbach  
to pass this letter on to you

(Enclosure to letter dated May 12, 1944 to American  
Consulate General, Zurich)

COPY

Sternbach file  
U. of Ortho. Rabbis

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

May 10, 1944.

"Everything possible is being done for the Vittel internees. We are hopeful. Please let us know if the place of detention of deportees from Vittel is known; also advise us if details with regard to the condition of internees at the Bergen-Belsen and other internment camps are in your possession. We question the effectiveness of the use of the proposed large number of passports but if, after the Vittel matter, you have positive definite hopes of the usefulness of such passports, we are ready to cooperate on the receipt of your report. We suggest the transmission of funds to Rumania, Hungary and Lithuania via couriers to religious leaders, rabbis and scholars for use in redeeming themselves and communities from extinction through all possible methods. Please let us know if reports are received from couriers to Hungary and Lithuania."

648 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

648 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

Mr. Huddell

Mr. Starnbuch asked me to pass this letter on to you. He states he will phone you later in the day to see if you wish to discuss with

(Enclosure to letter dated May 12, 1944 to American Consulate General, Zurich)

COPY

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

Bern, May 12, 1944.

May 10, 1944.

Dear Mr. Starnbuch:

Your various letters of the second and third with "everything possible is being done for the Vittel internees." We are hopeful. Please let us know if the place of detention of deportees from Vittel is known; also advise us if details with regard to the condition of internees at the Bergen-Belsen and other internment camps are in your possession. We question the effectiveness of the use of the proposed large number of passports but if, after the Vittel matter, you have positive definite hopes of the usefulness of such passports, we are ready to cooperate on the receipt of your report. We suggest the transmission of funds to Rumania, Hungary and Lithuania via couriers to religious leaders, rabbis and scholars for use in redeeming themselves and communities from extinction through all possible methods. Please let us know if reports are received from couriers to Hungary and Lithuania." If you could, in future, limit your messages to the strict necessary.

Your letter to Mr. Getzinger concerning the question of expenditure of funds in Switzerland for a children's home will be answered directing by Mr. Getzinger himself, who is better acquainted with this problem than I am.

It would be appreciated if in the future you would address all of your correspondence to me at No. 5 Wickenstrasse, rather than to various other departments of the Legation.

Sincerely yours,

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

Dr. J. Starnbuch,  
Schuelbergasse 14,  
Zurich.

RM/afp

843

UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

843 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

the  
Rabbis

(2)

Mr Huddle

Mr Sternbuch asked me to pass this letter on to you. He states he will phone you later in the day to see if you desire to discuss with him the questions raised

TELEGRAM SENT

(8)

By Courier

Bern, May 12, 1944.

Dear Dr. Sternbuch:

Your various letters of the second and of the fifth of May, addressed to Mr. Huddle, as well as to Mr. Getsinger, were turned over to me for attention.

Dear Mr. Woods:

After considerable reworking, we were able to establish understandable texts of the messages which you sent us for forwarding both to the Union of Orthodox Rabbis in the United States and the Agudas Israel World Organization. We were struck by the fact that both messages contained similar passages describing the internment camp at Bergen Belsen. Since we assume that the two organizations in the United States to which you have addressed these messages are in contact with one another, would it not be possible in the future for you to forward the material to one of them alone. Whereas the Legation is glad to be of assistance to you in the difficult work that you are carrying on, we would at the same time appreciate it if you could, in future, limit your messages to the strict necessary.

Roswell D. McClelland,

Your letter to Mr. Getsinger concerning the question of expenditure of funds in Switzerland for a children's home will be answered directing by Mr. Getsinger himself, who is better acquainted with this problem than I am.

It would be appreciated if in the future you would address all of your correspondence to me at No. 6 Elfenstrasse, rather than to various other departments of the Legation.

See E. Woods, Esquire,

Sincerely yours,

American Consul General.

Zurich.

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

RDM/mjb

Dr. J. Sternbuch,  
Schweizergasse 14,  
Zurich.

RDM/mjb

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

Mr. Huddell

Mr. Sternbuch asked me to pass this letter on to you. He states he will phone you later in the day to see if you desire to discuss with J. H. questions raised

TELEGRAM SENT

By Courier

To: Department

Date: May 12, 2 p.m., 1944

No. 1128

Code: [redacted]

Charged to:

Bern, May 12, 1944.

Dear Mr. Woods: [redacted] For Union of

We are enclosing a message which we would appreciate your delivering to Dr. Isaac Sternbuch at Schweizergasse 14, Zurich. The message is signed by the Vaadha Hatzala Emergency Committee, Rabbis Kalmanowitz and Kotler.

Sincerely yours,

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

Enclosure:

As stated.

Sam E. Woods, Esquire,

American Consul General,

Zurich.

RDM/mjb

648 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

SEP 26 1977

Mr. Huddell

Mr. Sternbuch asked me  
to pass this letter on to you. He  
states he will phone you  
later in the day to see if  
you desire to discuss with  
him the questions raised

## TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department

Date: May 16, 2 p.m., 1944

Code: [REDACTED]

No: 3122

Charged to:

### PARAPHRASE

Following for WRB from McClelland. For Union of  
Orthodox Rabbis from Sternbuch.

"The camp at Bergen Belsen near Hannover has been  
in existence since March 1943. Bergen Belsen is located  
in the province named Celle. There are at present in  
this camp possessing South American papers 150 to 200  
people. It is feared that many have been deported, but  
there is another larger camp with at least 1400 internees  
at Bergau near Dresden. Spain and Switzerland are the  
protective powers of the latter camps. The situation  
in these two camps is worse than that of Theresienstadt.  
No Red Cross parcels are received by the internees and  
they are said to be actually starving. The dispatch and  
receipt of mail is apparently not permitted. Only very  
rarely can news be had from there and the camp is also  
secluded from the outer world. We hear that there have  
been deportations.

It is very urgent that the protecting powers take  
steps for both camps similar to those taken for other  
camps as indicated in the State Department's telegram of  
April 22 to the Bern Legation. The internees of the men-  
tioned camps should be accorded Red Cross parcels and  
free post. There might be promoted transfer to Vittel  
or other safer places.

It is very difficult to assist those in Hungary.  
Various things are being tried by us but with no evident  
success to date. The situation is not yet clear. 80  
South American passports have again been sent by us  
by courier. If Turkish transit permits were given many  
families would like to try to emigrate illegally, which  
however was not the case until now. It is urgent to obtain

such

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Order, 1-11-78  
By R. H. DeLoe Date SEP 26 1972

846 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

Mr. Huddle

Mr. Stendrich in  
to pass this letter on to  
states he will phone you  
later in the day to see  
you desire to discuss it

-2-

No. 3122

such transit possibilities for people who escape from or through Rumania. The Bobow-Halberstamm family has arrived in Bucharest.

As long as transit through Turkey is not allowed Griffel, with whom we are in contact, cannot render great assistance. It is recommended that you do not send any larger amounts there as we can give him as much money as he needs if something positive can be done by him.

Only San Salvador papers are available for this rescue work. In order that other consulates in Switzerland can also grant such papers please take whatever steps are necessary.

We have sent 20,000 Swiss francs via courier to the Wisnitzer Rabbi Hager of Grosswardein who has asked for help for his family of 27 persons in order to save them.

Our telegraphic requests for certificates is being handled by the Jewish Agency of Jerusalem very slowly. These are passed on by Jim Lewin. It is felt that it would be most helpful if you would intervene by wire.

With various good results we have begun rescuing men from France and Italy to Switzerland.

Pressing calls for help are being received by us from Aheresienstadt, Krakau and other towns for food parcels and clothing to save the livest of people who are hidden. Also for working camps in Poland. It is requested that you inform us if we may also participate in this matter.

Children numbering some hundred, without their parents, have crossed the border into Switzerland illegally. These are children of our best families in Holland and Belgium whose parents have been deported. Part of these children could be placed in families but part of them had to go to Klosters as there were not available sufficient private places. With the support of the Polish Legation we received permission from the Swiss to place these children in homes and to supervise their education. It costs at the present moment 150 francs per child per month in a home for 100 to 150 children. However, only 50 percent of this sum can be raised by us. Permission to help in this work is also requested by us.

\$46.98."

RDM/mjb  
Paraphrased in dupl..

*copy 27a*  
HARRISON

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 26 1972

Mr. Huddell

Mr. Sternbuch asked me to pass this letter on to you. He states he will phone you later in the day to see if you desire to discuss with J. H. questions raised

UP STERNBUCH

## TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department Date: May 18, 7 a. m., 1944.  
Code: No: 3166  
Charged to:

### Paraphrase

The message which follows is for Agudas Israel World Organization from Sternbuch.

"Perlberger has been transferred from Westerborg to Bergen; however, we are unaware as to whether this means his rescue. Until now, all further endeavors have been in vain. A passport and a certificate are in his possession.

Following with regard to Rabbi Lewin: it was merely our conjecture that he might be at Bergen. This does not seem to be the case. The news from that camp is most unfavorable in part. The Legation of Chile here has tried to get information from the protecting power but without result.

We have gotten in touch with Rabbi Kaplan, Lyon and are awaiting his suggestions about help.

We are very happy to learn that the American Embassy in Madrid is also intervening energetically and with good results apparently. It is our hope that people will be returned to Vittel and we await news with a new courier.

1) Each passport has to be filled in normally with the name and year of birth. With an accompanying letter everyone is asked to have a photo added in place of residence. Only if we have the passports here, do the passports have some worth for us. It would be best to obtain permission empowering the consulates of the respective countries in Switzerland to hand us the passports promptly.

2) The return of a courier from Vittel with/news for us is expected.

3) No disturbances known at Tittmoning. Although we

recent receive

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

948 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

Mr. Huddle

Mr. Stambuch asked me  
to pass this letter on to you. He  
states he will phone you  
later in the day to see if  
you desire to discuss with  
him the questions raised

-2-

receive good news the situation at Bergen Belsen, near  
Hannover, is still uncertain. Celle is the name of the  
province in which Bergen Belsen is located; it is not a  
camp. We estimate at about 150 to 200 persons the  
number of persons interned with South American persons  
in these camps. About 1400 internees, who are in possession  
of South American papers and for whom Spain and Switzer-  
land are the protecting powers, are in a large camp at  
Bergau, near Dresden. The situation in those two camps  
is very bad and deportations are taking place.

Last April 5th we transmitted 25,000 francs to  
Griffel. Please inform us if we are to transmit a further  
\$25,000 and if so kindly state the Swiss franc equivalent."

For the War Refugee Board from McClelland.

HARRISON

\$84.92

RDM:mjb:nf  
In duplicate

Copy in F.A.

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX BARRIS IN THE U.S.

Mr. Huddell

Mr. Sternbuch asked me  
to pass this letter on to you. He  
states he will phone you  
later in the day to see if  
you desire to discuss with  
him the questions raised

File Copy

Bern, May 19, 1944.

Mr. Isaac Sternbuch,  
Schweizergasse 14,  
Zürich.

Dear Mr. Sternbuch:

The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of  
May 10 including the message which you requested us  
to transmit to the Union of Orthodox Rabbis. The  
letter will be forwarded shortly.

Reference is also made to your letter of May 4  
addressed to Mr. Getsinger in which you inquire  
whether you are authorized to pay the sum of Sw.Fr.  
50,000 for the establishment of a children's home  
in Switzerland.

Mr. Getsinger informs me that you have orally  
stated to him that the children's home would be es-  
tablished in Switzerland and that the funds used  
would be part of the Sw.Fr. 428,652 transmitted to  
you by the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United  
States. The Legation's letter of February 4, 1944,  
forwarded to you a message from the Union stating  
that the funds donated were "to be used by you in  
accordance with the license that was transmitted to  
you through the American Legation at Bern." The  
message further stated: "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."

The license referred to in the message from which

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848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

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Mr. Huddle

Mr. Stambuch asked me to pass this letter on to you. He states he will phone you later in the day to see if you desire to discuss with J. The questions raised

- 2 -

the above quotations are taken was that transmitted to you in the Legation's letter of January 26, 1944. Study of that license reveals that operations looking to the rescue of refugees from enemy territory are the only type of activity for which the license provides and it is clear that in supplying you with funds for rescue activities the Union of Orthodox Rabbis did not intend that these resources be expended for other purposes however worthy.

I am consequently of the opinion that were you to use for the establishment of a children's home in Switzerland funds transmitted for rescue purposes, you would be committing a breach of faith toward the donors and quite possibly a violation of the Treasury license under which those funds were remitted to you. Under the circumstances, it would be most ill-advised to expend the money of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis for purposes other than those for which the funds were remitted without previous reference to and the express permission of the donors.

Very truly yours,

Roswell McClelland,  
Special Assistant to  
the American Minister.

RMCC/ROG/imp

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Mr. Hubbs

Mr. Sturtevant asked me  
to pass this letter on to you. He  
states he will phone you  
later in the day to see if  
you desire to discuss with  
him the questions raised  
by the letter. R

J. Sternbuch, Berne.

Mr Estinger VITTEL

Berne, May 20th, 1944.

Please explain to  
Mr Mc Clelland - I gave

To the honorable

Mr Sternbuch a message to  
ask Mr Mc C, in case he wished  
to discuss this matter.

Legation of the United States of  
America,

Berne.

Dear Chancellor,

Herewith I take the liberty of submitting the following request:  
Just now I am getting the sad message from France, dated the 5th  
of May last that people from Vittel have arrived at the concen-  
tration-camp at Drancy near Paris. According to the news which  
you were good enough to pass on to me on the 24th of April last  
coming from Washington, the Government of the United States of  
America had asked the Protecting Powers in Madrid and Berne to  
take the necessary steps that these people might be brought back  
to Vittel.

*Undoubtedly  
nothing further  
can be done at  
this time, the Swiss  
has asked to  
intervene & investigate*

Now I do not know from which side something had been neglected  
to do in Berlin. At any rate, this deportation could be only stop-  
ped, if the Swiss Embassy of Berlin will be caused to intervene  
in that city once again and urgently, and also to get in touch  
directly with the Swiss Consulate of Paris, which latter place  
has relation to the Commander of the camp at Drancy and had the  
possibility of intervening et once.

I trust and am sure that you, dear Chancellor, will give prompt  
order to the Political Department at Berne with regard to this and  
I wish to thank you very much for your kind endeavours.

Believe me, dear Chancellor, to be

Most respectfully Yours

*M. Sternbuch*

best

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VITTEL

Telegramm, Télégramme, Telegramma  
ack 5/19/44

CASE FILE  
**TELEGRAM SENT**

To: Department  
Date: May 20, 7 a. m., 1944.  
Code: XXXXXXXXXX  
No: 3218  
Charged to:

Paraphrase

"Griffel states in a report that he requires \$2,000. to begin. Ship transportation from Rumania is already successful. It is not possible to examine the matter here."

The foregoing message is from Sternbuch for the Union of Orthodox Rabbis, with reference to the Department's cable no. 1556 of May 4.

HARRISON

RMCC:imp:nf  
In duplicate

Copy in FA

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

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter 1-11-73  
By R. H. [unclear] SEP 26 1972

per VITEL

Telegramm, Télégramme, Telegram

ack 5/19/44

CASE

let to Sternbuch  
5/25/44

Mr. McClelland

### TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department

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

No: 1787

Cods: [REDACTED]

Received: May 24, 9 a.m.

PARAPHRASE

C.I.

No. 21 from the War Refugee Board.

Following is for delivery to Isaac Sternbuch,  
3 Teufenerstrasse, St. Gallen, Switzerland, from Rabbi  
A. Kalmanowitz of the Vaad Hatzala Emergency Committee:

"Through the Polish Ministry of Finance a  
sum of Swiss francs 64,350 has been remitted to  
you for transfer to Rabbi Shmulewicz, the sum in  
question being intended for distribution among  
Rabbis and scholars. Please reply when arrange-  
ments have been made. Also kindly let us know  
if arrangements have been made covering the  
previous remittance of Swiss francs 85,800."

HULL

/arm

in duplicate

copy in FA

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

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

per VITE

J. STERNBUCH  
MONTREUX

ack 5/19/44

Schweizerische  
111

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

Memo to MA 5/25/44

Dear Mr. Getsinger,  
Enclosed please find enclosed a telegramme which you will be  
good enough to make us of instead of the one, which I gave you  
this morning. I have this new one somewhat abridged following  
you kind advice.  
I beg to remain, dear Mr. Getsinger, with many thanks,  
Yours very truly

*J. Sternbuch*

enclosure.

State Dept. Letter, ...  
By H. H. Swales Davis SEP 20 1944

A true copy  
of the signed  
original:

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

VITTEL



ack 5/19/44

File Copy

Bern, May 25, 1944.

848  
RMOC/imp

~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ - via Courier.

Mr. Isaac Sternbuch,  
Schweizerstrasse 14,

Dear Mr. Woods:

We are enclosing a letter of today's date which we would appreciate your delivering to Mr. Isaac Sternbuch, representative of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis.

A sum of Swiss francs 54,350 has been resitted to you for the Minister; for distribution among Rabbis and scholars. Please reply when arrangements have been made. Also kindly let us know if arranged. Roswell D. McClelland, Special Assistant to the American Minister.

We should appreciate it if you would acknowledge receipt of the above message.

Enclosure:

As stated, I believe on Saturday. Since we are endeavoring to centralize communications directly to me.

In the matter of your concern about the situation at Vittel, the Legation has already undertaken all steps possible through the Swiss authorities as protecting power for the holders of certain South American passports.

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

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

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

VITTEL



ack 5/19/44

PHO COPY

Bern, May 25, 1944.

- 2 -

To the  
 Since we are constantly in touch with the Swiss Political Department concerning this matter, it would seem unnecessary for us to repeat requests which have already been energetically made to them, and to undertake whatever steps Mr. Isaac Sternbuch, Section of these unfortunate people at Schweizergasse 14, Zurich.

Dear Mr. Sternbuch: In Mr. Getsinger is concerned, it has been turned over by us to our Military Attaché for what we quote below the text of a telegram which we recently received for you from Rabbi A. Kalmanowitz of the Vaadha Hatzala Emergency Committee: you plan to be in Bern to discuss these various questions with the Legation, "Through the Polish Ministry of Finance a sum of Swiss francs 64,350 has been remitted to you for transfer to Rabbi Shmulewicz, the sum in question being intended for distribution among Rabbis and scholars. Please reply when arrangements have been made. Also kindly let us know if arrangements have been made covering the previous remittance of Swiss francs 85,800." the American Minister.

We should appreciate it if you would acknowledge receipt of the above message.

I have talked to both Mr. Huddle and Mr. Getsinger concerning the messages which you submitted to them, I believe on Saturday. Since we are endeavoring to centralize all such matters in my office, it would be generally appreciated if you could send future communications directly to me.

In the matter of your concern about the situation at Vittel, the Legation has already undertaken all steps possible through the Swiss authorities as protecting power for the holders of certain South American passports.

*regards from the Legation  
 yours sincerely  
 [Signature]*

Since

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

per VITTEL



ack 5/19/44

J. STERNBUCH  
MONTREUX

Schweizerische *MT*  
Zeitung

Basle, May 10th, 1944.

To the  
- 2 -

Union of the Orthodox Rabbis of the United

Since we are constantly in touch with the Swiss Political Department concerning this matter, it would seem unnecessary for us to repeat requests which have already been energetically made to them, to undertake whatever steps possible for the protection of these unfortunate people at the camp at Vittel.

As far as the telegram involving military matters which you submitted to Mr. Getsinger is concerned, it has been turned over by me to our Military Attaché for whatever action he considers feasible.

I should appreciate it the next time you plan to be in Bern to discuss these various questions with the Legation, that you would inform me, if possible, a day in advance so that I can talk to you about them.

*note*

Sincerely yours,

Roswell McClelland,  
Special Assistant to  
the American Minister.

RMCC/imp

*With best thanks and  
regards dear Mr. Sternbuch,  
yours obediently  
E. Kelley*

A true copy  
of the signed  
original: *XX*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
OFFICE OF THE ATTACHE  
948 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

per VITTEL

ack 5/19/44

J. STERNBUCH  
MONTREUX

TELEPHONE 89600  
TELEGRAM-ADD: STERNBUCH

*Schweizergasse 114  
Zürich*

Zürich, May 10th, 1944.

To the

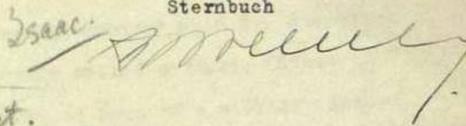
Union of the Orthodox Rabbis of the United  
States of America,

New - York -

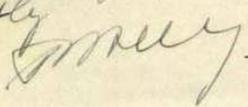
*Two hundred thousand*

Griffel reports that needs 200,000 Dollars to start ship  
Transportation from Roumania being successful already stop  
unable to examine matter here

Sternbuch

*Isaac*  


*Add to State Dept.  
note*

*With best thanks and  
regards dear Mr. Schinger,  
yours obediently  
*

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

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

VITTEL

Telegramm - Télégramme - Telegramma

File Copy

Re: bombing of  
deportation to lines  
over Kaishan

Memorandum

May 25, 1944.

(C.I.)

To: Colonel de Jong.  
From: R. McC.

The enclosed message was referred to us by a certain Mr. Isaac Sternbuch, representative of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States of America in Switzerland.

We have had considerable contact with Mr. Sternbuch in the past regarding purely relief matters. Since the question in point, however, is more of a military nature, I felt it advisable to submit to you for whatever action you deem advisable the wire which Mr. Sternbuch wished us to send to his organization in America, particularly since Mr. Getsinger tells me that Mr. Sternbuch has already been in touch with you in this matter.

R. McC.

Enclosure as stated.

RMcC/imp

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

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

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 26 1972

A true copy  
of the signed  
original

7/24/44  
the

linger VITTEL

- copy -

To the Union of the Orthodox Rabbis of the  
United States of America,  
New York.

Gentlemen,

We received news from Slovakia according to which they ask prompt airraids should be made over the two towns Kaschau as transit place for military transports and also Presov as town junction for deportations coming through Kaschau and also the whole railroad line between them where there is a short bridge of about 30 yards. It is the single near route from Hungary to Poland, whereas all the other small and snort lines, going eastwards, can be used only in Hungary, but not for the traffic to Poland being already battlefields. Do the necessary that bombing should be repeated at short intervals to prevent rebuilding. Without named two towns just one too long route via Austria remains which is almost impracticable.

Your other messages will be answered separately. The Spanish and Swiss Embassies at Budapest and Bratislava refuse to acknowledge passports and papers of Paraguay and San Salvador which we have sent to Hungary and Slovakia. Kindly have urgent instructions given to the Protective Powers.

Sternbuch.

sent  
rs  
SAS UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

Should  
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vinger VITTEL

6 V.44-8

Telegramm - Télégramme - Telegramma

Rec. May 26/44

J. STERNBUCH  
MONTREUX  
TELEPHON 8 30 55  
TELEGR-ADRES: STERNBUCH

Zürich, May 25 th ,1944.

(C.I.)

To the honorable

Legation of the United States  
of America  
c/o Mr. Roswelld Mc Clelland , (or if absent  
c/o Mr. Getzinger,

B e r n e .

U . r . g . e . n . t .

Dear Sir,

I herewith acknowledge the receipt of your two letters dated 12 th and 18 th inst. and noted contents of the same. I regret that I have not yet had the opportunity of speaking to you personally, but I hope that this will be possible right after the holidays.

With regard to the last message which you were good enough to let me have through the honorable General-Consulate of Zürich, I beg to hand you enclosed an answer, asking you to oblige me by passing the same on at once, as the remarks concerning Hungary are of great importance.

At the same time I beg to hand you enclosed various telegrams from Slovakia and the explanation to these so that you may be informed of it. The necessary steps, being most urgent, have already been made by Colonel Dutl Jonge and by Mr. Jellineck of the English Embassy.

Thanking you in advance for your kind consideration and wishing you pleasant Holidays, I remain, dear Sir,  
Yours most respectfully

Enclosures:  
Telegrams (very urgent)

*J. Sternbuch*

BIB. INTOR. OF ORIENTAL LANGS. IN THE U.S.

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W.K.B.

Gen. Staff

**Telegramm - Télégramme - Telegramma**

von - de - zu

	Nr. <i>Pratibona 2826</i>	Wörter Stück Punkte <i>9/2</i>	Aufgabensatz Categorie & Comptabilité & <i>75</i>	Stunde Uhr Uhr <i>19:20</i>
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Erhalten - Reçu - Ricevuto		Befördert - Transmis - Trasmesso	
von - de - zu <i>2</i>	Stunde - Hour - Ora <i>140</i>	nach - a - e <i>200</i>	Name - Nom - Nome <i>Ascher</i>

No. *57*

*Pex*

No 2 - X. 28 A 1148-2101 - Gr. O. 70.

CHT  
OP  
5 1

DISCUSSION. . . . . not very carefully

- 1/ Megey : is a drugstore at Kaschau und this word means: Town of Kaschau.
  - 2/ Illekopp: Illes & Kopp was a drugstore at Presov and this word means Town of Presov.
  - 3/ Remarks: Between Kaschau and Presov this line is with an oneway-Rail only and there is a short brindge there of about 30 yards.
  - 4/ General remarks: This is the single near route from Hungary to Poland. All the other small and short lines in direction East can be used in Hungary only, but not for the traffic to Poland, as there are battle-fields there already.
- Kaschau is the transit-place and main-junction for all military transports and Presov is the town through which the deportations are continued after passing Kaschau. Therefore the bombarding of these two towns is wanted. If these two places and this route be made impassable, the deportations would have to be made the long roundabout-way via Austria, which latter route - according to the advice in the wire - seems to be impossible for the Germans.

*Since 15th Nov daily 10000 German Jews are deported on this route to Poland.*

TEL

Illskop Doloffranden Hof  
 Wegen Sicherung restliches Quantum  
 verweisen letzte Disposition Hof  
 Erwarten Einwalt Discretion  
 Herba

Wegen Sicherung . . . to save  
 restliches Quantum, Jews not yet deported  
 verweisen letzte . . . ask this  
 Disposition . . . possibility of rescue  
 -----  
 Erwarten . . . we expect  
 Anwalt . . . Royal Air Force  
 Discretion . . . act very carefully

- 1/ Megey : is a drugstore at Kaschau und this word means: Town of Kaschau.
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Since 15th day of July, fifteen thousand Jews  
 are deported and this route to Poland.

RECHT  
 TOP  
 15 1  
 THE U.S.

Explanation of wire from our friends in Slovakia.

*File*

<u>Text:</u>	<u>Explanation:</u>
Gyalay . . . . .	Hungary
Export . . . . .	crossing of border
Michael Wagner . . . . .	Slovakia
fix abgeschlossen . . . . .	strictly closed
tägliche . . . . .	daily
Kapazität . . . . .	possibility
cca . . . . .	about
zehn Tonnen . . . . .	ten persons
-----	
erste Lieferung . . . . .	first of all
Gebirgskräuter prima: . . . . .	distinguished persons
Qualität . . . . .	through the mountains
-----	
veranlasset . . . . .	take care of
unbedingt . . . . .	at all events
rasches . . . . .	prompt
Speditionsstorno . . . . .	(disturbance of all trans- ports/military and deportation/
durch unseren . . . . .	through our former
Anwalt Karl . . . . .	lawyer who now in London /Royal Air Force/
per . . . . .	through
Luftpost . . . . .	airraids
recommandiert . . . . .	safe
bei Firmen . . . . .	reference to place
Megey . . . . .	Kassa = Kaschau /Hungary/ and
und Illeskop . . . . .	Presov /Slovakia/
Schaffhausen . . . . .	Bombarding
-----	
Wegen Sicherung . . . . .	to save also
restliches Quantum, . . . . .	Jews not yet deported
verweisen letzte . . . . .	ask this
Disposition . . . . .	possibility of rescue
-----	
Erwarten . . . . .	we expect
Anwalt . . . . .	Royal Air Force
Discretion . . . . .	act very carefully

548 UNION OF ORTHODOX JEWIS IN THE U.S.  
CHT  
TOP  
15 1

- 1/ Megey : is a drugstore at Kaschau und this word means: Town of Kaschau.
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*Handwritten note:* Field since 15th day of July, fifteen thousand Jews are deported and this route to Poland.

Springer VITTEL

May 25<sup>th</sup> 1944



Telegramm - T el gramme - Telegramma

63553 DDD BRATISLAVA 4256 49/47 23/5 1810 = CTR

Erlauben - Allow - Mieuxvaloir		Hilfsdienst - Transmitt - Transmissio	
von - de - da	Stunde - Hour - Ore	nach - 4 - a	Nachrichte - Message - Message

Dringend Urgent-Urgente

Nr. 1185

x Hugo Liebermann  
xx Sprzja tula Likofelk = DRINGEND = LEO RUBINFELD LUGANO

= BESUCHET SOFORT HUGO STOP HARRY SOLL SOFORT SPRENGLER ZU  
 LIKOERMUELLER RESCHLIEBMANN UND SEIDMANN DIRIGIEREN MIT  
 SCHAERFSTEN MASSREGELN WEGEN SPEDITIONSKOMPLIKATION STOP  
 VORGEHEN UNERHOERT WEGEN NICHT-EINHALTUNG SEINER LIEFERUNGSPFLICHT  
 SCHON SEIT 15 DIESES TAGLICH 1 FUENFZEHN MILLE POENALE STOP  
 DUERFET KEINEN TAG LAENGER ZOEGERN VERSTEHET ENDLICH +  
 + CT 15 1

verstehet endlich . . . . . help at last

Remarks :

- 1) Springer is a respected person in London from Slovakia and this word means: England
- 2) Likorm uller is the president of town of Presov ; means PRESOV
- 3) Reschliebfmann " " " " Kaschau: " Kaschau
- 4) Seidmann " " " " Munkacs: " Munkacs

Hugo is the name of a member of our committee.

PM are deported over this route to Poland.

848 UNION OF GERMANY

Springer VITTEL

May 23<sup>rd</sup> 1944

Just now a second telegramme arrived from

Slovakia, with the urgent request:

- 1) to bomb most urgently without a further delay the railway-lines of Kaschau and Presov, because 15,000 people are forwarded every day over this short and not disturbed route from Hungary to Poland .
- 2) that furthermore the town M u n k a c s should be bombed,
- 3) the bombing has to be made at once, because day after day less people could be saved and it would be very soon too late for the rescue.

The telegramme runs as follows:

Besuchet sofort Hugo: . . . Visit at once Hugo  
 Harry soll sofort Springer . . . . at once England  
 zu Likörmüller . . . . . Presov  
 Reschliebermann und . . . . Kaschau and  
 Seidmann . . . . . Munkacs  
 dirigieren mit schärfsten  
 Massnahmen . . . . . give instructions for mass airraid  
 wegen Speditionskompli-  
 kation . . . . . disturb railway-lines  
 Vorgehen unerhört & . . . . in dreadful and desperate state  
 wegen Nichteinhaltung  
 seiner Lieferungs-pflicht. . . on account of not bombing  
 schon seit 15. ds. . . . . since 15 th inst. *deported*  
 täglich 15,000 Pönsale. . . . daily 15,000 people transported  
 dürfet keinen Tag länger zö-  
 gern . . . . . must delay not one day  
 versteht endlich . . . . . help at last

Remarks :

- 1) Springer is a respected person in London from Slovakia and this word means: England
- 2) Likörmüller is the president of town of Presov ; means PRESOV
- 3) Reschliebermann " " " Kaschau: " Kaschau
- 4) Seidmann " " " Munkacs: " Munkacs

*Hugo is the name of a member of our committee.*

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

*are deported over this route to Poland.*

Gebinger VITTEL

J. STERNBUCH  
MONTREUX  
TELEPHON 4 25 26  
TELEGRAM-ADR.: STERNBUCH

Rec. May 26/44 (1)  
Zürich, May 25 th, 1944.

To the (C.I.)

apparently represents a farm called Alico 46

for Union of the Orthodox Rabbis of the United States of America,  
New York

Hold Quote

The situation regarding Vittel is not clear. Since some time ~~no~~ direct news are missing. One does not know, how many internees ~~people~~ remained at Vittel and who is among those at the concentration-camp of Drancy near Paris. The American Embassy in Berne has taken the necessary steps in order to bring the internees back to Vittel. One does not know either what was wrong with the matter and what else could be done.

Regarding the concentration-camp Bergen-Belsen and the work-camp Bergau near Dresden we beg to refer to our last explanations. The situation has unfortunately not yet changed. The Red Cross has no full-power for getting in touch with this camp or to send food-parcels. We are expecting your intervention.

Can we go on sending this proposal stuff?

We urgently ask you to solve the problem of the proposed passports without any regard of the situation at Vittel. Up to the present moment we receive these papers only from one consulate. This is absolutely insufficient for our work. Such papers are a useful means at various places and so far they have helped in Hungary and Slovakia. The Hungarian Jews are asking for them most urgently, to be emitted by different States.

This is not quite correct

We are quite desperate concerning increasingly the terrible situation in Hungary, which has become awful. ~~300,000~~ <sup>three hundred thousand</sup> Jews are on the lists already to be deported. The Rabbi of Neutra and some others ask urgently, to greet with airmail the two towns of Kaschau and Presov and also Munkacs. People are despairing that nothing has been done until now. This is the only way for the rescue. Do intervene! All this strictly confidential. Do not miss another hour in this matter.

Our courier from Lithuania has not yet returned. The Chief-Rabbi Hager of Wysnitz with family are saved and arrived in

may Budapest yesterday. ~~since 15th~~ <sup>since 15th</sup> ~~are deported~~ <sup>daily</sup> ~~over~~ <sup>fifty thousand Jews</sup> ~~his routes to Poland.~~

Sternbuch

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

VITTEL

2

To the Union of the Orthodox Rabbis of the U. S. A.

underwritten

With the aid of the Vatican we have started negotiations with Slovakia in order to open further labour-camps for the refugees from Hungary. We have taken the engagement to pay for the arrangement of these camps, provided that new refugees are admitted without restriction.

fed

write rescue program

We have received a message from the Rabbi of Neutra, wherein he complains bitterly of having insufficient money for this salvation work. About 10 people from Hungary are saved daily, whom he must support besides those who come from Poland. Further all Jews must be nursed, who are hitting themselves, as well as the numerous labour-camps. All the Rabbis are without livelihood. We have put his disposal further two hundred thousand francs. He wires that this sum is ridiculous for a great salvation action. He expects at least one million dollars. He calls heaven and earth, as witnesses, that he could have saved the Gdn of Tschechoiw and many other if he had more money.

along propositions

under direction in having been allowed to

brick factories

walled off are often beaten at night

break being applied

The avoidance of

The Courier also brought a message from President Freudiger, Budapest reading: <sup>situation assuming catastrophic</sup> ~~the~~ whole line a catastrophic growing worse is taking place. The action of Ghettoes is taking place in the most unhuman way nearly all over the country; in the Eastern and Southern ten frontier comitates under the dictate of the Germans. In the other parts after the will of the local authorities which are quite so as brutal as in the East. The Jews of Galanta are concentrated in Stefanikow and a commission supervised that they could carry with them hardly anything. Szombathely is since to day an absolutely closed ghetto, nearer circumstances are unknown. I cannot describe how things look in the concentration camps of Kassa ~~and~~ Zseged. The Deser are in the wood without cover. In Ungvar about twenty thousand; in Kaschau fifteen thousand are housed in a hedged in brick kiln. In Nagyvarad they are in houses but about thirteenthousand in a few streets, which are hedged in with planks. In Munkacs it is the same, but there they have to get up at night to be beaten bloody; they are compelled to receive the wide <sup>deed</sup> and then they get released. Our Pleitim of Remu affirm that this is absolutely ~~the~~ the receipt practised <sup>for</sup> the psychologic melting down of the masses, to get them ripe and without resistance for the worst. The worst has come true. Deportation has become the ~~and~~ truth and is carried on mercilessly. To-day in Kaschau, Nyiereghaza, Munkacs etc.; to-morrow other transports are to follow. These measures are belonging now to about three hundred tenthousand of our brethren, the orthodox reservoir of the country. For the present the deportation of this multitude is being carried out. Should it be possible to avoid further misfortune, ~~it~~ solely depends on your coming to our assistance and on your grasping of the situation. We are absolutely dependant on you for life or death. If you can and will help us, then we can perhaps partly or totally ~~the~~ saved. If not, we are lost.

be in

3

~~I t all lies in your hands, do not think about it long,  
do not sit still, act, awake up these who can help us  
and help quietly as long as there is still time.~~  
This is a true extract from this message.  
~~We have at once promised by wire a million Swiss francs.  
At this moment we are asked to put one million dollars  
at their disposal. What shall we do?~~

Unquote

but they ask us for a million \$ Sternbuch

\$

*Gekinger* VITTEL

let. to Sternbuch 5/31/44

CASE FILE

*WRB-RJM*

# TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department 79 Date: May 26, 5 p.m., 1944  
 No: 1620  
 Code: ██████████ Received: May 27, 2 p.m.

## PARAPHRASE

WRB 23. Following is for Isaac Sternbuch, Postfach 128, St. Gallen, and is signed by Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz of the Vaadha Hatzala Emergency Committee:

Kindly cable us whether 65,500 and 64,350 francs for Rabbi Sulvitz in Shanghai and also whether acknowledgment of receipt obtained. Please cable likewise information with regard to proposed evacuation of refugees from Shanghai. An attempt should also be made to obtain the cooperation of the Swiss Government in the speedy evacuation of Rabbi Nisgal group, which comprises a total of 475 persons.

Please see that the heads of Jewish communities in Hungary are advised to leave the cities and to disperse in the countryside, preferably near the Yugoslav and Slovakian frontiers. Attempts will be made to provide them with food and other necessities. Please send them messengers with funds.

HULL

re  
*Copy in 7A*

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

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

*Eckinger* VITTEL

*112*

*Rec May 31/44*

J. STERNBUCH  
MONTREUX  
TELEPHONE 8 88 88  
TELEGRAM-ADRESSE: STERNBUCH  
Zürich, Schweizergasse 14  
Tel. 5.95.44

Zürich, May 30 th, 1944

To the honorable  
Legation of the United States of America  
c/o Mr. R. McClelland  
B e r n e

(C.I.)

Dear Sir,

Just now I have received further news through a courier from Hungary and Slovakia which please find enclosed. Will you be good enough to forward the enclosed message as before.

Thanking you in advance for your great kindness, I beg to remain, dear Sir, with the best regards.

very respectfully Yours

*R. McClelland*

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN NEW Y.S.

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1

Eckinger VITTEL

*Informed Sternbuch that we*

This letter delivered personally by  
Mr. McClelland.

File Copy

Bern, May 31, 1944.

TELEGRAM SENT

Mr. Isaac Sternbuch,  
Postfach 128,  
St. Gallen.

Dear Mr. Sternbuch:

There is quoted below a telegram which the Legation has been requested to transmit to you from Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz of the Vaadha Hatzala Emergency Committee:

"Kindly cable us whether 85,500 and 64,350 francs for Rabbi Sulvitz in Shanghai and also whether acknowledgment of receipt obtained. Please cable likewise information with regard to proposed evacuation of refugees from Shanghai. An attempt should also be made to obtain the cooperation of the Swiss Government in the speedy evacuation of Rabbi Nical group, which comprises a total of 475 persons.

"Please see that the heads of Jewish communities in Hungary are advised to leave the cities and to disperse in the countryside, preferably near the Yugoslav and Slovakian frontiers. Attempts will be made to provide them with food and other necessities. Please send them messengers with funds."

It would be appreciated if you would acknowledge receipt of the above message.

Very truly yours,

Roswell McClelland,  
Special Assistant to  
the American Minister.

McC/imp

A true copy  
of the signed  
original: \*

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

Eckinger VITTEL

*Informed Sternbuch that we*

SECRETARY

Let. to Dr. Sternbuch 6/14 RDM/mjb

*(Express)*

Isaak STERNBUCH  
Isa Colondalles

CASE FILE

### TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department

(C.L.)

Date: June 2, 8 a.m., 1944

Code: ██████████

No: 3506

Charged to:

#### PARAPHRASE

Following is from Sternbuch for the Union of Orthodox Rabbis:

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at the present moment these papers from one consulate only, which is absolutely insufficient for our rescue work. These papers are a useful means at various planes and so far they have helped in Slovakia and in Hungary. Hungarian Jews are asking for them to be emitted by different states most urgently.

"Concerning the increasingly terrible situation in Hungary we are quite desperate. There are already on the deportation lists 300,000 Jews. It is urgently asked by the Rabbi of Neutra and others that airmail be sent to the towns of Munkacs, Kaschau and Presov. 15,000 Jews daily are deported over this route to Poland since May 15th. The people are in despair that nothing has been done up to the present.

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648 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

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DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter 1-11-78  
By R. H. P... SFP 26 1972

Eckinger VITTEL

*Informed Sternbuch that we*

Let. to Dr. Sternbuch 6/14 RDM/mjb  
(Express)

Isaak STERNBUCH  
Via Colindale

CASE FILE

TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department

(C.L.)

Date: June 2, 8 a.m., 1944

Code: [REDACTED]

No: 3506

Charged to:

PARAPHRASE

Following is from Sternbuch for the Union of Orthodox Rabbis:

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

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

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

"Concerning the increasingly terrible situation in Hungary we are quite desperate. There are already on the deportation lists 300,000 Jews. It is urgently asked by the Rabbi of Neutra and others that airmail be sent to the towns of Munkacs, Kaschau and Presov. 15,000 Jews daily are deported over this route to Poland since May 15th. The people are in despair that nothing has been done up to the present.

Do

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

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

*Informed Sternbuch that we*

Let. to Dr. Sternbuch 6/14 RDM/mjb

*(Express)*

-2-

No. 3506

Do not miss another hour in this matter. This is one means of rescue. Do Intervene! All this is strictly confidential.

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

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

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

A message from President Freudiger of Budapest was brought by courier as follows: Along the whole line the situation is assuming catastrophic proportions. Nearly all over the country ghettos are being set up in the most inhumane way; in east and south ten frontier comitates under the dictate of the Germans and in other areas under the direction of the local authorities. These are quite as brutal as in the East. Having been allowed to carry hardly anything with them, the Jews of Galanta are concentrated in Stfanikow. Szombathely is an absolutely closed ghetto now and there is no knowledge of the nearer circumstances. In the concentration camps of Kassa and Szeged circumstances cannot be described by me. The Deser are in a wood without cover. About 20,000 in Ungvar, and 15,000 are housed in brick factories in Kaschau. They are in houses in Nagyvarad, but about 13,000 in a few streets walled off with planks. It is the same in Munkacs, but they are often beaten at night at that place. It is declared by our Pleitim of Remu that this is the technique practiced to psychologically break down resistance of the masses to prepare them for the worst, which has come true. Deportation is carried on mercilessly and has become the naked truth, in Kaschau, Nyiereghaza, Munkacs, etc. today. Other transports are to follow tomorrow.

These

*Informed Sternbuch that we*

Let. to Dr. Sternbuch 6/14 RDM/mjb  
(Express)

-3-

No. 3506

These measures are now being applied to about 310,000 of our brethren, the orthodox reservoir of the country. Avoidance of further misfortune depends solely on your coming to our assistance and on your grasping the situation. If you can and will help us then we can perhaps be partially or totally saved. If not we are lost. We are absolutely dependent on you for life or death. Awake up those who can help us as long as there is still time, do not think about it long, do not sit still, act.

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

\$186.87.

HARRISON

RDM/mjb  
Paraphrased in triplicate

*Copy to A I*

Schinger VITTEL

*Informed Sternbuch that we*

Let. to Dr. Sternbuch 6/14 RDM/mjb  
*(Express)*

Isaak STERNBUCH  
Les Colondalles  
M o n t r e u x .  
-----

Montreux, June 6th 1944

*Villa*

(C.L.)

Mr.  
Roswell McClelland  
Special Assistant to  
the American Minister  
B e r n .  
-----

Dear Mr. McClelland,

I got your two letters of 25th and 31st May and beg  
to enclose a telegram which please be good enough  
to forward to Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz of the Vaad  
haHatzala Emergency Committee.

Thanking you in advance, I beg to remain, Dear Sir,

very respectfully yours

*[Handwritten signature]*

Enclosure.

848 UNIT OF ORTHODOX JEWRY IN THE U.S.

*Eckinger* VITTEL

SECSTATE  
WASHINGTON

*Informed Sternbuch that we  
could not forward this wire as he  
received it "en clair" from Shanghai.  
RBM.*

For WRB from McClelland.

For Union Orthodox Rabbis from Sternbuch.

" We received 64,350 francs which we remitted to  
Shanghai as prearranged.

After receiving the 85,880 francs Szmuelowicz  
May 19:  
cabled SINGLE QUOTE Support by Sternbuch received present  
arrangement most advisable. ~~xxxx~~ All advises fulfilled.  
Though financially alleviated owing urgency secure longer  
time advance further similar amount desirable END SINGLE  
QUOTE

Rabbi Krawec Meserpantol cabled May 25: SINGLE  
QUOTE Please ask rabbis Kotler, & Grosowsky direct about  
support sum recently sent for Klecker Kamenitzer colleges.  
They shall also inform details next supports on our names care  
Rabbi Ashkenazy. Desirable their fixing our colleges support  
amounts. That is our colleges greatest importance. END SINGLE  
QUOTE

We received a message from Rischel Friedmann in  
Shanghai, daughter-in-law of Rabbi aron Kottler informing  
that raw Mendel Krawec asked to tell that he is greeting  
Rabbi Gimelof and Awur Bach. He is rather anxious about  
their health. Also regards to couple Grosowsky. He wants  
to contact him directly in order avoid any unpleasantness  
and unfairness.

We sent a message to Hungary telling them to leave  
the cities, but we are afraid they cannot do it."

*Lehninger VITTEL*

**Interniertenpost**

Correspondence des Internes

June 8(?) 1944

*Message from Vittel*

*P.M.  
P.M.  
P.M.  
P.M.*

An  
A

*Sternbach Elias*

June 6th 1944

To the Union of Orthodox Rabbis.

We received the ~~sum of 64,350~~ 64,350 francs which we remitted to shanghai with exact arrangement.

Szmuelowitz cabled after receipt of 85800 as follows:  
support received present arrangement most advisable  
stop all advises fullfilled stop tough financially  
alleviated owing urgency secure longer time advance further  
similar amount desirable

*77.*

Rabbi Krawec meserpantol cabled:  
please ask rabbis kotler grosowsky direct about support  
sum recently sent for klecker Kamenitzer colleges they shall  
also inform details next supports on our names c/o rabbi  
ashkenazy desirable their fixing our colleges support  
amounts stop that is our colleges greatest importance.

we got a message of rischel friedmann shanghai, ~~xxxxxx~~  
doughter-in-law of rabbi aron Kottler informing that raw  
Mendel Krawec asked to tell that he is greeting rabbi  
Gimelof and Mr Awur Bach. He is rather anxious about their  
health. Also regards to couple Grosowsky. He wants to  
contact directly with him in order to avoid any unpleasant-  
ness and unfairness.

We sent a message to Hungary to let them know to leave the  
cities but we are afraid wether they could do it.

*12*

*Handwritten notes at bottom right*

Eckinger VITTEL

Interniertenpost

June 8(?) 1944

Correspondence des Internés

Messag from Vittel

An Sternbuch Elias



Empfangsort: St. Gallen  
Strasse: Vadianstr. 39  
Kreis: Schweiz  
Landesteil: Schweiz

Gebührenfrei! Franc de port!

Abender: Zygmunt Gutka  
Vor- und Zuname: Zygmunt Gutka  
Zimmer-Nr.: 25 Hospital  
Lager-Bereichung: Internierten-Lager Vittel (Frankreich)

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

NB

11

12

Handwritten notes at bottom right

Getinger VITTEL

...ods 6/14 RDM/mjb

Auf diese Seite schreibt nur der Internierte!  
Cette page est réservée à l'interné!  
Deutlich auf die Zeilen schreiben!  
N'écrire que sur les lignes et lisiblement!

Lieber M. für den Zuspruch  
bezüglich des Briefes über die  
Lage unserer Papier. Ich bitte  
sich schnell dafür zu sorgen  
dass unsere Regierung über  
die Schulung der Papier  
als wichtig bestätigen oder dass  
wir vollständige Konditionen  
Lohn - Austausch - bestätigte er-  
halten

Grüsse sich herzlich von  
Käthe, Rosa, Sylvia und alle  
andere nach denen ich mich  
sehr schmerzlich vermissen

Détacher le long du pointillé

Hier abtrennen!

Interniertenpost  
Rückantwortbrief  
Lettre de réponse

An  
A

Zimmer-Nummer:  
No. de chambre  
Lager-Bezeichnung  
Nom de camp

Internierten-Lager  
Vittel (Frankreich)

Gebührenfrei! Franc de port!

Vor- und Zuname:  
Nom et prénom  
Ort:  
Liste de destinations  
Stadt:  
No.  
Kant.  
Land:  
No.

Abender:  
Expéditeur

Estinger VITTEL

Let. to Woods 6/14 RDM/mjb  
CASE FILE

~~WFB RDM~~

# TELEGRAM RECEIVED

Let. to Sternbuch via  
courier Zurich 6/22 RDM/mjb

Union of Orthodox Rabbis

~~WFB RDM~~

(m to SA-292)

By

From:

Code:

ask Mr Huddle if it is possible  
to communicate to persons in  
● Vittel that they are considered  
as exchangeable by US Gov.

Ref to letter to Sternbuch of Apr 24<sup>th</sup>  
matter seems to have bogged  
down in Berlin.

Huddle gave Switzerland a list of  
persons at Vittel who were regarded  
as exchangeable by general action.  
S. wishes answer from Kommandant  
re evidence & this has been officially  
done.

De Jonghe tells me Kachan - Pecos  
KK line has been bombed - Sternbuch  
says no, at least not up to 2  
days ago. I referred him to  
Mr Jellinek & British.

Vittel Kommandant is after all prob.  
a Wehrmacht man.  
How do we account for fact that  
Swiss reported in letter Apr 20<sup>th</sup> that  
Berlin & no information regarding alleged  
transfer from Vittel. Perhaps the  
questions to whom Swiss can address

1944

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

NB

\$1  
to be forthcoming before long.

HULL

In quadruplicate  
re copy in FA

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

Eatinger VITTEL

Let. to Woods 6/14 RDM/mjb  
CASE FILE

WAB-RDM

### TELEGRAM RECEIVED

Let. to Sternbach via  
courier Zurich 6/22 RDM/mjb

Union of Orthodox Rabbis

WAB-RDM

### TELEGRAM RECEIVED

(Copy to CA-1098)

Handwritten note on a yellowed piece of paper:  
"Handwritten 1 - certainly not the  
Boutapo. No news. Bern.  
foreign office desire to exchange is  
quite another matter than SS. Boutapo  
desire to deport Jews. There is  
undoubted friction or lack of coopera-  
tion somewhere. Sternbach says  
K.u. camp appears to be only too  
willing to have proof that these  
people are exchangeable. What can  
be given to him?"

9 p.m., 1944  
04  
20, 3 p.m.

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

In quadruplicate  
re call in FA

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

Handwritten note at bottom right corner.

Kattinger VITTEL

Let. to Woods 6/14 RDM/mjb  
CASE FILE

WRB RAM

### TELEGRAM RECEIVED

Let. to Sternbuch via  
courier Zurich 6/22 RDM/mjb  
CASE FILE

Wrote of O'Reilly  
WRB-RDM

### TELEGRAM RECEIVED

(Copy to CA-498)

From: Department Date: June 19, 9 p.m., 1944  
No: 2104  
Code: [REDACTED] Received: June 20, 3 p.m.

C.L.

#### PARAPHRASE

WRB No. 45.

Following message, signed Vadha Hatzala, Abraham Kalmanowitz, is for Isaac Sternbuch:

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

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

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

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

HULL

In quadruplicate  
re copy in FA

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

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

by Stone

*Freudiger VITTEL*

Let. to Woods 6/14 RDM/mjb  
CASE FILE

*WRB-RDM*

### TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From:

Let to Sternbuch 6/29/44

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA

CASE FILE

*WRB-RDM*

Rec'd JUN 22 1944

### TELEGRAM RECEIVED

BERN

From: Department

Date: June 21, 7 p.m., 1944

No: 2119

Code: [REDACTED]

Received: June 22, 10 a.m.

PARAPHRASE

(C.L.)

WRB No. 48. For McClelland.

Please deliver to Sternbuch in St. Gallen the following message, signed Rabbi Aaron Kotler, Vaadha Hatzala:

*In the interest  
this appeal  
is there?*

We are making a telegraphic remittance to you of 428,816 Swiss francs, equivalent to \$100,000, in order to help comply with requests of Freudiger and Rabbi Neutra and for other rescue projects. Saly Mayer has been instructed to discuss Rabbi Neutra and Freudiger appeals with you. Please contact him and let us know the results. You are requested likewise to get in touch with McClelland and to ask him for financial aid after giving him details of Freudiger and Rabbi Neutra plans.

HULL

In duplicate

re  
*copy in FA*

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

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Ltr. 1-11-72  
By R. H. Fooks Date: SEP 20 1972

*by Stone*

*Estingor VITEL*

Let. to Woods 6/14 RDM/mjb  
CASE FILE

*WRB RDM*

# TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department Date: June 8, noon, 1944  
Code: **[REDACTED]** No: 1968  
Received: June 9, 10 a.m.

## PARAPHRASE

31

WRB 35. For McClelland.

For Sternbuch, St. Gallen, from Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz of Vaadha Hatzala Emergency Committee.

The Allies have been asked to urge that the protecting powers give fullest consideration to internees in all camps. Also endeavoring to secure exchange. Turkish Government is being request to permit transit with assurances that refugees will be removed at once and will be provided with shelter in temporary camps. All certificates demanded granted Jewish agency. You are authorized to make use of every means and to give whatever help is necessary in order to preserve the lives of refugees who are hiding in the vicinity of Theresienstadt, Krakau, and other places, as well as Jews who are in work camps in Poland. We are unable to grant request for an appropriation for the placing in children's homes of children rescued from Belgium, Holland and France, as our monies are for the rescue of life only. Please inform us concerning your Shanghai evacuation plans and also whether the sums of Swiss francs 85,800 and twice 64,350 were received from the Polish Legation and forwarded to Rabbi Samulewicz in Shanghai. Couriers should be sent with funds for the redemption of individuals and communities, for escape to villages and for general rescue work. A telegraphic report giving details of your rescue work for French and Italian Jews is desired. Please ask Griffel whether further 100,000 Swiss francs eventually sent him will make it possible to commence effective rescue. Your report dated May 18 has been received.

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

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

STETTINIUS ACTING

In triplicate

re *Copy in FA*

*Seems to me this was  
transmitted to Sternbuch 6/24/44.*

*My Stone*

*Lehinger* VTTEL

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

(C.I.)

June 8, 1944.

Following from Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz of Vaadha Hatzala Emergency Committee for Dr. Sternbuch:

"The Allies have been asked to urge that the protecting powers give fullest consideration to internees in all camps. Also endeavoring to secure exchange. Turkish Government is being requested to permit transit with assurances that refugees will be removed at once and will be provided with shelter in temporary camps. All certificates demanded granted Jewish agency. You are authorized to make use of every means and to give whatever help is necessary in order to preserve the lives of refugees who are hiding in the vicinity of Theresienstadt, Krakau, and other places, as well as Jews who are in work camps in Poland. We are unable to grant request for an appropriation for the placing in children's homes of children rescued from Belgium, Holland and France, as our monies are for the rescue of life only. Please inform us concerning your Shanghai evacuation plans and also whether the sums of Swiss francs 85,800 and twice 64,350 were received from the Polish Legation and forwarded to Rabbi Samulewicz in Shanghai. Couriers should be sent with funds for the redemption of individuals and communities, for escape to villages and for general rescue work. A telegraphic report giving details of your rescue work for French and Italian Jews is desired. Please ask Griffel whether further 100,000 Swiss francs eventually sent him will make it possible to commence effective rescue. Your report dated May 18 has been received."

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

In triplicate  
re *Copy in FA*

*Transmitted to Sternbuch? 4/3/44*

*My...*

*Eckinger* **VITTEL**

Let. to Dr. Sternbuch 6/14 RDM/mjb  
Tel. to Dept. 6/15 RDM/mjb

**J. STERNBUCH**  
MONTREUX  
TELEPHONE 4 88 26  
TELEGRAM-ADRES: STERNBUCH

Zürich, June 10th 1944

*Shanghai again*

LEGATION OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
REC'D 12 JUN 1944  
• BERN •

(C.I.)

Mr.  
Roswell McClelland  
Special Assistant to  
the American Minister  
B e r n .  
-----

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

Dear Mr. McClelland,

Please be good enough to forward to Rabbi  
Abraham Kalmanowitz of the Vaad haHatzalah  
Emergency Committee the following telegram:

"We got the following cable: //  
Rabbinical colleges lubliner lubavitz kletz  
kaminietzer besjosef not received roshyeshives  
support try immediately rabbi Kotler to arrange  
support direct our names c/o rabbi ashkenazi  
cable answer  
zittmann krawiecz twimen pantol"

Thanking you in advance, I beg to remain, Dear Sir,

very respectfully yours  
*J. Sternbuch*

// from Schanghai before we remitted the 64 <sup>350</sup> ~~000~~ francs:

*Mr. McClelland*

*(Switzerland)*

*My name*

*Getinger* **VITTEL**

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA

Let to Sternbuch 6/29/44

*ARB-RDM* *none.*

*Informing Sternbuch we could not be reached*

June 14, 1944.

(C.I.)

By Courier

EXPRESS

Bern, June 14, 1944.

Bern, June 14, 1944.

(C.I.)

Dear Mr. Woods:

I am enclosing a paraphrase of a telegram No. 1968 of the 6th of June, addressed to the Rabin Orthodox Rab of June 8, 1944 from the Department of State for Dr. Sternbuch from Rabbi Abraham Kalmanovits of Vaadha Hatzala Emergency Committee. I will appreciate it if you will arrange to deliver the enclosed message to Dr. Sternbuch. I return the draft of your suggested wire in case you do not have a copy.

I shall discuss transmission of your second cable of the 10th of June with Mr. Huddle, although I must admit that I do not find it particularly clear.

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

I am also enclosing today to the American General in Zurich a telegram which arrived for you at the end of last week. As stated, it is from Rabbi Abraham Kalmanovits of Vaadha Hatzala Emergency Committee.

Sam E. Woods, Esquire,  
Sincerely yours,  
American Consul General,

Zurich.

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

Enclosure: RDM/mjb

Draft telegram returned.

Dr. Isaac Sternbuch,  
Villa Les Colonnelles,  
Montreal.

648 DIVISION OF CATHODOX PAPERS IN THE U.S.

*OF R. McClelland*

*(Switzerland)*

*My name*

Gatlinger VITTEL

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Let to Sternbuch 6/29/44

ARB-RDM 15220

*Informed Sternbuch we could not forward*

TELEGRAM

June 15, 1944.

EXPRESS  
WASHINGTON

From McClelland for WFB.

Bern, June 14, 1944.

For Kalmanowitz, Vaadha Hatzala Emergency

from Sternbuch: QUOTE Received following cable from

Dear Dr. Sternbuch:

I attempted last night to prepare your suggested cable of the 6th of June, addressed to the Union of Orthodox Rabbis, for transmission. I must admit that unfortunately I can make very little sense out of it. Since I assume that it is a "translation" from the German, it might perhaps be helpful if you could send me immediately the original German text, which would certainly help me to obtain a clearer interpretation of what you wish to telegraph. I must ask you in future to please send your drafts of cables in both the English and original German texts, with double or triple spaces between the lines. I return the draft of your suggested wire in case you do not have a copy. HARRISON

I shall discuss transmission of your second cable of the 10th of June with Mr. Huddle, although I must admit that I do not find it particularly clear.

I am also forwarding today to the American Consulate General in Zurich a telegram which arrived for you at the end of last week from Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz of Vaadha Hatzala Emergency Committee.

Sincerely yours,

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

Enclosure:

Draft telegram returned.

Dr. Isaak Sternbuch,  
Villa Les Colondalles,  
Montreux.

848 UNICE OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

848 UNICE OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

(Switzerland)

In Switzerland...

My name

*Salinger* VITTEL

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA

Let to Sternbuch 6/29/44

*ABB-RDM* *55m*

*Informed Sternbuch we could not forward  
this as we had received it in class from  
Shanghai TELEGRAM* *55m*

June 15, 1944.

SECSTATE  
WASHINGTON

From McClelland for WRB.

For Kalmanowitz, Vaadha Hatzala Emergency Committee,  
from Sternbuch: QUOTE Received following cable from  
Zittmann, Krawiecz, <sup>and</sup> Timen, Pantol SINGLE QUOTE Rabbinical  
Colleges Lubliner, Lubavitz, Kletzk, Kaminietzer, Besjosef  
not received Roshyeshives support try immediately Rabbi  
Kotler to arrange support direct our names care Rabbi  
Ashkenazi. Cable answer. END SINGLE QUOTE ENDQUOTE. \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

HARRISON

RDM/mjb *from*

*McClelland*

848 UNIT OF

*(Switzerland)*

*in Switzerland*

in consequence of the  
invasion. The life of some 100,000 people might have been

Ketinger VITTEL

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA

Let to Sternbuch 6/29/44

BBB P M 1500

RECOMMANDE

at Geneva, June 22 at 10

(C.I.)

Geneva, June, 17th. 1944. the  
United States of America

Dr. Isaac Sternbuch  
Villa "Les Colondalles"  
MONTRÉUX (Vaud)

Dr. Roswell McClelland

Dear Dr. Sternbuch:

I refer you to my letter of June 14th. concerning various cables received by you from your colleagues in Shanghai which you requested the Legation to forward to the Union of Orthodox Rabbis and to the Vaadha Hatzalah Emergency Committee, both in the United States. You will recall that I returned them to you asking for clarification since the suggested texts were scarcely intelligible to us. On Friday morning, Dr. Weingort called, bringing with him the "originals," which, to my surprise turned out to be straight wires sent through to you "en clair" from Shanghai.

I have gone over the original telegrams very carefully and do not find them to be of such a confidential nature - this applies to your added remarks as well - as to necessitate their transmission via the Legation's services. The staff of our code room is very heavily burdened as it is, and it is therefore my duty not to impose upon them messages other than those which must absolutely be transmitted secretly. And since the messages you ask us to relay all came to you "en clair" (and must therefore already be known to any "enemy" powers interested in them) I do not feel that it is necessary for us to forward them for you. I consequently return them to you with the suggestion that insofar as possible you use regular commercial wire services in the future. I do not of course mean by this that we shall be unwilling to give you further assistance in the dispatching of messages for your organizations in the United States if they contain news which if revealed would endanger persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory.

Sincerely yours,

Roswell McClelland  
Special Assistant to  
the American Minister.

Enclosures: 111 surely  
RMC/lj

ing worse day after day. It is a great pity that the relief  
orders that I received from Hungary middle of May already,  
could not be effected yet, probably in consequence of the  
invasion. The life of some 300,000 people might have been

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

DR. R. MCCLELLAND

(Switzerland)

In Switzerland 17-18-1944

*Estinger* VITTEL

Let to Sternbuch 6/29/44

*ORB-RSM* *5/24/44*

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA  
REG'D JUN 23 1944  
BERN

J. STERNBUCH  
MONTREUX  
TELEPHON 2 26 26  
TELEGR-ADR: STERNBUCH

St Gallen, June 22 nd 1944.

*Auk*

To the  
honorable Legation of the  
United States of America  
o/o Mr. McClelland,  
Bern.

*Via Zurich Consulate  
Schweizergasse, 14 Zurich*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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

*OF R. MCCLELLAND*

Dear Sir,

Ich herewith beg to refer to your esteemed letter of the 14 th inst. and to thank you for your kind enquiry, about which you were informed by Dr. Weingort personally, who has left your kind letter with you by mistake.

The matter in question is concerning the support of Rabbis and Teachers who have escaped to Shanghai, and is not an information on our part, but one from Shanghai coming and addressed to the Union of Rabbis in New-York, whom I am representing. We regularly pass informations just as we receive them on, as we have no code with Shanghai and suppose that the receiver will understand the contents.

Of course I am fully aware that the passing on of such reports to U.S.A. should be restricted as much as possible, also for the one reason, because the honorable Legation is kind enough to accept various reports of other organizations also for the United States of America. Therefore I have given lately different wires to the Polish Embassy, too, which however, did not arrive at the place of destination just as promptly, since the codes or the deciphering took much more time. I trust that I serve you this way and should be very much obliged to you for letting me know occasionally which of my previous telegrams, be it fully or only partly- have not been forwarded so that I can make the necessary notes in my file.-

You will surely know that the situation in Hungary is getting worse day after day. It is a great pity that the first orders that I received from Hungary middle of May already, could not be effected yet, probably in consequence of the invasion. The life of some 300,000 people might have been

*(Switzerland)*

*In Switzerland...*

*by Stine*

Getzinger VITTEL

J. STERNBUCH  
MONTREUX

TELEPHONE 82020  
TELEGRAM-ADRES: STERNBUCH

To the  
honorable Legation of the United  
States of America. B a r n e .

saved. Since that time I have been getting such appeals every second or third day. I never failed to inform Colonel Jonge or Mr. Jellineck of this, who tried their best, but as it seems all in vain.

As per letter, arriving from Bratislava at Geneva during the past week, one has endeavoured to get in touch with the R A F via Istanbul and the answer said that the war can be carried on only according to strategic principles, but not from a social point of view. History will hardly consent to this view at a later time, if this information should be right at all.

But I simply cannot understand how it is that I never received an answer from the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of New-York to the telegram, which I handed over to Mr. Getsinger on May 20th last in which a request had been expressed to support the matter in question most urgently. Not even the receipt of that wire has been acknowledged to me so far.

*Can he get me some special news or info? He has no factual information on this score.*

At the same time I take the liberty of referring to the fact that Swiss officers at the borders refuse Jewish refugees. I refer again to my letter on that matter which I had addressed to the American Legation some time ago. <sup>2-13-41</sup> The question is, if all the work and endeavours to save people is of any use at all and how we might expect some benevolence from other countries, if not even our own Swiss borders bring it about that such hunted people are driven back into the hands of the enemy.

We owe it to the intense endeavours of the noncisture Apostolique, the most respected Mr. Bernardini, that the refusal at the Italian-Swiss borders could be stopped since a considerable time. It is quite impossible to believe that our Government should not extend the same direction to the French-Swiss borders as well, if only the complete diplomatic allied corps would intervene. Switzerland would never want to be morally responsible for the fact, that people, coming after a frightful hunting to the Swiss borders should be rejected by official organs, and often without any control and thus driven to death. Such happenings have lasted too long now, for perhaps many ten-thousands of people.

OF R. MCELLELAND

(Switzerland)

in Switzerland to Switzerland

by Gene

Gettings VITTEL

DR  
OF R. MCELLELLAN'S  
(Switzerland)  
in Switzerland (J. Sternbuch, T. ...)

J. STERNBUCH  
MONTREUX

TELEPHON 4 30 56  
TELEGR-ADM: STERNBUCH

- III -

To the  
honorable Legation of the United  
States of America, Berne.

For a long time one has been silent, but once the voice of humanity has to protest in an energetic way, a voice, from which our Government can not seclude itself.

I beg you, dear Sir, to excuse that I am troubling you but this question seems of too great an importance and well worth to be treated radically in Switzerland. The influx formerly feared by Switzerland, the influx of Jews from France, Poland and Holland will not happen any more, since these people have been deported and killed by our enemies in a beastly way. Only a small number of such people is left, hidden somewhere in those various countries, some of whom hardly dare to risk the dangerous and cruel way.

On the other hand for Switzerland the coming of such refugees does not mean a disadvantage. All the Polish or Dutch or Belgian embassies pledged themselves repeatedly to guarantee and to care for the support or home-bringing after the war.

I pray to you to speak with your esteemed Minister Harrison about all the necessary steps. I myself do not intend to bother you as I am sure that you will be fully engaged with a lot of problems coming from different sides to you. Should you, however, wish me to speak to you personally about this, please oblige me by letting me know and accept my thanks for it in advance. Once or twice a week I am coming to Berne and it will afford me great pleasure to be at your disposal at any time that may suit you, dear Sir.

With many deepest thanks on my part and with apologies for causing you that trouble I beg to remain, dear Sir, with my best regards,

Yours most obediently

*Eisinger* **VITTEL**

STERNBUCH  
MONTREUX  
TEL. 630 50  
TELEGR. ADRES. STERNBUCH

Zürich, June 27 th 1944.

(C.I.)

*Zürich 595.44*

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA  
REC'd JUN 28 1944  
BERN

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

Gentlemen,  
re: Telegram Shanghai.

I herewith beg to acknowledge the receipt of your esteemed letter with regard to my two informations of the 6 th and 10 th inst. for the Union of the Orthodox Rabbis of U.S.A. and I beg to thank you at the same time for your kind explanation. Though it can hardly be presumed that from telegrams coming to Montreux for me about news for Berne any relation with the American Code might be derived, yet it is of course better to be very cautious. I have taken note, that also news regarding the very important help for the refugees at Shanghai should be sent another way in future. I shall try it this time to forward the two wires by post. But I doubt that these will arrive at all, since the American Censor does not let pass wires in ciphers or similar methods. Then also the Polish Embassy is willing to cable my reports to the Union every time without any delay the same day.-

re: Refusals.

Further I take the liberty of referring you to a report of the "Israelitische Wochenblatt", according to which even an officer of the borders could not witness the scenes which had happened at the refusal of refugees. I don't wish to diminish the valuable help which is granted by Switzerland to refugees and I really appreciate the rescue of each single life. But I consider it an aberration to misuse the right of sanctuary as a mercy or even to refuse such people, and one cannot act too intensely against this. In this matter one could learn a lot from Sweden which keeps its doors open wide and in a generous way for all refugees and not only reluctantly.

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

*W.H.D.*  
*Dr. R. McCLELLAND*  
*(Switzerland)*  
*in Switzerland (Dr. Sternbuch) Tamm*  
*2: My Son*

Kattinger VITTEL

- II -

J. STERNBUCH  
MONTREUX

TELEPHON 2 25 24  
TELEGR.-ADR.: STERNBUCH

To the Honorable Legation of the United  
States of America, Bern.

It is no use to sacrifice so much time and effort and also millions of American money for the rescue of each person in the East, if on the other hand the men are refused in masses. I am not in the habit to deceive myself or the gentlemen in America, who believe that great things can be done for the refugees. I am willing and ready to take all pains with the matter and to make no difference at all between day or night. We had the opportunity to get acquainted with the problem of refugees in its full importance some six years ago in the prisons of St.Gall, when we brought hundreds of people across the borders from the land of the Nazis, and all this at a time when one did not want to understand what this means: a refugee! But I do not mind even if such a time of imprisonment comes again. But if I am not able to help in France, then I must consider my work as null and void and I prefer in this case to leave the whole work to others and to draw the conclusions.-

I trust however, that you, Gentlemen, will not misunderstand me. I am fully convinced that the Ambassador of America, the most honorable Mr. Harrison in union with the Nuncio Apostolique Mr. Bernardini could make a change in this matter, and thus to stop all these deplorable circumstances. It is not to be supposed that at the present time here any threatening or any reprisals of Germany need be feared. Jews have to be taken as political refugees of the first order, since these have been prosecuted and driven to death by that regime.

re: Hungary.

According to the new shocking report which we received by a courier last Saturday from Budapest, already 400,000 Jews were deported from Hungary to Poland. And every day further 12,000 people are rolling in trains that should be bombed to render more difficult the work to the Germans. The letter addressed to us contains various urgent reports and proposals which we work urgently. The elderly people are done away with in that country, while younger people who can do work, men as well as women are brought to German factories. The enemy has got in this way at least 50,000 new workers, if not even

Dr. R. McLELLAND

(Switzerland)

In Switzerland (J. Sternbuch) Training

re: My Stone

Getzinger VITTEL

J. STERNBUCH  
MONTREUX

TEL. 00030  
TELEGR.ADR. STERNBUCH

- III -

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

100,000 people, who now have to work against the Allied. That it has not been tried to prevent that, is beyond my understanding. Could not at least be tried to destroy the places, where people are killed by gas or insidiously, by bombing them. Formerly these places in question were the camps for execution at Treblinski, the airdrom at Lublin and the two camps for execution at Poniatow and Trawniki, both in district Lublin. To-day they are the well-known places of Oswiecim (Auschwitz) East-Prussia, where the Hungarian Jews are brought and killed by gas. If you as mandatory of Mr. Roosevelt wired and demanded the bombing of these places, they would act quicklier in America.-  
re: Food-parcels for the deported in the East and for people kept hidden in West.

And further still J have another request. It is with regard to the delivery of such food-parcels to the deported in Upper-Silesia, Theresienstadt etc. at Polish camps and to the people hiding in France. Up to the present such parcels could be sent to the former places by help of the Red Cross of Geneva (Mentropol room 129 ). This organization has no more goods in the transit-stocks. We could get a permit for exportation for 10,000 parcels of each 500 gr. brutto or 2,000 Red-Cross-parcels of each 2½ Kilos , get it from Switzerland, if their exportation would be assisted by Mr. Suliman of the English Embassy.

*Get a little  
merchandise*

Eventually the Red Cross would be ready to hand in such a petition for exportation if your assent and that of Mr. Suliman were given. I have no doubt whatever that you will do all the necessary. Your esteemed Mr. Getsinger was once already so kind to do this before the last Easter with Mr. Suliman for the Interned in Germany and France and this with success. The food which I had ordered to be packed up have arrived in time and distributed then. It is of great importance, to keep these people alive by such food-parcels. Especially from France we hear that cases happen that such poor hidden people are forced to present themselves before the authorities on account of desparation or hunger.-

W.H.  
J.P. McLELLAN

(Switzerland)

in Switzerland (J. Sternbuch) January 1945

Katzen VITTEL

J. STERNBUCH  
MONTREUX

TEL. 03055  
TELEGR. ADRES. STERNBUCH

- IV -

To the Honorable L e g a t i o n of the  
United States of America,      B e r n e.

re Vittel.

I am well aware that you have bestowed much pains upon this matter, but we also know that we could not get so far as yet considering the peculiar attitude of the German authorities in Berlin. Since the 20 of April last, i.e. since two months negotiations have taken place to and fro, but with no result tangible. No doubt the Swiss Ambassador in Berlin has no possibility to meddle with this matter too much. He has to be content with the short answer which he gets in Berlin about this. Then again three further weeks pass with the report and an answer from Berne, too many valuable days or even hours, if these people in question are still alive somewhere. According to a private card from the camp of Internment at Laufen, addressed to me, the interned of Vittel have been brought to Drancy some time ago and only on the 15 th May last from Drancy to some other place or even deported. Unfortunately I cannot examine, if this report is authentic.-

At any rate I should advise to suggest to the Political Department to send a special delegate to Berlin for this special purpose whose mission should be not only to speak with the authorities in Berlin, but also to go himself to Paris-Drancy and to Vittel in order to do the necessary steps immediately to explain that mysterious affair and thus to do his best for the rescue in France, Germany or in the camps for deportation. We cannot expect by the German Government to do anything, because they have other worries as to take many pains about such Jewish people and only quite a short information could be expected from them. This, of course, will be only of any use at all, if you insist, that this is done right away! We never know, which might be the very last hour. It is a matter of course that we are prepared to make good for all incurred expenses.

I will inform about this the Union of the Orthodox Rabbis of U.S.A., since they are very much interested in the

OF R. McLELLAND

(Switzerland)

In Switzerland (J. Sternbuch) 21 May 1941

*Sutinger* VITTEL

J. STERNBUCH  
MONTREUX  
TELEPHONE 2 26 56  
TELEGRAM-ADR.: STERNBUCH

- V -

To the  
Legation of the United States of America  
Berne.

the people of Vittel, as it seems, for I have received several wires with regard to them.-

Please, excuse me, dear Mr. McClelland, that I am causing you once more so much trouble. I am sure, however, that you will not feel annoyed about it and that you will not dislike it that we are helping you with giving you some hints. I should not dare to bother you, if I did not know that with all your heart you wish to be of help.

I beg to remain, dear Sir,

very respectfully Yours

*J. Sternbuch*

*McClelland*

*(Switzerland)*

*in Switzerland (J. Sternbuch) January*

*21 May 1906*

Leisinger VITTEL

OF R. McCLELLAND

File Copy

Bern, June 29, 1944.

File Copy

B48 - Isaac Sternbuch,  
RMcC/imp Schneidmatten 14,  
München, Germany

Bern, June 29, 1944.

Dear Mr. Sternbuch:  
~~REDACTED~~ - via Courier.

There is quoted below a message from Rabbi  
Aaron Kopler, Vaadha Hatzala, which the Department  
Dear Mr. Woods: requested the Legation to deliver to you.

I should be grateful if you would deliver the  
enclosed two letters of today's date to Mr. Isaac  
Sternbuch of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis, and will  
you be so good as to let me know by telephone when  
this has been done.

rescue projects. Only Mayer has been instructed  
to discuss Sincerely yours, and let us know  
with you. For the Minister: You are requested likewise to get  
the results. You are requested likewise to get  
in touch with McClelland and ask him for  
financial details of  
Freudiger and Special Assistant to  
the American Minister.

I feel it important that we talk over this question  
of money based on the appeal of Freudiger and Rabbi Neutra  
in the near future. I suggest that you come in and see me  
Enclosures as stated. today afternoon, July 5, at 4:00 o'clock.

Very truly yours,  
Sam E. Woods, Esquire,  
American Consul General,  
Zurich.

Roswell McClelland,  
Special Assistant to  
the American Minister.

648 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

(Switzerland)

in Switzerland (I Sternbuch) Tamm

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Lessor, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 26 1972

A true copy of the signed original

A true copy of the signed original

for 2: May 1944

Eckinger VITTEL

File Copy

Bern, June 29, 1944.

Mr. Isaac Sternbuch,  
Schweizergasse 14,  
Zürich.

Dear Mr. Sternbuch:

There is quoted below a message from Rabbi Aaron Kotler, Vaadha Hatzala, which the Department of State has requested the Legation to deliver to you:

"We are making a telegraphic remittance to you of 428,816 Swiss francs, equivalent to \$100,000, in order to help comply with requests of Freudiger and Rabbi Neutra and for other rescue projects. Saly Mayer has been instructed to discuss Rabbi Neutra and Freudiger appeals with you. Please contact him and let us know the results. You are requested likewise to get in touch with McClelland and to ask him for financial aid after giving him details of Freudiger and Rabbi Neutra plans."

I feel it important that we talk over this question of money based on the appeal of Freudiger and Rabbi Neutra in the near future. I suggest that you come in and see me about this next Wednesday afternoon, July 5, at ~~11~~ 3 o'clock.

Very truly yours,

Roswell McClelland,  
Special Assistant to  
the American Minister.

A true copy of the signed original

848 UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS IN THE U.S.

OF R. McCLELLAND

(Switzerland)

is Switzerland (I Sternbuch)...

for 2: May 1944

*Leibinger* VITTEL

File Copy

Bern, June 29, 1944.

(Circular stamp)

Mr. Isaac Sternbuch,  
Schweizergasse 14,  
Zürich.

Dear Mr. Sternbuch:

I acknowledge receipt of your long letter of the twenty-second of June and have noted your concern about cases of refoulement at the French-Swiss border. I should welcome details of any such instances which you might be able to give me and would be glad to see if any useful steps can be undertaken with the authorities on the basis of such evidence.

Very truly yours,

Roswell McClelland,  
Special Assistant to  
the American Minister.

RMCC/imp

848 UNION OF GERMANOK RAHRIS IN THE U.S.

*McClelland*  
*(Switzerland)*  
*in Switzerland (I Sternbuch) January*  
*for 2: May 1944*

A true copy  
of the signed  
original: