War Refugee Board
American Legation
Bern, Switzerland.

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

August through December
1944.

****

Juris-Mappe Nr. 1000 (32×24 cm)
Kaiser & Co. A.-G., Bern
Dr. Leon KUBOWITZKI, World Jewish Congress
1934—Broadway
from Gerhart Riegner NEW YORK

In answer,

As your message concerning Jews of non-Hungarian citizenship
informed us in regard to non-discrimination on account of race,
Jews to convene on July 1,

Safe and under our guard.

流通 your answer Italian Slovakian rescue plans.

Referring your message concerning Joint Relief Committee
London, informing you that confered with yesterday Interredcross
headquarters this question. Interredcross assured they submitted
repeatedly precise scheme as to various regions
and camps in which distribution food parcels under their
supervision possible. This implies that in camps indicated
they possess adequate staff. Reduction of willing negotiations
be delayed in length again and again by subsidiary inquiries.

Insisting upon definite decision. Our opinion that difficulties

= Gerhart Riegner

Geneva, August 3, 1944.
In answer.

Your message concerning Jews of non-Hungarian citizenship informing you that according our information suspension or deportation measures applied to all Jews in Hungary regardless whether possessing Hungarian nationality or not. Have already insisted at Interredresses on principle of non-discrimination on July 21, reiterated today same demand. On other hand you must understand that assimilation of Jews to standard civilian internees in conformity Geneva convention is not obtainable despite our repeated efforts in this respect.

Safe dispatch of refugee lists which should not pass German censorship extremely difficult. Renewing efforts. Awaiting urgently your answer Italian Slovakian rescue plans.

Referring your message concerning Joint Relief Committee London informing you that conferred yesterday Interredresses headquarters this question. Interredresses assures that they submitted repeatedly precise scheme as to various regions and camps in which distribution food parcels under their supervision possible. This implies that in camps indicated they possess adequate staff. Redresses not willing negotiations be delayed in length again and again by subsidiary inquiries. Insisting upon definite decision. Our opinion that difficulties lasting at British authorities will.

= Gerhart Riegner

Geneva, August 3, 1944.
Dear Dr. Riegner:

The following message has been received for you from Kubowitzki of the World Jewish Congress:

"The sending of rescue funds through the representative of the War Refugee Board in Bern in the manner suggested in the last paragraph of your message of June 14 is not possible."

Sincerely yours,

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

Dr. Gerhard Riegner,
Care of American Consulate,
Geneva.

HNK/mjb
Via Courier

Bern, August 1, 1944.

Dear Dr. Riegner:

I am pleased to quote below a message, signed Kubowitzki, which has been received for you through the facilities of the Department of State and the War Refugee Board in Washington:

"Interocross Washington has communicated to its headquarters in Geneva our request to intervene for Jews of non-Hungarian citizenship whose deportation postponed August 1. It is requested that you confer with International Red Cross headquarters with regard to this matter, taking the position that these Jews should be recognized as civilian internees and treated in conformity with the Geneva Convention. IRC should approach the Hungarian authorities and express its determination to extend protection to these Jews of non-Hungarian nationality. Please cable results through WRB and the American Legation.

"Your message of July 4 received through WRB implies the continued arrival in Switzerland of Italian Jews. It will be appreciated if you will forward us regularly lists of arrivals, and also send a recapitulatory list of the arrivals thus far."

Sincerely yours,

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

Dr. Gerhardt Riegner,
Care of American Consulate,
Geneva.
For Nahum Goldmann, World Jewish Congress from Gerhart Riegner: "You are certainly aware of ICRC's official communiqué concerning Hungary. On occasion Guggenheim Burekhardt conversation of July 21 following details obtained. ICRC communiqué is nearly identical to and based on official communication of Hungarian Government to ICRC transmitted by Hungarian Chargé d'Affaires Bern July 16. ICRC obtained full power and now seeking carry out various points. We emphasized responsibility of ICRC and necessity strict control execution of promises notably cessation of deportation. We pressed ICRC dispatch large delegation to Budapest charged with distribution of relief. ICRC showed tendency desire act through Jewish Council presided by Hofrat Stern but we urged matter remain primarily in ICRC hands since they would have more liberty of movement and be more independent of Hungarian Government. We made also reservation on personality Stern 80 years of age and insisted on principle of non-discrimination between Hungarian and foreign Jews. We proposed collaboration between ICRC mission which would be officially responsible and special Jewish Committee in which all Jewish groups in Hungary would be represented. Question possibilities purchase foodstuffs in Hungary not yet resolved, but impossible ICRC ready put disposal Swedish ICRC steamer "Halaren" which could carry foodstuffs to Trieste. In any case considerable amounts will doubtless be necessary which Jewish organizations will probably not be able to furnish without governmental aid. Therefore propose former vast rescue plan of last year be at least partly revived with regard to Hungary now that ICRC has obtained broad power of control. Insisting also our personal participation to a certain extent view obtaining influence over whole proceeding.

Concerning
Concerning departure of children ICRC already asked that age limit originally fixed at ten be increased. Switzerland ready accept certain number Hungarian children and negotiations are also going on concerning Swedish proposal. ICRC is willing to deal with emigration to Palestine. Our opinion however is that matter should be left for time being in hands of protecting power. ICRC in general very proud of their success in matter Hungarian Jews which they very much needed for their political position. Our duty is therefore insist by all means on strict execution of promises obtained and on extension of promise cessation deportations from other camps in various countries such as Drancy, Malines, Westerbork, Fossoli, etc."

HARRISON

RDM: mjbinf
Copy to RDM
Dear Mr. McClelland,

I am acknowledging receipt of your letter dated August 1 and informing me of a cable received from New York which indicates that the transmission of rescue funds through your intermediary is unfortunately not possible.

Thanking you for your kindness, I am very sincerely yours

[Signature]

Geneva, August 3, 1944.

Roswell D. McClelland Esq.,
Special Assistant to the American Minister, Legation of the United States of America, BERN.
Dear Mr. McClelland,

Referring to Paragraph A(1) and Paragraph C of Licence Y 2115 quoted in the Legation's letter of February 10, 1944, I beg to inform you that I have again purchased two million French francs from Monsieur Robert STITELMANN at the rate of 1,65. This transaction will be filed as being transaction No. 12 completed under the above mentioned licence.

Very sincerely yours

Gerhart M. Riegner
Dear Mr. McClelland,

I am acknowledging with many thanks your letter of August 1, in which you were kind enough to communicate to me a message from Dr. L. Rubowitzki of the World Jewish Congress.

I am enclosing herewith a reply to his message as well as to the message communicated to me on July 24, and beg to request you to kindly oblige me by forwarding it to New York.

I am enclosing equally for your information copy of a letter I have addressed to the International Red Cross concerning the situation of Jews of non-Hungarian citizenship.

With many thanks in advance, I am

very sincerely yours

Gerhart M. Riegner
The following communication is from Gerhart Riegner for Leon Kubowitzki, of the World Jewish Congress.

"Replying to your message concerning Jews of non-Hungarian citizenship, the suspension of deportation measures, according to our information, applies to all Jews in Hungary regardless of nationality. I have already insisted at Intercrex on the principle of non-discrimination on July 21, repeated on August 3. You must understand, on the other hand, that the assimilation of Jews to the status of civilian internment, in conformity with the Geneva Convention, is not obtainable, in spite of our repeated efforts in this respect for two years.

It is extremely difficult to dispatch safely lists of refugees; these lists should not pass German censorship. I am renewing efforts. I am urgently awaiting your answer to the Italian-Slovakian rescue plans.

With reference to your message about the Joint Relief Committee in London, yesterday I conferred once again with ICRC headquarters regarding this question. ICRC affirms that they repeatedly submitted a precise scheme as to the various regions and camps in which it is possible to distribute food parcels under their supervision. This implies that in the camps indicated they have an adequate staff. ICRC is unwilling that negotiations be drawn out repeatedly by subsidiary inquiries. They would appreciate a definite decision. In our opinion, the difficulties rest with the British authorities."

From McClelland for WRB.

HARRISON

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73
By R. H. Fucks Dec 9 1972

Copy to RDM
TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department
Date: August 7, 4 p.m., 1944
No: 2714
Code: 
Received: August 8, 10 a.m.

PARAPHRASE

From War Refugee Board.
No. 115. For McClelland.

Please deliver to Dr. Gerhard Riegner, 37, Quai Wilson, Geneva, Switzerland, the following message: (Signed by Aleon Kubowitzki, World Jewish Congress, New York):

With further reference to your message of June 14, the Joint Distribution Committee states that Salo Mayer has been in constant touch with Filderman and other leaders of Rumanian Jewry. The JDC has received confirmation from responsible sources that funds have been and are now being obtained locally in part through borrowings against credit or Joint Committee for reimbursement at a later date. JDC affirms that the situation of Rumanian Jews is being closely followed.

STETTINIUS ACTING

in duplicate
number 123 we requested London office submit intergovernmental conference following program regarding Hungarian Jew's first public declaration. Britain united states that Jews occupied Europe are under their protection. Britain, France, Spain, second public statement interroger. Second statement that considers Jews deprived freedom movement as civilian internes analogy Geneva confession. Dear Dr. Rieger:

I merely wish to let you know that the message which you forwarded to me in your letter of the third of August was transmitted to the World Jewish Congress on Friday evening, August 4th.

Sincerely yours,

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

Dr. Erhardt M. Rieger,
World Jewish Congress, palestine country of refuge, Turkey as transit country of religious food program finally authorized economic warfare division not to camps without Jews as they were tasted by interroger but Jewish internes labor extermination camps on urgent adoption measures leading to destruction murder installations in death camps.

Mrs. L. Please reply World Jewish Congress.

all this
number 123 we requested London office submit intergovernmental conference following program regarding Hungarian Jews first public declaration Britain United States that Jews occupied Europe are under their protection respect physical safety second public statement interredcross that considers Jews deprived freedom movement as civilian internees analogy Geneva convention 1929 and determined obtain recognition as such third appropriate steps interredcross churches to obtain said status civilian internees fourth public statement Great Britain United States that territories under their administration open Jews who can be rescued also that will care maintain feed and settle after war all Jews granted asylum any European country fifth simultaneous public declaration by neutral countries that doors open Jews occupied Europe sixth presentation note to Hungary by Britain United States through protecting powers also by interredcross asking her repatriate Jews already deported and establish machinery care protection in Germany Poland until repatriation seventh substantial increase redcross delegation in Hungary view having one permanent delegate every important center eight allocation by Britain United States to interredcross considerable amounts pledged ninth adoption concrete measures evacuation Hungarian Jews especially children to safe havens special stresses being laid Palestine country of refuge Turkey as transit tenth application food program finally authorized economic warfare division not to camps without Jews as those suggested by interredcross but Jewish internment labor extermination camps eleventh urgent adoption measures leading to destruction murder installations in death camps Nahum Goldman Leon Kubowibski —

Mrs. L — Please send World Jewish Congress — all this
Une démarche du Congrès Juif Mondial auprès de la Conférence du Comité Intergouvernemental pour les réfugiés.

Le Comité Exécutif du Congrès Juif Mondial, par l'intermédiaire de son Bureau Permanent à Londres, vient de soumettre à la Conférence du Comité Intergouvernemental pour les réfugiés, qui se tient actuellement à Londres, un mémoire concernant les mesures de secours à entreprendre en faveur des Juifs hongrois.

Dans ce mémoire, le Congrès Juif Mondial demande :

1. Que la Grande-Bretagne et les États-Unis déclarent publiquement que les Juifs en Europe occupée se trouvent sous leur protection en ce qui concerne leur sécurité physique.

2. Que la Croix-Rouge Internationale déclare publiquement qu'elle considère les Juifs privés de leur liberté de mouvement comme internés civils en analogie avec la Convention de Genève de 1929 et qu'elle est déterminée à obtenir une reconnaissance des Juifs comme internés civils.

3. Que la Croix-Rouge Internationale et les Églises prennent les mesures appropriées en vue de l'adoption du statut d'internés civils pour les Juifs.

4. Que la Grande-Bretagne et les États-Unis déclarent publiquement que les territoires sous leur administration sont ouverts aux Juifs qui peuvent être sauvés et qu'ils assureront l'entretien, le ravitaillement et l'établissement après la guerre de tous les Juifs auxquels un asile a été accordé dans n'importe quel pays européen.

5. Que simultanément les pays neutres déclarent publiquement que leurs portes sont ouvertes aux Juifs des pays occupés de l'Europe.

6. Que la Grande-Bretagne et les États-Unis adressent, par l'intermédiaire des puissances protectrices et de la Croix-Rouge Internationale, une note diplomatique à la Hongrie lui demandant de rapatrier les Juifs déjà déportés et d'instituer un organisme, en vue de protéger, en Allemagne et en Pologne, les Juifs déportés jusqu'au moment de leur rapatriement.
Genève, le 22 août 1944

Monsieur A. Guggenheim,

Comité international de la Croix-Rouge
Hôtel Métropole
Genève

Messieurs,

Nous avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance une note concernant une démarche que le Comité Exécutif du Congrès Juif Mondial vient d'entreprendre en faveur des Juifs de Hongrie et des autres pays occupés, auprès de la Conférence du Comité Intergouvernemental pour les réfugiés qui se tient depuis le 15 août à Londres. Nous joignons également à cette note le texte original en anglais du télégramme qui vient de nous parvenir de la direction du Congrès Juif Mondial aux Etats-Unis. Nous avons espéré que le Comité International de la Croix-Rouge voudra toute son attention aux revendications présentées au cours de la démarche ci-dessus mentionnée et donnera, dans toute la mesure du possible, son appui aux mesures envisagées en vue de sauver le reste des Juifs se trouvant dans les différents pays de l'Europe occupée.

Veuillez agréer, Messieurs, l'expression de nos sentiments très distingués.

CONGRÈS JUIF MONDIAL
signé: Professeur Paul Guggenheim
Gerhart Riegner
Comité International de la Croix-Rouge
Agence Centrale des Prisonniers de Guerre

Géneve, le 2 octobre 1944,
Palais du Conseil-Général

Monseigneur P. Guggenheim
Monseigneur G. M. Riugner
Congrès Juif Mondial
37, quai Wilson
Géneve

Messieurs,

Faisant suite à l'entretien que nous avons eu récemment et à votre lettre du 22 août, notamment au chiffre 2 de son annexe, nous vous remettons ci-joint une note, de caractère général, relative à la notion d'internes civils, que nous jugeons de nature à vous intéresser.

Nous réservant de publier cette note dans la Revue International de la Croix-Rouge, nous vous prions de la considérer comme confidentielle jusqu'au moment où nous procéderions nous-mêmes à une telle publication.

Il est bien certain que le Comité International de la Croix-Rouge - pour autant que son intervention soit admise - ne pourra pas toujours obtenir toutes les garanties énumérées sous chiffre 4 de la note. Lorsqu'il s'agira des ressortissants mêmes de l'État intéressés ou de personnes poursuivies pénallement, l'argument de la souveraineté de l'État sera généralement opposé à l'intervention du Comité.

Il semble fort douteux qu'une déclaration ou un appel publics soient susceptibles de mener à chef les efforts du Comité et ses pourparlers avec les instances gouvernementales compétentes. Il y a plutôt lieu de redouter que cette procédure ne puisse compromettre dans une large mesure son activité, qui ne peut escompter un certain succès qu'en s'imposant une stricte discrétion.

Aussi, le Comité International de la Croix-Rouge n'est-il pas cessé d'intervenir, à chaque occasion qui se présentait, auprès des Autorités détentrices pour qu'il soit accordé aux civils déportés hors de leur pays un statut analogue à celui des internes civils. Si cependant, le Comité international croit plus judiciaux et plus conforme à ses traditions de déployer son activité d'une
Sur la notion d'internés civils

1. La notion d'internés civils n'a pas encore de base dans le droit conventionnel. Dans l'esprit de l'article 17 du Projet de Tokio 1), le Comité international de la Croix-Rouge a, dès 1939, obtenu de la plupart des États alors en guerre qu'ils applicaient dans la mesure du possible, par analogie et sous condition de réciprocité, la Convention de 1929 - relative au traitement des prisonniers de guerre - aux ressortissants d'États ennemis se trouvant sur leur territoire lors de l'ouverture des hostilités, pour autant que ces ressortissants ne seraient pas laissés en liberté ou qu'ils ne pourraient pas regagner leur patrie. Ce traitement des civils de nationalité ennemie par analogie avec celui des prisonniers de guerre ne constitue malheureusement que le minimum des garanties stipulées par le Projet de Tokio (Titre II) en faveur de cette catégorie de personnes.

C'est ainsi que la notion d'internés civils, qui n'est pas contenue dans le Projet de Tokio lui-même, découle d'un état de fait semblable dans les deux camps belligérants.

2. Le Comité international de la Croix-Rouge ne peut, de son propre chef, déclarer "internés civils" telle ou telle catégorie de personnes. Un statut défini ne peut être conféré qu'avec l'assentiment de la Puissance détentrice, et cela même si les ordonnances dudit État pouvaient apparemment servir de base pour revendiquer l'application du traité des civils de nationalité ennemie à certaine classe d'individus.

Une extension par analogie de la notion d'internés civils semblerait particulièrement ardue à obtenir dans des cas où l'état de guerre entre le pays d'origine et la Puissance détentrice - tel qu'il est défini par le droit des gens - n'entre pas ou pas nécessairement en considération.

1) On a coutume de désigner ainsi, par souci de concision, le Projet de Convention concernant la condition et la protection des civils de nationalité ennemie qui se trouvent sur le territoire d'un belligérant ou sur un territoire occupé par lui. Élaboré par le Comité international de la Croix-Rouge, il fut approuvé par la XVᵉ Conférence internationale de la Croix-Rouge, réunie à Tokio en 1934, et devait, en vue de sa consécration être soumis à une Conférence diplomatique que l'ouverture des hostilités vint ajourner.
Il n'existe, à notre avis, aucune présomption qui permettrait la conclusion que l'interpellation et la déportation enlèvent sous la domination de l'occupation militaire le caractère d'internes civils et politiques, sauf dans le cas de citoyens de la direction de l'Etat ennemi, mais est basé sur des considérations de sécurité militaire et diplomatique.

Nous avons l'honneur d'accuser réception, avec nos plus vifs remerciements de votre lettre du 2 octobre ainsi que de son annexe qui contient une note sur la notion d'internes civils et sur les mesures que le Comité International de la Croix-Rouge est disposé de prendre en faveur des internés civils. Il est bien entendu que nous avons pris acte de son caractère confidentiel.

Il est évident que le Comité International ne peut, de son propre chef, déclarer internes civils telle ou telle catégorie de personnes et qu'un statut définitif ne peut être conféré qu'avec l'assentiment de la puissance détenteur. Comme nous l'avons déjà déclaré lors de l'entretien auquel vous avez bien voulu, Monsieur le Président, nous convier, il existe des situations où les ordonnances d'un Etat peuvent servir de base pour l'application du traitement des internes civils de nationalité ennemie à certaines classes d'individus. La législation interne facilite, en conséquence, souvent les démarches en faveur de l'extension des garanties à des catégories de la population dont la protection n'est pas prévue par le projet de Tokio. Il est donc légitime d'exprimer l'espoir que le Comité International tiendra compte de cette possibilité dans ses efforts.

Nous nous permettons d'autre part d'émettre l'avis que nous considérons comme peu opportun de faire une distinction de principe entre les ressortissants de l'Etat ennemi se trouvant sur le territoire lors de l'ouverture des hostilités et les ressortissants des territoires occupés qui sont internés ou déportés. Tout en reconnaissant que le projet de Tokio...
To: Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Dr. Leon Rubowitzki, World Jewish Congress 
1834 Broadway 
New York

On your repeated request to approach Interredcross view publication statement that considers Jews deprived freedom movement as civil internees analogy Geneva Convention 1929 and determined obtain recognition as such we made new intervention on August 22nd insisting again on this request as done very often during last 2 years. We had personal interview with President Huber and August this matter. Interredcross communicated us October 2nd long letter and confidential note on notion of civil internees both signed by Professor Huber. Interredcross stating that they cannot declare unilaterally civil internees certain classes of population who not covered by Tokio Project of 1934 which considers as civil internees only foreigners in enemy territory at beginning of hostilities. Interredcross nevertheless stated that they making all efforts view obtain for all people needing in fact protection without distinction nationality religion party race guarantees as foreseen in Tokio Project notably

1. communication to a neutral organ of the place of sojourn and state of health of detained people, possibly exchange of news with their families;

2. living conditions compatible with human dignity as to treatment habitation alimentation and hygiene;

3. possibility to receive parcels of food clothing medicaments;

4. right for detained persons to be visited by neutral representative Redcross or Protecting Power;

5. detainees legally pursued should know reason of accusation and obtain juridical assistance.

President Huber assured that Interredcross intervening constantly view obtain these guarantees or at least partly but not considering public statement being appropriate manner of proceeding. We replied by note stating that situation of people of occupied countries interned or deported being in fact similar to those enemy citizens detained by State at beginning of hostilities and falling under
Tokio Project and insisted again on necessity renew Interredcros' demarches. In interview of October 23 with Professor Burckhardt of CICR we learned that Interredercros addressed on October 2nd to German Ministry of Foreign Affairs official note asking grant above guarantees to all foreign people sojourning in Germany and occupied countries and in fact deprived of liberty of movement and designed as Schutzhäftlinge of foreign nationality. According to Burckhardt's statement this notion is covering all foreign Jews interned or deported in Germany or occupied territories. Interredcros awaiting reply of German Government. Keep these informations confidential sending you whole documentation.

= Gerhart Riegner

Geneva, October 25, 1944.
Via Courier

Bern, August 10, 1944.

Dear Dr. Rieger:

I am pleased to quote below a message which has been received for you signed by Leon Kowolzki, World Jewish Congress, New York:

"With further reference to your message of June 14, the Joint Distribution Committee states that Sely Mayer has been in constant touch with Filderman and other leaders of Romanian Jewry. The JDC has received confirmation from responsible sources that funds have been and are now being obtained locally in part through borrowings against credit of Joint Distribution Committee for reimbursement at a later date. JDC affirms that the situation of Romanian Jews is being closely followed."

Sincerely yours,

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

Dr. Gerhard Rieger,

Care of American Consulate,

Geneva.

HJM/mjb
Geneva, le 11 août 1944.

Re: Your cable 27/7. Stop acting together with general French underground active military groups specifically Jewish and intervening against persecutions of Jews. Our fighters and French milice, simultaneously.

They help evacuate and hide severely losses among our most active comrades. Stop. Your urgent help is precious. Please haste.

-- Marc Jarblum
Monseigneur,

Messieurs D. Mr. Clelland
Geneva - Suisse,

Cher Monseigneur,

1) Voici l'adresse de Monseigneur Salvatore Donati:
   45 Avenue de Montana
   Territet - Montreux
   Tel. 62137.

2) Je voudrais vous avoir le télégramme suivant du notre bureau central à New York :
   "NUMBER 119 CONCERNING ALREADY DEPOSED JEWS BY BALTIC REPORTED HAVING DCG
   AGREEMENT PROVIDING HUNGARIAN WORKERS FOR GERMAN WAR INDUSTRY STOP
   URGENTLY WERE THROUGH WARREFUGEBOARD TEXT ON ALL AVAILABLE
   DETAILS THIS OR SIMILAR AGREEMENT."

Si vous êtes décidé de vous occuper des réponses à ce télégramme comme suit :

"Dr. Leon Kostovitzki World Jewish Congress 164 Broadway

from Gerhart Reiss

New York.

ied YOUR CABLE NUMBER 119 REPORTS INDICATING THAT DEPORTED
JEWS CONSIDERED FOR TEXT GERMANY CONSIDERED AGREEMENT, IN
VIOLATION HUNGARIAN WORKERS FOR GERMANY WAR INDUSTRY ARE
OBVIOUSLY HUNGARIAN PROPAGANDA, WE HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE
ANY SUCH AGREEMENT. I UNDERSTAND THAT HUNGARIAN
GOVERNMENT IN THEIR REPLY TO ENQUIRY CROSS ASKING WHERE
DEPORTED PEOPLE HAD BEEN BROUGHT TO DECLARED THAT THEY
HAD BEEN BROUGHT TO GERMANY FOR PURPOSES OF "ARRESTINGS
APPEARS SIMILAR COMMUNICATION WAS MADE TO
STRAUS GOVERNMENT. I UNDERSTAND FURTHERMORE THAT
INTERRED IN THOSE AGED HUNGARIAN AUTHORITIES WHERE-
ABORTS OF DEPORTED AGED PEOPLES, CHILDREN, WOMEN, ETC
BUT RECEIVED NO ANSWER.

GERHART REISS"

Je vous serais très obligé de bien vouloir transmettre le

--

Téléphone : 310-1000
J) Comme je vous ai communiqué au cours de notre conversation téléphonique de ce jour, je vise de recevoir le montant de 10,000. - $ pour l'action slovaque-hongroise ainsi que 6,000. - $ pour l'action italienne. Je remettrai le premier montant immédiatement à Monsieur Kopaczy. Pour le reste j'attendrai notre prochaine entrevue.

Veuillez agréer, cher Monsieur, avec mes vifs remerciements, l'expression de nos sentiments les plus dévoués.

[Signature]

(Gerbert M. Bieghler)
Monsieur,

J’accuse réception de votre lettre du 11 courant et ai pris bonne note du télégramme que vous aimeriez expédier à Monsieur Louis SEGAL, du "National Workers' Alliance." Je rentre demain à Berne et ferai partir votre dépêche probablement mercredi.

J’aimerais vous suggérer que nous déjeunions ensemble avec vos amis Monsieur Guy et Monsieur Gros lundi prochain, le 21 août, si cela vous convient. Pourriez-vous me passer un coup de fil au début de la matinée du 21 et nous fixerons l’heure et le lieu.

En attendant le plaisir de vous revoir et de rencontrer vos amis, je vous prie d’agréer, Monsieur, l’expression de mes sentiments bien distingués.

En vous remerciant d’avance, je vous prie d’agréer, Monsieur, l’expression de mes sentiments distingués.

Monsieur Marc Jarblum
37, Quai Wilson,
Genève.

Je vous prie de me dire quand je pourrai vous voir à Genève, ensemble avec mes amis André Kay, député, et Louis Gros, sénateur.

Bien à vous,
Genève, le 11 août 1944.

Monsieur
Roswell D. McClelland,
Special Assistant to the American Minister
Légation des Etats Unis d'Amérique,
B 8 N E.

Cher Monsieur McClelland,

Je viens de recevoir un télégramme de mon ami Louis Selig, Secrétaire Général de National Workers' Alliance, 45 East 17th Street à New York, dont voici l'extrait :

"BOTH CABLES RECEIVED FUNDS FORTHCOMING SHORTLY GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES ADVISE INFORMATION ABOUT UNDERGROUND MUST COME THROUGH WAR REFUGEE BOARD WASHINGTON".

Je vous prie donc de bien vouloir lui faire parvenir la réponse ci-incluse.

En vous remerciant d'avance, je vous prie d'agréer, Monsieur, l'expression de mes sentiments respectueux.

Marc Jarblum

P.S. Je vous prie de me dire quand je pourrai vous voir à Genève, ensemble avec mes amis Amédée Guy, député, et Louis Gros, sénateur.

Bien à vous
From McClelland for WRB.

"I received your cable of July 27th. In collaboration with general French Resistance our underground is active in specifically Jewish military groups in behalf of persecuted Jews, fighting both occupant and the French milice. They help to evacuate and hide also. Severe losses among our most active comrades were suffered recently. We need your urgent help."

The message quoted above is from Marc Jarblum for Louis Segal, of the National Workers' Alliance, 45 East 17th Street, New York.

HARRISON

$21.30

RDM:mjb:mf
In duplicate.
Copy to RDM
For WRB from McClelland.

For Leon Rubowitzki, World Jewish Congress, from Gerhart Rieger: "Your cable No. 119. Reports indicating that deported Hungarian Jews were sent Germany conformity agreement to provide Hungarian workers for German war industry are obviously Hungarian propaganda. We have no knowledge any such agreement. I understand that Hungarian Government in their reply to ICRC asking where deported people had been taken declared they had been sent to Germany for purposes of 'Arbeitseinsatz'. Apparently similar communication was made to Swiss Government. I understand furthermore that ICRC then asked Hungarian authorities whereabouts of deported aged people, children, women, etc., but received no answer."

HARRY SON

$26.80

RDM:mjb\$nf
Copy to RDM
October 21, 6 p.m., 1944

No.: 2873

Received: August 22, 9 a.m.

PARAPHRASE

No. 131 from the War Refugee Board.

For McClelland.

Please transmit the following message to Gerhard Rieger, 37 Quai Wilson, Geneva, Switzerland:

When approached by the Belgian Legation, the ICRC stated its inability again to request authorization from the Germans to visit Jewish camps in Belgium. The ICRC also expressed its fear that a new request would endanger the sending of foodstuffs to these camps.

It is our conviction that the Red Cross could improve the situation of the Jews only by stressing repeatedly the right of interned Jews to be treated as civilian internees by analogy under the Convention of Geneva. The energetic action of the Red Cross in the case of the Hungarian Jews proves that the authority of this committee can still achieve much, particularly at the present stage of the war. Also wonder whether foodstuffs are actually received by Jewish refugees in Belgian camps. Signed: A. Leon Kubowitzki of the WJC.

Hull
Bern, August 22, 1944.

Dear Mr. Riegner:

I have pleasure in quoting below a message which has been received for you from the World Jewish Congress:

"When approached by the Belgian Legation, the ICRC stated its inability again to request authorization from the German government to visit Jewish camps in Belgium. The ICRC also expressed its fear that a new request would endanger the sending of foodstuffs to these camps.

"It is our conviction that the Red Cross could improve the situation of the Jews only by stressing repeatedly the right of interned Jews to be treated as civilian internes by analogy under the Convention of Geneva. The energetic action of the Red Cross in the case of the Hungarian Jews proves that the authority of this Committee can still achieve much, particularly at the present stage of the war." Also wonder whether foodstuffs are actually received by Jewish refugees in Belgian camps.

Leon Rubinstein of the WJC.

Thanking you in advance. Sincerely yours,

very sincerely

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

Mr. Gerhard Riegner,
Care of the American Consulate, Geneva.
Dear Mr. McClelland,

I have the honor to enclose herewith copy of a cable which I have just received from our headquarters in New York and concerning a memorandum which the World Jewish Congress has submitted to the Conference of the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees at the occasion of their present session in London. I am equally enclosing a note in French language on the same subject.

I am sure that you will be interested in reading this document and I should be obliged to you if you would kindly inform of its content the American Minister as well as Mr. Huddle.

Thanking you in advance, I am

very sincerely yours

(G. M. Riegner)
number 123 we requested london office submit intergovernmental conference following program regarding hungarian jews first public declaration britain united states that jews occupied europe are under their protection respect physical safety second public statement interredcross that considers jews deprived freedom movement as civilian internees analogy geneva convention 1929 and determined obtain recognition as such third appropriate steps interredcross churches to obtain said status civilian internees fourth public statement great britain united states that territories under their administration open jews who can be rescued also that will care maintain feed and settle after war all jews granted asylum any european country fifth simultaneous public declaration by neutral countries that doors open jews occupied europe sixth presentation note to hungary by britain united states through protecting powers also by interredcross asking her repatriate jews already deported and establish machinery care protection in germany poland until repatriation seventh substantial increase redcross delegation in hungary view having one permanent delegate every important center eighth allocation by Britain united states to interredcross considerable amounts pledged ninth adoption concrete measures evacuation hungarian jews especially children to safe havens special stress being laid palestine country of refuge turkey as transit tenth application food program finally authorized economic warfare division not to camps without jews as those suggested by interredcross but jewish internment labor extermination camps eleventh urgent adoption measures leading to destruction murder installations in death camps = nahum goldman leon kubowitzki
Une démarche du Congrès Juif Mondial auprès de la Conférence du Comité intergouvernemental pour les réfugiés.

Le Comité Exécutif du Congrès Juif Mondial, par l'intermédiaire de son Bureau permanent à Londres, vient de soumettre à la Conférence du Comité intergouvernemental pour les réfugiés, qui se tient actuellement à Londres, un mémoire concernant les mesures de secours à entreprendre en faveur des Juifs hongrois.

Dans ce mémoire, le Congrès Juif Mondial demande:

1. Que la Grande-Bretagne et les États-Unis déclarent publiquement que les Juifs en Europe occupée se trouvent sous leur protection en ce qui concerne leur sécurité physique.

2. Que la Croix-Rouge Internationale déclare publiquement qu'elle considère les Juifs privés de leur liberté de mouvement comme internés civils en analogie avec la Convention de Genève de 1929 et qu'elle est déterminée à obtenir une reconnaissance des Juifs comme internés civils.

3. Que la Croix-Rouge Internationale et les Églises prennent les mesures appropriées en vue de l'adoption du statut d'internés civils pour les Juifs.

4. Que la Grande-Bretagne et les États-Unis déclarent publiquement que les territoires sous leur administration sont ouverts aux Juifs qui peuvent être sauvés et qu'ils assureront l'entretien, le ravitaillement et l'établissement après la guerre de tous les Juifs auxquels un asile a été accordé dans n'importe quel pays européen.

5. Que simultanément les pays neutres déclarent publiquement que leurs portes sont ouvertes aux Juifs des pays occupés de l'Europe.

6. Que la Grande-Bretagne et les États-Unis adressent, par l'intermédiaire des puissances protectrices et de la Croix-Rouge Internationale, une note diplomatique à la Hongrie lui demandant
Geneva, August 28, 1944.

Roswell D. McClelland Esq.,
Special Assistant to the American Minister,
Legation of the United States of America,
BERNE,

Dear Mr. McClelland,

Mr. Jarblum and myself received the following cable from Dr. L. Kubowitzki of the World Jewish Congress in New York:

"number 129 french committee request urgently summary results children rescue action stop kindly forward through war refugee board."

I take the liberty of enclosing herewith a reply to this cable in two copies, and should feel obliged to you if you would kindly forward it as soon as possible to Washington for communication to Dr. L. Kubowitzki.

Thanking you in advance, I am very sincerely yours,

Gerhart M. Riegner

Since Jan 1st 1944 - 623 refugee children under 16 have entered Switzerland from France - abandoned over Geneva frontier. About 30 more should be added for Jura frontier. About 600 more have arrived in company of parents or relatives - making total of about 1255. (Ref from L.B. CEF - Aug 29 1944)
To: Leon Kubowitzki, World Jewish Congress,
1834 Broadway
New York.

Replying yours 22/8 informing you that thanks funds put at our disposal by Congress and thanks funds put at disposal Jarblum by Palestine and by Joint following achievements were made in France: 1,350 children have been brought to Switzerland; 70 children to Spain. 700 children are hidden at the top. Furthermore 700 youngsters have been brought to Spain. 200 parents accompanying their children were evacuated. Finally 4,000 to 5,000 adults are hidden thanks action our people. The whole rescue action was necessarily intimately linked with illegal work of all kind notably procurement of monthly about 5,000 identity, rationing and worker’s cards birth and baptism certificates etc. as well as appropriate equipment of armed convoys to frontiers. At present moment it is impossible to separate rescue children adults according various funds utilised as whole action was organised by our people with all available means. Our own participation amounted to more than eighteen million French francs. Our merit is to have initiated the whole action. Ourselves awaiting details from France which shall communicate as soon as possible.

= Jarblum  Riegener

Geneva, August 26, 1944.
DEAR DR. RIEGNER:

Thank you for your letter of August 22nd enclosing a copy of a cable which you recently received from the World Jewish Congress embodying the latter's recommendations to the Intergovernmental Conference on Refugees in London. I must state that I find most of the requests rather ambitious in their scope, and feel somewhat pessimistic that any very considerable results will be secured along these lines. Requests, for instance, to the Hungarian Government or to neutrals to take favorable action on behalf of Jews in Hungary will remain largely platonic unless the German hold on this country can be broken. Let us hope that recent military and political developments will attain this end in the near future.

With reference to point No. 10 concerning M.E.W. permission, recently received by the International Red Cross, to receive parcels through the blockade for prisoners in German concentration camps, it might be pointed out that the volume of such assistance is very small in comparison to that, particularly financial, which goes to Jews in Europe. I have been particularly anxious to develop programs of relief under the War Refugee Board to persecuted persons in Nazi hands other than Jews to whom considerable relief is already being given. As you know, this whole question of distribution of food parcels is governed by practical considerations of the reasonable possibility of delivery, which unfortunately do not exist for the greater part of the Jewish camps, with the exception of Theresienstadt.

Sincerely yours,

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

Dr. Gerhart M. Riegner,
World Jewish Congress,
37 Quai Wilson,
Geneva.
Fro a :

Code:

Jarlblum and Dr. A. Silberschein, 37, Quai Wilson, Geneva, should be informed that license No. W-275 has been issued by Treasury to Poale Zion Organization and the Jewish National Workers Alliance, New York City, permitting them as disbursing trustees to make arrangements for rescue and relief operations in enemy and enemy-occupied areas. Terms of this license are identical with those of license W-2229 (Department's 2438 July 17) which was issued to the Queen Wilhelma Fund Inc. of New York City, and the operations which it covers have the approval of the Department, Treasury, and WRB. Immediate remittance will be made under specific Treasury license by Poale Zion Organization and the Jewish National Workers Alliance of the equivalent in Swiss francs of $8,000, and an additional amount of Swiss francs equivalent to $10,000 will be remitted in the near future, to finance the operations contemplated under this license.

Hull

In duplicate

Received with Subject 28 Jan 1945
For Action
Answered
No.
LET. to Messrs. Jarblum and Riegner

CASE FILE

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department
Date: August 26, 9 p.m., 1944
No.: 2347
Code: Case
Received: August 27, 2 p.m.

PARAPHRASE

WRU No. 144. Please deliver following message, signed by A. Leon Kubowitzki of the World Jewish Congress, to Jarblum and Riegner in Geneva.

According to Barlae, Turkish consulates in Sofia, Bucharest and Budapest have been instructed to issue transit visas for refugees in groups of fifty en route for Palestine.

HULL

In duplicate

Copy in PA

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept., Letter, 11-11-72

By R. J. Parks Date SEP. 26 1972
From: Department
Date: August 26, 7 p.m., 1944
No.: 2946
Received: August 27, 5 p.m.

Code:

PARAPHRASE


122 Substantial increase in Intercross delegates to Hungary considered essential in view of persisting rumors that deportation of Hungarian Jews continues. As regards those who have already been deported, since Hungary asserts that it has only delivered manpower for German factories, we have requested that ICRC inquire whether Hungarian representatives in Germany take the same care of said manpower as is customary in the case of non-Jewish workers. Please support strongly. Executive's gratitude and appreciation should be expressed to all concerned for the decisive demarches in Intercross.

HULL

In duplicate

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-15-72
By R. S. Parks Date SEP 26 1972
Bern, August, 29th, 1944.

Mr. Hans JABEHN and
Dr. A. STIBORNEIN
a/o World Jewish Congress,
37, Quai Wilson, Geneva.

Dear Sirs:

The Legation has been requested to inform you that License No. 6-276 has been issued by the Treasury Department to "People's Zion Organization" and the "Jewish National Workers Alliance," New York City, permitting them to distri- buting occupants to make arrangements for rescue and relief operations in enemy and enemy-occupied territory. The terms of this license are identical with that issued to the World Jewish Congress and communicated to Dr. Siegmund in the Legation's letter of February 10, 1944, and the operations which it covers have the approval of the Department of State, the Treasury Department and the War Resettlement Board. For your guidance the terms of the license are as follows:

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

1. The use of specific authorizations for the purpose of acquiring and using local currency.
2. The use of specific authorizations for the purpose of acquiring and using local currency.
3. The use of specific authorizations for the purpose of acquiring and using local currency.

The total sum or other claims against any elected account established under this license, plus the sums which are paid out or otherwise obligated under it...
(a) By purchasing in Switzerland the currency or exchange of the country in which the operations are to take place, provided your representatives are reasonably sure that the sellers of such currency have held it since before the date as of which that country was frozen by the United States Government, or that, if the currency was acquired subsequently thereto, the acquisition took place under circumstances from which the enemy did not benefit, your representatives when possible to consult with the American Legation, Bern. Proceeds of such local currency or exchange may be reimbursed in Swiss francs at the prevailing unofficial rate of exchange in Switzerland.

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

(c) By purchasing in enemy or enemy-occupied territory, the necessary local funds, goods, services, or exchange, reimbursement to be made in foreign exchange or free currency notes (i.e., the sending of free foreign currency notes, such as Swiss francs or dollars into enemy or enemy-occupied territory), provided that reasonable steps to the extent possible are taken by your representatives to prevent such notes or exchange from being acquired by persons from whom the enemy may receive them.

The method outlined in No. (c) is to be resorted to only "in extremis," that is in the face of a serious emergency situation, when local currency cannot be secured by the safer methods set forth in paragraphs (1 & 2), or when such local currency is inadequate to effect the desired operations. Method A (3) should only be employed after prior consultation with the Legation.

"(a) Individual licenses will be issued by the Treasury Department authorizing the use of specific sums under this license. The total amounts represented by claims against any blocked account established under this license, plus the sums which are paid out or otherwise obligated under it
are not to be greater in the aggregate than the total amount in dollars (or the equivalent in foreign currency—i.e., Swiss francs) which the Treasury Department has so specifically authorized.

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

"(d) Periodic reports on the operations carried out pursuant to this license should be filed by your representatives with the American Legation at Bern.

The message which we received from the State Department regarding this license goes on to state that:

"Immediate remittance will be made under specific Treasury License by 'Poale Zion Organization' and the 'Jewish National Workers' Alliance' of the equivalent in Swiss francs of $3,000, and an additional amount of Swiss francs equivalent to $10,000 will be remitted in the near future, to finance the operations contemplated under this license."

It would be appreciated if you would acknowledge the receipt of this letter and that you have taken careful note of the terms of the license as set forth.

Sincerely yours,

Roswell McClelland
Special Assistant to the American Minister.

RW/MC/16
Copy noted for Mr. Jariat.
Via Courier
From Department

Bern, August 29, 1944.

Messrs. Marc Jarblum and Gerhart Riegner,
Care of American Consulate,
Geneva.

Sirs:

I take pleasure in quoting below two messages which have been received for you from A. Leon Kubowitski of the World Jewish Congress:

Reference is made to the appended paragraph of the "According to Barlas, Turkish consulates in Sofia, Bucharest and Budapest have been instructed to issue transit visas for refugees in groups of fifty en route for Palestine." that your mention of Italian and Slovenian rescue plans refers to the Legation.

"Substantial increase in Intercross delegates to Hungary considered essential in view of persisting rumors that deportation of Hungarian Jews continues. As regards those who have already been deported, since Hungary asserts that it has only delivered manpower for German factories, we have requested that ICRC inquire whether Hungarian representatives in Germany take the same care of said manpower as is customary in the case of non-Jewish workers. Please support strongly. Executive's gratitude and appreciation should be expressed to all concerned for the decisive démarche in Intercross."

With reference to No. 1099, please refer to the Department's telegram No. 2817 of August 18, 1944.

Sincerely yours,

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

Copy made for Mr. Jarblum
PARAPHRASE

No. 150 from War Refugee Board.
For McClelland.

Reference is made to the second paragraph of the Legation's telegram No. 5068.

It is assumed by the Board that your mention of Italian and Slovakian rescue plans refers to the Legation's telegram No. 4666, of July 21, and 5079, of August 7. If this assumption is not correct, your clarification would be appreciated.

We appreciate your support of the project described in your 4666 (including financial aid). You are authorized at your discretion, to continue such support.

With reference to the Legation's No. 5079, please refer to the Department's telegram No. 2817 of August 16, 1944.

HULL

/hrw
in duplicate

x 848 Jews in Italy

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, L-11-72
By R. H. Furis Date, SEP 26, 1972
Bern, August 31, 1944.

Dear Mr. Riegner:

I merely wish to send you a few lines to acknowledge your letter of the 28th and to let you know that the wire for Dr. Kubowitzki has been dispatched.

Sincerely yours,

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

Mr. Gerhart M. Riegner,
World Jewish Congress,
37 Quai Wilson,
Geneva.

EDM/ajb
Monsieur Roswell D. McClelland
Special Assistant to the American Minister
Legation of the United States
Bern

Cher Monsieur,

Je m'empresse de vous exprimer mes vifs remerciements pour votre lettre du 29 août. J'ai pris connaissance de toutes les conditions de la licence et bien entendu, je m'y conformerai. J'ai remis la copie de votre lettre au Dr. Silberschein.

Je pense rentrer dans quelques jours en France et je profite de cette occasion pour vous remercier pour toute aide et conseils que vous m'aviez apportés.

Votre bien dévoué,

A. Jarblin
Dear Mr. McClelland,

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated July 27, and wish to inform you that after our various personal conversations I have remitted the amount of 25,000.- Swiss francs to the Italian Resistance Movement.

Within a short time I shall inform you of the details relative to the question as to how the funds are to be transferred to Italy, and whether the amount will remain entirely in Switzerland.

Very sincerely yours,

[Signature]
Geneva, August 3, 1944.

Roswell D. McClelland Esq.,
Special Assistant to the American Minister,
Legation of the United States of America,
B.S. H.

Dear Mr. McClelland,

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated July 27, and wish to inform you that after our various personal conversations I have remitted the amount of 25,000.- Swiss francs to the Italian Resistance Movement.

Within a short time I shall inform you of the details relative to the question as to how the funds are to be transferred to Italy, and whether the amount will remain entirely in Switzerland.

Very sincerely yours,

G. K. [Signature]
Geneva, September 4, 1944.

To Mr. Roswell D. McClelland Esq.,
Special Assistant to the American Minister
Legation of the United States of America
in London.

World Jewish Congress
September 1944.

yours very sincerely

Gerhard M. Rieger

enclosure: 1 cable draft.
Roswell D. McClelland Esq.,
Special Assistant to the American Minister
Legation of the United States of America
BERNE.

Dear Mr. McClelland,

I venture to request you to kindly forward the enclosed cable draft to Washington for delivery to Mr. L. Kubowitzki of the World Jewish Congress in New York.

Thanking you so much in advance, I am

yours very sincerely

Gerhard M. Riegner

enclosure: 1 cable draft.
World Jewish Congress

Geneva, September 5, 1944.

Roswell D. McClelland Esq.,
Special Assistant to the American Minister
Legation of the United States of America
E.R.N.E.

Dear Mr. McClelland,

Referring to our to-day's conversation by telephone I should be very obliged to you if you would kindly transmit the enclosed cable draft through your Legation in Stockholm to Mr. Milel STORCH, our representative in Sweden.

With many thanks in advance, I am

yours very sincerely

Gerhard M. Hiegener

Enclosure: 1 cable draft.
For Olsen from McClelland:

Any additional confidential information concerning reported negotiations mentioned in the message quoted below which you might be able to send to me would be valuable in assisting us to gauge intentions of the Nazis who have similarly been attempting here in Switzerland to secure ransom, particularly in goods for Hungarian and other Jews in their hands.

From Gerhard Riegner, WJC, Geneva for Eiel Storch, representative World Jewish Congress, 10 Furusundsgatan:

"With reference to our telephone conversation of September 4, I would appreciate your transmitting through the American Legation as detailed a report as possible on Stockholm negotiations with Germans concerning the liberation of various Jewish groups from Hungary and Germany. You should indicate especially which groups are concerned, their number, conditions of the Germans, the present state of negotiations and the prospects. Please keep us informed."

This communication is from McClelland for the WJB representative in Stockholm.

HARRISON

RDM:mjb:mf
Copy to RDM
From: Department
Date: September 16, 11 a.m., 1944
No: 3199
Code: 
Received: September 17, 9 a.m.

P'amphmase
WBB No. 168. For McClelland.

Please deliver following message to Jerusalem Rieger in Geneva from World Jewish Congress, New York:

Our No. 132. Seven hundred Jews, we have been informed, were deported from Fossoli camp to Germany. Repeated requests have been made of Intercessus that it demand from the Fascist authorities in northern Italy the right to include within the scope of its work Jews who are deprived of freedom of movement, as Italians have always conceded application of prisoners of war treaty to civilian internees. It is suggested that Intercessus make formal representation to the Fascist authorities. You are requested to urge that such action be taken. Leon Kubowitzki.

Hull

In duplicate

Address envelope to Rieger only.

Copy to FA

Washington 25, D.C.
Via Courier

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

No: 2754

Barn, September 19, 1944.

Dear Mr. Rieger:

I am pleased to quote below a message which has been received for you and Mr. Marc Jurblum from the World Jewish Congress in New York through the facilities of the Department of State and the War Refugee Board:

"Our No. 132. 700 Jews, we have been informed, were deported from Passol camp to Germany. Repeated requests have been made at Interross that it demand from the Fascist authorities and the authorities in Northern Italy the right to include within the scope of its work Jews who are deprived of freedom of movement, as Italian Jews have always conceded application of prisoners of war treaty to civilian internees. It is suggested that Interross make formal representation to the Fascist authorities. You are requested to urge that such action be taken. Leon Subowitski, " by our people in France. Accessible such rescue work is linked with illegal activity. Sincerely yours,

Roswell D. McClelland, the Special Assistant to the American Minister. All available means was organized as a whole. Our own participation amounted to more than 15,000,000 French francs. Further detailed information from France which we shall communicate as soon as possible is awaited.

Mr. Gerhart Rieger,

Care of American Consulate,

Geneva.

Mr. Gerhart Rieger,

Care of American Consulate,

Geneva.

HARRISON

washington 25, D.C.
TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department

Date: September 2, 9 a.m., 1944
No: 5754
Charged to:

PARAPHRASE

The following is from McClelland for WHA and contains a message from Jarblum and Hgebung for Kubowitzki of the World Jewish Congress:

"With reference to your telegram of August 22, I wish in reply to thank you for the funds placed at our disposal by the World Jewish Congress as well as those placed at Jarblum's disposal by the Jewish Agency for Palestine and the Joint Distribution Committee. With regard to France the following has been achieved: Since October 1943 1350 children and young people up to 20 years of age have reached Switzerland. Some 700 have been hidden in France while 70 children have reached Spain. There have further been evacuated to Spain some 700 young people as well as 200 parents accompanying their children. From 4,000 to 5,000 adults have been helped to hide by our people in France. Necessarily such rescue work is linked with illegal activity of all sorts, particularly the procuring of about 5,000 false identity and ration cards, work permits, birth and baptismal certificates per month. Considerable expenditure has been necessary for appropriate equipment for armed convoys to the frontiers. It is impossible at the present moment to separate the rescue of children from that of adults according to the various funds used, an action by our people using all available means was organized as a whole. Our own participation amounted to more than 18,000,000 French francs. Further detailed information from France which we shall communicate as soon as possible is awaited."

$62.15.

HARRISON

HDW/mjb
In duplicate

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Record 1-11-72
By H. H. Fiske Date SEP 26 1972
To: Department

Date: September 8, 11 a.m., 1944.

No: 5928

Charged to:

Paraphrase

Following from WRB representative McClelland for WRB.

"With reference to your cable no. 128. Apart from the negotiations which Dr. Schwartz of the JDC has commissioned Saly Mayer to conduct, and of which - insofar as we know details - we do not expect great results, it is impossible at the present time to submit any concrete rescue program regarding Hungary since every minute the political and military situation is changing. According to unconfirmed information, deportations appear to have continued from the Hungarian provinces, at least to a certain extent. We have made, and renewed on several occasions, all possible demarches with Intercross and its President, Judge Max Huber personally, as well as with other competent authorities to whom we submitted all communications received from you on the situation in Hungary and that of the people who have been deported already. We insisted especially that the utmost be done to prevent the mass murder of Jews in Hungary and other countries at the last moment. We do not believe in the effective action of Intercross as such official bodies appear not to have access to those German authorities in whose hands lies the real power in Germany and in countries under their domination. In particular we have no illusion whatever as to the possibility of the realization of the rescue program which was announced in the July communiques of Intercross, since, in our opinion, the present situation excludes any important measure of evacuation. Intercross has not yet even received transit visas either for their two special delegates for Hungary or for the subordinate staff, which fact prevents them from undertaking in Hungary any effective action and supervision.

The receipt of $10,000 for Hungary is hereby acknowledged.

[Signature]"
acknowledged and request that you transmit to us maximum funds for the same purpose. New possibilities may occur any minute in view of the changing situation. We are watching the situation closely and are investigating all possible means of rescue of small groups at least.

We financed a series of publications concerning the situation in Hungary, reports on extermination camps in Upper Silesia and the Jewish struggle against the Nazis. These publications were widely circulated. We request that you send us urgently a special publicity fund for the continuation of this work and activities of a similar type."

The message quoted above is from Jarblum and Dr. Riegner for Kubowitzki of the World Jewish Congress.

HARRISON

RDM: nf
Copy to RDM

washington 25, [.]
Bern, September 28, 1944.

We are especially interested in the abovementioned information concerning persons believed to be at present in the internment camp of Neu-Belsen, Kreis Gelle, near Hanover, Germany.

Dear Dr. Riegher:

The War Refugee Board desires to instigate an inquiry with a view to obtaining as complete lists as possible of all endangered Jews at present in Germany or German-occupied territory, whether they are in internment camps for American nationals or not, in whose names "ad hoc" nationality documents of various Latin American countries have been issued. The War Refugee Board is particularly interested in receiving the names and present or last known addresses of persons for whom documents were issued in the past but who are believed not to be in physical possession of these papers.

In compiling such lists the date of birth of the document holder (in case only the head of a family possesses the nationality certificate, his date of birth only need be given), his or her present or last known address, the date and place of issuance of the document, the consular office responsible, and, naturally, the name of the country in which the nationality document was issued should all be included, whenever possible, on such lists. Please establish your lists in copies (seven) on thin paper.

In the interest of assembling these lists as rapidly as possible, the War Refugee Board is turning to you for your kind cooperation in the hope that you will be able to supply such information at least for a certain number of cases known to you.

We

Dr. Ernest Riegher,
World Jewish Congress,
37, Quai Wilson,
Geneva.
We are especially interested in the above-mentioned information concerning persons believed to be at present in the internment camp of Bergen-Belsen, Kreis Celle, near Hanover, Germany.

It will be appreciated if such lists could be forwarded to me (c/o American Legation, Elfenstrasse 6, Bern) in the near future.

Sincerely yours,

Dear Mr. McClelland,
Special Assistant to the American Minister,

May I request your assistance in having the enclosed cable draft to Dr. Isaac Rubowitski of the World Jewish Congress in New York. The text of the enclosed cable draft implies my reply to Mr. Rubowitski's cable which reads as follows:

"Number 134 London office officially informed Netherlands government, creation, special department under direction, Dutch rescue Jewish deportees, and asked for practical suggestions. Please consult Dr. Palas Daniels and wire fullest your ideas through war refugees board."

Thanking you so much in advance, I am

yours very sincerely,

[Signature]

Gerhart M. Riegner

Enclosure: one cable draft.
Geneva, October 2, 1944.

Roswell D. McClelland Esq.,
Special Assistant to the American Minister,
Legation of the United States of America,
B N E.

Dear Mr. McClelland,

Concerning the arrangements which have been made for the transportation of Mr. Leon York, who had been interned in a camp under the control of the German authorities and had been asked to leave the country, I enclose the cable draft as follows:

World Jewish Congress
October 1944.

Enclosure: one cable draft.

Sincerely,

Gerhart M. Rieger

Washington 25, D.C.
Geneva, October 2, 1944.

Roswell D. McClelland Esq.,
Special Assistant to the American Minister,
Legation of the United States of America,
BERNE.

Dear Mr. McClelland,

May I request you to kindly dispatch through the
War Refugee Board the enclosed cable draft to Dr. Leon
Kubowitzki of the World Jewish Congress in New York.

The text of the enclosed cable draft implies my
reply to Mr. Kubowitzki's cable which reads as follows:

"number 134 London office officially informed
Netherlands government creation special department under
direction Dentz rescue Dutch Jewish deportees and asked
for practical suggestions stop Please consult Dr. Polak
Daniels and wire fullest your ideas through warrefugee-
board."

Thanking you so much in advance, I am

yours very sincerely

Gerhart M. Riegner

Enclosure: one cable draft.
On your cable No. 134, discussed fully whole problem with Dr. Polak Daniels who on behalf of Dutch government has established in Switzerland repatriation unit for deported Dutch subjects so far without equipment. Have studied the excellent instructions he received this respect from Mr. Ferwerda, Commissioner for repatriation of Dutch government.

It is impossible for us to make any concrete suggestions until we know exactly what role UNRRA respectively other international or governmental bodies intend to play in this whole matter. We would be most grateful for any detailed report on this subject. As greatest number of remnants of deported Jews will be found in Eastern Europe notably Polish and other territories liberated by Red Army the most urgent problem is, in our mind, to see that special units dealing with enquiry and first assistance to deported Jews should be established and be admitted by Soviet authorities to follow at shortest distance possible advancing Russian troops in territories liberated by Soviet Army. These units should deal with deportees' registration, medical aid, relief, welfare, social work, preparation of transport for repatriation or emigration. Reports of these units should currently be sent both to national authorities and an international centre dealing with deportees' questions. Arrangement for admission such units should be made immediately with Soviet authorities. We shall appreciate to know whether you are in contact this respect with Polish National Committee in Lublin especially Dr. Sommerstein. We should equally like to know your opinion concerning necessity of establishment of special Jewish international central body for deportees problems. This depends on plans intentions of UNRRA other official bodies. Informing you that interred cross is intending establish here one single central alphabetic fichier for all displaced people without distinction nationality religion race etc. but note that interred cross without any relations with Soviet authorities.

Geneva, October 2, 1944.

Gerard Riegner
TELEGRAM SENT

To: Secstate
Washington

Code: 

Date: Oct 5, 1944
No: 6629

Charged to: 

For WFB from McClellan.

For Kubowitski, World Jewish Congress, from Rieger.

"Your cable No. 134. Discussed fully whole problem with Dr. Polak Daniels who, on behalf Dutch Government, has organized in Switzerland repatriation unit for deported Dutch subjects so far without equipment. Have studied excellent instructions he received this respect from Mr. Ferwerda Commissioner for repatriation of Dutch Government. It is impossible for us make any concrete suggestions until we know exactly what role UNRRA and other international or governmental bodies intend to play this whole matter. We would be most grateful for any details this subject. As large majority remnant deported Jews will be found in Eastern Europe particularly Poland and other territories liberated by Soviet Army most urgent problem is, in our mind, to see that special units dealing with location and first assistance to deported Jews should be formed and admitted by

Washington 25, D.C.
by Soviet authorities to follow at shortest distance possible advancing Russian troops in territories liberated.

These units should deal with deportees' registration, medical aid, relief, welfare and social work, preparation of transport for repatriation or emigration. Reports of these units should currently be sent both to national authorities and an international center dealing with questions of deportees. Arrangement for admission such units should be made immediately with Soviet authorities. We shall appreciate knowing whether you are in contact this respect with Polish National Committee in Dublin especially Dr. Sommerstein. We should equally welcome your opinion concerning necessity setting up special Jewish international central body to deal with problem of deportees. This depends on plans, intentions of UNRRA and other official bodies.

IGRC intends establish here one single central alphabetic register for all displaced people without distinction nationality religion race etc. but call to your attention fact that IGRC without any relations with Soviet authorities.

Harrison

Washington 25, D.C.
Please deliver following message to Rieger in Geneva.

"List of 116 bearer of Latin American passports has been forwarded through the War Refugee Board to McClelland for exchange purposes. Leon Kubowitzki."

HULL

In duplicate

re: Carmen FA

Washington 25, D.C.
Dear Mr. Riegner:

I am pleased to quote below a message which has been received for you from the World Jewish Congress through the facilities of the Department of State and the War Refugee Board:

"The list of 116 bearers of Latin American passports has been forwarded through the War Refugee Board to McClelland for exchange purposes. Leon Kubowitzki, representing each person listed therein from the World Jewish Congress for transmission to Gerhard Riegner, Geneva."

Sincerely yours,

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

Mr. Gerhart M. Riegner,
World Jewish Congress,
37 Quai Wilson,
Geneva.

HLM/mjb

Enclosure:
Copy of communication from the World Jewish Congress.

Washington 25, D.C.
To the

Officer in charge of the American Mission,

Bern.

The Secretary of State forwards at the request of
the War Refugee Board a list of names and data concerning
each person listed therein from the World Jewish
Congress for transmission to Gerhard Riegner, Geneva.

Enclosure:

+ Copy of communication from
the World Jewish Congress.
Cher Monsieur,

Je viens d'apprendre par le Journal de Genève que Madame Mc Clelland a eu un petit garçon et je me permets de vous présenter, ainsi qu'à Madame Mc Clelland, mes très vives et cordiales félicitations à l'occasion de cet heureux événement. Je forme, en même temps, les vœux les plus sincères pour l'avenir de votre fils et espère qu'il connaîtra un monde plus heureux et plus humain que celui dont nous sommes aujourd'hui les témoins.

Je sais que cette occasion pour vous dire une fois de plus combien j'apprécie le soutien que vous ne cessez de donner à nos efforts et la compréhension que nous avons toujours rencontrée chez vous. Soyez assuré qu'une telle compréhension nous facilite la lourde tâche que nous devons entreprendre dans une situation vraiment désespérée.

Avec mes meilleurs vœux pour vous et votre famille, croyez-moi, cher Monsieur,

votre bien dévoué

G. de Rochan

Monsieur R. Mc Clelland
7, rue des Chaudronnier
Genève

Washington 25, D.C.
Geneva, October 25, 1944.

Roswell D. McClelland Esq.,
Special Assistant to the American Minister,
Legation of the United States of America,
BERNE.

Dear Mr. McClelland,

I am sending you herewith the whole correspondence with the International Red Cross concerning our request to extend the guarantees granted to civil internees to the Jews deprived of their liberty of movement in Germany and the occupied territories. You will note that the communication of President Huber must be handled as confidential.

I am equally enclosing a cable draft for our office in New York resuming these negotiations, and am requesting you to forward it to Washington.

I am furthermore enclosing herewith a note to our New York office with the whole correspondence attached, and beg to ask you to kindly send this communication by diplomatic bag to Washington.

Thanking you so much for your kindness, I am

very sincerely yours

Gerhart M. Rieger

Washington 25, D.C.
Dr. A. Silberschein

Monsieur
B. Mac Clelland
Legation des États-Unis
Bern e

Cher Monsieur,

J'étais obligé d'attendre aujourd'hui et longtemps au Consulat Français à cause de mon visa de transit que je n'étais plus à même de vous faire parvenir encore ici à Genève le texte du télégramme dont nous avons parlé.

Je me permets donc de vous transmettre le texte ci-joint, et je vous remercie très sincèrement que vous vouliez bien l'expédier au Congrès Juif Mondial à New York.

En outre vous trouvez ci-joint le cable de New York du 13 septembre qui contient l'invitation à la conférence du Congrès Juif Mondial. Je vous serais reconnaissant de bien vouloir me rendre ce télégramme après que vous en ayiez pris connaissance.

Veuillez agréer, cher Monsieur, mes salutations les meilleures.

[Signature]
Cher Monsieur,

J'étais obligé d'attendre aujourd'hui si longtemps au Consulat Français à cause de mon visa de transit que je n'étais plus à même de vous faire parvenir encore ici à Genève le texte du télégramme dont nous avons parlé.

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En outre vous trouvez ci-joint le cable de New York du 13 septembre qui contient l'invitation à la conférence du Congrès Juif Mondial. Je vous serais reconnaissant de bien vouloir me rendre ce télégramme après que vous en ayez pris connaissance.

Veuillez agréer, cher Monsieur, mes salutations les meilleures.

[Signature]
October 24, 1944.

Dear Mr. Rieger,

I understand that you will be arriving in Washington for the World Jewish Congress tomorrow. I will send the enclosed cable draft for you.

The Italian Legation has given Mr. Cantoni a passport, on condition that he receives an entry permit in Washington. He will need permission from Italian authorities in Washington.

The Italian Legation has given Mr. Cantoni a passport, on condition that he receives an entry permit in Washington. He will need permission from Italian authorities in Washington.

In the meantime, I hope to hear from you. Thank you for your continued efforts on behalf of Italian Jews.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Buenos Aires

October 24, 1944.

Enclosure: one cable draft.
Geneva, October 24, 1944.

Roswell D. McClelland Esq.,
Special Assistant to the American Minister,
Legation of the United States of America,
Bern.

Dear Mr. McClelland,

I venture to request you to kindly send the enclosed cable draft to the War Refugee Board in Washington for transmission to Dr. Leon Kubowitzki of the World Jewish Congress, New York.

Thanking you so much in advance, I am

very sincerely yours,

Gerhart Riegner

Enclosure: one cable draft.
Your #155 alarming news Hungary proceeded immediately requested interventions Interredcross and Swiss Political Department. Informing you that Interredcross passing cable their Budapest Delegate Schirmer of 17/10 indicating on that date situation Jews calm but expressing fear that every moment new measures be taken. Delegate informed also that Jewish Council opposed Jewish houses be-marked with special documents indicating the protection of CIIC. Political Department possessing later news stating that authorities proceeding already to evacuation of inhabitants Jewish houses to surroundings of Budapest and government not recognizing foreign interference and protection documents. Kraus Director Haloffice Budapest cabled 23/10 urgently appealing for USA help which indicates that situation deteriorated very much last days. I understand that also official American intervention was made last days Swiss Government. All information confidential. You should use all means propaganda your disposal view impress Hungarian Government and people

= Gerhart Riegner

Geneva, October 24, 1944.
For WRB from McClelland.

For Leon Kubowitzki, World Jewish Congress, from Gerhart Riegner:

"Your 155 Regarding alarming news Hungary proceeded immediately requested interventions Interorcross and Swiss Political Department. ICRC possesses cable their Budapest Delegate Schirmer dated October 17 indicating that on that date situation Jews calm but expressing fear that any moment new measures might be taken. Schirmer also stated Jewish Council had opposed marking Jewish houses with special placards indicating protection. Political Department received later news stating that authorities already proceeding evacuation inhabitants Jewish houses to surroundings of Budapest and government not recognizing foreign intervention and protection documents. Kraus Director Paloffice Budapest"
Budapest cabled October 23 urgently appealing for USA help which indicates that situation deteriorated very much last days. I understand that also official American intervention was made last days with Swiss Government. All this information confidential. You should use all propaganda means your disposal to influence Hungarian Government and people.

Harrison

RDM/Imp

Copy in FA
Copy in Accounts
TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department
Date: October 26, 7 p.m., 1944
No: 3653
Code: 
Received: October 27, 9 a.m.

PARAPHRASE

WRB No. 240. For Harrison and McCladd. Program for sending of food parcels to unassisted persons at Bergen Belsen and other camps under German control was presented to the Department, FEA and MEW for approval, without reference to WRB. The Department and FEA on October 20, in accord with MEW, authorized program calling for the shipment of 93 tons of food parcels to German-controlled camps. This plan, as developed by World Jewish Congress representative in Sweden, calls for the distribution of these food parcels under the supervision of the Swedish YMCA. Above for your information. As regards War Refugee Board's program for shipment of 300,000 parcels from the United States, American Red Cross will have the remaining 285,000 parcels ready for shipment by way of Marseilles in November. The instructions given in Legation's 3263 September 21 are all being observed by Amcorss.

STETTINIUS ACTING

In quadruplicate

WASHINGTON, D.C.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept., Legation, 11-13
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 26 1972
Dear Mr. Fehle:

I am pleased to enclose for your information and for forwarding to the World Jewish Congress, a set of rather interesting documents covering the discussions which have taken place during the past few months between the World Jewish Congress office at Geneva and the International Committee of the Red Cross. They concern the various attempts of the World Jewish Congress to secure the extension to Jews of the rights granted, by analogy to the Geneva Prisoner of War Convention of 1929, to interned civilians of belligerent countries in German hands.

Sincerely yours,

Enclosure:

Mr. John W. Fehle,
Executive Director,
War Refugee Board,
truly yours,
Washington, D. C.

RDM/mjb
Dear Dr. Riehman:

Confirming our telephone conversation of this morning I acknowledge your letter of October 25 enclosing the interesting documents relative to your discussions with the International Committee of the Red Cross during recent weeks.

The set intended for your office in the United States, along with your covering letter, has been forwarded by diplomatic courier and should reach your people within the next two weeks. For that reason, our Chancery felt that it could not undertake to cable the rather long summary of your démarches which you also enclosed. I regret that this was not possible, but then you will understand that our code room is very heavily taxed these days.

With kind regards, I remain,

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

R. McClelland
Special Assistant to the American Minister.

Dr. Gerhart M. Riehman
Care World Jewish Congress,
37, Quai Wilson, Geneva.
To: Department

Date: October 29, 1944, noon

No: 7193

Charged to:

For WRB from McClelland.

For Nahum Goldmann and Leon Rabinowitsch of

World Jewish Congress from Gerhart Riegner:

"Referring information concerning tragic

situation Jews Budapest contained in McClelland's
cable of October 25 to WRB, I can inform you con-

fidentially that Intercess protected energetically
to Hungarian Government against new deportations,
on basis promise received July 18 from Hungarian

authorities concerning cessation deportations

and threatened to publish breach of official

promise if action carried out." $50.00

HARRISON

In triplicate.

In duplicate to files

Washington 25, D.C.
Geneva, October 27, 1944.

Mr. McClelland,

Referring to my to-day's conversation I beg to inform you that I had this morning a conversation with Dr. Bachmann who confirmed me the communication you have already transmitted to Washington. He stated that their delegate Schirmer has already made a vigorous protest at the Hungarian Government and that he was anew instructed to communicate a very strong protest to the Hungarian Government based on the old promise they had made. The International Red Cross also menaced in their communication to be obliged to publish the news concerning the taking up of deportation, should this prove to be genuine.

I shall be obliged to you if you would kindly cable the enclosed draft to the World Jewish Congress in New York.

Thanking you in advance, I am

yours very sincerely,

Gerhart M. Rieagner

Washington D.C.
Referring information concerning tragic situation contained in McClelland's cable informing you that Hungarian Government against new deportations on basis of October 25 to WRB.

Geneva, October 27, 1944.
World Jewish Congress

November 1944.

Washington 25, D.C.
WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS
1834 BROADWAY 23
NEW YORK

RECEIVED TODAY AMERICAN VISA STOP VIEW LACK OF TIME AND TRAFFIC DIFFICULTIES VIA SPAIN ARRIVAL IN TIME ONLY POSSIBLE VIA PARIS STOP CABLE IF YOU BOOKED AIRPLANE PLACE FOR ME STOP IF NOT BOOK IMMEDIATELY AND ANSWER BY SAME WAY STOP CABLE ALSO EXACT BEGINNING AND DURATION CONFERENCE BECAUSE HERE RUMOURS PROPAGATION

ABRAHAM SILBERSCHEIN

Dear Sir McClean,

Referring to our recent conversations on this matter I have the honor to address to you herewith a letter to the World Jewish Congress in New York, in which are attached a number of lists of Jewish interests which are in the capacity of Bergman-Elman.

As I have already informed you our New York Office receives urgently these lists, and therefore I am requesting you to kindly dispatch them by diplomatic bag to the New York Office.

Thanking you in anticipation for your kindness, I am very sincerely yours.

[Signature]

Washington 25, D.C.
Geneva, November 1st, 1944

Roswell D. McClelland Esq.,
Special Assistant to the American Minister
Legation of the United States of America
BERNE.

Dear Mr. McClelland,

Referring to our various conversations on this matter
I have the honour to submit to you herewith a letter to
the World Jewish Congress in New York, to which are attached
a number of lists of Jewish internees in Theresienstadt and
in the Camp of Bergen-Belsen.

As I have already informed you our New York Office
needs urgently these lists, and therefore I am requesting
you to kindly dispatch them by diplomatic bag to the War
Refugee Board.

Thanking you in anticipation for your kindness, I am

very sincerely yours

Gerhart M. Riegner

Enclosure: lists of internees: one letter.
MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Huddle
From: Mr. McClelland Nov. 1, 1944.

Dr. Silberschein, according to information he furnished me, was invited to come to New York by the World Jewish Congress to take part in a conference (which was originally scheduled to start on Nov. 11th) dealing with the question of Jewish deportees and what further relief and rescue action in their behalf could be undertaken. Since time is so short he has asked me to transmit this wire for him to the WJC. I should be inclined to do it for diplomatic reasons, but would appreciate your thought on the matter.

R.D. McC.

Washington 25, D.C.
TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department

Date: November 1, 1944

Code: Brown

No.: Charged to:

For WRB from McClelland.
For World Jewish Congress from Abraham Silberschein.

"Received American Visa today. View lack of time and traffic difficulties via Spain arrival on time only possible via Paris. Cable if you booked airplane for me. If not book immediately and confirm. Also please cable exact date opening and duration conference because rumors here of prorogation."

$17.30

HARRISON

RDMoC.

In triplicate.
Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Dr. Leon Kreplin,
World Jewish Congress,
1934 Broadway,
New York.

Please convey in detail concerning Spanish
action favor Hungarian Jews at New York office
and inform us Spanish Jews authorities
of the situation.

Following our repeated intervention at CICR in treatment
of interned deported Jews as civil internees terms Geneva
Convention respectively Tokyo project, Professor Barekhardt
communicated us confidentially that CICR addressed on
October 2 official note to German ministry foreign affairs
claiming grant same guarantees as contained in Geneva
Convention and Tokyo Project to all foreign people sojourning
in Germany and occupied territories and in fact deprived
of liberty of movement and designed as "Schutzhaftlinie" of
foreign nationality. According to Barekhardt's
statement this notion is covering not only all foreign
workers political detainees but also all foreign
Jews interned or deported in Germany or occupied
territories. CICR now awaiting reply of German
government. Dispatched you documentation
concerning our negotiations with CICR this matter

Gerhart Riegner

1.11.44
Hillel Storch
Furusundsgatan 10
Stockholm

Please cable precise details concerning Swedish action favor Hungarian Jews as New York Office asking me intervene Irish Spanish Swiss authorities requesting protection along lines Swedish action. Cable also results of Swedish efforts. According news received here from Swiss Minister Budapest Swedish protection documents were not recognised by Hungarian authorities awaiting urgent reply.

Egerhart Riegner

Add: That I would like to have new information myself.

11.11.44.
Following message is for Dr. Riegner from Dr. Kubowitzki, World Jewish Congress.

It is understood that 16,000 Jews were deported to Germany from Kaunas before the Germans retreated. We shall appreciate your checking this information and ascertaining if possible their present whereabouts. Please cable also your suggestions with regard to the relief and rescue of these persons.

STETTINIUS ACTING

In duplicate

re copy to F A

Dr. Gerhard Riegner
World Jewish Congress
37, Queen, Vienna.
Dr. Gerhart Riegner,
World Jewish Congress,
37, Quai Wilson,
Geneva.

Dear Dr. Riegner:

The following has just been received for you from Dr. Hurbowitzki of the World Jewish Congress:

"It is understood that 16,000 Jews were deported to Germany from Kaunas before the Germans retreated. We shall appreciate your checking this information and ascertaining if possible their present whereabouts. Please cable also your suggestions with regard to the relief and rescue of these persons."

Very truly yours,

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

[Signature]
To: AmLegation - Stockholm  
Date: November 2, 1944  
No.: 27  
Charged to:

For WRB representative from McClelland.

Kindly deliver following message from Garhart Riegner to Hilel Sterah, Furusundsatan 10:

"Please cable precise details concerning Swedish action in behalf of Hungarian Jews in Budapest as our New York office has asked me to approach Irish, Spanish and Swiss authorities requesting protection along Swedish lines. Have these Swedish efforts been successful. According news received by IORC from Swiss Minister Budapest Swedish protection documents have recently and specifically not (repeat not) been recognized by Hungarian authorities. Anxiously await your reply."

HARRISON

RDMoD.

In triplicate.

In duplicate to file.

Washington 25, D.C.
Dr Leon Rubowitzki  
World Jewish Congress  
1884 Broadway  
New York  

Re situation Hungary CICR communicated us confidentially  
following news based on cable report just received here  
from Swiss Minister in Budapest: 1) Swiss protection  
documents were recognised by hungarian authorities.  
2) Swedish protection documents were not recognised.  
3) Male jews population was not deported but sent  
for fortification work outside Hungary. 4) This measure  
is stated to be a general one touching as well  
non-jewish as jews men. 5) jews children and  
women are at their houses in Budapest. 6) The  
CICR is requested to furnish urgently (linen) clothing  
and food stuff for these women and children.  
Please cable whether you are disposed participate  
this action and what amounts available  

Gerhart Riegner  

I. 11. y.y.  

Washington 25, D.C.
Monsieur McClelland
Légation des États-Unis
Berne
29, Alpenstrasse

Concernant : envoi de colis de vivres de Suède aux Israélites internés dans des camps en Allemagne.

Monsieur,

Faisant suite à notre lettre du 19 octobre à ce sujet, nous nous permettons de vous signaler que le Représentant du Congrès juif mondial à Genève vient de nous faire savoir que l'envoi de colis envisagé depuis la Suède se fera sous l'autorité et le contrôle du Comité universel des Unions chrétiennes de Jeunes gens (R.F.B.M.) en Suède et non pas du Comité international de la Croix-Rouge.

Nous avons par conséquent annulé les dispositions que nous avions données précédemment à notre délégation à Göteborg en vue de la confection des colis. Nous n'avons pas voulu manquer de vous signaler ce qui précède pour votre information et de préciser que nous n'avons donc plus à assurer un contrôle quant à ces secours destinés à Bergen-Belsen.

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

Pour le Comité international
de la Croix-Rouge,

Directeur de la Division
d'Assistance Spéciale

Washington 25, D.C.
For WJB from McClelland.
Legation's 7268, November 1
Any assistance WJB could give World Jewish
Congress in securing places on plane between
Paris and London for Abraham Silberschein and
wife (she represents Selfhelp in Switzerland)
would be appreciated. They are going to WJC
conference opening in New York November 26 and
expect to be in Paris around November 16.

HARRISON

REDMcC.

COPY in FA.
Bern, November 6, 1944.

Dear Mr. Pehler,

I am taking the liberty of enclosing under cover of this letter, for delivery to the World Jewish Congress, a list which I recently received from two lists which I recently received from Mr. Arsch Tartakower and Mr. Chaim Finkelstein, six lists of Jewish deportees at present in the camp of Bergen-Belsen, Kreis Celle, bei Hannover, and in the Ghetto of Theresienstadt, "Protectorate" of Bohemia and Moravia. These lists are being forwarded with an introductory letter to the World Jewish Congress by Dr. Gerhart Riegner, the representative of this organization in Switzerland.

Sincerely yours,

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

Enclosure:
As stated.

Very sincerely yours,

John W. Pehle, Esquire,
Executive Director, War Refugee Board,
Washington, D.C.

RDW/mjb
Bern, November 6th, 1944.

Dr. Gerhart M. Rieger
World Jewish Congress,
37, Quai Wilson, Geneva.

Dear Dr. Rieger:

I am transmitting to you enclosed herewith two lists which I recently received from the War Refugee Board.

The first is for you from the World Jewish Congress and involves a rather old list of the first group of persons removed (or rather deported) from Vittel during April of this year. As it is a list which we already possessed here at Bern and which Dr. Silberschein also has, I am not quite sure of your committee's purpose in sending it to you.

The second is another list of persons who are thought to be in THeresienstadt. I should be most grateful to you and Dr. Ullmann if you could check it against your files as in the case of the first one.

Very sincerely yours,

Roswell D. Mullerland
Special Assistant to the American Minister.
From Mr. Raffaele

Concerning whom

Applications from two

Hand, and myself

Persons with

Arrest by the

Italy's entry into

Back to Italy at

The ground the

Italy at present, the

As certainly uses

He has filed and I

Accordingly feel it

Attention of course

Man is known

Favorable consciences

Even to granting

Riegner

Cordially yours,

From Paul Bechet

Note to Mr. Bechet

French Embassy

Nov. 10

M. Paul Bechet

To Riegner

Mr. Paul Bechet

Note to Mr. Bechet

Mr. Raffaele

Concerning whom

Applications from two

Hand, and myself

Persons with

Arrest by the

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Riegner

Cordially yours,

From Paul Bechet

Note to Mr. Bechet

French Embassy

Nov. 10

M. Paul Bechet

To Riegner

Mr. Raffaele

Concerning whom

Applications from two

Hand, and myself

Persons with

Arrest by the

Italy's entry into

Back to Italy at

The ground the

Italy at present, the

As certainly uses

He has filed and I

Accordingly feel it

Attention of course

Man is known

Favorable consciences

Even to granting

Riegner

Cordially yours,
Dear 

with 

kind 

should 

Sincerely,

Chairman 

Washington 25, D.C.
Dear Bigelow:

I had a visit this morning from Mr. Raffaele Cantoni, an Italian anti-Fascist, concerning whom I have received excellent recommendations from two relief organizations here in Switzerland. I myself am also acquainted with a number of persons with whom he worked in Italy prior to his arrest by the Fascist authorities at the time of Italy's entry into the war in June of 1940.

Mr. Cantoni desires to go back to Italy at this time in order to start preparing the ground for the return of refugees from Italy at present in Switzerland, a piece of work which is certainly useful and necessary.

I understand that Mr. Cantoni has filed an application with the French Embassy in Bern for a transit visa through France and accordingly feel it would be worthwhile to call to the attention of our French colleagues the fact that this man is known to us and considered reliable. Any favorable consideration which could therefore be given to granting him a transit visa would be most appreciated.

Cordially yours,

Washington 25, D.C.
Roswell D. McClelland Esq.,
Special Assistant to the American Minister,
Legation of the United States of America,
B E R N.

Dear Mr. McClelland,

I am enclosing herewith a note on my conversation with Dr. Schirmer, Representative in Budapest of the CICR. I should feel very obliged to you if you would kindly transmit the same note to our Office in New York.

I am enclosing also a draft of a résumé which I should like to have meanwhile cabled to Washington.

Thanking you in advance for your kindness, I am

very sincerely yours,

Gerhart M. Riegner
Bern, November 11, 1944.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I am pleased to enclose for the information of the War Refugee Board, and for forwarding to Dr. Goldmann of the World Jewish Congress, a document from Dr. Riegner, Representative of the World Jewish Congress in Switzerland, outlining a particularly interesting conversation with Dr. Schirmer of the International Committee of the Red Cross on November 10th, which sheds considerable light on the situation in Budapest as well as on the steps which the International Committee of the Red Cross took in an effort to assist as many Jews as possible.

In view of the immediate interest of Dr. Riegner's report, I feel it advisable to forward it to you as soon as possible without taking time necessary to have an English translation made.

Sincerely yours,

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

Enclosure:
Letter from Dr. Riegner,
November 10, 1944.

John W. Pehle, Esquire,
Executive Director,
War Refugee Board,
Washington, D. C.
Monsieur Mackelland,

Bern

Je suis hier à Berna chez votre bureau pour vous rendre compte de ma visite à l'ambassade de France, où j'ai demandé un télégramme. Nous en avons fait une dépêche pour demander la permission de transit pour moi.

Mardi dernier, j'ai encore rendu visite à Berna pour le rapport.

Je vous communique le résultat. Bien de ré
Dear Mr. [Name],

I am writing on behalf of the World Jewish Congress to express our deep concern regarding the situation in [Location].

As you are aware, the [Organization] has been monitoring the developments in the region and has noted with alarm the growing tension and conflict. The safety and well-being of the Jewish community are paramount to us, and we feel compelled to bring this matter to your attention.

We understand the complexities of the situation and recognize the efforts of the authorities. However, we urge you to take all necessary steps to ensure the protection of the community. We stand ready to provide any assistance that may be required.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Enclosure:

[Postcard with message]

[Image of a building]

[Photo of a map]

[Document with text]
Bern, November 14, 1944.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I am pleased to enclose for the information of the War Refugee Board and for forwarding to Dr. Rubomitski of the World Jewish Congress a document from Dr. Riegner, Representative of the World Jewish Congress in Switzerland. The report concerns the question of steps which the World Jewish Congress hoped the Swiss authorities would take through their Legation in Budapest in behalf of Jews in Hungary.

Sincerely yours,

Bern, November 14, 1944.

Roswell D. McClelland, Esquire,
Special Assistant to the American Minister, Legation of the United States of America,

Letter from Dr. Riegner,
November 13, 1944.

John W. Pehle, Esquire,
Executive Director,
War Refugee Board,
Washington, D. C.

RDM/mjb
Geneva, November 13, 1944.

Roswell D. McClelland Esq.,
Special Assistant to the American Minister,
Legation of the United States of America,
Bern.

Dear Mr. McClelland,

Referring to our conversation on Saturday last I am sending herewith to you:

1. a copy of the letter we received from the Political Department, for your proper use;
2. a draft of a cable concerning this reply, which you may please forward to Washington;
3. a note for the World Jewish Congress in New York, concerning the same demarche, with the attached documents which you may please kindly transmit by diplomatic bag to Washington.

Thanking you in advance for your kindness, I am

very sincerely yours

Gerhart M. Riegner
Sehr geehrter Herr Professor,


Wie Sie wissen, standen wir in dauernder Fühlung mit der Vertretung des Internationalen Komitees von Roten Kreuz in Budapest, deren unermüdliche Bemühungen, wie Sie wissen, den selben parallel laufen.


Die Vollstreckung dieser Maßnahmen sind wir glücklich, dass sich der Bonnvertrag unter andern bereits erfüllt hat, 12.000 ungarische Juden, über deren Anzahl aus Ungarn Verhandlungen mit den dortigen Behörden sichern, im gebrochenen Transport in der Schweiz zu übernehmen.

Sie dürfen versichert sein, dass wir im Benehmen mit all den anderen in Betracht kommenden Bundesstaaten dieser erstaunlichen Frage fortgesetzt unsere volle Aufmerksamkeit schenken, doch halten wir dafür, eine umfassende Verständigung würde unter dem gegenwärtigen Verhältnissen nicht viel dazu beitragen, deren Lösung zu fördern. Selbstverständlich haben sich der Unterzeichnete auch weiterhin gerne zu Ihrer Verfügung.

Geben Sie sehr geehrter Herr Professor, die Vereinbarung unserer vorigen kurzen Hochachtung.

Der Chef der Abteilung für Auswärtiges

i.W. Stucki.

Washington D.C.,
TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department
Date: November 16, 1944

Code: Brown
No.: 1572
Charged to:

For WRB from Gogol and
For Leon Rubowitser, World Jewish Congress, from Gerhart Riegner:

"Referring your cable 155 Swiss Political Department informed us that Swiss Minister at Budapest doing all humanly possible protect as many Hungarian Jews as he can justify by any means. Swiss protection documents are recognized by Hungarian authorities. Swiss Government agreed entry for transit 12,000 Jews from Hungary." £ 16,80

HARRISON

KMcC.
In triplicate.

[Signature]

war refugee board
Washington 25, D.C.
TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department

Date: November 16, 8 p.m., 1944.

No: 3903

Received: November 17, 10 a.m.

The following from Leon Kubowitzki, World Jewish Congress, is WRB 272.

"We understand that Marianka is concentration center of Jews in Slovakia holding Latin American passports. Our number 176. Kindly approach IGRC and urge inclusion Marianka in IGRC relief program also sending delegation there."

Please deliver paraphrase to Dr. Riegner.

STETTINIUS ACTING

Tell K. P. according to our information this camp has been probably entirely executed.

nr

Copy in FA
THE EXECUTIVE OF
THE ZIONIST ORGANISATION / THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE
GENEVA OFFICE

Geneva, November 16th, 1944
37, quai Wilson, Geneva (Swiss)
RL/DT - A/5-14

Dear Mr. McClelland,

We shall be very grateful if you will kindly forward the attached cable-report to Dr. Nahum Goldmann in New-York through the good offices of the American Legation and the State Department.

You are aware that the Legation in Berne has been instructed some time ago to forward from time to time reports coming from us in our capacity as representatives of the Jewish Agency for Palestine and the World Jewish Congress. We therefore hope that there will be no difficulty in forwarding this report to which we attach special importance.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

R. Lichtheim
The Jewish Agency for Palestine

[Signature]

Dr. O. Rieger
World Jewish Congress

Mr. Roswell D. McClelland,
Special Assistant to the American Minister,
Berne
----------
Elfenstr. 6.
To Dr. Nahum GOLDMAN, World Jewish Congress,
1834 Broadway - New York.

In view of forthcoming conference are transmitting following facts and figures for your guidance stop Since 1941 approximately five million five hundred thousand Jews have died in continental Europe stop figures of those deported and killed in death camps or starved to death or killed on spot are in thousands : from FRANCE one hundred and fifty BELGIUM twenty-seven HOLLAND one hundred and forty DENMARK two ITALY ten GERMANY one hundred and sixty AUSTRIA eighty PROTECTORATE seventy SLOVAKIA eighty JUGOSLAVIA sixty-five HUNGARY for two hundred RUMANIA including Bukovina Bessarabia two hundred GREECE mainly Salonica fifty-five BALTIIC STATES two hundred and twenty POLAND two thousand and eight hundred stop To this total of four million five hundred thousand is to be added number of Jews killed in Russia during German occupation of Ukraine and White Russia amounting to at least one million probably more stop

Total number of Jews at present alive in continental Europe outside Russia and Turkey is about one million one hundred and sixty thousand stop Details as follows : apart from those in concentration camps and labour camps in Poland Germany Austria there are in thousands : in FRANCE about one hundred and twenty BELGIUM twenty HOLLAND fifteen ITALY twenty-five SWEDEN fifteen including five refugees from Denmark and Norway stop SWITZERLAND forty-three including twenty-six refugees SPAIN and PORTUGAL three GERMANY and AUSTRIA ten CZECHOSLOVAKIA two HUNGARY two hundred RUMANIA three hundred and BULGARIA forty-five GREECE twelve POLAND unspecified number hiding probably not more than fifty totalling nine hundred thousand stop

In addition there are in special camps and labour service in thousands : Theresienstadt thirty-six Bergenbelsen and similar camps twenty-five various labour camps Poland Silesia Germany Austria approximately two hundred totalling two hundred and fifty thousand stop grand total therefore one million one hundred and sixty thousand stop There are nowhere exact statistical data obtainable but these figures represent best available information based on many reports stop

Future relief...
Future relief activities and our general policy should take into account these figures stop regarding relief immediate action is required in liberated countries to assist Jewish survivors robbed of all possessions and especially to rescue children stop these problems can only be solved by government assistance stop there are for instance in Rumania one hundredseventy thousand Jews completely destitute stop similar situation in France stop Jewish property should be immediately restored and administration of property belonging deported Jews should be handed to Jewish bodies stop

Thousands of children whose parents died or were deported have been hidden by Gentiles in France Belgium Holland stop One thousand orphans are in Switzerland stop Care children is one of most urgent duties of world jewry stop considerable numbers of them should be sent to Palestine stop

About thirty thousand refugees are in Switzerland Italy Spain stop Stateless Jews of German Austrian origin also most Polish Jews unwilling return to countries of origin stop majority wishes return to France Belgium Holland or to emigrate overseas stop Return to Western countries of former residence sofar unsettled stop Many thousands wish to emigrate to Palestine stop Number Jewish candidates from Western Europe for emigration to America is not considerable stop It amounts to some thousands certainly not tens of thousands stop Forecasts regarding future emigration from Central and Eastern Europe especially from Hungary Rumania Bulgaria are not yet possible stop such emigration will depend on political and economic developments in these countries stop Judging from present experiences considerable numbers will certainly go to Palestine if possible stop please confirm receipt

Richard Lichtheim Gerhart Riegner

Geneva, November 16th, 1944
TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department
Date: November 16, 1944
No.: 7974 - 7575

Code: Brown & Char,ICI
Charged to: 7579

For WRM from McClelland,
For Nahum Goldmann of World Jewish Congress from
Gerhart Riegner:

"Had long conversation with Dr. Schirmer, ICRC representative temporarily attached to their Budapest delegation, who left Hungary on October 29 and just returned to Switzerland. He gave detailed report on situation of Jews in Budapest and action taken by ICRC which is dispatching to you through the War Refugee Board. Schirmer reports that about 150,000 still in Budapest, 50,000 male Jews having been marched direction Austria for labor service. Further 50,000 are still in Hungary in Honved labor service camps. Protection documents of ICRC (for Jewish personnel working with them in Budapest), Sweden, Switzerland and Spain are recognized. All institutions under ICRC protection including Jewish institutions, soup-kitchens, hospitals, children's homes, food warehouses, etc. are respected.

Schirmer reports that some 18,000 Jews are working in vicinity of Vienna split up among 4 to 500 small camps or work detachments eachone having from 5 to 500 persons.

War Refugee Board,
Washington 25, D.C.
They are mostly Hungarians but include number of Poles and Czechoslovakians. German authorities at Vienna, surprisingly enough, seem willing permit ICorC assist these Jews in collaboration and through Dr. Loewenherz who still holds his position with the Vienna Community and directs their office. Dr. Schirmer who soon returning to Vienna urged funds be made available for this purpose. If money can be placed his disposal Loewenherz informed him that clothing and food-stuffs could be obtained in Vienna. Urging, therefore, your soonest remittance. 

for WRB from McClelland.

Kindly request WJC New York consider this information concerning possible "modus operandi" between German authorities, Jewish Community and ICRC in Vienna as strictly confidential. Schirmer informed me that Berlin knows nothing about it. Any talk, consequently, would be most harmful. Selly Mayer and I are examining with Schirmer question of immediately making funds available to Loewenherz in Vienna to support whatever November 20 relief work he can carry out. Schirmer leaves for Berlin and expects to be in Vienna again by end of month to set up ICRC office there if it still appears funds can be usefully spent.

HARRISON

[Handwritten note: Copied in FA]
Dr. Gerhart Riegner,
37 Quai Wilson,
Geneva.

Dear Dr. Riegner:

I have received the following message for you from Leon Kubowitzki, of the World Jewish Congress:

"We understand that Marianka is concentration center of Jews in Slovakia holding Latin American passports. Our number 176. Kindly approach ICRC and urge inclusion Marianka in IRO relief program also sending delegation there."

As you know from reports which Dr. Ullmann has recently received from Slovakia, the camp at Marianka has in all probability been liquidated; most of the internees there have apparently been deported via the general assembly camp at Sered. This fact has also been confirmed to us through the Papal Nunciature in Bratislava and the Swiss Consul General in the same city.

The War Refugee Board has expressed considerable interest in your recent message concerning the request which Mr. Burokhardt of the International Red Cross forwarded to the German Government on October 2 bringing up the question once more of the assimilation of foreign Jews held in German-controlled areas to the Geneva Convention and the Tokio Project. The Board would be very much interested to know whether the International Red Cross has ever received an answer to their request.

Very truly yours,

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

Washington, D.C.
TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department
Date: November 18, 9 p.m., 1944.
No: 3925
Received: November 19, 4 p.m.

For McClelland with reference to Legation's 
7212 of November 8 and 3 WRB 281.

It would appear from text of message in 
reference that notwithstanding negative response 
contained in Legation's 3147 of May 17 Interross 
has proceeded along lines of our 1498 of April 29. 
Your comments on text of Rieger's message and a 
determination by you that German Government has 
been approached by Interross with a view to obtain-
ing assimilation of foreign Jews held in Germany 
or German-occupied areas would be appreciated by 
the Board.

STATIUS ACTING

/nr
Copy to REM

copy in F.A.

World Jewish Congress.
The cable below for McClelland is WRB 290.

Please deliver paraphrase of the following message from World Jewish Congress to Dr. Gerhart Riegner, Geneva:

"Number 191, your 3/11 through WRB received documentation grateful for your efforts. Are afraid that if ICRG note of 2/10 deals with foreigners in general without specific reference to Jews they will in fact be excluded from concessions eventually obtained. A. Leon Kubowitzki, World Jewish Congress."

SPEITNIUS ACTING
From: Department
Date: November 29, 7 p.m., 1944
No: 4031
Received: November 30, 11 a.m.

WRE No. 293. For McClelland.

Please deliver paraphrase of following message to Gerhart Riegner, Geneva, from Dr. Kubowitzki of World Jewish Congress:

"No. 194. Yours 1/11. Willing participate sending clothing for Budapest Jews provided International Red Cross accept clothing in Lisbon."

STETTINIUS ACTING

In duplicate to files

re

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

Washington 25, D.C.
TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department
Date: November 17, 1944
No.: 7617
Charge to: 7617

For WRB from McClelland.
For Nahum Goldmann, World Jewish Congress, from Richard Lichtheim and Gerhart Riegner:

"In view forthcoming conference are transmitting following facts and figures for your guidance. Since 1941 approximately 5,000,000 Jews have died in continental Europe. Numbers those deported and killed in extermination camps, starved or killed on spot, in thousands, are: from France 150, from Belgium 27, Holland 140, Denmark 2, Italy 10, Germany 160, Austria 80, Protectorate 70, Slovakia 80, Yugoslavia 65, Hungary 450, Romania including Bukovina and Bessarabia 200, Greece mainly from Salonica 55, Baltic States 220, and Poland 2,800. To this total of 4, 590,000 is to be added number of Jews killed in Russia during German occupation of Ukraine and White Russia amounting to at least 1,000,000, probably more.

Total number of Jews at present alive in continental Europe outside Russia and Turkey is about 1,166,000. Details as follows: apart from those in concentration and labor camps in Poland, Germany and Austria there are, in thousands: in France about 150, Belgium 20, Holland 48, Italy 25, Sweden 15, including five thousand refugees from Denmark and Norway, Switzerland 45 including 25 refugees, Spain and Portugal 3, Germany and Austria 10, Czechoslovakia 2, Hungary 250, Romania 300, Bulgaria 45, Greece 12, Poland unspecified number in hiding, probably not more than 30, Grand total being 910,000.

In addition there are in special camps and labor service in thousands: Theresienstadt 36, Bergen-Belsen and similar
camps 20, various labor camps in Poland, Silésia, Germany and Austria approximately 200, totaling 250,000. Grand total there 1,186,000. Exact statistical data not obtainable but these figures represent best available information based on numerous reliable reports.

Future relief activities and our general policy should take into account these figures. Regarding relief immediate action is required in liberated countries to assist Jewish survivors robbed of all possessions and especially to rescue children. These problems can only be solved by government assistance. There are, for instance, in Hungary 170,000 Jews completely destitute. Similar situation exists in France. Jewish property should be immediately restored and administration of property belonging to deported Jews should be entrusted to Jewish bodies.

Thousands of children whose parents died or were deported have been hidden by Gentiles in France, Belgium and Holland. About 1,000 orphans are in Switzerland. Care children is one of most urgent duties of world Jewry. Considerable numbers of them should be sent to Palestine.

About 30,000 refugees are in Switzerland, Italy and Spain. Stateless Jews or German and Austrian origin, also most Polish Jews unwilling return to countries or origin. Majority wishes return to France, Belgium and Holland or to emigrate overseas. Return to Western countries of former residence so far largely unsettled. Many thousands wish to emigrate to Palestine. Number Jewish candidates from Western Europe for emigration to America is not large amounting only to some thousands, certainly not tens of thousands. Forecasts regarding future emigration from Central and Eastern Europe, especially from Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria are not yet possible. Such emigration will depend on political and economic developments in these countries. Judging from present experiences considerable numbers will certainly go to Palestine if possible. Please confirm receipt this message."
For WRB from McClelland.
Department's 3905, November 16.
For Rubowitz, World Jewish Congress from Rieger:
"In reply your cable concerning Marianka, we have following information. Mid-September, after rupture negotiations with Jewish Council on emigration from Slovakia, arrests of Jews started suddenly in Bratislava and were continued throughout Slovakia. Most of remaining Slovakian Jews were brought to camps of Sereď and Marianka. 4,000 Jews from Bratislava alone were crowded into Sereď while Marianka is reported to have housed about 1,000 Jews with American and Latin-American documents. Camp of Sereď was emptied middle October with exception 300 people. Trains departed northwards, probably to Auschwitz. According report received here November 15, rest of Jews in Sereď and Marianka have in meantime all been deported. Legally no Jews remain in German occupied Slovakia." §

HUBBLE

RDMcC.
In quadruplicate, duplicate + plus

COPY IN FA
World Jewish Congress

Dear Mr. Jarblum:

Your colleague at Geneva, Dr. Rieger of the World Jewish Congress, has recently given me to understand that you have encountered certain difficulties in France regarding the payment of funds (in French francs) which are owed to you as representative of the "Fédération" by persons in France. In the interest of dispelling any misunderstanding on this subject as may exist, I am happy to restate for you the point of view of the War Refugee Board and the Department of State in Washington regarding the fact and purpose of such transfers of funds.

Since the outbreak of 1944 and up to the time of the liberation of France you, along with the representatives of other Jewish relief organizations doing humanitarian work, have been authorized by the United States Treasury Department to receive funds in Switzerland from the United States for the express purpose of making these funds available in France (during the period when this country was under German occupation) to Jewish organizations there by various methods of transfer, the most common being the release of French francs in France by an agent against reimbursement of the countervalue in Switzerland in Swiss francs. The permission for such financial operations was given solely in the humanitarian interest of making possible the relief to and rescue of Jews of France and other nationalities in danger of their lives in France from the various German police groups and the Vichy "Milice."

In the hope that this reiteration of the background of such money transfers may be of assistance to you, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Roswell D. McClelland
Special Assistant to the American Minister,

Mr. Marc Jarblum
46, rue Claude Bernard,
PARIS.

Washington 25, D.C.
Geneva, November 30, 1944.

Rooswell J. McClelland Esq.,
Special Assistant to the American Minister
Legation of the United States of America
BERNE.

Dear Mr. McClelland,

May I request you to kindly forward the enclosed documents by diplomatic way to the World Jewish Congress in New York. The documents contain the reports concerning Hungary of the International Red Cross, several further lists of Jewish internees in Theresienstadt and some material destined to the Conference of the World Jewish Congress, of which I have been able to cable summaries only. You will oblige me greatly by forwarding the enclosed documents.

Thanking you in advance for your kindness, I am

yours very sincerely

Gerhart M. Riegner
World Jewish Congress

Geneva, November 30, 1944.

Roswell D. McClelland Esq.,
Special Assistant to the American Minister
Legation of the United States of America

Dear Mr. McClelland,

I am referring to our to-day's conversation during
which I informed you that of the $20,000.00 put at the
disposal of Dr. V. Kopecky for a rescue action in Slovakia,
it has been possible to transfer to Slovakia the first half
only, that is to say $10,000.00. Dr. Kopecky has in con-
sequence reimbursed to me the amount of Swiss Francs 42.650.-

As the War Refugee Board and the World Jewish Congress
have both participated with equal shares in the above mentioned
Slovakian Rescue Action, I esteem that both institutions should
also benefit in the reimbursement of the second instalment of
$10,000.00. Therefore, I beg to send you herewith enclosed a
cheque No. 125473 on the Union Bank of Switzerland in Geneva,
for the amount of Swiss Francs 21,325.00, equivalent of $5,000.00.

I hope that we will soon have an opportunity of making
use of the reimbursed amount for similar purposes.

I shall appreciate your acknowledging receipt of the cheque.

Yours very sincerely,

Gerhart M. Riegner

World Jewish Congress

Geneva, November 30, 1944.

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Special Assistant to the American Minister
Legation of the United States of America

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World Jewish Congress

Geneva, November 30, 1944.

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Special Assistant to the American Minister
Legation of the United States of America

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World Jewish Congress

Geneva, November 30, 1944.

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use of the reimbursed amount for similar purposes.

I shall appreciate your acknowledging receipt of the cheque.

Yours very sincerely,

Gerhart M. Riegner

World Jewish Congress

Geneva, November 30, 1944.
Dear Mr. McClelland,

I am replying to your kind letter of November the 22nd, and I am sending you herewith a cable draft which I should like to have sent to Dr. Leon Rubowitski, in reply to his enquiry about the camp of Marianka.

As to the negotiations of the International Red Cross with the German Government, I shall try to secure further news in the course of the next days.

Thanking you in advance for your kindness, I am very sincerely yours

Gerhart M. Riegner

World Jewish Congress

Geneva, November 23, 1944.
To: Dr. Leon Kubowitzki, World Jewish Congress, 1834 Broadway, NEW YORK.

Answering your cable concerning Marianka informing you following: middle September after rupture negotiations with Jewish Council on emigration from Slovakia arrests of Jews started suddenly in Bratislava and whole Slovakia. All remaining Slovakian Jews were brought to camps Sered and Marianka. 4,000 Jews from Bratislava were brought to Sered. In Marianka about 1,000 Jews with Latin-American documents were concentrated. The camp of Sered was emptied middle October with exception 300 people. Trains departed northwards probably to Auschwitz. According report received here November 15 the rest of Jews in camps Sered and Marianka were meantime deported entirely. Legally there are no Jews any more in Slovakia.

Geneva, November 23, 1944.

= Gerhart Riegner

War Refugee Board, Washington 25, D.C.
Dear Mr. McClelland,

The situation in the East-European countries induced me to compose the enclosed cable draft which I should like, on the basis of reports from various countries and after deliberations with the representatives of these countries in Switzerland, to have sent to the World Jewish Congress in New York. I hope, it will be possible to you to dispatch it through the intermediary of the War Refugee Board, although its content does not refer precisely to those countries with which you have to do usually.

With many thanks in advance to you, I am

yours very sincerely,

Gerhart M. Riegner

War Refugee Board,
Washington 25, D.C.
Roswell D. McClelland Jr.,
Special Assistant to the American Minister,
Legation of the United States of America,
B E R N E.

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With many thanks in advance to you, I am

Yours very sincerely,

Gerhart M. Riegner

War Refugee Board,
Washington 25, D.C.
To: Dr. Nahum Goldmann, World Jewish Congress, 1834 Broadway
               NEW YORK.

As present Jewish problems concern overwhelmingly Jews in
countries occupied by Soviet Russia and belonging to her zone
of influence, all activities in view their solution possible
only in agreement with Soviet Government. It seems therefore
urgent necessity that Executive World Congress reach
systematically developed diplomatic relations with Russian
Government view assuring their constant support to these
activities. Therefore suggesting that Congress Executive
through intermediary Soviet Embassies Washington London
tries prepare without delay conditions for dispatching Jewish
dlegation to Moscow, who should discuss in general following
measures: effective restitution of equality of civic rights;
reintegration into former positions of civil service and
administration of enterprises; immediate restitution of
properties still available; ensurance of immediate governmental
relief to families pauperized in consequence of persecutions;
authentication of suffered damages through mixed commissions
with Jewish participation who should also make proposals
regarding reparation; creation of an institution which on
basis existing claims for compensation of damages should grant
credits for reconstruction; creation of a system to administer
by the Jewish communities the property of missing Jews; consent
to the affiliation of the Jewish communities to a central
organisation for the Jewish relief work in Europe; registration
of surviving deported Jews in these countries and establish
of conditions for their repatriation or emigration; establishment
of a permanent representation of the World Jewish Congress in
Moscow. In view of initiating and influencing favourably these
negotiations mediation of President Beneš should eventually
be requested for.

= Gerhart Riegner

Geneva, December 5, 1944.

War Refugee Board,
Washington 25, D.C.
TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department
Date: December 7, 1944, 5 P.M.
No: 7998
Charged to: WRB

For WRB from McClelland.
Department's 3926, November 18, WRB's 281.

I have received assurance from Brockhardt, now President of ICRC, that German Foreign Office was definitely approached on October 2 by Committee with request that Reich Government consider extending to so-called "Schutzhaftlinge" (detainees for security reasons) treatment granted by analogy to Geneva Pow Convention of 1929 to enemy nationals in Germany and German occupied territory. As of December 1 no answer had yet been received from Germans. Late in November when delegate of German Red Cross, Hartmann, was in Geneva, this question was thoroughly discussed with him. German Consul at Geneva was also urged a few days ago by ICRC to press German Foreign Office for an answer.

I personally fear that little or no positive results will be forthcoming from this approach, past experience with Germans regarding similar questions, particularly the Jewish one, having shown fairly conclusively that neither German Foreign Office nor German Red Cross exercise any real control over political detainees and deportees, both non-Jewish and Jewish, such control being in hands of SS, "Reichsicherheits-Hauptamt" at Berlin.

With reference to a somewhat similar intercession to be made by Neutrals headed by Vatican (Legation's 7170, October 26, from Sternbusch to Union Orthodox Rabbis and Department's 3788, November 7, WRB's 289), initiated through Papal Nunciature in Bern, it is important to note this is motivated by desire to secure reciprocal treatment of German civilians in territory already or shortly to be occupied by forces of Allied Nations.

War Refugee Board,
Washington 25, D.C.
Reciprocity is to be based on Geneva Convention and guaranteed by Neutrals and Vatican. In return for this guarantee it is hoped to secure various concessions from Germans concerning treatment of non-assimilated detainees under their control. In speaking of Allied Nations, Angelo Donati, author of proposal, had Soviet Russia particularly in mind. To this end, he has subsequently attempted to bring project to Moscow's attention by various channels: through two unofficial Soviet citizens in Switzerland, Sokolin and Taharniak, reputedly in contact with Moscow, and through Tegliatti, Italian Communist leader at present in Rome.

If guarantee could be obtained from Russians to accord Geneva Convention treatment to German civilians in areas occupied and to be occupied by them it would indeed constitute a powerful lever with which to secure counter-concessions from Nazis. Many months ago ICRC unofficially expressed to me their belief that any concessions which might be extracted from Soviets with regard to German pows (even Russian agreement to deliver lists of names of those alive and well) would be invaluable in securing from Germans more favorable treatment of various categories of detainees and deportees, including Jews, in their hands.

HUDDLE

REDDITCH

In triplicate.

[Signature]

War Refugee Board,
Washington 25, D.C.
Geneva, December 5, 1944.

Dear Dr. Riegnar:

I wish to acknowledge your two letters of November 30th, the first enclosing a check from the World Jewish Congress, made out to me as Representative of the War Refugee Board, for 21,525.00 Swiss francs, in reimbursement for funds previously given which could unfortunately not go into Slovakia.

Your second letter covering a number of documents for the World Jewish Congress in New York also reached me safely. I think it will be possible to forward these documents with the diplomatic courier leaving next week, the dispatch of clothing to Jews in Budapest.

Meanwhile a short message has been received from you from the W.J.C. which reads as follows:

Our No. 194, Yours 1/11. We are willing to participate in the sending of clothing for Jews in Budapest provided international Red Cross will accept this clothing in Vienna.

This message comes from Dr. Hambro, to whom the question was referred in the 22nd, in which you were informed that no definite answer has yet been given as to the matter of the International Red Cross' intervention in the sending of clothing to the Geneva Convention. But was informed that a German delegate had been sent to the International Red Cross Committee in Geneva, the question being discussed with the German Consul General in Geneva some days ago. I was also informed that some days ago the International Red Cross' Committee ratified the decision of the German Consul General in Geneva by the German Red Cross, and accepted this clothing for the Jews in the matter.

Very sincerely yours,

Dr. Gerhart M. Riegnar

Special Assistant to the American Minister

World Jewish Congress

Dr. Gerhart M. Riegnar

a/o World Jewish Congress,

27, Quai Wilson, Geneva.

War Refugee Board,

Washington 25, D.C.
CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL

GÉNEVE NEW-YORK N.Y. LONDON W.1 BUENOS AIRES
97, GUILL. WILSON 1880 BROADWAY OCEAN H. ST.
TELEPH. 2 B. 25 TELEPH. CROCLE 6-1900 TELEPH. LANGHAM 1316
UNION TELEPH. 47 (CUYU) 3880

Roswell D. McLellan Esq.,
Special Assistant to the American Minister,
Legation of the United States of America,
BERNE.

Dear Mr. McLellan,

Acknowledging receipt of your letter of December 1st
I wish to thank you for the transmission of the cable
concerning the dispatch of clothing to Jews in Budapest.
I shall take up the matter with the International Red Cross
though I am of the opinion that the project has been
surpassed by the events, and that it would be more useful
to put funds at the disposal of 'International Red Cross'
Delegate in Vienna.

Referring to your letter of November the 22nd, in
which you raise the question concerning the intervention
of the International Red Cross at the German Government,
relative to the assimilation of foreign Jews to the Geneva
Convention and the Tokio Project, I heard from the International
Red Cross' Committee that no definite answer has yet been
received from the German Government. I was informed that
recently, at the occasion of the presence of a German delegate
in Geneva, this matter was the main subject of discussion.
I was also informed that some days ago the International
Red Cross' Committee raised in an interview with the German
Consul General in Geneva the question again and pressed him
for an immediate answer. I shall, no doubt, let you know
anything that may occur.

Yours very sincerely

Gerhart M. Riegner

War Refugee Board,
Washington 25, D.C.
Bern, December 5, 1944.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I am taking the liberty of forwarding to the Board for transmission to the World Jewish Congress four series of documents sent by Dr. Gerhart Riegner, the representative of the Congress in Switzerland.

Series I consists of several reports of a general nature composed by members of the Jewish Community at Budapest dealing with the situation of the Jews in Hungary as it has developed during the past few months. These reports were originally written for and submitted to the International Committee of the Red Cross in Budapest. I have also received copies of all of them. They are interesting as background material but contain nothing strikingly new.

Series II is made up of a number of wires addressed to the WJC from various Balkan Jewish groups or their spokesmen "a propos" of the recently held World Jewish Congress War Emergency Conference held in Washington and the corresponding reports of the Committee on the Arab-Jewish Questions, the Commission on the Conditions of the Non-Collaborating Jews in Bulgaria, the Committee on the Conditions of the Non-Collaborating Jews in Serbia, the Committee on the Conditions of the Jewish Community in Hungary, and the Committee on the Conditions of the Jewish Community in Rumania.

Series III consists of a message from the leaders of the Swiss Jewish Community addressed to the Conference referred to above.

Series IV is an additional list of internees in Theresienstadt intended for Dr. Tartakower and Mr. Finkelestein of the World Jewish Congress.

Very sincerely yours,

Roswell D. McClelland
Special Assistant to the American Minister

John W. Pehle, Esquire
Executive Director
War Refugee Board, Washington 25, D.C.

Enclosures: 4 series of documents for the WJC.
For WRB from McClelland,
For Nahum Goldman of World Jewish Congress from
Gerhart Riegner:
"As present Jewish problems concern in vast majority
Jews in countries occupied by Soviet Russia and belonging
to Russian zone of influence, all action with a view to
solving the problems of these Jews is only possible in
agreement with Soviet Government. It would therefore seem
most necessary that Executive World Congress initiate as
soon as possible working relationship with Russian Govern-
ment in order that support of this government may be
enlisted for such activities. I suggest, accordingly, that
the Congress Executive, through the intermediary of the
Soviet Ambassades in Washington and London attempt to prepare
the ground, without delay, for the dispatching of a Jewish
delegation to Moscow. This delegation should discuss the
following points: 1. The effective restitution of equal
civic rights to Jews, 2. Their reintegration in their former
positions with civil services and in the administration of
business enterprises, 3. The immediate restitution of all
properties still available, 4. The assurance of rapid
governmental relief to all families pauperized as a result
of persecutions, 5. The authentication of damages suffered
by mixed commissions in which Jews will participate and from
whom proposals regarding reparations should be accepted.
6. Creation of a body which, on the basis of existing claims
for compensation of damages, should grant credits for
reconstruction. 7. The creation of a system whereby Jewish Communities can administer the property of missing Jews.
8. Consent of the Jewish Communities to their affiliation to a central Jewish relief organization in Europe. 9. The registration of surviving deported Jews in these countries and establishment of the conditions under which they can be repatriated or emigrated. 10. The setting-up of a permanent representation of the World Jewish Congress in Moscow.

With a view to initiating and favorably influencing the course of such negotiations the mediation of President Benes of Czechoslovakia might be requested."

HUMBLE

RIP.
Une note allemande

Le fait que le gouvernement allemand a émis au Comité international de la Croix-Rouge sa note de caractère politique relative aux buts ultimes du Reich en France, constitue un acte de collaboration des collaboratrices françaises révélant l'irréductible indépendance des relations entre le Reich et la France. Ce qui a été dit n'est qu'une affirmation générale pour que la France n'ait pas été instruite entre autres au niveau de la politique de droit international. Ni les intérêts français en Allemagne, ni les intérêts allemands en France n'ont été conçus à une puissance protectrice. A Berlin, on considère que le maréchal Pétain et le cabinet Laval représentent légitimement le pays. Mais ils ont été déportés. C'est contre son gré que le Maréchal a été emmené et il s'est refusé à faire figure de chef d'État en exil. Une commission, ayant à sa tête M. de Broin, est bien construite pour s'occuper des Français résidant sur le territoire du Reich; c'est-à-dire des prisonniers et des ouvriers. Toutefois, n'ayant aucun contact avec les services du général en chef, son action ne peut être qu'extrêmement ralentie. Les prisonniers sont, en effet, au bénéfice de la Convention Internationale de La Haye, mais les ouvriers d'une autre convention avec leur patrie ; sous le régime du Vichy, étaient des organes officiels qui faisaient la liaison ; aujourd'hui un front de bataille les sépare de leurs familles. Quant aux déportés civils, ceux que les Allemands appellent des Schutzhaftlinge qui sont imposable, par lui, ne jouissent d'aucune protection et d'aucune assistance.

La note que la Wilhelmsstrasse a adressée au C.I.C.R. et qui fait l'objet de commentaires dans la presse nationale-socilaiste, constitue une protestation contre les mesures prises en France et en Alsace-Lorraine à l'égard de ressortissants allemands et de collaboratrices de nationalité française. Elle parle des "condamnations injustifiables" qui sont intervenues, des mauvais traitements qui auraient été infligés à des personnes allemandes et des "patronages français" qui ont accosté leur devoir en suivant les ordres du gouvernement Vichy. Elle ajoute que si les "actes terroristes continuent, les autorités du Reich exerceront des représailles contre les nombreux gaullistes qui se trouvent sous son contrôle.

Il est curieux de constater que la Wilhelmsstrasse cite les noms de deux personnes à qui elle paraît accorder un intérêt particulier : M. Robert Ernst et le général Dantz. Le premier est un Alsacien qui, après la paix de Versailles, s'est engagé pour l'Allemagne ; il devint président de l'Association des Alsaciens-Lorrains établis dans le Reich et, depuis 1940, il fut nommé maire de Strasbourg. Il est probable qu'il ait été fait prisonnier par la division du général Leclerc. Quant au général Denz, il est bien connu par sa résistance qu'il opposa en Syrie aux forces gaullistes, après avoir fait l'un des premiers avions de la Luftwaffe sur les aérodromes de leurs camps.
Geneva, December 12, 1944.

Roswell D. McClelland Esq.,
Special Assistant to the American Minister,
Legation of the United States of America,
B E R N.

Dear Mr. McClelland,

I have the honour to communicate to you, for your confidential information, copy of the minutes of a gathering which was held recently at the office of the Czecho-Slovak Minister in Geneva, Dr. J. Kopecky, with the participation of representatives of ten governments or national Red Cross societies. The aim of this gathering was to deliberate in common on steps which could be taken by all interested governments, with the view to ameliorate the status of interned or deported civil populations. I am equally enclosing 2 letters which Dr. J. Kopecky has addressed to all participants of this gathering.

I should like to forward these documents also to the World Jewish Congress in New York, and should therefore be very much obliged to you if you would kindly send the enclosed letter containing said material as well as some other confidential documents by diplomatic bag to Washington.

Thanking you in anticipation for your kindness, I am

yours very sincerely

Gerhart M. Riegner

M. Dr. J. H. Keppler a également demandé que la déclaration de la situation des déportés des pays occupés par les forces du Troisième Reich devrait être faite par le Comité des Nations Unies lors de la prochaine session du Conseil des Nations Unies.

M. Dr. J. H. Keppler a souligné que la déclaration de la situation des déportés des pays occupés par les forces du Troisième Reich devrait être faite par le Comité des Nations Unies lors de la prochaine session du Conseil des Nations Unies.

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Mr. Kopecky; representative of the Czech Government in exile, has

St. Moritz, December 15, 1944.

In the middle of last month of November Dr. J. Kopecky, the representative of the Czech Government in London, assembled, at the instigation of Dr. Reigner, the President of the World Jewish Congress, at a meeting of various persons (whose names are not given) to discuss the question of the further work and service to be given to persons who are refugees. Dr. Kopecky was appointed by the Czech Government as President of the World Jewish Congress. In a letter to Dr. Kopecky I have already informed him of the fact that the World Jewish Congress is going to hand over Dr. Kopecky's letter to the World Jewish Congress on December 15th, under cover of which you will keep me informed of further proceedings along this line.

I shall transmit the enclosed letter to the World Jewish Congress in New York with the diplomatic pouch leaving early next week.

With kind regards, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Roswell D. McClelland
Special Assistant to the American Minister

Dr. Gerhart M. Reigner

C/o World Jewish Congress

37, Quai Wilson, Geneva.
MEMORANDUM

For: Mr. Ruddle  
From: R. McClelland  
December 16, 1944

In the middle of the month of November Dr. J. Kopecky, representative of the Czech Government in Switzerland, assembled, at the instigation of Dr. Riegner of the World Jewish Congress, a meeting of various persons (whose names appear at the beginning of the enclosed minutes) to discuss the question of a collective “démarche” to be undertaken by countries which were still totally or partially occupied by the Germans with a view to attempting to obtain from the latter more favorable treatment for the nationals of these countries in German lands: deportees, political detainees, forced workers, civilian population, etc. Such intercession was to be made either through the ICRC, the Vatican or a constellation of neutral states. In short Kopecky and Riegner’s idea is a continuation of proposals which have been in the air for some months.

I rather imagine that Kopecky, with his flair for the politically opportune, felt that it was high time he got in on what might prove to be a popular effort.

The underlying idea is, as before, the feeling that now greater sections of German territory have been occupied by the Allied forces the moment is approaching when the Germans may be more interested in bettering their treatment of the nationals of Allied states under their control. As one of the delegates to Kopecky’s meeting remarked, however, (I believe it was Anker, the Norwegian) it might be well to consult the Allies, particularly the Americans and British who were doing most of the occupying, on this point.

I thought perhaps these documents might interest you so am sending them over.

R.McC.

Enclosures: For John W. Pehle, Esquire  
World Jewish Congress, Special Assistant to Executive Director, the American Minister,  
War Refugee Board, Washington 25, D.C.
December 15, 1944.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

Please find attached hereeto a covering letter and series of reports whose forwarding to the World Jewish Congress (Dr. Nahum Goldmann) in New York would be appreciated. They come from Dr. Rieger of the WJC in Geneva and deal with the subjects outlined in Dr. Rieger's accompanying letter.

I think it might be of interest to you and other members of the Board to read over the first set concerning the question of a collective intercession by countries whose nationals are in "Schutzhaft" in Germany or German controlled areas through the Vatican or the Neutrals and perhaps the I.C.R.C. This matter was last referred to in the Legation's 7998, December 7th, and is very much "in the air" these days. As yet, however, the I.C.R.C. has not received an answer from the German Government.

Very sincerely yours,

Enclosures: For World Jewish Congress, Roswell D. McClelland, Special Assistant to the American Minister.

John W. Pehle, Esquire
Executive Director,
War Refugee Board,
Washington 25, D.C.
The sense of the meeting appears to have been that intervention should be made either through the International Red Cross, the Vatican, or by a combined act of neutral governments with representation at Berlin.

A report of the discussion at the meeting has been forwarded to the Department of State, but a continuing working report of the Department of State is not available in the Department of Justice.

Subiect: Proposals for intervention by neutral States or the Vatican with German Government in the matter of treatment accorded to certain internees in German Hands.

In answer to the above proposal, it was suggested that the United States and Great Britain at the meeting, the proposed interventions be made by the Red Cross with a view to obtaining from the German authorities a modification of the treatment which has heretofore been accorded to certain classes of civilian internees in enemy and enemy-occupied territory. Mr. McClelland has also reported that the Vatican has been interested in this subject.

Specific references are the Legation’s telegram Nos. 7170 and 7998 of October 29 and December 7, respectively. The Department’s 3768 of November 7 to Bern also bears on this subject.

I have been informed by the War Refugee Board Representative that in the middle of the month of November Dr. J. Rappak, a representative of the Czechoslovak Government in Switzerland, assembled, in conjunction with Dr. Reznik of the World Jewish Congress, a meeting of various persons to discuss the question of a collective demarcation to be undertaken by countries which were still totally or partially occupied by the Germans with a view to attempting to obtain from the latter more favorable treatment for the nationals of those countries in German hands. Such internees included deportees, persons detained for strictly political reasons, enforced workers, civilians of ordinary character, and others.

Persons purporting to represent the following governments or organizations were present at this meeting: Czechoslovakia, Rumania, Greece, Italy, Norway, Yugoslavia, France, Poland, Holland, Belgium and the World Jewish Congress.
The sense of the meeting appears to have been that intervention should be made either through the International Red Cross, the Vatican, or by a combined act of neutral government with representation at Berlin. It appears from a report of the discussion at the meeting that it is but a continuation of the propositions which have previously been reported to the Department and the U.N. Refugee Board as above indicated. The hope is general that the German government can induced to accord to the civilians involved treatment prescribed by the Geneva Convention.

In summing up the ways and means of implementing the representations to be made, one of those present remonstrated that it would be necessary to choose between "the threat of reprisals, bargaining and acts of policy". The idea of reprisals, however, was generally discarded.

When Ionchof Plagi van Apermon (Dutch) expressed regret that there were no representatives of the United States and Great Britain at the meeting, the president, Dr. Kopceky, (Czech), said that "for the present the problem should only be studied by the countries whose citizens are involved. Only after having come to an agreement upon a common and concrete opinion will the countries in question take up the matter with the United States and Great Britain".

In general, the results of the meeting reported (November 17, 1944) seemed to have been somewhat inconclusive, but it is likely that the meeting will have served a useful purpose in mobilizing sentiment and support in favor of a useful cause.

As of possible interest, there is enclosed here-both individually or in common, to the German Government along the lines indicated and in the name of all the governments concerned.

J. Klein Ruddle, Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

Enclosures:

1. Translation of invitation dated December 7, 1944;
2. Translation of report on meeting of November 17, 1944.

File No. 846

JH/R/1b

Original and transcript to Department copy to Mr. McClelland, Geneva.
Receive a report on the information communicated to a neutral organisation regarding the place of residence and the state of health of the interned and deportees of the Government of Romania and the volunteer German occupation forces.

Dear Doctor:

Please find enclosed the official report on the meeting of November 17, 1944, which was devoted to the exchange of views concerning the measures which might be adopted in common to improve the fate of civilian populations in German-occupied territories, and representatives of a neutral organisation.

Inasmuch as all the delegates who attended this meeting were unanimous in considering it useful and necessary that a collective step be taken by all governments concerned on this matter, I take the liberty of suggesting that you submit without delay this proposition to your Government (Switzerland) and ask especially the London office of your mission for the purpose of exchanging information relative to the situation of the prisoners of war in your country, while I will take pleasure in notifying you of any results which may be obtained.

1. Whether it agrees to participate in a collective step by all governments concerned in view of improving the fate of the interned or deported populations in German-occupied territories at the meeting.

2. Whether it agrees that such a collective step be undertaken through the medium of an exchange of views covering the problems under study, on which occasion I will take pleasure in notifying you of the date and time.

a) The International Committee of the Red Cross;

b) The Holy See;

c) The governments of neutral powers (Switzerland, Sweden, Spain, Irish Free State).

I have the honor to receive your representations either individually or in common, to the German Government along the lines indicated and in the name of all the governments concerned.

3. Whether it is in accord that the purpose of such a step should be to request the German Government to grant to persons who are interned, deported or in any other manner deprived of their freedom of movement in German-occupied territories, and particularly to political prisoners, to foreign laborers deported into Germany, and to deported Jewish citizens, the guarantee that they will receive

Dr. G. Rieger,
World Jewish Congress,
Geneva.
receive a treatment similar to that enjoyed by prisoners of war by virtue of the Geneva Convention of July 27, 1929, and as was provided for all civilian internees in Article 17 of the Project of Convention of Tokyo of 1934.

These guarantees should include notably:

a) Information communicated to a neutral organization regarding the place of residence and the state of health of the internees and deportees and their right to receive and send letters;

b) Living conditions consistent with human dignity where treatment, living quarters, food and hygiene are concerned;

c) Right of internees and deportees to be visited by a representative of a neutral organization;

d) Right of internees and deportees to receive material help such as parcels, medical products, etc., through the medium of a neutral organization.

I am furthermore at your entire disposal for the purpose of exchanging information relative to the situation of civilian prisoners, deportees and internees and the steps already undertaken by your Government, between the participants in the meeting of November 17, 1944, as provided for during the course of that meeting.

I am convinced that such an exchange of information might be used as a basis for a further exchange of views covering the problems under study, on which occasion I will take great pleasure in inviting you at a later date.

Please accept, dear Doctor, the assurance of my most distinguished consideration.

(signed) Dr. J. KOPECKY

M. Lannoye
Belgian Delegate, Representative of the Government of Belgium
Permanent Delegate

Dr. J. Kopeczky outlined the purpose of the meeting, which is to undertake a collective step, the initiative of which was Dr. Magnier's, by all the countries whose territories are in part or in whole occupied by Germany, in approaching the International Committee of the Red Cross and the neutral powers in order to urge them to induce Germany to treat civilian deportees and prisoners in accordance with the principles of the Geneva Convention of 1929 and the Tokyo Project of 1934. Dr. Kopeczky added that the time seems propitious for taking this step, as the situation of the deportees and prisoners is becoming more and more precarious as war develops and it is possible that the Germans may adopt desperate methods.

REGRADE
UNCLASSIFIED
REPORT ON THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 17, 1944
at the Czechoslovak Delegation.

The following attended the meeting:

Dr. J. Kopecky
Permanent Delegate and Delegate of the Czechoslovak Red Cross

Mr. Soneriu
Delegate to the Romanian Government and the International Red Cross of the Romanian Red Cross

Mr. M. Nálas
Permanent Delegate of Greece to the League of Nations

Mr. L. Cortese
Italian Consul General

Mr. P. Anker
League of Nations, representing Norway

Dr. Macanin
Delegate of the Yugoslav Red Cross

Dr. Riegner
World Jewish Congress

Mr. B. Goussot
Head of the French Mission of the Ministry for Prisoners, Deportees and Refugees

Dr. M. Alexandrovic
Representing Prince S. Hadziwill, Permanent Delegate of the Polish Red Cross

Jokheer C. H. L.
Delegate of the Dutch Indies Red Cross, representing M. van Notten, Dutch Consul General

M. Lannée
Belgian Consul, representing M. de Gerait de Ferruza, Chargé d’Affaires of Belgium.

Dr. J. Kopecky outlined the purpose of the meeting, which is to undertake a collective step, the initiative of which was Dr. Riegner's, by all the countries whose territories are in part or in whole occupied by Germany, in approaching the International Committee of the Red Cross and the neutral powers in order to urge them to induce Germany to treat civilian deportees and prisoners in accordance with the principles of the Geneva Convention of 1929 and the Tokyo Project of 1934. Dr. Kopecky added that the time seems propitious for making this attempt as the situation of the deportees and prisoners is becoming more and more precarious as the war develops and it is possible that the Germans may adopt desperate methods.
Dr. Macanin, as Delegate of the Yugoslav Red Cross, thanked Dr. Kopecky for his invitation and gave his entire approval to the latter's suggestion. He believes that it is quite right to attempt at the last minute to save what may still be saved.

Mr. Peter Anker expressed his thanks to Mr. Kopecky for his invitation and stated that it is an excellent thing to meet to establish contacts among each other and with the governments of the delegates. He pointed out that there are two problems to consider: that of the civilian population and that of the political deportees in the prisons and penitentiaries of Germany. Mr. Anker believes that it is the latter problem that should have our attention and should be studied in view of the collective step of the countries concerned as it is more likely to be solved by the medium of the International Committee of the Red Cross, while the problem of the civilian populations is more delicate to handle.

Mr. Anker added that he does not know to what extent the various steps have been taken with the International Committee of the Red Cross, but he believes that the fact of being located in Geneva is favorable in making a study of those questions, both from a technical as well as from a general standpoint.

Mr. Senetariu, Permanent Delegate of the Romanian Red Cross, emphasized the advantages of this meeting which will enable a closer contact to be established. He pointed out that, as a result of recent political events, Romania finds itself in a more difficult situation than the other countries. He recalled the fate of the Romanian internees who have no means of communicating with the International Committee of the Red Cross. Mr. Senetariu is of the opinion that thanks to this meeting the countries concerned will be able to propose a useful initiative. He proposes, furthermore, to organize a service for the exchange of information received from Germany and of reports on what has already been accomplished along the lines of the proposed step.

Dr. Siegner then spoke as follows: the idea of asking Mr. Kopecky to bring together the representatives of the occupied countries came to him after considering the changes which have taken place in the political situation. Sections of Germany itself already are or soon will be in a situation comparable to that of the occupied countries and there already exist indications that the countries concerned will succeed in making Germany alter its policy towards civilian populations. It would be well to follow along this track by a collective step by all the countries concerned through the medium of either the International Committee of the Red Cross or the neutral powers in obtaining the application of guarantees. Such a step would naturally include all situations and all categories of persons suffering from German persecutions. As concerns the Tokyo Project, only
a few of the principles adopted could be utilised. In fact, those principles were adopted only in connection with the situation of persons interned in enemy countries at the beginning of the war. As for the occupied countries, the occupying power refused to apply the principles in question from the beginning. The World Jewish Congress has renewed its appeals to the International Committee of the Red Cross and, after intervening with President Hanke Huber and Dr. Carl Harkenstein, a note was sent to the Germans requesting certain guarantees in favor of the "Auslandische Schutzhuflinge", political prisoners, foreign workers, deported populations and especially the Jewish populations.

This step has not as yet brought any results, but the German side has let it be known unofficially that a reply was forthcoming. A collective step on the part of the countries concerned could sustain and renew the step taken by the Red Cross. It might be possible to call upon the neutral powers to induce them to take some action; this would eventually include the Vatican.

Mr. Miehler added that he desires an exchange of views on this subject.

Mr. W. Minkowsky, Permanent Delegate of the Greek Red Cross, expressed the hope that the Allies would grant the method of repayment of prisoners of war, as far as Greece was concerned, to the extent of releasing prisoners of war who have fallen into the hands of the Allies. That is the only way to get something out of the Germans. As the Allies penetrate further and further into Germany, the Germans will have to adopt a more liberal attitude.

Mr. Zoppeky thanked Mr. Clouzet for his proposal and expressed the opinion that concrete suggestions should be made as to the nature for which the Allies are fighting.

Mr. Acker added a remark concerning the term "political deportee", to which he called Mr. Clouzet's attention.

Jenkkheek Flugiu van Aspermont, representing the Consul General...
Mr. Kopacky replied at once to Jonkheer van Apermont by justifying his absence as follows: for the present, the problem should only be studied by the countries whose citizens are involved. Only after having come to an agreement upon a common and concrete opinion, will the countries in question take up the matter with the U.S. and Great Britain once more.

Jonkheer Hugé van Apermont expressed his approval of this exchange proposal and went on by proposing an exchange between the delegates of reports on the situation, these reports to be transmitted to their respective governments.

This proposal was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Mavlas, Permanent Delegate of the Greek Red Cross expressed his approval of the interesting initiative of a collective step and added to Mr. Clousot a concrete proposal that, as far as Greece was concerned, that country would never resort to the method of reprisals.

Mr. Clousot replied that this question had also been put to the French and that it had been deemed imprudent to mention reprisals to the Germans. This is a possible but complicated solution, but it believes one to act in a more diplomatic manner.

Mr. Lannide, Belgian Consul, representing the Belgian Chargé d’Affaires at Bern, thanked Mr. Kopacky for his invitation and declared that he adhered to the collective step initiative. He regretted that the Belgian representative at Bern had been unable to attend this meeting, as all the countries primarily interested in the problem under study. Mr. Lannide added that a step of this nature must be carefully taken and that there should be no question of reprisals.

All the members expressed their approval.

Mr. Aker added to Mr. Lannide’s remark by stating that such a method (reprisals) is contrary to the principles of morality for which the Allies are fighting.

Mr. R. Cortina, Italian Consul General, after thanking Mr. Kopacky for his invitation, expressed his approval of the collective step initiative. It will be necessary to discuss the ways and means of undertaking this step and to choose between the threat of reprisals, bargaining and soft methods.

Dr.
Mr. Kiesinger is of the opinion that the nature of the step to be taken must be studied. His idea was to suggest to the International Committee of the Red Cross and to the neutral powers that they should approach the Germans and call upon them to change their treatment of civilian deportees and prisoners, so that, when their territories come under the domination of the Allies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the neutral powers can do something in their favor. Such a method can only be undertaken by the neutral powers and the International Committee of the Red Cross and not by us.

Mr. Anker remarked that the provisions of the Tokyo Project of Convention go so far, for instance hostages having to remain in the country where they were taken, that the Germans will never observe them. On the other hand, they are not open to humanitarian and juridical arguments, but may react favorably if confronted by threats.

Mr. Lanniès took up Mr. Mélas' proposal which he approved: the fate of deportees depends on Himmler and the Gestapo. Steps should be taken with the subordinates as the latter cannot hope to benefit by palliating circumstances.

Mr. Mélas added that the fate of the internees often depends on the commandant of the camp and he cites a case.

Mr. Clousot emphasized the fact that all steps must
be made in diplomatic terms and that prudence and tactfulness should be observed. He mentioned the case of the Red Cross which is extremely reticent in giving any information on deportees and prisoners which might be disclosed to the public, thus allowing up its action in their favor. This remark was approved by all the delegates.

In closing the meeting, Dr. Kopecky thanked all the delegates and expressed his satisfaction at having been able to get together the delegates of all the countries and the Red Cross associations concerned, which has resulted in a very favorable mutual understanding.

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