

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee  
Licenses - Rescue Operations in Hungary and Balkans

000091

MJB-29  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement (W).

✓  
Lishon  
Dated August 9, 1944  
Rec'd 5:30 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

2466, August 9, 5 p.m.

This is WRB 149, JDC 52 replying WRB 67 August 5 for  
Leavitt from Schwartz.

No non-Hungarian currency being forwarded Hungary.  
Funds available in Switzerland being used for purchase  
of pengoes at current rate twenty to dollar. Borrowing  
internally impossible as there is practically no cash  
in hands Hungarian Jews. Pengoes being transferred  
intercross to purchase food and supplies as there is  
sufficient food in Hungary if pengoes enough are available.  
Therefore unnecessary send in food.

NORWEB

WSB RR

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Akzin, Borenstein, Cohn,  
DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, McCormack,  
Mannon, Marks, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Weinstein, Files

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972

000092

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

OUTGOING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

August 5, 1944

BAS  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement.

**CONTROL COPY**

For security reasons the  
text of this message must  
be closely guarded.

AMEMBASSY,

LISBON.  
2189

The cable below is WRB 87.

COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS  
(LIAISON)

1944 AUG 8 AM 10 16

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF

Please deliver a paraphrase of the following message to  
Dr. Joseph Schwartz, 242 Rua Aurea, Lisbon, from Moses A.  
Leavitt of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

QUOTE On July 16 we remitted \$1,800,000 to McClelland  
for Saly Mayer, of which \$1,000,000 was for special fund  
requested by McClelland and Mayer and \$800,000 for Balkan  
rescue program as you requested from Istanbul STOP Regard-  
ing your proposal for \$800,000 for camps for 30,000 Hungarian  
refugees, this proposal came originally from Saly Mayer and  
WRB requested McClelland to ascertain reason why (1) foreign  
currency was required, (2) whether local funds could not be  
raised for maintenance against blocked dollar accounts and  
(3) whether food supplies could not be sent in under Inter-  
national Red Cross supervision. WRB has had no reply to  
these questions. STOP Expect Arthur Greenleigh arrive Rome  
momentarily UNQUOTE.

WRB:MMV:KG S/CR  
8/2/44

WE

SECRETINUS  
(U.S.)

DECLASSIFIED  
2WP State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972

000093

CABLE TO LISBON

From War Refugee Board to Norweb

Please deliver the following message to Dr. Joseph Schwartz,  
242 Rua Aurea, Lisbon, from Moses A. Leavitt of the American Jewish  
Joint Distribution Committee:

"On July 15 we remitted \$1,500,000 to McClelland for Saly  
Mayer, of which \$1,000,000 was for special fund requested by  
McClelland and Mayer and \$500,000 for Balkan rescue program as  
you requested from Istanbul STOP Regarding your proposal for  
\$500,000 for camps for 30,000 Hungarian refugees, this proposal  
came originally from Saly Mayer and WRB requested McClelland  
to ascertain reason why (1) foreign currency was required,  
(2) whether local funds could not be raised for maintenance  
against blocked dollar accounts and (3) whether food supplies  
could not be sent in under International Red Cross supervision.  
WRB has had no reply to these questions. STOP Expect Arthur  
Greenleigh arrive Rome momentarily"

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO LISBON NO. 67

10:15 a.m.  
August 1, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel,  
Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, McCormack, Cable Control Files

*Dictated*  
*W. H. Leavitt*  
FH:lab 8/31/44

000094

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

*Files*

FROM: American Legation, Bern  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: July 29, 1944  
NUMBER: 4867

McClelland sends the following for WRB.

With reference to Department's messages of July 28, No. 2579 and July 16, No. 2417, 6,402,825 Swiss francs received through Swiss National Bank July 20. These funds are being held at the disposal of Saly Mayer, to be withdrawn as required, with his approval. I instructed bank to make first advance of 2 million francs on July 27, which will be used as follows:

1. On instructions Joseph Schwartz for transportation of 761 refugees from Rumania to Palestine, payment of 380,500 francs to account of Wolf Zecovhild of Hollantsche Bank Istanbul in Union Banque Suisse Zurich.
2. Pongoes to be purchased here in Switzerland for relief program (probably to be conducted by ICRC) for Jewish children in Budapest.
4. Additional financing flight endangered Hungarian Jewish refugees to Rumania and Slovakia.

We have requested Saly Mayer to furnish us beforehand with detailed expenditure in connection with Swiss franc equivalent one million dollars, as recommended in numbered paragraph two of Legation's message of July 5, No. 4258. We plan to exercise control usually expected over distributions

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972

000095

No. 4867 - #2

distributions of monies for rescue and relief work in enemy territory under special license granted Joint Distribution Committee, in case of Swiss franc equivalent \$500,000 to be spent by Saly Mayer with relation to evacuation program from Balkans.

HARRISON

DGR:GPW

8-1-44

000096

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Reference WRB Cable to Bern No. 83 (Department's 2417) of  
July 15, 1944.

Please advise at once whether Swiss francs have been received  
and turned over to Saly Mayer.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN, NO. 93

11:30 a.m.  
July 25, 1944

000097

*dw*  
DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

OUTGOING  
TELEGRAM

*copy Ref. Bl. Ref. Bl.*

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

July 19, 1944

Distribution of funds  
to be made only by special  
arrangement (██████████)

8 P.M.  
*copy*  
**CONTROL COPY**

EMBASSY,

LISBON.  
2018

The following War Refugee Board cable 88 is for Dexter.

Please deliver paraphrase of the following message to  
Robert Filpel, c/o American Embassy, from Moses A. Leavitt  
of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

QUOTE In connection Balkan evacuation we remitted  
to Saly Mayer Swiss franc equivalent \$500,000 according  
Schwartz' request Stop Assume you giving Saly Mayer  
instructions disposal funds UNQUOTE.

HULL  
(GEM)

WRB:MMV:KG  
7/17/44

WE

SUP

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date **SEP 27 1972**

000098

CABLE TO LISBON

From War Refugee Board to Norweb

Please deliver the following message to Robert Pilpel,  
o/o American Embassy, from Moses A. Leavitt of the American  
Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

"In connection Balkan evacuation we remitted to  
Saly Mayer Swiss frank equivalent \$500,000 according  
Schwartz' request Stop Assume you giving Saly Mayer  
instructions disposal funds."

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO LISBON 58

3:05 p.m.  
July 14, 1944

*copy sent to Leavitt  
7/15  
F.A. Hill*

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel,  
Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Stewart, Central Files, Cable Control Files

*dictated  
by heart* db: 7/14/44

000099

*run Refugee Bd  
m. table*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington

TO: American Consul, Istanbul

DATED: July 18, 1944

NUMBER: 330

**CONTROL COPY**

Please deliver the following message to Joseph Schwartz, Istanbul, from Moses A. Leavitt of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

"In connection Balkan evacuation remitting to Saly Mayer Swiss franc equivalent \$500,000 as requested. Assume Saly Mayer will receive instructions for payment from Lisbon.

HULL

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972

000100

CABLE TO AMERICAN CONSULATE, ISTANBUL, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Please deliver the following message to Joseph Schwartz,  
Istanbul, from Moses A. Lewitt of the American Jewish Joint  
Distribution Committee:

"In connection Balkan evacuation remitting to  
Saly Mayer Swiss franc equivalent \$500,000 as requested  
Stop Assume Saly Mayer will receive instructions for  
payment from Lisbon.

3:05 p.m.  
July 14, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel,  
Mann, Lesser, Laughlin, Stewart, Central Files, Cable Control Files

*JK* Dictated  
by *hearn* 7/24/44

000101

MEMORANDUM

For attachment to: NY 638933

FFC Letter No:

Date:

TO: Liaison Officer, Foreign Funds Control  
FROM: War Refugee Board  
Subject: Rescue operations in Hungary and the Balkans

There is transmitted herewith a copy of a ~~letter dated~~ memo from Miss Hodel dated 7-14-44 from the dealing with remittance of \$1,500,000 to Federal Reserve Bank of New York for credit to account T of the Swiss National Bank, Zurich, Swiss franc equivalent to be paid to Roswell McClelland for rescue operations in Hungary and the Balkans.

The War Refugee Board recommends that appropriate Treasury licenses and other necessary documents be issued permitting the execution of the project contemplated in the letter described above.

Remarks:

F. Hodel  
For the War Refugee Board

Action:

Basic license No. W- issued  
Remittance license No. NY 638933 issued July 14, 1944  
Other:

Liaison Officer  
Foreign Funds Control

Date: July 14, 1944

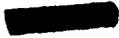
C O P Y

000102

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ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

Y FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: AMLEGATION, BERN  
DATED: July 15, 1944  
NUMBER: 2417  
X

  
Cable to Minister Harrison, Bern, for McClelland from WRB.

Please disregard WRB cable no. 81, Department's no. 2387 of July 12, since Pehle has made special arrangement with Swiss Minister here for Swiss franc equivalent of \$1,500,000 to be made available. The only condition imposed by the Swiss authorities is that the aforementioned Swiss francs be used solely for humanitarian purposes.

The \$1,500,000 is being supplied by JDC here and the Swiss franc equivalent should be turned over to Saly Mayer promptly upon receipt. \$1,000,000 of this amount is for the fund requested by Saly Mayer as reported in your no. 4258 of July 5. The balance of \$500,000 is for expenditure by Saly Mayer in connection with evacuation program from Balkans and as to which he will receive further instructions from Lisbon office of JDC.

Please cable when Swiss francs have been received and turned over to Saly Mayer.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 83.  
X

HULL

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972

000103

July 14, 1944

C O P Y

NY 638933

Pursuant to application filed directly with this Office you are hereby authorized to issue a license permitting, notwithstanding General Ruling No. 11, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee or its bank of account to pay \$1,500,000 to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York for credit to Account T of the Swiss National Bank, Zurich, for payment of the Swiss franc equivalent to the American Minister at Berne, Switzerland for payment to Roswell McClelland, War Refugee Board representative, for Saly Mayer. Please send signed copy of license issued pursuant to this wire to Mr. Lang, Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

(Initialed) O.A.S.

Dispatched by wire 7/14/44

Orvis A. Schmidt  
Acting Director

REParke:enj 7/14/44

000104

July 14, 1944

: Mr. O'Flaherty  
: F. Hodel

The War Refugee Board urgently recommends the immediate issuance of a license to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee to pay, notwithstanding General Ruling No. 11, \$1,500,000 to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York for credit to accounts of the Swiss National Bank, Zurich, the Swiss franc equivalent to be paid to the American Minister in Bern for payment to Roswell McClelland, War Refugee Board representative, for Saly Mayer.

The above-mentioned sum is needed immediately for rescue operations in Hungary and in the Balkans, which have been approved by the War Refugee Board. Arrangements for the Swiss francs were made by the War Refugee Board with the Swiss Minister in Washington after consultation with Switzerland with the understanding that the Swiss francs would be used solely for humanitarian purposes.

F. Hodel

FH,db 7/15/44

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July 13, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES:

Reference is made to my memorandum for the files of July 11.

The Swiss Minister called today and said that he had received word from Switzerland that the Swiss franc equivalent of \$1,500,000 would be available for the humanitarian purposes which I had described to him, the only condition being that the Swiss francs should not be used for other purposes and, if not needed for the purposes indicated should not be used at all. I thanked Bruggmann for this important action by the Swiss authorities.

With regard to the Treasury's request for additional Swiss franc facilities Bruggmann said that such matter ought to be discussed in Bern and that while he would be glad to send a cable to his government urging that such facilities be made available he could see that substantial difficulties would be involved.

/s/ J. W. Pehle

JWPehle:lh 7/13/44

000106

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July 11, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES:

Reference is made to cable No. 4258 from Bern, dated July 5, and the reference therein to the transfer to Saly Mayer of \$1,000,000 in Swiss francs. This cable came to our attention on Saturday, July 8, and the matter was promptly discussed with the JDC who said that they would put up the \$1,000,000, although presumably they would have to borrow the money. With respect to the problem of the requisite Swiss francs, we have had discussions with Glasser, Fox, and DuBois, and Glasser also spoke to E. M. Bernstein at Bretton Woods on the matter. On Monday, July 10, I called at the Swiss Legation and discussed the matter with the Swiss Minister. He is cabling Bern, emphasizing the need for making available the Swiss francs to cover the \$1,000,000 transfer and also requesting Swiss francs to cover the transfer of an additional \$500,000. The Swiss Minister anticipated there would be difficulties with the Swiss National Bank in the matter, although he agreed the transfer had to be made. I asked him whether it would be helpful if the Treasury agreed to take all of the monthly quota of 8,250,000 francs against exportable gold rather than taking 3,250,000 Swiss francs of this amount against blocked dollars. He said he did not think that such a concession was important at this time since the Swiss were not exporting gold from the United States. The Swiss Minister said it might be helpful if the United States would permit the Swiss to buy certain goods which are not scarce in the United States for storage and shipment at a later date. He felt that this would demonstrate to the Swiss that their dollars are useable. He said he would explore this phase of the matter later and keep me advised.

Bruggmann also suggested that we send a cable to Harrison and McClelland to discuss this matter with Mr. Kohli of the Swiss Political Department.

/s/ J. W. Pehle

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CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AT BERN AND McCLELLAND

Fehle has been in consultation with Swiss Minister here in an effort to secure without delay the Swiss franc equivalent of \$1,500,000 for extraordinary relief purposes. You are requested urgently to discuss this matter with Kohli of the Swiss Political Department. This relates in part to JDC compliance with Saly Mayer request reported in your 4258 of July 5.

\*\*\*\*\*

July 11, 1944  
5:10 p.m.

THIS IS WRB CABLE BERN NO. 81.

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972

000108

**CONTROL COPY**

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington

TO: AMLEGATION, BERN

DATED: July 8, 1944

NUMBER: 2354

X

FOR THE ATTENTION OF MCGLELLAND.

The Joint Distribution Committee is prepared, with reference to the penultimate paragraph of your 4258, July 5, to make the one million dollars requested by Sally Mayer available and within a few days remittance will follow.

The foregoing message is WRB cable to Bern no. 76. X

HULL

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972

000109

RECEIVED: 22  
IN: 10  
100  
SECRET  
BY: [illegible]

C  
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CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AT BERN FOR McCLELLAND

Reference penultimate paragraph your No. 4258 of July 5.  
JDC prepared to make available the one million dollars  
requested by Saly Mayer and remittance will be made in next  
few days.

THIS IS WRN BERN CABLE NO. 76.

\*\*\*\*\*  
July 8, 1944  
5:00 p.m.

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972

000110

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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: July 5, 1944  
NUMBER: 4268

From McClelland for attention of WEB.

About the second of May Sally Mayer first reported the proposition referred to in the Department's 2183, June 27, to JDC Lisbon by telephone. On June 29, I again discussed the whole matter with him. Involved in the proposition are ransom negotiations between representative Jewish circles Budapest and Germans, according to which the Germans would refrain from deporting Hungarian Jews in return for \$2,000,000. Numerous other conditions were also proposed to the Germans, principally being the following: preferential treatment of women, children, and old people; no brutality; exit permits for those possessing or receiving emigration visas; no labor camps to be outside Hungarian territory; and permission to send relief into whatever camps were set up. Early in May from local Hungarian Jewish resources a first payment of 10 per cent or \$200,000 was made. The detail of the conditions under which further installments were to be paid are not in our possession. The result was that the Germans immediately allowed a Jewish emissary to go to Istanbul (about May 16), even placing a plane at his disposal, to discuss the proposition, particularly the emigration angle which concerns Palestine. Later on the emissary made a trip to Jerusalem also.

Regarding this both Sally Mayer and I would be grateful if you could find out from JDC New York whether, during his visit to Barlas, Joel Brand contacted JDC. We request that you inform us regarding this matter.

Deportation of Jews from provinces started as soon as the emissary had left Budapest. This seems to have been due to over-zealous action on the part of Hungarian Nazis and anti-Semites for whom temptation to indulge in newly gained power and to plunder was too great, according to information which we have received.

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972

000111

However, no indications have been received from Budapest that negotiations on the original proposition have broken down or even that \$200,000 is to be considered as lost. Unfortunately the original result hoped for has been already largely annulled by drastic action of Hungarian authorities; and there seems to remain only Jews in Budapest area.

Hereafter this will be referred to as "proposition No. 1."

According to consensus of opinion the proposition referred to in the Department's 2184 of June 27, whereby Freudiger and Rabbi of Neutra appealed for one million dollars to save many Hungarian Jews is based on information possessed almost surely identical with "proposition No. 1." Freudiger sent this separate appeal to Sternbuch for the Union of Orthodox Rabbis in the USA, apparently in an attempt to make doubly sure. The desire for this million was to finance rescue, particularly of Orthodox Jews in Hungary.

This matter was discussed by Saly Mayer and Sternbuch on the 29th of June, and they agreed that hereafter the financial leadership in the whole Hungarian question should remain in New York in the hands of JDC. Regardless of the source, all funds available in USA should be centralized with JDC and transmitted to Mayer for relief or rescue of all categories of Jews in Germany who are endangered. Saly Mayer, on the other hand agreed with Sternbuch to respect earmarked funds sent through him for special groups in Hungary, and the whole discussion has been confirmed by cable directly to the Union of Orthodox Rabbis by Sternbuch.

The most recent variant of "proposition No. 1" is contained in the Legation's 4170 of June 30. In the near future we ought to receive some clarifying information as further messages from Budapest are overdue. By now the emissary should have returned to Budapest.

We submit in answer to last paragraph of your 2184 that it is very difficult to predict whether practical results can be produced from such a ransom proposition. Personally, I am sceptical of any successful outcome, and one can only hope something will come of it. Rather than money, the Germans have already shown signs of requesting goods, such as foodstuffs, textiles. To check Hungarian elements who have launched this program of persecution with the avowed purpose of ridding their country of Jews will also be difficult. Perhaps this is the reason why the Germans have proposed taking the 30,000 to Germany.

However, there are two factors fundamental to the whole question: (1) There should be seriously explored all possible emigration destinations or temporary havens for Hungarian Jews such as Palestine, North Africa, USA for children or South America and sizeable blocks of visas obtained or at least agreement in principle for obtaining visas. There should also be secured transit authorizations for Spain and Portugal. The Germans have refused to allow departures via Rumania and Turkey for reasons as yet not explained. (2) There should be made available to Saly Mayer here in Switzerland in Swiss francs (in addition naturally to his regular relief budget) a substantial fund from JDC, and any other sources, of at least one million dollars. It is strongly felt by Mayer that this will serve to keep up the moral of the remaining Jews in Hungary, and of course such funds will be subject to any control desired, will remain in Switzerland, and without prior submission of proposal and specific authorization, will not be used.

During the course of the last two months, in order to meet this tragic situation, Saly Mayer has already sent over eight thousand Swiss francs into Hungary and two days ago he transmitted to Bratislava two hundred thousand Swiss francs.

HARRISON

000113

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: June 2, 1944  
NUMBER: 3508

Following is from Sternbuch for Union of Orthodox Rabbis:

The Vittel situation is not clear and for some time there has been no direct news. It is not known how many internees remain at Vittel and who are among those at the Drancy concentration camp near Paris. Necessary steps to bring internees back to Vittel have been taken by the American Legation at Bern.

In connection with Bergen-Belsen and York Camp Bergau near Dresden we wish to refer to last explanations by us. Unfortunately, there has been no change in the situation there. No authorization to contact or visit this camp or to send parcels of food is held by IRO. Your intervention is expected by us.

We urgently ask you to find a solution to the problem of proposed passports without regard to the Vittel situation. Those papers are received by us only from one Consulate up to the present time. This is absolutely insufficient for rescue work carried on by us. At various places such papers are useful means and they have so far helped in Slovakia and Hungary. Jews in Hungary are requesting them most urgently to be emitted by different states.

We are quite desperate regarding the increasingly terrible Hungarian situation. There are already on deportation lists 3,000 Jews. It is urgently requested by Rabbi of Neutra and others that airmail be sent to the towns of Munkacs, Kaschau and Presov. 15,000 Jews per day are deported to Poland over this route since May 15. The people are in despair that nothing has been done until the present. It is requested that you intervene and not miss another hour in this matter as this is one means of rescue.

As yet our courier from Lithuania has not returned. Chief Rabbi Hager of Wysnitz and family have been saved and arrived yesterday in Bucharest.

Negotiations with Slovakia for the purpose of opening further labor camps for refugees from Hungary have been started by us with the Vatican's aid. The cost of setting up these camps has been underwritten by us provided there is no restriction on admission of new refugees.

From the

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972

000114

From the Board of Directors we have received a message which is  
a plea for help in getting enough money for this rescue work.  
We must support these (c) people from Hungary who are being daily  
besides those who are being held in Europe. All Jews in hiding are  
in danger of being caught by the Gestapo. The number of Jews  
without livelihood is further 200,000 francs have been placed at  
disposal and the amount for the next rescue program this sum is  
insufficient. At least \$1,000,000 are expected by him and he could have  
and family as well as others if he had had more money he could have saved who  
have a right to live.

The situation in Hungary is a desperate one. The Jews are being  
driven out of their homes and are being sent to the  
East. Slovakia is an absolutely closed ghetto now and  
since the start of the war Jews of Galizia are being  
sent to the East. The way things look in concentration camps of  
Kaschau is described by me. The Jews are in wood without cover. In Kaschau  
15,000 and in Ungvar about 20,000 are living in brick factories.  
They are in houses in Nagyvarad but approximately 15,000 are in a  
few streets which are walled off with boards. It is the same in  
Munkacs. It is declared by Burdett McFrenn that this is technique  
used to break down the resistance of masses psychologically to prepare  
them for the worst which has come true. Jewish deportation has become  
the naked truth and is mercilessly carried on. Today in Munkacs,  
Kaschau, Hidaszeghaza etc.; other transports are to Columbus.  
About 310,000 of our brethren, orthodox, reservoir of the country are  
now being subjected to these measures. Avoiding further misfortune  
is solely dependent on your grasping this situation and on your coming  
to our aid. We are absolutely dependent on you for life or death.  
We can perhaps be partially or totally saved if you can and will keep  
us, but we are lost if not. Do not sit still and do not think about it  
long. Take action at once and make those who can aid us as long  
as there is yet time to do so.

A million Swiss francs were promised at once by wire but a  
million dollars are requested by them. We wish to know what action  
should be taken.

HARRISON

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois,  
Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks,  
McCormack, Sargoy, Smith, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H.D. White, Files.

**BEST AVAILABLE COPY**



CLASSIFIED BY: 1041 OF PROCEEDING (MAY)

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Legation, Bern  
DATED: June 27, 1944  
NUMBER: 2184

FROM J. W. PEHLE, WAR REFUGEE BOARD FOR McCLELLAND, BERN

Reference Legation's No. 3506, June 2, containing message from Sternbuch to Union of Orthodox Rabbis.

The Board and certain private groups here are being pressed by Union of Orthodox Rabbis for funds in connection with appeal for \$1,000,000 from Rabbi of Neutra and President Freudiger of the Budapest Jewish Community reported in above cable from Bern. JDC has already cabled Saly Mayer to discuss this matter with Sternbuch.

Please send me at once your views concerning the proposal and, in particular, advise me whether the suggested payment will in your opinion produce results. Will you also consult Saly Mayer and in your message to me include Mayer's views which we will send on to the JDC.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 59.

HULL

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Akzin, Berns ein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laug lin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H. D. White, Files.

000117

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: June 30, 1944  
NUMBER: 4170 X

MCCELLAND SENDS THE FOLLOWING FOR WRB.

Reference is made herein to the Legation's cable of June 24, no. 4041.

The Jews of Budapest have no illusion as to the fact that deportation is probably in store for the majority of 300,000 Jews concentrated in houses and restricted blocks all over that city, according to information dated June 18 and received from responsible Jewish circles in Budapest. It is openly admitted by the Germans that selection of those to be deported will be made on a basis as follows: (A) men who are able-bodied, (B) children, women and girls who are able-bodied, (C) all persons unsuited for work and children. No doubt the last mentioned category will be sent to Auschwitz for extermination while the first two groups will be used as forced labor in occupied territories and Germany.

There seems to be some possibility, as result of recent discussions in Budapest between responsible Jews and Germans, of the following: (1) rescue of a small number of children and prominent persons who will be allowed to leave Hungary in an initial convoy of 1000 persons; and (2) rather than being immediately exterminated, the lean concession that 30,000 Hungarian Jews unsuited for work will be maintained in three camps in Germany. The success of these two proposals depends in turn on two conditions: (1) That there can be secured for the initial group of 1,000 and for others to follow emigration possibilities via Spain; and (2) that the three camps of 10,000 persons each in Germany can be supported by the supply of funds from Jewish organizations. To do this it is estimated that at least 500,000 Swiss francs monthly would be necessary. It was intimated by the Germans that further contingents would be allowed to leave Germany from these camps as Spanish transit and overseas (Palestine, North Africa or elsewhere) emigration visas became available.

These propositions have been discussed with Salymayer of Joint to whom appeal has been addressed, to find funds required for the support of such camps in Germany. We both feel that a serious attempt should be made to secure initial block of 1,000 or more Spanish transit visas at

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least for the children, even though we both consider them highly improbable and incomprehensible from many angles. To care for such transit groups arrangements should be made in Spain and for further destinations also. A great many have Palestine certificates, according to information we have received from Budapest. We recommend that approach be made to the Spanish Government.

In at least trying to comply with requests of persons sur(\*) place in Hungary there is nothing to lose and possibly something to gain, even though these propositions may seem to be far fetched. Even though remote, every channel of aid must be explored in view of the desperateness of the situation of Jews there. Over 400,000 have already been deported, according to reports.

HARRISON

(\*) Apparent omission

DCR:MAS:EA  
7-3-44

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Akin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Lufford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pahl, Sargoy, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H. D. White, Files.

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