

Denunciation of Jews in Bucharest

000563

~~SECRET~~

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D. C.

X-2 Branch

14-9072

November 8, 1944

Memorandum for: Mr. Orvis A. Schmidt, Foreign Funds Control  
Treasury

Subject: Denunciation of Jews in Bucharest

1. The following information was received from Caserta by cable on October 27, the source being captured German documents.

2. These documents reveal that one Hans Welt, a Swiss journalist who is trusted by the Zionists and occasionally acted as courier for them, had denounced many Jews to the Gestapo. These documents also revealed that Willmann, President of the Jewish Center at Bucharest, and one Hänsli, a Swiss (no further identification) had also made many denunciations to the Gestapo against Jews. These records list individual American donations to Jews in Bucharest totaling nearly a half million dollars. This money was sent to Switzerland for relay to Palestine but there is evidence that much of it may have been diverted.

*B. A. Towell*  
Bernard A. Towell  
X-2 Branch

DECLASSIFIED  
By Authority of \_\_\_\_\_  
CIA 006687  
BY SR Date MAR 3 1975

~~SECRET~~

000564

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

*War Ref*  
*Bd (m)*  
*Pik*

MFD-1956  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement (██████████ W)

Bern  
Dated November 30, 1944  
Rec'd 12:49 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

7849, November 30, 2 p.m.  
FOR WRB FROM MCCLELLAND.

With due regard for highly confidential nature of  
information contained in your 3943, November 20 WRB  
286, I am making inquiries through channels available to  
me concerning Hanswelt, Willmann and Hanalia particularly  
the former. Will report any reliable findings promptly.

HÜDDLE

BB

**CONTROL COPY**

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

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

000565

*2 war Ref Bd  
(Pahly)*

DESCRIPTION OF

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, Ankara  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: November 30, 1944  
NUMBER: 2277

**CONTROL COPY**

On page one, line 12, delete "(?)anca" and insert "the Segurancas" making the line read "addressees was summoned to the Segurancas for question on matters etc."

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

000566

*I was Ref Bd Pella*

RECEIVED BY THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

FROM: American Embassy, Ankara  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATE: November 30, 1944  
NUMBER: 2277  
X

**CONTROL COPY**

The following is for your confidential information from Katchi to Public War Refugee Board, Ankara's 197.

Reference is made herewith to Department's cable no. 1060, WRB's no. 129.

For some time the Palestine Rescue Committee representatives in Istanbul have known of the dealings of Hans Welti. Welti had been introduced to them as a Swiss journalist who had important contacts and who was able to carry mail to Bucharest and Sofia from Istanbul and vice versa. The services of Welti were used in November 1943 for the first time. After undue delay the letters arrived in Bucharest and one of the addressees was summoned to <sup>the Securance</sup> ~~(S) Secur~~ for questioning on matters which have been mentioned only in the letters entrusted to Welti. Then from reliable sources the Palestinian representatives found out that Welti had been suspected as being a Nazi agent for some time. The Bucharest representatives of Palestinians, accordingly, were warned regarding Welti who was sometimes given harmless letters in order to avoid trouble and suspicion.

26 of the Rescue Committee's active people in Bucharest, in February 1944, were arrested on charges of foreign currency smuggling and of having been in contact with Tito (see WRB's

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

000567

no. 49 to Ankara). It seems clear to persons arrested, during the investigation by Hungarian and German authorities, that they were being questioned on the basis of material which could have reached the authorities only through Wetti.

Proper individuals in Istanbul have been informed of Wetti's name and activities.

We do not know here the name of Willmann, described in your cable as President of the Jewish Center in Bucharest. Can you provide any helpful details?

Here Wetti may be the Hansli whom you mention. He is not known here to rescue agencies.

STEINHARDT

DCR:VAG 12/1/44

000568

*2 was by [unclear]  
Public*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Legation, Bern  
DATED: November 20, 1944  
NUMBER: 3943

This is War Refugee Board Bern cable No. 286.  
Attention of McClelland.

A secret source indicates information that one Hans Welt, said to be a Swiss journalist trusted by the Zionists and occasionally their courier has denounced many Jews to the Gestapo. The same source indicated information that Willmann, said to be President of the Jewish Center at Bucharest, and one Hansli, a Swiss (no further identification) have also denounced many Jews to the Gestapo. The Board would appreciate any information you may have concerning the activities and relationships of the persons named. You will, of course, realize the extremely confidential nature of the foregoing reports and act accordingly.

STETTINIUS  
(Acting)

**CONTROL COPY**

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

000569

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AT BERN FOR MC CLELLAND

A secret source indicates information that one Hans Welt, said to be a Swiss journalist trusted by the Zionists and occasionally their courier has denounced many Jews to the Gestapo. The same source indicates information that Willmann, said to be President of the Jewish Center at Bucharest, and one Hansli, a Swiss (no further identification) have also denounced many Jews to the Gestapo. The Board would appreciate any information you may have concerning the activities and relationships of the persons named. You will, of course, realize the extremely confidential nature of the foregoing reports and act accordingly.

THIS IS WRM BERN CABLE NO. 286.

12:30 p.m.  
November 20, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Ackermann, Conn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Lesser, Mannon, McCormack, Files

L.S.L. RRS *RRS*  
LSLesser:hh 11-18-44

000570



DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

Distribution of  
true reading only by  
special arrangement

OUTGOING  
TELEGRAM

November 20, 1944

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

8 P.M.

17

*Wan Ref 58*  
*T M*  
*Rehl*  
For security reasons  
text of this message  
be closely

EMBASSY

ANKARA

1060

The cable below for Katzki is WRB 129.

A secret source indicates information that one Hans Welt, said to be a Swiss journalist trusted by the Zionists and occasionally their courier has denounced many Jews to the Gestapo. The same source indicates information that Willmann, said to be President of the Jewish Center at Bucharest, and one Hansli, a Swiss (no further identification) have also denounced many Jews to the Gestapo. The Board would appreciate any information you may have concerning the activities and relationships of the persons named. You will, of course, realize the extremely confidential nature of the foregoing reports and act accordingly.

STETTINIUS  
(ACTING)  
(MMV)

CONTROL COPY

WRB:MMV:KG  
11/20/44

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

000571

CABLE TO AMBASSADOR STEINHARDT AT ANKARA FOR KATZKI

A secret source indicates information that one Hans Welt, said to be a Swiss journalist trusted by the Zionists and occasionally their courier has denounced many Jews to the Gestapo. The same source indicates information that Willmann, said to be President of the Jewish Center at Bucharest, and one Hansli, a Swiss (no further identification) have also denounced many Jews to the Gestapo. The Board would appreciate any information you may have concerning the activities and relationships of the persons named. You will, of course, realize the extremely confidential nature of the foregoing reports and act accordingly.

THIS IS WRS ANKARA CABLE NO. 129.

12:30 p.m.  
November 20, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Ackermann, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman,  
Hodel, Lesser, Mannon, McCormack, Files

*W.L. Riel*  
L:Lesser:hh 11-16-44 *JD*

000572