Funds for Relief Work in Switzerland

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FUNDS: FOR RELIEF WORK IN SWITZERLAND (SECRET)

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  2. LICENSES ISSUED RE THIS FILE -: W = 2274

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ORIGINAL TEAT OF TREEGREE SANT

FRO: :

Secretary of State, ashington

TO:

American Legation, Bern

DATE:

August 28, 1944

NUMBER: 2972

CONTROL COPY

FOR MODERALAN : FROM THE REFUGIA BOARD.

Reference your No. 4904 of July 31, 1944 and Department's No. 2895 of August 23, 1944, (WRB No. 138).

Board assumes that any work you are doing for relief of families of the Maquis is closely coordinated with OSS and that in areas where truly takes over our activities will cease. Foregoing is our understanding with Mar Department here.

THIS IS WEB BIRD C.BLE NO. 147.

HULL

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

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CABLE TO HARRISON, BERN, FOR MCCLELLAND FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Reference your No. 4904 of July 31, 1944 and Department's No. of (WRB No. 138).

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THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 147

3:05 p.m. August 26, 1944

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

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### ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM:

Secretary of State, Joshington

TO:

American legation, Bern

DATED:

August 28, 1944

NUMBER:

2973

FOR MCCLELLAND PROM PLHES.

For your personal and confidential information.

Special fund of \$250,000 sent to you in two installments of \$125,000 each was made available by the JDC which has been kept advised of your reports on the use of such fund. JDC approves such expenditures and the continued use of the fund for the programs mentioned by ou.

THIS IS THE CLEET TO BURN NO. 148.

HULL

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972

CABLE TO HARRISON, BERN, FOR MCCLELLAND FROM PEHLE

For your personal and confidential information.

Special fund of \$250,000 sent to you in two installments of \$125,000 each was made available by the JDC which has been kept advised of your reports on the use of such fund. JDC approves such expenditures and the continued use of the fund for the programs mentioned by you.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 148

3:05 p.m. August 26, 1944

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

Jd. Cleaned Pelolo with Histor 8/25/44 Dear Mr. McCloy:

I have received your letter of August 23, 1944, concerning assistance rendered by our representative in Bern to Conseil de la Resistance for the relief of families of the Maquis.

You are quite correct in assuming that the Board does not intend to go into this type of work extensively. I enclose for your information a copy of a cable received by the Board from Mr. McClelland in which he explains his part in this program. We are advising Mr. McClelland at once to coordinate any work in this field with the activities of CSS. The Board, of course, has no intention of facilitating relief operations of this kind in areas where the Army has taken over.

I appreciate your calling this matter to my attention and I assure you that every effort will be made to insure no overlapping of activities in the refuges relief field.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pohla

J. W. Pehle Executive Director

Honorable John J. McCloy.

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Assistant Secretary of War.

70 900 Filab 8/25/44

METHERINA

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

23 August 1944

Mr. John W. Fehle Executive Director War Refugee Board Treasury Department Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I noticed in your summary of War Refugee Board report for the week of July 31 to August 5 that your representative McClelland has furnished funds to Conseil de la Resistance to assist families of the Maquis. I understand that OSS has done something in this regard and of course in areas where the Army comes in arrangements are made through the Civil Affairs people to help out.

I do not suppose that you contemplate going into this field to any great extent but if you do I make the suggestion that it might be advisable to coordinate what you are doing with other agencies as we may get too many in the field.

Sincerely.

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Date - 10 - 5 - 65

Signature- CL 5



COMPLEXION.

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ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM:

Secretary of State, Washington

TO:

American Legation, Bern

DATLD:

August 23, 1944

NUMBER:

2895

CONTROL COPY

THE FOLLOWING FOR MOJLELLAND FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Board approves your support (including financial aid) of the two programs reported in your No. 4904 of July 31 and your No. 5343 of August 17. You are authorized to continue such support as long as you deem it advisable.

Tais is WRB BERN CADLE NO. 138

HULL

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

CABLE TO HARRISON, BERN, FOR MCCLELLAND FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Board approves your support (including financial aid) of the two programs reported in your No. 4904 of July 31 and your No. 5343 of August 17.

You are authorised to continue such support as long as you deem it advisable.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 138

1:25 p.m. August 22, 1944

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

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2 was Ey Selle ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM:

Secretary of State, Washington

TO:

American Legation, Bern

DATED:

August 83, 1944 37A F

CONTROL JOPY

NUMBER:

2898

FOLLOWING FOR MCCLELLAND FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD:

Reference your number 5195 of August 11, 1944. Remittance of 125,000 dollars being made through regular banking channels to Minister Harrison for your account.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE No. 134.

HULL

DECLASSIFIED

CABLE TO HARRISON, BERN, FOR MCCLELLAND FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Reference your number 5195 of August 11, 1944.

Remittance of 125,000 dollars being made through regular banking channels to Minister Harrison for your account.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO.

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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RESERVED

FROM:

American Legation, Bern

TO:

Secretary of State, Washington

DATE:

August 11, 1944

NUMBER:

5195

McClelland sends the following for the Mar Refugee Board.

In view of the fact that the coming months will be critical ones and first installment WRB funds is practically exhausted remittance of remaining \$125,000 funds in the near future would be appreciated.

The foregoing refers to the Department's June 10 cable No. 1994.

HARRISON

DOR: EBH 8/14/55 / 44

DECLASSIFIED State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date <u>SEP</u> 27 1972

PA THEORY OF THE HEALTYN PURCH STARLE SERVERY

FROM:

AMERICAN LEGATION, BERN

TO:

Secretary of State, Washington

DATED:

July 31, 1944

NUMBER:

4904

CONTROL COPY

This message is from McClelland to WRB.

Refer my 3390 of the twenty seventh of May and Department's 1994 of the tenth of June.

During the past few months I have been in close contact with several responsible members of the French "Conseil dela Resistance" and in particular with the head of their relief or "Service Social" section.

In the attempt of the Social Service to keep alive the families of combatants in the Maquis, innocent civilians, executed patriots and of hundreds of thousands of political prisoners in prisons and camps, it has had to take on an ever increasing responsibility.

Such acutely required relief work has been lacking in adequate financing.

The Service Social has had to accomplish its best under this great burden with a mere five million francs a month, in spite of the fact that the minimum budget requirement is twenty million French francs each month, which is four hundred Swiss francs, roughly speaking.

On the twenty fourth of June I contributed two hundred thousand Bwiss france to their budget for an unspecified length of

DECLASSIFIED State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

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By R. H. Parks Date E. P. 2 / 1972

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time and since have floatered one makest carps or wedleak supplies to the couthern regions for the relief of civilians, although not falling wholly within FRE's scope of prescribed field of activity.

Such contribution was primarily made to mitigate the bitter need of the French themselves and, in small part, to secure the cooperator and good will of the CAR, which is necessary in carrying out successfully any relief operations on behalf of foreign refugees.

In France. Some other source must furnish financial aid for them. However, I hesitate to continue without specified approval regular support from WAS funds. The Minister, other members of the Legation and myself on the other hand ungently recommend that such aid be continued on underlable humanitarian, as well as military and political bases. The morale of the civilians is at a low obb and the work of reorganization at a later date would most assuredly be facilitated by anything which we can do to raise it.

HARRISON

Arest.

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8-1-44

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July 25,1944

Mr. Parke Mas Hodel

The Mar Refugee Board recommends the immediate issuance of a Washington License to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, 270 Madison Avenue, New York, New York, permitting it to pay, notwithstanding General Ruling No. 11, \$125,000 to the Treasurer of the United States for transfer to Roswell D. McClelland, War Refugee Board Representative at Bern, Switzerland. The date of the License should be June 6, 1944. The file on the License should be sent to your secret files,

HHodel:ms 7/25/44

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ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM:

Secretary of State, Washington

TO:

American Legation, Bern

DATED:

June 14, 1944

CONTROL COPY

NUMBER:

2048

FOR MINISTER HARRISON, BERN, AND McCLELLAND

The sum indicated in Department's 1994 of June 10 will be transferred on June 15 and is for the confidential purposes outlined in your 3390 of May 27. These funds are not subject to usual government disbursing requirements, but you should keep careful record and obtain receipts wherever possible.

They should not be used for routine administrative expenses and you are accountable only to J. W. Pehle for their expenditure.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 41

HULL

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

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CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON, BERN, AND MCCLELLAND

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Tais is was sern cable NO. 41

June 3014, 1944 2:20 p.m.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 2 ( 1972

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ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT OF

FROM:

Secretary of State, Washington No 11 MA ELYUU

TO:

American Legation, Bern

DATED: -

June 10, 1944

NUMBER:

1994

From War Refugee Board to Harrison for McClelland

Arrangements being made to send you \$125,000 at once for urgent relief and rescue work. Balance of \$125,000 will be sent to you through seme channels when needed.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 38 .

STETTINIUS (Acting)

DECLASSIFIED SEP 27 1972

### CABLE TO BERN

From War Refugee Board to Harrison for McClelland

Reference your no. 3390, May 27, 1944.

Arrangements being made to send you \$125,000 at once through channels indicated for urgent relief and rescue work. Balance of \$125,000 will be sent to you through same channels when needed.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 38.

June 7, 1944 2:30 p.m.

24

cctSec<sup>7</sup>y, Abrehemson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann-Stewart, Central Files, Cable Control Files,

JA K.S.L. FH: lab 6/6/44

CABLES: "JOINTDISCO" NEW YORK

TELEPHONE: LExington 2-5200

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ISIDOR COONS, Director of Fund Raising
MOSES A: LEAVIIT, Secretary

June 6th, 1944.

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

In accordance with our conversation, we take pleasure in enclosing herewith our certified check No. 10563 in the sum of \$125,000. made payable to the Treasurer of the United States. It is our understanding that this sum will be used for rescue and relief of Jews through the War Refugee Board.

Yours) sincerely.

Moses A. Leavitt

MAL:rl

This sum is to be used in accordance with our undestanding through the war Refrege Boord's refresh the in Bene Theaton

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LEWIS L. STRAUSS, New York
MORRIS C. TROPER, New York
EDWARD M. M. WARBURG, New York

## EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT WAR REFUGEE BOARD

#### INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE June 6, 1944

70 Mr. Lesser

FROM J. W. Pehle

I discussed with the JDC Board yesterday the McClelland cable, No. 3390. The JDC is willing to put up the \$250,000 beginning with one-half that amount. They would not like McClelland to know where the funds are coming from. The cable to McClelland should be cleared with Leavitt after we have agreed upon it. McClelland should, of course, be instructed to check carefully with Saly Mayer and other persons so that the purposes for which he uses funds do not overlap but effectively supplement the use of funds by private agencies such as the JDC, McClelland should, of course, to the extent possible, keep detailed records of the use of the funds, but such records need not be sent to the United States at this time. He should also be advised that, to the extent possible, the funds should be used within the framework of the Treasury Department license, but he may deviate to the extent of his best judgment.

The JDC would like it kept quite confidential that they are furnishing funds for such purposes.

JWP

June 6, 1944

Mr. Lesser

J. W. Pehle

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The JDC would like it kept quite confidential that they are furnishing funds for such purposes.

JWP

JWP:1hh 6/6/44

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE

June 3, 1944

In his cable of May 27, McClelland at Bern, indicates that arrangements have been made with the French underground, and the Spanish underground operating along the Franco-Spanish border, for the relief and evecuation of foreign refugees, particularly Jews, now in France. He also indicates that arrangements have been made with franc tireur partisans in Jura and Haute Savoie looking to the evacuation of refugees into Switzerland. McClelland further discloses that he is endeavoring to secure the collaboration of Communist groups in Austria, northern Italy and Hungary.

McClelland expresses a high opinion of the JDC - financedwork in Holland and of the wide-spread activities of the Hechalutzim which the JPC also finances. He also indicates that he has put Spanish resistance groups in France in touch with the WJC, and that through this contact, Jews are being smuggled across the Spanish border and the Spaniards are receiving some compensatory financing. On the other hand, McClelland has a not uncommon complaint. JDC finances Ocuvre des Secours aux Enfants and WJC finances Federation des Organizations Juives, both in France -- McClelland thinks a lot more could be done if the French Societies would work together.

McClelland makes it clear that the work now being done could be greatly expanded by a more liberal supply of funds. He also makes it clear that the programs he has mapped out cannot be effectuated without ample funds. He, therefore, requests that \$250,000 be placed at his disposal at once.

In a cable dated May 17, MacVeagh at Cairo says that Resnik of the JDC suggested that a lot could be done for Jews still in Greece if the aid of the EAM were secured and gold made available to them. His idea is that evacuation to Turkey could be facilitated, and relief brought to Jews in hiding if our military who are in touch with the EAM would undertake to secure their cooperation and deliver the

> DECLASSIFIED State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972

necessary funds. Conversations have already been had with our military and they are awaiting word from their people on the spot as to the practicability of the suggestion. If it is found to be practicable, it is estimated that at least \$100,000 will be needed at once.

You will also recall that Olsen at Stockholm has requested \$150,000 to carry out rescue projects in Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia, \$10,000 a month for rescue and relief in Norway and \$2,000 a month for the relief of Christian Jews in occupied areas.

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED (M. Behl

FROM:

American Legation, Bern

TO:

Secretary of State, Washington

DATED:

May 27, 1944

NUMBER:

3390

CONTROL COPY

McClelland sends the following for the War Refugee Board.

The following conclusions are reached after the past three weeks examination of rascue relief and maintenance possibilities for continually increasing number of victims of Nazi and satellite oppression in occupied Europe:

- 1. Insofar at least, as actual operations in enemy occupied countries are concerned, any really effective action must be taken through (illegal) underground channels.
- 2. Money constitutes the principal tool which WRB can most effectively and quickly use to secure whatever results possible at this late date, as relief supplies such as clothing, medicines and food are hard to buy in sizeable quantities in Switzerland and even more difficulty to transport out of the country especially if going to resistance groups. In affected regions funds must be provided for (1) extrication of imperilled persons and (2) sustenance of victims detained or in hiding and can effectively be disbursed through secret channels of agencies described hereafter.
- 3. With reference to the message dated March 14 sending message for Stolz from 09S to Garbo, Switzerland, which states that all necessary funds will be provided, it is recommended by me that initial fund of 250,000 be placed at my disposal for urgent relief and rescue work.
  - 4. If funds are available, they should not be sent openly in my

    DECLASSIFIED

    State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

    By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27-1972

    name as

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name as in case 10,000 discretionary fund but anonymously if possible via general remittances to the Legation to be secretly identified. If known to the Swiss authorities, serious contects with an assistance to underground resistance groups capable of rescuing and maintaining many in danger of death are liable to be compromised. Reluctance to allow certain compensation operations secure French france for instance below certain rates it is already being displayed by the Swiss Political Department, which to a certain extent controls negotiation of funds for rescue relief work in occupied territories such as those openly received by World Jewish Congress or Joint Distribution Committee representatives here. And if funds are to be effectively used through underground groups manipulation by me of such monies must be strictly secret.

5. In all probability, controls expenditure funds set forth in special WRB Treasury Department licenses could not be thoroughly exercised in financing rescue relief operations by and through underground resistance organizations. For example, it is often impossible to obtain receipts let alone signed detailed reports of financial transactions.

For rescue relief in France reliable resistance channels are open to us: (A) Through various groups united under Conseil Mational de la Resistance (B) with Spanish Comité d'Union National whose partisans, active along the Pyreness boarder, could greatly facilitate passing refugees and other endangered persons into Spain (C) with franc tirour partisan Maquis in both Jura and Haute Savoie which could aid in getting refugees into Switzerland. As far as relief to their own people is concerned, these groups are all pathetically under-financed and if aided could render valuable assistance to foreign refugees in France, especially Jews.

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Rescue relief

Resuce relief possibilities of a Jewish organizations would be enhanced by cooperation between them and such Jewish relief organizations in France as Ceuvre des Ecours aux Enfants which the Joint finances and Federation des Organizations Juives which the World Jewish Congress finances. I have already put some Spanish resistance group in touch with WJC as at has been engaged in promoting rescue of young Jews across the Pyrenees into Spain on condition that WJC help Spaniards financially for relief to Spaniards who are in danger in France.

Also satisfactory are underground contacts with Holland, especially as regards relief to Jews. JDC is financing this work to extent possible but activity could be considerably expanded with additional funds. Working to secure collaboration Communist resistance channels into Hungary, northern Italy and Hungary as these groups especially well-organized and informed.

Have excellent contact with Jewish Hechaluz left Zionist organization with headquarters in Geneva which has been carrying on pioneer rescue work within limits its own young peoples groups since outset of war in Belgium. Bulgaria, Hungary, Germany, Poland, Rumania, Slovakia and Tugoslavia, It is a courageous and well disciplined organization, having regular channels communication couriers to and from the Balkans and Switzerland. Joint finances Hechaluz almost exclusively at the present time but if more funds were available it could expand to valuable rescue work especially in the Balkans.

Kindly let me know at the earliest possible moment if funds can be make available in the amount suggested.

HARRISON

DCR: VAG: HL \$/31/44

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### MEMORA NDUM

For attachment to:

FFC Letter No:

Date: AUG 18 1944

Project No.:

TO:

Liaison Officer, Foreign Funds Control

FROM:

War Refugee Board

Subject: Netrosctive lisence Leguel to Jit

There is transmitted herewith a company dated July 25, 1944

from the

dealing with a retreactive linemed authorising payment by JDD of \$120,000 to Trensurer of the United States for transfer to br. Sessell B. McClelland, har Refugee Board representative at Bern.

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- 2274 issued August 24, 1944 (Letter No. 75525) Remittance license No. issued Other: Lipes

> Liaison Officer Foreign Funds Control

Date: AUDI 34 NA

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In reply please refer to: 75525

8-2274

Door Sira;

The war defuges board has requested, on your bohalf, the issuance of a retreactive license authorizing the payment by the American Jewish Joint Fistribution Committee of the sum of \$125,000 to the Pressurer of the United States for transfer to Mr. Loswell B. Socielland, an Aefugee Foard representative at Born, Switzerland.

This letter will serve to license, retreactively to done 6, 1944, the transaction described above, so far as executive order No. 2369, as exended, is concerned, and not-withstending the provisions of Ceneral Juling No. 11.

Very truly yours,

Orvie A. Schmidt Acting Director

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, 270 Radison Avenue, New York, New York.

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huParkw:jfh 8-18-44

In reply please refer to: 75525

W-2274

Dear Sirs:

The Mar Refugee Board has requested, on your behalf, the issuance of a retreactive license authorizing the payment by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee of the sum of \$125,000 to the Treasurer of the United States for transfer to Mr. Roswell D. McClelland, Mar Refugee Board representative at Bern, Switzerland.

This letter will serve to license, retroactively to June 6, 1944, the transaction described above, so far as Executive Order No. 8389, as amended, is concerned, and not withstending the provisions of General Euling No. 11.

Very truly yours,

Orvis A. Schmidt Acting Director

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, 270 Madison Avenue, New York, New York.

RBParkw:jfh 8-18-44

### MEMORANDUM

For attachment to:

FFC Letter No:

AUG 1 0 1944

Project No.:

TO:

Liaison Officer, Foreign Funds Control

FROM:

War Refugee Board

Subject: Retroactive license issued to JDC

There is transmitted herewith a management of the detailed July 25, 1944

### Committee

active license authorizing payment by JDC of \$125,000 to Treasurer of the dealing with a retro-United States for transfer to Mr. Roswell D. McClelland, War Refugee Board representative at Bern.

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. issued Other: License No. W-2274 issued

Date:

Liaison Officer Foreign Funds Control

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