

German Proposals Through Sweden

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GERMAN PROPOSALS THROUGH SWEDEN

(Secret)

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32

000890

June 29, 1945

My dear Dr. Wise:

We have just received a report from the Board's representative in Stockholm, Sweden, which contains an item which I am sure will be of great interest to you. He reports that on April 19, 1945, Norbert Masur, a member of the Stockholm Mosaic community and an official of the Swedish section of the World Jewish Congress, flew to Berlin for a meeting with Himmler on the Jewish question. Our representative states "a direct result of this contact was the release of a few thousand from Ravensbruck" and that "contrary to reports, Count Bernadott was in no way involved in the negotiations for the release of these people."

Release to the public of any stories on these negotiations is, of course, not permissible at the present time. However, I wanted you to have the information and I am sure you will regard it as extremely confidential.

With kindest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

William O'Dwyer

Dr. Stephen S. Wise, President,  
World Jewish Congress,  
1834 Broadway,  
New York 23, New York.

*W. O'Dwyer*  
FH:ve 6/29/45

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DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

**INCOMING  
TELEGRAM**

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES /  
Stockholm

PEM-5  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. (██████████)

1945 MAY 4 AM 9:32 May 3, 1945

Rec'd 9:42 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

DC/L  
LIAISON

*War Ref. Bd.  
(O. Sanger)*

1669, May 3, 9 p.m.  
x  
FOR DEPARTMENT AND WRB

**CONTROL COPY**

Supplementing our 1547, April 25, 8 p.m., we are informed that approximately 3000 women have now arrived in Sweden from the concentration camp at Ravensbrueck, of which number about 1200 are Jewesses. We are also informed that approximately 3000 additional women from Ravensbrueck have reached Denmark and are expected in Sweden by this week end.

Approximately fifty Norwegian Jews from a concentration camp in Norway arrived today.

JOHNSON

LMS

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

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30

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DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

MES-1440  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. (SECRET W)

Stockholm

Dated May 2, 1945

Rec'd. 4:24 p.m.

*War Ref Bd.  
(O'Leary)*

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

X  
1635, May 2, 4 p.m.

Our 1476 of April 20, 6 p.m. made reference to 500

Danish-Jews instead of 5,000 as stated in Department's  
774, April 27, 3 p.m. Informed local sources indicate  
that 425 have actually arrived here to date and that this  
group comprises the living remainder of approximately  
525 originally deported from Denmark, the balance having  
died in concentration camps.

JOHNSON

RB

CONTROL COPY  
MAY 2 1945  
MADISON OFFICE

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

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20

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DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

OUTGOING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

JP  
is confirmation of true  
information only by special  
instructions. (██████████ W)

April 27, 1945

7 p.m.

*War Ref. Sec.  
C. Sawyer*

AMLEGATION

CONTROL COPY

STOCKHOLM

774

Re your 1447 April 19 and 1476 April 20.

Department questions stated nationality of the reported 5,000 Jewish arrivals in Sweden in view of information received previously that of 8,000 Jews formerly in Denmark, comprised of 6,000 native Jews and 2,000 refugees, 1,000 had been deported to the east and 5-6,000 had escaped to Sweden thus leaving only 1-2,000 in German concentration camps.

Please clarify as to character of this group.

GREW  
(Acting)  
(GSM)

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

WRB:MMV:KG  
4/26/45

NOE

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

*Proposed copy with  
revised in files*

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28

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DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

LFG-1441  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. (██████████ W)

Stockholm  
Dated April 25, 1945  
Rec'd 7:34 a.m., 26th

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
APR 26 1945  
DCA  
LIAISON OFFICE  
**CONTROL COPY**

X  
1547, April 25, 8 p.m. (SECTION ONE OF TWO)

██████████ FOR DEPARTMENT AND WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Supplementing my 1235, of April 8, 8 p.m., and my  
1186 of March 28, 8 p.m. *MOSAISKA FORSAMLINGEN*

Norbert Masur of local *Zosalska for Samlingen*

and official of the Swedish section of the World Jewish  
Congress proceeded to Berlin on Thursday afternoon with  
Kersten for a discussion with Himmler on the Jewish  
problem. The trip was without incident and they were  
met in Berlin by Himmler's assistant Schellenberg. The  
party proceeded to Kersten's estate approximately 80 km  
outside of Berlin and were joined there by Himmler at  
approximately 2:30 a.m. The discussion lasted until  
approximately 5 a.m., on Friday at which time Himmler  
left. According to Masur, Himmler appeared in top form  
in resplendent uniform and discussed the Jewish problem  
in a formally pleasant and matter of fact manner. Masur  
stated his position as previously made clear to Kersten

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

000899

-2-#1547, April 25, 8 p.m., (SECTION ONE OF TWO)  
from Stockholm

and Schellenberg; that he had no official status, had no authority to promise anything and was simply a private Jew expressing the fears of all his people for the ultimate fate of the Jews remaining in Germany.

Himmler reviewed the historical development of anti-Semitism in Europe and particularly the efforts of his party to remove the Jewish problem from the Reich. He reminded Masur that he himself (Himmler) had pressed the policy of removing Jews from Germany without violence and that he in 1935 had formed an organization to foster the migration of Jews out of Germany. He spoke with considerable length and bitterness of the extent to which the Allies had propagandized German atrocities. He mentioned specifically Poland and Russia. With respect to Poland Himmler stated that atrocity stories concerning crematoria were vicious propaganda since the crematoria were the only means the German authorities could cope with rapidly spreading typhus epidemic. He was particularly bitter concerning Allied propaganda during the past few days on the concentration camps at Bergen Belsen and Buchenwald. He pointed out that these two camps and their inmates had been left intact to the Allies at his own command and that all he was getting in return

was Allied

000900

-3-#1547, April 25, 8 p.m., (SECTION ONE OF TWO)  
from Stockholm

was Allied horror stories.

Masur raised with Himmler the following major points:

One. That Jews should remain in their present camp and that they should not be subjected to the further physical deterioration of being moved from place to place.

Two. That permission would be granted to evacuate Jews to neutral countries whenever possible.

Three. That the most humane care possible be given the Jews until the camps fell into Allied hands.

JOHNSON

EDA

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DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

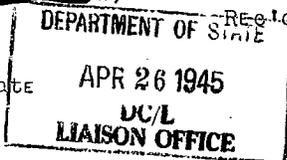
DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

DSH-1388  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. (W)

Stockholm  
Dated April 25, 1945

Received 11:10 p.m.

Secretary of State  
Washington



1547, April 25, 8 p.m., (SECTION TWO)

Himmler and Schellenberg stated that there had been about 50,000 Jews in Bergen-Belsen and 6,000 in Buchenwald. They said there were an additional 20,000 in Mauthausen Beilinz, 20,000 Jewesses in Ravensbrueck and about 25,000 Jews in the Resienstadt. In addition there were several smaller concentration camps in southern Germany and around Innsbruck.

Himmler made the following specific promises:

One. The Jews interned in Norway (about 50) would be released immediately and escorted to the Swedish border.

Two. 1,000 Jewish women in Ravensbrueck would be released immediately and permitted to come to Sweden. According to latest information these women are in fact being transported through Denmark by lorries of the Swedish Red Cross and are expected to arrive tomorrow.

Three. Certain

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

000902

-2-, #1547, April 25, 8 p.m., (SECTION TWO), from Stockholm.

Three. Certain lists of Dutch Jews in the Resienstadt would be released but there appears to be no hope of evacuating them.

Four. Himmler gave only a half promise that there would be no further evacuation of Jews from camp to camp.

Five. Red Cross organizations were promised free access to camps for delivery of food and medical supplies.

Six. No Jews would be shot.

Himmler emphasized in the strongest possible terms that no publicity should be given to the conference and that absolute secrecy must surround his liberation of any Jews. He referred to them all as "Poles" apparently mindful of his promise to Hitler that he would not release any more Jews.

Masur gave an interesting description of Berlin -- which he called a frightfully ruined and dead city. He was particularly impressed by the almost complete absence of soldiers. All roads were congested with refugees -- many who had been walking for three weeks from Eastern Germany. He also saw a long procession of prisoners being moved from Oranienburg. Throughout his entire visit Allied planes were roaring overhead without a shot being fired at them.

END MESSAGE.

JOHNSON

JM

000403



000904

SECRET

2 War Ref. Bd.

PARA PHASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: AMERICAN LEGATION, STOCKHOLM  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: April 20, 1945  
NUMBER: 1476  
X

**CONTROL COPY**

The following message is for MRB and the Department.  
(no?)  
Additional check reveals there were Norwegian Jews  
in group mentioned in my 1447 of the nineteenth of April.  
This group is made up of Danes and are in surprisingly good condition  
according to report.

by Swedes  
Results of negotiations are being treated/to date  
as entirely secret and regarding arrival of this group the Swedes  
are suppressing all press comment.

JOHNSON

DC/L:MLG  
4-21-45 T

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

000905

26

000906

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

**INCOMING  
TELEGRAM**

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES

**DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION**

*Wm. R. [unclear]  
C. [unclear]*

195 APR 19 AM 9 45

EK-1136

Distribution of true

reading only by special DC/L  
arrangement. ~~SECRET~~ W/21AISON

Stockholm

Dated April 19, 1945

Rec'd 10:17 a.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

**CONTROL COPY**

1447, April 19, 1 p.m.

FOR DEPARTMENT AND WRB.

Approximately 5,000 Danish and Norwegian Jews arrived in Malmo yesterday from Germany and are being sent to an especially arranged Swedish internment camp. So far as is known this group comprises virtually all Danish and Norwegian Jews in German concentration camps and their release is a consequence of certain special negotiations conducted by Count Bernadotte during the past several weeks.

*Converted  
to  
Baker's  
format  
1/1*

The Swedish Foreign Office is endeavoring to secure the release of Norwegian Jews in Grini, under the same guarantees of special internment in Sweden.

RR

**JOHNSON**  
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**

000907

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DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

OUTGOING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

Distribution of this telegram  
reading only by special arrangement.  
(Special Arrangements)

April 12, 1945

1945 APR 14 AM 9 35

1 p.m.

*Mr. Tolson*  
*O. Quay*

ALLEGATION

DC/L  
LIAISON

CONTROL COPY

STOCKHOLM

674

The following for Johnson is LRB 360.

Reference your no. 1255 of April 3 containing a  
message from Hillel Storch to the World Jewish Congress.  
The War Refugee Board is not (repeat not) delivering  
this message to the World Jewish Congress in view of the  
State Department's opinion that it would be unwise to do  
so.

For security reasons the  
text of this message must  
be closely guarded.  
STETTINIUS  
(GEN)

WRB:HRV:KG  
4/11/45

NCE

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

000909

CABLE TO MINISTER JOHNSON, STOCKHOLM, FROM DEPARTMENT AND WAR  
REFUGEE BOARD

Reference your No. 1235 of April 3 containing a message  
from Hillel Storch to the World Jewish Congress. The War  
Refugee Board is not (repeat not) delivering this message to  
the World Jewish Congress in view of the State Department's  
opinion that it would be unwise to do so.

THIS IS WRB STOCKHOLM NO. 350

*W. Claudio Jones*  
FH:hd 4/7/46

000910

000911

2. War Ref. Bd.  
Gen. O. Meyer

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Stockholm  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: April 7, 1946  
NUMBER: 1315  
\*

**CONTROL COPY**

You are requested to advise War Refugee Board of the following:  
You are referred again to my No. 1235 dated April 3. Advice to  
the effect that it does not plan to deliver Storch telegram to London  
representative of World Jewish Congress has been given to the British Legation  
at Stockholm by the British Foreign Office.

JOHNSON

DC/L:GIV  
4-10-45

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

000912

000913

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

1 OUTGOING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

Distribution of trust  
reading only by special  
arrangement. (SECRET W)

April 7, 1945

5 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

APR 9 - 1945

CONTROL COPY

AMLEGATION

STOCKHOLM  
646

The following for Johnson and Olsen from Department and  
War Refugee Board is WRB 544, and refers to your numbers 1186 of  
March 28 and 1236 of April 3.

Report forwarded in your 1186 greatly appreciated.

Department and Board approve the continuation of discussions  
designed solely (repeat solely) to save the lives of Jews and  
other victims of enemy oppression by means of relief supplies or  
evacuation to safety. However, such discussions should be  
severed immediately if, in the opinion of Minister Johnson, they  
become political in nature.

Board and Department leave entirely to discretion of Minister  
Johnson the question of continuing the indirect (repeat indirect)  
contacts already made and the question of Storch's going to Berlin.

STETTINIUS  
(SECRET)

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

~~WRB:MMV:KG  
4/7/45~~

CC

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 21 1972

000914

CABLE TO MINISTER JOHNSON AND OLSEN, STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN,  
FROM DEPARTMENT AND WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Report forwarded in your No. 1186 of March 28 greatly appreciated.

Department and Board approve the continuation of discussions designed solely (repeat solely) to save the lives of Jews and other victims of enemy oppression by means of relief supplies or evacuation to safety. However, such discussions should be severed immediately if, in the opinion of Minister Johnson, they become political in nature.

Board and Department leave entirely to discretion of Minister Johnson the question of continuing the indirect (repeat indirect) contacts already made. ~~Department and Board do not (repeat not) approve Storch's going to Berlin but there is no objection to a prominent and dependable neutral carrying on the discussions if this is desirable and appropriate in the opinion of the Legation.~~

*and the question of Storch  
going to Berlin*

THIS IS WRB STOCKHOLM NO. 344

*ok  
4/3/45*

FH:ve  
4/3/45

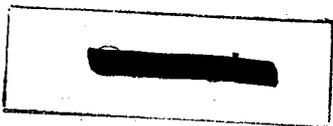
*264*

*arg report  
by Sam O'Sullivan*

000915

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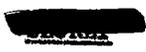
000915



No. 5356

Stockholm, April 3, 1945

Subject: Kersten-Himmler Discussions.



The Honorable  
The Secretary of State,  
Washington.

Sir:

Supplementing my cable No. 1186 of March 28, 8 p.m.,  
I have the honor to enclose the following photostatic  
copies and translations of documents relating to the  
Kersten-Himmler discussions:

1. Letter dated March 21, 1945, from Himmler to Kersten.
2. Letter dated March 21, 1945, from Brandt to Kersten.
3. Letter dated March 21, 1945, from Brandt to Kersten.
4. Summary from Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States of America and Canada, Montreux, Switzerland.
5. Letter dated March 24, 1945, from Kersten to Storch.
6. Memorandum of questions presented to Himmler by Kersten.

It is respectfully requested that copies of the above material be made available to the War Refugee Board.

Respectfully yours,

Herschel V. Johnson

File No. 848

ICO:met

In original to the Department  
One copy to the War Refugee Board

RECEIVED  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

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

000917

Enclosure No. 1 to Despatch No. 5356 dated April 3, 1945,  
from the American Legation at Stockholm, Sweden.

THE NATIONAL LEADER OF THE SS

(1, Berlin SW II, March 21, 1945  
Prince Albert Street 8

Field Command Post

Dear Mr. Kersten,

First of all, please accept with these lines my thanks for your visit. This time as always I have been glad when you came and with old friendship placed your great medical skill at my disposal.

During the long years of our acquaintanceship we have indeed discussed many problems, and your attitude was always that of the physician who, remote from all politics, desires the good of the individual human being and of humanity as a whole.

You will be interested to know that during the course of the past three months I have brought about the realization of an idea which we once discussed. Roughly 2,700 Jewish men, women and children were taken to Switzerland in two trains. This is, in effect, the continuation of the policy which my collaborators and I have consistently pursued for many years until the war and the resulting folly in the world made it impossible to carry it out. You know, of course, that I in the years 1936, -37, -38, -39 and -40, in collaboration with Jewish American associations created an emigration organization which functioned very fruitfully. The two trains which travelled into Switzerland are the intentional resumption, despite all difficulties, of this fruitful procedure.

From a prisoners' camp at Bergen-Belsen there recently came the rumor that a typhus epidemic of larger proportions had broken out. I immediately sent the Hygienist of the SS, Dr. Mrugowski, there with his staff. It was a question of cases in the camp of spotted typhus which unfortunately occurs very frequently among people from the East, but the cases are to be regarded as under control thanks to the best medical and modern methods.

I have the conviction that, by eliminating demagogism and superficialities, despite all differences and in spite of most bloody wounds on all sides, wisdom and logic must prevail, and at the same time the human heart and the spirit of helpfulness.

It goes without saying that I, just as I have done throughout all the past years in good times and bad, shall

gladly

000918

gladly examine requests which you transmit or communicate to me in the humanitarian sphere, and, whenever it is at all possible, shall decide them generously.

With my hearty greetings to your respected, dear wife, to your children, and especially to you,

With old attachment,

Your

(signed) H. Hirshler

Enclosure No. 2 to Despatch No. 5356 dated April 3, 1945,  
from the American Legation at Stockholm, Sweden.

NATIONAL LEADER OF THE SS

Personal Counsellor

Bra/R

(1) Berlin SW 11, March 21, 1945  
Prince Albert Street 8

Field Command Post

Medical Counsellor Felix Kersten

"Hartzwalde" Estate.

Very respected, dear Mr. Kersten,

Regarding the memorandum which you have given me, I should like to assure you that the various requests are being favorably studied as ordered by the National Leader of the SS. A definite positive reply is, in view of the short time available before your departure, unfortunately no longer possible. I shall see to it that the processing of the different points is carried out as quickly as is at all possible. I shall inform you at once of whatever decisions are reached after presentation by the National Leader of the SS.

Hearty greetings,

Always your

(signed R. Brandt

SS-Standard Leader

(( SEAL ))

Field Command Post  
National Leader of the SS

000920

Enclosure No. 3 to Despatch No. 5356 dated April 3, 1945,  
from the American Legation at Stockholm, Sweden.

NATIONAL LEADER OF THE SS

Personal Counsellor

Bra/H

(1) Berlin SW 11, March 21, 1945  
Prince Albert Street 8

Field Command Post

Medical Counsellor Felix Kersten

"Hartswalde" Estate.

Worthy and dear Mr. K e r s t e n,

I can give you the very welcome news that the National Leader of the SS intends to fulfill the requests which you expressed a few days ago.

As soon as the Norwegian painter, Reidar Aulie, the Princess Jean Sapieha and the Countess Ernest Fleurieu, as well as the two Swedish subjects Heinrich and Alexander Bondy are free you will be informed.

I hope that you will not become impatient as a result of the brief delays caused by the temporary situation. I shall keep an eye on the settlement of this case which is being hurried along.

At the same time I can inform you that the question of Mr. Theodor Steltzer is being worked out with the purpose of obtaining for him a pardon soon.

With friendly greetings,

Yours very sincerely,

(signed) R. Brandt

SS-Standard Leader

(( SEAL ))

Field Command Post

National Leader of the SS

000921

Enclosure No. 4 to Despatch No. 5356 dated April 3, 1945,  
from the American Legation at Stockholm, Sweden.

UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA

Montreux, Switzerland

European Executive

Council

Chairman: J. Sternbuch

S U M M A R Y

1. Letter from Bundespräsident von Steiger of February 20 in which he expresses his great satisfaction of the successful undertakings.
2. Radio-cable containing extracts from the New York Post, Week-End P.M., New York Times, describing the arrival of 1,200 Jews and their excellent condition.
3. The most important papers - New York Times, New York Sun, World Telegram, St. Louis Star, Detroit News, Chicago News, etc. - are, in addition to the American Broadcasting system, bringing news about the negotiations with Himmler, the mass meetings in New York with thousands applauding with the urgent prayer for further efforts. Similar resolutions in other towns of the U.S.A.
4. The American papers publish the names of the liberated persons who have been saved through the Vaad Haazalah (Union of Orthodox Rabbis), and state that further transports can be expected every week, that Himmler mentioned that 700,000 Jews were still in Germany, and that Switzerland is prepared to receive them.
5. (a) In an official statement, issued on February 8 in the New York Times, the negotiations with Himmler are referred to and the paper declares that Bundesrat Masy represents the Executive Council of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States, that the condition of the 1,200 persons was excellent, and that similar articles in other big American papers will follow.  
(b) Vaad Haazalah Emergency Committee's Relief Committee with the leading Rabbis Kotler and Kalmanowitz cable that the information about the 1,200 persons who have been saved has made a great impression in America.  
(c) Copy of a letter from Mr. Sternbuch to Bundesrat Masy. News about the 1,200 persons is carried in more than

1,000 papers

000922

1,000 papers in America. Clippings will be sent. People will alternately be sent from other camps - first from Bergen-Belsen a Polish group of about 300 persons, then Lithuanians from Landsberg, then men and women from Auswitz.

6. Cable from New York of February 12 urging further transports.

7. Article regarding Goodman.

Enclosure No. 5 to Despatch No. 5356 dated April 3, 1945,  
from the American Legation at Stockholm, Sweden.

FELIX KERSIEN  
Medical Advisor

Stockholm, March 24, 1945  
Linnegatan 8  
67 34 13

Mr. Hlrel Storch  
Furusundagatan 10  
Stockholm

Dear Mr. S t o r c h,

With reference to the negotiations of March 3  
this year between us and Mr. Ottokar von Kieriem before  
I left for Germany, I beg to send you a short report on  
the results of my various conversations with the Reichs-  
führer SS Himmler.

You asked me a lot of questions in the course of  
our conversation, and in a memorandum you wished to make  
clear the same points to Mr. Himmler.

After having discussed each of these things with  
the Reichsführer SS Himmler, he has arranged a favorable  
investigation which you will have seen in the letter of  
March 21, 1945 addressed to me from his Adjutant Brandt,  
which letter I gave to you. I will let you know as soon  
as I know anything further about the definite resolutions.  
At this time about 350,000 Jews are supposed to be living  
in Germany. I have not discussed the question concerning  
the eventual liberation of the 8,000 Jews to Sweden who are  
in possession of Palestine visas because this was not  
mentioned in your memorandum. A result in this matter may  
be favorable if the Swedish Government would undertake the  
necessary steps. I will personally do what I can and will  
also assist in this matter.

Apart from the last resolution on which we will  
have to wait, I believe that on account of the utterances  
made by Mr. Himmler, I can say the following.

The distribution of food parcels sent by you to  
the various camps, in cases where the addressees are not  
to be found, will be given to other members of the camps;  
thus these parcels will reach Jewish members of the camps.  
Mr. Himmler was especially interested to know that the  
Jews arrived in Switzerland had stated this. I also believe

that

000924

that sending of medicines would be permitted. I have particularly and very elaborately considered with Mr. Himmler the question of placing Jews in especially arranged camps, and have met a great understanding. These eventual camps should gradually come under control of the Red Cross and thus the treatment and feeding of these people would be left to the Red Cross.

A new investigation will look into the matter of releasing certain groups of Jews to Switzerland or Sweden. I have discussed with Mr. Himmler the list of single persons I received, and I do hope that I will soon be able to give you a favorable reply. At the same time I wish to draw your attention to the fact that you yourself must arrange the eventual transport.

Concerning the treatment of Jews in camps, I believe that there is a prospect of satisfactory improvement. In my presence the Reichsführer gave some orders in this respect and I have seen the written special order saying that cruelties and the killing of Jews are forbidden. Besides, he has claimed that sanitary conditions should be put under a permanent control. To what extent these measures will work out I can not give you any guaranty, you will understand. Herr Himmler has called together all the leaders of Jewish camps for a meeting on March 24 in order to give them new instructions how to treat the Jews in a human way. From now on each leader of a camp will be made responsible for the death of any Jews, and has to report exactly about the cause of death. The eventual relief of Jews, as well as the above mentioned improvements in their treatment, will be stopped the moment these measures are published in the world press and are told as an example of the weakness of Germany.

It should not be necessary for me to point out that negotiations of this kind which I have had with Mr. Himmler, because of the very delicate material, and because of the many strong contradictories in Germany itself, and, not least, because of the eventual possible utilization of the material as propaganda, have had to be dealt with with the utmost caution and under the strongest discretion. The positive accomplishment of these resolutions may be dependent on various circumstances over which we can not have any influence. But one thing is certain, that all our efforts are condemned to failure if they are not handled with the utmost discretion. It is also certain, however, that through the negotiations we have gained time, which can be of the greatest importance as you will understand on the basis of your personal reasons.

I wish to assure you that I am willing to completely sacrifice myself for those unfortunates as I have done already, for example, for the seven Swedish engineers, as well as for

several

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Jewish Friends, which was not without fear for myself. However, I consider it to be my moral duty to help where I can, and so far as I can afford it. At last I wish to inform you that the Reichsführer SS Himmler, on account of a proposal from me, is prepared to discuss these questions with you personally. Without having submitted this proposal for you, I could not go into the matter and would ask you to inform me about your point of view in order that I can undertake the necessary steps.

To sum up, I may say that each of your proposals has found complete understanding by Mr. Himmler, and will be worked out individually, and that certain improvements will be undertaken, and that on the part of the Reichsführer of SS a readiness to negotiate on these questions exists, and, when possible, to solve the problems.

Very sincerely yours,

(signed) Felix Kersten

000926

Enclosure No. 6 to Despatch No. 5356 dated April 3, 1945,  
from the American Legation at Stockholm, Sweden.

MEMORANDUM

1. Food packages. Recently about 40,000 packages each containing 2.5 kilograms have been sent from Sweden. In this connection difficulties have occurred for two reasons:

- a) Mistakes in the name tags of the occupants of the various concentration camps.
- b) The Anglo-Americans refuse to permit further shipments in larger amounts because the representatives of the Red Cross have no means of controlling the distribution.

It should be pointed out that according to reports from the latest group of 2,700 persons who have been released and who have reached Switzerland, the packages, in so far as could be ascertained, reached the addressees.

It is requested:

- 1) That permission be received for the distribution to take place through members of the Swedish Red Cross, and
  - 2) In so far as possible, that lists (be provided) of the names or numbers of the occupants of the individual camps as well as where their location is.
2. If representatives of the Swedish Red Cross are given the possibility to visit the camps and to control the distribution, assurance is made that supplies to the camps of food and clothes, etc. will be much expanded.
3. The freeing of the Jews from the concentration camp Bergen-Belsen, near Hannover. The Swedish Government is negotiating on this point. It concerns about 3,000 people who have South American passports.

Support in this matter is requested.

4. The freeing of other groups of Jews for travel to Sweden. (Important for special reasons known to you.)
5. Where are the Norwegian Jews?
6. Are there Baltic Jews in Germany?
7. Approximate information concerning the present number of Jews in Germany?
8. Number of

000927

8. Number of Jews in Theresienstadt?
9. Where are the other camps and what is the number of occupants in the individual camps?
10. The freeing for travel to Sweden of the following individuals is requested:
  - 1) Rabbi Samuel from Oslo.
  - 2) Dr. Robert Stricker, Theresienstadt.
  - 3) Elieser Grunbaum, who a few months ago was in the concentration camp Jawiszowice, in Upper Silesia. Possible information concerning his whereabouts.
  - 4) Dr. (of medicine) Herrmann Idelson from Riga, previously entirely free because of special service rendered during the evacuation of Riga, brought to Germany. Possible information concerning his present whereabouts.
11. Request is again made for the freeing of larger groups of Jews. Their internment until the end of the war under the control and guarantee of the Swedish state can be provided, if this be absolutely essential.

Julius Mann, and wife, Theresienstadt  
Rathausstrasse. 29



000929

4/3/45

To: Mrs. Klotz

From: Miss Hodel

I am sure that Secretary Morgenthau  
will be interested in seeing the attached cable  
which has just been received from Sweden.

#1186 March 28

copy to Gaston

to Langdon

FH:rh 4/2/45

000930

2011

000931

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

GEN-1837  
No paraphrase  
necessary. ( [REDACTED] )

Stockholm

Dated April 3, 1945

Rec'd 8:30 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

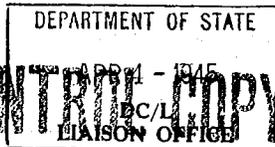
1235, April 3, 8 p.m.

With reference my 1186 of March 28, 8 p.m. regarding Kersten and Himmler matter, Hillel Storch of Local World Jewish Congress wishes the following message to be delivered to Wise, Goldmann and Tartakover of World Jewish Congress. The British Legation has received a similar message to be transmitted to London, and British Legation has forwarded it to British Foreign Office without recommendation as to whether message should be delivered. Accordingly a paraphrase of proposed message is herewith quoted to Department without comment except that we are not in a position to confirm that Swedish Foreign Office and Count Bernadotte are urging that Storch go to Berlin.

"Have conferred with Doctor Kersten who represents himself to be Himmler's private doctor and who is said to have great influence with Himmler. I am negotiating regarding release and cessation murders and permission

better

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



000932

-2- #1235, April 3, 8 p.m., from Stockholm

better treatment. On March 23 Kersten returned from Berlin with letter from Himmler and related that Himmler promised to consider our desires sympathetically. Also prepared release about ten thousand Jews to Sweden or Switzerland. I am invited together with Kersten to proceed to Germany for negotiations with Himmler and have been promised free conduct. Swedish Foreign Office decided permit entrance of the 10,000 Jews also assistance with transport. Swedish Foreign Office finds my journey important Count Bernadotte who today departed Berlin to negotiate concerning interned five thousand Danish eight thousand Norwegians will also negotiate regarding our question but he also considered I must definitely go Berlin. Kersten declared he supposes Himmler wishes procure alibi. This must be treated with greatest secrecy because Himmler declared if this appears in press and is interpreted as weakness on part Germany he will retaliate. Sending you these letters through American Minister Johnson. Cable urgently our opinion".

Should there be any substance to the alleged promise of Himmler to release 10,000 Jews, Legation has received confirmation from Foreign Office that the Swedish Government will do everything possible to bring this

group to

000933

-3- #1235, April 3, 8 p.m., from Stockholm

group to Sweden.

Storch has also requested that the following supplemental message be delivered to the World Jewish Congress.

"Have after careful consideration with Professor Ehrenpreis in order gain time answered Kersten that I am prepared to go Berlin with him simultaneously requested him do all in order that promises regarding better treatment Jews will be kept. Foreign Office advises that Swedish Government is prepared to render all possible assistance so that number of Jews to be received will not be curtailed, unfortunately, however, the transport question is very difficult".

JOHNSON

EDA

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000935

MAR 31 1945

Dear Dr. Goldmann:

Through the American Embassy, London, Dr. Zelmanovits, who has just returned to London from a mission to Sweden, has requested that the following information be transmitted to you:

Negotiations are continuing for the release of Jews. It is contemplated that the question of compensation in the form of blankets and clothing for bombed out German civilians might arise. No details concerning such a proposal are available. Dr. Zelmanovits suggests that, should such a proposal be agreed to, use might be made of clothing permitted to go to Bergenbelsen for Jewish internees. Swedish circles expect detailed offer in the near future. Dr. Zelmanovits further reports that Count Bernadotte succeeded in obtaining German approval for the establishment near Weimar of a special camp for Danish and Norwegian civilian internees. The camp will be under the protection of the Swedish Red Cross. Swedish busses delivering medicines and food are stated to be operating in Germany aiding Danish and Norwegian internees. Dr. Zelmanovits suggests that a proposal be made to Germany, through the neutral governments and the International Red Cross, stating that the Swedish Government or the Swedish Red Cross would be willing to cooperate in a similar plan designed to help Jews. Dr. Zelmanovits is of the opinion that Swedish busses in Germany could be made available and he suggests that the areas near Lubeck and the Swiss frontier be designated for Swedish protected Jewish camps. He also asks that the establishment of Jewish areas under the protection of the Swedish or International Red Cross be taken into consideration during any

000936

- 2 -

negotiations with SHAEF regarding the exclusion  
of certain places from bombing.

For your information, the foregoing message  
was also sent on from London to Dr. Reigner in Geneva.  
I am sure you will regard the message as strictly con-  
fidential.

Very truly yours,  
(Signed) William O'Dwyer

William O'Dwyer  
Executive Director

Dr. Nahum Goldmann,  
World Jewish Congress,  
1834 Broadway,  
New York 23, N. Y.

*Call No. 3207 Mar 28 Panhard*  
*Feb*

FH:hd 3/30/46

000937

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

LFG-45  
Distribution of true  
reading only be special  
arrangement. [redacted] W)

London

Dated March 28, 1945

Rec'd 11:26 p.m.

*War Ref. Div.*  
*C. Sawyer*

*Message sent  
Belman 3/30/45  
[initials]*

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

3207, March 28, 6 p.m.

FOR WRB

**CONTROL COPY**

Zelmanovits of World Jewish Congress London has recently returned from mission to Sweden regarding rescue measures. He reports that negotiations are continuing for the release of Jews; that there might arise the question of compensation by delivering blankets and clothing to bombed out German civilian population; and that so far details as to amount of clothing are not available. He states that such clothing delivery might be regarded as advanced relief to German civilian population claiming that Allies will have to take care of such population after occupation of Germany. He suggests that should Allies agree to such compensation use could partly be made of clothing which was permitted to go to Bergen-Belsen for Jewish internees. He adds that Swedish circles expect detailed offer regarding

compensation

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

TOP SECURITY reasons the  
text of this message must  
be closely guarded.

000938

-2-#3207, March 28, 6 p.m., from London

compensation in near future.

Zelmanovits states further that Count Bernadotte succeeded in obtaining German approval for establishment near Weimar of special camp for Danish and Norwegian civilian internees under protection and administration Swedish Red Cross which delivers medicine and food and that Swedish buses and personnel are already operating in Germany concentrating at camp Danish and Norwegian civilian internees from all parts of Germany. He requests that similar proposal regarding Jews should be made immediately to Germany through neutral governments and Intercross stating that Swedish Government and Swedish Red Cross are willing to cooperate in the plan. He believes that Swedish buses in Germany could be made available and suggests that two areas, one near Lubeck and one near the Swiss frontier, should be designated for Swedish protected Jewish camps. He asks that the establishment of Jewish protection areas under protection of Swedish or Intercross be taken into consideration during probable negotiations by SHAEF regarding exclusion of certain places from bombing.

Zelmanovits requests that substance of foregoing

be transmitted to

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

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE  
DATE 11-11-72 BY SP-6  
RHP/STP

000939

-3-4/3207, March 28, 6 p.m., from London

be transmitted to Nahum Goldmann of World Jewish Congress,  
New York City.

Foregoing message repeated to Bern for information  
of WRB representative and of Gerard Riegner 37 Quai  
Wilson Geneva World Jewish Congress representative.

VINANT

MJF

000940

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000941

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

RECEIVED  
INCOMING  
TELEGRAM  
COMMUNICATIONS

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

PEM-126  
No paraphrase  
necessary.  
**[REDACTED]**

Stockholm

Dated March 28, 1945

Rec'd 9:12 a.m., 29th

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

**CONTROL COPY**

US URGENT

1186, March 28, 8 p.m.

As reported in our 876 of March 7, noon to Department (No. 129 for War Refugee Board) Felix Kersten went to Berlin in early March to render certain medical attention to Himmler. Prior to his departure certain individuals here provided him with the memorandum of questions to be raised concerning the status of Jews in Germany. These questions included the following points:

- (A) Assurances that food packages to Jews in German concentration camps were actually reaching destination;
- (B) Permission to have future distribution of food packages from Sweden to be supervised by Swedish Red Cross;
- (C) Number of Jews recently in Germany, broken down by number and location of each camp and data as to the nationality of such Jews;

(D) Question

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

000942

-2- #1186, March 28, 8 p.m., from Stockholm.

(D) Question of eight various categories of Jews, such as those with South American passports (presently under negotiation by Swedish Government);

(E) General question of freeing larger groups of Jews against appropriate guarantees of transportation and support.

W  
Kersten has now returned to Stockholm and has presented a rather incredible account of his discussions with Himmler which are presented below without comment.

He stated that at present there are about 350,000 Jews in Germany. He added that 8,000 of them have Palestine visas and probably would be released if Swedish Government took appropriate steps in the matter. He states that Himmler expressed a most sympathetic interest in Jewish problems, mentioning specifically the following:

(A) Himmler was especially interested to know that the 2,700 Jews arrived in Switzerland and whether this group had commented favorably upon the delivery of food packages;

(B) Himmler was receptive to the idea of placing Jews in specially arranged Red Cross camps with the administration completely under the jurisdiction of the Red Cross;

(C)

000943

-3- #1186, March 28, 8 p.m., from Stockholm.

(C) Himmler called a meeting of all Jewish camp administrators for March 24 in order to give strict orders for the improved treatment of Jews hereafter. This will include the instruction that each camp leader hereafter will be held strictly accountable for the death of any Jew in his camp and will be required to file a full report of circumstances underlying any such death. Kersten added that, in his presence, Himmler dictated certain orders concerning the necessity of improved sanitary conditions in Jewish concentration camps;

(D) Himmler expressed a willingness to receive at once a special emissary from Sweden to discuss with him personally the Jewish problem. This was advanced with particular reference to a stateless Jew of Latvian origin (Storch, local representative of World Jewish Congress) who has been Legation's intermediary in several contacts of similar nature; and

(E) Emphasis was placed on the unfortunate results in case these discussions were used by the Allies as propaganda to portray German weakness. It was added that because of the delicate nature of the discussions as well as rather well-known mixed feelings in Germany with respect to Jews, the entire matter most urgently must be handled

with the

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-4- #1186, March 28, 8 p.m., from Stockholm.

with the greatest discretion.

Kersten has made available two extraordinary documents. The first, on official SS stationery and purportedly signed by Himmler, reads as follows in translation:

"Dear Mr Kersten, First of all please accept with these lines my thanks for your visit. This time, as always, I have been glad when you came and with old friendship placed your great medical skill at my disposal.

During the long years of our acquaintanceship we have indeed discussed many problems and your attitude was always that of the physician who, remote from all politics, desires the good of the individual human being and of humanity as a whole.

You will be interested to know that during the course of the past three months I have brought about the realization of an idea which we once discussed. Roughly 2,700 Jewish men, women and children were taken to Switzerland in two trains. This is in effect the continuation of the policy which my collaborators and I have consistently pursued for many years until the war and the resulting folly in the world made it impossible to carry it out.

You know, of course, that I in the years 1936, '37, '38,

'39, and '40,

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-5- #1186, March 28, 8 p.m., from Stockholm.

'39, and '40, in collaboration with Jewish American associations, created an emigration organization which functioned very fruitfully. The two trains which traveled into Switzerland are the intentional resumption, despite all difficulties, of this fruitful procedure.

From a prisoners camp at Bergen Belsen there recently came the rumor that a typhus epidemic of larger proportions had broken out. I immediately sent the hygienist of the SR, Dr. Mrugowski, there with his staff. It was a question of cases in the camp of spotted typhus which unfortunately occurs very frequently among people from the East, but the cases are to be regarded as under control, thanks to the best medical and modern methods.

I have the conviction that, by eliminating demagogism and superficialities, despite all differences and in spite of most bloody wounds on all sides, wisdom and logic must prevail and at the same time the human heart and the spirit of helpfulness.

It goes without saying that, just as I have done throughout all the past years in good times and bad, I shall gladly examine requests which you transmit or communicate to me in the humanitarian sphere and,

whenever

000946

-6- #1186, March 28, 8 p.m., from Stockholm.

whenever it is at all possible, shall decide them generously.

With my hearty greetings to your respected dear wife, to your children and especially to you, with old attachment, your (signed) H. Himmler."

The second, also on SS Headquarters stationery and signed by Himmler's adjutant, R. Brandt, reads in part (in translation) as follows:

"Worthy and Dear Mr Kersten, I can give you the very welcome news that the Reichfuhrer-SS intends to fulfill the requests which you expressed a few days ago."

I am forwarding photostatic copies of the documents in question under secret despatch. The question of continuing indirect contacts of this nature is one regarding which I, as heretofore, would appreciate urgent instructions from the Department and War Refugee Board since Olsen and I are in agreement that such discussions are not without danger. In the past the principal merit of these discussions has been the time-gaining factor but the tempo of the war as well as the level to which this approach has reached suggest strongly that a basic policy and appropriate instructions are now most urgent. There is also

000947

-7- #1186, March 28, 8 p.m., from Stockholm.

is also the question of whether Storch should be permitted to go to Berlin. We are of the opinion based on our personal knowledge of Storch's capabilities that it would be most unwise for him to go unless accompanied by a top-flight neutral thoroughly conversant with these problems who could dominate the discussions. This is apart from the over-all question of whether any such discussions should be held at all.

JOHNSON

JT

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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern,  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: March 22, 1945  
NUMBER: 1727  
X

MS URGENT

McClelland sends the following for C'Dwyer, WRB, and the Department.

I refer herewith to the Legation's telegrams of March 8 and March 21, Nos. 1491 and 1687 respectively.

It has unfortunately not been possible for me to report sooner on results of recent discussions with German authorities by ICRC President Burckhardt, because of illness.

Burckhardt first met with Kaltenbrunner of SS on March 12 in the Vorarlberg region between Swiss border and Innsbruck. A personal letter was sent by Himmler stating that he was prevented by military duties from being present and delegating to Kaltenbrunner full power.

On March 13 conversations were continued in Kreuzlingen, Switzerland, with Kaltenbrunner plus Berber, Director of Foreign Political Institute of Foreign Ministry, and Windecke of German FD, and on March 14 with Berber alone in Zurich. For some months now Berber has been in Switzerland and appears to be one of Ribbentrop's special contact men.

The main concession obtained from SS, as Burckhardt explained the matters, is permission for delegates of ICRC to be stationed in all major camps for both "Schutzhaeftlinge" (SH) and POWs to supervise personally distributions of relief. SS laid down one condition which was that such representatives of ICRC not circulate particularly back and forth to Switzerland but that they remain in these camps until the end of the war. Since certain numbers of SH are being worked in War industries, this restriction is presumably on the grounds of military security.

On the 21st of March, Burckhardt of ICRC reported to me that the choice of appropriate delegates for these camp posts

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972

000950

was being actively pursued by the committee, and they will be despatched as rapidly as possible into Germany.

There is willingness on the part of VG to allow deliveries of relief of all types by truck or other means of transport to SH irrespective of nationality or race. It was requested by SS that any such relief distribution should be conducted discreetly, especially any relief given to marching columns along the roads, in view of difficulties of food supply situation for the Germans themselves.

With respect to evacuation of SH, final detailed authorization covering specific persons whom ICRC will be permitted to evacuate has not been obtained from Berlin as yet, although the SS agreed in principle to allow the exit of women, children, elderly and ill people irrespective of religion or race. An answer is expected by ICRC by the 26th or 27th of March.

It was suggested by Burckhardt of ICRC that, in view of danger of approaching front, inmates of women's concentration camp of Ravensbrueck be among the first evacuated. This camp is located on the main highway to Neustrelitz approximately 70 kilometers north of Berlin and contains at least 30,000 women of principally Hungarian (Jewish), Polish, Norwegian, Belgian, Czech, Dutch, French, Russian and other nationalities, and it is definitely one of the bad camps.

It was stated by the Germans that transportation for any such evacuations would not be supplied by them. Consequently, it is planned by ICRC to utilize returning POW relief trucks, although this will be a difficult and inadequate method of effecting evacuation, especially persons who are ill.

The use by ICRC for evacuees of parcel ships returning from Luebeck to Goteborg was not favored by the Germans who stated that these waters were thickly mined and that they did not wish to be held responsible for sinking any ships loaded with evacuees.

The possibility of sending sanitary blocked train to Ravensbrueck from Switzerland if and when final authorization for the evacuation of this camp is given by the Germans, is still being discussed with the Swiss authorities by ICRC, although the Swiss are both reluctant to release such transport equipment and doubt that train could get through under the present chaotic state of German railroads which are being constantly bombed.

With respect to the question of evacuation of SH in general an attempt was made by Kaltenbrunner to create the impression that SS had really been only an executive organ throughout the past years of mass arrests and deportation of civilians to Germany from occupied countries and SS would be willing to allow useless SH to leave Germany now that food and housing situation was growing difficult within Germany.

It appears that Burekhardt of ICRC is working on some special scheme for evacuation of French SH who are to be exchanged for German civilians held by the French (I understand mainly Baltic Germans taken in Alsace region by the French). It is reported that French authorities are prepared to furnish 100 trucks to carry out this plan.

As soon as information regarding identity of first groups of SH whose evacuation will be permitted by the Germans is obtained from ICRC, I will report to WAB promptly.

In summing up, War Refugee Board can contribute to this double relief and evacuation program most effectively by (1) obtaining as many tires and trucks as possible, and (2) organizing and placing into operation mechanism for evacuating from Switzerland such SH groups who may arrive here and who are non-repatriable in Europe for the time being.

HARRISON

DC/L: IDB:AN  
3-23-45

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000953

JED  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Distribution of reading only arrangement.

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

March 15, 1945

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES

1945 MAR 15 PM 2 20

*War Ref Bd*  
*(C)*

ALLEGATION

STOCKHOLM

489

DC/L  
LIAISON

CONTROL COPY

The following for Johnson and Cison from Department and War Refugee Board.

Reference your no. 876 of March 7, 1945. Department and Board appreciate receiving this report and request that you continue to explore the situation and advise of significant developments. It is understood that Cison will be guided by suggestion with respect to meetings with any persons such as Fritz Hesse.

For your information McClelland has advised Department and Board that Burchhardt of Intercross is now in Germany to discuss question of relief to unassimilated persons and question of release and removal of physically unfit from Germany. In this connection McClelland further advises:

QUOTE On March 8 ICRC was officially informed by the Government of Germany that that Government now agreed to the exit from Germany of elderly people, women and children, of Nordic extraction or nationalities, and of French nationality, who were unskilled or laborers. It is not clear whether the Nazis include Jews among the people of French nationality. A promise was made me by Burchhardt that he will try to secure the release of Jews as well

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

000954

-2-489, March 15, 6 pm. to Berlin

as well within any national group if the Germans desire to  
limit the evacuees to certain nationalities, for reasons which  
are not clear. UNQUOTE

STETTINIUS  
(GITW)

CRB:MMV:KG  
3/14/45

NOE

WIS

000955

CABLE TO JOHNSON AND OLSEN, STOCKHOLM, FROM DEPARTMENT AND WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Reference your No. 876 of March 7, 1945. Department and Board appreciate receiving this report and request that you continue to explore the situation and advise of significant developments. It is understood that Olsen will be guided by Legation with respect to meetings with any persons such as Fritz Hesse.

For your information McClelland has advised Department and Board that Burckhardt of Intercross is now in Germany to discuss question of relief to unassimilated persons and question of release and removal of physically unfit from Germany. In this connection McClelland further advises:

"On March 3 ICRC was officially informed by the Government of Germany that that Government now agreed to the exit from Germany of elderly people, women and children, of Nordic extraction or nationalities, and of French nationality, who were unsuited as laborers. It is not clear whether the Nazis include Jews among the people of French nationality. A promise was made me by Burckhardt that he will try to secure the release of Jews as well within any national group if the Germans desire to limit the evacuees to certain nationalities, for reasons which are not clear."

THIS IS WRB STOCKHOLM NO. 330

5:15 p.m.  
March 13, 1945

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), ~~Ames~~, ~~Woods~~, DuBois, Gaston, Hodel  
~~McClintock~~, McCormack, O'Dwyer, Files.

*JJA*  
FH:hd 3/12/45

000956



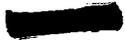
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C  
O  
P  
Y

*WRB*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: March 8, 1945  
NUMBER: 1481



The following message from McClelland for WRB and the Department is transmitted.

Please refer to cable from the Department dated February 23 No. 819 and cable from the Legation dated March 2 No. 1345.

It was revealed by a conversation on March 6 with Burckhardt of ICRC that Himmler has now made known his willingness to meet on March 10, 11 or 12 with Burckhardt. Therefore, accompanied by Bachmann, his personal secretary, Burckhardt will definitely leave on March 8th or 9th for Germany. These conversations will be with the SS exclusively, chiefly Kaltenbrunner and Himmler himself. Statement was made by the intermediary who extended the SS invitation that he had been directed to inform Burckhardt that Hitler himself might be present at a part of the discussions, the Fuhrer's health permitting.

The foregoing paragraph is for the strictly confidential information of WRB and the Department.

It is the plan of Burckhardt to raise the entire question of relief to all categories of Schutzstaetflinge and to prisoners of war, regardless of their religion, race or nationality.

Epecially

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

000958

Especially there was brought up the release and removal of physically unfit people.

On March 3 ICRC was officially informed in this connection by the Government of Germany that that Government now agreed to the exit from Germany of elderly people, women and children, of Nordic extraction or nationalities, and of French nationality, who were unsuited as laborers. It is not clear whether the Nazis include Jews among the people of French nationality. A promise was made me by Burckhardt that he will try to secure the release of Jews as well within any national group if the Germans desire to limit the evacuees to certain nationalities, for reasons which are not clear.

Twenty-five trucks with fuel and prisoners of war parcels left Switzerland for Germany on the 7th of March according to the plan reported in our message No. 1345. Permission for the entry of as many trucks as ICRC wishes for prisoners of war relief has now been granted by the Germans OKW. Whether this authorization includes trucks carrying relief to Schutzhaeftlinge, is not clear. On this point Burckhardt will make an effort to obtain favorable decision.

At the present time the number of trucks potentially available in Switzerland to ICRC (\*) program for POWS, not to mention Schutzhaeftlinge, and also would be insufficient if the Nazis agreed to allow the removal of any considerable number of Schutzhaeftlinge from Germany. ICRC has, in all, 50 Canadian trucks, of only three tons capacity, and 48 United States trucks of from seven to eight tons capacity.

I understand

000959

I understand that SHAEF has now agreed to furnish fuel, not for transport relief to unassimilated groups but only for transporting relief to prisoners of war; you might desire to take up with the War Department this matter.

There is a possibility that we may be confronted suddenly with a major technical and transport problem if the Germans agree to release a large number of Schutzhaeftlinge (who might conceivably amount to several tens of thousands) following the negotiations of Burokhardt. Under present conditions it is most unlikely that the Swiss will be able or willing to send railway trains to Germany to get such evacuees, or that the Germans will be able or willing to transport them to the Swiss border.

At the present time I am working on the problem of transporting our 60,000 WRB parcels to unassimilated groups in Germany through the ICRC Division of Special Assistance and through private Swiss trucking concerns. If tires can be furnished from the outside, or at the very least, their replacement within a short and definite time limit can be guaranteed, there is a slight possibility of securing five to eight wood-burning trucks. An average of ten heavy duty tires and two spares per truck must be estimated.

With reference to the entry of new and larger groups of refugees ICRC was assured by von Steiger, President of Confederation that to the limit of its possibilities Switzerland, in principle, would admit such groups.

HARRISON

(\*) Apparent omission-verification requested.  
DC/L:LCW:MEM 3/10/45

000960



000961

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

HCP-968  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. (W)

*Copy to  
General O'Neary  
War Refugee Board*  
Stockholm  
Dated March 7, 1945

Rec'd 2:22 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

[REDACTED]  
876, March 7, Noon (SECTION ONE OF TWO)

On the basis of statements made by certain important Germans with whom Olson has indirect contact, a real possibility appears to exist that within the next two weeks or so the Germans may make a fantastic offer with respect to Jews in German concentration camps. This offer is nothing less than the liberation of all such Jews except those engaged in vital war effort. From three separate German sources here Olson has been informed that the Germans are laying groundwork to prove that the wholesale massacre of Jews had not been carried out by the Germans but by criminal elements in the occupied countries themselves. In order to emphasize this point it appears that according to statements made to Olson, the German authorities are preparing to take the position that they are not interested in keeping the Jews in

German

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

000962

-2-#876, March 7, Noon (SECTION ONE OF TWO) from Stockholm.

German concentration camps any longer, that in fact it has been a nuisance required for security reasons, and that they are prepared to release them and permit them to leave Germany if some neutral organization such as the Swedish Red Cross will provide the necessary transportation. The following are Olsen's sources of information:

One. Dr. Kerstner, German masseur living in Stockholm and first heard of when he joined Himmler during his stay in Helsinki. He has attended Himmler for several years and is not considered pro-Nazi in local circles. Kerstner states that ever since last October there has been considerable dispute within the German High Command as to the policy to be followed with respect to Jews. The severe attitude of General Daluge, Himmler's right-hand man, seemed to prevail, but Kerstner states that Daluge has now become entirely incapacitated as a syphilitic and paralytic and has been confined to a sanatorium. Before leaving for Berlin this week, he stated flatly that the Germans are now willing to release the Jews. He made reference to severe friction between Himmler and Ribbentrop, and Himmler's efforts to remove the latter from all influential posts. He also reported great controversy between Hitler and Himmler but that the latter remains completely and devoutly subservient to Hitler, even though Hitler, according

000963

-3-#876, March 7, Noon (SECTION ONE OF TWO) from Stockholm.

according to Kerstner, is at present a serious mental case.

Two. Fritz Hesse, said to be an influential member  
of the German Foreign Office who recently arrived here  
from Berlin and has permission to stay until Thursday.  
Shortly after his arrival he made connection with Olsen's  
intermediary in previous discussions with the Germans on  
Jewish problems, and asked him to come over and talk  
with him at the Grand Hotel.

JOHNSON

JT

000964

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

RP-1000  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. (SECRET W)

Stockholm  
Dated March 7, 1945  
Rec'd 3:00 p.m.

Secretary of State

Washington .

876, March 7, noon (SECTION TWO)

THIS IS OUR NO. 129 FOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Hosco stated that his sincerity and reliability could be confirmed by an internationally known Jew named Frederick Kuh, who, he said, was in London. He then made the categorical statement that the German authorities are prepared to release the Jews provided a basis can be found of working out all related problems. He evaded questions as to what the Germans would be likely to ask in return, but the definite impression was gained that Hosco was also interested in exploring war politics.

Hosco also inquired whether a meeting could be arranged with Olsen, but added that he would communicate further on that point later.

Three. Dr. Klaus, Stockholm representative of Dr. Kleist, who has been contacted frequently in the past on these matters. Klaus states that Kleist, known

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

000965

-2-#876, March 7, noon, (SECTION TWO) from Stockholm

known to be an intimate of Himmler's, will return to Stockholm from Berlin in a few days. He states that Kleist has completed his discussions with the German authorities and that the prospects are strong that the Germans will agree to the release of all (repeat all) Jews in German concentration camps. Klaus emphasizes that the basis of release will not be similar to that whereby certain Jews recently arrived in Switzerland from Bergen Bolson, which Klaus describes as nothing more than a ransom proposition. Klaus states that Kleist's negotiations with the German authorities have been exclusively on a humanitarian basis, but he is unable or unwilling to elaborate further.

Olsen considers that there is a peculiar pattern of similarity in the foregoing discussions and that something rather substantial may be brewing. He is exploring the situation carefully and would appreciate comments or suggestions from the War Refugee Board.

These discussions and the names of individuals involved have been brought to the attention of Engzell of the Swedish Foreign Office who is rather optimistic of the prospect of these negotiations resulting

000966

-3-#876, March 7, noon, (SECTION TWO) from Stockholm

resulting in at least a few thousand Jews being  
brought to safety in Sweden.

(END OF MESSAGE)

JOHNSON

JT

000967

13

000960

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

EL-160

This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government Agency. (██████████)

Bern

Dated November 4, 1944

Rec'd 5:25 p.m.

*Files  
827*

Secretary of State,  
Washington,

7339, November 4, 3 p.m.

FOR WRB FROM MCCLELLAND

Department's 3436, October 3 and 3609, October 23.

Many thanks for these two wires. Interesting information contained in them concerning Nazi negotiations in Sweden has been most valuable and revealing.

Saly Mayer's negotiations last reported on in Legation's 6619, October 5, have again reached a critical and difficult stage with arrival in Switzerland on November 1, of delegation consisting of Kasznerbielitz and two SS men. Although it will be impossible to stall and bluff much longer this may afford an opportunity to drive home to Nazis the inevitable fate which awaits them as result of their continued ruthlessness. Also any seeds of dissent which can be sown in their ranks will be planted. Their hand as negotiators has been considerably weakened by recent happenings in Hungary and Slovakia.

HARRISON

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972

WFS

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000970

2 Pella (WRB)

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Legation, Bern  
DATE: October 23, 1944  
NUMBER: 3609

**CONTROL COPY**

For McClelland.

With reference to Department's 3436 of October 6, WRB's 200, the following is the substance of a cable sent on October 14 by Amlegation, Stockholm, to Department.

QUOTE Storch has informed us that Kleist during his recent visit to Stockholm made the following statements: (1) It is impossible to buy release of Jews in Germany with money. (2) His real mission here was to negotiate release of the 100,000 Estonians on Osel and to arrange for their entry into Sweden. (3) He was to take up on his return to Berlin general subject of release of Jews. He claims Swedes had put pressure on him to do something for the Jews and he expected to have some measure of success in Berlin as he wished to do the Swedes a favor.

(4) He claimed that in a recent Berlin meeting on the general subject of treatment of Jews following points were discussed: A. All Jews should be treated kindly now and endeavor made to prove to the world that they had never been abused, the idea being that surviving Jews who would be treated kindly would speak up for the Germans after the war. B. Remaining Jews should all be killed. This point was turned down. C. As the Germans cannot expect the Allies to treat them any better than they themselves have treated the Jews or the inhabitants of occupied countries the Germans must work out some plan other than A or B above, hence they are now considering the use of Jews as hostages. He claimed in this connection the Germans have not killed remaining Lithuanian Jews as once intended but have taken them to work on East Prussian fortifications and are reserving them for possible use as hostages.

Five. Kleist is expected back here any day and hopes to have concrete plans to present before a conference consisting of Count Bernardotte, Professor Ehrenpreis, Storch, and Austrian representative.

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GEORGE BOND  
RECEIVED

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

000971

2.

Storch feels Kleist wants to convey impression at least he tried to do the Jews a favor so he may gain favor in Allied eyes. Storch wishes Iver Olson in London to get in touch with Mr. Easterman or some other official of the World Jewish Congress there as he feels that organization is not clearly informed of the negotiations taking place here regarding the Jews. UNQUOTE

This is WRB cable to Bern No. 288.

HULL

JULY 23 1942

RECEIVED

000972

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AND McCLELLAND, BERN, SWITZERLAND

With reference to Department's 3436 of October 6, WRB's 200, the following is the substance of a cable sent on October 14 by Amlegation, Stockholm, to Department.

QUOTE Storch has informed us that Kleist during his recent visit to Stockholm made the following statements: (1) It is impossible to buy release of Jews in Germany with money. (2) His real mission here was to negotiate release of the 100,000 Estonians on Osel and to arrange for their entry into Sweden. (3) He was to take up on his return to Berlin general subject of release of Jews. He claims Swedes had put pressure on him to do something for the Jews and he expected to have some measure of success in Berlin as he wished to do the Swedes a favor.

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Five. Kleist is expected back here any day and hopes to have concrete plans to present before a conference consisting of Count Bernardotte, Professor Ehrenpreis, Storch and Austrian representative.

Storch feels Kleist wants to convey impression at least he tried to do the Jews a favor so he may gain favor in Allied eyes. Storch wishes Iver Olson in London to get in touch with Mr. Easterman or some other official of the World Jewish Congress there as he feels that organization is not clearly informed of the negotiations taking place here regarding the Jews. UNQUOTE

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 228.

See 4187 Stork  
10/14

11:00 a.m.  
October 20, 1944

BA. JBT  
Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois,  
Friedman, Hodel, Lesser, Mannon, McCormack, Files  
BAKzin:ar 10/19/44

000973



000974

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

HM-485  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement.

Stockholm

Dated October 14, 1944

9:36 p.m.

Secretary of State  
Washington

RECEIVED  
OCT 20 1944  
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

CONTROL COPY

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

4187, October 14, 10 a.m. (SECTION ONE OF TWO)

Storch has informed us that Kleist (see last paragraph our 854 WRB) during his recent visit to Stockholm made the following statements: (1) It is impossible to buy release of Jews in Germany with money. (2) His real mission here was to negotiate release of the 100,000 Estonians on Osel and to arrange for their entry into Sweden. (3) He was to take up on his return to Berlin general subject of release of Jews. He claims Swedes had put pressure on him to do something for the Jews and he expected to have some measure of success in Berlin as he wished to do the Swedes a favor.

(4) He claimed that in a recent Berlin meeting on the general subject of treatment of Jews following points were discussed; A. All Jews should be treated kindly now and endeavor made to prove to the world that they had never been abused, the idea being that surviving

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

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

000975

-2-, #4187, October 14, 10 a.m. (SECTION ONE OF TWO) from  
Stockholm

surviving Jews who would be treated kindly would speak  
up for the Germans after the war. B. Remaining Jews  
should all be killed. This point was turned down.  
C. As the Germans cannot expect the Allies to treat  
them any better than they themselves have treated the  
Jews or the inhabitants of occupied countries the Germans  
must work out some plan other than A or B above, hence  
they are now considering the use of Jews as hostages.  
He claimed in this connection the Germans have not  
killed remaining Lithuanian Jews.

JOHNSON

JMS  
WMB

000976

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

HM-469  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. (SECRET W)

Stockholm  
Dated October 14, 1944  
Rec'd. 7:55 p.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

4187, October 14, 10 p.m. (SECTION TWO)

THIS IS WAR R. FUGEE BOARD CABLE NO. 90

as was once intended but have taken them to work on East  
Prussian fortifications and are reserving them for  
possible use as hostages.

Five. Kleist is expected back here any day and  
hopes to have concrete plans to present before a  
conference consisting of Count Bernardotte, Professor  
Ehren Preis, Storch and Austrian representative.

Storch feels Kleist wants to convey impression  
at least he tried to do the Jews a favor so he may  
gain favor in Allied eyes. Storch wishes Iver Olson  
in London to get in touch with Mr. Easterman or some  
other official of the World Jewish Congress there as  
he feels that organization is not clearly informed of  
the negotiations taking place here regarding the Jews.

(END OF MESSAGE.)

WMB

JOHNSON

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972

000977

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000978

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT  
FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Legation, Bern  
DATED: October 6, 1944  
NUMBER: 3436 X

2 War  
Ref  
Bd  
12/20/44  
**CONTROL COPY**

FOR ECCELELIAND FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Olsen advises us that you have asked him to supply details re discussions with Germans in Sweden on possibility of rescuing Jews in Europe. In view of Stockholm's lack of communication with Bern, Olsen has asked us to repeat the following cables to you.

(Here take in Stockholm's No. 2362 of June 28, Stockholm's No. 2419 of July 3, Stockholm's No. 2621 of July 15.)

Department's 3196 of September 16 contained latest information on this matter.

In a very recent report to the Board, Olsen has stated the following which may also be of interest to you:

"All available channels will, as they have in the past, be used to forestall further massacres in east Prussia and Poland, although we are extremely pessimistic that much can be accomplished since the contacts we have had in the past are not able to exert any influence upon the severe military control presently being maintained by the Germans over such matters. Threats of reprisals are meaningless to this group and it may be assumed that should any proposals ultimately be forthcoming through Kleist or other intermediaries for the Germans, such proposals

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

000979

will undoubtedly involve totally unacceptable military implications.  
We are pushing these negotiations as strongly as possible nevertheless,  
simply to stall for time."

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 200.

HULL

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RECEIVED

000980

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

Olsen advises us that you have asked him to supply details re discussions with Germans in Sweden on possibility of rescuing Jews in Europe. In view of Stockholm's lack of communication with Bern, Olsen has asked us to repeat the following cables to you.

[Here take in Stockholm's No. 2362 of June 28, Stockholm's No. 2419 of July 3, Stockholm's No. 2621 of July 15, and Stockholm's 3605 of September 11.]

In a very recent report to the Board, Olsen has stated the following which may also be of interest to you:

" All available channels will, as they have in the past, be used to forestall further massacres in east Prussia and Poland, although we are extremely pessimistic that much can be accomplished since the contacts we have had in the past are not able to exert any influence upon the severe military control presently being maintained by the Germans over such matters. Threats of reprisals are meaningless to this group and it may be assumed that should any proposals ultimately be forthcoming through Kleist or other intermediaries for the Germans, such proposals will undoubtedly involve totally unacceptable military implications. We are pushing these negotiations as strongly as possible nevertheless, simply to stall for time."

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 200

4:00 p.m.  
October 4, 1944

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

JH  
PH:hd 10/4/44

000981

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000982

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

LFG-993  
Distribution of true 1 50  
reading only by special  
arrangement. (SECRET)

Stockholm

Dated September 27, 1944

Rec'd 3:13 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

X  
3902, September 27, 3 p.m.

THIS IS OUR 85 FOR WRE

McClelland has asked Olsen to supply details regarding any discussions with Germans in Sweden on the possibility of rescuing Jews in Europe. In view of our lack of code communication with Bern please repeat in safe code to McClelland our 41, 43, 52 and 60 for WRE (Legation's 2362, June 28, 2419, July 3, 2321, July 15 and 3605, September 11 respectively).

Kleist is expected back here in a week or so being presently in Berlin. While he has stated that he expects to be in a position to advance concrete proposals we are not at all optimistic that they will have anything practicable or acceptable to offer.

JOHNSON

JMS EPL

**CONTROL COPY**

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

000983

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000984

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Legation, Bern.  
DATED: September 16, 1944  
NUMBER: 3196

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AND MCCLELLAND.

The following is the substance of a communication received from Minister Johnson and Olsen in Stockholm:

QUOTE A German group consisting of Boening, Kleist and Klaus have recently renewed their approaches with respect to freeing Baltic Jews against 2,000,000 Swedish kronor of civilian relief supplies for German bombed-out population and a concrete proposal allegedly will be advanced this week with Berlin approval. In the meantime it is stated the German authorities have issued strict orders to stop further Jewish persecutions in the Baltic countries.

We are also advised that Boening returned to Germany for military service but was immediately released and sent to Bern. It is possible that he is involved in some of the German negotiations in Switzerland with respect to Jews, particularly Hungarian. Believe it highly desirable that there be a close interchange of information as to any such negotiations. UNQUOTE

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 172.

HULL

Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Akzin, Cohn, DuBois, Drury, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Weinstein, Cable Control Files.

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

000985



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DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

FMH-116  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement (██████████ W)

Stockholm

Dated September 11, 1944

Rec'd 3:10 a.m., 12th

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

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

3565, September 11, 10 p.m.

German group mentioned in our number 41, 43 and 52 for WRB (Legation's 2362 of June 28, 10 p.m.; 2419 July 3, noon and 2621 of July 15, 10 a.m.) have recently renewed their approaches with respect to freeing Baltic Jews against 2,000,000 Swedish kronor of civilian relief supplies for German bombed-out population and a concrete proposal allegedly will be advanced this week with Berlin approval. In the meantime it is stated the German authorities have issued strict orders to stop further Jewish persecutions in the Baltic countries.

We are also advised that Goening returned to Germany for military service but was immediately released and sent to Bern. It is possible that he is involved in some of the German negotiations in Switzerland with respect to Jews, particularly Hungarian. Believe it highly desirable that there be a close interchange of information as to any such negotiations. This is our number 80 for WRB.

JMS

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

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF  
SEP 12 1944  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

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000988

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Y

BRITISH EMBASSY

WASHINGTON 8, D.C.

18th July, 1944.

Dear Mr. Warren,

I enclose herein a copy of a personal message which His Majesty's Ambassador at Moscow has been instructed to hand to M. Molotov. His Majesty's Ambassador was to show this message, before delivering it, to his United States colleague, and to explain that the reason for this action was that the suggestion was pressed on His Majesty's Government with particular earnestness by high and responsible Jewish circles here.

I also enclose, for your information, a paraphrase of a telegram from His Majesty's Ambassador at Stockholm about the approach made through the Swedish channel.

Yours sincerely,

K. I. POATE

Mr. G. Warren,  
Department of State  
of the United States,  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

DECLASSIFIED  
By Authority of British  
Govt. telegram, 1-12-72  
By RHP Date SEP 27 1972

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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED FROM  
HIS MAJESTY'S MINISTER AT STOCKHOLM  
OF 14th JULY, 1944  
-----

The acting Secretary General believes that Kleist's activities are directly inspired by Himmler whose opposition to Ribbentrop is so strong that the mere fact that Ribbentrop refused to allow Estonia "Swedes" to take refuge in Sweden was enough to cause Himmler to arrange for it. Himmler detests both Terboven and Quisling and is no doubt responsible for maintaining Dr. Best in Copenhagen even after the loss of German prestige produced by last week's successful strike there. Himmler is known to favour a friendly policy towards Sweden whereas Hitler and Ribbentrop are violently anti-Swedish. Assarson thinks that Kleist's offer to barter Baltic Jews against Red Cross supplies of beds, chairs, etc., for bombed out Germans aims both at increasing Himmler's popularity in bombed German Cities and at gaining credit for himself in Sweden and elsewhere for more humane policy towards the Jews. This is no doubt with an eye to saving his own skin later.

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DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

HM-799  
Distribution of true  
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arrangement. [REDACTED] W)

Stockholm  
Dated July 15, 1944  
Rec'd. 11:30 a.m.

**CONTROL COPY**

Secretary of State  
Washington

*J. H. [unclear]*

2621, July 15, 10 a.m. (SECTION ONE)

Following supplements Legation's 2419 of July 3,  
noon and Legation's 2362 of June 28, 10 p.m. and is  
our no. 52 for War Refugee Board in response to  
inquiries raised in WRB 45 (Department's 1365 of  
July 11, 8 p.m.

a. Olsen's discussion with Boening developed  
no question of financial consideration, simply  
humanitarian exchange such as certain relief supplies  
to Germany's bombed-out civilians. It may be that  
eventually the question will be raised of remuneration  
to Boening, Kleist and Klause for arranging the matter  
but even that is disclaimed by them at this stage  
since they are playing heavily their humanitarian  
sympathies.

b. Our best information obtained from Latvian  
refugees is that there are only 3200 Jews in Latvian  
concentration camps at the present time. Most of  
these

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

*not deleted*

000992

-2-, #2621, July 15, 10 a.m. (SECTION ONE) from Stockholm

these are stated to be Latvians although there are  
a few German and Central European Jews.

JOHNSON

WTD

LIS

000993

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

KEH-806  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. ( )

Stockholm  
Dated July 15, 1944  
Rec'd 11:57 a.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

2621, July 15, 10 a.m. (SECTION TWO)

and according to reports by Andersen, approximately 50  
American and British Jews.

(C) The question of selecting evacuees disappeared  
in the last discussion since basis of discussion was  
evacuation of all Jews in Latvian concentration camps.

(D) It was understood that evacuation could  
probably be carried out by Swedish Red Cross in Swedish  
vessels.

(E) Throughout the various discussions during  
which the Germans shifted from one consideration to  
another, it was constantly emphasized by Onening that no  
delivery of the considerations agreed upon would be  
necessary until the Jews had arrived in Sweden.

The guarantees of the Swedish Foreign Office,  
mentioned in Legation's No. 2362 were not mentioned in  
final discussion and presumably were abandoned in favor  
of proposals with respect to Swedish Red Cross mentioned

in Legation's

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

000994

-2- #2621, July 15, 10 a.m. (SECTION TWO) from Stockholm.

in Legation's 2419. It is repeated that the basis of these discussions has shifted from one consideration to another,

JOHNSON

JT LIS

000995

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

HL-843  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. (██████ W)

Stockholm  
Dated July 15, 1944

Secretary of State  
Washington



2621, July 15, 10 a.m. (SECTION THREE)

and probably will be subject to other revisions if further discussions are held. At present time, however, consideration advanced for release of Latvian Jews is that involving Swedish Red Cross. Will raise the matter with Swedish Red Cross along lines suggested in WRB 45 but believe that it is the type of proposal that can be discussed only with Count Folke Bernadotte, chairman, who is temporarily away on vacation. No time will be lost by deferring discussions until his return since both Kleist and Boening are in Berlin and won't be back for a week.

Will endeavor to obtain additional details regarding Kleist, Boening and Klaus. The first two are said to be well known to Count Bernadotte because of Red Cross activities. Klaus should not be confused with Krause who is prominently identified with

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

000996

-2-, #2621, July 15, 10 a.m. (SECTION THREE) from Stockholm

with murder of Latvian Jews. Klausen has resided in Sweden more or less permanently for past two or three years.

(End of message).

JOHNSON

DV

LMS

000997



000998



-2- #1365, July 10, 1944, 9 p.m., to Stockholm.  
that Klaus is Krause of Anderson report?

Your 2362 is subject to construction that all that may be required for release of 2000 is the expression by the Swedish Foreign Office of a strongly sympathetic attitude towards this rescue operation, a willingness to receive these refugees gladly and to promise that the refugees would not agitate against the German authorities. If this interpretation is correct, you should urge the Swedish Foreign Office to take the required steps without any reference to this Government or its interest in the operation. Any refugees of the kind described arriving in Sweden as a result of this operation would come within the guarantees and assurances made in Department's 749 of April 26, WRS's 4.

With reference to form proposal takes in your 2419 of July 3, your 45 to WRS, Swedish Red Cross should be fully informed and requested to endeavor to secure definitive terms and conditions from Boening and other interested parties. In so doing the Red Cross should make no (repeat no) reference to this Government or its interest in any discussions, negotiations or agreement that might ensue.

Please keep the Department and Board fully advised of developments. Please express to Boheman the sincere appreciation of the Department and the Board for the information contained

in

-3- #1365, July 10, 1944, 9 p.m., to Stockholm.

in year 1942 of July 1.

HULL  
(GLW)

S/CR

WRB:MMV:OMH  
7/8/44

NOE

EE

001001

CABLE TO MINISTER JOHNSON AT STOCKHOLM FOR OLSEN

The substance of your 2362 of June 28 is being communicated to the British and the Russians in accord with policy to do so with all such proposals no matter how dubious their nature or origin. The following points are not clear and would appreciate any information you may be able to supply: (a) whether financial consideration is still deemed essential, and if so, whether the same would be for the benefit of individuals or Germany; (b) why the offer deals only with approximately 2000 Jews when available statistics indicate that over 93,000 resided in Latvia prior to the war (this might elicit some information as to the fate of the others; it might also tend to emphasize the enormity of the crimes involved, and thus perhaps to increase the group's desire to be helpful); (c) the manner in which and the persons by whom the evacuees would be selected; (d) the means by which the evacuees would be transported to Sweden; and (e) what guarantees or evidence of good faith and effectiveness are available. Would also appreciate any further information you may have as to identity of three individuals named. Is there any possibility that Klause is Krause of Andersen report?

Your 2362 is subject to construction that all that may be required for release of 2000 is the expression by the Swedish Foreign Office of a strongly sympathetic attitude towards this rescue operation, a willingness to receive these refugees gladly and to promise that the refugees would not agitate against the German authorities. If this interpretation is correct, you should urge the Swedish Foreign Office to take the required steps without any reference to this Government or its interest in the operation. Any refugees of the kind described arriving in Sweden as a result of this operation would come within the guarantees and assurances made in Department's 749 of April 25, WRB's 4.

With reference to form proposal takes in your 2419 of July 3, your 43 to WRB, Swedish Red Cross should be fully informed and requested to endeavor to secure definitive terms and conditions from Boening and other interested parties. In so doing the Red Cross should make no (repeat no) reference to this Government or its interest in any discussions, negotiations or agreement that might ensue.

Please keep the Department and Board fully advised of developments. Please express to Boheman the sincere appreciation of the Department and the Board for the information contained in your 2412 of July 1.

\*\*\*\*\*  
July 7, 1944  
12:30 p.m.

THIS IS WRB STOCKHOLM CABLE NO. 45

*L.S.L.*  
LSLesser:als 7/7/44

*W. H. [unclear]*

CABLE TO MINISTER JOHNSON AT ST CROUNEN FOR ELSEN

The substance of your 2362 of June 23 is being communicated to the British and the Russians in accord with policy to do so with all such proposals no matter how dubious their nature or origin. The following points are not clear and would appreciate any information you may be able to supply: (a) whether financial consideration is still deemed essential, and if so, whether the same would be for the benefit of individuals or Germany; (b) why we offer deals only with approximately 2000 Jews when available statistics indicate that over 22,000 resided in Latvia prior to the war (this might elicit some information as to the fate of the others; it might also tend to emphasize the enormity of the crises involved, and thus perhaps to increase the group's desire to be helpful); (c) the manner in which and the persons by whom the evacuees would be selected; (d) the means by which the evacuees would be transported to Sweden; and (e) what guarantees or evidence of good faith and effectiveness are available. Would also appreciate any further information you may have as to identity of three individuals named. Is there any possibility that Krause is Krause of Andersen report?

Your 2362 is subject to construction that all that may be required for release of 2000 is the expression by the Swedish Foreign Office of a strongly sympathetic attitude towards this rescue operation, a willingness to receive these refugees gladly and to promise that the refugees would not agitate against the German authorities. If this interpretation is correct, you should urge the Swedish Foreign Office to take the required steps without any reference to this Government or its interest in the operation. Any refugees of the kind described arriving in Sweden as a result of this operation would come within the guarantees and assurances made in Department's 749 of April 25, WFB's 4.

THIS IS WRE CABLE TO STOCKHOLM NO. 45

~~THIS IS WRE STOCKHOLM CABLE NO.~~

1:40 p.m.  
July 7, 1944

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

*L.S.L.*  
L.S.L.:als 7/6/44

001003

3

001004

JUL 4 - 1944

TO: Mr. George Warren

FROM: J. W. Pehle

I think it important that both the British and the  
Russians be immediately advised of the substance of Stockholm's  
2362 of June 28.

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

*L.S.L.*  
LSLesserials 7/3/44

*JW*

001005



001006

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: AMLEGATION, Stockholm  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: July 3, 1944  
NUMBER: 2419

**CONTROL COPY**

Repeat to WMB as our 43.

This message is a supplement to Legation's 2362, June 28, 10 p.m. (WRS No. 41). Through intermediaries Olsen and Boening had a consultation. Olsen asked first as to what was Boening's capacity in Sweden and Boening answered that a approximately three years ago, as special trade negotiator, he came here to the German Legation. His explanation was that it was much like the recent Griffis mission. He added that for the last two years he has not been officially connected with the Government of Germany and has business interests of a private personal nature, in connection with which he also represents certain Kleist interests. The question was asked by Olsen as to what was the status of Kleist and Boening answered that up to less than a year ago Kleist had been Ribbentrop's special representative in connection with the civilian administration of Poland and the Baltic countries, but that with von Ribbentrop he had had severe disputes as to policy and had handed in his resignation. It was added that since then Kleist had not been officially connected with the Government of Germany although it was explained that it was quite plain that he had close personal connection with important authorities of the Government of Germany.

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 21 1972

001007

Reference was then made by Olsen to the discussions which Boening had been having with certain Swedes regarding the possibility of evacuating all the Jews who are now in the Baltic countries to Sweden and that, as a War Refugee Board representative, it would be absurd for him to disclaim his grave concern with the safety of these individuals. However, in light of the fact that such an operation most certainly would require the authoritative sanction of the Government of Germany, and in view of the well-known policy of Germany towards Jews and the severity with which this policy is being executed by the German Government, Boening was asked how he or Kleist were optimistic that an arrangement involving an exchange of humanitarian acts would be accepted. Inquiry was made by Olsen as to what kind of an exchange he had in view and as a possibility the following idea was advanced by Boening. Eagerness would be expressed by the Swedish Red Cross to evacuate the Jews from the Baltic countries and regarding this matter would make the correct approaches. To the Germans the Swedish Red Cross, as a counterbalancing act of humanity, would offer certain relief operations such as non-strategic medical supplies, beds, chairs etc. for its bombed-out civilians. It was stated by Boening that the

001008

whole matter could be so controlled that no military considerations of any kind would be involved. It was also stated by Boening that both Kleist and he were of the opinion that this would be of interest to the Germans. The impression received by Olsen was that/at least certain of the German officials the propositions may have in fact been cleared in principle. There could be developed nothing more as to what may be behind the discussions so far as concerns the Germans or as to the motives of these persons in submitting the proposal.

JOHNSON

~~DCR:EMS~~

~~7-6-44~~

001009



001010

*Draft - worked*

CABLE TO MINISTER JOHNSON AT STOCKHOLM FOR OLSEN

The substance of your 2362 of June 28 is being communicated to the British and the Russians in accord with policy to do so with all such proposals no matter how dubious their nature or origin. The following points are not clear and would appreciate any information you may be able to supply: (a) whether financial consideration is still deemed essential, and if so, whether the same would be for the benefit of individuals or Germany; (b) why the offer deals only with approximately 2000 Jews when available statistics indicate that over 93,000 resided in Latvia prior to the war (this might elicit some information as to the fate of the others; it might also tend to emphasize the enormity of the crimes involved, and thus perhaps to increase the group's desire to be helpful); (c) the manner in which and the persons by whom the evacuees would be selected; (d) the means by which the evacuees would be transported to Sweden; and (e) what guarantees or evidence of good faith and effectiveness are available. Would also appreciate any further information you may have as to identity of three individuals named. Is there any possibility that Klause is Krause of Andersen report?

THIS IS WRB STOCKHOLM CABLE NO. \_\_\_\_

LSLesser:als-7/5/44

001011

*Return to Head*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Stockholm  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: June 28, 1944  
NUMBER: 2362

*Control Copy*

**CONTROL COPY**

Information has reached Olsen that several approaches have been made locally by certain influential German officials connected with Baltic affairs on the general proposition of freeing Jews in Latvia against a cash consideration. We allowed the situation to develop and it resulted in the following concrete proposal.

All Jews in Latvia (a guaranteed minimum of 2,000) would be free from ghettos and allowed to come to Sweden against a cash payment of 2 million dollars (revised later to 2 million Swedish kronor). This amount was to be deposited in Riksbank subject to the conditions as follows.

- A. Guaranteed release of these funds when and if refugees arrived safely in Sweden.
- B. Funds could be used without restriction for purchase of certain supplies other than war materials, such as medicines, Red Cross supplies, et cetera.
- C. Balance of funds available for transfer to German clearing. The group would require assurances from Sweden, in turn, that these refugees would not be allowed to spread anti-Nazi propaganda.

*2/3*

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972

These

001012

These discussions were communicated to the Swedish Foreign Office and it has advanced the following information regarding <sup>the</sup> three individuals involved. The most important individual is Kleist, said to be Himmler's man in the Baltic and reputedly one of the cleverest intelligence operators in Germany. He is also connected with the German Red Cross. The Foreign Office has had some experience with him in that, contrary to strict orders from Ribbentrop, Kleist facilitated escape to Sweden of certain Swedes in the Baltic. The name of the second individual is Boening and he <sup>is</sup> ~~was~~ considered somewhat of a mystery to the Foreign Office, although he is known to represent Kleist in Sweden on various matters. The third and last individual is named Klause. He is stated to have been a former member of the German Military Intelligence but recently he asked the Swedish Foreign Office to consider him a political refugee, based on the fact he is considered a Jew by the Germans. From other sources we are informed that at least on previous occasion Klause obtained funds from individuals in Sweden on the promise of rescuing certain Jews in Europe; he never fulfilled the promise. On subsequent approach, it was intimated by this group that very little, if any, of the 2 million Kronor would go into the German clearing, or even to buy Swedish goods for Germany. Instead, they would use some of the funds to bribe certain minor German officials in the

001013

in the Baltic, and the three would pocket the balance. It was suggested by Olsen, simply to explore the mysterious background of these negotiators, that the German group be informed that it was impossible to raise the money in Sweden and then to ask whether there was any objection to exploring the possibilities of securing American funds. This could be/only by raising the <sup>done</sup> problem with Olsen at the American Legation who probably would want to get all the details directly. It was then stated by the group to this proposal, that money was not necessarily a consideration, that perhaps no money at all would be needed. The important consideration was stated/be <sup>to</sup> that the Swedish Foreign Office must express a strongly sympathetic attitude towards this rescue operation, a willingness to receive these refugees gladly, and to promise that the refugees would not agitate against the German authorities. While baffling and not a little fantastic in scope, the foregoing situation presents the following interesting intelligence aspects. If the government of Germany is behind these feelers, it becomes a simple ransom proposition from which they would hope to trap us into a series of other extortions on a much larger scale. We know that the Germans are extremely pressed for foreign exchange and are experimenting with all possible devices to ease the situation. Too, if German authorities are behind these negotiations,

001014

negotiations, they may be setting a trap for anti-Jewish propaganda in the United States - playing these refugees against prisoners of war, et cetera. On the other hand, the individuals involved may simply be making a last minute effort to purchase good will in the United States and Sweden. (The Swedish Foreign Office believes this latter to be the true basis of the feelers made locally.) At least Kleist is a marked man and the situation in the Baltic may have prompted him to look towards the immediate future.

Treasury should be informed and also War Refugee Board as our No. 41.

JOHNSON

DCR:VAG:HL

6/30/44

001015

*2 - War Refugee Bd.  
Control to Hodel*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Stockholm  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: June 28, 1944  
NUMBER: 2362

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A. Guaranteed release of these funds when and if refugees arrived safely in Sweden.

B. Funds could be used without restriction for purchase of certain supplies other than war materials, such as medicines, Red Cross supplies, et cetera.

C. Balance of funds available for transfer to German clearing. The group would require assurances from Sweden, in turn, that these refugees would not be allowed to spread

anti-Nazi propaganda.

*7-4-44  
I covered this  
to all...  
Cut...  
We...  
...  
...  
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...*

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

These

001016

These discussions were communicated to the Swedish Foreign Office and it has advanced the following information regarding <sup>the</sup> three individuals involved. The most important individual is Kleist, said to be Himmler's man in the Baltic and reputedly one of the cleverest intelligence operators in Germany. He is also connected with the German Red Cross. The Foreign Office has had some experience with him in that, contrary to strict orders from Ribbentrop, Kleist facilitated escape to Sweden of certain Swedes in the Baltic. The name of the second individual is Boening, and he <sup>is</sup> ~~was~~ considered somewhat of a mystery to the Foreign Office, although he is known to represent Kleist in Sweden on various matters. The third and last individual is named Klaus. He is stated to have been a former member of the German Military Intelligence but recently he asked the Swedish Foreign Office to consider him a political refugee, based on the fact he is considered a Jew by the Germans. From other sources we are informed that at least on previous occasion Klaus obtained funds from individuals in Sweden on the promise of rescuing certain Jews in Europe; he never fulfilled the promise. On subsequent approach, it was intimated by this group that very little, if any, of the 2 million Kronor would go into the German clearing, or even to buy Swedish goods for Germany. Instead, they would use some of the funds to bribe certain minor German officials in the

-3-

in the Baltic, and the three would pocket the balance. It was suggested by Olsen, simply to explore the mysterious background of these negotiators, that the German group be informed that it was impossible to raise the money in Sweden and then to ask whether there was any objection to exploring the possibilities of securing American funds. This could be<sup>done</sup> only by raising the problem with Olsen at the American Legation who probably would want to get all the details directly. It was then stated by the group to this proposal, that money was not necessarily a consideration, that perhaps no money at all would be needed. The important consideration was stated<sup>to</sup> be that the Swedish Foreign Office must express a strongly sympathetic attitude towards this rescue operation, a willingness to receive these refugees gladly, and to promise that the refugees would not agitate against the German authorities. While baffling and not a little fantastic in scope, the foregoing situation presents the following interesting intelligence aspects. If the government of Germany is behind these feelers, it becomes a simple ransom proposition from which they would hope to trap us into a series of other extortions on a much larger scale. We know that the Germans are extremely pressed for foreign exchange and are experimenting with all possible devices to ease the situation. Too, if German authorities are behind these negotiations,

negotiations, they may be setting a trap for anti-Jewish propaganda in the United States - playing these refugees against prisoners of war, et cetera. On the other hand, the individuals involved may simply be making a last minute effort to purchase good will in the United States and Sweden. (The Swedish Foreign Office believes this latter to be the true basis of the feelers made locally.) At least Kleist is a marked man and the situation in the Baltic may have prompted him to look towards the immediate future.

Treasury should be informed and also War Refugee Board as our No. 41.

JOHNSON

DCR:VAG:HL

6/30/44

001019