

Jabotinsky, Eri

Folder 1

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- A. GENERAL
- B. REPORT TO WRE AND EMERGENCY COMMITTEE TO SAVE THE JEWISH PEOPLE OF EUROPE
- C. CENSORSHIP INTERCEPT
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Box 71
Jabotinsky Files

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FFC-76
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- Correspondence concerning this application .
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FOR FURTHER MATERIAL ON JABOTINSKY'S PROPOSAL

SEE: PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF & RESCUE OF REFUGEES: EVACUATIONS
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ERI JABOTINSKI (SECRET)

A. GENERAL

Box ~~70~~ 71

Records Classified "Secret"

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THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AMERICAN EMBASSY

Ankara, February 26, 1945.

Dear Mrs. Henderson:

Please accept my thanks for your letter of February 24 enclosing the proposed draft of a telegram to the War Refugee Board, which has been transmitted today.

I have also sent the letter drafted by you to General O'Dwyer with some very minor changes.

With every good wish and kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "George S. Messersmith", written over a horizontal line.

Mrs. Virginia D. Henderson,
American Consulate General,
Istanbul.

John F. H. ...
9/6/45

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Dear Mr. Ambassador



Istanbul, February 24, 1945

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

There is enclosed herewith a draft of a telegram, the contents of which are self-explanatory. If agreeable to you it would be appreciated if you would have the telegram sent to the War Refugee Board at Washington.

On occasion in the past Mr. Jabotinsky has permitted the impression to exist that he is directly connected with the War Refugee Board, and in his letter to the Board, dated February 21, 1945, his intention appears to be to place some responsibility upon it for extricating him from the position in which he now is.

As regards the original draft of the letter as written by Mr. Jabotinsky, it is in the possession of Mr. Andrew D. Schwartz, a personal friend. Mr. Schwartz states that the draft was written by Mr. Jabotinsky during the time that he was in the custody of the Turkish authorities and is much garbled, and at Mr. Jabotinsky's request the material contained in the typewritten letter presented to me was assembled therefrom by Mr. Schwartz, assisted by some other persons.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

Virginia D. Henderson

Honorable Laurence A. Steinhardt
Ambassador to Turkey
American Embassy
Ankara

Encl: Draft of telegram 700,275

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For cable #1526 from Ankara of Sept. 7, 1943

See: EVACUATION OF REFUGEES TO TURKEY

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MEMORANDUM

The War Refugee Board files contain the following with respect to the case of Eri T. Jabotinsky:

1. On February 11, 1944, the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe requested the assistance of the War Refugee Board in sending Mr. Eri Jabotinsky to Turkey as the Committee's representative for the purpose of carrying out the efforts of the Committee to rescue Jews in Europe in imminent danger of death. At the same time, the Committee requested the assistance of the Board in obtaining a re-entry permit to assure Mr. Jabotinsky's return to the United States. Mr. Jabotinsky, a Palestinian citizen, was in the United States on a visitor's visa.
2. On February 15 and April 11, 1944, the Board urged the State Department to do everything possible to facilitate the proposed mission of Mr. Jabotinsky.
3. On March 29, 1944, the Board wrote to the Ambassador of Turkey concerning the proposed mission of Mr. Jabotinsky and requesting that a Turkish visa be issued to him. Within a week, the Turkish visa was issued.
4. The State Department, the War Department and the Turkish Government took the necessary steps to insure Mr. Jabotinsky's trip to Turkey by air and he left the United States on May 3, 1944.
5. Although the War Refugee Board on April 11, 1944, in requesting facilitation of Mr. Jabotinsky's trip asked the State Department for assurances that he would be permitted to return to the United States when his mission was completed, the State Department did not specifically advise the War Refugee Board that Mr. Jabotinsky would be permitted to return. It was the understanding of the Board that the reason for this was that as a general rule re-entry permits are not issued in advance.
6. Through the communication facilities of the War Refugee Board, Jabotinsky sent one cable and one report addressed to the Board and his Committee.
7. On August 15, the Board sent a memorandum to the State Department requesting advice as to the most expeditious manner of assuring that Mr. Jabotinsky could return to the United States when his mission was completed.

2315 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N. W.
WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

ADAMS 8800

וועד לשחרור האמה

HEBREW COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION

April 17, 1945

My dear General,

I take the liberty to enclose herewith a photo-
stat copy of the letter addressed by a group of Senators
to the Secretary of State, dealing largely with the
case of Mr. Jabotinsky.

I should greatly appreciate it if you would make
this an opportunity to contact the State Department
once again in this matter. There are good reasons
to believe that the matter can now be successfully
concluded.

Faithfully yours,

Peter H. Bergson
Peter H. Bergson
Chairman

Brigadier General William O'Dwyer,
War Refugee Board,
Washington, D. C.

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Honorable Edward K. Stettinius, # 2,
March 16, 1945.

The Department of State gives no reason for its stand regarding Jabotinsky. It claims that the records of this kind of a case are secret and they will not disclose their reasons.

Mr. Jabotinsky is a member of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, a body of Hebrews in exile established for the purpose of serving the national interests of the Hebrew people and securing recognition of Palestine as an independent state. They have come here because they believe in and admire our traditions of fostering and aiding the aspirations of all people who strive for self-determination and liberty. There seems to be no doubt that an overwhelming majority of the American people fully support the right of every surviving Hebrew in Europe to go to Palestine where he can live unmolested and become a fellow-builder of a new nation in which Jews, Christians and Moslems may live in full equality and harmony.

We are sure, Mr. Secretary, that in your concern and sympathy for the plight of the Hebrew people in Europe, which you have so effectively expressed on numerous occasions, you too concur in this traditional American policy towards Palestine which has been adhered to and endorsed by all the administrations we have had since the last war.

The murderous campaign of our enemies in Europe has inflicted upon the Hebrew people unspeakable suffering and death and it is our strong belief that the survivors of these terrible years of extermination deserve fullest consideration and sympathy. It is our belief also that Hebrew spokesmen such as Mr. Jabotinsky and his colleagues, whose lives are dedicated to the welfare of their martyred people, and who have the protection of no nation and no government, deserve the friendly consideration and support of officials of our Government.

We believe that the traditions of our nation dictate that we give these servants of a down-trodden people the right to come here and present the case of their people before us. They should also be given the right to depart from and return to the United States in the course of their duties of presenting the cause of their people to the other governments of the United Nations. We deem it proper that they be given not only the necessary permits and visas, but also traveling priorities on our ships and planes, a courtesy which is constantly being extended by us to men engaged in similar activities.

In view of the above, we request, Mr. Secretary, favorable consideration and action on the following:

Honorable Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., # 3,
March 16, 1945.

1. A visa for Mr. Eri Jabotinsky, at present in Palestine.
2. A visa for Mr. Aryeh Ben Eliezer, another member of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, who left this country on a rescue mission and who is now under detention in a Palestinian concentration camp.
3. A permit to re-enter the United States for Mr. Peter H. Bergson, Committee Chairman, who desires to proceed to liberated Europe to confer with Hebrew leaders there, as well as with the officials of the various European governments.

All necessary applications for the above have been duly submitted to the Visa Division but action by it has been deferred.

Since under law it is your prerogative to grant temporary visas of entry into the United States entirely at your own discretion, we are writing to request, Mr. Secretary, that you grant the above-mentioned gentlemen temporary visas to enter and stay in the United States for a period not exceeding six months, so that your subordinates in the Department may have ample time to reach a final decision without meanwhile causing undue hardship and interference with the laudable humanitarian efforts in which these gentlemen are engaged.

We confidently hope, Mr. Secretary, that you will take early action in this pressing matter.

Sincerely yours,

John W. McCormack
John W. McCormack,
House Majority Leader.

Homer Ferguson
Homer Ferguson
Harley M. Kilgore
Harley M. Kilgore

Laverett Saltzstein
Laverett Saltzstein
Walter Brewster
Walter Brewster
Charles Pepper
Charles Pepper
Arthur Capper
Arthur Capper

James M. Mead
James M. Mead
Warren G. Magnuson
Warren G. Magnuson
Edwin C. Johnson
Edwin C. Johnson

Styles Bridges
Styles Bridges

Sheila B. O'Day
Sheila B. O'Day
Robert A. Taft
Robert A. Taft

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March 3, 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

The attached memorandum to the Secretary of State was raised today with the Secretary at General O'Dwyer's request. Mr. Gaston, Mr. O'Connell, Mr. DuBois, Mrs. Klotz and Miss Hodel were present at the meeting.

After discussion of all the facts, the Secretary stated that it was his view that the memorandum should not be sent to the Secretary of State. He suggested that the matter be discussed orally with the Secretary of State by Mr. Pehle and General O'Dwyer, at which time the following two questions could be presented to the State Department: (1) did the State Department know at the time they facilitated Jabotinsky's trip to Turkey at the request of the War Refugee Board that he would not be permitted to re-enter the United States; and (2) what is the reason for Jabotinsky's present detention in jail in Palestine.

The foregoing was discussed with General O'Dwyer and Mr. Pehle and they are both agreeable to meeting with Mr. Grew on the matter.

F. Hodel

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE

This relates to the return to the United States of Eri T. Jabotinsky.

The facts in this case are as follows:

(1) On February 11, 1944 the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe proposed to Mr. Pehle, Executive Director of the War Refugee Board, that Mr. Jabotinsky be sent to Turkey as a representative of the Committee for the purpose of carrying out the efforts of that Committee to rescue Jews in Europe who were in imminent danger of death. At the same time, the Emergency Committee requested the assistance of the Board in obtaining a re-entry permit so as to assure that Mr. Jabotinsky would be able to come back to the United States when his mission was completed. Mr. Jabotinsky, a Palestinian citizen, was in the United States on a visitors visa. His wife was and is in the United States on a permanent immigration visa and has obtained first citizenship papers. Their child is an American citizen.

(2) In memoranda of February 15 and April 11 from Mr. Pehle to Mr. Stettinius, Mr. Pehle urged the State Department to do everything possible to facilitate with all possible speed the proposed mission of Mr. Jabotinsky, pointing out the importance of the mission to the task of this Government. It was pointed out that the matter was urgent and it was requested that travel by air be furnished to Mr. Jabotinsky. Mr. Pehle also wrote a letter to the Ambassador of Turkey pointing out that "Jabotinsky, working in close consultation with the Board's representative in Turkey, could be of assistance in the efforts of our two Governments to save some of the persecuted people in Europe from death." Within a week

of the receipt of this letter the Turkish Ambassador advised Mr. Pehle that a visa had been issued permitting Mr. Jabotinsky's entry into Turkey.

In the memoranda of February 15 and April 11 it was made clear that the Emergency Committee and Mr. Jabotinsky desired assurances from your Department that he would be able to return to this country when his mission was completed and the Board requested advice as to whether Mr. Jabotinsky would be allowed to re-enter the United States.

(3) As a result of the foregoing efforts of the War Refugee Board, your Department and the War Department, as well as the Turkish Government, took all the necessary steps to insure Mr. Jabotinsky's trip to Turkey by air. Although at the time your Department did not specifically advise the War Refugee Board that Mr. Jabotinsky would be permitted to return to the United States, it was the understanding of the Board, as well as the Emergency Committee and Mr. Jabotinsky, that the reason for this was that as a general rule re-entry permits are not issued in advance. Neither the Board, nor to my knowledge, the Emergency Committee or Mr. Jabotinsky, were ever informed by your Department that your Department had any information in its files which would prejudice his re-entry.

(4) On August 15, Mr. Pehle sent a memorandum to Mr. Stettinius requesting that your Department advise as to the most expeditious manner of insuring that Jabotinsky could return to the United States when his mission was completed so as to avoid long delays and difficulties.

(5) Advice was specifically requested by Mrs. Jabotinsky and representatives of the War Refugee Board from officials of your Department as to the most expeditious procedure for obtaining Jabotinsky's re-entry into the United States. The question was specifically put as to whether an application should be filed for a permanent immigration visa or temporary visitors visa. Your Department indicated to Mrs. Jabotinsky and representatives of the War Refugee Board that it was preferable to file an application for a permanent immigration visa and as a result of this advice such action was taken by Mrs. Jabotinsky.

(6) After Mrs. Jabotinsky filed her application the staff of the Board discussed the matter a number of times with the State Department and Mr. Pehle discussed the case with Mr. Stettinius. On January 22, Mr. Stettinius advised Mr. Pehle that the Interdepartmental Visa Review Committee had voted against the issuance of a visa for Jabotinsky's admission to the United States.

(7) In a cable of February 27 from Ambassador Steinhardt the Board was advised that Jabotinsky had been taken into custody by the Turkish authorities on February 19 and had been held incommunicado until he was placed in a train for Palestine on February 22. According to most recent reports it appears that Jabotinsky has been interned in Palestine by the British authorities.

Copies of the correspondence between the War Refugee Board and State Department on this matter are attached, as well as the correspondence between the Board and the Turkish Ambassador.

In the memoranda of February 15 and April 11 the War Refugee Board made clear that the reason it desired to facilitate Jabotinsky's trip to Turkey was that the problem of evacuating refugees from the Balkans had become so pressing that the Board felt it desirable to use the services of any private agency which could assist it in this task. The Board pointed out that in view of Jabotinsky's experience in this field it was felt that he would probably be of considerable assistance to the Board in this emergency situation. It is not necessary to attempt to appraise the assistance which Jabotinsky actually rendered to the Board's rescue operations in Turkey. It is sufficient to note that during his stay in Turkey Jabotinsky made an effort to discover ways and means for increasing the actual escape of refugees from enemy territory. This fact is supported by communications transmitted by Jabotinsky to the War Refugee Board and the Emergency Committee through State Department channels. The record shows that Jabotinsky made a number of investigations and suggestions designed to secure additional shipping for evacuation operations. The question of shipping was of

course one of the most crucial problems which the Board faced at that time. Jabotinsky also made suggestions concerning the Board's "psychological warfare" program to induce the Germans and their satellites to cease their persecution of the Jews. Whether Jabotinsky accomplished more or less than other individuals in furthering the Board's program in that area is beside the point. The fact is that he did attempt to perform in Turkey the task for which he was sent. And it was essential to the Board's activities at that time that all possible efforts be made to meet the problem.

I am calling these facts to your attention at this time in order that they may be taken into consideration in arriving at a decision as to whether Jabotinsky should be permitted to return to the United States in at least as favorable a status as he occupied when he left.

In your letter of January 22 to Mr. Pehle you indicated that the Visa Review Committee and the Board of Visa Appeals denied Jabotinsky's application for a permanent immigration visa because:

"Both the Committee and the Board felt that Jabotinsky's activities in rescue operations, however commendable, did not necessarily constitute evidence that his admission to this country would prove of benefit to the United States and considered that the question of his entry should be decided on the basis of the tests applied to all such applications."

Would it not be possible for the Secretary of State to exercise his legal authority to waive the requirements for the granting of a temporary visa, and to advise the British and Turkish Governments that this Government is prepared to permit Jabotinsky to return to the United States? Should Jabotinsky be allowed to return to the United States, there is no reason why he cannot be deported, assuming there are grounds to justify such deportation.

I would greatly appreciate it if your Department would give immediate reconsideration to this whole matter in the

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light of the foregoing facts and advise me as soon as possible with respect thereto.

William O'Dwyer
William O'Dwyer
Executive Director.

Attachments.

COPY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

January 22, 1945

Dear John:

I recall our conversations of last fall with respect to the application of Eri Jabotinsky for a visa for admission to the United States. It appears now that the Interdepartmental Visa Review Committee has given full consideration to the application and has voted unanimously that a favorable recommendation should not be made. I am also advised that the President's Board of Visa Appeals has considered the action of the Interdepartmental Visa Review Committee informally and does not find sufficient grounds in the record to reverse the unfavorable decision.

Both the Committee and the Board felt that Jabotinsky's activities in rescue operations, however commendable, did not necessarily constitute evidence that his admission to this country would prove of benefit to the United States and considered that the question of his entry should be decided on the basis of the tests applied to all such applications.

In the light of our previous conversations and in response to your memoranda on the matter I wanted to advise you of this impending unfavorable decision in advance of formal notification to Mrs. Jabotinsky.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

/S/ E. R. Stettinius, Jr.

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

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COPY

MEMORANDUM

August 15, 1944.

TO: Mr. Stettinius

FROM: Mr. Pehle

You will recall that in my memoranda to you of April 11 and February 15 concerning Mr. Eri Jabotinsky's mission to Turkey for the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, I asked to be advised whether Mr. Jabotinsky would be able to return to the United States at the completion of his mission.

Recently Mrs. Jabotinsky was in to see me. She indicated that while Mr. Jabotinsky is not yet ready to return, she is anxious to be assured that all appropriate steps have been or will be taken to facilitate his return. She stated that at the time of his departure for Turkey Mr. Jabotinsky's status here was that of a temporary visitor. Mr. Jabotinsky is a Palestinian citizen.

I should appreciate your indicating what you consider the most expeditious manner of handling the matter so that when Mr. Jabotinsky is ready to return, there will not be long delays or difficulties. I understand that in cases of this nature the Secretary of State sometimes waives the visa requirement.

/s/ J. W. Pehle

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COPY

April 11, 1944

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Stettinius

FROM: J. W. Pehle

Reference is made to my memorandum of February 15th and subsequent conversations between officers of the Board and representatives of the State Department relative to the travel of Eri T. Jabotinsky who desires to go to Turkey as representative of the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe.

As you know, the War Refugee Board is desirous of using the services of any private agency which can assist it in rescuing Jews of Europe who are in danger of imminent death. Mr. Jabotinsky has had considerable experience in this field and our information is to the effect that he has been very successful. Accordingly, the War Refugee Board would like to see his travel to Turkey facilitated and believes that he should arrive there as soon as possible.

You, of course, appreciate the fact that recent military developments in the Balkans have made the Board's problem even more pressing than it was. In fact, the situation appears to be so critical that days and even hours are of importance. If anything is to be accomplished in this area, it must be done immediately and must be done by operations from and through Turkey. It is my understanding that Mr. Jabotinsky could obtain boat passage at this time with little or no difficulty. However, it is felt that if he is to be successful in his mission, he should immediately proceed to Turkey, and, of course, should travel by air. In connection with his travel, I wish to call your attention to the fact that Mr. Jabotinsky has recently received a Turkish visa which would seem to be some indication that the Turkish Government would view his activities with approval and desires that he be permitted to come to Turkey.

As stated in my memorandum of February 15, 1944, Mr. Jabotinsky is a Palestinian citizen and before leaving on his journey desires some assurance from your Department that he will be able to return to this country when his mission is completed.

In view

In view of the pressing nature of the work which Mr. Jabotinsky is to do if he goes to Turkey, the War Refugee Board would appreciate the State Department's using its good offices to obtain air priority for Mr. Jabotinsky at the earliest possible date, and advising whether Mr. Jabotinsky will be allowed to re-enter the United States when his mission is completed.

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COPY

TURKISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 5, 1944

No. 727/75

Mr. J. W. Pehle, Executive Director,
Executive Office of the President
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Mr. Pehle:

Referring to your letter of March 29, 1944 I have the pleasure to inform you that authorization has now been received from Ankara to issue a visa for Mr. Eri Jabotinsky's entry into Turkey.

As visas for ordinary passports have to be issued by consulates, we have already instructed our Consul in New York to issue the visa, and Mr. Jabotinsky may obtain it by submitting his passport, along with three photographs, at the Consulate General at 50 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City.

I remain, my dear Mr. Pehle,

Sincerely yours,

/S/ M. Munir Ertegun

Turkish Ambassador.

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COPY

March 29, 1944

My dear Mr. Ambassador:

Congressman Will Rogers, Jr., Co-Chairman of the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, has requested the assistance of the War Refugee Board in facilitating a trip to Turkey by Eri Jabotinsky, as representative of the Committee.

I understand that Mr. Fowler Harper of the Emergency Committee spoke to you about the matter of permitting Mr. Jabotinsky to proceed to Turkey and that you indicated that a letter from the War Refugee Board would be helpful in expediting this matter.

As you know, the evacuation of refugees from the Balkans is most pressing. Ambassador Steinhardt and the Board's representative in Turkey, Ira Hirschmann, have been working closely with the Turkish Government in this matter.

The Board desires to take advantage of the services of any private agency which can be of help in this task. I believe that Mr. Jabotinsky, working in close consultation with the Board's representative in Turkey, could be of assistance in the efforts of our two Governments to save some of the persecuted people of Europe from death.

Very truly yours,

/s/ J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director.

Honorable Mehmet Munir Ertegun
The Ambassador of Turkey
Washington, D. C.

COPY

February 15, 1944

TO: Mr. Stettinius

FROM: J. W. Pehle

Attached is a copy of a letter from Representative Will Rogers, Jr., Co-Chairman of the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, requesting the assistance of the War Refugee Board in facilitating a trip to Turkey by a representative of the Committee.

I feel that it is extremely important to do what we can to take advantage of the situation existing today in Turkey. I believe that the potentialities of evacuating persons to Turkey are great if we act fast. In this connection, in the event that you have not already seen it, I am enclosing for your information a copy of a news item which appeared in the Washington Post yesterday.

We should take advantage at once of the services of any private agency which can be of help to us in this task. Ambassador Steinhardt has already advised your Department that there is no objection to the sending of a representative of the Emergency Committee to Turkey (cable 1526 from Ankara of September 7, 1943).

Accordingly I want to urge that your Department do everything possible to facilitate with all possible speed the proposal of the Emergency Committee.

I understand that Mr. Jabotinsky, who has been recommended by the Committee, filed an application for an exit permit with your Department yesterday. Since Mr. Jabotinsky is a Palestinian citizen, the Committee is also desirous of course of receiving some form of assurance from your Department that he will be able to return to this country when his mission is completed.

I would appreciate it if you will advise me as soon as possible as to what your Department is prepared to do in this matter.

/s/ J. W. Pehle

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COPY

EMERGENCY COMMITTEE TO SAVE THE JEWISH PEOPLE OF EUROPE

2317 - 15th Street, N.W., Washington 9, D. C.

February 11, 1944

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

Dear Mr. Pehle,

We are writing to request your assistance in facilitating a trip to Turkey by a representative of this Committee.

From intimate knowledge of the prevailing situation in Rumania, Bulgaria and Turkey, we believe that it is possible to arrange for the immediate evacuation of a limited number (500 to 1000) of Jews from Bulgaria and Rumania into Turkey, if our representative could reach Turkey within a week or two, while the present situation prevails. We feel that, with the good will of the American Ambassador, we could be of tremendous assistance in the efforts of this Government to save some of those Jews remaining in the Balkan countries.

If this can be done, and we believe it can, it would be of the greatest importance, not only because it would actually save a certain number of lives, but because it would set the pattern for rescue, and it may very well affect favorably the position of the millions who remain inside Nazi Europe.

As you have stated, time is of essence in this matter. With this in mind, our Committee strongly urges that E. Jabotinsky be immediately sent to Turkey as a representative of the Emergency Committee.

Mr. Jabotinsky is exceedingly suitable for the task. His background and vast experience in immigration and refugee problems are particularly well adapted for tackling the problem before us. He has an intimate knowledge of the Balkan countries where he spent several years working with the masses of the Jewish population there and helped with

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the emigration of many thousands.

He was born in Russia in 1910 and since early childhood has lived in a dozen countries, in none of which he settled until he went to Palestine, of which he is now a citizen. In addition to Hebrew, he speaks English, French, Russian, Yiddish and German, fluently. He also has a limited knowledge of Rumanian and Polish.

In order that Mr. Jabotinsky may leave immediately, he will need assistance in obtaining:

An exit permit;

A re-entry permit (being a Palestinian citizen, here as a visitor);

Air transportation.

Anything you can do to help us in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Will Rogers, Jr.

Will Rogers, Jr.
Co-Chairman

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DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

HW-318 Ankara

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

Dated February 27, 1945

Rec'd 9:57 p.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

275, February 27, Noon.

FROM THE AMBASSADOR FOR THE DEPARTMENT AND COUNCILOR

WAR REFUGEE BOARD ANKARA'S No. 13.

Late in the afternoon of February 25 and after
Katzki's departure from Turkey a friend of Eri T.
Jabotinsky called at the War Refugee Board office
in Istanbul and stated that Mr. Jabotinsky had been
taken into custody in Istanbul by the Turk authorities
on the morning of February 19 and had been held
incommunicado until he was placed on a train for
Palestine on the morning of February 22.

The individual who furnished the above information
at the same time delivered to the WRB office an un-
signed letter which he had typed from a draft pre-
pared by Jabotinsky and addressed to the War Refugee
Board in Washington in which Jabotinsky states that
the Turk Government had notified him that he was to
leave the country by the first train over the Syrian
border. The letter

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date MAR 13 1973

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-2- #275, February 27, Hoon, from Ankara

border. The letter reviews the circumstances of Jabotinsky's stay in America and the issuance of his visa to enter Turkey. In the letter Jabotinsky claims to hold a document which he describes as his "authorization and invitation" to proceed to Turkey dated April 28, 1944 and from which he quotes as follows: "Mr. Eri T. Jabotinsky, war Refugee Board is hereby authorized and invited to proceed by air *** the War Refugee Board Washington, D. C. will reimburse the War Department for all expenses incurred".

In the letter Jabotinsky then states that he did not secure a return visa before his departure from the United States. That his wife filed an application for a visa for him on September one, 1944 that a hearing was held at Washington on December 4, 1944 at which a representative of the War Refugee Board supported his request but that up to February 21, 1945 the visa had not been granted.

Jabotinsky concludes his letter with the following request: "In view of all the above I submit that I came to Turkey with full confidence in the support of the War Refugee Board which sent me here. I, therefore, claim the support of the War Refugee Board where my expulsion from Turkey is concerned and submit that the War

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-3- #275, February 27, Noon from Ankara

submit that the War Refugee Board take all the necessary steps to secure my return to my family in the United States". The original letter referred to above is being forwarded to you by pouch. I shall keep the Department and WRB advised of any further developments in the matter.

STEINHARDT

JMS

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

WAR REFUGEE BOARD

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

March 2, 1945



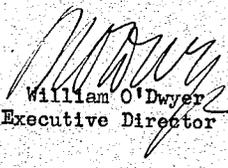
OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. J. E. DuBOIS

I think the paragraph beginning "it would seem clear that this Board has a certain responsibility in connection with the return of Jabotinsky to the United States" is not a sound position for the War Refugee Board to take. It may well have been that the record was clear when Jabotinsky left here but his conduct may have been such since he left as to make it difficult for the State Department to permit him now to re-enter. I think it would be better for the record to show that even though the Emergency Committee requested Mr. Pehle to cooperate in getting him over there that his activities over there were on behalf of, or at least parallel to, the chief purposes of the War Refugee Board. This might well be established through any communications Jabotinsky made through official channels to the State Department or through the State Department to the War Refugee Board.

The more specific the course of conduct in which he engaged is set forth and documented the easier it is to argue that. Before the State Department makes any final decision with respect to Jabotinsky's re-entry it should have a simple statement as to the reason for his leaving the country, the work that he was doing, and the circumstances from which he might have been led to believe that re-entry was more or less assured.

The purpose of the War Refugee Board in writing to the State Department at this time is to make sure that we have placed these facts before the State Department for its consideration.


William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

000193

**Jabotinsky's Arrest
Protested in U.S.**

NEW YORK, Sunday (R). — The arrest in Palestine of Eri Jabotinsky (who has since been released) was the subject of a protest in the U.S. House of Representatives on Friday by Congressman Andrew L. Somers, Democrat, Co-Chairman of the Emergency Committee to Save the Jews of Europe (which is in the "Peter Bergson" group of organizations).

Mr. Somers said that Mr. Jabotinsky filed an application for U.S. citizenship and had gone to Turkey "with the full approval of the President's War Refugee Board" in a U.S. Army bomber, arranged by the State Department.

"As an American citizen, I demand that a stop be put to such brazen and open interference with our foreign policy by an outside power," Mr. Somers added.

Deported from Turkey

Mr. S. M. Merin, who is associated with the "Peter Bergson" Committees in the United States, said that Mr. Eri Jabotinsky attempted to set up a non-legal Constanza - Haifa steamship service so that 2,500 Jewish refugees weekly could go to Palestine from the Balkans.

Mr. Jabotinsky, he said, was deported from Turkey on British insistence and was arrested when he reached Palestine.

According to Mr. Merin, Mr. Jabotinsky, who is a native of Odessa, is now a Palestinian citizen. His father was the founder and leader of the New Zionist (Revisionist) Organization and among the founders of the Jewish Legion of the British Army in the last war.

Eri Jabotinsky went to Turkey in May, 1944, in a semi-official status, he added, in cooperation with the U.S. War Refugee Board.

Mr. Somers obtained consent to include in the Congressional Record a letter from the author, Ben Hecht, to Lord Halifax on the matter.

000194

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000195

Kandilli,

March 1, 1945

Dear Mrs. Henderson,

First of all let me apologise that I did not show up for such a long time, I was going to give you Mr. Jabotinsky's original document already a long time ago; but once when I was already at the consulate I found that I'd forgotten the paper at home, and when I had it I just couldn't find time to come to see you. I am at present ill & in bed, which is the reason for the dreadful paper & handwriting. As soon as I am up I shall call on you at the consulate.

I have just received a letter from Mr. Jabotinsky, from Palestine. He says he was arrested on entry into Syria, just as was expected, but was released in Jerusalem a few days later, most probably on U.S. pressure. I shall bring you this letter myself as soon as I am better. In the meantime I am enclosing a cutting from the "Palestine Post" of March 5, which has also just reached me. Moreover I have a number of interesting paper cuttings from the states, which I shall also bring you myself.

Cordially,

Andrew D. Schwartz

Taken from Herschmann's files

Received March 20

V.D.H.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

January 22, 1945

Dear John:

I recall our conversations of last fall with respect to the application of Eri Jabotinsky for a visa for admission to the United States. It appears now that the Interdepartmental Visa Review Committee has given full consideration to the application and has voted unanimously that a favorable recommendation should not be made. I am also advised that the President's Board of Visa Appeals has considered the action of the Interdepartmental Visa Review Committee informally and does not find sufficient grounds in the record to reverse the unfavorable decision.

Both the Committee and the Board felt that Jabotinsky's activities in rescue operations, however commendable, did not necessarily constitute evidence that his admission to this country would prove of benefit to the United States and considered that the question of his entry should be decided on the basis of the tests applied to all such applications.

In the light of our previous conversations and in response to your memoranda on the matter I wanted to advise you of this impending unfavorable decision in advance of formal notification to Mrs. Jabotinsky.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

/s/ E. R. Stettinius

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

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WAR REFUGEE BOARD

DATE: Nov. 2, 1944

TO : Mr. Friedman
FROM : J. W. Pehle

I spoke to Stettinius today about the Jabotinsky matter.

Apparently, Stettinius had never heard of the case. He asked me whether I thought Jabotinsky should be admitted to the United States and I told him that based on the information in my possession I thought that he should be admitted, and if the State Department had any sufficient grounds to later exclude him such action could be examined on its own merits. Stettinius said he would go into the matter at once.

You might drop a line to Mrs. Jabotinsky and tell her that I have spoken to Stettinius about her husband's case.

/s/ J. W. Pehle

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MEMORANDUM

August 15, 1944

TO: Mr. Stettinius

FROM: Mr. Pehle

You will recall that in my memoranda to you of April 11 and February 15 concerning Mr. Eri Jabotinsky's mission to Turkey for the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, I asked to be advised whether Mr. Jabotinsky would be able to return to the United States at the completion of his mission.

Recently Mrs. Jabotinsky was in to see me. She indicated that while Mr. Jabotinsky is not yet ready to return, she is anxious to be assured that all appropriate steps have been or will be taken to facilitate his return. She stated that at the time of his departure for Turkey Mr. Jabotinsky's status here was that of a temporary visitor. Mr. Jabotinsky is a Palestinian citizen.

I should appreciate your indicating what you consider the most expeditious manner of handling the matter so that when Mr. Jabotinsky is ready to return, there will not be long delays or difficulties. I understand that in cases of this nature the Secretary of State sometimes waives the visa requirement.

/s/ J. W. Pehle

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MEMORANDUM

April 11, 1944

To: Mr. Stettinius
From: J. W. Pehle

Reference is made to my memorandum of February 15th and subsequent conversations between officers of the Board and representatives of the State Department relative to the travel of Eri T. Jabotinsky who desires to go to Turkey as representative of the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe.

As you know, the War Refugee Board is desirous of using the services of any private agency which can assist it in rescuing Jews of Europe who are in danger of imminent death. Mr. Jabotinsky has had considerable experience in this field and our information is to the effect that he has been very successful. Accordingly, the War Refugee Board would like to see his travel to Turkey facilitated and believe that he should arrive there as soon as possible.

You, of course, appreciate the fact that recent military developments in the Balkans have made the Board's problem even more pressing than it was. In fact, the situation appears to be so critical that days and even hours are of importance. If anything is to be accomplished in this area, it must be done immediately and must be done by operations from and through Turkey. It is my understanding that Mr. Jabotinsky could obtain boat passage at this time with little or no difficulty. However, it is felt that if he is to be successful in his mission, he should immediately proceed to Turkey, and, of course, should travel by air. In connection with his travel, I wish to call your attention to the fact that Mr. Jabotinsky has recently received a Turkish visa which would seem to be some indication that the Turkish Government would view his activities with approval and desires that he be permitted to come to Turkey.

As stated in my memorandum of February 15, 1944, Mr. Jabotinsky is a Palestinian citizen and before leaving on his journey desires some assurance from your Department that he will be able to return to this country when his mission is completed.

In view of the pressing nature of the work Mr. Jabotinsky is to do if he goes to Turkey, the War Refugee Board would appreciate the State Department's using its good offices to obtain air priority for Mr. Jabotinsky at the earliest possible date, and advising whether Mr. Jabotinsky will be allowed to re-enter the United States when his mission is completed.

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MAR 29 1944

My dear Mr. Ambassador:

Congressman Will Rogers, Jr., Co-chairman of the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, has requested the assistance of the War Refugee Board in facilitating a trip to Turkey by Eri Jabotinsky, as representative of the Committee.

I understand that Mr. Fowler Harper of the Emergency Committee spoke to you about the matter of permitting Mr. Jabotinsky to proceed to Turkey and that you indicated that a letter from the War Refugee Board would be helpful in expediting this matter.

As you know, the evacuation of refugees from the Balkans is most pressing. Ambassador Steinhardt and the Board's representative in Turkey, Ira Wischmann, have been working closely with the Turkish Government in this matter.

The Board desires to take advantage of the services of any private agency which can be of help in this task. I believe that Mr. Jabotinsky, working in close consultation with the Board's representative in Turkey, could be of assistance in the efforts of our two Governments to save some of the persecuted people of Europe from Death.

Very truly yours,

/s/ J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Honorable Mehmet Munir Ertegun
The Ambassador of Turkey
Washington, D. C.

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FEB 15 1944

To: Mr. Stettinius
From: J. W. Pehle

Attached is a copy of a letter from Representative Will Rogers, Jr., Co-Chairman of the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, requesting the assistance of the War Refugee Board in facilitating a trip to Turkey by a representative of the Committee.

I feel that it is extremely important to do what we can to take advantage of the situation existing today in Turkey. I believe that the potentialities of evacuating persons to Turkey are great if we act fast. In this connection, in the event that you have not already seen it, I am enclosing for your information a copy of a news item which appeared in the Washington Post yesterday.

We should take advantage at once of the services of any private agency which can be of help to us in this task. Ambassador Steinhardt has already advised your Department that there is no objection to the sending of a representative of the Emergency Committee to Turkey (cable 1526 from Ankara of September 7, 1943).

Accordingly I want to urge that your Department do everything possible to facilitate with all possible speed the proposal of the Emergency Committee.

I understand that Mr. Jabotinsky, who has been recommended by the Committee, filed an application for an exit permit with your Department yesterday. Since Mr. Jabotinsky is a Palestinian citizen, the Committee is also desirous of course of receiving some form of assurance from your Department that he will be able to return to this country when his mission is completed.

I would appreciate it if you will advise me as soon as possible as to what your Department is prepared to do in this matter.

/s/ J. W. Pehle

100202

Draft 3/1/45

1. The War Refugee Board in February 1944 was set up for the primary purpose of saving lives of those who were in imminent danger of death in Europe due to race or religion.
2. The presence of someone peculiarly qualified to perform certain work within these lines in Europe appeared to the Board as necessary.
3. Through various interested agencies the most suitable person for this work appeared to be Jabotinsky.
4. Jabotinsky was a resident, non-citizen but married and living with his family. On investigation it was shown that he was ideally suited to meet the demands of this emergency. The records show that the War Refugee Board joined in the request that Jabotinsky go to _____ to perform this necessary work.
5. Before he left, all of these facts were presented to the State Department and it was the understanding of this Board and Jabotinsky at the time of his leaving that when his work was completed he would return to his family. [While there he performed the work for which he was sent. This work was the work of this Board.] Application has been made for his return and denied by the State Department. In view of the record, this Board feels that it must take the strong position that failure to grant the return visa to place Jabotinsky in the exact position he was in

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with respect to his status in this country at the time he left, is tantamount to making this Board a party to a conspiracy to keep him out of the country. This Board feels that in view of the request that it made that Jabotinsky leave the country to perform the work of the Board when the understanding was that his absence was to be temporary and solely for the work of the Board that now to prevent him from returning is an act of bad faith from which this Board can only be relieved by granting him permission to return.

000204

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

HW-318
This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Government
Agency. (~~RESTRICTED~~)

Ankara

Dated February 27, 1945

Rec'd 9:57 p.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

275, February 27, Noon.

FROM THE AMBASSADOR FOR THE DEPARTMENT AND CHAIRMAN
WAR REFUGEE BOARD ANKARA'S No. 13.

Late in the afternoon of February 25 and after
Katzki's departure from Turkey a friend of Eri T.
Jabotinsky called at the War Refugee Board office
in Istanbul and stated that Mr. Jabotinsky had been
taken into custody in Istanbul by the Turk authorities
on the morning of February 19 and had been held
incommunicado until he was placed on a train for
Palestine on the morning of February 22.

The individual who furnished the above information
at the same time delivered to the WRB office an un-
signed letter which he had typed from a draft pre-
pared by Jabotinsky and addressed to the War Refugee
Board in Washington in which Jabotinsky states that
the Turk Government had notified him that he was to
leave the country by the first train over the Syrian
border. The letter

CONTROL COPY

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-2- #275, February 27, Moon, from Ankara

border. The letter reviews the circumstances of Jabotinsky's stay in America and the issuance of his visa to enter Turkey. In the letter Jabotinsky claims to hold a document which he describes as his "authorization and invitation" to proceed to Turkey dated April 28, 1944 and from which he quotes as follows: "Mr. Eri T. Jabotinsky, War Refugee Board is hereby authorized and invited to proceed by air *** the War Refugee Board Washington, D. C. will reimburse the War Department for all expenses incurred".

In the letter Jabotinsky then states that he did not secure a return visa before his departure from the United States. That his wife filed an application for a visa for him on September one, 1944 that a hearing was held at Washington on December 4, 1944 at which a representative of the War Refugee Board supported his request but that up to February 21, 1945 the visa had not been granted.

Jabotinsky concludes his letter with the following request: "In view of all the above I submit that I came to Turkey with full confidence in the support of the War Refugee Board which sent me here. I, therefore, claim the support of the War Refugee Board where my expulsion from Turkey is concerned and submit that the War

000206

I
-3- #278, February 27, Noon from Ankara

submit that the War Refugee Board take all the necessary steps to secure my return to my family in the United States". The original letter referred to above is being forwarded to you by pouch. I shall keep the Department and WRB advised of any further developments in the matter.

STEINHARDT

JMS

000207



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

~~Secret~~

AMERICAN EMBASSY

Ankara, February 26, 1945.

Dear General O'Dwyer:

With reference to my telegram no.275 of February 26 regarding the expulsion from Turkey of Mr. Eri T. Jabotinsky, representing the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, which was effected by the Turkish authorities at the request of the British Embassy in Ankara, there is enclosed for your information ~~a copy of~~ an unsigned letter dated February 21, 1945, addressed by Mr. Jabotinsky to the War Refugee Board in Washington, D.C.

As stated in my telegram, this letter was type-written by a personal friend of Mr. Jabotinsky's at his request at the time of the latter's expulsion from Turkey from a rough draft prepared by Mr. Jabotinsky during the time of his detention by the Turkish authorities and was delivered to Mrs. Henderson, Mr. Katzki's secretary, at the office of the War Refugee Board in Istanbul. I am transmitting the letter to you at Mrs. Henderson's suggestion as she and I are of the opinion that it should be in the files of the War Refugee Board in Washington.

Sincerely yours,

Brig. General William O'Dwyer,
War Refugee Board,
Washington, D.C.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date MAR 13 1973

000208

War Refugee Board,
Washington, D.C.

Istanbul
February 21, 1945
at police headquarters

My Case, By Eri T. Jabotinsky.

On February 19, 1945, I was taken from my residence in Istanbul, Turkey, by the Turkish police, informed that, by decision of the cabinet, I was to leave the country on board the first train over the Syrian border, and held incommunicado till then.

Although I am a Palestinian subject and have thus a British passport, my visa to Turkey was granted to me while I was in Washington. It was requested from the late ambassador Mr. Brtegun by Mr. Fowler Harper, solicitor of the Department of the Interior, and Mrs. Paul Appleby, wife of the assistant Secretary of Agriculture, both acting in the name of the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, of which they are members. On April 28, 1944, I received my 'authorisation and invitation' to proceed on my mission. This document, dated Washington, April 28, 1944, read in part:

"Mr. Eri T. Jabotinsky, War Refugee Board, is hereby authorized and invited to proceed by air ... Travel by military, naval or commercial aircraft is directed as necessary in the public service for the accomplishment of an emergency war mission ... The War Refugee Board, Washington, D.C., will reimburse the War Department for all expenses incurred ... By order of the Secretary of War, signed (illegible) Adjutant General."

At the time when I started on my mission I was staying in the United States as a visitor. I had arrived there on February 25, 1941. I married in America; my wife is Danish born and will become an American citizen in two years. I have an American born daughter. My mother resides in New York, where my father died and is buried. I am still registered with the Selective Service Board at Sherman Square, New York, holding a 4F classification because of a pierced ear-drum.

I left America from an ATC airport in Miami, Florida, on May 3, 1944. I did not secure a return visa before I left because of the suddenness of my departure. However, my wife filed with the State Department an application for a visa to America for myself on September 1, 1944. A hearing on this visa was held at Washington on December 4, 1944, at which a representative of the War Refugee Board supported my request. Up to the day of writing, February 21, 1945, the visa has not been granted.

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I arrived in Turkey in the name of an authentic American committee, on an American ATC plane, and was officially received by the Ambassador, with whom I remained in constant touch throughout my stay. My mission to Turkey was in connection with the evacuation of Hebrews from the Balkans to Palestine. On August 23, 1944, Romania surrendered to the Allies, putting a virtual end to my mission. During the last period of my stay I occupied myself chiefly with trying to help those few odd thousands of Hebrews who, under the British White Paper, were still eligible to immigrate to Palestine before Spring 1945. From the point of view of this activity my sudden departure is most regrettable.

In view of all the above, I submit that I came to Turkey with full confidence in the support of the War Refugee Board, which sent me here. I therefore claim the support of the War Refugee Board where my expulsion from Turkey is concerned, and submit that the War Refugee Board take all the necessary steps to secure my return to my family in the United States.

* * * * *

The above was given to me by Mr. Eri T. Jabotinsky as he boarded the train for Syria on Wednesday morning, February 22, 1945; with instructions to type and forward to the War Refugee Board, Washington, D.C.

Andrew D. Schwartz

Andrew D. Schwartz

000210

2/24
O'Dwyer

Istanbul, February 24, 1945

Dear General O'Dwyer:

With reference to our recent telegram to you regarding the removal from Turkey of Mr. Eri T. Jabotinsky, representing the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, there is enclosed herewith for your information copy of an unsigned letter dated February 21, 1945, addressed by him to the War Refugee Board at Washington, D. C.

As set out in our telegram, this letter was typewritten by a personal friend of Mr. Jabotinsky, after the latter's departure from Turkey, from a rough draft prepared by him during the time of his detention by the Turkish authorities.

Sincerely yours,

Brig. Gen. William O'Dwyer
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Encl: Copy of letter
written by Mr.
Jabotinsky

Jabotinsky Handwritten
1/24/45

000211

COPY

War Refugee Board
Washington, D.C.

*Supplemental copy
Letter Mission
signature of Ambassador to
Istanbul
February 21, 1945.*

My Case, by Eri T. Jabotinsky.

On February 19, 1945, I was taken from my residence in Istanbul, Turkey, by the Turkish police, informed that by decision of the Cabinet, I was to leave the country and held incommunicado until I was placed on board a train for Palestine.

At the time when I started on my mission I was staying in the United States as a visitor. I had arrived in America on February 25, 1941. I married in America. My wife is Danish born and will become a citizen in two years. I have an American born daughter, born in New York on April 17, 1943. My mother resides in New York, where my father died and is buried.

Although I am a Palestinian subject and have thus a British passport, my visa to Turkey was granted to me while I was in Washington. It was requested from the late ambassador Mr. Ertegun by Mr. Fowler Harper, solicitor of the Department of the Interior and Mrs. Paul Appleby, wife of the assistant Secretary of Agriculture, both acting in the name of the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, of which they are members. On April 28, 1944 I received my 'authorization and invitation' to proceed on my mission. This document, dated Washington April 28, 1944 read in part:

"Mr. Eri T. Jabotinsky, War Refugee Board, is hereby authorized and invited to proceed by air ... Travel by military, naval or commercial aircraft is directed as necessary in the public service for the accomplishment of an emergency war mission ... The War Refugee Board, Washington D.C. will reimburse the War Department for all expenses incurred ... By order of the Secretary of War, signed (illegible) Adjutant General."

I left America on May 3, 1944 from an ATC airport in Miami, Florida. I did not secure a return visa before I left because of the suddenness of my departure. I arrived in the name of an authentic American committee, in an American ATC plane, and was officially received by the ambassador with whom I remained in constant touch throughout my stay. My mission to Turkey was in connection with the evacuation of Hebrews from the Balkans to Palestine. On August 23, 1944 Romania surrendered to the Allies, putting a virtual end to my mission. My wife then filed an application for a visa to America for myself. This application was filed with the Department of State on September 1, 1944. A hearing on this visa was held at Washington on December 4, 1944, at which a representative of the War Refugee Board supported my request. Up to the day of writing, February 21, 1945, the visa has not been granted.

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Meanwhile on February 19, 1945, the Turkish government notified me that I am to leave the country by the first train over the Syrian border.

In view of all the above, I submit to the War Refugee Board that it take all the necessary steps to secure my return to my family in America.

(Unsigned)
Eri T. Jabotinsky,

000213

EMERGENCY COMMITTEE TO SAVE THE JEWISH PEOPLE OF EUROPE, INC.

25 W. 45th St., New York 19, N. Y.—Bryant 9-4600

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Rabbi Ephraim Yolles
Isaac Zaar

February 13, 1945

*Delivered to General
O'Dwyer by Judge
Blumenthal - 2/13*

TO: BRIGADIER-GENERAL WILLIAM O'DWYER

MEMORANDUM

It is with great reluctance that we are compelled to draw your attention to a matter which was already presented to you by Messrs. Bergson and Pehle and though it is of rather secondary importance, we cannot overestimate its urgency.

Mr. Eri Jabotinsky was sent by us to Turkey on a special mission to explore the possibilities of rescue of the Jews of Europe through large-scale immigration to Palestine. In this we were privileged to enjoy the wholehearted cooperation of the War Refugee Board which enabled Mr. Jabotinsky to reach Turkey, by obtaining for him all the necessary facilities, including airplane priorities.

We felt that he should leave as soon as possible, without wasting time, because we had in mind the importance of his mission and the fact that human lives were at stake. Therefore Mr. Jabotinsky did not wait for a return visa to America, being certain that after due application was made and hearings held, he would get the visa without any difficulties. Unfortunately, however, and to our great surprise, the State Department decided, after hearings were held, to reject Mr. Jabotinsky's application for a visa and this despite the fact that all his affidavits were in absolute order and signed by responsible people; and despite the fact that Mr. Jabotinsky has a wife and mother here, both here on immigration visas and both the possessors of their first papers and with the prospect of soon becoming United States Citizens; this also despite the fact that a child was born to the Jabotinskys on American soil about two years ago; and this in spite of the fact that since his mission to Turkey is over we are still obliged to spend money on his useless stay there as well as support his old and very sick mother, his wife and child.

We don't see any justification nor plausible reason for a person who was worthy of the trust of not only the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, a nationally known public organization comprised of leading figures from all walks of American life, but also of the War Refugee Board, a Government agency, to be denied an entrance visa to the United States, even though all the requirements were met and the affidavits were, to the best of our knowledge, in perfect order.

2315 MASSACHUSETTS AVE.
Washington, D. C.

716 WALNUT STREET
Philadelphia, Pa.

Regional Offices

139 NORTH CLARK STREET
Chicago, Ill.

5371 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD
Los Angeles, Cal.
400

335 WASHINGTON STREET
Boston, Mass.

85 NEW CAVENDISH STREET
London, W1, England

000214

Memo to Brigadier-General William O'Dwyer -2- February 13, 1945

It is a great pity that the minds and hearts of such high standing officials such as yourself must be taxed with such unpleasant tasks. However, since we feel personally responsible towards Mr. Jabotinsky, his family and the friends who finance our work, we have no alternative but to appeal to you to intervene personally with the State Department so that a favorable decision on Mr. Jabotinsky's visa be given without delay.

Submitted by:

EMERGENCY COMMITTEE TO SAVE THE JEWISH PEOPLE OF EUROPE

William S. Bennett
Judge William S. Bennett
Co-Chairman

Oscar W. Ehrhorn
Judge Oscar W. Ehrhorn
Co-Chairman

000215

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D. C.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

January 22, 1945

Dear John:

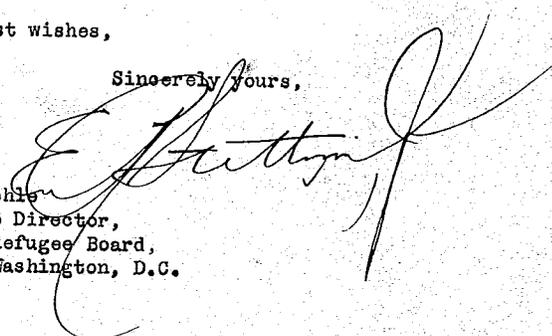
I recall our conversations of last fall with respect to the application of Eri Jabotinsky for a visa for admission to the United States. It appears now that the Interdepartmental Visa Review Committee has given full consideration to the application and has voted unanimously that a favorable recommendation should not be made. I am also advised that the President's Board of Visa Appeals has considered the action of the Interdepartmental Visa Review Committee informally and does not find sufficient grounds in the record to reverse the unfavorable decision.

Both the Committee and the Board felt that Jabotinsky's activities in rescue operations, however commendable, did not necessarily constitute evidence that his admission to this country would prove of benefit to the United States and considered that the question of his entry should be decided on the basis of the tests applied to all such applications.

In the light of our previous conversations and in response to your memoranda on the matter I wanted to advise you of this impending unfavorable decision in advance of formal notification to Mrs. Jabotinsky.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,


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

000215



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Istanbul, December 21, 1944

~~Top Secret~~

Dear Mr. Pehle:

By this time you will have received our cabled report referring to the project of Mr. Jabotinsky in behalf of the Emergency Committee to charter the S.S. Tari, or any other Turkish vessel, to transport emigrants from Constanza proceeding to Haifa. We refer you also to our letter of November 25, 1944 with which we transmitted to you copies of an interchange of correspondence between Mr. Jabotinsky and the Embassy in Ankara referring to the earlier negotiations for the Tari, undertaken in behalf of the War Refugee Board. You will be interested to know that, as Ambassador Steinhardt and I anticipated, Mr. Jabotinsky gave the Turkish Ministry of Communications a copy of our letter of November 20, 1944, as a letter from us, ^{emphasizing} indicating our withdrawal from the Tari situation, for purposes of closing the files so far as our negotiations of early 1944 were concerned.

Ambassador Steinhardt feels very strongly concerning Mr. Jabotinsky's reopening of the Tari files. It is his view that Mr. Jabotinsky's action may result in the reopening of the entire financial question of payment for expenses which the Turkish Government undertook in refitting the Tari for the voyage to Constanza, contemplated by the charter which had been negotiated in our behalf. Ambassador Steinhardt had so conducted his discussions with the Turkish authorities that we were able to withdraw from the negotiations without cost to us, despite the investment in the refitting of the vessel which the Turkish Government had undertaken. He believes that Mr. Jabotinsky's activities perhaps may reopen the whole matter. It is in this connection that I am enclosing herein, solely for your information, a copy of a letter dated December 18, 1944, which Ambassador Steinhardt addressed to me.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

Herbert Katzki
Herbert Katzki

J. W. Pehle, Esquire
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D.C.
Encl: Copy of letter

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date MAR 13 1973

000217

Mr. John W. Peltle
War Refugee Board
The Treasury Building
Washington, D.C.

New York December 5, 1944.
30 West 90 St, N.Y.C.

Dear Mr. Peltle,

I beg to appeal to
you once more in the
matter of my husband's
visa.

As Mr. Friedman will
tell you, I had a hearing
on the 4th, which was
most detailed and
pretty grilling. I believe,
however, I answered all
the questions to the
satisfaction of the Committee
and then I had a
talk with Mr. Watson
of the State Department.
I have told Mr. Friedman
all about it.

I am sure you will
vouch for my husband's

000218

exemplary conduct while
in this country and that
you will be able to ex-
plain to Mr. Stettinius
that Mr. Jabotinsky went
to France, with the consent
and the active support
of the War Refugee Board,
and that it was under-
stood at the time of
his departure that he
would be returning to
his country, where his
wife, his child and his
mother are residing.

A word from Mr.
Stettinius would be
most weighty in bringing
about a favorable
decision. I feel that
during the course of
this week (because as
Mr. Coulter of the Visa
Division pointed out to

me the decision will be
made then) is the moment
for this word to be spoken.

Could you therefore
now bring the matter up
with Mr. Stettinius -

I should be most
grateful for your good
offices on my husband's
behalf.

Yours with many thanks
in advance,

A. Jabotinsky

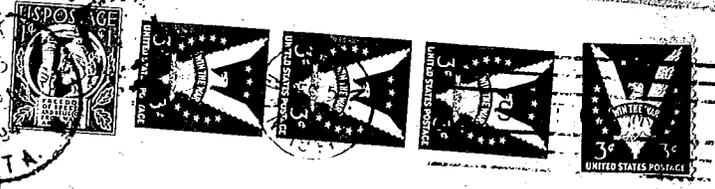
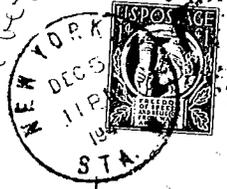
000219

A. Jabotinsky
20 West 90 St
New York, N.Y.



000220

Special Delivery



Mr. John W. Peble,
War Refugee Board,
The Treasury Building,
Washington, D. C.

3 CENTS
SPECIAL DELIVERY

000221

1) JBF
2) Friedman

30 West 90th Street
New York, N.Y.

November 10, 1944

Mr. John W. Pehle
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

Mr. Friedman informed me that you were able to see Mr. Stettinius last week.

I appreciate and am very grateful to you for all the efforts you made to help me in my husband's case.

I am convinced that after Mr. Stettinius got acquainted with your views and your opinion in this case he will act accordingly and that my husband's visa will be shortly granted.

Respectfully and very gratefully yours,

Aviva Jabotinsky

000222

C
O
P
Y
THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PERSONAL AND ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

AMERICAN EMBASSY

Ankara, December 18, 1944.

Dear Herbert:

Thank you for your letter of December 15. I am transmitting your telegram to Mr. Pehle without any changes other than the addition of the paragraph quoted below at the very end of the telegram, to which I assume you would have no objections:

"In discussing the foregoing with the Ambassador, he deplored the fact that Jabotinsky had approached the Turkish authorities without consulting the Embassy or the representative of the War Refugee Board to charter the S.S. TARI. The Ambassador observed that had Jabotinsky sought to charter an unnamed vessel he would not be disturbed but that in specifically requesting the TARI, Jabotinsky may well have encouraged the Turkish authorities to regard his approach as a renewal of the lapsed negotiations for the TARI resulting in the presentation by the Turkish authorities of a claim growing out of the former negotiations."

Knowing Turkish psychology as well as I have come to know it -- particularly the financially grasping mentality of the individuals in the Ministry of Communications, with whom our negotiations for the TARI were carried on -- I am very much concerned lest Jabotinsky's approach result in a claim for the non-use of the TARI and the alterations made in her at the time the original voyage was contemplated. As you know, we

had

Mr. Herbert Katzki
War Refugee Board
Istanbul

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date MAR 13 1973

700223

had this matter shelved without having to make any payment, although the War Refugee Board authorized us to make a very substantial settlement. I have been relying upon the lapse of time to defeat any possible ground under a "moral statute of limitations". Jabotinsky, of course, by his action has "interrupted the running of the statute" and there is very little doubt that by his action he has caused the officials of the Ministry of Communications who charter the TARI to believe that we do not regard the original venture as dead. I think I had better stop at this point lest my indignation get the better of me.

If you see Jabotinsky, I have no objection to your reading him this letter and telling him that should the Turkish authorities now make a claim in connection with the lapsed negotiations, I shall be obliged to deposit the same in his lap and request him to settle the claim, thereby making whatever payment might be necessary or talking Turkish official-dom out of presenting a claim which I did once and have no intention of doing a second time by reason of his intermeddling.

You might add that it is just too bad that he cannot originate his own ideas and that he should have named a specific vessel, which means nothing to him and which he never heard of until he arrived here and learned about former negotiations for this specific vessel. So that what I have said above cannot be misunderstood, I wish to make it entirely clear that I haven't the slightest objection to Jabotinsky or anyone else seeking to charter a vessel from the Turkish Government for rescue, relief or emigration purposes. This I consider to be a most worthy cause. What I do object to is "fools rushing in where angels fear to tread". All he had to do was to ask for a vessel -- why did he have to name the TARI?

I think it would be most unwise for the Embassy to make even informal inquiry of the Foreign Office regarding the response it proposes to make regarding Jabotinsky's request to charter the TARI. To do so might well justify the belief in the Foreign Office

that

000224

30 West 90th Street
New York, N.Y.

November 10, 1944

Mr. Friedman
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Friedman:

I want to thank you for your letter
informing me that Mr. Pehle was able to see Mr. Stettinius
last week.

I do hope that this conversation will
be decisive in my husband's case.

Please keep me informed if anything new
should come up.

Kindest personal regards.

Gratefully yours,

Aviva Jalostromsky

000226

Aviva Jabotinsky
30 West 90th Street
New York, N.Y.



Mr. Friedman
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D.C.

Special Delivery

*Room
2410*

SPECIAL DELIVERY

000227

November 3, 1944.

Dear Mrs. Jabotinsky:

This is to advise you that yesterday Mr. Pehle was finally able to discuss your husband's case with Mr. Stettinius. As you know, Mr. Pehle had been making an effort to arrange this meeting for more than a month.

Mr. Stettinius apparently was not acquainted with the case, but after hearing Mr. Pehle's views, he agreed to go into the matter at once.

I do not know what results will be obtained from this conference but I thought that you would be interested to know that Mr. Pehle is doing everything possible.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

15/ J. B. Friedman

J. B. Friedman

Mrs. Aviva Jabotinsky
30 West 90th Street
New York, New York

JBFriedman:ro

000222

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

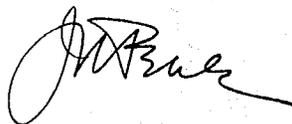
DATE NOV. 2, 1944

TO Mr. Friedman
FROM J. W. Pehle

I spoke to Stettinius today about the Jabotinsky matter.

Apparently, Stettinius had never heard of the case. He asked me whether I thought Jabotinsky should be admitted to the United States and I told him that based on the information in my possession I thought that he should be admitted, and if the State Department had any sufficient grounds to later exclude him such action could be examined on its own merits. Stettinius said he would go into the matter at once.

You might drop a line to Mrs. Jabotinsky and tell her that I have spoken to Stettinius about her husband's case.



000224

30 West 90th Street
New York City

October 31, 1944

Mr. John W. Pehle
War Refugee Board
Treasury Department
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I just heard from the Visa Division that Eri's papers were coming in slowly from the different agencies.

I therefore ask you to do everything possible to see Mr. Stettinius as soon as possible so that the decision of the State Department would be favorable and Eri would be granted a visa.

I also allow myself to ask you to start preparing Eri's priority back to the United States. Excuse me please for troubling you again.

Very sincerely and gratefully yours,

Anita Jabotinsky

000230

Aviva Jabotinsky,
30 West 90th Street
New York City



Mr. John W. Rehle
War Refugee Board
Treasury Department
Washington, D.C.

DELIVERY
Mr. Friedman
Room 2410

000231

30 West 90th Street
New York, N.Y.

October 11, 1944

Mr. John W. Pehle
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D.C.

File
Acknowledged
by telephone
JB
Oct 13

Dear Mr. Pehle:

After having seen Mr. Watson on Saturday morning I called your office but to my regret I could not reach you. I would like to tell you about my conversation with Mr. Watson.

Mr. Watson spoke to Mr. Culter of the Visa Division and found out that it would take the papers another ten to fifteen days to get back from the different security agencies to the State Department. Mr. Watson said that he and Mr. Culter would see to it that the matter would be speeded up. I asked Mr. Watson to see to it that the time between the Primary Committee and the Review Committee (if any appeal and hearing would be necessary) should be shortened so that we could save another two-three weeks. Mr. Watson stated that the matter might not have to come at all before the Review Committee, if the case is one that is clearly entitled to approval. He also said that Mr. Stettinius was going to see you at the earliest possible day this week.

Regarding the priority of my husband's transportation, Mr. Watson said that it should be handled from Ankara. It would be necessary for you to request Mr. Hirschmann to communicate with the Ambassador or, in his absence, the military attache to grant my husband a priority back to the United States.

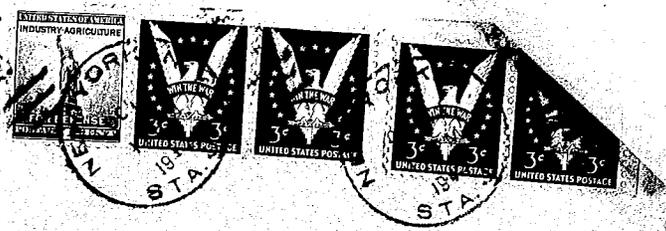
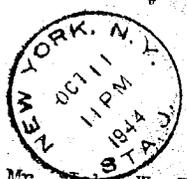
Excuse me please again for taking up your time respecting my personal matter in such a difficult time. But being in such a position I have no choice than to ask your kind help.

Sincerely and gratefully yours,

Aniva Jabotinsky
ANIVAH

Avivah Jabotinsky
30 West 90th Street
New York, N.Y.

Special Delivery



Mr. John W. Pehle
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D.C.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

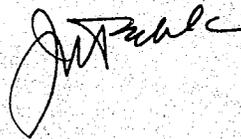
September 13, 1944

Re: Eri Jabotinsky

Mr. Friedman advised me today that State Department is not disposed to issue the necessary waivers whereby Jabotinsky can re-enter the United States without delay, apparently on the grounds that State Department now believes that this is primarily a political matter.

After discussing the matter with the staff here, I called Stettinius' assistant, Mr. Watson, explained our interest and told him I would like to discuss the matter with Mr. Stettinius as soon as he was free. Watson promised to look into the matter and advise Stettinius on it, and said he would call me when Stettinius was ready to discuss the matter with me.

J. W. Pehle



MEMORANDUM

August 15, 1944.

TO: Mr. Stettinius

FROM: Mr. Pehle

You will recall that in my memoranda to you of April 11 and February 15 concerning Mr. Eri Jabotinsky's mission to Turkey for the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, I asked to be advised whether Mr. Jabotinsky would be able to return to the United States at the completion of his mission.

Recently Mrs. Jabotinsky was in to see me. She indicated that while Mr. Jabotinsky is not yet ready to return, she is anxious to be assured that all appropriate steps have been or will be taken to facilitate his return. She stated that at the time of his departure for Turkey Mr. Jabotinsky's status here was that of a temporary visitor. Mr. Jabotinsky is a Palestinian citizen.

I should appreciate your indicating what you consider the most expeditious manner of handling the matter so that when Mr. Jabotinsky is ready to return, there will not be long delays or difficulties. I understand that in cases of this nature the Secretary of State sometimes waives the visa requirement.

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

*Original signed by
Mr. Pehle*

Copy to: Mr. Friedman

JBFriedman:MMarks:to
8/12/44. *MM* *JB7*

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE August 5, 1944

mym

TO Mr. Friedman

FROM Mr. Marks

Re: Eri Jabotinsky's Return to the United States

You will recall that a number of months ago the War Refugee Board requested the State Department to facilitate Mr. Jabotinsky's departure to Turkey. In this connection, Mr. Pehle wrote two memoranda to Mr. Stettinius. The following is an extract from the second of these memoranda which is dated April 11, 1944:

"As stated in my memorandum of February 15, 1944, Mr. Jabotinsky is a Palestinian citizen and before leaving on his journey desires some assurance from your Department that he will be able to return to this country when his mission is completed.

"In view of the pressing nature of the work which Mr. Jabotinsky is to do if he goes to Turkey, the War Refugee Board would appreciate the State Department's using its good offices to obtain air priority for Mr. Jabotinsky at the earliest possible date, and advising whether Mr. Jabotinsky will be allowed to reenter the United States when his mission is completed."

There is nothing in the War Refugee Board files to indicate that the State Department ever advised Mr. Pehle whether Mr. Jabotinsky would be permitted to reenter the United States at the completion of his mission. However, Mr. Pehle may have received such an assurance orally, either from Mr. Stettinius or someone else.

Mr. Jabotinsky originally came to this country on the strength of a temporary visitor's visa which was issued in Jerusalem on October 21, 1940. Such visas are customarily valid for one year according to information furnished to me by Mr. Charles Rothstein of the Department of Justice. Mr. Jabotinsky entered the United States on February 25, 1941, at Ellis Island.

As Mr. Jabotinsky remained continuously in this country from February 25, 1941 until May 3, 1944, when he left for Turkey, it was necessary for the Department of Justice to extend his original temporary stay in the United States. This was done a number of times by the Department of Justice, the last time on May 11, 1944,

None received
JWT

when it was extended until November 14, 1944. However, the extension of a temporary admission by the Department of Justice did not extend Mr. Jabotinsky's visitor's visa which probably expired on or about October 21, 1941. Moreover, since Mr. Jabotinsky remained in this country continuously from the time of his original entry on February 25, 1941, until his departure for Turkey, there was no occasion for him to request an extension of the original visa issued in Jerusalem. Therefore, at the time of his departure for Turkey, Mr. Jabotinsky's visa had long since expired. Consequently, it is now necessary for Mr. Jabotinsky to apply for a new visa or to obtain a waiver of such requirement by the Secretary of State. *

The immediate problem presented by Mrs. Jabotinsky to you is whether she should hold off filing on behalf of her husband an application for a permanent immigration visa. At your suggestion she has agreed to delay the filing of this application until Mr. Pehle's return when we can learn for certain whether the State Department gave any oral assurance concerning Mr. Jabotinsky's return to the United States.

As I see the problem, there are three alternatives:

- (1) Mrs. Jabotinsky can file an application on behalf of her husband for a new temporary visitor's visa.
- (2) She can file an application on behalf of her husband for a permanent immigration visa. In this connection, I understand that the Palestinian quota is still open.
- (3) With Mr. Pehle's support, Mrs. Jabotinsky can request the Secretary of State to waive the requirement for either,
 - (a) A temporary visitor's visa; or
 - (b) An immigration visa.

*Footnote: Even if Mr. Jabotinsky's visa had not expired prior to his departure for Turkey, it would still be necessary for him to obtain either a new visa or a waiver of the visa requirement by the Secretary of State, as under instruction No. 182 of the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization to the various Immigrant Field Directors, visas issued under Section 32 (Temporary Visitor's Visas) are valid for only one entry into the United States. It is my understanding that this instruction became effective on August 1, 1943.

Mr. Rothstein advised me that probably the most expeditious procedure would be for Mr. Pehle to request Mr. Stettinius to have the Secretary of State waive the requirement of a temporary visitor's visa. This is done frequently, I understand, and, furthermore, it would in effect be a reinstatement of Mr. Jabotinsky to his status prior to his departure from the United States. Mr. Rothstein stated that it is generally far more difficult to obtain a waiver of the immigration visa requirement.

Inasmuch as a request to waive the requirement of a temporary visitor's visa is wholly inconsistent with a request for an immigration visa, the one indicating an intent to stay temporarily and the other an intent to stay permanently, it is suggested that Mrs. Jabotinsky withhold action until Mr. Pehle has had an opportunity to take the matter up with the State Department. If the State Department indicates its willingness to expedite Mr. Jabotinsky's return to the United States on a temporary basis, six months after his return to this country Mr. Jabotinsky can take advantage of the pre-examination procedure pursuant to which he would leave the country for a few days and then return as an immigrant.

If Mr. Pehle desires to facilitate Mr. Jabotinsky's return to this country, it is my suggestion that he request that the Secretary of State waive the requirement of a temporary visitor's visa. If this is refused, then the State Department can be requested to expedite the obtaining of a temporary visitor's visa. Only if Mr. Jabotinsky is willing to remain in Turkey for a number of months, should the slower and more cumbersome immigration visa procedure be tried.

April 11, 1944

MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Stettinius ✓
From: J. W. Pehle

Reference is made to my memorandum of February 15th and subsequent conversations between officers of the Board and representatives of the State Department relative to the travel of Eri T. Jabotinsky who desires to go to Turkey as representative of the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe.

As you know, the War Refugee Board is desirous of using the services of any private agency which can assist it in rescuing Jews of Europe who are in danger of imminent death. Mr. Jabotinsky has had considerable experience in this field and our information is to the effect that he has been very successful. Accordingly, the War Refugee Board would like to see his travel to Turkey facilitated and believes that he should arrive there as soon as possible.

You, of course, appreciate the fact that recent military developments in the Balkans have made the Board's problem even more pressing than it was. In fact, the situation appears to be so critical that days and even hours are of importance. If anything is to be accomplished in this area, it must be done immediately and must be done by operations from and through Turkey. It is my understanding that Mr. Jabotinsky could obtain boat passage at this time with little or no difficulty. However, it is felt that if he is to be successful in his mission, he should immediately proceed to Turkey, and, of course, should travel by air. In connection with his travel, I wish to call your attention to the fact that Mr. Jabotinsky has recently received a Turkish visa which would seem to be some indication that the Turkish Government would view his activities with approval and desires that he be permitted to come to Turkey.

As stated in my memorandum of February 15, 1944, Mr. Jabotinsky is a Palestinian citizen and before leaving on his journey desires some assurance from your Department that he will be able to return to this country when his mission is completed.

In view

In view of the pressing nature of the work which Mr. Jabotinsky is to do if he goes to Turkey, the War Refugee Board would appreciate the State Department's using its good offices to obtain air priority for Mr. Jabotinsky at the earliest possible date, and advising whether Mr. Jabotinsky will be allowed to re-enter the United States when his mission is completed.

JHMann:db
4/11/44

March 17, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES:

Watson called me today on Jabotinski. He said that the political people in State felt that in view of Jabotinski's activities, or those of his father, Jabotinski was closely identified with the Revisionist Movement, and they felt it would offend the Turkish Government for us to request a visa for Jabotinski to go to Turkey. When I pressed Watson he said that these views represented other views of Wallace Murray's section, particularly Mr. Alling.

Watson said that State would be willing to cable Hirschmann and Steinhardt asking whether Jabotinski would be helpful. Watson said he agreed we might cable Hirschmann and Steinhardt sounding them out as to whether there was any objection to proceeding to get a visa for Jabotinski. DuBois is having a cable prepared to this effect.



*Raynor checking feasibility of clearing
Palestine trip at once.*

W.S. 3/22

000241

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

INTER OFFICE COMMUNICATION

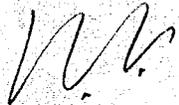
DATE

TO Mr. Pehle

March 2, 1944

FROM L. S. Lesser

James Sharp, of Justice's Foreign Agents Registration Unit, told me on the telephone this morning that Bergson and Jabotinsky agreed yesterday to register the Free Palestine Committee within the next sixty days. On the basis of this agreement, Sharp said that Justice had no objection to Jabotinsky going overseas. He stated that he had so informed State yesterday afternoon in response to its inquiry and he knew of no reason why we shouldn't assist Jabotinsky in getting overseas.



100242

June 24, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES:

While discussing another matter with Russell of the British Embassy, he mentioned to me that he had received word that Jabotinsky was causing trouble in Ankara and had demanded that the British Embassy supply him with cipher and diplomatic pouch privileges. The British Embassy here replied that Jabotinsky merely represented a private and more or less discredited organization, and that under no circumstances was he entitled to any such privileges.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JWR' or similar, located below the main text.

000243

BLOOMINGDALE'S
NEW YORK

22

EXECUTIVE OFFICES

April 22, 1944

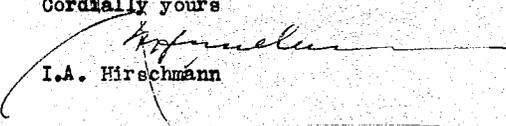
Mr. John W. Pehle
Executive Director.
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear John:

I had a call today from Mr. Jabotinski asking for an appointment which I gave him, here on the coming Monday, April 24th. He informed me that the War Department had approved his priority, and that he was leaving for Turkey in a few days.

I wish to go on record as reasserting that I am of the opinion that in principle it would be a blunder to send him or others to Turkey at this time. My only reservation is, as expressed in your office, concerned with his capacities. If he is a "genius" he may overcome the natural impediments. If he is not, he will cause embarrassment and difficulties in the path of your representative in Ankara, whoever he may be.

Cordially yours


I.A. Hirschmann

rl

Noted: W. J. 4/25

000244

AUG 17 1944

My dear Dr. Kohn:

I regret that my recent absence from Washington has occasioned delay in my reply to your letter of August 4, 1944, in which you inquire about the relationship between Mr. Eri Jabotinsky and the War Refugee Board.

I have taken this matter up with the Executive Director of the Board, who has confirmed to me that, contrary to the impression apparently given, Mr. Jabotinsky is not a representative of the War Refugee Board.

The War Refugee Board, as a matter of policy, works closely with all private agencies in the refugee field that have contributions to make toward the tremendous and heart-breaking task of saving refugees. It cooperates with Zionists, non-Zionists and anti-Zionists, with Jews and non-Jews, with liberals and conservatives, and with both large and small groups.

Representatives of many of these groups carry on activities in several of the neutral countries. In Turkey, for example, there are so many representatives of private refugee agencies that the Board has had to undertake a coordinating program. One of the representatives now in Turkey is Mr. Jabotinsky, who represents the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe.

000243

As you no doubt know, the War Refugee Board is an organization set up by Executive Order of the President, a copy of which is enclosed.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) H. Morgenthau, Jr.

Dr. Hans Kohn,
Smith College,
Northampton, Mass.

Enclosure

CTR
8/16/44

000246

HOPEWELL JUNCTION
DUTCHESS COUNTY, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: BEACON 211

Aug 10/44

My dear Mr Peble,

In accordance with your
suggestion ~~was~~ The phone I am enclosing
this letter for my husband from Prof. Kohn,
so that you can prepare an answer
to be signed on his return.

If Mrs Rossorff can
get away after Septth she would
be very happy to visit the Refugee Camp
with me, but she is not sure just
how her future plans. I think all the
publicity that you have had has been excellent

Sincerely yours,
Shirley S. Rossorff

000247

SMITH COLLEGE
NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

private and confidential

August 4, 1944

My dear Mr. Morgenthau,

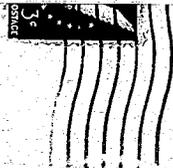
I receive regularly from Palestine a weekly letter, published by Zionists from Germany. I have had a long and very intimate knowledge of Zionist publications, and I may therefore be able to state with some authority that I always found this paper the by far most serious, most responsible and level headed Zionist publication.

I am enclosing the first page of the issue of May 26 where I marked one of the editorial comments, and I would be very grateful if you would be able to give to the matter your attention.

As you probably know there is a very active group of extremist Zionist nationalists, who in their philosophy and outlook are closely akin to fascist nationalism. Some of them have now in Washington founded a Jewish Committee of National Liberation. Others in Palestine have carried on for many months a campaign of ruthless terrorism, reminding, in deeds, thoughts and language, of the worst excesses in central Europe.

The founder of this movement was Vladimir Jabotinsky who died a few years ago. His son Mr. Eri Jabotinsky is now a leading member of the movement.

The editorial which I enclose expresses its astonishment about the fact that Mr. Eri Jabotinsky has arrived in May by airplane in



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SMITH COLLEGE
NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Palestine on his way to Turkey as an official delegate of the American War Refugee Board, an institution which the editor of the paper believes to be under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury.

I do not know anything of the background of this "a fair", but I thought it advisable to bring it to your attention. As I said above, there is no Zionist group more responsible and more conscious of its obligations in the present international situation than the group writing the editorial in question.

Sincerely yours,

Hans Kohn

Hans Kohn

000249

PERSONAL



Mr. Henry Morgenthau Jr.
Hopewell Junction
New York

000250



קיינות

MITTEILUNGSBLATT

ALIIJA CHADASCHA עליה חדשה
JAHRGANG 8, Nr. 21 TEL-AVIV, 26. MAI 1944 תל-אביב ד טיון חש"ד



In dieser Schawuoth-Woche

Am Vorabend grosser Ereignisse — Abenteuer in Ramalla und Komödie in Amerika — Aufruf an Mädchen — Drei Sechzigjährige

Die Festtage dieses Wochenendes haben den Sommer ein — einen Sommer, von dem wir erwarten, dass er gewisse Entscheidungen bringen wird. „Festtage“ das heisst Fest ist gekommen — so heisst es der deutsche Dichter. In diesen Tagen des Schreckens haben wir verlernt, auf die Liebelkeit der Natur zu achten. Es stehen Wochen bevor, die für Millionen Menschen schwere Leiden und Sorgen bringen werden, eine Krise des Todes. Da zient es denen, die selbst in Sicherheit leben, nicht, grosse Worte zu machen. Aber auch jene, die die schwersten Opfer zu bringen haben werden empfinden dankbar den grossen Wandel der Zeiten. Ein Sturm der Hoffnung und Erwartung geht über die Welt. Erinnern wir uns, dass genau vor 4 Jahren die Katastrophe von Plandern herbeigeführt wurde die psychologisch unvorhersehbare westlichen Völker. Damals gab das englische Volk die Antwort von Duenkirchen, eine unsterbliche Antwort, der erste Impuls einer sich aufraffenden Energie, die gepulst von den damals gebundenen geistlichen Kräften, stetig wachsen konnte und heute mit überlegener Siegesgewissheit in die Zukunft blickt. Wir stehen, wenn nicht alles trügt, jetzt unmittelbar vor der „Rückkehr“ nach Duenkirchen. Es wird freilich kein leichter Weg sein, die der Feind die Zeit auszunutzen hat, um sich mit allen erdenklichen Mitteln zu vorbereiten. Darum wird die Invasion schwere Opfer kosten. Sie wird auch den betroffenen Ländern schwere Leiden zuziehen. Aber der Ausgang des Entscheidungskampfes um Europa, der in diesem Sommer auf allen Seiten, von West und Ost, Nord und Süd (wo es bereits angefangen hat), liegen dürfte, ist nicht zweifelhaft.

Für uns Juden ist das Schawuoth-Fest eine besondere Erinnerung daran, dass nach jedem Freiheitskampf die Frage des „Wozu?“ gestellt wird. Warum sind wir ins Ägypten geführt worden? Die Antwort kam deutlich genug: „Dir sollt mir sein ein Reich von Priester, ein heiliges Volk.“ Umsonst wird man nicht befreit. Man übernimmt damit die schwere Pflicht, mit dieser Freiheit das Richtige anzufangen. Freiheit verpflichtet. Dieses Bewusstsein bewegt heute die besten Geister aller Völker der Welt. Sie suchen den Weg, um sich nach dem Sieg des Erregungen wagt zu erweisen. Es kommt aber für den Menschen (und für die Völker) nicht nur darauf an, bessere Einrichtungen zu schaffen, sondern auch besser zu werden. Wenn die Menschheit aus dem gewaltigen Bluthad nichts lernt

viele andere wohlwollende und unwillende Leute, für altherald Propaganda misbrauchten liess und in den letzten Jahren den unter verschiedenen Namen auftretenden revisionistischen Komitees in Amerika seine Unterstützung lieh. Diese Komitees, die das in ihrem Kreis herrschende Mittel nicht den Luxus riesengrosser Inserate in den grossen amerikanischen Zeitungen leisten können. Van Passen schreibt jetzt in einem Offenen Brief, er habe entdeckt, dass diese revisionistischen Komitees nichts anderes sind als Exponenten jenes berüchtigten „Irgun Zwal Leumi“ in Palästina, der sich durch Terrorakte auszeichnet, und dass sie in Amerika die inner-amerikanischen Politik dazu ausnutzen, um die Hilfe gewisser reaktionärer Senatoren zu erhalten. Van Passen liest darauf den Vorsitz in dem „Komitee für die Jüdische Armee“ nieder; identisch mit diesem Komitee ist das sogenannte „Not-Komitee für die Rettung der Juden Europas“.

Wir Juden sind manchmal überheblich genug. Erscheinungen bei anderen Völkern kritisch zu betrachten und Verdammsurteile zu sprechen, ohne uns darüber Rechenschaft zu geben, dass anscheinend alle Völker gleichen „Naturgesetzen“ unterliegen, unser eigenes eingeschlossen. Auch bei uns gehen die merkwürdigsten Dinge vor, gegen die wir aussehend nachteilig sind, weil sie aus Voraussetzungen heraus entstanden sind, denen gegenüber wir blind waren und unser eigenes Denken und Tun nicht kritisch genug betrachteten.

Nun machen sich hier im Lande in unserem Leben Bewegungen breit, die uns alle tief beunruhigen. Nach einer Phase von wenigen Wochen ist der Terror wieder ausgebrochen. Wir erleben vorige Woche das verrückte Abenteuerstück in Ramalla, bei dem leider alle Täter entkamen, es gibt wieder Drohbriefe und „Todesurteile“, die in Tel Aviv an allen Strassen-ecken öffentlich angeschlagen werden. Die „Kämpfer für Israels Freiheit“ rühmen sich öffentlich des Mordes an zwei jüdischen Polizisten. Mit Recht wandte sich „Haarets“ dieser Tage dagegen, dass es anscheinend immer noch Menschen im Lande gibt, die sich der Terroristen schützend annehmen und solche, die sich Geld erpressen lassen, dass es ist klar, dass zu diesen Dingen Geld gehört. Hier aber muss noch ein anderer Kapitel angeschritten werden, das diese Leute auch Geld aus dem Ausland bekommen. Zwar gibt es bei derartigen geheimen Verbindungen keine klar feststellbaren organisatorischen Abgrenzungen, aber gerade in dieser Woche wurde bekannt, welche merkwürdigen den Terroristen gelisteter Verwandte Gruppen im Ausland ihr Unwesen treiben. Besonders Aufsehen erregte ein Brief des holländisch-amerikanischen Journalisten Pierre Van Passen, eines seit Jahren radikal-prozionistischen, aber anscheinend nativen und über die wirklichen Zusammenhänge niemals recht informierten Mannes, der sich, wie

der amerikanischen Regierung auf die Idee verfallen, sich ausserhalb mit dieser Gruppe einzusetzen. Da wir schon bei dem Kapitel sind, so müssen wir feststellen, dass dieses Erstaunen über indirekte und häufig sogar direkte Förderung dieser Gruppen noch weiter reicht. In dieser Zeit, in der es für die meisten Menschen infolge der Kriegsbestimmungen sehr schwer ist, das Land zu verlassen, reisen Leute, die den genannten Organisationen sehr nahe stehen, in politischen Mission ins Ausland, ja, auch zu grossen Propagandatouren und Geldaktionen. Gerade jetzt wird zum Beispiel die jüdische Öffentlichkeit Südafrikas von einem derartigen palästinensischen Delegierten aufgeweckt. Dass solche Aktionen möglich sind, erscheint Vielen als ein paradoxes Zeichen einer indirekten Förderung einer subversiven Gruppe, verwirrend und befremdend für alle diejenigen, die eine Förderung und Finanzierung dieser Gruppen für unerwünscht halten und eigentlich annehmen müssten, dass alle verantwortlichen Faktoren diese Meinung teilen.

Die Komödie in Amerika hat diese Woche noch seltsamere Früchte gezeitigt. Ein „Jüdisches Komitee für Nationale Befreiung“ der Ägypte ist gewählt in Anlehnung an das Französische Komitee in Algier) hat mitgeteilt, dass es das Gebäude der früheren französischen Gesandtschaft in Washington für 63.000 Dollar erworben habe, um es als künftige Gesandtschaft des Jüdischen Staats zu verwenden. Weber die Leute der Welt haben, wird nicht enthüllt. Sämtliche verantwortlichen jüdischen Gremien Amerikas sind von dem Komitee abgedrückt. Das jüdische Volk und der Zionismus wird in den Augen der Amerikanischen Öffentlichkeit lächerlich. Die ganze Geschichte könnte das Thema für einen Abenteuerfilm sein, wie sieben junge Leute ganz Amerika an der Nase herumführen.

Unverständlich wird die Sache erst, wenn man hört, dass ein Mitglied dieses Komitees als offizieller amerikanischer Delegierter im Nahen Osten fungiert. Man muss befürchten, dass so etwas das Prestige dieser Jünglinge bei unerfahrenen Leuten hebt und die Aufklärungsarbeit ihrer erschwert, die sich bemühen, die Jugend von den Wegen des Irgun Zwal Leumi und von verwandten Tendenzen abzubringen.

ATS als auch als WAAF (Flieger-Hilfsorganisation) hervorragend bewährt. Ein Teil der jüdischen ATS ist jetzt in Italien tätig. Nun wird mitgeteilt, dass ein grosser Bedarf nach zusätzlichen Kräften besteht. 6.000 ATS-Mädchen werden für Italien benötigt. Es sollen Dienst tun als Beamtin, in Spill-Lern, als Materialverwalter und als Chauffeure. In England sind sämtliche Frauen und Mädchen bereits für den Kriegsdienst in dieser oder jener Form mobilisiert. Daher wurde ein Appell an Palästina gerichtet, die bestehende Lücke auszufüllen. In der offiziellen Verlautbarung heisst es, dass palästinensische ATS in Italien von allen Dienstenleistungen ausserordentlich geschätzt werden. Eine Anzahl von ihnen ist eingeworben in einer Schule an der Adriatischen Küste, in Neapel, Ueberall, so heisst es, wurden sie besonders ausgezeichnet aufgenommen. Wir hoffen, dass der Appell in Palästina eine gütliche Resonanz finden wird. Gerade in diesen Tagen wird uns bewusst, wie glücklich wir in diesem Lande leben, völlig unbekannt von Kriegsübeln, und dies erhöht unsere Verpflichtung, dort mehr zu leisten, wo uns die Möglichkeit geboten ist. Es ist kein Zweifel, dass diese Leistungen für die gemeinsame Sache mehr dazu beitragen, uns einen Platz unter den Vereinigten Nationen — auch für die Zukunft — zu sichern, als die grössten Inserate in der „New York Times“ und selbstverständlich auch als Terrorakte in Palästina. Hier ist der Ort, wo unsere Jugend zeigen kann, was sie an ehrlicher Leistung und aus nationalen Pflichtgefühl vollbringen kann.

Der Zufall fügt es, dass an diesem Wochenende mehrere schicksalhafte Geburtstage gefeiert werden. An dieser Stelle gedanken wir in erster Reihe des Mannes, der der Erzieher und Bildner zweier Generationen deutscher Zionisten gewesen und uns auch heute eng verbunden ist: Kurt Blumenfeld. Sein Geburtstag ist für uns ein Anlass zu einer aufwühlenden Rückschau über die letzten 35 Jahre — eine Zeit der Weltrevolution, wie nur wenige zuvor. Wir widmen Blumenfeld, dem ehemaligen Vorsitzenden der IGOGA, als kleines Zeichen unserer Dankbarkeit und Freundschaft, einen Teil unserer heutigen Ausgabe, in dem Menschen zu Worte kommen, die dem Ganzen oder einem Teil seines Weges mit ihm zusammen gegangen sind. Wir glauben, dass über das Persönliche hinaus es auch für Ausenstehende, die diesem Kreise nicht angehören, und

(77-8-2)

Translation of an extract from "Mitteilungsblatt,
Alija Chadascha, Tel-Aviv, 26 Mai 1944"

We Jews sometimes think of ourselves sufficiently high to consider critically events occurring among other peoples and to express our condemnation of them without realizing that all peoples appear to be subject to the same "laws of nature," our own people included. In our midst, too, the most bizarre things go on against which we seem to be powerless, since they have arisen from conditions which we eyed blindly and since we did not consider our own thoughts and deeds in a sufficiently critical light.

There are movements now spreading in our lives in this country, which cause all of us deep concern. After a pause of a few weeks the terror has again broken out. Last week we lived through the crazy adventure in Ramalla, in which all participants have unfortunately escaped. There are again threatening letters and "death sentences" which are publicly posted in Tel-Aviv at all street corners. The "fighters for Israel's freedom" boast publicly of the murder of two Jewish policemen. The "Haaretz" has justly complained a few days ago that there seem still to exist people in this country who protect the terrorists and such others who let themselves be blackmailed for money, since it is apparent that such things require money. Something else, though, should be added in this connection. It is quite possible that these people get money from abroad as well. True, in the case of such secret groups there are no clearly discernible organizational boundaries, but just this week it became known how strange groups abroad, spiritually related to the terrorists, do their work. Special

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attention has been attracted by a letter of the Dutch-American journalist, Pierre Van Paassen, a man who has been radically pro-Zionist for years, but who is apparently naive and never well informed about the real situation; like many other well-intentioned and ignorant people, he let himself be misused for all sorts of propaganda and in recent years gave his support to the revisionist committees in America which appear under different names. These committees which attempted to exploit in their own political interests the sympathy for the European Jewish catastrophe existing in liberal circles, apparently have received a lot of money, otherwise they could not have permitted themselves the luxury of gigantic advertisements in the large American newspapers. Van Paassen writes now in an open letter that he has found out that these revisionist committees are nothing else than exponents of that notorious "Irgun Zvai Leumi" in Palestine which distinguishes itself by acts of terror, and that they have made use of the internal political situation in America to receive the help of certain reactionary Senators. Thereupon Van Paassen resigned the chairmanship of the "Committee for the Jewish Army"; identical with this committee is the so-called "Emergency Committee for the Rescues of the Jews of Europe." The very name of this committee shows to what extent the Jewish need is being abused.

The matter is getting crazier still; a representative of this committee, the young Eri Jabotinsky, came one of these days by airplane to Palestine and is on his way to Turkey on an official mission

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of the American Government. If one knows how difficult it is today to get a seat on an airplane and how many important trips have to be omitted, one holds one's head and one asks oneself what is it all about. In a "press conference" which the young man has held in Palestine he declared that he is going to Turkey as delegate of the American War Refugee Board, an institution which is connected with the American Treasury, headed by Morgenthau. Jabotinsky said that the creation of this Board is due to the propaganda of the so-called "Committee for the Rescue of the Jews of Europe", which has been founded by a few young Palestinians in America and which has addressed itself to the American Congress and the Senate. They are the same young men whom Van Paassen names as the representatives of the Irgun Zvai Leumi. Normal Palestinians who suffered under the terror of the Irgun Zvai Leumi will not understand how come that agencies of the American Government should get the idea to deal precisely with this group.

Since we have reached this chapter, we must state that our amazement over the indirect and often direct furthering of these groups goes still further. In these days when, because of the war regulations, it is very difficult for most people to leave this country, people who stand very near to the above mentioned organizations travel abroad, even for purposes of propaganda trips and fund raising campaigns. At the present time, for instance, the Jewish public opinion of South Africa is being agitated by such a Palestinian delegate. That such

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actions are possible, appears to many as a paradoxical sign of indirect furtherance of a subversive group, confusing and irritating for all those who consider the furtherance and financing of such groups to be undesirable and who should be entitled to believe that all responsible elements share this opinion.

The comedy in America has borne even stranger fruits this week. A "Jewish Committee for National Liberation" (the name is chosen in imitation of the French Committee in Algiers) has announced that it has purchased the building of the former Iranian Legation in Washington for \$63,000, in order to equip it as the future legation of the Jewish state. Where these people got the money is not revealed. All the responsible Zionist groups in America have turned away from this committee. The Jewish people and Zionism are becoming ridiculous in the eyes of the American public. This whole story could have become the subject of an adventure film relating how seven young men led all of America by the nose.

The matter only becomes difficult to understand if one hears that a member of this committee functions as official American delegate in the Near East. One must fear that this sort of thing heightens the prestige of these adolescents in the eyes of inexperienced people and that it renders difficult the work of enlightenment of those who try to turn the youth away from the ways of the Irgun-Zvai-Leumi and of related tendencies.

000256

UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL

PALESTINE FOUNDATION FUND (*Keren Hayesod*)

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND (*Keren Kayemeth*)

MIZRACHI PALESTINE FUND

41 EAST 42nd STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y. • Telephone: MUrray Hill 2-3320 • Cable Address—Palfund

NATIONAL OFFICERS

July 10, 1944

Honorary Chairmen

ALBERT EINSTEIN
SOLOMON GOLDMAN
HENRY MONSKY
NATHAN STRAUS
HENRIETTA SZOLD

Mr. John W. Pehle
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

National Chairman

JAMES G. HELLER

National Co-Chairmen

STEPHEN S. WISE
Chairman,
Administrative Committee

LOUIS LIPSKY
Chairman,
Executive Committee
MRS. MOSES P. EPSTEIN
LEON GELLMAN
ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN
EDMUND I. KAUFMANN
LOUIS E. LEVINTHAL
BERNARD A. ROSENBLATT
MORRIS ROTHENBERG
ABBA HILLEL SILVER
ROBERT SZOLD
DAVID WERTHEIM

Dear Mr. Pehle:

You will recall my recent inquiry of you as to the status of Mr. Eri Jabotinsky. You wrote to me on June 27th making it clear that he was not appointed as an emissary of the War Refugee Board.

I have received a cable from the head of the Information Section of the Jewish Agency for Palestine in Jerusalem, providing more information on the subject. At a press conference held on May 18th, Mr. Eri Jabotinsky stated in Jerusalem that he was proceeding to Turkey "as the representative of the President's War Relief Control Board". He declared that he did not come "as a delegate of the Revisionist Party", and said he would "keep in contact with the Jewish Agency and the Vaad Leumi to ensure the success" of his "mission".

Treasurer

CHARLES J. ROSENBLUM

It is possible that Mr. Jabotinsky's public statements of this kind are continuing. I send this information to you for whatever value it may have for your own purposes.

Associate Treasurers

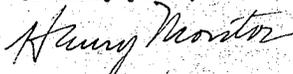
ABRAHAM GOODMAN
ABRAHAM L. LIEBOVITZ
JACOB SINCOFF

With kind personal regards, I am

Vice-Chairmen

BARNETT R. BRICKNER
JOSEPH H. LOOKSTEIN
IRVING MILLER
HARRY A. PINE
CHARLES RESS
BERNARD G. RUDOLPH
LOUIS SEGAL
ELIHU D. STONE
JOE WEINGARTEN
HERMAN L. WEISMAN

Cordially yours,



Henry Montor
Executive Director

HM:TE

Executive Director

HENRY MONTOR

FOR THE DEFENSE AND UPBUILDING OF THE JEWISH NATIONAL HOME IN PALESTINE

000257

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM CONTROL COPY DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

BE-382
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. (██████████)

Ankara
Dated June 30, 1944
Rec'd 4:46 p.m.

Secretary of State
Washington

1185, June 30, 2 p.m.

PERSONAL AND ██████████ FOR PERLE

VRB FROM THE AMBASSADOR

Ankara's No. 81.

While I do not know of any occasion on which Jabotinsky has directly held himself out to be a representative of the Board there is little doubt that he has sought and succeeded in giving this impression. At his first interview with me he expressed surprise that you had not informed me of his impending mission. Subsequently he requested me to transmit to you by Diplomatic pouch which was done, his preliminary "report" to you. However I quite agree with you that the matter is not sufficiently serious to warrant a public statement. In connection with the foregoing all of the various individuals engaged in rescue and relief activities in Turkey fully understand that Hirschman is the only representative of the VRB at present in Turkey.

BB REP

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

000258

JUN 27 1944

Dear Mr. Montor:

I am in receipt of your letter of June 19, 1944,
concerning Mr. Mri Jabotinsky.

The question you raise has also been asked by
other persons and I am very glad to make the facts clear
to you. Mr. Jabotinsky does not represent the War Refugee
Board in any capacity. I am at a loss to understand how
a contrary impression has arisen and I should appreciate
your making available the information contained in this
letter to any persons raising this question with you.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J.W. Fehle

J. W. Fehle
Executive Director

Mr. Henry Montor
Executive Director
United Palestine Appeal
41 East 42nd Street
New York 17, New York

*Original signed by
Mr. Fehle*

JW FH:ro 6/26/44

0 0 0 2 5 4

UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL

PALESTINE FOUNDATION FUND (*Keren Hayesod*)

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND (*Keren Kayemeth*)

MIZRACHI PALESTINE FUND

41 EAST 42nd STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y. • Telephone: MUrray Hill 2-3320 • Cable Address—Palfund

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NATHAN STRAUS
HENRIETTA SZOLD

June 19, 1944

National Chairman
JAMES G. HELLER

Mr. John W. Pehle
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

National Co-Chairmen
STEPHEN S. WISE
*Chairman,
Administrative Committee*
LOUIS LIPSKY
*Chairman,
Executive Committee*
MRS. MOSES P. EPSTEIN
LEON GELLMAN
ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN
EDMUND I. KAUFMANN
LOUIS E. LEVINTHAL
BERNARD A. ROSENBLATT
MORRIS ROTHENBERG
ABBA HILLEL SILVER
ROBERT SZOLD
DAVID WERTHEIM

Dear Mr. Pehle:

Word has reached us from Jerusalem that a general impression is extant that Mr. Eri Jabotinsky represents the War Refugee Board at Istanbul. Is that the fact? The information, if available, would be helpful.

Cordially yours,

Henry Montor
Henry Montor
Executive Director

Treasurer
CHARLES J. ROSENBLOOM

HM:MA

Associate Treasurers
ABRAHAM GOODMAN
ABRAHAM L. LIEBOVITZ
JACOB SINCOFF

Vice-Chairmen
BARNETT R. BRICKNER
JOSEPH H. LOOKSTEIN
IRVING MILLER
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BERNARD G. RUDOLPH
LOUIS SEGAL
ELIHU D. STONE
JOE WEINGARTEN
HERMAN L. WEISMAN

Executive Director
HENRY MONTOR

FOR THE DEFENSE AND UPBUILDING OF THE JEWISH NATIONAL HOME IN PALESTINE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

June 27 1944

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

EMBASSY, ANKARA
For security reasons the content of this message must be closely guarded.
The cable below for Steinhardt and Hirschmann

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS
JUN 29 1944

War Ref
Bib/m
Pehle
CONTROL COPY

Pehle is (2) from War Refugee Board.

Several inquiries received by Board as to whether Ned Jabotinsky represents it in Istanbul. Impression that he is our representative seems rather current. Seriousness of matter insufficient to warrant public statement. We have however denied that he represents the Board in any capacity. Please advise me if Jabotinsky is holding himself out as a Board representative.

HULL
(GLW)

WRE:MMV:RG
6/27/44

S-OR

NE

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

000261

CABLE TO AMBASSADOR STEINHARDT AND HIRSCHMANN FROM J. W. PEHLE,
WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Board has received several inquiries as to whether Eri Jabotinsky represents the Board in Istanbul. Impression seems to be rather current that he is our representative. While the matter is not serious enough to warrant a public statement, we have, of course, denied that Jabotinsky represents the Board in any capacity. I would appreciate your advising me whether Jabotinsky is holding himself out as a representative of the Board.

THIS IS WRB ANKARA CABLE NO. 62.

June 27, 1944
10:15 a.m.

JH

FH:lab 6/24/44

JED

000262

J. War Ref Board
Mr. Pehle

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Consulate General, Jerusalem
DATED: June 27, 1944
NUMBER: 118

CONTROL COPY

FROM J. W. PEHLE, WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Reference your confidential letter of May 29, 1944 to the Secretary State transmitting message concerning War Refugee Board.

For your information the following cable has been sent to Ambassador Steinhardt in Ankara:

"Board has received several inquiries as to whether Eri Jabotinsky represents the Board in Istanbul. Impression seems to be rather current that he is our representative. While the matter is not serious enough to warrant a public statement, we have, of course, denied that Jabotinsky represents the Board in any capacity. I would appreciate your advising me whether Jabotinsky is holding himself out as a representative of the Board."

I would appreciate your making available at once to Ambassador Steinhardt the full text of your letter of May 29.

HULL

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

000263

CABLE TO AMERICAN CONSULATE, JERUSALEM, FROM J. W. PEHLE, WAR
REFUGEE BOARD.

Reference your confidential letter of May 29, 1944 to the
Secretary State transmitting message concerning War Refugee Board.

For your information the following cable has been sent to
Ambassador Steinhardt in Ankara:

QUOTE Board has received several inquiries as to
whether Eri Jabotinsky represents the Board in Istanbul. Im-
pression seems to be rather current that he is our representative
While the matter is not serious enough to warrant a public state-
ment, we have, of course, denied that Jabotinsky represents the
Board in any capacity. I would appreciate your advising me whether
Jabotinsky is holding himself out as a representative of the Board
UNQUOTE

I would appreciate your making available at once to Ambassador
Steinhardt the full text of your letter of May 29.

10:15 a.m.
June 27, 1944

JW
FH:lab 6/24/44 *js*

000264

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

For security reasons the
FL-460 text of this message must
Distribution only be made
true reading only
by special arrange-
ment. (SECRET W)

Ankara

Dated June 14, 1944

Rec'd 11:33

Secretary of State,
Washington.

1063, June 14, 7 p.m.

FOR THE WRB FROM THE AMBASSADOR

CONTROL COPY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
JUN 16 1944
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

Ankara's 75. For the Board's information
Er^xla Botinsky, who recently arrived in Turkey,
has approached the Assistant Rumanian Naval
Attache and apparently intends to approach the
Turkish authorities with a view to endeavoring
to acquire the Rumanian vessels TRANSYLVANIA and
BESSARABIA at a cost of four million dollars each.
As the Board is doubtless aware these vessels were
recently immobilized by the removal of important
parts of their machinery by the Turkish Government
at the request of the British and Russian Govern-
ments to prevent their use by the Rumanians or
Germans in connection with the evacuation of the
Crimea. As these two ships are the finest and
fastest passenger vessels in the Black Sea and
Eastern Mediterranean they have been since the

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

000265

-2-#1063, June 14, 7 p.m., from Ankara

outbreak of the war, and still are, the subject
of inter-governmental consideration and negotia-
tion.

STEINHARDT

JT
EJH

000266

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

INTER OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE July 20, 1944

TO Miss Hodel *JH*
FROM E. J. Behuncik

Noted JH

The following is the text of a British Secret Cable sent by Andrew Somers, Washington, D. C. on June 8, 1944, to Eri Jabotinsky, Ankara, Turkey, which may be of interest to the War Refugee Board, and is called to your attention:

"RABBIS CABLING HUNDRED THOUSAND GRIFFEL KLARMANN ?
STOP TRY SECURE FUNDS PALESTINE RESCUE COMMITTEE
STOP MIRELMANN EAGER HELP CABLE HIM FOR FUNDS STOP
REFUGEE BOARD WILL COOPERATE ONLY CONCRETE RESCUE //
PLANS CABLE MAXIMUM DETAILS DIRECT TO BOARD."

E. J. B.

DECLASSIFIED
By Authority of _____
NND 804055
By *RHP* Date AUG. 25 1980

NO. 1192

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

3 War Refugee Board

NE

CONTROL COPY

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL

Jerusalem, Palestine,
May 29, 1944.

~~Confidential~~

SUBJECT: Transmitting Message concerning War
Refugee Board.

*3 W R B
3 War Refugee
Board (Jews)
1 War Refugee
Board (Gypsies)*

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

I have the honor to quote a report received from the Palestine Censorship of a telegram dated May 25, 1944, from Mr. Moshe SHERTOK, Head of the Political Department of the Jewish Agency, to Dr. Nahum GOLDMAN, 342 Madison Avenue, New York City:

"Understand American press reports credit War Refugee Board with recent Balkan transports stop Much as we interested in success Boards endeavors and appreciate assistance American Embassy Ankara and British efforts regarding Turkish transit compelled state truth that not single refugee yet owes his escape Boards initiative or activities stop Since April over 1200 Jews brought by boats from Rumania to Istanbul all arrived Palestine this result joint efforts Palestine office Bucharest our emissaries Istanbul stop Since February 500 Jews /escaped Greece/ reached Palestine by special arrangement stop Both movements nothing to do with Board stop We eagerly looking forward Boards effective help anxious cooperate every possible way suggest this be published suitable form."

The telegram was released by the Censor with the omission of the words "escaped Greece."

As Mr. Shertok had made statements similar to those contained in the above message to me personally I asked the representative in Turkey of the Joint Distribution Committee, Mr. Reuben REZNIK, about the matter. He said there was considerable bickering between representatives of various organizations in Turkey and a great deal of maneuvering for credit for rescue work. In some cases this "credit" is

used

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of

NND 804055

By RHP Date AUG. 25 1980

Miss Hadell

AIR MAIL

-2-

used as a means of raising funds. Mr. Reznik gave full credit to Ambassador STEINHARDT and said that his hands had been strengthened by the establishment of the War Refugee Board.

The suggestion that the message be published is not understood because such charges can only reflect upon the activities of the Board. It is known that the publicity given to Mr. Ira HIRSCHMANN is resented by individuals in Palestine, who say this premature publication of plans to charter a Turkish vessel may have been responsible in part for the refusal of the German Government to give the vessel safe conduct. There has also been local criticism of the Board for the appointment of Mr. Eri JABOTINSKY to Turkey, particularly as he indicated he was representing the Board.

The Mitteilungsblatt, which is the organ of the Aliyah Hadishah ("New Immigration") Party, printed the following comments:

"A representative of this Committee (Emergency Committee for the Rescue of European Jewry), Eri Jabotinsky, arrived recently in Palestine by air on his way to Turkey on an official mission on behalf of the American Government. Realizing how difficult travelling by air has become nowadays one wonders what is going on. At a press conference staged in Tel Aviv the young man stated that he was going to Turkey as a delegate of the American Refugee Board which is closely linked with the American Treasury headed by Mr. Morgenthau. Jabotinsky said that the formation of that Board was the result of the propaganda conducted by the so-called Committee for the Rescue of European Jewry which has been founded by a few young Palestinians. These are the same young men whom VAN PAASSEN described as emissaries of the Irgun Zvai Leumi. Normal Palestinians exposed to the terrorism of the 'Irgun' fail to understand how American authorities have got the idea to make contacts just with that group."

Respectfully yours,

I. C. Pinkerton
American Consul General

File No. 800
LCP/ep

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of _____

NND 80 4055

By RHP Date AUG. 25 1980

APR 14 1944

My dear Mr. Ambassador:

I have received your letter of April 5, 1944, advising me that authorization has been received from Ankara to issue a visa for Mr. Eri Jabotinsky's entry into Turkey and that the Turkish Consul in New York has been so instructed.

Please accept my sincere thanks and that of the Board for your prompt cooperation in securing the visa for Mr. Jabotinsky.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Honorable Mehmet Munir Ertegun
The Ambassador of Turkey
Washington, D. C.

*original signed
by Mr. Pehle*

ms. W.S. [signature]
MSargoy:dh 4/13/44

000270

521

TURKISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 5, 1944

No. 727/75

W. R. B. _____
Filing Authority _____
To: Files _____
Ans. _____
No. Ans. Req. _____
Initial _____
Date _____

Mr. J. W. Pehle, Executive Director,
Executive Office of the President
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Mr. Pehle:

Referring to your letter of March 29, 1944 I have the pleasure to inform you that authorization has now been received from Ankara to issue a visa for Mr. Eri Jabotinsky's entry into Turkey.

As visas for ordinary passports have to be issued by consulates, we have already instructed our Consul in New York to issue the visa, and Mr. Jabotinsky may obtain it by submitting his passport, along with three photographs, at the Consulate General at 50 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City.

I remain, my dear Mr. Pehle,

Sincerely yours,



Turkish Ambassador.

000271

WAR REFUGEE BOARD

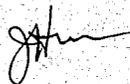
April 10, 1944

MEMORANDUM

Hathaway Watson called me today relative to the air priority for Jabotinsky. Watson was somewhat apologetic for the fact that the case had lagged as long as it had. He stated that Pehle had called him on Friday asking what could be done about air priority for Jabotinsky. Watson pointed out that since Jabotinsky is not a United States citizen that before the State Department can put the case up to the Army and Navy, it would have to be in receipt of a "darn good letter from Mr. Morgenthau or almost that high". Such letter should state that Jabotinsky's travel was in behalf of the war effort or the program of the Board and that we want to see it facilitated. Such letter, of course, would have to show why it was necessary for him to use air, and Watson agreed with me that the Balkan situation would probably be enough on that point.

He mentioned that the February 15 letter was not strong enough for State to take action. State, as he put it, is a sort of a post-office between the Government agencies and the Army and Navy. Apparently Mr. Pehle asked Watson and Raynor to tell the Army that this was a case in which Mr. Stettinius would be interested if he were here. Watson had discussed this matter with Raynor and they felt that they could not take that responsibility. Watson requested that we get him a strong letter as to why Jabotinsky had to get to Turkey in a hurry. He suggested that we get this to him as soon as possible. It was mentioned that State could get Jabotinsky on a boat now that Turkey had given him a visa and our letter would have to be awfully good to show that air instead of boat travel was necessary. He felt our letter should also contain a statement to the effect that the Turks wanted Jabotinsky in Turkey since they had given him a visa.

Assuming that the air priority could be obtained from the State Department, there still remains another technicality, namely, Jabotinsky would have to get permission to travel through the war zone. This is done through the Army. The procedure would be for Jabotinsky to go to State and State would put him in touch with the proper people in the War Department.



JHMann:db

000272

WAR REFUGEE BOARD

April 10, 1944

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JHMann:db

000273