

Jabotinsky, Eri

Folder 2

000274

TURKISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

NO. 687/68

March 30, 1944

x 424

W. R. B. _____
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Ans. _____
Re. Ans. Rec. ✓
Initial *W.R.B.*
Date *4/5/44*

Mr. J. W. Pehle
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D.C.

My dear Mr. Pehle:

I wish to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of March 29, 1944, and to inform you that I am communicating with the competent Turkish Department concerning the proposed visit to Turkey of Mr. Eri Jabotinsky, Representative of the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe.

I will not fail to advise you further as soon as their reply is received.

Very truly yours,



Turkish Ambassador

000275

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 Hirschmann, have been working closely with the Turkish Government in this matter.

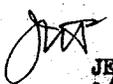
The Board desires to take advantage of the services of any private agency which can be of help in this task. I believe that Mr. Jabotinsky, working in close consultation with the Board's representative in Turkey, could be of assistance in the efforts of our two Governments to save some of the persecuted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

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director.

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


JED:ecr
3/28/44

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE

March 24, 1944

TO Files

FROM Ward Stewart

Subject: Efforts to Date to Clear Travel of Mr. Eri Jabotinsky

Since February 15 we have been doing everything possible to clear Mr. Jabotinsky's travel to the Near East. During this period of nearly six weeks we have thought on several occasions that the issue was definitely settled, but Mr. Jabotinsky is still in Washington and today we were informed by Mr. Watson that there is an entirely new problem involved which has not been raised to date. The essential chronology on this matter is as follows:

1. On February 15 we wrote to Mr. Stettinius in response to Congressman Will Rogers' request of February 11, asking that the State Department "do everything possible to facilitate with all possible speed" the clearance of Mr. Jabotinsky's travel.

2. On February 24 I informed Mr. Raynor that Mr. Jabotinsky was apparently running into obstruction by the Turkish Government and gave Mr. Raynor a copy of the file on the subject. Mr. Raynor agreed that Mr. Jabotinsky appeared to be getting the "run around" and said that he would do everything possible in the matter.

3. During the month from February 24 to March 24, Mr. Pehle and I, and more recently Mr. Mann, have checked almost daily with Mr. Warren, Mr. Watson, Mr. Raynor, and others in the State Department to get this matter cleared. The reasons that have been cited for failure to clear during this period include exit visa, re-entry permit, extension of visitor's visa, Palestinian (British) citizenship, need for Turkish visa, registration of Free Palestine Committee with the Department of Justice, etc., etc., ad nauseum, each of which has been overcome only to reveal another obstruction.

4. As the matter stands now it is my understanding that Mr. Jabotinsky has all the necessary official papers to provide his entry into Palestine and that he has been assured by Mr. Watson of "a fair chance" at whatever air transportation may be available. However, on calling Mr. Rutledge Birmingham concerning arrangements for such air transportation, Mr. Jabotinsky was informed by Mr. Birmingham that he (Birmingham) had received notice of the travel only informally and that he could not act until he received something official in writing from his superiors in the State Department or from the War Refugee Board. Mr. Watson has subsequently informed us that the current difficulty is that the United States Government has an understanding with the British Government that we will not ask an American airline to carry a British subject unless the business

000277

- 2 -

of the person involved has the official endorsement of the United States Government. Mr. Watson then asked the question whether the War Refugee Board was ready to supply such official endorsement. Another alternative suggested by Mr. Watson today for the first time to my knowledge was that we might want to try a British airline instead of an American one.

It is possible that an official endorsement of Mr. Jabotinsky's travel by the War Refugee Board may be the last obstruction and that if this is arranged he will be able to get away promptly. As the result of six weeks of sad experience on this matter, however, it strikes me that we should not "jump through any more hoops" for the State Department until we are told with finality by somebody in authority that this one is the last.

W.S.

Assistant Executive Director
(Management)

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TURKISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

No. 377/252

February 21, 1944.

Mr. Peter H. Bergson
/ Co-Chairman
Emergency Committee to save the Jewish People of Europe
2317 Fifteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of February 17, 1944, I wish to suggest that Mr. Jabotinsky apply to the Turkish Consulate General, 50 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City, where he may obtain the necessary forms which must be filled out in order to obtain the authorization of the Turkish Government for a visa to be granted to him.

Yours very truly,



Turkish Ambassador

Rayner checking
2/2/44

000279

FEB 21 1944

Dear Captain May:

This will introduce Mr. Eri T. Jabotinsky, who is being sent to Turkey by the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe.

The War Refugee Board is very much interested in expediting Mr. Jabotinsky's travel arrangements. It would be appreciated if you would supply him with the proper identification tags.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) Ward Stewart

Ward Stewart
Assistant Executive Director

Captain Charles W. May
Adjutant General's Office
War Department
Room 1030, Munitions Building
Washington, D.C.

WStewart; pdk 2/21/44

000280

C O P Y

February 17, 1944

H..E. Mr. Mehmet Munir Ertegun
Ambassador E. and P. of Turkey
1606 23rd Street, Northwest
Washington, D. C.

Excellency:

The Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe would like to send Mr. Eri Theodore Jabotinsky as its representative to Turkey in order to report about the possibility of rescuing Jews out of Europe via Turkey.

Mr. Jabotinsky's trip has the approval of the War Refugee Board, which is the United States agency specifically charged with this problem of rescue. The War Refugee Board is, in fact, helping to secure the necessary air priorities and other essential arrangements necessary for wartime travel.

Mr. Jabotinsky is in possession of a Palestinian (British) passport, and we shall be very grateful to Your Excellency if you would instruct the Turkish consular authorities to issue to Mr. Jabotinsky a visa to visit Turkey for the above purpose.

Thanking you, I am, Your Excellency,

Sincerely yours,

Peter H. Bergson
Co-Chairman

000281

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INITIATED BY THE EMERGENCY CONFERENCE HELD IN NEW YORK—JULY 20-26, 1943

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February 16, 1944

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Dear Mr. Jabotinsky:

As you requested, I visited the Consulate General of Turkey at 50 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City. The instructions I received are as follows:

1. Fill out the enclosed questionnaire (which can be retyped, if you wish to do so) and send it to the Consulate General of Turkey as per above given address.
2. Enclose with this questionnaire 4 pictures of yourself, irrespective of pose.
3. Also enclose copies of letters or documents which show the U.S. Government's approval and endorsement of your mission.

It was impressed upon me the importance of inspecting your passport before a visa could be granted. The period of time which it usually takes to acquire this visa is from 4 to 5 months. I have no doubt, however, that should the U.S. Government bring direct pressure, the time could be considerably shortened.

Though you will fill out this questionnaire in English, it will then be necessary to translate it into Turkish. But this task the Turkish Consulate will do itself.

Outside of this questionnaire, there is no other form, at this time, to be filled out.

I trust this information will be helpful, and should there be any further information required, I will be glad to find it for you.

My love and regards to Aviva and Little Karny.

Sincerely



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1. Your name and address
2. Your father's name
3. Your mother's name
4. Your date and place of birth

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COLLEGE of U.S. ROCK

CONSULATE GENERAL OF TURKEY

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name and surname:
2. Your father's name:
3. Your mother's name:
4. Your date and place of birth:
5. Your actual permanent residence:
6. Your nationality:
7. Your religion:
8. Your race:
9. How did you acquire your present nationality:
10. Your marital status:
11. Which official Department issued your passport; date and number of your passport and period of validity:
12. To which city are you going; address of hotel or house where you are going to stay.
13. How long are you going to remain in Turkey:
14. Persons whom you know in Turkey; have you any near or distant relatives there?
If so, their names, surnames and occupation:
15. Your occupation:
16. Do you own any property or land in Turkey? If so where located:

000284

17. Purpose of trip to Turkey? Have you visited Turkey before? If so, date:

18. Who is accompanying you, and how related to you:

19. If you have been in Turkey previously, where from did you get a permit for residence:

FEB 15 1944

Dear Sirs:

Reference is made to your letter of February 11 requesting our assistance in facilitating a trip to Turkey by a representative of your Committee.

We are taking this matter up with the State Department immediately and will do what we can to expedite your request.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director.

Emergency Committee to Save
the Jewish People of Europe,
2317 - 15th Street, N.W.,
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JWJ

JEDuBois:scr
2/15/44

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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.

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

JWP
JEDuBois:ecr
2/15/44

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EMERGENCY COMMITTEE TO SAVE THE JEWISH PEOPLE OF EUROPE

INITIATED BY THE EMERGENCY CONFERENCE HELD IN NEW YORK—JULY 20-26, 1943

EMERGENCY CONFERENCE

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2317 - 15th STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON 9, D. C.

ADams 0840

February 11, 1944

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RECEIVED
FEB 11 1944
MAIL ROOM
INITIAL

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

Other Committee Offices:

1 EAST 44TH STREET
New York 17, N. Y.

716 WALNUT STREET
Philadelphia, Pa.

139 NORTH CLARK STREET
Chicago, Ill.

5371 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD
Los Angeles, Cal.

333 WASHINGTON STREET
Boston, Mass.

85 NEW CAVENDISH STREET
London, W1, England

WASHINGTON POST
February 14, 1944

TURKEY WILLING TO ASSIST JEWISH REFUGEE TRANSFER.

Ankara, Feb. 13 (AP). - A high government official told the Associated Press today that Turkey is willing to cooperate with the Palestine Commission and Allied diplomats in assisting Jewish refugees to leave the Balkans.

The problem was brought to the forefront by the arrival of a refugee committee headed by Dr. Isaac Herzog, grand rabbi of Palestine.

"In cases where both the country releasing the refugees and the country receiving them agree to the transfer, Turkey is willing to act as the bridge," this official said.

000290

PARAPHRASE

FROM: ANKARA

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

no. 1526 of September 7, 1943, 4 p.m.

x
Reference is made to your 1726 of 10 p.m. September 4. No (repeat no) objection in principle is raised to the proposal of the Emergency Conference to Save the Jewish People of Europe concerning the sending of a representative to this country for the purpose of inquiring concerning practicable steps which might be taken for the release of Jews in countries under Nazi domination with the intention of removing them to places of safety. It may be, however, that the Department would wish to indicate to the Conference and to other committees in the U.S. which are motivated with the same purpose that there are in Turkey several representatives of various Jewish agencies trying to achieve the same objective. The Joint Distribution Committee and the Jewish Agency for Palestine both have representatives here now. I have been informed by these representatives that while the Bulgarian Decree, issued at the instance of Grabowski, remains in effect which forbids Jews from leaving Bulgaria or territory occupied by Bulgarian forces, there is little if anything which can be accomplished, because the rail communication between Turkey and Bulgaria constitutes virtually the only means of transportation from the Balkans.

STEINHARDT

000291

COPY

PARAPHRASE

FROM: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

TO: ANKARA

No. 726 of September 4, 1943, 10 p.m.

The Department has been informed of the desire of the Emergency Conference to Save the Jewish People of Europe that a representative should be sent to Turkey and that other representatives should be sent to several other places for the purpose of inquiring about practicable steps which might be taken in regard to obtaining releases, from Nazi dominated countries, of Jews who remain in those countries and who are, therefore, subject to persecution, the purpose being that they will be removed to safe places.

It has been called to the Conference's attention by the Department that you are the representative of the general interests of the Government, and your activities as well as those of the Department in connection with the subject matter of their interest has been related to them. The above-mentioned Conference is one of a number of such committees which have the purpose at heart which has been translated into action by the Department in so far as we have been permitted by circumstances. Representatives of this Conference have, however, requested that an inquiry be directed to you, to which the Department has given its consent, for the purpose of requesting your advice on the question whether a temporary representative would in any way contribute to the extrication of persons in the category mentioned from Balkan countries. The name of Mr. Ira Hirschman, who was Vice President of Bloomingdale's Department Store in New York, has been suggested in this connection. Mr. Hirschman states that he attended the Evian Conference and that you probably recall him.

We have not consulted the military authorities, which we would do prior to consenting to such a visit, even assuming the availability of air priorities.

We would appreciate your advice.

HULL

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JUL 13 1944

Gentlemen:

I am forwarding to you herewith for your confidential information a copy of a report received from Mr. Eri Jabotinsky.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Enclosure:

Emergency Committee to
Save the Jewish People
of Europe,
2317 15th Street N.W.,
Washington, D.C.

WHL:als 7/13/44

JCA

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C o p y

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Foreign Activity Correlation

MEMORANDUM

7/12/44

WRB - Mr. Warren:

The report prepared by Eri Jabotinsky has been cleared through Censorship and may be returned to John Pehle for delivery to the Emergency Committee to Save Jewish People of Europe.

000294

7/7/4

Mr. Warren

As per our conversation

J.W. Pehle.



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COPY

REPORT TO THE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE TO SAVE THE JEWISH PEOPLE
OF EUROPE. By E. JABOTINSKY.

ANKARA, JUNE 14, 1944

A. The Turkish End

1. The American Delegates:

There are at the present moment in Turkey 4 representatives of American Jewish organizations. They are:

Mr. Sweitzer - mainly here as observer preparing the post-war activity of the HIAS and HICEM.

Mr. Reznik - representing the JDC. He is now planning to launch an independent rescue action directed mainly towards evacuating Jews from Rumania. It is, I understand, his contention that the present rescue activities are partisan in that travel and visa priorities are given to Zionists (including Revisionists). He also thinks that it all could be organized in a more businesslike manner.

Mr. Griffel - a member of the Aguda. Arrived from Palestine. Is a very fine and straightforward gentleman. Represents a rescue Committee operated from Nasau St. in N. Y. and headed by Rabbi Eliezer Silver. This Committee sent him \$25,000, various legitimations and even, I believe, a permit for trading with the enemy. The money here is in the hands of three trustees: Griffel, Klarman and Kastner. Mr. Griffel is particularly interested in Russia. I would urge a closer contact, indeed, if possible, a merger between the Emergency Committee and Mr. Griffel's organization.

Mr. Dannenberg - arrived two days ago. Represents an international Committee for the rescue of refugees. Has legitimations from Dorothy Thompson and Sinclair Lewis. He came by boat and stayed for weeks in Egypt and Palestine. I have not met him but I hear he is honest, business-like but not very polished.

There is, of course myself and Hirschman arriving in two weeks. Everybody agrees that there are too many of us but each one, including myself, thinks that he is the essential one.

2. The Palestinian Delegates

There are three factors behind the rescue activity as directed from Palestine. These are the General Rescue Committee, the Jewish Agency and E. G.'s organization. The Rescue Committee collects and distributes funds and supervises the rescue activity in Turkey thru a council in Istanbul on which all

000296

Zionist groups are represented. The Jewish Agency carries out all the political work of the Rescue Committee. It is represented in Istanbul by Mr. Barlas. The actual work of evacuation is carried out by E. G.'s organization which is represented in Turkey by three young men headed by Mr. Schind.

Mr. Barlas, the representative of the Jewish Agency in Turkey, is an indefatigable worker. He is personally unsympathetic and is on bad terms with his closest collaborators, who accuse him of wanting to do everything himself and of preferring to leave things undone rather than delegating them to someone else. Personally I rather admire the man, although I do not know whether I shall long be able to be on good terms with him. My criticism of him is that he only sees the detail, and has a shtadlan-like approach to authorities.

The party representatives who form the council in Istanbul are an unusually fine group of men working in great harmony among themselves, if not with Barlas. Griffel, Schind and Klarman are among those representatives.

Klarman is probably the best man in the group. His function is to represent the Revisionist party in the Council and to see to it that members of his party in the various countries receive their allotted number of visas and seats on the boats. He also supervises the arranging of all the documents necessary for the exit of his party members from the European countries by sending them funds and advice. He has no other function. An indication of how well he carries out his job is that in every case there are about 50% more revisionists in every transport than agreed upon because at the last moment they are the only ones who have their papers ready.

Klarman is most popular among his colleagues. He has also succeeded in keeping up correspondence with the occupied countries, receiving and writing dozens of letters daily. I strongly urge that Klarman be sent immediately to the States to report on the situation here and in the Balkans. He is most clear headed and efficient. His party will replace him here by someone from Palestine. Anyway, he is thinking of quitting the party if, as is contemplated, the party quits the General Rescue Committee in Palestine. That was also why he wanted to become the representative of the Emergency Committee.

The trio headed by Mr. Schind are a very efficient group. Schind is personally known in the States to Mr. Kogon. So is Schind's direct boss in Palestine. They have vision, courage and scope. Unfortunately, they leave their political activity to Barlas who is not up to their standard. I want to stress that I can find no fault with their method of work and their plans.

3. The Ambassador.

First I would like to say that any backing that has been given our work by the local Government is due solely to the personal efforts and prestige of Mr. Steinhardt. To him is also due the credit for all the things achieved by Mr. Hirschman. Unfortunately I have not been properly introduced to him and he thinks that my object is to snoop around and criticize. I don't mind criticizing and even blasting but I believe that Mr. Steinhardt is very effective.

B. The Underground End

1. General.

Except for the work in Greece, the word "Underground" is not appropriate for the whole thing is open and above board for all the local and German authorities to see. There exist in every country people who organize the evacuation locally. They are, to an astonishing degree the same people who worked with me on the evacuation in 1937-40. And even the evacuation from Greece was organized by one of my ex-collaborators--a personal friend of Abrasha.

2. Greece

The only country where the work is done through the local underground. The connection was first established thru that friend of Abrasha. The underground cooperates generously. The main difficulty is to locate the Jews whom you want to take for they are in hiding. The thing is now working and producing results. I do not believe that it would suit any purpose to go into details. I will say this: the difficulty is to locate the Jews in Greece who live in hiding.

3. Hungary

Until about May 15th it was the most normal country in Europe. Klarman alone used to receive about 80 letters daily from individuals in Hungary seeking visas. The difficulty was

000298

that most of the people were scared of the trip through German occupied territories and the whole system of evacuation did not get going. Some efforts indeed were made to get people from Poland into Hungary. As of the 15th, all mail from Hungary stopped. One card arrived dated the 13th, and one man is known to have got a card dated May the 20th. That is all until this week. This week a cable arrived from a Mr. Kalmann in Budapest requesting certificates for Palestine for two families. There is no information. Only rumors. It is believed that, as in the case of Rumania a year ago, the Jews of Hungary proper have not (yet) been touched. There seem to have been enormous deportations from the newly acquired regions, especially the P.K.R.

4. Rumania

Here the main work is carried out by a Greek named Pandeliss (we chartered half a dozen ships from him back in 1938-39). He started working in 1941. Together with Meisner and Ariel (a Betari, who left a month ago and is now in Palestine) they organized the "Strouma." The disaster cut their possibilities of continuing for over a year. About a year ago they began again. They bought a Greek barge "the Smyrna" and equipped it for the Sea. (The "Smyrna" is now ready and will become the property of Schind and C.E. It will shortly leave Rumania with, we hope, 2000 passengers.) Pandeliss also succeeded in getting from the Rumanian Government a charter for taking Jews out of the country. This extraordinary document has made him an absolute dictator over our work in Rumania.

Neither he nor Schind nor anyone else could do anything until, thru the pressure that you know, Palestinian certificates became available and also the transit thru Turkey was assured. Then Schind started working with Pandeliss. Pandeliss is the one who puts the people on the ships. He takes them from a representative of Schind--so many orphans, so many chalutsim (subdivided into youth organizations), so many Zionist families. A certain percentage of places are sold by Pandeliss to cover his expenses and profit. These are also sold to people indicated by Schind's representative. Of course, there is an unholy racket around the whole business. But I am firmly convinced that in Rumania this cannot be avoided. About a month ago Schind appointed as his representative a Mr. Sisu--a very rich and still influential Jew. Sisu is a man who knows no compromises and has no sense of humor. He announced that he will put

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a stop to the Pandeliss racket and, probably, proceeded to denounce Pandeliss to the authorities. The result: Pandeliss' charter was taken back and there has been no emigration for a month. I understand that Pandeliss has now succeeded in buying back the charter and that the next ship is due to leave this week.

It should be realized that Pandeliss, who is a Greek who is in this for profit and not for any ideals, does deliver the goods. Schind very properly removed Sisu and appointed another representative.

There are in Rumania Jewish circles which are unsatisfied with the mode of operation. There is especially a group of non-Zionists headed by I. W. Filderman who consider themselves discriminated against (probably with reason). They are trying to get I. W. Reznik of the J.D.C. to organize a second rescue venture "on wholesome and non-partisan" lines.

It is my intention to send to Rumania as my representative a Turkish lady named Leyla. Unfortunately this has been delayed by the fact that she has a little child who is desperately sick. The Turkish Government now grants 20 visas a week to Rumania and the recipients can travel by train thru Bulgaria. However, there seem to have happened several disagreeable incidents at the Bulgarian-Turkish border at Zwillingrad, where there is a gestapo post. People were detained or sent back and for the most part they prefer the sea route.

5. Bulgaria

There have been no deportations and no extermination of Jews. Conditions are semi-normal except that the Jews have been ruined and also have been moved out of Sofia.

The Bulgarian Government has now begun to issue exit permits to Jews--even to men of military age. However, we are far from being able to use up the 20 weekly visas right now because of the difficulty of actually getting the exit permit. To get it you have to produce some ten different documents. Some of them have to come from Sofia. It is hard to get a permission to go to Sofia and, moreover, Sofia has been bombed and disorganized very badly. Schind has twice sent Turkish ships to Burgas but they could take no passengers, mainly because of this exit permit business.

There were two Bulgarian ships in service. The Milna and the Maritsa. The Milna was taken back by the Bulgarian Government and the Maritsa was lost in a storm on its way back from Istanbul. Both these ships were secured by Abrasha's friend. I am now concentrating on the problem of Bulgaria.

6. The Shipping Situation

As I have already mentioned, the Bulgarian boats are no longer there and with the exception of Pandeliss' Greek barge "Smyrna" there are no ships to be had except under a Turkish flag.

Several Turkish boats are now loading at Constanza--rather they are waiting for a renewal of Pandeliss' charter. It is not yet clear whether the Turkish authorities will make any difficulties to the ship owners. They would be justified in a way in doing so because Turkish ships have no business to bring viss-less travelers to Istanbul. However, the Ambassador is confident that no difficulty will be made. In that case there are any number of Turkish ships which are available and the price of the voyage will probably drop.

I have received the offer of a 1000 ton ship for \$100,000 for one trip (it would mean \$100 per head for the sea passage alone). This price will come down too.

There are two Rumanian ships tied up in the harbor of Istanbul because the Turkish Government, acting on Russian request, removed a part of their machinery. They are the "Transylvania" and the "Bessarabia." There is a matter concerned with those ships on which I do not see eye to eye with Mr. Steinhardt at the present moment. I shall report on it later.

To sum up the situation: the shipping conditions are such that Schind has been able to lay plans for evacuation up to 5,000 in the coming month--if the Rumanian and other formalities can be arranged.

The Ambassador, acting on Turkish suggestion is now studying a plan for shipping the evacuees from Istanbul to Haifa by Turkish ships. (There is a regular coastal traffic of Turkish ships unmolested by the Germans.) It is easy to get ships for that, but as long as the traffic is small, the train offers an easier solution.

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D. The Turkish Attitude

The attitude of the Turkish Government has been throughout cordial, tolerant and gentlemanly. It is considered here improbable that the Turkish Government would issue a general statement of letting through refugees. They seem to think that this would be in some way a slur on Turkish sovereignty. The best place to talk to them about it is Washington.

I suggest that Turkey be offered a present of rail cars, locomotives and ships to enable her to put her existing service and facilities more completely at our disposal than until now.

I also suggest that the Turkish Ambassador be impressed by the publicity power of the Emergency Committee. I am now trying to get the Turkish press to print a few articles on the Hungarian situation. If I should succeed, I shall cable the text to Washington and it should be splashed in large ads.

The attitude of Turkey is due solely to the work of Mr. Steinhardt and to his friendship with the foreign minister.

E. Finances

Schind gets his funds from the Palestine Rescue Committee. There are internal difficulties and he is hard up. The JDC apparently participates in the Rescue Committee's funds but if Mr. Reznik should start his own evacuation campaign, there is no telling what the situation might become. There is one dominant factor: money is being used in such quantities that there is never enough. At present it has cost Schind about \$500 per head of evacuee who actually reached Palestine. I think the price can be cut to \$250 but not less.

F. My plans

My plans are dependent on the quantities of money at my disposal and on their source. Roughly my plans fall under the following headings:

1. Concentrate on Bulgaria.
2. Obtain a wholesale exit permit from Rumania.
3. Turkish press.
4. Sending ships to Rumania and Bulgaria.

I would like to emphasize that the 4th point is now properly taken care of by Schind. Unless something special happens I shall not be the one to break the united action in this field. For instance I have passed on to him a very fine proposal of a ship made to me by the owners of the ex "Sakarya".

/s/ E. Jabotinsky

P. S. The following requests will greatly facilitate my work.

1. Open a bank account to the name of

MAX BUNDRF

address: Emek Han, Galata and advise me of its opening as follows: "opened account at so-and-so bank". If necessary Bundorf will register his signature at the Embassy.

2. Any cables sent to me not thru the Embassy code should be addressed as follows: "Josef Klarman 19 Lamartine Caddesi Istanbul". Nothing else. They should invariably be routed via radio London.

3. I want a small sum deposited on Bundorf's account and the rest held at my disposal. Please inform me about it as follows. "Deposited thousand stop Five hundred thousand available". Don't cable unless the money is available for I shall spend it.

4. Rabbi Eliezer Silver heads a rescue committee which is represented here by a Mr. Griffel. They sent 24,000 Dollars to Griffel. They seem to be generally active. I want an amalgamation of their committee with the Emergency Committee.

Please tell Aviva that I have been writing twice a week for over two weeks. Also I have remembered her father's request to find him a correspondent in Turkey. The man is Max Bundorf, Emek Han Galaba. He wants Kogon to cable him an offer of textiles and of anything else. He is serious and a good friend. Let Kogon do it for I need Bundorf's help very badly. He still has his business in Bucharest and I use this connection. Also I want pictures of my daughter. Did you see my family recently?

I am planning to go back to Palestine on an invitation of Eliahu. I plan this for the middle of July and it will be conditioned by my being sure of getting back here.

/s/ Eri

000303

MEMORANDUM FOR FILES

July 13, 1944

The attached report from Mr. Jabotinsky dated June 14, 1944, forwarded to Mr. Peble through the American Embassy in Ankara, was rewritten by the Board with certain omissions for transmittal to the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe. The report as rewritten was cleared with State and Censorship before delivery to the Emergency Committee.

F.H.

F. Hodel

000304

ANKARA PALAS
ANKARA

June 14th, 1944

Mr. John W. Pehle
Director War Refugee Board
Washington DC

Dear John;

I am enclosing a detailed report of the situation here and in the Balkans. I have made it as descriptive as possible, insisting on the persons involved because it is after all these individuals who determine the course of events. There are about a dozen people involved - incidentally most of them - at least those who are working inside Europe - are old personal friends of mine who started the evacuation work together with me back in 1937-40. At the time it used to be called "illegal immigration to Palestine". Peter will be able to give you their background.

It is today three weeks since I first got to Ankara. I have certainly succeeded in reestablishing my old contacts and also getting a thorough picture of what is going on. I have not yet done anything. The main reason is that I have not received a single word from America. I have sent to date 6 cables one of which, 10 days ago, via the Ambassador, ~~has~~

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to yourself. No answer. The only items of news I did get from the States ~~are~~ were: A. a cable from my wife announcing that the baby walks and, B. An item in a Palestinian newspaper announcing that Peter has moved over to Massachusetts Ave.

I want to know if I can make expenses. Meaning this: I want to send people to Rumania, Bulgaria and Hungary. I have the people. I also have the money to send them with but I do not have the money for the actual operations should these seminars succeed. I cabled Peter that I can get the money, if necessary, through either the joint or the Jewish Agency but I want instructions. I did not get any.

I am working now on a project to get a wholesale release of the Jews of Rumania - if it succeeds it will necessitate an expenditure of about 1 to 2 millions at the outset and then the cost of ^{the} evacuation itself.

My present mood is to undertake all financial obligations as they come and let the future take care of itself.

If I sound disgruntled it is because I feel that in the six weeks since I am away from America you and Peter should have found something to write me about.

ANKARA PALAS
ANKARA

Probably, however, Peters did cable but I did not get it.

I have the following requests which will greatly facilitate my work. Please, John, make Peters carry them out immediately.

1. Open a bank account to the name of
MAX BUNDORF
address: Emek Han, Galata and advise me of its opening as follows: "opened account at so-and-so bank." If necessary Bundorf will register his signature at the Embassy.

2. Get me a press card from the New York Post. I know Ted Thackeray will do it. I can give him hot news from time to time and I want to be able to send nice cables about Turkey. Also it would be a personal pleasure to scoop the representative of the New York Times. The thing should be arranged by cable via the Ambassador. An American press card here is very useful and has no disadvantages, as I previously feared.

3. Get Claire Boothe (I do not know if that is the spelling) to cable Percival Knauth

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representing Time and life in Istanbul, to cooperate with me. He is friendly but a word from above will be helpful. Also get her permission to communicate via herself and Knauth.

4. Any cables sent to me not thru the Embassy code should be addressed as follows: "Josef Klarman 19 Lamartine Caddesi Istanbul." Nothing else. They should invariably be routed via radio London.

5. Instructions from Peter about finances. I want a small sum deposited on Bundorfs account and the rest held at my disposal. Please inform me about it as follows. "Deposited thousand stop five hundred thousand available" - don't cable unless the money is available for I shall spend it.

6. Rabbi Eliezer silver heads a rescue committee which is represented here by a Mr. Griffel. They sent 25000 Dollars to Griffel. They seem to be generally active. I want an amalgamation of their committee with the Emergency Committee.

7. Can anything be done to mend my relations with the Ambassador? They are not bad but he thinks I am a useless bore. It came about, my John, because you did not inform him of my coming. Hirschman is expected on the 24th. Unless he and Peter re-became friends, I am going to have trouble.

Will please secure the scrawl. Give my regards to Joe, Ben Aron, Mr. Lane and anyone else whom you still remembers me. Please show this letter and report to Peter. Thanks Eri

ANKARA PALAS

ANKARA

P.S. - for Peter - about Arich - I stopped over in Jerusalem to try and help him. My style was somewhat cramped by the fact that on the night after my visit to the Government, 50 people made a kind of a "Boston Tea Party" at the local radio station. As you know, the Government ^{was} ~~was~~ these suspects Arich of being in sympathy with these demonstrations. So I left and continued to negotiate through the local British Embassy ^{in Ankara}. My point is (I gave it to them in ~~their~~ writing) that if they have any accusations against the man they should put him on trial. If not they should release him and permit him to proceed on his mission of mercy. I left ~~the~~ Seligman \$100 for him. The Government, by the way, say that they have Hilevich's evidence against Arich.

Here, I am all set to start working. I only have to know where I get my funds from. If necessary, I can take over Schindl's organization in a week. All his men outside Turkey are our old friends and I received proposals from everyone of them. There are actually three of them: Pundilis, Reimer and a very dear friend of Abraham's. I am not doing it because Schindl is quite good. However he is leaving ~~out~~ (he has hemorrhoids) and will be replaced by Bar-Pel. I want your instructions on this.

I forgot to congratulate you all about the establishment of the first Freeport (at least that is what my newspaper led me to believe). It will have the most wholesome effect on the work here. Freeports in Turkey are as yet out of the question.

Please tell Avina that I have been writing twice a week for over two weeks. Also I have remembered her father's request to find him a correspondent in Turkey. The man, Max Bundorf, Emerk Han walata, ^{the} wants Kogon to cable him an offer of textiles and of anything else. He is curious and a good friend. Let Kogon do it for I need Bundorf's help very badly. He still has his business in Bucharest and I use this connection. Also I want pictures of my daughters. Did you see my family recently?

Yes. I am planning to go back to Palestine on an invitation of Eliahu. I plan this for the middle of July and it will be conditioned by my being sure of getting back here.

I received the news of your moving into the new Embassy from Schind who read it in Danon. I wish us all luck.

By the way, I am preparing to bark out of the U.S.O. Lubatky is by now probably out. It is probable that the Dietan as a body will quit. But this is for July.

Love to all in Washington and N.Y.

Em

Report to the War Refugee Board and
to the Emergency Committee to save the
Jewish People of Europe. By E. Tabakinsky
Ankara, June 14th, 1944

A. The Turkish End

1. The American Delegates:

There are at the present moment in Turkey 4 representatives of American Jewish organizations. They are:

Mr. Sweitzer - mainly here as observer preparing the post-war activity of the HIAS and HICEM.

Mr. Reznick - representing the JDC. He is now planning to launch an independent rescue action directed mainly towards evacuating Jews from Rumania. It is, I understand, his contention that the present rescue activities are partisan in that travel and visa priorities are given to Zionists (including Revisionists). He also thinks that it all could be organized in a more business-like manner.

Mr. Griffel - a member of the Aguda. Arrived from Palestine. Is a very fine and straight forward Gentleman. Represents a rescue committee operated from Nassau St in N.Y. and headed by Rabbi Eliezer Silver. This committee sent him \$25,000, various legitimations and even, I believe, a permit for trading with the enemy. The money here is in the hands of three trustees: Griffel, Klamman and Kark. Mr. Griffel is particularly interested in Rumania.

- 2 -

I gave him some ideas of my own and some which I picked up from Mr. Dubois. I would urge a closer contact, indeed, if possible, a merger between the Emergency Committee and Mr. Griffels organization.

Mr. Dannenberg arrived two days ago. Represents an International committee for the rescue of Refugees. Has legitimations from Dorothy Thompson and Sinclair Lewis. He came by boat and stayed for weeks in Egypt and Palestine. I have not met him but I hear he is honest, business-like but not very polished.

There is, of course myself and Hirschman arriving in two weeks. Everybody agrees that there are too many of us but each one, including myself, thinks that he is the energy one.

2. The Palestinian Delegates

There are three factors behind the rescue activity as directed from Palestine. These are the General Rescue Committee, the Jewish Agency and E.G.'s organization. The Rescue Committee collects and distributes funds and supervises the rescue activity in Turkey thru a Council in Istanbul on which all Zionist groups are represented. The Jewish Agency carries out all the political work of the Rescue Committee. It is represented in Istanbul by Mr. Barlans. The actual work of evacuation is carried out by E.G.'s organization which is represented in Turkey by three young men headed by Mr. Schindl.

Mr. Barlan, the representative of the Jewish Agency in Turkey is an indefatigable worker. He is personally unsympathetic and is on bad terms with his closest collaborators, who accuse him of wanting to do everything himself and of preferring to leave things undone rather than delegating them to someone else. Personally I rather admire the man, although I do not know whether I shall long be able to be on good terms with him. My criticism of him is that he only sees the detail, and has a shtadlan-like approach to authorities.

The party representatives who form the Council in Istanbul are an unusually fine group of men working in great harmony among themselves, if not with Barlan. Griffel, Schind and Klarman are among those representatives.

Klarman is probably the best man in the group. Hirschman's report about him was viciously unfair. His function is to represent the Revisionist party in the Council and to see to it that members of his party in the various countries receive their allotted number of visas and seats on the boats. He also supervises the arranging of all the ~~the~~ documents necessary for the exit of his party members from the European countries by sending them funds and advice. He has no other function. An indication of how well he carries out his job is that in every case there are about 50% more revisionists in every transport than agreed upon because at the last moment they are the only ones who have their papers ready.

Klerman is most popular among his colleagues. He has also succeeded in keeping up correspondence with the occupied countries, receiving and writing dozens of letters daily. I strongly urge that Klerman be sent immediately to the States to report on the situation here and in the Balkans. He is most clear headed and efficient. ~~His~~ His party will replace him here by someone from Palestine [Any way he is thinking of quitting the party if, as is contemplated, the party quits the General Rescue Committee in Palestine. That was also why he wanted to become the representative of the Emergency Committee].

The two headed by Mr. Schind are a very efficient group. Schind is personally known in the States to Mr. Kogon. So is Schind's direct boss in Palestine. They have vision, courage and scope. Unfortunately they leave their political activity to Barlas who is not up to their standard. I want to stress that I can find no fault with their method of work and their plans.

3. The Ambassadors.

First I would like to say that any backing that has been given our work by the local government is due solely to the personal efforts and prestige of Mr. Steinhardt. Him is also due the credit for all the things achieved by Mr. Hirschman. Unfortunately I have not been properly introduced to him and he thinks that my object is to troop around and criticize. I don't mind criticizing and even blustering but I believe that Mr. Steinhardt is very effective.

B. The Underground End

1. General.

Except for the work in Greece, the word "Underground" is not appropriate for the whole thing is open and above board for all the local and German authorities to see. There exist in every country people who organize the evacuation locally. They are, to an astonishing degree the same people who worked with me on the evacuation in 1937-40. And even the evacuation from Greece was organized by one of my ~~coll~~ ex-collaborators - a personal friend of Abrasha.

2. Greece

The only country where the work is done through the local underground. The connection was first established thru that friend of Abrasha. The underground cooperates generously. The main difficulty is to locate the Jews whom you want to take for they are in hiding. The thing is now working and producing results. I do not believe that it would suit any purpose to go into details. I will say this: the difficulty is to locate the Jews in Greece who live in hiding.

3. Hungary

Until about May 15th it was the most normal country in Europe. Klarman alone used to receive about 80 letters daily from individuals in Hungary seeking visas.

The difficulty was that most of the people were scared of the trip through German occupied territories and the whole system of evacuation did not get going. Some efforts indeed were made to get people from Poland into Hungary. As of the 15th, all mail from Hungary stopped. One card arrived dated the 13th and one man is known to have got a card dated May the 20th. That is all until this week. This week a cable arrived from a Mr. Kalmann in Bucharest Budapest requesting certificates for Palestine for two families. There is no information. Only rumors. It is believed that, as in the case of Rumania a year ago, the Jews of Hungary proper have not (yet) been touched. There seem to have been a few deportations from the newly acquired regions, especially the P. V. R.

The arrival here of a Mr. Joel Brandt, well known Budapest Jew, with a message from Eichman (the Nazi official who is in charge of exterminating the Jews) has been reported by the Ambassador. I am now inclined to think that the message is authentic. Brandt has just received a cable to return to Hungary. He is now on his way to Palestine but I understand that he intends to wait for Hirschman and then return.

What can be done about Hungary? Eichman should be given his bribe in money and further political and moral pressure should be brought to bear on Hungary. Brandt reported that the

Hungarian gentry which has now come to power is the only group of people in the world who are yet convinced that Germany is winning. Their attitude towards the Jews and indeed that of the whole Hungarian population was, according to Brandt, very bad. He said "sie benehmen sich wie die Schweine".

4. Rumania

Here the main work is carried out by a Greek named Pandeliss [we chartered half a dozen ships from him back in 1938-39]. He started working in 1941. Together with Meisner and Ariel (a Betar, who left a month ago and is now in Palestine) they organized the "Strouma". The disaster ~~cut~~ cut their possibilities of continuing for over a year. About a year ago they began again. They bought a Greek barge "the Smyrna" and equipped it for the Sea (the "Smyrna" is now ready and will become the property of Schind and Co. It will shortly leave Rumania with we hope, 2000 passengers). Pandeliss also succeeded in getting from the Rumanian Government a charter for taxing Jews out of the country. This extraordinary document has made him an absolute dictator over our work in Rumania.

Neither he nor Schind nor anyone else could do anything until, thru the

the pressure that you know, Palestinian certificates became available and also the transit thru Turkey was assured.

Then Schind started working with Pandelis. Pandelis is the one who puts the people on the ships. He takes them from a representative of Schind - so many orphans, so many chalutzim (subdivided into youth organizations), so many Zionist families, ~~among which~~ A certain percentage of places are sold by Pandelis to cover his expenses and profit. These are also sold to people indicated by Schind's representative. Of course there is an unholy racket around the whole business. But I am firmly convinced that in Rumania this cannot be avoided.

About a month ago Schind appointed as his representative a Mr. Sisu - a very rich and still influential Jew. Sisu is a man who knows no compromises and has no sense of humor. He announced that he will put a stop to the Pandelis racket and, probably, proceeded to denounce Pandelis to the authorities. The result: Pandelis's charter was taken back and there has been no emigration for a month. I understand that Pandelis has now succeeded in buying back the charter and that the next ship is due to leave this week.

It should be realized that Pandelis, who is a Greek who is in this for profit and not for any ideals, does deliver the goods. Schind very properly removed him and appointed another representative.

There are in Rumania Jewish circles which are unsatisfied with the mode of operation. There is especially a group of non-Zionists headed by Mr. Filderman who consider themselves discriminated against (probably with reason). They are trying to get Mr. Krynin of the J.D.C. to organize a second rescue venture, on "wholesome and non-partisan" lines.

It is my intention to send to Rumania as my representative a Turkish lady named Leyla. Unfortunately this has been delayed by the fact that she has a little child who is desperately sick.

The Turkish Government now grants 20 visas a ~~do~~ week to Rumania and the recipients can travel by train thru Bulgaria. However there seem to have happened several disagreeable incidents at the Bulgarian-Turkish border at Zwillingrad, where there is a gendarme post. People were detained at least back and for the most part they prefer the sea route.

5. Bulgaria

There have been no deportations and no extermination of Jews.

Conditions are semi-normal except that ^{the} Jews have been ruined and also have been moved out of Sofia.

The Bulgarian Government has now began to issue exit permits to Jews - even to men of military age. However we are far from being able to use up the 20 weekly visas right now because of the difficulty of actually getting ^{the} exit permit. To get it you have to produce some ten different documents. Some of them have to come from Sofia.

It is hard to get a permission to go to Sofia and, moreover, Sofia has been bombed and disorganized very badly.

Schindler has twice rent Turkish ships to Bulgaria but they could take no passengers, mainly because of this exit permit business.

There were two Bulgarian ~~of~~ ships in service: the Milna and the Maritza. The Milna was taken back by the Bulgarian Government and the Maritza was lost in a storm on its way back from Istanbul. Both these ships were secured by Abraham's friend. I am now concentrating on the problem of Bulgaria.

C. The Shipping Situation

As I have already mentioned, the Bulgarian boats are no longer there and with the exception of Pandelis's Greek barge "Smyna" there are no ships to be had except under a Turkish flag.

Several Turkish boats are now loading at Constantza - rather they are waiting for a renewal of Pandelis's charter. It is not yet clear whether the Turkish authorities will make any difficulties to the ship owners. They would be justified in a way in doing so because Turkish ships have no business to bring visa-less travelers to Istanbul. However the Ambassador is confident that no difficulty will be made. In that case there are any number of Turkish ships which are available and the price of the voyage will probably drop.

I have received the offer of a 1000 ton ship for ~~the~~ \$100,000 for one trip (it would mean \$100 per head for the sea passage alone). This price will come down too.

The Tani is still here. Mr. Simond says Kisselman killed it. Some believe it will still run. I did not seek any contact with this business. We do not need the Tani.

There are two Rumanian ships tied up in the harbor of Istanbul because the Turkish Government, acting on Russian request, removed a part of their machinery. They are the "Transylvania" and the "Bassarabia". There is a matter concerned with those ships on which I do not see eye to eye with Mr. Steinhardt at the present moment. I shall report on it later.

To sum up the situation: the shipping conditions are such that Schind has been able to lay plans for evacuation up to 5000 in the coming month - if the Rumanian and other formalities can be arranged.

The Ambassador, acting on Turkish suggestion is now studying a plan for shipping the evacuees from Istanbul to Haifa by Turkish ships (there is a regular coastal traffic of Turkish ships unmolested by the Germans). It is easy to get ships for that but as long as the traffic is small, the train offers an easier solution.

D. The Turkish Attitude

The attitude of the Turkish Government has been throughout cordial, tolerant and gentlemanly. It is considered here improbable that the Turkish Government would issue a general statement of letting through refugees. They seem to think that this would be in some way a slur on Turkish sovereignty. The best place to talk to them about it is Washington.

I suggest that Turkey be offered a present of railcars, locomotives and ships to enable her to put her existing service and facilities more completely at our disposal than ~~to~~ until now.

I also suggest that the Turkish Ambassador be impressed by the publicity power of the Emergency Committee.

I am now trying to get the Turkish press to print a few articles on the Hungarian situation. If I should succeed, I shall cable the text to Washington and it should be splashed in large ads.

The attitude of Turkey is due solely to the work of Mr. Steinhardt and to his friendship with the foreign ministers.

E. Finances

Schind gets his funds from the Palestine Rescue Committee. There are internal difficulties and he is hard up. The JDC apparently participates in the Rescue Committee's funds but if Mr. Reznix should start his own evacuation campaign, there is no telling what the situation might become. There is one dominant factor: money is being used in such quantities that there is never enough. At present it ^{costs} ~~costs~~ Schind about \$500 per head of evacuee who actually reached Palestine. I think the price can be cut to \$250 but not less.

F. My plans

My plans are dependent on the quantities ~~and~~ of money at my disposal and on their source.

Roughly my plans fall under the following headings:

1. Concentrate on Bulgaria.
 2. Obtain a wholesale exit permit from Rumania.
 3. Turkish ports.
 4. Sending ships to Rumania and Belgium.
- I would like to emphasize that the 4th point is now properly taken care of by Schind. Unless something

special happens I shall not be the
one to break the united action in this
field. For instance I have passed on
to him a very fine proposal of a ship
made to me by the owners of the ex "Saxony".

- X -

This report has been written by
hand because I did not want
to dictate it. E. J. Robinson

E. J. J. J. J.
% U.S. Embassy
Amv...



DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Permit for private use, \$200

Mr. John W. Pehle
Director War Refugee Board
Treasury Bldg.
Washington D. C.

Approved for pouch
Laurence A. Steinhardt
American Ambassador.

ANKARA PALAS OTELI
ANKARA (Turquie)

000327

Arrest of Jew By Turkey Laid To British Trick

Hebrew Committee
Gets Explanation
In Jabotinsky Case

By ROGER W. STUART,
World-Telegram Staff Writer.

WASHINGTON, March 6.—The mystery of why a 34-year-old member of a Hebrew Rescue Mission was deported from Turkey to Palestine and there was imprisoned by British authorities, has been explained but not satisfactorily answered, according to Peter H. Bergson, chairman of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation.

"We have been informed by the Turkish Charge d'Affairs," said Mr. Bergson, "that his government deported Mr. Eri Jabotinsky at the formal request of the British Ambassador in Ankara, who charged him with being involved with the assassination of the late British Resident Minister to the Far East."

Mr. Bergson, whose committee Mr. Jabotinsky represented in attempts to bring escaped European Jews to safety in Palestine, said the charge was utterly ridiculous.

"Otherwise," he said, "why would they so soon have released him from prison?"

Word, he explained, has been received that Mr. Jabotinsky is free in Haifa following his release. He added that the committee is trying to bring him back to the United States where his wife, mother and daughter are awaiting him.

Mr. Jabotinsky's arrest last week created somewhat of a sensation here and was the subject of a speech in Congress by Rep. Andrew L. Somers (D., Brooklyn) who demanded that "a stop be put to such brazen and open interference with our foreign policy by an outside power."

Mr. Jabotinsky originally went to Turkey in May of last year, according to Mr. Bergson, who added: "He went there with the full endorsement and assistance of the President's War Refugee Board."

The Hebrew committee chairmen charged that the (British) Colonial Office's action in arresting Mr. Jabotinsky "is an effort to gag anyone who dares speak bluntly or act on behalf of the Hebrew people of Europe and Palestine."

As long as the actual number of people who were being rescued through Turkey and shipped to Palestine was limited, declared Mr. Bergson, the British authorities in Turkey kept aloof, but when they became extensive, the Colonial Office decided to get rid of Mr. Jabotinsky. Informal requests to the Turkish officials failed, he said.

"Consequently," he went on, "an official request had to be made and a reason fabricated. So Mr. Jabotinsky was 'involved' in the assassination of Lord Moyne and the Turkish government was forced to arrest him and hand him over to the British authorities as a criminal under extradition procedure."

**Eri Jabotinsky Released
By Palestine Authorities**

**Member of Hebrew Liberation
Group Ordered to Haifa**

JERUSALEM, March 4 (AP).—
Eri Jabotinsky, who has been representative in Turkey of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, with headquarters at Washington, has been released by authorities in Palestine and ordered to reside in the northern Palestine city of Haifa. Several days ago, he was arrested by Turkish police, allowed to wind up his affairs at Istanbul and deported. He was then seized at the Palestine frontier.
Jabotinsky, a Palestine national, is a son of the late Vladimir Jabotinsky, Zionist Revisionist leader, who frequently was in conflict with the British government over problems concerning the Jewish homeland.

During the week end, a fire in the Revisionists' Club, at Haifa, Palestine, destroyed important letters and manuscripts of the elder Jabotinsky, who died in August, 1940.

000327

Jews Blocked In Plan to Slip Into Palestine

Effort to Ship 2,500 a Week Extralegally Told Here; British Knew of Scheme

A story of frankly extra-legal efforts to set up a steamship service to shuttle 2,500 Jewish refugees a week from the Balkans into Palestine was disclosed here yesterday, along with a charge that the central character, Eri Jabotinsky, member of the nine-month-old Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, had been deported from Turkey at British instigation and then arrested on his return to Palestine.

The fact that the British government had known of the defiant shuttle scheme was confirmed at the embassy in Washington, while Representative Andrew L. Somers, Democrat, of New York, was telling the House that Mr. Jabotinsky went to Turkey with "full approval of the President's War Refugee Board" in an Army bomber arranged for by the State Department.

Mr. Somers put into the Congressional Record a letter to the Earl of Halifax, British Ambassador, by Ben Hecht, co-chairman of the American League for a Free Palestine, charging that "my friend Eri has been whisked off to a British concentration camp to be held incommunicado on some marlial sand pile."

Immigration Still Permitted

John W. Russell, second secretary, said the British embassy had asked the Foreign Office several days ago for information on the basis of a Feb. 24 Ankara dispatch by The Associated Press about Mr. Jabotinsky's deportation. He added immigration into Palestine was still being legally permitted under an extension of the 1939 British White Paper at the rate of about 1,500 a month to persons applying through the Jewish Agency. Only about 3,000 permits are left under White Paper quotas, but "chances are immigration will be continued on some scale of which we haven't accurate information yet," he said.

The full story of Mr. Jabotinsky's activities as a representative of the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe was revealed by Samuel Merlin, secretary-general of the Hebrew Committee, at his office as vice-chairman of the emergency group, 25 West Forty-fifth Street.

A thirty-four-year-old engineer, born in Odessa, Russia, but now a Palestinian citizen, Mr. Jabotinsky is son of the late Vladimir Jabotinsky, world leader of the aggressive New Zionist Organization and founder of the Jewish Legion which fought in the World War. The son spent several months in prison in Palestine in 1940 for smuggling in German Jewish refugees.

Had Semi-official Status

Last May, according to Mr. Merlin, the emergency group arranged in co-operation with John W. Fehle, then executive director of the War Refugee Board, to send Mr. Jabotinsky to Ankara to help rescue Jews from occupied Europe or newly-liberated ravaged areas. Mr. Merlin said Mr. Jabotinsky had "semi-official status," and showed documents indicating his communications had arrived in diplomatic code through then Ambassador Lawrence A. Steinhardt or in diplomatic pouches.

Mr. Jabotinsky worked first in

ing some 80,000 Jews from Eastern Europe, most of whom were transferred to Palestine.

W. R. B. itself, Mr. Merlin emphasized, had remained closely within the legal framework of the White Paper, which banned Jewish immigration into Palestine after last March 31 but permitted entry on some 40,000 immigration certificates not previously utilized.

Apart from this, however, Mr. Jabotinsky also sought to arrange an illicit shuttle service to accommodate far larger numbers from among 100,000 Jews in Romania and 50,000 in Bulgaria, Mr. Merlin said. "It was the intention of Jabotinsky to break the quota," Mr. Merlin declared.

Says Russians Co-operated

Every government but the British had been sympathetic, Mr. Merlin asserted. He cited cables from Mr. Jabotinsky quoting the Romanian Foreign Minister Nov. 15 as "expressing sympathy Hebrew State, promising freedom immigration those desiring leave." Another quoted Bulgarian Propaganda Minister Dymo Kadasoss Sept. 20 as saying: "Bulgarian government has positive attitude to formation of Hebrew State Palestine because every people has right to its country. Bulgarian government won't hinder Jewish immigration to Palestine."

The efforts, Mr. Merlin said, also had the co-operation of Russian authorities in Romania. Last Dec. 7, Mr. Jabotinsky cabled he was "expecting authorization Turkish government use Turkish ship 'Tari' for a Constanta-Haifa refugee service. He reported the charter and collection and equipment of refugees would require \$200,000 for the first trip. The emergency committee's co-chairmen, Peter Bergson, who is also chairman of the Hebrew Committee, and Representative Somers cabled authorization. The next word was a radio-gram from Mr. Jabotinsky Jan. 2, which said:

"Turkish government was willing authorize use ship for refugees, but British sent note canceling promise Palestine visas Jews arriving Turkey, also requested prevent ships from transporting refugees."

Mission Unproductive

Dispiritedly, Mr. Jabotinsky called his mission "unproductive" and proposed his return. A charge that Britain had compelled Turkey to halt transit visas was made public by the American League for a Free Palestine, and the British Foreign Office commented that casing of an emergency after the Nazi ouster from the Balkans had led to tightening up transfers.

Instructed to remain to explore further possibilities, Mr. Jabotinsky next filed a cable Jan. 13 reporting that, 279 Palestine political prisoners were being deported to the Sudan amid hunger and lack of medical facilities.

First word of his deportation came to the emergency committee from an Ankara dispatch by The Associated Press. Subsequently, it received a cable from a Jerusalem attorney saying: "Eri Jabotinsky arrived at Palestinian border yesterday and was immediately arrested and transferred to Feru Jail."

Mr. Jabotinsky's mother, Jeanne; his wife, Aviva, and a twenty-month-old daughter, Karni, live at 30 West Ninetieth Street.

CHICAGO SUN - MARCH 3, 1945

Scheme to Ship Refugees To Palestine Is Revealed

Central Figure in Illegal Shuttle Service
Reported Arrested by British Government

Chicago Sun New York Bureau.

NEW YORK, March 2.—A story of frankly illegal efforts to set up a steamship service to shuttle 2,500 Jewish refugees a week into Palestine from the Balkans was disclosed here today. It also was reported that the central character, Eri Jabotinsky, member of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, had been deported from Turkey at British instigation and then arrested on his return to Palestine.

The fact that the British government had known of the scheme was confirmed at the embassy in Washington, while Representative Somers (Dem., N.Y.) was telling the House that Jabotinsky went to Turkey with "full approval of the President's war refugee board" in an Army bomber arranged for by the State Department.

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000331

The New York Times.

MAR 3 1945

BRITISH MOVE ASSAILED

Congress Is Told Jewish Relief
Worker Is Interned

WASHINGTON, March 2 (AP)—A protest was voiced in the House today against the reported imprisonment by the British Government of a representative of the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe.

Representative Andrew L. Somers, Democrat, of New York told the members of that Eri Jabotinsky had been sent to Turkey by the committee to organize the rescue of Jews in the Balkans, but had been "forced to leave" and "deported to British-controlled territory."

Representative Somers also obtained consent to include in the Congressional Record a letter from Ben Hecht to Lord Halifax, British Ambassador, asking why "my friend Eri has been whisked off to a British concentration camp to be held incommunicado."

Mr. Somers, co-chairman of the committee, said Mr. Jabotinsky, a citizen of Palestine, who has filed application for American citizenship, went to Turkey with "full approval of the President's War Refugee Board" aboard an Army bomber arranged by the State Department.

"It is with great indignation that I received this news and, 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 declared.

New York Post
MAR 2 1945

Jewish Aide Seized By British, Says Hecht

British authorities in Palestine, in an act of "international intimidation," have arrested Eri Jabotinsky, special Balkan representative of the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, following his deportation from Turkey, it was charged today by Ben Hecht, author and co-chairman of the American League for a Free Palestine.

Hecht declared that Jabotinsky's trip to Turkey to help rescue European Jews was "indorsed and made possible by the American government." Protesting the

arrest in a letter to British Ambassador Halifax, he demanded further information about "this scandalous situation."

Peter Bergson, chairman of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, of which Jabotinsky is a member, also protested to Halifax and called for Jabotinsky's immediate release from a "concentration camp."

"It is evil," Bergson said, "to deliberately chain the hands of the few persons who are trying to rescue the Jews still in Nazi clutches." Since "Palestine is an international territory, mandated to the British government," the action against Jabotinsky, a Palestinian national, is "typical of those of Nazi Germany in the territories it overran," Bergson charged.

000333

File

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THE SUN

FEB 25 1945

**Jewish Representative
In Turkey Is Deported**

Ankara, Feb. 24 (AP)—Eri Jabotinski, representative in Turkey of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation with headquarters in Washington, has been deported from Turkey to British-controlled territory. Jabotinski is a subject of Palestine.

He told correspondents in Ankara that he was courteously treated by Turkish police who allowed him to wind up his affairs in Istanbul, where he was arrested. Jabotinski asked correspondents to mail a letter of protest he had written to the British Ambassador in Turkey.

000335

The New York Times.

FEB 25 1945

HEBREW AGENT DEPORTED

Eri Jabotinski Sent From Turkey to British-Controlled Area

ANKARA, Turkey, Feb. 24 (AP) —Eri Jabotinski, representative in Turkey of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, with headquarters in Washington, has been deported from Turkey to British-controlled territory. Mr. Jabotinski is a subject of Palestine.

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000336

Turks Oust Jewish Official

Member of Liberation Committee
Protests Deportation

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000337

ERI JAHOTINSKY

~~(SECRET)~~

C. CENSORSHIP INTERCEPT

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By RAJ Date AUG 25 1980

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E. JABOTINSKY

2315 MASSACHUSETTS AVE,
WASHINGTON D.C.
U.S.A.

CAPTAIN JEREMIAH HELPERN
85, NEW CAVENDISH (ST)
3, DEWALDEN COURT.
LONDON. W.1.

JUNE 14, 1944.
AUGUST 3, 1944.

ENGLISH.

SLH
8-26

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Released

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"	"	"	"	P.I.D.
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London. S.E.4 2689 For D.F.P. 10.8.44.

DETAILED REPORT OF ACTIVITIES CENTERED IN TURKEY TO PROMOTE THE ESCAPE OF JEWS FROM THE BALKANS AND THEIR IMMIGRATION TO PALESTINE.

Writer, who is the representative of the Emergency Committee to save the Jewish People of Europe which is run by the erstwhile Committee for a Jewish Army, encloses a very interesting report on the various organizations now functioning in Turkey for the purpose of rescuing Jews from enemy and enemy occupied territory. He gives a brief resume of the personalities of the various representatives of the GENERAL RESCUE COMMITTEE, the JEWISH AGENCY and AGUDAS. He praises the American ambassador MR. STEINHARDT, for his effectiveness. He states that except in the case of GREECE, Underground is not the right term for the escape channels as in the other Balkan countries, the Germans are aware of what goes on. He does not think that Hungarian-born Jews have yet been deported. The Rumanian authorities have given a Greek named PANDELISS a "charter" for taking Jews out of the country. There has been no deportation or extermination of Jews in BULGARIA. The only ship now available is the Greek barge "SMYRNA" belonging to PANDELISS, but it is hoped that the Turkish Government will consent to charter Turkish ships as refugees are nervous of the land route. The present cost of bringing refugees to Palestine is \$500 a head. writer believes that this could be reduced to \$250 a head, not less.

(Photostat attached)

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By Authority of _____

NND 80 40 55

by AWP Date 8 AUG. 25 1980

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BYRON PRICE,
Director.

CONFIDENTIAL

J. D. 12.8.44.

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BYRON PRICE
Director.

J. D. 12.8.44.

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TERMINAL. (Air)

LON/SE/7559/44

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"	"	"	" S.E. & D.R.W.

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The Following Pages Are the Best Available

000342

REPORT TO THE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE TO SAVE THE JEWISH PEOPLE OF
EUROPE. By E. Jabotinsky.
ANKARA JUNE 14, 1944

A. The Turkish End

1. The American Delegates:

There are at the present moment in Turkey 4 representatives of American Jewish organizations. They are:

Mr. Sweitzer - mainly here as observer preparing the post-war activity of the HIAS and HICEK.

Mr. Reznik - representing the JDC. He is now planning to launch an independent rescue action directed mainly towards evacuating Jews from Rumania. It is, I understand, his contention that the present rescue activities are partisan in that travel and visa priorities are given to -oinists (including Revisiorists). He also thinks that it all could be organized in a more businesslike manner.

Mr. Griffel - a member of the Aguda. Arrived from Palestine. Is a very fine and straightforward gentleman. Represents a rescue Committee operated from Nassau St. in N.Y. and headed by Rabbi Eliezer Silver. This Committee sent him \$25,000, various legitimations and even, I believe, a permit for trading with the enemy. The money here is in the hands of three trustees; Griffel, Klarman and Kastner. Mr. Griffel is particularly interested in Russia. I would urge a closer contact, indeed, if possible, a merger between the Emergency Committee and Mr. Griffel's organization.

Mr. Dannonberg - arrived two days ago. Represents an international Committee for the rescue of refugees. Has legitimations from Dorothy Thompson and Sinclair Lewis. He came by boat and stayed for weeks in Egypt and Palestine. I have not met him but I hear he is honest, business-like but not very polished.

There is, of course myself and Hirschman arriving in tow weeks. Everybody agrees that there are too many of us but each one, including myself, thinks that he is the essential one.

2. The Palestirian Delegates

There are three factors behind the rescue activity as directed from Palestine. These are the General Rescue Committee, the Jewish Agency and E.G.'s organization. The Rescue Committee collects and distributes funds and supervises the rescue activity in Turkey thru a council in Istanbul on which all

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BYRON PRICE, Director.

000343

Zionist groups are represented. The Jewish Agency carries out all the political work of the Rescue Committee. It is represented in Istanbul by Mr. Barlas. The actual work of evacuation is carried out by E.O.'s organization which is represented in Turkey by three young men headed by Mr. Schind.

Mr. Barlas, the representative of the Jewish Agency in Turkey, is an indefatigable worker. He is personally unsympathetic and is on bad terms with his closest collaborators, who accuse him of wanting to do everything himself and of preferring to leave things undone rather than delegating them to someone else. Personally I rather admire the man, although I do not know whether I shall long be able to be on good terms with him. My criticism of him is that he only sees the detail, and has a shtetlan-like approach to authorities.

The party representatives who form the council in Istanbul are an unusually fine group of men working in great harmony among themselves, if not with Barlas. Griffel, Schind and Klarman are among those representatives.

Klarman is probably the best man in the group. His function is to represent the Revisionist party in the Council and to see to it that members of his party in the various countries receive their allotted number of visas and seats on the boats. He also supervises the arranging of all the documents necessary for the exit of his party members from the European countries by sending them funds and advice. He has no other function. An indication of how well he carries out his job is that in every case there are about 50% more revisionists in every transport than agreed upon because at the last moment they are the only ones who have their papers ready.

Klarman is most popular among his colleagues. He has also succeeded in keeping up correspondence with the occupied countries, receiving and writing dozens of letters daily. I strongly urge that Klarman be sent immediately to the States to report on the situation here and in the Balkans. He is most clear headed and efficient. His party will replace him here by someone from Palestine. Anyway, he is thinking of quitting the party if, as is contemplated, the party quits the General Rescue Committee in Palestine. That was also why he wanted to become the representative of the Emergency Committee.

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BYRON PRICE, Director.

000344

The trio headed by Mr. Schind are a very efficient group. Schind is personally known in the States to Mr. Kogon. So is Schind's direct loss in Palestine. They have vision, courage and scope. Unfortunately, they leave their political activity to Barlas who is not up to their standard. I want to stress that I can find no fault with their method of work and their plans.

3. The Ambassador.

First I would like to say that any backing that has been given our work by the local Government is due solely to the personal efforts and prestige of Mr. Steinhardt. To him is also due the credit for all the things achieved by Mr. Hirschman. Unfortunately I have not been properly introduced to him and he thinks that my object is to snoop around and criticize. I don't mind criticizing and even blasting but I believe that Mr. Steinhardt is very effective.

B. The Underground End

1. General.

Except for the work in Greece, the word "Underground" is not appropriate for the whole thing is open and above board for all the local and German authorities to see. There exist in every country people who organize the evacuation locally. They are, to an astonishing degree the same people who worked with me on the evacuation in 1937 - 40. And even the evacuation from Greece was organized by one of my ex-collaborators - a personal friend of Abrasha.

2. Greece

The only country where the work is done through the local underground. The connection was first established thru that friend of Abrasha. The underground cooperates generously. The main difficulty is to locate the Jews whom you want to take for they are in hiding. The thing is now working and producing results. I do not believe that it would suit any purpose to go into details. I will say this; the difficulty is to locate the Jews in Greece who live in hiding.

3. Hungary

Until about May 15th it was the most normal country in Europe. Klarman alone used to receive about 80 letters daily from individuals in Hungary seeking visas. The difficulty was

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BY: [Signature] Director

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that most of the people were scared of the trip through German occupied territories and the whole system of evacuation did not get going. Some efforts indeed were made to get people from Poland into Hungary. As of the 15th, all mail from Hungary stopped. One card arrived dated the 13th, and one man is known to have got a card dated May the 20th. That is all until this week. This week a cable arrived from a Mr. Kalmann in Budapest requesting certificates for Palestine for two families. There is no information. Only rumors. It is believed that, as in the case of Rumania a year ago, the Jews of Hungary proper have not (yet) been touched. There seem to have been enormous deportations from the newly acquired regions, especially the P.R.R.

4. Rumania

Here the main work is carried out by a Greek named Pandeliss (we chartered half a dozen ships from him back in 1938-39). He started work in 1941. Together with Feiserer and Ariol (a Petari, who left a month ago and is now in Palestine) they organized the "Strouma." The disaster cut their possibilities of continuing for over a year. About a year ago they began again. They bought a Greek barge "the Smyrna" and equipped it for the Sea. (The "Smyrna" is now ready and will become the property of Schind and C.E. It will shortly leave Rumania with, we hope, 2000 passengers.) Pandeliss also succeeded in getting from the Rumanian Government a charter for taking Jews out of the country. This extraordinary document has made him an absolute dictator over our work in Rumania.

Neither he nor Schind nor anyone else could do anything until, thru the pressure that you know, Palestinian certificates became available and also the transit thru Turkey was assured. Then Schind started working with Pandeliss. Pandeliss is the one who puts the people on the ships. He takes them from a representative of Schind - so many orphans, so many chalutsim (subdivided into youth organizations), so many Zionist families. A certain percentage of places are sold by Pandeliss to cover his expenses and profit. These are also sold to people indicated by Schind's representative. Of course, there is an unholy racket around the whole business, but I am firmly convinced that in Rumania this

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WYOM PRICE, Director.

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000346

cannot be avoided. About a month ago Schind appointed as his representative a Mr. Sisu - a very rich and still influential Jew. Sisu is a man who knows no compromises and has no sense of humor. He announced that he will put a stop to the Pandeliss racket and, probably, proceeded to denounce Pandeliss to the authorities. The result: Pandeliss' charter was taken back and there has been no emigration for a month. I understand that Pandeliss has now succeeded in buying back the charter and that the next ship is due to leave this week.

It should be realized that Pandeliss, who is a Greek who is in this for profit and not for any ideals, does deliver the goods. Schind very properly removed Sisu and appointed another representative.

There are in Rumania Jewish circles which are unsatisfied with the mode of operation. There is especially a group of non-Aionists headed by I.W. Filderman who consider themselves discriminated against (probably with reason). They are trying to get I.W. Reznik of the J.D.C. to organize a second rescue venture "on wholesome and non-partisan" lines.

It is my intention to send to Rumania as my representative a Turkish lady named Leyla. Unfortunately this has been delayed by the fact that she has a little child who is desperately sick. The Turkish Government now grants 20 visas a week to Rumania and the recipients can travel by train thru Bulgaria. However, there seem to have happened several disagreeable incidents at the Bulgarian-Turkish border at Swillingrad, where there is a gestapo post. People were detained or sent back and for the most part they prefer the sea route.

S. Bulgaria

There have been no deportations and no extermination of Jews. Conditions are semi-normal except that the Jews have been ruined and also have been moved out of Sofia.

The Bulgarian Government has now begun to issue exit permits to Jews - even to men of military age. However, we are far from being able to use up the 20 weekly visas right now because of the difficulty of actually getting the exit permit. To get it you have to produce some ten different documents. Some of them have to come from Sofia.

It is hard to get a permission to go to Sofia and, moreover, Sofia has been looted and disorganized very badly. Schind

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STEW PRICE Director

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has twice sent Turkish ships to Europe but they could take no passengers, mainly because of this exit permit situation. There were two Bulgarian ships in service. The *Mina* and the *Maritza*. The *Mina* was taken back by the Bulgarian Government and the *Maritza* was lost in a storm on its way back from Istanbul. Both these ships were secured by Abrams's friend. I am now concentrating on the problem of Bulgaria.

6. The Shipping Situation

As I have already mentioned, the Bulgarian boats are no longer there and with the exception of Pandeliss' Greek barge "Smyrna" there are no ships to be had except under a Turkish flag.

Several Turkish boats are now loading at Constanza - rather they are waiting for a renewal of Pandeliss' charter. It is not yet clear whether the Turkish authorities will make any difficulties to the ship owners. They would be justified in a way in doing so because Turkish ships have no business to bring visa-less travelers to Istanbul. However, the Ambassador is confident that no difficulty will be made. In that case there are any number of Turkish ships which are available and the price of the voyage will probably drop.

I have received the offer of a 1000 ton ship for \$100,000 for one trip (it would mean \$100 per head for the sea passage alone). This price will come down too.

There are two Rumanian ships tied up in the harbor of Istanbul because the Turkish Government, acting on Russian request, removed a part of their machinery. They are the "Transylvania" and the "Bessarabia." There is a matter concerned with those ships on which I do not see eye to eye with Mr. Steinhardt at the present moment. I shall report on it later.

To sum up the situation: the shipping conditions are such that Schind has been able to lay plans for evacuation up to 5,000 in the coming month - - if the Rumanian and other formalities can be arranged.

The Ambassador, acting on Turkish suggestion is now studying a plan for shipping the evacuees from Istanbul to Haifa by Turkish ships. (There is a regular coastal traffic of Turkish ships unharmed by the Germans.) It is easy to get ships for that, but as long as the traffic is small, the train offers an easier solution.

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STROM PRICE, Director.

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D. The Turkish Attitude

The attitude of the Turkish Government has been throughout cordial, tolerant and generous. It is considered to be improbable that the Turkish Government would issue a formal statement of letting through refugees. They seem to think that this would be in some way a slur on Turkish sovereignty. The best place to talk to them about it is in Ankara.

I suggest that Turkey be offered a present of mail cars, local office supplies to enable her to put her existing services and facilities more completely at our disposal than until now.

I also suggest that the Turkish Ambassador be impressed by the publicity power of the Emergency Committee. I am now trying to get the Turkish press to print a few articles on the Rumanian situation. If I should succeed, I shall attach the text to Ankara and it should be published in large ads.

The attitude of Turkey is very helpful to the work of Mr. Steinhardt and to his friendship with the Foreign Minister.

E. Finances

Schind gets his funds from the Palestine Rescue Committee. There are internal difficulties and he is hard up. The JDC apparently participated in the Rescue Committee's funds but if Mr. Seznik should start his own evacuation campaign, there is no telling what the situation might become. There is one dominant factor: money is being used in such quantities that there is never enough. At present it has cost Schind about \$500 per head of evacuee who actually reached Palestine. I think the price can be cut to \$250 but not less.

F. My plans

My plans are dependent on the quantities of money at my disposal and on their source. Roughly my plans fall under the following headings:

1. Concentrate on Bulgaria.
2. Obtain a wholesale exit permit from Rumania.
3. Turkish press.
4. Sending ships to Rumania and Bulgaria.

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BYRON PRICE, Director.

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I would like to emphasize that the 4th point is now properly taken care of by Schind. Unless something special happens I shall not be the one to break the United action in this field. For instance I have passed on to him a very fine proposal of a ship made to me by the owners of the ex "Sakarya".

*

/s/ E. Jabotinsky

P.S. The following requests will greatly facilitate my work.

1. Open a bank account to the name of

MAX BUNDORF

address: Emek Han, Galata and advise me of its opening as follows: "opened account at so-and so bank". If necessary Bundorf will register his signature at the Embassy.

2. Any cables sent to me not thru the embassy code should be addressed as follows: "Josef Klarman 19 Lamartine Gadesi Istanbul". Nothing else. They should invariably be routed via radio London.

3. I want a small sum deposited on Bundorf's account and the rest held at my disposal. Please inform me about it as follows. "Deposited thousand stop Five hundred thousand available". Don't cable unless the money is available for I shall spend it.

4. Rabbi Eliezer Silver heads a rescue committee which is represented here by a Mr. Griffel. They sent 24,000 Dollars to Griffel. They seem to be generally active. I want an amalgamation of their committee with the Emergency Committee.

Please tell Aviva that I have been writing twice a week for over two weeks. Also I have remembered her father's request to find him a correspondent in Turkey. The man is Max Bundorf, Emek Han Balaba. He wants Kogon to cable him an offer of textiles and of anything else. He is serious and a good friend. Let Kogon do it for I need Bundorf's help very badly. He still has his business in Bucharest and I use this connection. Also I want pictures of my daughter. Did you see my family recently?

I am planning to go back to Palestine on an invitation of Eliahu. I plan this for the middle of July and it will be conditioned by my being sure of getting back here.

/s/ Eri

Rou/ser 75-68

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