Sally Mayer's Negotiations in Switzerland
Folder 11: 48-68
Reverse Filing Used
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<td>Memorandum to Secretary Breitling from Mr. Fels</td>
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<td>Memorandum for the Files re: Special Negotiations with the United States for saving the Jews of Europe</td>
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December 20, 1944.

FOR LAVITT FROM SCHWARTZ.

I have followed very scrupulously instructions not to take part in any discussions which Saly Mayer is conducting. However, I want to associate myself with McClalland's recommendation since that recommendation essentially involves extension of activities already in process through Intercross. Furthermore, I regard latest suggestion which has some possibility of being accepted as face-saving proposal or device which offers possibilities or potentialities of further rescue. In this connection discussions involve 80,000 in Budapest, 17,000 in Vienna, unknown thousands on foot toward Austria, and those in camps in German-occupied Europe, including Belsenbergen. I think highest tribute should be paid to Saly Mayer. Negotiations have gained time and were directly responsible for what happened to Hungarian group from Belsenbergen. However, Saly Mayer's situation will become untenable unless favorable reply to this latest proposal is received. I have complete confidence that all our interests will be protected, both financial and American.
TO NAVY FOR CCC BY TT
DRY ED NO 301 DATE JUNE 16 1944
TRAN S/H NO 1315 JUNE 16 4 TO NO 2 LOCATION LIVONIA
TO JUD K UTT
REL: HIMAL
1:15 JUNE 16 4 1K

PROPOSAL REFERRED TO OUR MAY 4, YOUR 1AY 15
CAVE FROM JOSE BRIAN FRB HUNGARY VISITOR LAYERS.
BRIAN JUST VISITED RESULT ISTANBUL AND PROBABLY
NOW TALKING JEWISH AGENCY PALESTINE. SALLY KNOWS
OF THESE TRAVELS OF BRANDS AND THINKS BRIAN OFFICIALLY
REPRESENTS JEWISH COMMUNITIES HUNGARY AND SLOVAKIA
POSSIBLY ALSO ROMANIA. THIS PROЈ LEAVITT FROM FIIPEL
WWD 14 WED 38. SALLY THINKS BRAND RELIABLE. CON'T
AFTER WAR NOT POSSIBLE.

RABBINIC RABBI US UNITE STATES CANADA ASKED
FOR HELP ON THIS PURPOSE BY RABBI JOSEPH STERNBUSCH
IN EHRIAL RABBI PREJUDICER HUNGARY. BRAND PREJUDICE
HEREB ARAL SAYS COTSETTES NOT ABLE COLLEAGUE EFFORTS.
SCHWARTZ HAS ALL INFORMATION, WB SWITZERLAND KNOWS OF REFEREE
TO WASHINGTON OF PREJUDICE·STERNBUSCH
PROPOSITION. STERNBUSCH WAITING FOR ANSWER.

(SIGNED) NORRIS.

TOD 1913 16 JUNE 4 4 OL...

RADD NO 4 CCC TOD 1913 JUNE 44
Secretary of State

Washington

3032, Twenty-ninth

FOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD FOR HENRY LEAVITT JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE FROM JOSEPH SCHUHARTZ

"Have arranged with McClelland and Saly Mayer for return of 20 million francs which are intact. Of the 4 million francs which were sent for the account of McClelland and Sternbusch only 500,000 have been used for the purchase of food most of which has not been distributed and we have suggested that the supplies be turned over to us. Have asked McClelland to return the balance to New York or turn it over to Saly Mayer. He advises that in order do this Vaad Hatzalah New York should cable and write Sternbusch instructing him to return the funds and to whom. Also suggest you ask Vaad Hatzalah instruct Sternbusch turn over distributed supplies to disposal Saly Mayer."

CAPPERY

JMS
Recording only by special arrangement.

SECRETARY OF STATE,
Washington,

2916, May 26, 7 p.m.

URB FROM MCLELLAND

DEPT'S 1876, URB's 526, May 23.

According to your instructions the twenty million Swiss francs held in joint account with Swiss National Bank (SNB) in Salz Meyer's and my names have now been returned to FEDL Reserve Bank of New York for CCCT of JDC with Chase National. SNB officially confirmed this REF and by letter May 25.

HARRISON

JT

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

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parkes, Dato SEP 27 1972
Document # Cola: Cable # 1876 (WPI 342516) to Benin - not found in file. Presumably removed by WRI staff and filed elsewhere at a later date.

C. 1805

T.S. Colson

FORL
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES

TELEGRAPH SECTION

MAY 25, 1972
4 P.M.

RECEPTION

[Signature]

CONTROL COPY

The cable below for McClelland is UNCLASSIFIED.

Please deliver the following message to only Meyer:

St. Gell, from M. E. Loewitt, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

"Note: In order arrange refund twenty million Swiss francs please explain to Banque Nationale Suisse we recalling this special fund and instruct Banque have dollars four million six hundred sixty-two thousand four dollars sixty-six cents ($4,662,004.66) equivalent paid to Chase Bank New York account American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee through Federal Reserve Bank of New York. For your information the Refugee Board eabling McClelland similarly UNCLASSIFIED.

Following is for McClelland from Board.

You are authorized to join only Meyer in instructing Banque Nationale Suisse to pay dollars 4,662,004.66 equivalent to Chase Bank New York account JDC through Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Fund in question was established under Treasury license No. I-2402, text of which was sent you in Department's No. 480 (URB No. 382)."

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

000438
-2-1973, May 23, 4 p.m., to

(TED No. 382) of January 15, 1945. Treasury approves recall of fund by JDC.

GREW
(Acting)
(GLH)

Christian Vogt
5/23/45
CABLE TO AMLEGATION, BERN, FOR NUGELLAND FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Please deliver the following message to Saly Meyer, St. Gall, from N. A. Leavitt, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

"In order arrange refund twenty million Swiss francs please explain to Banque National Suisse we recalling this special fund and instruct Banque have dollars four million six hundred sixty-two thousand four dollars sixty-six cents ($4,662,004.66) equivalent paid to Chase Bank New York account American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee through Federal Reserve Bank of New York. For your information war refugee board cabling Nuggleland similarly unquote.

Following is for Nuggleland from Board.

You are authorized to join Saly Meyer in instructing Banque Nationale Suisse to pay dollars 4,662,004.66 equivalent to Chase Bank New York account JDC through Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Fund in question was established under Treasury license No. W-2402, text of which was sent you in Department's No. 420 (WRA No. 332) of January 25, 1945. Treasury has approved transfer back to account of JDC at Chase Bank New York.

THIS IS WRA BERN CABLE NO. 526

2:10 p.m.
May 15, 1945

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y). Cohn, DuBois, Gaston, Model, Hutchison, McCormack, O'Dwyer, Files.

FH:nd 5/16/46 Closed with O'Rourke S. F.
Dear General O'Dwyer:

In one of my early conversations with Herbert Katzki in Paris he informed me that the Board would appreciate receiving word from me concerning the claims wired to the United States by both Mr. Sternbuch of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis and by the Dutch Jewish Coordinating Committee of Geneva that Mr. Saly Mayer of the JDC here in Switzerland had been "sabotaging" Musy's efforts to bring further groups of Jewish refugees out of Germany to Switzerland.

I was not unaware that Mr. Sternbuch was levelling such charges against Saly Mayer here but I did not think that he had gone to the point of cabling them to his organization in America. With regard to Mr. Gans of the Dutch Jewish Coordinating Committee I find it difficult to understand on what grounds he passed on such erroneous information since neither he nor his committee have been directly concerned with the Musy negotiations in Germany. He was therefore peddling third hand statements.

According to recent talks I have had with Sternbuch he bases his contention that "Saly Mayer has attempted to sabotage Musy's efforts" on declarations made by Musy on the occasion of the latter's return from one of his trips to Germany some weeks ago. To the best of my knowledge such an accusation levelled against Saly Mayer is grossly and flagrantly incorrect. I know Saly Mayer well and I can unequivocally state that purposely interfering with Musy's activity in behalf of rescuing Jewish deportees is the furthest thing from Mr. Mayer's mind. Saly Mayer has always been the first to applaud the success of other groups and has never displayed Musy's tendency to "monopolize" such rescue activities.

It is possible, although we have no way checking this for certainty, that Kurt Becher, the SS contact man in Saly Mayer's negotiations, disgruntled by Musy's initial success, has on his own initiative and in the interest of maintaining his own prestige attempted in Berlin to discredit Musy's status as a negotiator in...
the matter of the release of Jewish deportees from Germany. Sternbuch's statement, based on Musy's claims, that Saly Mayer had collected and supplied Becher through Kasztner, with all press comment unfavorable to Musy's negotiations which had appeared in Switzerland, is not only incorrect but an inexcusable calumny of Mr. Mayer. If Becher himself through other channels received such clippings (which it not impossible) which he displayed in Berlin, this is purely a question of internal SS competition and backbiting over which Mr. Mayer has no control whatever.

Musy and his son returned from Germany on the afternoon of March 24 (the day before I left for Paris) empty-handed and with the report that their efforts to extricate further convoys of deportees had been unsuccessful. It is my understanding that they have since returned once more by car to Germany to continue their negotiations for the release of at least 2000 more people.

After Bruckhardt's discussions with Kaltenbrunner of the SS, by which negotiations for the release of large categories of "Schutzhäftlinge" were more or less officially opened between the German Government and the International Committee of the Red Cross, it is not surprising that Musy's dealings should become of secondary if not less importance. It is my feeling - and hope - that ICRC's present negotiations on this broader basis will now supersede and replace the previous subordinate negotiations carried on through the Saly Mayer-Becher and Sternbuch-Musy "hook-ups." At the same time, after a silence of almost 6 weeks during which time he claimed that he was ill, Becher, who had been ostensibly at the Grand Hotel in Vienna, has now announced that he wishes to come at least to the Swiss frontier to discuss urgent matters with Saly Mayer. Kasztner will probably accompany Becher. It is, however, both Saly's and my feeling that since the fall (or rather near fall at the writing of these lines) of Vienna and the obvious worsening of Germany's situation militarily Becher is now interested in a) trying to sell out certain wealthy Jews belonging to the Weiss and Chorin families whom the Nazis held as hostages in Vienna, and b) save his own hide. If this is the case our bargaining situation will be considerably strengthened and you may be sure we will take full advantage of it to rescue as many people as possible.

Very sincerely yours,

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

[Signature]
R.D. McClellan = Representative of the War Refugees Board,
THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AMERICAN LEGATION,
BERN, SWITZERLAND.
SECRET
VIA POUCH.

DIRECTOR GENERAL WILLIAM O'MYER
Executive Director
War Refugees Board,
Washington, D.C.

2410 Main St.

By air mail
Par avion
February 16, 1945

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

Dear General O'Dwyer:

As you know, we have on deposit in Switzerland the sum of 20,000,000 Swiss francs subject to the signatures of Mr. Sely Meyer and Mr. Rosewell McClelland.

Subject to the approval of the United States Government, this sum is available for the purchase of supplies which can be used to feed Jews in the occupied regions through the International Red Cross. If proper arrangements can be made for this purpose, the Joint Distribution Committee is, of course, glad to have these funds utilized for this program.

Sincerely yours,

Moses A. Leavitt
Secretary
Attention: Miss Florence Hodel

General William O'Dwyer
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

195 JAN 27 AM 10 42

US URGENT

ALLEGATION

BERN

420

The following for Muddle and McClelland from Department and

War Refugee Board is WRB 382.

Reference Department’s No. 102 of January 6, 1946.

You are advised that JDO is making remittance of twenty

million Swiss francs this week under license No. M-2402, text of

which is as follows:

"QUOTE You are hereby authorized, so far as Executive

Order No. 8289, as amended, is concerned, and notwithstanding

General Ruling No. 11, to remit the sum of Swiss francs

20,000,000 to a banking institution in Switzerland for credit

to a joint account in the names of Sally Mayer, President of

the Swiss Jewish Refugee Fund, and Roswell D. McClelland,

Representative of the War Refugee Board in Switzerland, pro-

vided the following terms and conditions shall be complied

with:

1. No part of the above sum shall be expended or

committed for expenditure except pursuant to

a specific United States Treasury license

referring to this license.

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972
2. Any withdrawal, transfer, or payment order against the above joint account shall be signed jointly by Salo Mayer, President of the Swiss Jewish Refugee Fund, and Roswell D. McClelland, Representative of the War Refugee Board in Switzerland.

You, or your bank of account, are authorized to effect the remittance licensed herein by (a) payment of the dollar amount involved to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York for credit to the Banque Nationale Suisse, Zurich, for credit to the joint account referred to above, or (b) purchase of the Swiss francs involved from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York as fiscal agent of the United States, as shall be prescribed by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. UNQUOTE.

GREV
(Acting)
(CIJ)

WRB: WNV: KX
1/28/45
WE
SWP
URGENT

CABLE TO HUDDLE AND MCCLELLAND, BERN, FROM DEPARTMENT AND WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Reference Department's No. 102 of January 6, 1945.

You are advised that JDL is making remittance of twenty million Swiss francs this week under license No. V-2402, text of which is as follows:

"You are hereby authorized, so far as Executive Order No. 8389, as amended, is concerned, and notwithstanding General ruling No. 11, to remit the sum of Swiss francs 20,000,000 to a banking institution in Switzerland for credit to a joint account in the names of Saly Mayer, President of the Swiss Jewish Refugee Fund, and Roswell D. McClelland, Representative of the War Refugee Board in Switzerland, provided the following terms and conditions shall be complied with:

1. No part of the above sum shall be expended or committed for expenditure except pursuant to a specific United States Treasury license referring to this license.

2. Any withdrawal, transfer, or payment order against the above joint account shall be signed jointly by Saly Mayer, President of the Swiss Jewish Refugee Fund, and Roswell D. McClelland, Representative of the War Refugee Board in Switzerland.

You, or your bank of account, are authorized to effect the remittance licensed herein by (a) payment of the dollar amount involved to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York for credit to the Banque Nationale Suissse, Zurich, for credit to the joint account referred to above, or (b) purchase of the Swiss francs involved from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York as fiscal agent of the United States, as shall be prescribed by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York."

This is WAB Bern 382.
In accordance with the Swiss financial regulations, the provision of the 20 million Swiss francs for humanitarian purposes had been requested on January 3, 1945.

In clarification of the arrangements, discussed at the meeting of January 3, 1945, for the purchase by the U.S. Army of certain materials in Switzerland, Mr. Stresemann indicated the desire of the Swiss National Bank that the full amount of the payment for these materials should be paid into an account of the Swiss National Bank at the New York Federal and be convertible into freely acceptable gold. The Swiss National Bank is to assume the responsibility for conforming to the Swiss export control provisions which relate to the manner in which the exporters are to receive payment, that is, the familiar 50-10-10 percent basis.

In order to provide a basis for the request that the monthly quota of Swiss francs be raised from 9-1/2 million to 12 million, Mr. Farranttindicates his willingness to transmit to Mr. Stresemann a list of the amounts of exchange estimated to be needed by the various government departments in the next six months.

In regard to the application of Oct. 17 to the Swiss banks, Mr. Stresemann indicated his belief that his government would fully meet the wishes of the U.S. government in this matter and he expressed the hope that no action along this line would be taken without prior consultation. Mr. Bernstein agrees to bring this request to the attention of Mr. Schmitt.

J. B. Southworth

SRAFF 1/25/45
MEMORANDUM

For attachment to:

PFC Letter No:

Date: January 24, 1945

TO: Liaison Officer, Foreign Funds Control

FROM: War Refugee Board

Subject: Rescue and relief in enemy territory.

There is transmitted herewith a copy of a memorandum from Miss Medel dealing with the remittance of 20,000,000 Swiss francs by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee to a banking institution in Switzerland for credit to a joint account in the names of Saly Mayer and Roswell B. McCllland for special rescue negotiations conducted under the supervision of Mr. McCllland.

The War Refugee Board recommends that appropriate Treasury licenses and other necessary documents be issued permitting the execution of the project contemplated in the letter described above.

Remarks:

See attached memorandum.

Action:

Basic license No. W-2402 issued January 25, 1945
Remittance license No. issued
Other: Letter No. 80181 to Rushmore, NY Fed., January 25, 1945

Date: January 25, 1945

For the War Refugee Board

Liaison Officer
Foreign Funds Control
In reply please refer to 30181

To: r. snead
foreign accounts section,
Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

From: • • [Name],
general assistant to the director.

There is enclosed for your information and guidance a copy of license No. 2403, issued under even date, to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc., 270 Madison Avenue, New York, for you to remit the sum of Swiss francs 20,000,000 to a banking institution in Switzerland for credit to a joint account in the names of [Names], resident of the Israeli Jewish refugee fund, and [Name], resident of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc., New York, for the purpose of assisting the refugees in Switzerland.

The funds to be remitted under this license are intended for humanitarian purposes.
In reply please refer to 79495

JAN 24, 1945

To: Mr. Norman P. Davis, Manager,
Foreign Funds Control Department.

From: E. W. O’Flaherty,
Special Assistant to the Director

There is enclosed for your information and guidance a copy of license No. W-2402, issued under even date, to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc., 270 Madison Avenue, New York, New York, authorizing it to remit the sum of Swiss francs 20,000,000 to a banking institution in Switzerland for credit to a joint account in the names of Saly Mayer, President of the Swiss Jewish Refugee Fund, and Roswell D. McClelland, Representative of the War Refugee Board in Switzerland.

The funds to be remitted under this license are intended for humanitarian purposes. Mr. Rushmore, Foreign Accounts Section, Federal Reserve Bank of New York, has also been furnished a copy of this license.

(Signed) E. W. O’Flaherty

RE:Parke:mbv 1-20-46
In reply please refer to: 80310

License No. W-3402

Dear Sirs:

You are hereby authorized, so far as Executive Order No. 8339, as amended, is concerned, and notwithstanding General Rule No. 11, to remit the sum of Swiss francs 20,000,000 to a banking institution in Switzerland for credit to a joint account in the names of Saly Mayer, President of the Swiss Jewish Refugee Fund, and Roswell D. McClelland, Representative of the War Refugee Board in Switzerland, provided the following terms and conditions shall be complied with:

1. No part of the above sum shall be expended or committed for expenditure except pursuant to a specific United States Treasury license referring to this license.

2. Any withdrawal, transfer, or payment order against the above joint account shall be signed jointly by Saly Mayer, President of the Swiss Jewish Refugee Fund, and Roswell D. McClelland, Representative of the War Refugee Board in Switzerland.

You, or your bank of account, are authorized to effect the remittance licensed herein by (a) payment of the dollar amount involved to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York for credit to the Banque Nationale Suisse, Zurich, for credit to the joint account referred to above, or (b) purchase of the Swiss francs involved from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York as fiscal agent of the United States, as shall be prescribed by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

Sincerely yours,

Orvis A. Schmidt
Director

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc.,
270 Madison Avenue,
New York, New York.
The Mr. Refugees Board, after clearance with the Department of State, recommends the immediate issuance of a license to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee to remit the sum of $20,000,000 Swiss francs to a banking institution in Switzerland for credit to a joint account in the names of Sally Mayer, President of the Swiss Refugees Fund, and Roswell D. McClelland, Representative of the Mr. Refugees Board in Switzerland, provided that (1) no part of this sum may be expended or committed for expenditure except pursuant to the prior express approval of the United States Government, and (2) any withdrawal, transfer or payment order against the joint account shall be signed jointly by Sally Mayer and Roswell D. McClelland.

The problem of obtaining the necessary Swiss francs has been referred to Mr. J. M. Bernstein of Monetary Research who has arranged with the Swiss Government for the necessary Swiss francs and has advised the Federal Reserve Bank of New York of this fact.

This license is requested in connection with certain special rescue negotiations which are presently being conducted under the supervision of Mr. McClelland in Switzerland.
TO:  Liaison Officer, Foreign Funds Control
FROM: War Refugee Board
Subject: Rescue and relief in enemy territory.

There is transmitted herewith a copy of a letter from the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee dealing with the remittance of 20,000,000 Swiss francs by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee to a banking institution in Switzerland for credit to a joint account in the names of Saly Mayer and Rosewell D. McClelland for special rescue negotiations conducted under the supervision of Mr. McClelland.

The War Refugee Board recommends that appropriate Treasury licenses and other necessary documents be issued permitting the execution of the project contemplated in the letter described above.

Remarks:

See attached memorandum.

Action:

Basic license No. W-2402 issued January 25, 1945
Remittance license No. issued - - -
Other: Letter No. 80181 to Rushmore, NY Fed., January 25, 1945

Date: January 25, 1945
In reply please refer to 60310

Licence No. B-2404

Dear Sirs:

You are hereby authorized, as far as Executive Order No. 8399, as amended, is concerned, and notwithstanding General Ruling No. 11, to remit the sum of Swiss francs 20,000,000 to a banking institution in Switzerland for credit to a joint account in the names of Sely Mayer, President of the Swiss Jewish Refugee Fund, and Roswell D. McClelland, Representative of the War Refugee Board in Switzerland, provided the following terms and conditions shall be complied with:

1. No part of the above sum shall be expended or committed for expenditure except pursuant to a specific United States Treasury license referring to this license.

2. Any withdrawal, transfer, or payment order against the above joint account shall be signed jointly by Sely Mayer, President of the Swiss Jewish Refugee Fund, and Roswell D. McClelland, Representative of the War Refugee Board in Switzerland.

You, or your bank of account, are authorized to effect the remittance licensed herein by (a) payment of the dollar amount involved to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York for credit to the Banque Nationale Suisse, Zurich, for credit to the joint account referred to above, or (b) purchase of the Swiss francs involved from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York as fiscal agent of the United States, as shall be prescribed by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

Sincerely yours,

Orville A. Schmidt
Director
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc.
270 Madison Avenue,
New York, New York.

Re: Parkers 1-19-45
In reply please refer to: 80181

To: Mr. Rushmore,
Foreign Accounts Section,
Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

From: E. W. O'Flaherty,
Special Assistant to the Director.

There is enclosed for your information and guidance a copy of license No. 7-2402, issued under even date, to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc., 270 Madison Avenue, New York, New York, authorizing it to remit the sum of Swiss francs 20,000,000 to a banking institution in Switzerland for credit to a joint account in the names of Sally Meyer, President of the Swiss Jewish Refugee Fund and Roswell D. McClelland, Representative of the War Refugee Board in Switzerland.

The funds to be remitted under this license are intended for humanitarian purposes.
In reply please refer to: 79495

JAN 24, 1945

To: 
Mr. Norman F. Davis, Manager, Foreign FundsControl Department.

From: 
E. W. O'Flaherty, Special Assistant to the Director

There is enclosed for your information and guidance a copy of license No. W-2402, issued under even date, to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc., 270 Madison Avenue, New York, New York, authorizing it to remit the sum of Swiss francs 30,000,000 to a banking institution in Switzerland for credit to a joint account in the names of Solly Meyer, President of the Swiss Jewish Refugee Fund and Roswell D. McClelland, Representative of the War Refugee Board in Switzerland.

The funds to be remitted under this license are intended for humanitarian purposes. Mr. Rushmore, Foreign Accounts Section, Federal Reserve Bank of New York, has also been furnished a copy of this license.

(Signed) E. W. O'Flaherty

RSFarkenwb 1-20-45
The Sr. refugee board, after clearance with the Department of State, recommends the immediate issuance of a license to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee to remit the sum of 20,000,000 Swiss francs to a banking institution in Switzerland for credit to a joint account in the names of Oly Mayer, President of the Swiss Refugee Fund, and Roswell D. Moulleland, Representative of the Sr. Refugee board in Switzerland, provided that (1) no part of this sum may be expended or committed for expenditure except pursuant to the prior express approval of the United States Government, and (2) any withdrawal, transfer or payment order against the joint account shall be signed jointly by Oly Mayer and Roswell D. Moulleland.

The problem of obtaining the necessary Swiss francs has been referred to Mr. W. A. Bernstein of foreign Research who has arranged with the Swiss Government for the necessary Swiss francs and has advised the Federal Reserve Bank of New York of this fact.

This license is requested in connection with certain special rescue negotiations which are presently being conducted under the supervision of Mr. Moulleland in Switzerland.
January 17, 1945.

DEPARTMENT FOR THE FILES

No. Special Negotiations with the Gestapo and SS for Saving the Jews of Europe

Background

Following the acceptance by the British and American Governments of the so-called Horthy offer, the United States representation in Switzerland felt that despite the terms of the Horthy offer, it was apparent that the final solution of the Jewish problem in Hungary could not be considered. This was due in large part to the决定了 attitude of the German Government, which had apparently sent high-ranking Gestapo agents to Budapest to prevent any deportation of the Jews.

After the attack on Hitler and following the rapid deterioration of the German military situation, the Gestapo in Budapest shifted its attention to the biological aspects of Jewish extermination, and to the purely military benefits in labor, goods and money which could be obtained from the Jews. This attitude was justified by the declaration of one of the Gestapo chiefs in Budapest to Fechter, an important member of the Budapest Jewish Community, to the effect that the Gestapo was satisfied to pump out the necessary labor from Hungarian Jewry and sell the balance of valuable property against goods.

On the other hand, the Horthy Government of Hungary, apparently frightened by world reaction, was striving to make up for the unseemly role which it had played in the persecution and deportation of the Jews. It, therefore, favored a solution of the Jewish problem through voluntary and relief under the supervision of the International Red Cross.

Previous遠洋 Proposals

Joel Brandt, a member of the Budapest Jewish Community, was sent from Budapest to Istanbul, arriving there on July 19, 1944, on the German courier plane from Vienna, bearing with him Horthy offers to halt the deportations and extermination of the Jews in return for 200 tons of tea, 200 tons of coffee, 2 million cakes of soap, and 10,000 barrels "to be used only on the Russian Front." After careful consideration, this offer was turned down by the Allied governments and Joel Brandt was never permitted by the British authorities to return to Budapest.

By R. H. Parks Date: SEP 27 1972

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 1-11-72
In the face of obvious German displeasure because of Brandt's failure to return, an effort was made by Jewish circles in Budapest to keep the negotiations with the Gestapo going by raising goods and valuables from local sources to a value of 3 million Swiss francs and by stating that a credit of 2 million more francs would be obtained in Switzerland to purchase tractors there as well as sheepskins in Slovakia. On the basis of these offers, the Gestapo in Budapest refrained from deporting to Auschwitz during the initial period of deportations, approximately 17,290 Jews. These offers were made as a stopgap in the desperate hope that in the meanwhile, Joel Brandt's negotiations would prove successful and thus render superfluous the other make-shift deals.

Gestapo representatives then expressed a desire to meet in Lisbon with Dr. Joseph Schwartz, chief European representative of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee to discuss with him the terms of payment and release of the 17,290 Jews mentioned above who were to be permitted to go to Spain. After the attempt on Hitler's life, the proposed meeting place was changed on orders from Berlin to Irun on the Spanish-French border. Schwartz, an American citizen, was refused permission by the United States Government to meet with the Gestapo representatives.

At this point, the Germans proposed to meet on the Austro-Swiss frontier on or about August 13 with Salyayer, a Swiss citizen and the representative in Switzerland of the American Joint Jewish Distribution Committee. As proof of their "good faith," and on the insistence of Kastner, who later took part in the negotiations, the Germans agreed unconditionally to release a convoy of 500 persons from Bergen-Belsen who were to be permitted to go to Switzerland, and in addition assurances were given that until the negotiations had taken place, no deportations of the 17,290 Jews referred to above would take place.

It may also be mentioned by way of background that on July 21, a Gestapo agent had visited certain Jewish groups in Bratislava who had assured him that 300 tractors were available in Switzerland. This news had created a very favorable impression with the Gestapo chief in Budapest, as according to Kastner, tractors were what the Germans most desired.

In view of the rapidly changing military situation and in view of the fact that any time gained would operate in favor of the endangered Jews, Roswell W. McClelland, the War Refugee Board representative in Switzerland, recommended that Salyayer be permitted to meet with the Gestapo agents on the Swiss-Austrian frontier. After clearance with the State Department, McClelland was advised by the Board that while ransom
transactions could not be entered into or authorized by the United States Government, the board nevertheless had no objection to a meeting taking place between Saly Layter and the German authorities in order that further time might be gained for the endangered Jews. It was specified by the board that Saly Layter could only participate in such discussions as a Swiss citizen and a leader of the Swiss Jewish Community, not as a representative of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee or any other American organization.

Saly Layter Negotiations

The first meeting between Saly Layter and the Gestapo and SS representatives took place on August 20. The Germans advised Saly Layter that Himmler himself was aware of and approved of the negotiations. They proposed to release all Jews in Nazi controlled territory, including those in Hungary, numbering in all about 1 million, in consideration for the delivery to the German authorities of 10,000 trucks. Saly Layter replied that any such proposal was bound to meet a categorical refusal from the United States and that furthermore he would not enter into a deal which would involve the delivery of war materials which could be used against the Allies. Saly Layter suggested that another formula would have to be worked out if the Germans desired to avoid such a refusal. The German representatives stated that the 10,000 truck proposal had originated in Jewish circles in Budapest and had originally been made by Kasztner, not by them. They then suggested a compromise arrangement whereby Saly Layter would put up a fund of 50 million dollars for the purchase of supplies in neutral countries to be shipped to Germany. Saly Layter sought and obtained a ten day breathing spell in order that this proposal might be considered.

The second series of meetings between Saly Layter and the Germans took place on September 3, 4 and 5. This time only one person was present to represent the Germans, a member of the SS. He was accompanied, however, as the last time, by Kasztner and also by Wilhelm Bielitz. In order to stall further for time, Saly Layter invited the Germans to present a detailed list of the goods they desired. Apparently the Germans were modifying their original demands, for during this meeting the German representative talked in terms of goods valued at 100 million Swiss francs.

On September 27 another meeting took place. This time a new Gestapo agent represented the Germans. As in the former meeting, Kasztner and Bielitz were present. Claiming that he lacked the necessary technical qualifications to compile a list of goods desired in Switzerland, Saly Layter again invited the Germans to send representatives to Switzerland for that purpose.
On October 20, 1944, the War Refugee Board cabled Ambassador Harrison in Moscow requesting him to advise the Russian Government of the discussions that were taking place. The cable to Moscow reads in part as follows:

"The Swiss citizens involved in these discussions have acted in the belief that lives can be saved and precious time gained by prolonging discussion pending the solution of the problem by military action. No commitments or agreements have been made or authorized."

A similar cable was sent by the War Refugee Board to the American Embassy in London on October 21, 1944.

From November 1 to November 16, almost daily meetings were held between Saly Layer and the Gestapo representatives. Kastner was present at the earlier meetings. During all this time Saly Layer ingeniously continued the discussions, making no commitments, keeping the Board's representative fully advised of what was taking place and using every possible device to stall for time.

On November 16 McColland cabled recommending that Saly Layer be instructed to discontinue the negotiations as tactfully as possible, as he feared that if the bluff was carried too far before negotiations were broken off, the Nazis might effect reprisals against the Jews. On November 18 the Board replied as follows:

"The Board has carefully considered and recognizes the force of your argument concerning bringing the negotiations to a close. In this connection however the Board is confident that you will take into consideration the fact that because of recent military developments each day that can be gained is of increasing importance."

In the meetings with the German representatives which took place at St. Margre on the Swiss-German frontier during the first week in December, Saly Layer attempted to swing the negotiations away from the fruitless commercial tenor of the former discussions to a consideration of the following general proposal, which it is significant to note was submitted by the SS negotiator, a man named Crell, to his superiors with his support. In return for halting the extermination of the Jews in German control, Saly Layer would undertake to have sent to Germany the necessary relief supplies to keep these Jews alive, provided that their distribution would be supervised by the International Red Cross. Saly Layer's proposal was purposely made vague in order that still more valuable time might be obtained pending clarification of the terms.
Thus, no mention was made of the source from which the relief goods would be obtained, the quantities, the timing of the shipments to Germany, the mechanism of control by the International Red Cross, etc.

On December 28, 1944, McClelland cabled that if the negotiations were to be continued any longer it was indispensable that 20,000,000 Swiss francs be transferred to Saly Layer at once in order that he might have something tangible to talk with. It was pointed out that if matters came to a showdown it would be impossible to obtain that amount of relief supplies in Switzerland, as essential items such as fats, clothing and shoes are almost unobtainable in the necessary quantities, and therefore the supplies would have to come from overseas. However, this problem would furnish a basis for further prolonging the discussions.

After clearance with the State and Treasury Departments, Saly Layer was advised by cable dated January 6 that the United States Government was authorizing the remittance to Switzerland by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee of the Swiss franc equivalent of 5 million dollars upon the condition that no part of this sum would be expended or committed for expenditure without the express prior approval of the United States Government. The War Refugees Board cable to McClelland reads in part as follows:

"This transfer has been approved solely in order that Saly Layer may have something tangible with which to hold open the negotiations and for the gaining of more precious time."

The Russian and British Governments were advised of this new turn in the negotiations in cables sent on the same day.

By way of conclusion it may be mentioned that approximately 1675 Hungarian Jews have been released from concentration camps in German-controlled territory to Switzerland during the course of the Saly Layer negotiations. Reports to the Board indicate that the German negotiators were directly responsible for the release of these Jews.
AMLEGATION

BERN

102

FOR MCCULLAND FROM DEPARTMENT AND WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Reference your No. 6390 of December 28, 1944.

This Government is authorizing the remittance of a special fund of twenty million Swiss francs by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee to Saly Mayer upon condition that no (repeat no) part of the fund may be expended or committed for expenditure without the express prior approval of this Government. The War Refugee Board is relying on you to take such steps as are necessary to see that this condition is carried out and you should report by cable the steps taken. Presumably, none of these funds could in any event be paid out without prior approval of our principal allies. The transfer has been approved solely in order that Saly Mayer may have something tangible with which to hold open the negotiations and for the gaining of more precious time.

The British and Russian Governments are being advised that the above-mentioned transfer of twenty million Swiss francs has been authorized under the condition specified.

Please keep Department and Board advised of any significant developments.

STETTINUS (GIU)

Phone No. 175/45
BC EL SK WE CE
CABLE TO HUDDLE, BERN, FOR MCGEELAND FROM DEPARTMENT AND WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Reference your No. 8390 of December 28, 1944.

This Government is authorizing the remittance of a special fund of twenty million Swiss francs by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee to Saly Mayer upon condition that no part of the fund may be expended or committed for expenditure without the express prior approval of this Government. The War Refugee Board is relying on you to take such steps as are necessary to see that this condition is carried out. Presumably, none of these funds could in any event be paid out without prior approval of our principal allies. The transfer has been approved solely in order that Saly Mayer may have something tangible with which to hold open the negotiations and for the gaining of more precious time.

The British and Russian Governments are being advised that the above-mentioned transfer of twenty million Swiss francs has been authorized under the condition specified.

Please keep Department and Board advised of any significant developments.
TO WILHART AND MANN FROM DEPARTMENT AND WAR REFUGEE BOARD:

You are requested to inform the British Government that the discussions referred to in Department’s No. 8780 of October 21, 1944, have been continuing. The discussions originating in various ransom proposals have changed in recent weeks to a proposal by the Swiss participants that in principle, in return for the halting of the extermination of Jews in German hands, relief supplies might be made available for distribution under International Red Cross supervision to keep surviving Jews alive. In order to have something tangible with which to prolong the negotiations and thus gain more previous time, the representatives of the Swiss Jewish Community conducting the negotiations have requested the transfer to Switzerland of twenty million Swiss francs from private American Jewish sources. This Government has just authorized the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee to transfer the sum of twenty million Swiss francs to Switzerland upon condition that no part of the fund will be expended or committed for expenditure without the express prior approval of this Government.

You will be kept fully advised of any further significant developments.
The foregoing has also been transmitted to Moscow.

SITTTINUS

(GLN)
CABLE TO WINANT AND MANN, LONDON, FROM DEPARTMENT AND WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

You are requested to inform the British Government that the discussions referred to in Department’s No. 9780 of October 21, 1944, have been continuing. The discussions originating in various ransom proposals have in recent weeks changed to a proposal by the Swiss participants that, in principle, in return for the halting of the extermination of Jews in German hands, relief supplies might be made available for distribution under International Red Cross supervision to keep the surviving Jews alive. The discussions have recently reached a stage where, in order to have something tangible with which to prolong the negotiations and thus gain more precious time, the representatives of the Swiss Jewish Community conducting the negotiations requested the transfer to Switzerland of twenty million Swiss francs from private American Jewish sources. The Government has just authorized the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee to transfer the sum of twenty million Swiss francs to Switzerland upon condition that no part of the fund will be expended or committed for expenditure without the express prior approval of this Government.

You will be kept fully advised of any further significant developments.

The foregoing has also been transmitted to Moscow.
You are requested to inform the British Government that the discussions referred to in Department's No. 8780 of October 21, 1944, have been continuing and have recently reached a stage where, in order to have something tangible with which to prolong the negotiations and thus gain more precious time, the representatives of the Swiss Jewish Community conducting the negotiations requested the transfer to Switzerland of twenty million Swiss francs from private American Jewish sources. This Government has just authorized the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee to transfer the sum of twenty million Swiss francs to Switzerland upon condition that no part of the fund will be expended or committed for expenditure without the express prior approval of this Government.

You will be kept fully advised of any further significant developments.

The foregoing has also been transmitted to Moscow.
From Department and War Refugee Board for attention of Harriman.

You are requested to inform the Soviet Government that the discussions referred to in Department's No. 2486 of October 20, 1944, have been continuing and have recently reached a stage where in order to have something tangible with which to prolong the negotiations and thus gain more precious time, the representatives of the Swiss Jewish Community conducting the negotiations requested the transfer to Switzerland of twenty million Swiss francs from private American Jewish sources. This Government has just authorized the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee to transfer the sum of twenty million Swiss francs to Switzerland upon condition that no part of the fund will be expended or committed for expenditure without the express prior approval of this Government.

You will be kept fully advised of any further significant developments.

STETTINIUS
You are requested to inform the Soviet Government that the discussions referred to in Department's No. 2484 of October 20, 1944, have been continuing. The discussions originating in various ransom proposals have in recent weeks changed to a proposal by the Swiss participants that, in principle, in return for the halting of the extermination of Jews in German hands, relief supplies might be made available for distribution under International Red Cross supervision to keep the surviving Jews alive. The discussions have recently reached a stage where, in order to have something tangible with which to prolong the negotiations and thus gain more precious time, the representatives of the Swiss Jewish Community conducting the negotiations requested the transfer to Switzerland of twenty million Swiss francs from private American Jewish sources. This Government has just authorized the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee to transfer the sum of twenty million Swiss francs to Switzerland upon condition that no part of the fund will be expended or committed for expenditure without the express prior approval of this Government.

You will be kept fully advised of any further significant developments.
CABLE TO HARRIHAN, MOSCOW, FARM DEPARTMENT AND WAR PROGRESS BOARD

You are requested to inform the Soviet Government that the discussions referred to in Department's No. 2432 of October 30, 1944, have been continuing, and have recently reached a stage where, in order to have something tangible with which to prolong the negotiations and thus gain more precious time, the representatives of the Swiss Jewish Community conducting the negotiations requested the transfer to Switzerland of twenty million Swiss francs from private American Jewish sources. This Government has just authorized the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee to transfer the sum of twenty million Swiss francs to Switzerland upon condition that no part of the fund will be expended or committed for expenditure without the express prior approval of this Government.

You will be kept fully advised of any further significant developments.

FILM 1/2-45
CABLE TO HARRIMAN, MOSCOW, FROM DEPARTMENT AND JAR REFUGEE BOARD

You are requested to inform the Soviet Government that the discussions referred to in Department's No. 2494 of October 30, 1944, have been continuing and have recently reached a stage where, in order to have something tangible with which to prolong the negotiations and thus gain more precious time, the representatives of the Swiss Jewish Community conducting the negotiations requested the transfer to Switzerland of twenty million Swiss francs from private American Jewish sources. This Government has just authorized the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee to transfer the sum of twenty million Swiss francs to Switzerland upon condition that no part of the fund will be expended or committed for expenditure without the express prior approval of this Government.

You will be kept fully advised of any further significant developments.
January 6, 1945.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

Mr. George Warren telephoned me today to advise that the cables to London, Moscow and Bern had been cleared throughout the State Department and would be dispatched about noon today.

Mr. Pehle telephoned Colonel Gerhardt to advise him what had happened and arranged to send Colonel Gerhardt copies of the memorandum to Secretary Stettinius and the three cables.

F. Hodel.
As you know, a series of meetings have been held on the Swiss-German frontier since late August between Saly Mayer, a Swiss citizen, and members of the German Gestapo and SS. Saly Mayer is negotiating for the lives of the Jews still remaining in Nazi-controlled Europe. The discussions have now reached a point where Mayer appears to have succeeded in swinging the negotiations away from ransom to a consideration of a proposal whereby, in return for the halting of the extermination of the Jews in German hands, Saly Mayer would undertake to send to German-occupied countries the necessary relief supplies to keep these Jews alive, provided that the supplies are distributed under international Red Cross supervision.

This proposal, which very significantly the Gestapo and SS negotiators consented to submit to their superiors, was purposely made vague in order that more valuable time might be obtained for clarification of the terms. However, Saly Mayer has concluded that in order to hold open the negotiations, he must have something tangible with which to bait the Nazis and he has requested the transfer of 20,000,000 Swiss francs from the United States to him in Switzerland. The Board's representative in Switzerland, Roswell McClelland, has strongly recommended that we approve such a transfer. It is assumed that the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee will supply the funds requested.

It is recommended that, for the sole purpose of enabling Saly Mayer to continue these negotiations and to gain more precious time, this Government authorize the transfer of a special fund of 20,000,000 Swiss francs by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee to Saly Mayer under the condition that no part of the fund be expended or committed for expenditure without the express
prior approval of this Government. I attach for your
consideration a proposed cable to Bern approving the
transfer and cables to London and Moscow informing them
of such action. These cables have been cleared with the
Secretary of State for Air, but have not been cleared with
the War Department. If you are in agreement, I shall be
pleased to discuss the matter with the War Department.

In view of the extreme urgency of the matter, I
would appreciate an early expression of your views.

[Handwritten] J. B. Fehl

J. B. Fehl
Executive Director

Attachments.
Secretary of State
Washington
8390, December 28, 6 p.m.

FOR PERSONAL USE FROM MCCLELLAND
Department's 4273, December 19 WRB's 328 and Legation's 8118, December 13.

I have discussed exhaustively with Sal Mayer and Joseph Schwartz present status of negotiations as reported in our 8118, in light of your reply, 4273. We reached conclusions that it is indispensable to satisfactory continuation of negotiations that the twenty million Swiss francs be transferred to us as soon as possible so that he may have something tangible to talk about.

Schwartz informs me that this sum will be forthcoming in the United States of America from Jewish sources if its remittance is approved by the competent authorities.

The twenty million should naturally be sent on condition that they can only be spent under proper control by the ICRC for

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972
DECEMBER 28, 6 P.M. FROM BERN

by the ICRC for maintenance relief and emigration of Jews in German hands.

His proposal was made to Germans purely in principle, details as to source of relief goods, their quantity and shipping rhythm mechanism of ICRC control and similar questions being purposely left in abeyance so that their later elaboration might constitute a time-gaining device.

Schwartz is of opinion that there should be no rush about spending this money once here: and so much the better if supplies are difficult to find. On other hand if proposal is accepted by Germans and does reach point where supplies must be shipped twenty million francs worth of appropriate relief goods can certainly not (repeat not) be found in Switzerland. Such essential items as fats, clothing and shoes are well nigh un-purchasable here in necessary quantities. On a show-down supplies would therefore have to come from overseas.

HUDDIE

BB
Secretary of State,

Washington.

8880, December 28, 6 p.m. (SECTION 30)

It has been SM's main object to bring these negotiations around to an acceptable basis which could be freely submitted to our Government our Allies and to neutral Governments such as Switzerland and Sweden and even be of a nature to list support and aid of all. I, therefore, recommend that basic proposal be discussed with our principal Allies and their agreement in principle obtained if possible.

If SM can be provided with the twenty million this will permit them to ask Crall or even Becker to come to Switzerland once more for further discussion and avoid breaking off negotiations by default. It will then become apparent whether Germans are willing to accept SM's new proposal in principle.

In light of past few months experience of these frequent conversations with them I distinctly feel they are worthwhile continuing as something further may come of them.

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73

By R. H. Pake Date SEP 24 1972
-2-#390, December 28, 6 p.m. (SECTION TWO) from Bern

of them. The recent delivery to Switzerland of Hungarian
group from Bergenbelsen in forces this feeling.

Kindly inform me soon as possible whether the twenty
million can be transferred. (END OF MESSAGE.)

HUFFIE

EH
Dear Colonel Gerhardt:

Pursuant to our conversation, I am sending you herewith copies of all of the cables relating to the special negotiations which have been taking place in Switzerland. If you have any further questions concerning this matter, will you please let me know.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Colonel Harrison A. Gerhardt,
Executive to the Assistant Secretary of War
Room 4233D
Pentagon Building
Washington, D. C.

Enclosures.

Sent 1/20/44

Signed by Maj. Gen. [illegible]

PHHd 12/26/44
Mr. John W. Pehle,
Executive Director,
War Refugee Board,
Washington, 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

It was unfortunately not practicable to answer your letter of September 15 until receipt of the views of the Department of State. I assume that your office has now received a copy of Secretary Hull's letter dated October 9.

I feel that the Office of Censorship is in duty bound to suppress the three messages referred to in my letter of September 9. This action is predicated upon the following circumstances which, in our opinion, seem to be established beyond a reasonable doubt:

(a) Even though Mr. Mayer may be a Swiss citizen, he is, in the last analysis of this correspondence, acting as an agent of the Joint Distribution Committee.

(b) It is apparently the object of this negotiation to transfer twenty-five million dollars of private American funds to Switzerland.

(c) It seems clear that after some involved transactions the ultimate disposition of these funds will benefit the Gestapo in the nature of a ransom payment.

(d) It would appear that transactions of this nature are clearly in violation of the "Trading with the Enemy Act" on the part of the Joint Distribution Committee.

(e) The Office of Censorship, like other agencies and departments of the government, is obliged to observe and enforce the policies of the United States Government.

I am sure you will understand that the Office of Censorship is not prepared to be a party to transactions in the nature of ransom payments, unless it can be established that such transactions are in conformity with the stated policy of the government. The correspondence includes no such commitment or statement of policy.

Relative to your statement that the messages "will be used by the Board solely as a basis for discussion with representatives of the organization," it is difficult to see how these messages can be discussed without practical disclosure of their content and purpose. No such use of these messages is approved, as such would be equivalent to the virtual delivery of a suppressed message.

Sincerely yours,

Byron Price,
Director.
The following for McClelland is WRB 329.

Please refer to your No. 6118 of December 13, 1944. We have

read with great interest your comments concerning the new turn

which the negotiations have taken. We appreciate Mayer's

courage and ingenuity.

As we understand it, the proposal is to furnish, from Switzerland,

under appropriate supervision, relief to Jews in German-

controlled territory. It is impossible, however, to determine

from your cable the exact details of Mayer's proposal. In particu-

lar, we have no way of knowing whether necessary supplies could be

obtained in Switzerland. Nor are we able to determine whether

adequate controls could be established through the ICRC or other-

wise to ensure that the supplies would benefit the Jews and not

the Germans. Accordingly it is obviously not possible at this

point to determine whether the proposal can be approved. In any

event the agreement of the principal Allies would presumably have

to be obtained. If a satisfactory scheme can be worked out we

feel sure that adequate funds will be available. You are author-

ized to advise Mayer accordingly.

We will appreciate being fully advised of the progress of

these negotiations.

WRB:GLW100H WE BO STEPTINUS SE

12/19/44
(Within framework of)

In any event the agreement of the principal allies would have to be obtained.

[Signature]
CABLE TO HUDDLE, BERN, FOR MCCLELLAND FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Please refer to your No. 318 of December 13, 1944. We have read with great interest your comments concerning the new turn which the negotiations have taken. We appreciate Mayer's courage and ingenuity.

As we understand it, the proposal is to furnish, from Switzerland, under appropriate supervision, relief to Jews in German-controlled territory. It is impossible, however, to determine from your cable the exact details of Mayer's proposal. In particular we have no way of knowing whether necessary supplies could be obtained in Switzerland. Nor are we able to determine whether adequate controls could be established through the ICRC or otherwise to assure that the supplies would benefit the Jews and not the Germans. Accordingly, it is obviously not possible at this point to determine whether the proposal can be approved. However, if a satisfactory scheme can be worked out, we feel sure that adequate funds will be available for this purpose. You are authorized to advise Mayer accordingly.

We will appreciate being fully advised of the progress of these negotiations.

THIS IS WBB BERN CABLE NO. 328.

3:45 p.m.
December 16, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Secty) Anderson, Ackermann, Conn, DeBoe, Friedman, Hoel, Hannan, McCormack, Pries
Pursuing negotiations last referred to in Bern's
7565 November 18 Saly Mayer in course of my recent
conversations with new representative which took place
at St. Margrethen on Swiss German frontier during
first week in December in an effort to get away from
unfruitful commercial toner of previous negotiations
made following general proposal to Germans: Extermination
of all "Schutzhaftlinge" particularly Jewish deportees,
in German hands should cease. In return for this
concession, which Becker at Budapest reports is already
observing pending outcome of negotiations on former
"Gods" basis, and in response to German claims that
maintenance of several hundred United States and Jews
constitutes severe strain on their resources Mayer would
procure

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks  1972
December 13, 7 p.m. (SECTION ONE) From Bern

procure the necessary supplies to keep Jews in German controlled areas alive. The proper distribution of such supplies would either be affected or at least supervised by ICRC.

It is significant to note that SS representative a new man named Croll sent to border by Becher did not reject Mayor's proposal "prima facie" but agreed to submit it to his superior and much supported. Fact that Becher and Shever obtained sufficient interest in these negotiations to dispatch Croll to talk to Mayor in attempt to learn why negotiations had "bogged down" after relative failure of Kettlitz mission (his Swiss visa expired and he had to leave country at end of November) is also noteworthy.

Although I am personally skeptical that such a watered down proposal (from SS viewpoint) will hold any great interest for Germans certainly nothing has been lost in making it and a few more precious days have been gained.

HUBBLE
It is, however, essential to favorable continuation of negotiations that Nayar know as soon as possible whether if Germans should accept this new proposition the credit of twenty million Swiss francs referred to in Department's 3578, October 20, THB's 27 will be made available to him or if not in cash its equivalent in food-stuffs, clothing, shoes and medicines.

Nayar will undertake to persuade Germans to shift over to this new basis, that is allow Jews in their hands to be supported from outside and firmly believes that something may come of it.

On a purely realistic basis main advantage apparent to me such a proposal might for Nazis would be to relieve them of responsibility of maintaining considerable number of Jews (one which they can hardly be said have adequately discharged in past) and possibly afford certain of them opportunity to...
opportunity to claim preferential treatment from Allies after war for "humanitarian acts". Implementation of such a proposal if accepted could give rise to difficult question for instance whether Nazis could continue to use such Jews fed and clothed from outside as forced labor in support of German war effort.

I recommend, however, this new proposal of Udyor's to serious consideration of Bern and hope that all possible support can be given to this most laudable effort on his part to bring negotiations around to an acceptable basis.

Your early answer would be appreciated.

(END OF MESSAGE).

HIDDLE

BB
December 6, 1944

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Robert Pilpel was received through the American Legation in Lisbon under date of December 4, 1944:

"129. Salo met Kastner at Bern and informed him unable prolong negotiations further, except by resigning as president of Swiss negotiating committee. Salo employed this device and resigned of course he carrying on and Sally's representative meeting Kastner again today Kastner within one hours distance."

Very truly yours,

(signed) J. M. Pohle
J. M. Fehle
Executive Director

Mr. M. A. Leavitt, Secretary,
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,
Secretary of State
Washington.

4125, Fourth

For Leavitt from Filipel JDC 189 Saly met Kastner at Bern and informed him unable prolong negotiations further except by resigning as president of Swiss negotiating committee Saly employed this device and resigned of course he carrying on and Salys representative meeting Kastner again today Kastner within one hours distance.

CROCKER

FS

CONTROL COPY
The following for Vichyland from War Refugee Board is WUB 287.

Joseph Schwartz of the JDC will soon arrive in Switzerland to discuss with you and other interested persons various problems of refugee rescue and relief. We trust that you will give him the full benefit of your experience and information in the matter.

We assume you will inform Schwartz, upon his arrival, of the contents of our No. 3952 of November 16 (WUB 285) in which the Swiss stated its opposition to the transaction outlined in your No. 7668 of November 16. You should indicate to Schwartz that under no circumstances may or participate in any war in the negotiations referred to in your No. 7668, which have been carried on by A.M. as a representative of the Swiss Jewish community.

CONTROL COPY
CABLE TO HARRISON AND MOOLELLAND, BERN, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Joseph Schwartz of the JDC will soon arrive in Switzerland to discuss with you and other interested persons various problems of refugee rescue and relief. We trust that you will give him the full benefit of your experience and information in the matter.

We assume you will inform Schwartz, upon his arrival, of the contents of our No. 2932 of November 18 (WRB 285) in which the Board stated its opposition to the transaction outlined in your No. 7565 of November 16. You should indicate to Schwartz that under no circumstances may he participate in any way in the negotiations referred to your No. 7565, which have been carried on by S.M. as a representative of the Swiss Jewish community.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE No. 287.

3:00 p.m.
November 21, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Ackermann, Cohn, Dubois, Friedman, Hodel, Lesser, Mannen, McCormack, Pless
AMERICAN
LONDON
9790

The following for Mann from Pehle in 1930 st.

Please advise Dr. Joseph Schwartz that JDC requests him to proceed to Switzerland at once.

In view of urgency please lend every assistance to Schwartz in obtaining travel and advise date of his departure.
CABLE TO VINCENT, LONDON, FOR BARN FROM FISHK, WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Please advise Dr. Joseph Schwartz that JDC requests him to proceed to Switzerland at once. In view of urgency please lend every assistance to Schwartz in obtaining travel and advise date of his departure.

THIS IS WAR LONDON CABLE NO. 27.

10:45 a.m.
November 20, 1944

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

Filed 11/20/44
To Harrison and Hooklland, From War Refugees Board

Careful consideration has been given to the subject matter of your cable 7535 of November 16. This is WBB Bern cable 285.

The transaction outlined in your cable cannot (repeat not) be supported by the Board in any way and further it is the Board's opinion that no (repeat no) funa from any source should be used to carry out such proposal.

The Board has carefully considered and recognizes the force of your argument concerning bringing the negotiations to a close. In this connection however the Board is confident that you will take into consideration the fact that because of recent military developments each day that can be gained is of increasing importance.

Smytihnus
(Acting)

W& E
SE
SE

CONTROL COPY

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By H. Parks Date

11/18/44

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OUTGOING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

November 16, 1944

Midnight

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OUTGOING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

November 16, 1944

Midnight
CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AND MOULLAND, BERN, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD,

Please refer to your No. 7565 of November 16.

The matter referred to in your cable has been carefully considered. We are opposed to the transaction outlined in your cable and are of the opinion that no (repeat no) funds from any source should be used to carry out such transaction.

We recognize the force of your argument concerning the breaking off of negotiations. We are sure, however, that you will take into account the fact that recent military developments make each day that can be gained of even greater importance than before.

THIS IS WEBB BERN CABLE NO. 285.

2:30 p.m.
November 18, 1944

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

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

JP-284
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement.

Secretary of State
Washington

7565, November 16, 2 p.m.
FOR PHELLE OF WRB FROM MCCLELLAND

Negotiations last referred to our 7339 have been continued in Switzerland almost daily by Saly Mayer (SM) since November 1. They have become increasingly strained and difficult. (Department's 3578, October 20 and Legation's 7339, November 4).

Kazntner and Bialitz left for Budapest and chief SS negotiator "Obersturmbann Fuehrer B" for Berlin on November 6, latter ostensibly to report to Himmler prior to returning to Budapest. Negotiator B left behind his henchman K in Switzerland to pursue conversations with SM.

SM has been negotiating the following conditions:

Two. Verification and control that these terms are carried out to be exercised by IGRC or other acceptable neutral and impartial body all necessary permission and facilities for performance of this duty to be granted by Germans.

One. Cessation

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 5-11-72
By R. B. Parks Date SEP 27 1972
-2- #7865, November 16, 2 p.m., from Bern.

One: Cessation by Germans of all actions which are not directly related to normally accepted concept of a war effort that is mistreatment calculated to bring death execution and outright extermination with respect to all (repeat all) detainees in German hands regardless of nationality both Jewish and non-Jewish. Specifically mentioned: over 100,000 Jews (aged, invalid and children) remaining in Budapest.

Four. All individual Jews specified by JDC or by other recognized Jewish organizations through JDC (members of Bratislava Jewish Office for instance) to be released.

Three. All Jews in German hands in Hungary and elsewhere holding documents or passports of belligerent countries immigration or entry visas to countries neutral and otherwise outside German controlled territory to be allowed to leave. Specifically mentioned: case of some 8,000 Jews at Bergen-Belsen.

All information that might subsequently be requested concerning welfare whereabouts of any other groups of Jews not specifically mentioned to be supplied.

These stipulations were supposed submitted to Himmler on or about November 10 by chief SS negotiator B. B has now returned to Budapest and awaits word from his assistants still in St. Gall that SM has placed at their disposal 20,000,000 Swiss francs which amount was "authorized" SM in your 3578.
#7565, November 16, 2 p.m., from Bern.

In your 3578 by JDC.

SM has informed K that 20,000,000 can only be put up as deposit held by neutral third party acceptable to both sides. K, however, is unwilling to accept credit (he thinks SM is actually holding money) in this manner so SM paried by stating that 20,000,000 were "blocked" pending submission by K of list of goods desired. Meanwhile, Swiss police hesitate to prolong K's "visa dessejour" which expires November 15 or to allow him freedom of movement elsewhere than in St. Gall, SM is trying to persuade Swiss to permit K to travel so that K can draw up precise list of nature and quantity of goods desired. In midst of this more or less deadlock situation, SM has urged joint office in Lisbon to cable JDC, New York, requesting that 20,000,000 francs be transferred to him immediately. He has asked me to support this request.

I have been able to assure myself personally that Nazis primary interest in this whole affair is to secure first sizable amounts of Swiss francs (on arrival in Switzerland they considered the 20,000,000 comparatively small money) and secondly exportation of goods to be purchased with these funds in Switzerland which are of value to German war effort. SM's attempt to talk them around to considering goods of non-military value has elicited little or no response. Their
stipulation is that SM and I will secure permission from Allies for export of goods they select, at least in part, from Switzerland.

In view of fact that original goal of gaining time specifically in relation to situation of Jews in Hungary has been attained, SM's part and fact that even if funds could be sent there, it would ultimately (within 2 or 3 weeks at most) be necessary for our and other Allied Governments to refuse permission for export of goods of value to German war effort for Switzerland (quite apart from French attitude toward such export which is negative) it is my considered opinion that SM should be instructed by WRE and JDC to discontinue negotiations as tactfully as possible. I personally fear that if bluff is carried too far before being broken off Nazis may effect reprisals on Jews out of anger.

As to political aspects of question subordinate Swiss authorities acquainted with matter have been led to believe negotiations concern purchase of relief goods in Switzerland for Jews in German camps. Swiss political department however, is afloat and has expressed itself willing to do all it can within humanitarian limits to assist with transfer of funds if requested to do so by our government.

Time element originally involved in Hungarian situation seems no longer
November 16, 2 p.m., from Bern.

seems no longer to be so critically present. Schirmer of ICRC who left Budapest on October 29, reports interviews with both Wesermayer and Grell of German Legation and with Vajna Minister of Interior in Szalay regime. Germans assured him that outside of 50,000 male Jews already sent to Austria as labor they would "in due course" allow emigration of Palestine certificate holders and those possessing special protecting documents of Sweden, Switzerland and Spain. Further that Jewish aged invalids and children (over 100,000) still in houses in Budapest would not be molested. Neither Wesermayer nor Grell, of course, can be considered as speaking authoritatively for SS. In view also of increasingly difficult transportation situation as well as disorganization existing ranks of Szalay regime which does not appear capable of carrying out concerted anti-Jewish program, it is unlikely that deportation of Jews remaining in Budapest can or will be effected or that wholesale massacre of Jews "surplus" is liable to take place is therefore that these negotiations be terminated with all due credit to SM for a magnificent and difficult piece of work.

Please expedite instructions.

Harrison

MJF
This telegram must be
previously before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Government
Agency. (CENSORED)

Bern
Dated November 4, 1944
Rec'd 5:25 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington,
7339, November 4, 3 p.m.
FOR WBSD FROM MCELLEND
Department's 3436, October 6 and 3509, October 23.

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

Saly Mayer's negotiations last reported on in
Legation's 6610, October 5, have again reached a
critical and difficult stage with arrival in Switzerland
on November 1, of delegation consisting of Kasztner-Bialitz
and two SS men. Although it will be impossible to stall
and bluff much longer this may offer an opportunity to
drive home to Nazis the inevitable fate which awaits them
as result of their continued ruthlessness. Also any seeds
of dissent which can be sown in their ranks will be planted.
Their hand as negotiators has been considerably weakened
by recent happenings in Hungary and Slovakia.

HARRISON
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, Moscow
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: October 31, 1944
NUMBER: 4174

Following is for the attention of the War Refugee Board.

The substance of Department’s messages of October 20 and 27, nos. 2484 and 2533 respectively, have been sent by me to the Foreign Office.

REMARK

DATE: 11/1/44
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Embassy, Moscow
DATED: October 27, 1944
NUMBER: 2533

With regard to message of October 23, 2 p.m., from the Embassy, Number 4041, UCTE, SWISS JEWISH COMMUNITY, is correct text portion of message of October 20, 7 p.m., from the Department, Number 2484.

STATTINIUS
Acting
October 30, 1944

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Robert Pilpel was received through the American Legation in Lisbon under date of October 26, 1944:

"101. Visas have been authorized by Switzerland for the delegation from Hungary which will possibly confer again with Saly. Advised by Saly that in Hungary deportations underway. The food situation is also grave."

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. W. A. Leavitt, Secretary,
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,
Secretary of State,
Washington.

X 3272, October 26, 10 p.m.

THIS IS JDC 101. WBB 236 FOR LEAVITT FROM PILPHEL.

Switzerland has authorized visas for delegation from Hungary which may confer with Saly again. Saly advises deportations in Hungary underway. Also food situation serious.

NORWEB

BB
In cable number 3272, October 26, 10 p.m., from Lisbon, code block should be "(SECRET W)" instead of "(SECRET F)".

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

JNB

CONTROL COPY

DECLASSIFIED
State Department, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Data SEP 27 1972