

Sally Mayer's Negotiations in
Switzerland

Folder 1: 40-68

Reverse Filing Used

000419

SALY MAYER'S NEGOTIATIONS IN SWITZERLAND

Cable #4729 from Bern	July 24, 1944	1
Cable #2112 to Lisbon	July 28, 1944	2
Cable #2374 from Lisbon	Aug. 1, 1944	3
Cable #4972 from Bern	Aug. 3, 1944	4
Cable #4974 from Bern	Aug. 3, 1944	5
✓ Cable #5197 from Bern	Aug. 11, 1944	6
Memorandum to Mr. Stettinius from Mr. Pehle	Aug. 17, 1944	7
Cable #2867 to Bern	Aug. 21, 1944	8
Cable #6661 to London	Aug. 21, 1944	9
Cable #2900 to Bern	Aug. 23, 1944	10
Censorship Intercept	Aug. 24, 1944	11
Cable #5588 from Bern	Aug. 26, 1944	12
Cable #2648 from Lisbon	Aug. 28, 1944	13
Cable #2655 from Lisbon	Aug. 29, 1944	14
Cable #2990 to Bern	Aug. 30, 1944	15
Cable #2673 from Lisbon	Aug. 30, 1944	16
Cable #2989 to Bern	Aug. 30, 1944	17
Cable #2768 from Lisbon	Sept. 6, 1944	18
Cable #2760 from Lisbon	Sept. 6, 1944	19
Cable #2811 from Lisbon	Sept. 9, 1944	20
Cable #2827 from Lisbon	Sept. 11, 1944	21
Cable #3565 from Stockholm	Sept. 11, 1944	22
Cable #3153 to Bern	Sept. 12, 1944	23
Cable #2881 from Lisbon	Sept. 14, 1944	24
Cable #2884 from Lisbon	Sept. 14, 1944	25
Cable #6092 from Bern	Sept. 15, 1944	26
X Letter from Office of Censorship, 9/9/44 with enc. & WRB reply	Sept. 15, 1944	27
Cable #2532 to Lisbon	Sept. 16, 1944	28
Cable #6110 from Bern	Sept. 16, 1944	29
Cable #3196 to Bern	Sept. 16, 1944	30
Cable #3249 to Bern	Sept. 20, 1944	31
Cable #6251 from Bern	Sept. 21, 1944	32
Cable #6252 from Bern	Sept. 21, 1944	33
Cable #6619 from Bern	Oct. 5, 1944	34
Cable #3102 from Lisbon	Oct. 10, 1944	35
Letter from Censorship	Oct. 17, 1944	36
Cable #2484 to Moscow	Oct. 20, 1944	37
Cable #3578 to Bern	Oct. 20, 1944	38
Cable #8780 to London	Oct. 21, 1944	39
Cable #4041 from Moscow	Oct. 23, 1944	40
Cable #3272 from Lisbon	Oct. 26, 1944	41
Cable #2533 to Moscow	Oct. 27, 1944	42
Cable #4174 from Moscow	Oct. 31, 1944	43
Cable #7339 from Bern	Nov. 4, 1944	44
Cable #7565 from Bern	Nov. 16, 1944	45
Cable #3932 to Bern	Nov. 18, 1944	46
Cable #9769 to London	Nov. 20, 1944	47
Cable #3962 to Bern	Nov. 22, 1944	48
Cable #4125 from Lisbon	Dec. 4, 1944	49
Cable #8118 from Bern	Dec. 13, 1944	50
Cable #4273 to Bern	Dec. 19, 1944	51
Cable to Leavitt from Schwartz, Bern not Released by Censorship	Dec. 20, 1944	52
Letter to Col. H. A. Gerhardt, War Dept. from Mr. Pehle	Dec. 27, 1944	53
Cable #8390 from Bern	Dec. 28, 1944	54

000420

SALY MAYER'S NEGOTIATIONS IN SWITZERLAND

Memorandum to Secretary Stettinius from Mr. Pehle	Jan. 3, 1945	55
Memorandum to Files from Miss Hodel	Jan. 6, 1945	56
Cable #35 to Moscow	Jan. 6, 1945	57
Cable #135 to London	Jan. 6, 1945	58
Cable #102 to Bern	Jan. 6, 1945	59
Memorandum for the Files re: Special Negotiations with the Gestapo and SS for Saving the Jews of Europe	Jan. 17, 1945	60
Copy of Letter to JDC from RFC re: W-2402	Jan. 19, 1945	61
Memorandum for the Files from S. D. Southworth, re: Meeting in Mr. Bernstein's Office 1/24/45	Jan. 25, 1945	62
Cable #420 (WRB 382) to Bern	Jan. 25, 1945	63
Letter from JDC to WRB, Making Available the Sum of 20,000,000 Swiss Francs	Feb. 16, 1945	64
Letter to Gen. O'Dwyer from Mr. McClelland	April 6, 1945	65
Cable #1876 (WRB Bern 526) to Bern	May 23, 1945	66
Cable #2916 from Bern	May 26, 1945	67
Cable #3032 from Paris	May 29, 1945	68

000421

(Dictated over telephone by Mr. Warren - 12/27/44)

NOT released by
C. S. O. S. L. P.

From Berlin December 20, 1944.

FOR LEAVITT 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 McClelland'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.

000422

68

000423

"J"

CCC V W 4

TO NAVCOM FOR CCC BY TT

DER/C NO 801 DATE JUNE 16 1944

TEL NO 1815 JUNE 13 4 PM PRO ALLEGATION LISBON

TO WLB LEVITT

PRO PIPPEL

1815 JUNE 13 4 PM

PROPOSAL REFERRED TO OUR MAY 4, YOUR MAY 15
 CAME FROM JOEL BRANK PRO HUNGARY VISITOR MAYERS.
 BRANK JUST VISITED RESNIA ISTANBUL AND PRESUMABLY
 NOW TALKING JEWISH AGENCY PALESTINE. SALY KNOWS
 OF THESE TRAVELS OF BRANDS AND THINKS BRANK OFFICIALLY
 REPRESENTS JEWISH COMMUNITIES HUNGARY AND SLOVAKIA
 POSSIBLE ALSO ROMANIA. THIS FROM LEVITT FROM PIPPEL
 WED 14 WRB 33. SALY THINKS BRAND RELIABLE. COMMENT
 AFTER WAR NOT POSSIBLE.

UNION REPHODOX RABBEIS UNITLD STATES CANADA ASKED
 FOR MORE SUP THIS PURPOSE BY RABBI JOSEPH STERNBUSCH
 IN BEHALF RABBI FREUDIGER HUNGARY. BRAND FREUDIGER
 MEMBERS SALE COMMITTEE BUT UNABLE COMBINE EFFORTS.
 SCHWARTZ HAS ALL INFORMATION. WRB SWITZERLAND KNOWS OF REFERENCE
 TO WASHINGTON OF FREUDIGER-STERNEBUSCH
 PROPOSITION. STERNBUSCH WAITING FOR ANSWER.
 (SIGNED) NORWLB.

TOD 1913 16 JUNE 44 OL...
 RECD W 4 CCC TOD 1913 JUNE 44

SPECIAL NOTICE—This contains information taken from private communication, and its extremely confidential character must be preserved. The information must be confined only to those officials whose knowledge of it is necessary to prosecution of the war. In no case should it be widely distributed, or copies made, or the information used in legal proceedings or in any other public way without express consent of the Director of Central Intelligence.

BYRON PRICE, Director

DECLASSIFIED
 E. O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)
 FDA ltv, 12/19/75
 By SLR Date JAN 16 1976

000424

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

EF-425

PLAIN

Paris

Dated May 29, 1945

Rec'd 12:57 a.m. 30th

Secretary of State

Washington

3032, Twenty-ninth

*
FOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD FOR MOSES LEAVITT JOINT

DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE FROM JOSEPH SCHWARTZ

"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

11 11 11 4 12 1

67

000426

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

RECEIVED
DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
Bern

Mr. Ref. [Signature]
[Signature]

EAS-1514
Distribution of this message by special
reading only by special arrangement. (SECRET-W)
MAY 23 AM 8:51d May 26, 1945
Rec'd 6:30 p.m.

DC/L
LIAISON

Secretary of State,
Washington.

CONTROL COPY

2916, May 26, 7 p.m.

WRB FROM MCLELLAND

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

According to your instructions the twenty million
Swiss francs held in joint account with Swiss N.M.T.L. Bank
(SNB) in Saly Mayer's and my names have now been returned
to FEDL Reserve Bank of New York for ACCT of JDC with
Chase NATL. SNB officially confirmed this REF and by
letter May 25.

HARRISON

JT

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

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

000427

06

000428

Document # 66; Cable # 1876 (WRB BEINSTE) to Bonn -
NOT found in file. Presumably removed by WRB
staff and filed elsewhere at a later date.

8-18-05

TSB Clane
FORL

000429

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement. (W)

OUTGOING TELEGRAM
May 23, 1945
4 P.M.

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

Mar Ref. 25

AMLEGATION

CONTROL COPY

BERN
1876

The cable below for McClelland is WRB 582.

Please deliver the following message to Galy Meyer,

St. Gall, from H. A. Leavitt, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

UNQUOTE 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 of American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee through Federal Reserve Bank of New York. For your information War Refugee Board cabling McClelland similarly. UNQUOTE

Following is for McClelland from Board.

You are authorized to join Galy 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. D-2402, text of which was sent you in Department's No. 420

(WRB No. 582)

For security reasons the text of this message must be classified "Secret".

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

000430

-2-//1976, May 23, 4 p.m., to

(WRB No. 582) of January 25, 1945. Treasury approves recall
of fund by JDC.

GREW
(Acting)
(GIW)

WRB:AmV:kg
6/23/45

US

FN

000431

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

Please deliver the following message to Saly Mayer,
St. Gall, from M. A. Leavitt, American Jewish Joint Dis-
tribution Committee:

QUOTE 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) EQUIVA-
LENT 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 CABLEING MCCLELLAND SIMILARLY UNQUOTE

Following is for McClelland from Board.

You are authorized to join Saly Mayer in instructing
Banque Nationale Suisse to pay dollars 4,662,004.66 equiva-
lent 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 (WRB No. 382) of January 25,
1945. Treasury has approved the ^{recall of fund by} ~~transfer back to account~~
of JDC at Chase Bank New York.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 526

2:10 p.m.
May 19, 1945

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

FH:hd

5/18/45

*Cleared with O'Robert
J.F.C.*

000432

65

000433



LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AIR MAIL

Bern, April 6th, 1945.

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

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

000434

(2)

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 Burckhardt'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,

Rowell S. McCalland

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

000435

R.D. McClelland - Representative
of the War Refugee Board,

THE FOREIGN SERVICE

OF THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

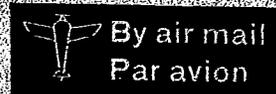
AMERICAN LEGATION,
BERN, SWITZERLAND.

S E C R E T

VIA POUCH

12-57

7



Brigadier General William O'Dwyer

Executive Director

War Refugee Board,

Washington 25, D. C.

2410 Main Tower

000436

64

000437


**THE AMERICAN JEWISH
 JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, Inc.**

270 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

<p>PAUL BAERWALD, <i>Chairman</i> MRS. FELIX M. WARBURG, <i>Honorary Chairman</i> JAMES N. ROSENBERG, <i>Chairman, Board of Directors</i></p> <hr/> <p>ALBERT H. LIEBERMAN, <i>Chairman, National Council</i> FRANK L. SULZBERGER, <i>Vice-Chairman, National Council</i></p> <hr/> <p>JOSEPH C. HYMAN, <i>Executive Vice-Chairman</i></p>	<p><i>Vice-Chairmen</i></p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>GEORGE BACKER</td> <td>ISAAC H. LEVY</td> </tr> <tr> <td>JAMES H. BECKER</td> <td>WILLIAM ROSENWALD</td> </tr> <tr> <td>I. EDWIN GOLDWASSER</td> <td>WILLIAM J. SHRODER</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ALFRED JARETZKI, JR.</td> <td>M. C. SLOSS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ALEXANDER KAHN</td> <td>JONAH B. WISE</td> </tr> </table> <hr/> <p><i>European Executive Council</i></p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>BERNHARD KAHN</td> <td>JOSEPH J. SCHWARTZ</td> </tr> </table> <p><i>Honorary Chairman Chairman</i></p>	GEORGE BACKER	ISAAC H. LEVY	JAMES H. BECKER	WILLIAM ROSENWALD	I. EDWIN GOLDWASSER	WILLIAM J. SHRODER	ALFRED JARETZKI, JR.	M. C. SLOSS	ALEXANDER KAHN	JONAH B. WISE	BERNHARD KAHN	JOSEPH J. SCHWARTZ	<p>I. EDWIN GOLDWASSER, <i>Treasurer</i> ALEXANDER A. LANDESCO, <i>Treasurer</i> EVELYN M. MORRISSEY, <i>Assistant Treasurer</i> MRS. H. B. L. GOLDSTEIN, <i>Comptroller</i> ISIDOR COONS, <i>Director of Fund Raising</i> MOSES A. LEAVITT, <i>Secretary</i> LOUIS H. SOBEL, <i>Assistant Secretary</i></p>
GEORGE BACKER	ISAAC H. LEVY													
JAMES H. BECKER	WILLIAM ROSENWALD													
I. EDWIN GOLDWASSER	WILLIAM J. SHRODER													
ALFRED JARETZKI, JR.	M. C. SLOSS													
ALEXANDER KAHN	JONAH B. WISE													
BERNHARD KAHN	JOSEPH J. SCHWARTZ													

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. Saly Mayer and Mr. Rosswell 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

MAL:RL

000430



SUITE 800
270 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK 16, N. Y.



1044

VIA SPECIAL DELIVERY

Attention:
Miss Florence Hodel

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

SPECIAL DELIVERY

000439

63

000440

DEPARTMENT

OF
STATE

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

January 25, 1945
DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

1945 JAN 27 AM 10 42

COLLECTIONS
RECORDS
(LMSH)

Handwritten signature

US URGENT

CONTROL COPY

AMLEGATION

BERN

420

The following for Huddle and McClelland from Department and War Refugee Board is WRB 392.

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

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

QUOTE You are hereby authorized, so far as Executive Order No. 8389, 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

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

For security reasons
text of this telegram
be closely guarded

000441

-2- #420, January 25, 11 p.m. to Bern.

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 Rowell 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

GREW
(Acting)
(CLM)

WRB:MMV:KG
1/25/48

WE

SWP

000442

Department's # 470
January 25

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 JDC is making remittance of twenty million Swiss francs this week under license No. W-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 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."

This is WRB Bern 382.

JH. Deleted
with Mr. Pello
PH:hd 1/24/45

000443

000444

Miss [unclear]

CONFIDENTIAL

Meeting in U. S. Consulate Office, Room 3045
January 24, 1945 at 11:20 A.M.

Present: Messrs. Strassle and Bernsten, Swiss Legation
Messrs. Bernstein and Southworth, Treasury

Mr. Strassle reported that a cable had been received indicating approval of the provision of the 20 million Swiss francs for humanitarian purposes which had been requested on January 9, 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. Strassle indicated the desire of the Swiss National Bank that the full amount of the payment for these materials bought by the U. S. government should be paid into an account of the Swiss National Bank at the New York Federal and be convertible into freely exportable 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 50-40-10 percent basis.

In order to provide a basis for the request that the monthly quota of Swiss francs be raised from 8-1/4 million to 12 million, Mr. Bernstein indicated his willingness to transmit to Mr. Strassle a list of the amounts of Swiss francs estimated to be needed by the various government departments in the next six months.

In regard to the application of G.H. 17 to the Swiss harbors, Mr. Strassle 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 agreed to bring this request to the attention of Mr. Schmidt.

E. W. Southworth

SDS:ff 1/25/45

000445

000446

MEMORANDUM

For attachment to:

FFC 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 ~~letter~~ ^{memorandum from Elsa Hodel} ~~dated~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ dealing with ^{the remittance} from the **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 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.

For the War Refugee Board

Action:

Basic license No. W-2402 issued **January 25, 1945**
Remittance license No. ^{issued}
Other: **Letter No. 80181 to Bushmore, NY Fed., January 25, 1945**

R. B. Payne
Liaison Officer
Foreign Funds Control

Date: **January 25, 1945**

000447

In reply please
refer to: 3C181

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

From: J. J. Flaherty,
Special Assistant to the Director.

There is enclosed for your information and guidance a copy of license No. 14482, 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 July Meyer, President of the Swiss Jewish Refugee Fund and Maxwell B. McCallum, representative of the War Refugee Board in Switzerland.

The funds to be remitted under this license are intended for humanitarian purposes.

RG:Parke:mhw 1/20/45

000448

C
O
F
Y

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

RBFParke:mbw 1-20-45

000449

C
O
P
Y

25

In reply please
refer to: 80310

License No. W-2402

Dear Sirs:

You are hereby authorized, so far as Executive Order No. 8339, 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 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,

~~(Signature)~~ Orvis A. Schmidt

Orvis A. Schmidt
Director

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

RBParker:jfh 1-19-45

000450

January 24, 1945

Mr. Parke

Miss Hodel

The War 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 Saly Mayer, President of the Swiss Refugee Fund, and Roswell D. McClelland, Representative of the War 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 Saly Mayer and Roswell D. McClelland.

The problem of obtaining the necessary Swiss francs has been referred to Mr. E. 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.

7/24/45

000451

MEMORANDUM

JDC
W-2402
Stark

For attachment to:
FFC 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 ~~letter dated~~ ^{memorandum from Miss Model} ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ 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 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.

Miss Model
For the War Refugee Board

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**

R. B. Parke
R. B. Parke

Liaison Officer
Foreign Funds Control

Date: **January 25, 1945**

000452

In reply please
refer to: 80310

License No. W-2402

Dear Sirs:

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 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.

RBParko:jfh 1-19-45

000453

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. 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.

000454

C
C
F
Y

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

RBPParke:mbw 1-20-45

000455

Letter No: 14702
In Reply please

January 24, 1945

Mr. Packe

Miss Model

The War 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 Saly Mayer, President of the Swiss Refugee Fund, and Roswell D. McClelland, Representative of the War 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 Saly Mayer and Roswell D. McClelland.

The problem of obtaining the necessary Swiss francs has been referred to Mr. W. 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.

ms:hd 1/24/45

000456

000457

January 17, 1945.

MEMORANDUM 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 Board was advised on August 11 by its representative in Switzerland that despite the terms of the Horthy offer, it now appeared that the emigration of Jews from Hungary would not be permitted. This was due in large part to the stiffened attitude of the German Government, which had apparently sent ranking Gestapo agents of the so-called Sonderinsatz Kommand especially to Budapest to direct the 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 interest from the biological aspects of Jewish extermination to the purely military benefits in labor, goods and money which could be derived from the Jews. This attitude was typified by the declaration of one of the Gestapo chiefs in Budapest to Kaszner, an important member of the Budapest Jewish Community, to the effect that the Gestapo now desired to pump out the necessary labor from Hungarian Jewry and sell the balance of valueless humanity against goods.

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

Previous Ransom Proposals

Joel Brandt, a member of the Budapest Jewish Community, was sent from Budapest to Istanbul, arriving there on May 19, 1944, on the German courier plane from Vienna, bearing with him a German offer to halt the deportations and extermination of the Jews in return for 200 tons of tea, 300 tons of coffee, 2 million cakes of soap, and 10,000 trucks "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.

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

7 11 10 4 5 11

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 Saly Mayer, 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 Kasztner, 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 Kasztner, 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 D. McClelland, the War Refugee Board representative in Switzerland, recommended that Saly Mayer 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 Mayer and the German authorities in order that further time might be gained for the endangered Jews. It was specified by the Board that Saly Mayer 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 Mayer Negotiations:

The first meeting between Saly Mayer and the Gestapo and SS representatives took place on August 20, 1944. The Germans advised Saly Mayer 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 Mayer 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 Mayer 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 Mayer would put up a fund of 50 million dollars for the purchase of supplies in neutral countries to be shipped to Germany. Saly Mayer sought and obtained a ten day breathing spell in order that this proposal might be considered.

The second series of meetings between Saly Mayer 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 Mayer 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 29 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 Mayer again invited the Germans to send representatives to Switzerland for that purpose.

000460

On October 20, 1944, the War Refugee Board cabled Ambassador Harriman 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 Mayer and the Gestapo representatives. Kasztner was present at the earlier meetings. During all this time Saly Mayer 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 McClelland cabled recommending that Saly Mayer 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. Margae on the Swiss-German frontier during the first week in December, Saly Mayer 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 Mayer 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 Mayer'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 Mayer at once in order that he might have something tangible to talk with. It was pointed out that if matters came to a show-down 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 Mayer 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 Refugee Board cable to McClelland reads in part as follows:

"This 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 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 Mayer negotiations. Reports to the Board indicate the German negotiators were directly responsible for the release of these Jews.

24971. 744

000462

000463

DEPARTMENT
OF

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

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

January 6, 1945
5 p.m.

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

1945 JAN 8 PM 2 11

CONFIDENTIAL
For security reasons
taxes or (1) (S) (1)

CONTROL COPY

AMLEGATION

BERN
102

FOR MOGLELLAND FROM DEPARTMENT AND WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Reference your No. 3390 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.

FRB:QLN:KG
1/8/45

BO

EE

SK

WE

CE

STETTINIUS
(GTW)

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972

000464

CABLE TO HUDDLE, BERN, FOR MCCLELLAND 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 (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. 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.

71 FH:hd 1/3/45

000466

NEW DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Distribution of this
message only by special
arrangement. (Secret-W)

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF

COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS
4 p.m.

1945 JAN 8 PM 2 07

EMBASSY

LONDON
LSS

COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS
(LIAISON)

CONTROL COPY
This message must
be closely guarded.

TO WINANT 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.

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

The

000457

-2- #135, January 6, 1948, to London.

~~SECRET~~ **

- 2 -

The foregoing has also been transmitted to Moscow.

STETTINIUS
(GIW)

WRB:GLW:KG
1/8/48

BC

EE

SE

WE

CE

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

000460

As received by State

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. 8780 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. 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.

000463

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. 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.

24. FH:hd 1/3/45

700470

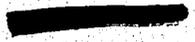
000471

2 War Ref. Bd.
(Pence)

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Embassy, Moscow
DATED: January 6, 1945
NUMBER: 35
x

CONTROL COPY



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. 2484 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

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

100472

As received by State

CABLE TO HARRIMAN, MOSCOW, FROM DEPARTMENT AND WAR REFUGEE BOARD

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.

7 1 0 4 7 3

CABLE TO HARRIMAN, MOSCOW, FROM DEPARTMENT AND WAR REFUGEE BOARD

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. ~~and~~ ^{we} 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.

FH:nd 1/3/45

000474

CABLE TO HARRIMAN, MOSCOW, FROM DEPARTMENT AND WAR REFUGEE BOARD

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 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.

FH:hd 1/3/45

H

000475

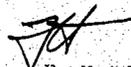
000476

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

100477

55

000478

JAN 3 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY STETTINIUS

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

100473

Department

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 Treasury Secretary Morgenthau, 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.

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Attachments.

*Action
Cleared
with
Schmidt
2/1*
*Action
Cleared with
Hurry White
1/3/45*
FH:hd 1/3/45

1 0 0 4 8 0

54

000481

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

RS-1884
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. (W)

Bern
Dated December 28, 1944
Rec'd 6:24 p.m.

Secretary of State
Washington

CONTROL COPY

8390, December 28, 6 p.m.

FOR PERLE OF WRB FROM MCCLELLAND

Department's 4273, December 19 WRB's 328 and Le-

gation's 8118, December 13 .

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

I have discussed exhaustively with Saly 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 with.

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

100482

-2-#8390, 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 unpurchasable here in necessary quantities. On a show-down supplies would therefore have to come from overseas.

HUDDLE

BB

000483

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

CC-1901
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. (SPECIAL (7))

Bern
Dated DECEMBER 28, 1944
Rec'd 6:44 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

8390, December 28, 6 p.m. (SECTION 4710)

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 Crell or even Becher 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 these I distinctly feel they are worthwhile continuing as something further may come of them.

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

1944 DEC 29 PM 4 42
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
(LANSON)

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

00048

-2-#8390, DECEMBER 28, 6 p.m. (SECTION TWO) from Bern

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

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

HUDDIE

EH

000485

DEC 27 1944

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,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Colonel Harrison A. Gerhardt,
Executive to the Assistant
Secretary of War,
Room 4E886,
Pentagon Building,
Washington, D. C.

Enclosures.

*Sent to Col. Gerhardt by
Special Delivery, Dec 27/44*

FH:hd 12/26/44

7 0 0 4 8

110488

~~SECRET~~
THE OFFICE OF CENSORSHIP
WASHINGTON 25

October 17, 1944.

BYRON PRICE
DIRECTOR

BY MESSENGER

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

E. O. 11632, Sec. 1.15
FDA Ltr 12/19/75
By SLR Date JAN 15

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
Byron Price,
Director.

~~SECRET~~

11 0 4 8

51

000490

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

DECEMBER 19, 1944
9 p.m.

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

1944 DEC 21 PM 2 23

COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS (LAISON)

CONTROL COPY

AMLEGATION,

BERN
4075

The following for McClelland is WRB 328.

Please refer to your No. 8118 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 ICGC 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. 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 authorized to advise Mayer accordingly.

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

WRB:GLW:OMH
12/19/44

WE

BC

STETTINIUS

SE

EE

CE

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

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

000491

(Within framework of)

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

presumably

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

Please refer to your No. 8118 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,~~ ^{within the framework of current controls} 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 WRB BERN CABLE NO. 328.

3:45 p.m.
December 16, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) ABRAHAMSON, ACKERMANN, COHN, DuBois, Friedman,
Hodel, Mannon, McCormack, Files

JBT
cc

11 04 9 3

50

000494

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

CC-11
Distribution of
true reading only by
special arrangement.
[REDACTED] W)

Bern

Dated December 13, 1944

Rec'd 9:10

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS
NOV 15 1944
DEC 15 AM 9 23
CONTROL COPY

Secretary of State,
Washington.

8118, December 13, 7 p.m. (SECTION ONE)

FOR PEHLE OF WRB FROM ~~CRELL~~

Department's 3030, November 18, WRB'S 285.

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

Pursuing negotiations last referred to in Bern's
7565 November 16 Saly Mayor in course of my recent
conversations with news representative which took place
at St. Margae then on Swiss German frontier during
first week in December in an effort to get away from
unfruitful commercial tenor of previous negotiations
made following general proposal to Germans: Extermination
of all "Schutzhaeftlinge" particularly Jewish deportees,
in German hands should cease. In return for this
concession, which Becher at Budapest reports is already
observing pending outcome of negotiations on former
"goods" basis, and in response to German claims that
maintenance of several hundred United States and Jews
constitutes severe strain on their resources Layer would

procure

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

000495

-2- 8118. 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 effected or at least supervised by ICRC.

It is significant to note that SS representative a new man named Crell sent to border by Becher did not reject Mayer's proposal "prima facie" but agreed to submit it to his superior and Zuch supported. Fact that Becher and Shever attained sufficient interest in these negotiations to dispatch Crell to talk to Mayer 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 view point) will hold any great interest for Germans certainly nothing has been lost in making it and a few more precious days have been gained.

HUDDLE

WSB

000496

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
COMMUNICATIONS

GEM-1944

Bern

Distribution of 14 DEC 15 AM 9 59
true reading only by Dated December 13, 1944
special arrangement.

(W)

COMMUNICATIONS Rec'd 5:19 p.m.

AND RECORDS

(LIAISON)

Secretary of State,

Washington.

8118, December 13, 7 p.m. (SECTION T70)

It is, however, essential to favorable continuation of negotiations that Mayer 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, WRB's 27 will be made available to him or if not in cash its equivalent in food-stuffs, clothing, shoes and medicines.

Mayer 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 advantages 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

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972

100497

-2-#8118, December 13, 7 p.m. (SECTION TWO) from Bern.

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 Hayer's to serious consideration of ^{Baird}~~Baird~~ 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).

HUDDLE

BB

000490

49

700499

Y/257 from Lisbon
Dec 4

Trust file
Swiss Negotiations

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. 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 Saly's representative meeting Kastner again today Kastner within one hours assistance."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. M. A. Leavitt, Secretary,
American Jewish Joint Distribution
Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,
New York 16, New York.

RD
RDury 12/6/44

100500

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

*War Dept.
Pelle*

MB-1263

PLAIN

Lisbon

Secret File

Dated December 4, 1944

Rec'd 1:26 a.m., 5th

Secretary of State
Washington.

4125, Fourth

For Leavitt from Pilpel JDC 129 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 represen-
tative meeting Kastner again today Kastner within one
hours distance.

CROCKER

FS

CONTROL COPY

*Sent 1/16/44
RS*

00050

48

000500

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

November 22, 1944

JMM
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement

NOV 27 1944

*Ward
P. [unclear]
(11/22/44)*

AMERICANIZATION

BERN
3962

The following for McClelland from War Refugee Board is

WRB 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. 3532 of November 18 (WRB 285) in which the case stated the application to the transaction outlined in your No. 7055 of November 16. You should indicate to Schwartz that under no circumstances may he participate in any way in the negotiations referred to in your No. 7055, which have been carried on by S.M. as a representative of the Swiss Jewish community.

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

CONTROL COPY

CONFIDENTIAL
UNCLASSIFIED
(S)

WRB:MMV:KG
11/22/44

WE

WN

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

00050

CABLE TO HARRISON AND MCCLELLAND, 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. 3932 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 ⁱⁿ 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, Mannon, McCormack, Files

JBF JBFriedman:JWFehle:dg 11/21/44

11 05 00

477

000505

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

Distribution of
this message only by
authorized personnel
()

November 27, 1944
Midnight

EMBASSY

LONDON

9769

The following for Mann from Pehle is WRB 27.

Please advise Dr. Joseph Schwartz that JBC
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.

Wan
Ref Bd
(Mann)
Pehle

STETTINIUS
ACTING
(IEIV)

CONTROL COPY

WRB:MMV:KG
11/20/44

BC

WE

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

000500

CABLE TO WINANT, LONDON, FOR MANN FROM PEHLI, 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 WRB 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

JH. cleared with board.

FH:hd 11/20/44

46

000500

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DISTRIBUTION OF reading only by special arrangements
OUTGOING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

*7-War Ref Bd
(M. G. H.)*

NOV 18 1944

November 18, 1944

ALLEGATION

Midnight

BERN

3932

TO HARRISON AND MCGLELLAND FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Careful consideration has been given to the subject matter of your cable 7503 of November 16. This is WRB Bern cable 205.

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) funds 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.

STETTINIUS
(Acting)
(GTM)

CONTROL COPY

WNB:GLW:hg
11/18/44

WE

BC

SE

EE

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

000507

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AND MCCLELLAND, 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 WRB 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

JB7 ~~JB7~~ *adman:ro* 11/18/44.

000510

45

000511

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

JP-884
Distribution of true
reading only by
special arrangement.
(W)

Bern
Dated November 16, 1944
Rec'd 10:28 p.m.

Secretary of State
Washington

7565, November 16, 2 p.m.
FOR PEHLE 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).

Kasztner and Bielitz 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 for following conditions:
Two. Verification and control that these terms are carried out to be exercised by ICRC 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, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972

For security text of this message must be closely guarded
CONTROL COPY

000512

-2- #7565, 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

000513

-3- #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 parried 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 desejour" 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

000514

-4- #7565, November 16, 2 p.m., from Bern.

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 WRB 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 relief goods in Switzerland for Jews in German camps. // Swiss political department however, is aucturant 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

700510

-5- #7565, 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 Szalasy 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 Szalasy 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 "surplace" is liable to take place is there ore that these negotiations be terminated with all due credit to SM for a magnificent and difficult piece of work.

Please expedite instructions.

HARRISON

MJF

110516

114

100511

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

EL-160 1944 NOV 6 AM 10 07
This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Government
Agency. (SECRET-0)!!)

Bern

Dated November 4, 1944

Rec'd 5:25 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington,

7339, November 4, 3 p.m.

FOR WRB FROM MCCLELLAND

Department's 3436, October 6 and 3609, October 23.

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

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

HARRISON

WFS

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date

SEP 27 1972

CONTROL COPY

For this reason the
this message must
be carefully guarded.

German
How

7 0 0 5 1 8

9
43

000519

2 was Ref. 80-Pike

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

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

CONTROL COPY

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.

KENNAN

DCR:VAG 11/1/44

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

700520

42

000521

2 was P. L. Ch. - Kelle

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

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

CONTROL COPY

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.

STETTINIUS
Acting

WRB:MMV:KG

PARAPHRASED: 11-2-44 DCR:LDW

LC 15

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

000522

42

000523

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,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. M. A. Leavitt, Secretary,
✓ American Jewish Joint Distribution
Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,
New York 16, New York.

RW5
RDrury 10/30/44

ARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

1944 OCT 27 PM 2 07

*7- War Ref
Ref (for
Pelle)*

GEM-265
Distribution of
true reading only by
special arrangement.

COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS
(LIAISON) Lisbon

Dated October 26, 1944

Rec'd 10:10 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

3272, October 26, 10 p.m.

THIS IS JDC 101 ~~ARB 238~~ FOR LEAVITT FROM PILPEL
Switzerland has authorized visas for del. ation
from Hungary which may confer with Saly again.. Saly
advises deportations in Hungary underway. Also food
situation serious.

NORWEB

BB

CONTROL COPY

[Redacted]
For each of the reasons
take the message
is guarded.
OCT 27 1944

*Message sent
10/30/44
RB*

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date **SEP 27 1972**

000523

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
CORRECTION

*7 - War Ref
Bd (Jm
Kelli)*

MFD-265

1944 OCT 26 AM October 27, 1944

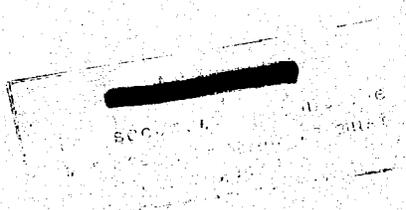
Distribution of
true reading only by
special arrangement.
~~(SECRET W)~~

COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS
(LIAISON)

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

JMB



CONTROL COPY

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

000520

40.

000527