Salt players negotiate in Switzerland.

Field size: 1-3.

Reverse filming used.
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, Moscow via Army.
TO: Secretary of State, Washington.
DATED: October 23, 1944.
NUMBER: 4041.

CONTROL COPY

Department's message dated October 20, Number 2484, as received here states that there have been conducted discussions by Swiss citizens who are representative of the Swiss community, and information is requested as to whether Swiss Jewish Community is meant by this.

KENNAN.

DCH:LCW
10-24-44

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972
ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Embassy, London
DATED: October 21, 1944
NUMBER: 8780

FOR FINANT AND HANN, LONDON FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Kindly refer to Department's 5949 of July 28.

The Department considers it desirable to inform the British Government of the following. The Department has been advised that discussions have recently taken place on the Swiss border between representatives of the Jewish groups in Budapest, accompanied by reputed Gestapo agents, and Swiss citizens representing the Swiss Jewish community in an effort by the latter group to forestall, if at all possible, the continued deportation and extermination particularly of Jews from Hungary and Slovakia.

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. The discussions are currently being reported to American Jewish groups and any significant developments will be reported to Moscow.

In Department's 2484 of October 20 the foregoing has also been transmitted to Moscow.

STATENOW
(Acting)

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
SEP 27 1972
FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: October 20, 1944
NUMBER: 3578

TO MINISTER HARRISON AND MCCLELLAND FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

In response to recent requests of Saly Mayer through Pilpel in Lisbon for credit of 20,000,000 Swiss francs, we have been advised by the Joint Distribution Committee that they have authorized this amount in substitution for the amount referred to in Department's 2990, WRB's 153 of August 30. No commitment to make any payment from this amount can be entered into without approval here. Mayer should be fully advised of all the foregoing.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 227.

HULL

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

CONTROL COPY
In response to recent requests of Oly Meyer through PIPOL in Lisbon for credit of 20,000,400 Swiss francs, we have been advised by the Joint Distribution Committee that they have authorized this amount in substitution for the amount referred to in Department's 3300, 380's 183 of August 30. No commitment to make any payment from this amount can be entered into without approval here. Meyer should be fully advised of all of the foregoing.

OL. 3800, BORN CASE NO. 227

4:45
3:45 p.m.
October 19, 1944

Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Iredell, Lesser, Hannon, McCormack, Files
CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON, BERN, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Please deliver the following message to Saly Mayer, Bern, Switzerland, from the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

"QUOTE JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE HEREBY AUTHORIZES YOU TO CARRY ON NEGOTIATIONS ON BASIS 20,000,000 SWISS FRANCS UNQUOTE"

The amount herein specified is in substitution for the amount specified in Department's 2990, WRB's 153 of August 30. No commitment to make any such payment can be entered into without approval here. Mayer should be so advised.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 237.

3:45 p.m.
October 16, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sect'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, Dubois, Friedman, Hodel, Lesser, Mannon, McCormack, Pilger.

JBF:LSL:JWP:dg 10/16/44
AMERICAN EMBASSY, MOSCOW, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Kindly refer to Department's 1812 of July 28.

The Department considers it desirable to inform the Soviet Government of the following. The Department has been advised that discussions have recently taken place on the Swiss border between representatives of the Jewish groups in Budapest, accompanied by reputed Gestapo agents, and Swiss citizens representing the Swiss Jewish community in an effort by the latter group to forestall, if at all possible, the continued deportation and extermination particularly of Jews from Hungary and Slovakia.

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. The discussions are currently being reported to American Jewish groups and any significant developments will be reported to Moscow.

HULL

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972
The attached cable to Moscow replaces cable timed 4:15 p.m., October 19, 1944 (reference Department's 1812 of July 26).
CABLE TO AMBASSADOR HARRIOTT, MOSCOW, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Kindly refer to Department's 1812 of July 28.

The Department considers it desirable to inform the Soviet Government of the following. The Department has been advised that discussions have recently taken place on the Swiss border between representatives of the Jewish groups in Budapest, accompanied by reputed Gestapo agents, and Swiss citizens representing the Swiss Jewish community in an effort by the latter group to forestall, if at all possible, the continued deportation and extermination particularly of Jews from Hungary and Slovakia. No-commitments-or-agreements have been entered into in these discussions and the Swiss citizens involved have acted in the belief that lives have been saved to-date and that precious time has been gained by prolonging discussion pending the solution of the problem by military action. American Jewish groups are being kept informed of the discussions and Moscow will be further advised of any significant developments.

No commitments have been made or authorized.

Warren has agreed to send cable to London, also telling them Moscow advised.

4:15 p.m.
October 19, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Secty) Abrahamson, Dxxin, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Lesser, Mannon, McCormack, Files

JBF 10/19/44
CABLE TO AMBASSADOR HARDING, WASC 94, FROM WAR REFUGEES BOARD.

KINDLY REFER TO DEPARTMENT'S 1812 OF JULY 26.

The Department considers it desirable to inform the Soviet government of the following. The Department has been advised that discussions have recently taken place on the Swiss border between representatives of the Jewish groups in Budapest, accompanied by reputed Gestapo agents, and Swiss citizens representing the Swiss Jewish community in an effort by the latter group to forestall, if at all possible, the continued deportation and extermination particularly of Jews from Hungary and Slovakia. No commitments or agreements have been entered into in these discussions and the Swiss citizens involved have acted in the belief that lives have been saved to date and that previous time has been gained by prolonging discussion pending the solution of the problem by military action. American Jewish groups are being kept informed of the discussions and Moscow will be further advised of any significant developments.

4:15 P.M.
October 19, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Society) Abrahamsen, Mssrs. Cohn, Bullock, Friedman, Hadley, Lesser, Hannan, McCorrиск, Miles

REF 10/19/44
Marily refer to Department's 121 of July 26.

The Department considers it desirable to inform the Soviet Government of the following. The Department has been advised that discussions have recently taken place on the Swiss border between representatives of the Jewish groups in Budapest, accompanied by several Swiss agents, and Swiss citizens representing the Swiss Jewish community in an effort by the latter group to forestall, if at all possible, the continuation of deportations and extermination particularly of Jews from Hungary and Slovakia. No commitments or agreements have been entered into in these discussions and the Swiss citizens involved have acted in the belief that lives have been saved to date and that precious time has been gained by prolonging discussion over the solution of the problem by military action. American Jewish groups are being kept informed of the developments and have been well on notice with regard to significant developments.
A 36 Letter from Censorship
Oct. 17, 1944

Filed Elsewhere by W&D Staff
Secretary of State,
Washington,

3102, October 10, 6 p.m.

FOR LEAVITT FROM ROBERT PILPEL

This is WRB 215 JDC 85.

Kastner and another Jewish member of the delegation will visit Saly within a few days. Saly requests you authorize him to talk to delegation in terms of 20,000,000 Swiss francs. All he requires is possession of a document showing he is authorized to that extent.

NORMEB

JMS

WRB
SECRET

I have received a number of reports lately dealing with most recent developments in situation of Jews in Slovakia and Hungary of which I consider following pertinent details would interest you.

Report from Bratislava dated September 27 states that due to cooperation of various Jewish youth groups with Partisan Gestapo has instigated general concentration of all Jews in provinces. They are being mainly assembled at camp of Sred which was taken earlier in month by Partisans. About 500 Jews were liberated but later recaptured by Germans. Germans are also said to be concentrating Jews at Trnoshin. About 1700 Jewish internees from camp at Novaky were recently liberated by Partisans who still control this region. All Jews capable of bearing arms from Novaky have been enrolled in resistance units.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 11-72
By R. H. Parks 10/31/72

According to
-2-, #6619, October 5, 8 a.m., from Bern.

According to report from Czech resistance operating in Slovakia dated September 19 Tito declared he had received "assurances" from Germans that Jews in provinces were simply being concentrated but would "not be removed from Slovak territory". This can scarcely be relied upon and telegram from responsible Jewish circles in Bratislava dated October 3 indicates that deportations from provinces (scale unknown) are already taking place.

Situation in Bratislava itself while tense appears quiet as far as deportations are concerned and central Jewish office under direction Mrs. Fleischmann continues to function. Rescue activity now consists mainly in procuring false "Aryan" papers for and in hiding Jews. There is a certain volume of flight back to Hungary.

I sent a further sum of 100,000 Swiss francs from WRB funds to support all such practical rescue activities with Coujier who left October 4 for Bratislava and Budapest.

During his most recent interview with Kasztner, Bielitz and a new Gestapo agent at Swiss German frontier on September 29 Saly Mayor elicited unwilling assurances from German that no deportations from Slovakia would take place.
take place as long as "negotiations" continued. This seems to have been successful to date in any event as far as Jews in Bratislava are concerned.

Status of Mayor's negotiations with Germans remains very much as reported in Legation's 6110, September 16. Claiming that he did not have necessary technical qualifications for compiling list of goods Germans desired in Switzerland, Mayor again invited them to send representatives for this purpose here. It is however still most doubtful that Swiss authorities will grant such visas, as presence Gestapo men Switzerland is highly distasteful to them. I have discussed matter informally with Swiss and Mayor is taking it up once more this week. By bluffing it has happily been possible to draw matters out another time although whole affair is becoming very strained.

During this recent interview Kasztner reported that as yet no movement of Jews out of Budapest (Legation's 6447, September 20) had begun. However notorious SS "obersturmbann Führer" Eichmann formerly of Lublin who along with his henchman "Hauptrund Führer" Mieliczy was responsible from German side for organization of mass deportation of Jews from Hungary in May and June.
-4-, #6619, October 5, 8 a.m., from Born.

May and June has been transferred back to Budapest from "omosvar. His return at this time is most disquieting sign.

Another report from Budapest dated September 13 received through representative of Hungarian resistance movement in Zurich indicates that it was possible during July and August (legation's 4394, July 11) to organize evacuation of some 7,000 Jewish men including the families of 400 from southern Hungary to partisan controlled Yugoslav territory. Men capable bearing arms have been enrolled Partisan forces those physically unsuited, women and children have been moved to interior but are living under extremely primitive conditions. In attempt alleviate this shipment have recently financed shipment of medical and sanitary supplies for those refugees.

HARRISON

MNV
McClelland sends the following for the War Refugee Board.

In line with the Department's September 14 cable, No. 3152, have consulted with Sternbach and he maintains that the names and addresses of his principal confidential agents in Slovakia are known to the Union Orthodox Rabbis in the United States already but that he will give me a list in a few days time. His main contacts as regards Hungary were Julius Link and Philip Freidiger who both fled some weeks ago to Bucharest.

According to Sternbach he is out of contact with Rabbi of Neutra at the present time. Moreover, Sternbach has no news concerning any special rescue plan evolved by Rabbi of Neutra recently.

The last report received from Neutra in early September states that the Rabbi needs funds primarily to finance rescue and flight from Hungary (6,000 Slovakian crowns per person with about 100 refugees arriving per day), and from Paland (12,000 Slovakian crowns per person), securing false papers (per person 3,000 Slovakian crowns) and hiding refugees (per month 4,000 Slovakian crowns) general maintenance for all such newly arrived refugees as well as Jews "normally" in Slovakian and special relief to orthodox Jews in and out by camps.
by-shape (20 to 25). Slovakian rupie can be bought with one Swiss franc. According to checks of my records, during second half of July, August, and first half of September, the following sums in Swiss francs have been sent to Slovakia for Jewish relief's rescue operations: 25,000 to Czech residence for Slovakia by Regner; 35,000 through Schulze to Bratislava by Salyzheimer; 500,000 to Bratislava by Salyzheimer; 305,000 mainly to Neutra by Sternbach.

A wire is being sent to Bratislava by Sternbach in an attempt to secure late news from Rabbi of Neutra and concerning situation in Slovakia with respect to Jews in general. Careful consideration will be given by Salyzheimer and as to any financial request he may make before us and if proposals were at all feasible, will assist to the extent of our funds.

In connection with the assertion that the lives of Jewish leaders and Hungarian Rabbi in Bergen-Belsen at present (about 1270 are there) could have been saved while on route, we understand from trustworthy persons who arrived here in Switzerland with 320 that certain individuals on that train paid as high as three million pengoes to I.C.T. We have heard of no concrete plan to rescue this group other than tractor proposition (see Legation's July 26 cable #4832). Since this group forms part of the some 150 to 170 thousand Hungarian Jews outside of Hungary for whom the Gestapo still hopes to collect ransom in goods, they are being well treated in Bergen-Belsen, according to all reports.

Reference is made in the above message to the Department's September 14 cable No. 3186 and the Legation's September 15 cable No. 6083.
McClelland sends the following for the attention of the
War Refugee Board.

Reference is made herewith to McClelland's cable of September
16, no. 6110.

We are grateful for the information contained in your cable
of September 16, no. 6110. However, the Germans are not those
who have been involved in recent negotiations with Selysley
here in Switzerland. In the course of latest discussions, the
Germans were asked by Selysley about similar negotiations in
Sweden but they disclaimed any knowledge of them. No individual
deeded Sehoning has turned up recently in Switzerland, according
to preliminary investigation.

I have been confidentially furnished by Selysley with full
personal data regarding the identity of the three German agents
(including date and place of birth and SS rank) whom he has seen
at the Swiss-Swiss frontier on various occasions during the
past month. However, he had to give his word not to reveal
their identities and still hesitates to do so for fear of en-
dangering negotiations which have not been definitely broken
off as yet.

HARRISON

DCR:VAG 9/21/44

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 77 1972
ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington

TO: American Legation, Bern

DATED: September 20, 1944

NUMBER: 3249

CABLE TO HARRISON, BERN, FOR MCCLELLAND FROM FEHLE

Reference your No. 6110 of September 16, 1944.

On behalf of the War Refugee Board, I wish to express to you and Saly Mayer our sincere appreciation for your courageous efforts in these personally trying negotiations which involved unprecedented difficulties. JDC also wishes to express its appreciation to you and Saly Mayer.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 180.

HULL
CABLE TO HARRISON, BERN, FOR McCLELLAND FROM PEHLE

Reference your No. 6110 of September 16, 1944.

On behalf of the War Refugee Board, I wish to express to you and Saly Mayer our sincere appreciation for your courageous efforts in these personally trying negotiations which involved unprecedented difficulties. JDC also wishes to express its appreciation to you and Saly Mayer.

THIS IS WIRE CABLE TO BERN NO. 180

3:40 p.m.
September 20, 1944
CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AND MCCLELLAND.

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

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

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

THIS IS WBB CABLE TO BERN NO. 172.
CABLE TO MINISTER JOHNSTON AND AMBASSADOR, BERN, SWITZERLAND

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

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

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

THIS IS WISE CABLE NO. 172

3:10 p.m.
September 14, 1944

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

BAKKE/UG 1/24/44 9S4
McClelland sends the following for the War Refugee Board.

Reference is made in the following to the Legation’s July 24 cable No. 4729; and its August 26 cable No. 5583 and the Department’s September 12 cable No. 3153.

Discussions with the Gestapo were continued by Saly Mayer (SI) on September 3, 4, and 5 at St. Margarethen. Only one man from the German side (member of SS) was present accompanied by Wilhelm Biellitz and Kasztner. As instructed, SI did not negotiate in name of JDC but only in the name of a private Swiss Jewish organization. For SI these prolonged discussions devoted to gaining time without making any commitments, were exceedingly difficult and trying, as he could tell the Germans only that the matter had been referred to "higher quarters" and that an answer was awaited daily.

Meanwhile he invited the Nazis to present a detailed list of goods they desired and which might be found in Switzerland. Figures as high as one hundred million Swiss francs were talked of by the Nazis and they declared they would have to come.
I come to Switzerland for a stay of some days in order to compile exact list. Swiss authorities have been very reluctant to grant even temporary entry permits for such a purpose to present date.

My personal opinion and that of EM also, is that all time possible has now been gained and that in all probability the Gestapo has lost patience so that these negotiations can be considered as having lapsed which after all were ultimately doomed to failure.

Actually EM negotiations did not primarily concern Jews still in Hungary but rather those still alive and deported outside of Hungary into territory occupied by the Germans.

HARRISON
War Refugee Board

Embassy,

Lisbon

2832

The following for Norweb is WRB 97.

Reference is made to your 2973 of August 30. Discussions referred to therein are taking place with knowledge of Department and WRB, who are being kept advised by Legation Bern.

Hull
(NMV)

CONTROL COPY
CABLE TO AMBASSADOR HORNER FROM DEPARTMENT AND WAR REFUGEES BOARD

Reference is made to your 3873 of August 30. Discussions referred to therein are taking place with full knowledge of Department and WFR, who are being kept fully advised by Deslegation Bern.

THIS IS WFR CABLE NO. 87.

3:00 p.m.
September 8, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, DeBois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mannon, McCormack, Cable Control Files
Dear Mr. Price:

I have received your letter of September 9, 1944, concerning three messages which you are holding relating to certain negotiations with the Gestapo with respect to the release of refugees from enemy territory.

While I appreciate your concern over the nature of these messages, I wish to advise you that they deal with matters in which the Board is deeply interested and which we are following very closely. Should the messages be released by Censorship, I assure you that their texts will not be given to the private organization to which they are addressed. They will be used by the Board solely as a basis for discussion with representatives of the organization.

With respect to the question of Foreign Funds Control licenses, the Board has consulted the Treasury and has been advised that insofar as licenses are required, these messages are deemed to be licensed.

Very truly yours,

(Signed J. W. Peble)

J. W. Peble
Executive Director

Mr. Byron Price,
Director,
The Office of Censorship,
Washington, D. C.
BRYON PRICE
DIRECTOR

October 9, 1944

Honorable John W. Pehle,
Director, Foreign Funds Control,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Pehle:

We are holding in Cable Censorship three messages relating to negotiations being had between representatives of the Joint Distribution Committee and the Gestapo regarding the release of refugees from enemy-occupied territory.

Inclosed herewith marked "A", "B", and "C" are copies of the messages referred to. Also inclosed are copies of other messages marked "D", "E", "F", "G", "H", "I", and "J", relating to this subject. These latter messages have been passed by Censorship after reference to War Refugee Board.

Upon their face these communications involve direct or indirect communication with the enemy. Unless such communications are properly licensed, we believe they violate the Trading with the Enemy Act. They constitute a type of message that Censorship would not ordinarily pass. But for the apparent interest of the Department of State and War Refugee Board in these negotiations, we would not have consented to the passage of any of these messages.

Since these communications involve a proposed financial transaction of considerable size, and in view of the interest of the Department of State and the War Refugee Board in effecting their delivery, we have felt justified in feeling that the negotiations are approved by both, as well as by Foreign Funds Control.

However, before consenting to the release of the first three messages hereinabove referred to, I wish to be assured of this interest so that I may know that these communications and the negotiations involved are receiving such sponsorship and approval. I will appreciate your comments.
I am also addressing a similar letter on this subject to the Secretary of State.

Sincerely yours,

Byron Price,
Director.
September 9, 1944

Honorable John W. Pehle,
Director, Foreign Funds Control,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Pehle:

We are holding in Cable Censorship three messages relating to negotiations being had between representatives of the Joint Distribution Committee and the Gestapo regarding the release of refugees from enemy-occupied territory.

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Since these communications involve a proposed financial transaction of considerable size, and in view of the interest of the Department of State and the War Refugee Board in effecting their delivery, we have felt justified in feeling that the negotiations are approved by both, as well as by Foreign Funds Control.

However, before consenting to the release of the first three messages hereinabove referred to, I wish to be assured of this interest so that I may know that these communications and the negotiations involved are receiving such consideration and approbation as you are pleased to express your comments.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

E.O. 11066, Sec. 602 and 500 or 50
FDA Rb, 12/17/75
By A.LR  Date 10/1/4976
I am also addressing a similar letter on this subject to the Secretary of State.

Sincerely yours,

Byron Price,
Director.

FHC:fmt
SPECIAL NOTICE—This central information is from private communications, and its extremely confidential character must be preserved. The information must be confined only to those officials whose knowledge of it is necessary for prosecution of the war. In no case should it be widely dispersed, or the information used in legal proceedings or in any other public way without express consent of the Director of Censorship.

BYRON PRICE, Director

CCG V WH NR 11
PROM STATE FOR NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS FOR CHIEF CABLE CENSOR
DCS/C NUMBER 557
TELEGRAM NUMBER 2765 SEPT SIXTH SIX P FROM AMBASSADOR LISBON TO WBB LEAVITT
FROM PILPEL
2765 SEPT SIXTH SIX P
THIS WBB 103 JDC 60255 JDC 68 FROM PILPEL TO LEAVITT
ANOTHER MEETING IN SWITZERLAND HELD AFTERNOON SEPT SIXTH FIFTH AND NEXT SCHEDULED FOR TWELFTH KAZNTER PRESENT MAYER INSISTED HE MUST HAVE ADEQUATE ASSURANCES OF CONTINUE SAFETY AND ULTIMATE EMIGRATION HUNGARIAN JEWS INCLUDING ALL OF BERGEN BILSEN CHILDREN DESTINED FOR TANGIER INTELLIGENT SCIENTISTS HARRIS AT CESTRA HE ALSO STATED PAYMENTS MUST BE MADE ON NEW CODE BASIS HOWEVER CEISTOS FIRST INTEREST IS IN MERCHANDISE ALTHOUGH SO FAR NO DETAILED LIST OF GOODS HAS BEEN SUBMITTED CEISTOS INFORMED BY MAYER THAT HE HAD HEARD SIMILAR NEGOTIATIONS GOING ON IN SWEDEN FOR RESCUE 4000 INDIVIDUALS BERGEN BILSEN ON PAYMENT TWO MILLION SWEDISH CROWNS CEISTOS IN SWITZERLAND SAID THEY WERE SOLE NEGOTIATORS AND THAT THIS INFORMATION WAS FALSE

NORWEB

TOD 2032/3SEPT44WD
RDL WH NR 11 CCG 2043 TS

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

BYRON PRICE, Director
CCC V IN NR 7
TO NAVY COMMUNICATIONS FOR RELAY BY TELTYPE
TO CHIEF CABLE SENSOR
DCR/O NO. 554 DATE SEPT. 6, 1944
TALKING NO. 2757 SEPTEMBER 6, 4PM FROM AMBASSY, LISBON.
TO: WBI; LEAVITT
FROM: PILPIL
2757, SEPTEMBER 6, 4PM.
THIS IS WBI 181 JD0297 PHOT PILPIL FOR LEAVITT
$25,000,000 HAS BEEN DEMANDED FOR MERCHANDISE AT SEPTEMBER FOURTH
MEETING OF SALLY TAYLOR. THIS REPLIES OUR 62. IT WAS INDICATED BY
SWISS REFUGEE FUND THAT $25,000,000 MIGHT BE PAID IN INSTAMENTS
OVER PERIOD OF MONTHS IF SAFETY OF ALL HUNGARIAN JEWS WOULD BE
GUARANTEED AND THEIR LEAVING COUNTRY PERMITTED. THIS IS UNSATISFA-
C TORY TO GESTAPO DELEGATE WHO INSIST ON IMMEDIATE PAYMENT IN FULL.
IN ORDER TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS TAYLOR REQUIRES AUTHORIZATION TO
OFFER UP TO $25,000,000. HE HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT JDC CAN DEAL ONLY
CONCERNING MONEY NOT MERCHANDISE. ALSO ANY PAYMENT BY JOINT MUST
HAVE APPROVAL OF UNITED STATES AND SWISS GOVERNMENTS. IT WAS FURTHER
MADE CLEAR THAT TAYLOR COULD DO NOTHING ABOUT MERCHANDISE ARRANGEMENTS
WITH NEUTRALS. DESPITE FACT THAT NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUED YESTERDAY
GREAT POSSIBILITY THEIR FAILURE UNLESS JOINT ADVISES IT IS PREPARED
TO PAY THE TOTAL SUM ASKED.

(SIGNED) KORNEZ

FDA 61, 12/19/44
By SLR

SPECIAL NOTICE—This contains information taken from private communica-
tions, and its extremely confidential character must be preserved. The infor-
mation must be confined only to those parties who, in the event of its mis-
appropriation to promotion of the work, in no case shall be solely identified,
or copies made, or the information used in legal proceedings or in any
other public way without express consent of the Director of Censorship.

BYRON PRUDE, Director
TO: LEAVITT JOINT DISTRIBUTION

FROM: SALY MAYER

NOTE:

Ours Eighty-Three Instructions Schwartz Cable 96 Carried Out to the Very Letter and All Matters of Principle Are Being Dealt With Accordingly Stop Tactic Employed Is Gaining Time Stop No Commitments Entered Upon All the Same Something Concrete Has to Be Done to Show That We Are Serious About Cooperating Stop Therefore It Is Imperative To Know If You Agree to Credit of Two Million Dollars as First Installment and With Approval of Competent Authority Strongly Advise You Agreeing to Enough Being Granted This Will Permit Us to Continue Negotiations For Further Time Gaining Stop For Further Guidance Please Consult Board Who Fully Informed Stop List Us Hope For the Best.

Note: Schwartz Joseph J 2-8 Mau Aure', Lisbon DA4600, 7000, 2293

E.O. 11950, Sec. 2(b) and 2(d) or 2(e)

FDA OA, 12-1-1975

By SLR

Date: JAN 1-1-1975

SPECIAL NOTICE—This contains information taken from private communications, and its extremely confidential character must be preserved. The information must be confined only to those officials who have knowledge of it in necessary to prevention of the war. In no case shall it be widely distributed, or copied made, or the information used in legal proceedings or in any other public way without express consent of the Director of Censorship.

BYRON PRIDES, Director
TO NAVY COMMUNICATIONS FOR RELAY BY TELETYPewriter TO CHIEF CABLE CENSOR

DCR/C No 527 DATE: AUGUST 30, 1947

TELEGRAM NO 2648, AUGUST 28, U.P. FROM EMBASSY LISBON

TO URB: LEAVITT

FROM SCHWARTZ

THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM LISBON DATED AUGUST

DATED AUGUST 28 QORR RECEIVED 10:27 AM 20TH

THIS URB 167. JDC 50 FOR LEAVITT FROM SCHWARTZ

GDESTAO REPRESENTATIVES AND KASZTER VET SALLI FAYER, ACTING IN HIS PRIVATE CAPACITY AS SWISS CITIZEN. THIS MESSAGE WOULD KNOWLEDGE GRESTAO REPRESENTATIVE BUK, WHO IT IS ASSUMED HAS ADVISED BUK, THAT GRESTAO FAN ASKED THAT MAYNI PUT UP FIFTY MILLION DOLLARS TO BE USED FOR PURCHASE OF MATERIAL IN NEUTRAL COUNTRIES. THIS IS THE GRESTAO'S PRICE FOR THE LIVES OF THE REMAINING JEWS IN HUNGARY. THEY ALSO ASKED THAT NEUTRALS SUCH AS SWEDEN AND SWITZERLAND BE PERMITTED TO SELL AND EXPORT THESE GOODS MAYNI MADE NO COMMITMENTS AND CONFERENCE WAS ADJOURNED TILL AUGUST 31. MAYNI'S IDEA WAS TO GAIN VALUABLE TIME. HE THINKS HE SHOULD MAKE AN OFFER WHEN MEETING RESUMES. OTHERWISE, HE FEELS THERE WILL BE A TRagedY. H. SUGGESTS TWO MILLION DOLLARS, BUT WITH THE UNDERSTANDING HE CAN DO NOTHING ABOUT BUYING MATERIALS. MEANWHILE HE ASKED THAT 1,400 PEOPLE FROM HUNGARY BE ALLOWED COME TO SWITZERLAND UNDER SAME TERMS AS 527 ALREADY THERE. TELEGRAM FROM HABBI UNGAR OF BUDAPEST STATES THAT UNLESS AGREEMENT IS MADE DEPORTATION 1,500 DAILY WILL IMMEDIATELY RESUMING

PLEASE INSTRUCT US IF POSSIBLE BEFORE DATA OF NEXT MEETING GIVEN

ABOVE.

(SIGNED) NOHLEB

RECONSTRUCTION
E.O. 11055, Sec. 10(a) and 50(b) or (g)

PDA 885, 12/1976

by SIR

Date: JAN 16 1976
SPECIAL NOTICE—This contains information taken from private communications and its extremely confidential nature must be preserved. The information must be confined only to those officials who need it for the prosecution of the war. In no case should it be made known to others without the written consent of the Director of Censorship.

CCG 7-31-44

1. TAO/AS TTHB 223/222 29 1835
2. JOSE HIRSHMAN 1750 CALLE HERALDIA PUENTECARES
3. RECEIVED TWO THOUSAND THANKS STOP RUSSIAN JEW ASKED AGENCY TO STATE IT WILL GRANT CERTIFICATES ANY REFUGEES REACHING TURKEY OTHERWISE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT PREVENTS EXIT THOUGH SHIPS AVAILABLE STOP AGENCY REFUSED DESIRING TO KEEP MONOPOLY OF RESCUE STOP THIS POLICY FORCES OTHER RUSSIAN JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS TO FIGHT AGENCY RESULTING IN UNNECESSARY DIFFICULTIES EVEN FOR AGENCY'S BOATS STOP I HAVE PROTESTED STOP AGENCY DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ORTHODOX AND POLISH REFUGEES FORCED REPRESENTATIVES OF RUSSIAN AND AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL RESCUE AND RELIEF COMMITTEE DECIDE TO SEND SPECIAL SHIP STOP AGENCY REFUSED PROMISE OF CERTIFICATES STOP HIRSCHBAUM INTERVENED OVER HEAD OF AGENCY PROPOSING VISAS STOP HIRSCHBAUM REQUESTED LEI HELP ARRANGE THIS SHIP STOP NO DISCRIMINATION AGAINST REVISIONISTS BECAUSE THEY ARE CONSIDERABLE FUGITIVES RUSSIAN STOP ON 15 OCTOBER BUDAPEST JEW JOEL BRAND ARRIVED ISTANBUL WITH PROPOSAL FROM GESTAPO STOP AGENCY SENT BRAND TO PALESTINE INTO BRITISH CUSTODY INSTEAD OF SENDING HIM BACK WITH ANSWER, AGENCY PROBABLY ACTED ON BRITISH REQUEST BUT ACTION RESULTED APPARENT DEPORTATION FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND JEWISH STOP 3: NOW SENDING SHIP TO RESCUE THOUSAND HUNGARIAN JEWISH STOP APPROACHED JOINT DIRECTOR SCHWARTZ BUT HE INTERESTED STOP BELIEVES JOINT PREFER DEAL AGENCY BECAUSE UNITED JEWISH APPEAL CONTROLLED BY JOINT WHILE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE INDEPENDENT STOP 2: PROJECT NEEDS HUNDRED THOUSAND STOP CABLE ALL THIS INFORMATION DESCISON AND HELP SECURE NEEDED FUNDS URGENT ACKNOWLEDGES

4. EZR JABOTINSKY

5. IT: PASSED FUND PTF ATTN CONTACT FOR STATE
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BYRON PRICE, Director.
CONFIDENTIAL

SCHILLER
86264

4031 ITT

7/21/44

TO:
SILVERMAN EASTMAN BACU
55 NEW CAVENDISH STREET
LONDON

NOTES: BT200; FY7000

NOTES

668,000 YN 4601; BA1600,000

135 YOUR NUMBER 367 GOLD AND HANDLE HUNGARIAN RESCUE SUGGESTIONS HERE.

CO PUBLISH AND ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL SHOWN THAT IS REQUESTS YOU CONTACT STOP RECEIVED ALSO YOUR CABLE ON VATICAN AND OTHER ACTION WHICH APPRECIATE STOP BE TAKEN ACTION TAKEN HERE KURDIZEKI SENDING YOU FURTHER INFORMATION THROUGH WAR REFUGEES BOARD.

CENSOR

THE FIRST PART OF THIS MESSAGE IS IN REPLY TO A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON THE RECENTLY PUBLISHED REPORT THAT SPANISH HUNGARY HAS BEEN RECEIVED A PROPOSAL PROVING HUNGARY SUSPECTING THE EXCHANGE OF JEWISH REFUGEES FOR SUPPLYING THE RETAIL WHO HAS BEEN DISCUSSING THIS PROPOSAL WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND WAR REFUGEES BOARD REQUESTS THAT OUR LONDON OFFICE CONTACT MR. BACU WHO HAS BEEN DEALING WITH THE HOLDER IN THIS CASE WE ALSO AGREEướsKEY A CABLE GIVING US INFORMATION OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE VATICAN AND OTHER AUTHORITIES TO INFORM THE HUNGARIAN PEOPLE TO RESIST THE GIVE UP ON AGAINST THE JEWISH REFUGEES WHO IS IN CHARGE OF OUR HUNGARIAN DEPUTY UNIT IS ASKING MR. BACU REFUGEES LOADED IN WASHINGTON TO TRANSMIT A \("\) CABLE TO OUR LONDON OFFICE ON THE STAFF STEPS WHICH ARE BEING TAKEN HERE.

NOTE ON RECEIVER:
SILVERMAN, EASTMAN - GROVE ST CEDARBURST, LT, NY OR NYC BA 6600, 5359

NOTES ON TEXT:
KURDIZEKI, IACO - 330 W 42 ST NYC - BA 7500
SCHILLER, SERVIE - 14 F 42ND ST NYC & JERUSALEM - SHV / 154 YN 4601, 7668

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BYRON PRICE, Director

P. O. Box 1060, Locust and 50th or (21)

FDA 65 12/19/76
By SRR Date JAN 3 1976
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BYRON PRICE, Director

CONFIDENTIAL

SCHNEITZER

FIAS

86539

1308 ITP

7/20

7/25/55

DON A N

CARL 2534 LONDON 32 20 MPT HLT

TO: RANU GOLDBEIN

JEWISH AGENCY 342 MADISON AVENUE NEW YORK CITY NY

FROM: MOSHE SHEITOK

SWI/154 RN7000, 4601, 3537 NSL

SWI/154 YN 4601 7468 NOTE 1

NOTE 2 4 NSL

KASTNER INFORMED DOPKIN ASHUFUZI PREPARED KILL HIM AND SCHWARTZ LISPON STOP REACTION WERE NEGATIVE STOP SUGGEST YOU ASCERTAIN REACTION YOUR END.

NOTE 1 - LISTED IN NYC & JERUSALEM

NOTE 2 - SCHWARTZ JOSEPH J 242 RUE CHURCH

LISBON PORTUGAL BA 4600, 7000, 7283

NOTE 3 - JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE JERUSALEM Y7468

NOTE 4 - DOPKIN ELIAHU OR ELIAS OR A2030 JEWISH AGENCY JERUSALEM B7000

NOTE 2: SCHWARTZ JOSEPH J 242 RUE CHURCH

LISBON PORTUGAL BA 4600, 7000, 7283

NOTE 3 - JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE JERUSALEM Y7468

NOTE 4 - DOPKIN ELIAHU OR ELIAS OR A2030 JEWISH AGENCY JERUSALEM B7000
CCU V UN NR 9

TO NAVY COMMUNICATIONS FOR RELAY BY TYPEPRINT

TO CHIEF CABLES OFFICE

DCR/C 320 DATED JUNE 22 1946

TELEGRAM NO 68 JUNE 29 6 PM FROM CONSUL GENERAL JERUSALEM

TO NAHUM COLEMAN

FROM SHIROYOK

CONFIDENTIAL

IT IS REQUESTED BY SHIROYOK THAT NAHUM COLEMAN RECEIVE

THE SUBSTANCE OF THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE

THE BRITISH EMBASSY HAS FORMALIZED YOU OF

THE OFFER BY THE NAZIS TO 'VACATE' PROMPTLY FROM

HUNGARY THE 'JEWISH' OF EUROPEAN JEWRY, JOEY JOBLIN

TRUSTED BULGARIAN ZHOUKH B squeeze and was sent to

ISTANBUL MAY 19 ON URBAN JETS WITH A VIEW

TO RETURN WITHIN TWO OR THREE WEEKS WITH THE HELP

THE OFFER CONTINUALLY HAS TO EXCHANGE JEWS FOR GOODS

OF SPECIFIED KINDS AND ACCOUNTS THE VACULES STILL TO

PROCEED TO SPAIN ON DEPART OF PAVOLAB FLIGHT CONJURING

THE WHOLE SUBJECT THE FIRST Substantial Transport

WAS TO BE SENT OUT WITHOUT CONSIDERATION THE CONDITIONS

OF THE EXCHANGE SOUNDED FANTASTIC BUT IT WAS DECIDED TO

EXPLORER IT WE IMMEDIATELY INFORM THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

FOR JERUSALEM ON THIS SUBJECT.
WHO REPORTED TO LONDON IN WOLF WITH REQUEST THAT
WASHINGTON AND YOU BE ADVISED THAT POSSIBLE AID WAS
GIVEN BY THE COMMISSIONER TO ASSIST ME TO PROCEED TO
TURKEY FOR THE PURPOSE OF INTERVIEWING BRANDT. MY DEPARTURE WAS
DEPRESSED CAUSE OF VISA DIFFICULTIES (ASTERISK) SD AUTORITIES
JERUSALEM IStanbul THAT BRANDT
SHOULD RETURN TO TURKEY WITH A VIEW TO PROCEED TO HUNGARY
FROM THEIR WITH HIS TRANSITION TO CAIRO WHICH HE
IS DETAINED WAS ORDERED BY HIGHER QUARTERS ISTANBUL
IS NOT BING INFORMED BY OUR FRIENDS IN BUDAPEST THAT
EVERYTHING STILL IS LOST UNLESS BRANDT RETURNS AT ONCE FOLLOWING
REPORT THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE EXECUTIVES ARE THAT THE EXCHANGE
PROPOSITION MAY BE MET ON BASS AND THAT THERE IS A POSSIBILITY
OF INTERIM NOTICES IT MUST BE ASSUMED THAT IT IS NOT IMPOSSIBLE
THAT FUTURE OF NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT RESULT IN A
SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER BEING SAVED. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION
RECEIVED BY US IT WAS AGREE BY THEM DURING CONVERSATION
WITH WETZMANN THAT THE POLICY SHOULD BE TO GAIN TIME
TO AVOID THE OTHER SIDE OBTAINING THE IMPRESSION THAT
THE ALLIES ARE SLAMMING THE DOOR AND REJECTING EVEN

SPECIAL NOTICE—This contains information taken from private communica-
tions, and its extremely confidential character must be preserved. The infor-
mation must be confined only to those officials within knowledge of it in nec-
ecessity in connection of the war, in no case, used in newspaper
or express mails, or the information used in legal proceedings or in
other public way without express consent of the Director of Censorship.

BYRON PRICE, Director
"In (cont'd)

GIVE THE MATTER CONSIDERATION. ALTHOUGH THE HILFULLNESS OF THIS ATTITUDE IS APPRECIATED IT IS FELT IN US THAT MORE IS WARRANTED. IT HAS BEEN PROPOSED THAT STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN AT ONCE WITH A VIEW TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF MEETING WITH GERMAN REPRESENTATIVES SAY IN LONDON OR LIEZEN FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING THE QUESTION OF JU'S URGING AT THE SAME TIME THAT THE MEETING DUTERMINATIONS AND SLAUGHTER BE DISCONTINUED AT ONCE.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL REFUGEE COMMITTEE WAR REFUGEES BOARD AND CROSS OR ANY OTHER SUITABLE AGENCY MIGHT BE THE BODY APPEARING ON BEHALF OF THE ALLIES. IT HAS ALSO BEEN URGED THAT BEAUR TO RETURN AT ONCE TO REPORT THAT THE MESSAGE HAS BEEN DELIVERED AND THAT ACTIVE CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO IT. I HAVE ALSO REQUESTED URGENT PRIORITY FOR IT TO FLY TO LONDON. IT IS REQUESTED THAT YOU ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS.

A MESSAGE SIMILAR TO THIS HAS BEEN SENT THROUGH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO BRUNN.

YOURS

E. O. 11938, Sec. 2(a) and 2(c) or (b)
E.D. 28a, 12/12/76
By SLR
Date JAN. 16, 1976

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BYRON PRICE, Director
THE OFFICE OF CENSORSHIP,
Washington, 25, D. C.

Honorable John W. Pehle,
Director, Foreign Funds Control,
Treasury Department,
Washington, 25, D. C.
TO NAVY COMMUNICATIONS FOR RELAY BY U.S. NAVY TO NAHUM GOLDMAN WNB

DOR/C NO 379

TELEGRAM NO 97 JULY 11 YPM FROM AMERICAN CONSUL GENERAL JERUSALEM TO NAHUM GOLDMAN WNB

FROM BUNGURION CHAIRMAN JEWISH AGENCY EXECUTIVE

I HAVE BEEN ASKED BY BUNGURION, CHAIRMAN OF THE JEWISH AGENCY EXECUTIVE, TO TRANSMIT THROUGH THE W.I.R. REFUGEE BOARD THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO NAHUM GOLDMAN:

ON BEHALF OF THE JEWISH AGENCY EXECUTIVE, PLEASE TRANSMIT TO PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT THE FOLLOWING:

A PROPOSAL EMANATING FROM APPARENTLY INFLUENTIAL ENEMY SOURCES AT BUDAPEST HAS BEEN RECEIVED BY THIS AGENCY. THE READINESS OF THE NAZIS TO RELEASE ONE MILLION HUNGARIAN ROMANIAN JEWS, ON THE CONDITION KNOWN TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND PROPOSING NEGOTIATIONS TO THAT END IS INDICATED IN THIS PROPOSAL.

JEWISH AGENCY IMMEDIATELY TRANSMITTED THIS PROPOSAL TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF AMERICA AND BRITAIN. A WELL KNOWN BUDAPEST ZIONIST WAS THE JEWISH EMBASSY FROM THE NAZIS SITTING WITH THIS PROPOSAL. AT THE PRESENT TIME HE IS DETAINED IN CAIRO BY BRITISH SECURITY AUTHORITIES. THE JEWISH AGENCY HASTENIRY APPEALS TO YOU NOT TO ALLOW THIS UNIQUE AND POSSIBLY LOST CHANCE OF SAVING THE REMAIDS OF EUROPEAN JEWRY TO BE LOST, ALTHOUGH IT IS FULLY REALIZED THAT THE EXIGENCIES OF WAR ARE PRIORITARY CONSIDERATION. EVEN IF THERE MAY BE SOME DOUBTS CONCERNING THE PROPOSAL IN ITS PRESENT FORM WE SHOULD URGENTLY AND RESPECTFULLY SUBMIT THAT SUITABLE ARRANGEMENTS BE MADE TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSAL WITH REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE ENEMY GROUP FROM WHICH IT ESCAPED, AND THAT THE DOOR SHOULD NOT BE CLOSED. THEREFORE WE PLEAD THAT YOU MAY SEE FIT TO GIVE YOUR SUPPORT TO THE FOLLOWING PROPOSALS WHICH THE JEWISH AGENCY HAS ALSO SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BRITAIN: (1) THROUGH APPROPRIATE CHANNELS TO INFORM THE OTHER SIDE IMMEDIATELY, READINESS TO NOMINATE AN REPRESENTATIVE TO DISCUSS RESCUE AND TRANSFER THE LARGEST NUMBER OF JEWS POSSIBLE, AND (2) TO INFORM THE OTHER SIDE THAT THE PRELIMINARY CONDITION TO ANY DISCUSSION IS THE DISCONTINUANCE OF DEPORTATIONS IMMEDIATELY.

PINKERTON.

TCT1906Y/15JULY

CONFIDENTIAL

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BYRON PRIOR, Director

DECLASSIFIED
S. 0. 11649, Sec. (G) and (0) or (6)
FDA 0012/17/76
By SLR Date JAN 16 107
From: American Legation, Bern
To: Secretary of State, Washington
Date: September 15, 1944
Number: 6092

Reference is made herewith to Department's cable of August 23, No. 2900, ARB 129.

There follows a summary of the material portion of the Swiss note of September 13 which states that report from the Swiss Legation in Budapest indicates that it has followed the development of the situation of Budapest Jews in order various questions which the Department presented:

It is currently established that the Hungarian Government, under German pressure, has decided on transfer of Jewish residents of Budapest to Hungarian provinces and that this is to occur in the immediate future.

After assembly Jews of both sexes from 14 to 70 years of age must be incorporated in the Hungarian labor service while persons above and below those age limits must be concentrated in provincial camps.

It seems that the Hungarian Government is to O.K. these measures to protect Jews against whom the German Government for its part, without consulting Hungarian authorities, would otherwise have taken measures.

HARRISON

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept: Letter 1-14 SEP 27 1972
By R. H. Parks Date
Secretary of State,
Washington.

2884, September 14, 7 p.m.
FOR L:

FOR LI:AVITT FROM ROBERT PILPEL WHE 192 JDQ 74.

View terrible responsibilities which Salymeyer courageously carrying believe message from you would be appreciated.

NORWEB

RR
Secretary of State,
Washington.

September 14, 1944, 7 p.m.

WRB 194 FOR LEAVITT FROM FILPEL JDO 73.

Advice from Mayer is that period of delay ends
mid-night fourteenth.

JL
For McClelland from Department and War Refugee Board.

Please report at once on Saly Mayer negotiations of September 4 and 5.

For your information, Ambassador Norweb has cabled that Hungarian Charge d'Affaires, Lisbon, states he has received telegram from his Government dated September 3, substance of which is as follows:

His Government has no knowledge of and no part in any conversations which the Gestapo with or without representatives of the Hungarian Jewish community is carrying on with any other persons private or official or with any allied body. All deportations from Hungary were stopped completely some weeks ago and no incident concerning Jews has occurred in Hungary since the beginning of August when an incident caused by an inferior Gestapo agent was sharply complained about by the Hungarian Government. The Government takes the position that it absolutely excludes any interference in Hungarian Jewish affairs by any German authority.
CABLE TO HARRISON, BERN, FOR MC CLELLAND FROM DEPARTMENT AND WAR REFUGE BOARD.

Please report at once on Saly Mayer negotiations of September 4 and 5.

For your information, Ambassador Norweb has cabled that Hungarian Charge d'Affaires, Lisbon, states he has received telegram from his Government dated September 3, substance of which is as follows:

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THIS IS WIRE CABLE TO BERN NO. 166

1:55 p.m. September 9, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the See'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, DeBois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mannon, McCormack, Cable Control Files

Thilab 9/9/44
Miss Jones -

Control copy went to Leeder.

He requested that no distribution be made until you return it.

All of Olenn's preferences are in your Sweden (10) file.
From Washington, 3:10 a.m., 12th September, 1944.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

3565, September 11, 10 p.m.

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

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

JOHNSON

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-44
By R.H. Parks, Dcst. 27 1972

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

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

Stockholm

Dated September 11, 1944

Read 3:10 a.m., 12th
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement.

Secretary of State,
Washington,

2827, September 11, 5 p.m.

THIS WRB 187 FOR LEAVITT FROM PELPIL JDC 78.

Mayer reports that with the approval of the Hungarian Jewish Community all Hungarian Jews between 14 and 70 are to be put into 3 classes. Class I all able to work who will be employed in industry. Class 2, all medically unsuited to heavy work who will be interned in camps outside Budapest. These will also be required to work where possible in agriculture and light industry and will organize camps themselves under supervision Interrogos. Class 3, all completely unfitted to work who will be sent to Jewish hospitals. Mayer also asks immediate advice and instructions about money asked for JDC 67. He claims this an eleventh hour situation as next meeting delegation September 15.

NORWEB

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

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 11-11-72
by R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement.  

Secretary of State, 
Washington.

2811, September 9, Noon 
THIS IS WBB 186 JDC 71 FROM PILPEL FOR LEAVITT. 

Hungarian Jewish community have offered to repay after war whatever Joint now pays. Above information comes from Salymayr.

NORWEB

EH: WBB

For security reasons the text of this message must be closely guarded.
Reference is made herewith to Embassy's cable 2758 78B 180 and 2757 390 181 and previous cables on the same subject.

Kindly advise most urgently whether negotiations which the Joint Distribution Committee is carrying on have the approval of the Department, in view of the fact that the Embassy is being requested to forward these cables.

The entire situation is very disturbing as the Hungarian Charge d'Affaires here has just received a cable from his government dated September 3 reading in substance as follows:

The Government of Hungary has no knowledge of and no part in any conversations which the Gestapo, either with or without representatives of the Hungarian Jewish Community, is carrying on with any Allied body, private or official. Some time ago deportations from Hungary were stopped completely and no incident affecting Jews in Hungary has occurred since the beginning of August when an incident which an inferior Gestapo agent caused was sharply protested by the Government of Hungary. It is stated by the Government of Hungary that it absolutely excludes any interference by any German authority in Hungarian Jewish affairs.

While it is realized that all facts are not known here it would
would appear that these negotiations do not now serve the apparent purpose of saving the Jews of Hungary. The fact that there is nowhere in the cables any indication that our Russian and British allies are informed of the negotiations is also puzzling to the Embassy but that may be pure negligence.

LORRE

Paraphrase: DCH:YAO:1511 9/8/44
SECRETARY OF STATE,

Washington.

2758, September 6, 4 p.m.

This is WRB 180 JDC 62 FROM PILPIL FOR LEAVITT

Dealing as representative Swiss Refugee Fund,
Saly Meyer met September 4 with representatives Gestapo,
Held second session September 5. Saly states he has
received instructions from Washington to spend $2,000,000
with clear statement 2,500,000 is limit. He also says
he has instructions to do everything possible to
continue negotiations. He states he informed Gestapo
he could do nothing about goods, was simply negotiating
regarding money.

He claims safety Jews in Budapest assured through
firm attitude Horthy. Meyer now only concerned with
those outside capital.

NORVEB

JMS NPL
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: August 30, 1944
NUMBER: 2989

A cable regarding interview by Saly Mayer described in your cable of August 26, 1944, No. 5588, has been sent to Leavitt, from Lisbon, JDC, New York, by Schwartz, JDC. Given below is a paraphrase of cable commenting on Schwartz's message received from Lisbon Embassy dated August 29, 1944, No. 2655.

Begin paraphrase

End paraphrase.

The reply to questions raised in your cable No. 5588 will be made later today by War Refugee Board.

HULL

NOTE: The paraphrase of the cable from Lisbon of August 29, No. 2655, was sent to you on August 31.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter: 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date: SEP 2, 1972
PARAPHERS OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, Lisbon

TO: Secretary of State, Washington

DATE: August 12, 1944

NUMER: 7873

Reference is made herewith to Department's cable of July 28, No. 2112, and our cable of August 1, No. 2374.

You are informed that this morning Mr. Joseph Schwartz of the Joint Distribution Committee departed by Clipper for the States. It appears that in spite of instructions not to have contact or communication with German agents, arrangements were made, according to Schwartz, with the approval of the Department, for a meeting in Switzerland by Biny Meyer, JDC representative in that country, with German agents, subject to the condition by the Department that Meyer appears a private Swiss citizen and not as a representative of an American agency. This meeting took place on August 21 (see our War Refugee Board cable No. 167, dated August 21) and another meeting is planned for about August 31.

"Both Washington and New York are fully informed of what has taken place," according to Schwartz.

Since this Embassy learned only subsequently of the arrangements for the above meeting which presumably were made outside of Portugal and since whatever information may have been sent to the Department has gone through other channels, considering the dangers inherent in dealings of this character in general...

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972
and the obviously extortionist nature of the Gestapo proposal made at the August 21 meeting in particular, it seems to me desirable to call these facts to the attention of the Department.

WORCESTER

DCR: VAG: FB 9/1/44
TO MINISTER HARRISON AT BERN AND MCCLELLAND FROM WAR REFUGE BOARD

Reference your 5588 of August 26, 1944. Please express to Saly Mayer the Board's appreciation for the excellent manner in which he is handling a most difficult task.

The Board is in full accord with your view that it is of the utmost importance that every effort must be made to extend the period of negotiation and thereby gain time. The Board is confident that by adroit handling Saly Mayer can take further steps without entering into any irrevocable engagement, and can minimize the danger of negotiations being broken off. It should be made clear to Mayer that there is no possibility of obtaining any material of any military value. Mayer, however, is in a position to indicate that there are funds amounting to at least $2,000,000 in the United States available to him, and it is suggested that negotiations looking toward the payment of monetary consideration be extended as long as possible in order to gain time. However, no commitment to make any such payment can be entered into without approval here. We are not at all convinced that large monetary payments to the German Government would be successful, and under present circumstances, we could not approve any such commitment.

Saly Mayer

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 3-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date
SEP 27 1972
Saly Meyer should inform the conference that he cannot (repeat not) hope to secure any authorization for Switzerland or any other neutral country to deliver additional goods to Germany without a more precise definition of the nature and quantity of the goods desired. Thus, he may properly ask them to submit, as you suggest, a list of their desiderata, so that he may be placed in a better position to negotiate for the necessary authorization. This procedure should afford at least one and, if the conferences are not prepared to submit such a list at once possibly two additional adjournments. When such a list is submitted, Saly Meyer can prolong the negotiations by placing the discussions on a technical basis. The foregoing are but suggestions and the Board relies on Saly Meyer guided by you to employ every possible dilatory tactic to prolong the negotiations.

Hull

9/2/44
CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AT BERN AND McCLELLAND FROM WAR REFUGEES BOARD

Reference your 5888 of August 26, 1944. Please express to Saly Mayer the Board's appreciation for the excellent manner in which he is handling a most difficult task.

The Board is in full accord with your view that it is of the utmost importance that every effort must be made to extend the period of negotiation and thereby gain time. The Board is confident that by adroit handling Saly Mayer can take further steps without entering into any irrevocable engagement, and can minimize the danger of negotiations being broken off. It should be made clear to Mayer that there is no possibility of obtaining any material of any military value. Mayer, however, is in a position to indicate that there are funds amounting to at least $2,000,000 in the United States available to him, and it is suggested that negotiations looking toward the payment of monetary consideration be extended as long as possible in order to gain time. However, no commitment to make any such payment can be entered into without approval here. Solely from the standpoint of saving lives, and aside from any other consideration, we are not at all convinced that large monetary payments to the German Government would be successful, and under present circumstances, we could not approve any such commitment.

Saly Mayer should inform the conference that he can not (repeat not) hope to secure any authorization for Switzerland or any other neutral country to deliver additional goods to Germany without a more precise definition of the nature and quantity of the goods desired. Thus, if properly asked to submit, as you suggest, a list of their desiderata, so that he may be placed in a better position to negotiate for the necessary authorizations. This procedure should afford at least one end, if the conferences are not prepared to submit such a list at once, possibly two additional adjournments. When such a list is submitted, Saly Mayer can prolong the negotiations by opening discussions looking toward the removal from the list of articles for which he may claim to have no hope of securing authorizations. He may also request more details concerning other articles, and by placing the discussions on a technical basis, require the conferences to withdraw to consult with colleagues having more technical knowledge. The foregoing are but suggestions, and the Board relies on Saly Mayer guided by you to employ every possible dilatory tactic to prolong the negotiations.

**

THIS IS WAR REFUGE CABLE NO. 158.

It will be appreciated if you will arrange for prompt clearance and dispatch in cipher of the attached cable to Minister Harrison at Bern and McClelland, from the War Refugee Board.

4:15 p.m.
August 30, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Secy) Abrahamson, Schar; Dubois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser; Kass, Mahan, Modern, Cable Control Files
PANAPHOROUS TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, Lisbon
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
Dated: August 29, 1944
Number: 2655

It is stated by JDC here that the interview held with the Gestapo by Mayer was in an unknown town in Switzerland and was held on August 21. It is further stated by Joint that cable from Washington gave authority for this interview. Comment on WAB 107, Embassy's cable No. 2648. The instructions asked in the cable given above were whether or not (1) there is willingness on the part of Joint in New York to make the requested payments and (2) whether or not license would be granted under stated conditions by Treasury and the Department. Today there was received by the Embassy from a thoroughly reliable source information to the effect that a cable dated August 27 from the Hungarian Foreign Office was received yesterday by the Hungarian Charge d'Affaires here. The policy of the Hungarian Government based on new situation arising in Hunania was outlined in the cable. The cable stated that Hungary is only defending its frontiers at the present.

As regards the Jewish problem, the following is the substance of an exact translation from the text of the cable:

Hereafter no Jews will be deported and the administration of Jewish

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73
By R. H. Pales Date SEP 27 1972
Jewish affairs is being given to the Government of Hungary, which will personally handle all such affairs. This is the regent's decision.

Considerable doubt that deportation of a large or even a small number of Jews could be carried out by the Germans any longer was expressed by the Hungarian representative here. While he could not be absolutely certain, he stated that he understood that during the last two weeks there has been in Hungary a growing opposition to the Nazis both in the general population and officially. Such opposition would mean active resistance to any German purification. It was also stated by the Charge d'Affaires that at the present time any large movement would be physically impossible. It is the opinion of the Charge that any transaction of the sort indicated in MB 167 is only a Gestapo attempt at blackmail. Further information on this subject is expected by him soon and this will be transmitted to the Embassy and through us to the Department.
SECRET

Secretary of State

Washington

2648, August 28, 7 p.m.

THIS WRB 167. JDC 58 FOR LEAVITT FROM SCHWARTZ.

Gestapo representatives and Kaatzner met Saly Mayer, acting in his private capacity as Swiss citizen. This was done with full knowledge WRB representative Bern, who it is assumed has advised Washington.

The Gestapo man asked that Mayer put up fifty million dollars to be used for purchase of material in neutral countries. This is the Gestapo's price for the lives of the remaining Jews in Hungary. They also asked that neutrals such as Sweden and Switzerland be permitted to sell and export these goods.

Mayer made no commitments and conference was adjourned till August 31. Mayer's idea was to gain valuable time. He thinks he should make an offer when meeting representatives. Otherwise, he feels there will be a tragedy. He suggests two million dollars, but with the understanding he can do nothing about buying materials. Meanwhile he asked that

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972
-2- #2648, August 29, 7 p.m., from Lisbon

1,400 people from Bergen-Belsen be allowed some to Switzerland under same terms as 323 already there.

Telegram from Rabbi Ungar of Budapest states that unless agreement is made deportation 1,200 daily will immediately recommence.

Please instruct us if possible before date of next meeting given above.

NORWEB

JT
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: August 26, 1944
NUMBER: 5288

(SECTION ONE)

MCCELLAND SENDS THE FOLLOWING FOR WIBB'S ATTENTION.

We refer herewith to Department's cable dated August 21, 1944, No. 2867.

In St. Gallen on the twenty-third of August I had a long talk with Saly Mayor (referred to as SM hereinafter), and I informed him that the projected meeting mentioned in the Legation's cable of August 11, 1944, No. 5197, finally took place at the Swiss-German border town of St. Margarethen on Sunday, August 20, between SM, Isreal Kasztnr and three German agents. The German agents arrived on the morning of the nineteenth of August, but it was twenty-four hours later before SM could see them. Border passes were not granted to either side by Swiss authorities.

The head of the German delegation (a member of German "Wirtschaftsamt") characterized the discussions during this meeting as "preliminary."

Substance of discussions which took place as reported to me by SM is as follows:

Delivery of ten thousand trucks, which could probably only come from...
come from the United States, was the backbone of the proposition which the Germans advanced. The Germans, in return for the trucks, would release not only the Jews still in Hungary but all Jews held by them, totaling about one million in number. The reply made by SM was that placing the matter on such a basis most certainly would mean categorical refusal by the United States, and he further stated that he would not enter into a deal which involved the delivery of war material which could be used against the troops of Allied countries. Another formula would have to be found if the Germans desired to avoid such a refusal. It was stated by the Germans that the proposition of ten thousand trucks had originated with Jewish circles in Budapest and had been made by Kasztner and not by them. When the Germans were reproached by SM for desiring to trade human beings for goods ("Menschenhandel"), they heatedly repudiated this accusation and declared that they were simply willing to take up a proposition which had been made to them and which was of interest to certain circles in the Gestapo.

Permission was given to SM to talk to Kasztner alone. The following picture of the present situation of Jews in Hungary was painted by Kasztner. In Budapest there are some 170,000 Jews left. One extreme faction of the Gestapo (hereinafter to be called Group C) was impatient to continue extermination and deportation of Jews and had desired to begin again in Budapest on the nineteenth of August. The attitude taken by Group C
(which is Hitler's attitude) is that they desire at all costs to liquidate the Jews even though Germany loses the war. The present Government of Hungary is either powerless to act or indifferent to the whole question. Admiral Northy himself could be no more than a passive ('"unbeteilig't") onlooker to continued deportation of the Jews. The Gestapo holds all real power in this respect. No emigration whatsoever of Jews will be allowed by Group C. "Orthodox" diplomatic intervention or protests are more or less useless and have no influence on the Group's plans and intentions.

It is felt by other Gestapo circles in Budapest and in Germany in general (to be called Group A) that the whole program of Jewish extermination is undesirable as a policy and should not be followed.

Himmler's faction (Group B), whose attitude toward the Jewish question is more or less indifferent, represents a middle course. This group does not oppose the release of Jews remaining in German hands, especially if there can be obtained for these Jews goods of value to the Reich. Group B was represented in the delegation which met SM and they specifically mentioned that prior to the meeting Himmler knew and approved of negotiations. SM was informed by them that it would cost them nothing to release the Jews and, on the other hand, by doing so there was something to be gained.

It was
It was explained to SM by Kasztner that Group B had to advance substantial counter-propositions in order to be in a position to offset Group C arguments. It is because of this that they accepted the proposals by Kasztner and agreed to negotiate regarding them.

It is felt by SM that the fact that such a meeting took place at all is a hopeful sign in itself. Equally significant is the arrival in Switzerland of 320 Hungarian Jews for which these negotiators were directly responsible. Throughout the whole discussion which they held to objective basis, SM saw no evidence that these men were interested in financial gain for themselves. They seemed to have quite a matter of fact relationship with Kasztner.

HARRISON

DORNBUND 6/29/44
In connection with material terms proposed, the point of departure used by Saly Mayer in arguing the matter was that insistence on 10,000 trucks would certainly condemn the whole proposal to failure in advance; therefore, what other proposals would be made by the delegation? It was stated by them that as a compromise they might find acceptable Allied permission to neutrals such as Switzerland to deliver goods (machine tools for instance). Should Saly Mayer be able to secure in principle authorization to proceed, they would give him a list of goods of interest to them which would be available in Switzerland and other neutral countries. Hope was expressed by Saly Mayer that goods which were not of such an out and out military nature could be proposed by them.

Saly Mayer, arguing that it would take time to make such arrangements and that decision did not depend on him, requested a ten day breathing spell (until the 31st of August) and he succeeded in obtaining from the head of the delegation a definite promise that he (head of the delegation) would do all that was possible to prevent during this delay further deportation of Jews from Hungary and their extermination, but he warned Saly Mayer that the time when the matter could go beyond his control might soon be reached.

It is strongly felt by Saly Mayer, and I agree, that since three precious weeks have already been gained, no efforts should be spared to find a formula whereby we can gain more time.
An expression of your opinion as to whether point has yet been reached where it is impossible to gain more time, would be welcomed by us. Is it felt by you that further steps can be taken without committing ourselves irrevocably, but also without negotiations being broken off? While awaiting your advice, it was agreed by us that Sally Mayer, as a preliminary sign of willingness to continue, could ask the Swiss for permission for the entry of a German agent by whom further negotiations are to be carried on. It is felt by Sally Mayer/ he should have some form of evidence that at least $2,000 are available, if necessary, in USA in order to keep negotiations going.

Various dilatory tactics of a technical nature just short of actual delivery of any goods might then be indulged in. A request to submit a list of desiderata could be made of the Germans. In the meantime Balkan political and military developments are increasingly in favor of affording these people salvation.

HARRISON
NOTE

OURS EIGHTYTWO INSTRUCTIONS SCHWARTZ CABLE 96 CARRIED OUT TO THE VERY LETTER AND ALL MATTERS OF PRINCIPLE ARE BEING DEALT WITH ACCORDINGLY STOP TACTIC EMPLOYED IS GAINING TIME STOP CO COMMITMENTS ENTERED UPON ALL THE SAME SOMETHING CONCRETE HAS TO BE DONE TO SHOW THAT WE ARE SERIOUS ABOUT COOPERATING STOP THEREFORE IMPERATIVE TO KNOW IF YOU AGREE TO CREDIT OF TWO MILLION DOLLARS AS FIRST INSTALLMENT AND WITH APPROVAL OF COMPETENT AUTHORITY STRONGLY ADVISE YOU AGREEMENT TO ENOUGH BEING GRANTED THAT WILL PERMIT US TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS FOR FURTHER TIME GAINING STOP FOR FURTHER (CONTINUE)
TO: LEAVITT JOINT DISTRIBUTION
FROM: Saly Mayer

COMMITTEE
100 EAST 42 STREET NEW YORK

B7000,2283; B7000,6989

NOTE

GUIDANCE PLEASE CONSULT BOARD WHO FULLY INFORMED STOP LET US HOPE FOR THE BEST

NOTE: SCHWARTZ JOSEPH J- 242 RUA AUREA, L I S B O N BA4600,7000,2283
FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Legation, Rome  
DATED: August 23, 1944  
NUMBER: 2000  

CABLE TO MOULINAND:

Reference is made to your 4664 of July 30 and 5040 of August 5.

1. In addition to taking action requested in Department's 2712 of August 7, please express to the Foreign Office the appreciation of this Government for the information contained in your 4664 and 5040. In order that the Swiss Government may be fully advised as to the attitude of this Government on this subject, you may make available to appropriate officials of the Foreign Office the text of the reply given by this Government on August 13 to interpolations in accordance with Department's 2697 of August 9 and 2781 of August 7.

Please request the Swiss Foreign Office to inform Hungarian authorities that although this Government has taken note of the communication reported in your 5040, it does not accept the reasoning therein contained and reserves the right to return at a later date to the purported facts therein related. Hungarian authorities should further be informed that the limited assurances contained in each communication serve only to prompt a reaffirmation of this Government's warning that all those who share in the responsibility for the persecution of Jews and other minorities will be brought to justice. Hungarian authorities should also be informed that it is the Government's strong view that the deportation of any category of Jews comes within the framework and that permission freely to acquire and redress supervision of treatment and living conditions must as a minimum be extended to all categories of Jews.

2. A wide discrepancy is noted to exist between various communications and reports received by Hungarian Governments relating to treatment of Jews. For obvious reasons, this Government bases its position on version communicated through Swiss Foreign Office and contained in your 4664 and proposes to continue to do so. Nevertheless, it is anxious to recall the general nature of the Hungarian offer and attitude. Please, therefore, without departing from the above stated position of this Government, make discreet and informal inquiries of such sources as are available to you concerning following principal uncertainties:

Have deportations been definitely stopped for all categories or only suspended, and if so, for how long?
and for what categories?

To what extent will Jews in Hungary be permitted and in fact enabled to procure food and other necessities through ordinary, commercial channels and aside from Interrocorps action?

To what extent is it possible to expect that stoppage of deportations and other forms of actual danger to life would continue even in the absence of actual emigration of Jews from Hungary during hostilities?

To what extent is emigration to countries other than Palestine permitted to Jews over ten years of age?

Could emigration be conducted in such a way as to prevent breaking up of families, with children under ten separated from parents?

To what extent, in view of internal situation in Hungary, it is possible to count on Hungarian promises being made effective and continuing up to the termination of hostilities?

Please advise Department and Board as soon as possible of answers to any of above questions.

3. In the light of military and political situation, it appears here that main emphasis should be placed now on inducing appropriate Hungarian circles to maintain and strengthen the newly reported relaxation of Jewish regime in Hungary and to apply such relaxation to all categories of Jews in Hungary. Preventing deportations and assuring tolerable living conditions for all Jews in Hungary, if feasible, seems more important than assistance in clandestine escape of individuals and groups. Please advise of any information and developments on this point.

4. With reference to 230 from Embassy London to you, the broad program envisaged above and in Department's 2657 might be jeopardized by limited scope of approach suggested by said 230 from London. Therefore, it is not (repeat not) thought advisable that you limit any of your dealings to children under ten and the supply problem which are the only items dealt with in 230 from London. But you are authorized, of course, to give the assurance concerning availability of supplies for Hungarian refugees through blockade in line with 230 from London.
Repeated to Embassy London as No. 6725 with this opening sentence: For your information, cable of August 23, No. 2900, is here repeated below:

THIS IS WHYohan CABLE NO. 129

Hull

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akin, Borenstein, Cohn, Dubois, Drury, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Lauglin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, McCormack, Marks, Beale, Sargent, Standish, Weinstien, Cable Control Files
FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Embassy, London  
DATE: August 21, 1944  
NUMBER: 6661  

The following message is WRB’s reply to Bern cable quoted in substance in Department’s August 21 cable No. 2867 and is forwarded for your information.

QUOTE---------  

UNQUOTE  

Substance of quoted message was sent to you as the Department’s August 21 cable No. 2867 to Bern.

HULL  

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 5-11-72  
By R. H. Parker Date: SEP 27 1972  

WRB: MIV: KG  
Paraphrase: DCR: EBB: MEM  
8/30/44
LAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATE: August 21, 1944
NUMBER: 2867

From WRB for attention of McClelland.

Reference is made herewith to the Legation's August 11 cable No. 5197 relative to the Hungarian situation.

We have given full and careful consideration to the matters mentioned in cable under reference and for your information and guidance the following views of the Board are given below:

One. It is still the intention of this Government to pursue all means practicable to relieve the desperate plight of Jews in Hungary, however, ransom transactions of the nature indicated by German authorities cannot be entered into or authorized.

Two. If it is felt that a meeting between Saly Mayer and the German authorities would have possible effect of gaining time the Board does not object to such a meeting. In event meeting is held Saly Mayer should participate as a Swiss citizen and leader of Swiss Jewish Community, and not as a representative of any American organization.

The foregoing message has been repeated to Stockholm as No. 1671, London as No. 6661, and Ankara as No. 726 with this opening sentence: Following message is WRB'S reply to Bern cable.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972
cable quoted in substance in Department's August 21 cable No. 22687 and is forwarded for your information.

Hull
MEMORANDUM

August 17, 1944

TO: Mr. Stettinius

FROM: Mr. Pohle

Cable No. 5197 of August 11 from McClelland, the War Refugee Board representative in Bern, discloses a serious development in the Jewish situation in Hungary. A copy of such cable is attached hereto.

The second section of the above cable, which was received by the War Refugee Board on August 16, indicates that while Hungarian exit visas and Rumanian transit visas have been obtained for the first convoy of 2,000 Jews from Hungary, the Gestapo has made it clear that these Jews will not be permitted to emigrate from Hungary unless certain ransom terms are fulfilled. The refusal of the Germans to permit emigration of these people is confirmed in cable 1479 of August 13 from Ankara, a copy of which is attached.

It now appears that despite the so-called Horthy offer and the apparent willingness of Hungarian authorities to permit the emigration of certain categories of Jews and despite the willingness of this Government and the British Government to find havens of refuge for Jews leaving Hungary who reach neutral or United Nations' territory, the Germans do not intend to permit Jews to leave Hungary unless they can extract either war materials or money as ransom for such Jews.

As I have previously indicated to you, I feel strongly that we cannot enter into any ransom transactions with the German authorities in order to obtain the release of the Jews.

You will note that McClelland suggests the possibility of a meeting between Saly Mayer, a Swiss subject and a leader of the Jewish Community in Switzerland, and the Germans in the hope solely that negotiations can be prolonged and time be gained during which the Jews will remain safe. The War Refugee Board would favor any such time-gaining device. However, in view of any political considerations which may be involved, I am of the opinion that the State Department must pass upon the nature of the reply to be made to McClelland's inquiry concerning such a meeting. A proposed cable to McClelland is attached.

Enclosures

Original copy

(Signed) J.W. Pohle

Copy to: Mr. Stettinius

JBFriedmann 8/17/44
1479, August 12, 3 p.m.

For your information (FOR PMUL FROM HIRSCHMANN ANK.H/.S No. 132) the Governments of Rumania Bulgaria and Turkey have agreed in principle to grant transit visas to Jewish refugees from Hungary who have obtained Palestine entry certificates. The two thousand Hungarian Jews constituting the first group which had been ready to leave Hungary had been expected to arrive in Rumania some days ago. It is not understood in Istanbul why this emigration does not proceed since the Hungarian authorities in their announcement stated that exit facilities would be granted to Jews in Hungary for whom Palestine visas had been authorized and Turkish transit visas approved in principle.

Information received in Istanbul from reliable private sources indicates that although the Hungarian Government...
Gov. Errini Ent. has agreed to provide the necessary exit facilities. Final authorization must be granted by the German military and political organizations in Budapest for the departure of each individual transport, and we are informed that such authorization has not until now been granted.

It is urgent that we know at the earliest possible moment what actually is causing the delay in the departure of this first group of 2000 Hungarian Jews in order that we may take such steps as may be possible from Istanbul to facilitate their emigration. We are exploring the situation from here but suggest that concurrently you request the Swiss Government and the International Red Cross to investigate the situation in Budapest. Please keep us advised of the results of your inquiry.

KELLEY
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: August 12, 1944

McKelland sends the following for the War Refugee Board. Reference is made herewith to Department's cable of August 2, no. 2666, and Legation's messages of August 3, nos. 4972 and 5041, and of August 5, no. 5042.

There has just reached Switzerland several reports dated the end of July from reliable Jewish sources in Budapest (Kassner, Konvitz and Kerec) which shed additional light on the present situation of Jews in Hungary with regard especially to removal and emigration aspects of the problem. In spite of the preliminary reassuring news of the agreement between the I.U.N.C and the Hungarian government to allow Jewish emigration to Palestine and elsewhere and relief to Jews remaining in Hungary it now seems that ranking Gestapo agents of so-called "Sonderkommando" especially sent to Budapest to direct the deportation of Jews have no intention of permitting them to emigrate freely, especially to Palestine, if they can prevent it. After the attack on Hitler and following the rapid screening of the German military situation, the Gestapo in Budapest shifted their interest from the logistical aspect of Jewish extermination to the purely material benefits in goods, labor and money to be derived therefrom. The essence of their present attitude is contained in declaration of Gestapo sent to Kassner to the effect that he wished
wished to pump out the necessary labor from Hungary Jewry, and sell the balance of valuable human material against valuable goods.

In the other hand, the Hungarian Government led by Kornel Kánné has been frightened not only into stopping deportation (July 9) but also into trying to make up for the unseemly role it has already played in the persecution and deportation of Jews by favoring their emigration and relief to them under the supervision of IHO. K меньше of the Jewish Agency for Palestine accordingly has been permitted to set up an office in the Polish location where they are actively preparing the emigration to Palestine of 9700 families previously mentioned.
We have already obtained Hungarian exit and Romanian transit permission for the first convoy of 2000 people and it is reported that boats are available at Constanza. German exit permits from Hungary have not been granted and according to statements by the Gestapo chief made to Kasztner they will not be granted unless certain ransom terms are fulfilled.

When Joel Brandt's mission to Istanbul (please see Legation's cable of July 5, No. 4258) failed to produce concrete results and he did not return to Hungary but instead went on to Jerusalem, in the face of obvious German displeasure, desperate efforts were made by Jewish circles in Budapest to keep 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 francs would be opened in Switzerland to cover purchase goods (tractors) there and in Slovakia (sheepskins). The affair of 40 tractors which Sternabuch brought to our attention (see Legation's message of July 26, No. 4902) was part of this deal which Link was able to negotiate.
relayed to Sternbuck. On the basis of these offers, the Gestapo in Budapest refrained from sending to Auschwitz during the initial period of deportations the following groups totaling 17,290 souls.

1. 1,690 people of whom the 1,200 prominent Orthodox Jews and Rabbis mentioned previously seem to have been a part. This group was sent via Bratislava to Straschow in Austria and later to the camp of Bergen-Belsen in Germany where they are now.

2. Approximately 15,000 persons were sent to unknown destinations in Austria to be kept "on ice" as was stated by the Gestapo; and 600 persons are still confined in Budapest. These various offers were made as a step in the desperate hope that in the meantime Brandt's negotiations would be successful and thus render superfluous these makeshift deals. As Kasztner writes, we were forced to enter upon such negotiations to win time or do nothing. Apparently he was further encouraged by a message dated June 30 from Harlan of the Jewish Agency in Istanbul saying that funds would be available for the prevention of deportation and for emigration.

The desire was expressed by Gestapo representatives in Budapest to meet Joseph Schwartz of JDC in Lisbon to discuss the terms of payment and release of 17,290 Jews who were to be permitted to go to Spain according to the original agreement.
After the attempt on Hitler's life, the meeting place was changed to Irun on the Franco-Spanish border on orders from Berlin and following the unwillingness of Schwartz to meet them at all, the Germans agreed to meet Saly Mayer instead as a neutral citizen at Austro-Swiss border on or about the 13th of August. As proof of their "good faith" and on the insistence of Kasztner, the Germans also unconditionally agreed to release the convoy of 500 people from Bergen-Belsen which would be permitted to come to Switzerland. Finally assurances were given by the Germans that until the question had been discussed with JDC representatives no deportations of the 17290 Jews would take place.

A Gestapo agent on July 21 visited Jewish groups in Bratislava who assured him 300 tractors were available in Switzerland. A very favorable impression was created by this news with the Gestapo chief in Budapest, since as is reported by Kasztner, tractors are what are most desired and used here. Before Joel Brand's departure, the Gestapo in Budapest had declared that they were willing to trade 1000 Jews for 10 tractors and even went so far as to give assurance that if the delivery of the tractors was begun seriously "they would destroy the 'plants' at Auschwitz".

It is my personal opinion, in light of this information, that Saly Mayer should be permitted to meet Gestapo agents (provided that his own Government, with which the matter has been
been discussed, approved, and grants the necessary border
permits for German agents) in an effort to draw out the
negotiations and gain as much time as possible without,
if possible, making any commitments. I recommended to Saly
and he concurred that preliminary message be sent to Budapest
postponing the scheduled meeting for a few days pending the
arrival of a letter to be dispatched on August 10 to Budapest
by courier, the letter to state in turn that no meeting can
take place before the arrival in Switzerland of the convoy of
300. In view of the rapidly changing military situation, any
time gained is in favor of the endangered Jews. On the other
hand, before Saly goes to such a meeting, we must have some
very definite expression of your opinion, in case it is impos-
sible to stall, whether any commitments whatsoever on the basis
of either tractors, money or both can be entered upon. You
should also bear in mind the fact that the Gestapo chief in Budapest
has already declared that not one of the 40,000 Jews whose
emigration to Palestine is now being planned will be allowed
to depart from Hungary unless tractors are secured for them.
Concerning the first sentence of Department's cable of August 2,
No. 2656, I am not personally able to assume the responsibility
for final decision in a serious matter of this sort. However,
my own opinion is that apart from the maneuver to gain time,
at this juncture it is impossible to embark upon a program of
buying Jews out of Nazi hands, especially in exchange for
goods which might enable the enemy to prolong the war. Further,
there
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED
FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: August 3, 1944
NUMBER: 4974

McClalland sends the following for War Refugee Board.

The following paragraphs are a continuation of Legation's August 3 telegram No. 4972 and complete the message from ICRC.

(6) It is expected that in connection with the foregoing the President of Hungarian "Judenrat," Mr. Samuel Stern, will leave shortly for Palestine.

(7) ICRC has received repeated assurances indirectly from the Rumanian Government (through channel mentioned in Legation's July 5 telegram No. 4257) that necessary transit facilities from Hungary will be granted for Jewish refugees, and that as regards the securing of suitable steamers the Rumanians will give further assistance in any way possible. Information has also been received by ICRC from the Swiss Legation in Sofia that the Government of Bulgaria is willing to grant such overland transit facilities for refugees as are necessary. END.

Carl Burckhardt desires to transmit personal appeal in line with paragraph five above and with the Department's July 28 cable No. 2605, to the American Ambassador in London expressing his appreciation and that of ICRC for any steps which could be taken with the British Government to expedite the admission into Palestine of these 8,700 families at least. It is strong feeling of Burckhardt that prompt removal of such refugees from territory of Rumania is essential in order to insure the Rumanian Government's continued cooperation in evacuation of Hungarian Jewish refugees.

Paragraph above refers to the Department's July 31 telegram No. 2630 last paragraph; and to Legation's July 29 telegram No. 4896.

Harrison

DCR:BB 8/8/44

cc: Miss Chasenoy (For Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akin, Baronein, Cohn, Dubois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pohle, Sargent, Standish, Weinstein, Files.

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-78
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972
KD-342
This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government agency.

Secretary of State
Washington
4972, August 3, 9 a.m.

Referring to present situation of Jews in Hungary, Burckhardt of IRO communicated to me message received July 31 from Dr. Schirmer (formerly in Berlin) and Bern ICRC representative in Budapest substance of which follows,

One. Sufficient quantities of food and clothing are available in Hungary. Funds will be needed, however, to purchase foodstuffs for relief to recently dispossessed Jews in Budapest and more particularly to those remaining in provinces in camps.

Two. Jews in Budapest are now allowed to leave their houses to make purchases between ten and seventeen hours (formerly only between fourteen and seventeen). Those possessing adequate means can purchase sufficient food for their needs. The legitimation cards of Jews in Budapest expire on August 1. They will, however, be granted new ones and according to recent decrees a certain number of special work permits will be issued to Jews "whose intellectual or physical labor is considered to be of public utility".

Three. All internment and concentration camps and consigned Jewish houses in Budapest will be accessible to ICRC delegates. Schirmer and Bern have visited twenty-five such houses as well as hospitals and baths. In latter satisfactory conditions prevailed. They also visited camps of Kistarcsa and Sarvar on July 25. (According to additional information there are other Jewish camps at Miskolc, Jaszmereny and Pecs). ICRC Geneva will be notified by telegram if and what relief supplies are necessary for these camps. Transportation facilities in Hungary will be granted and goods consigned to Hungarian Red Cross for distribution by ICRC. ICRC may choose Jewish men of confidence in camps.

Four. Any relief undertaken by ICRC will receive collaboration of Hungarian Red Cross and of official "Judenrat" in Budapest. Final control of all distributions will be in hands of ICRC. All personnel can be supplied by Jews themselves. Such personnel will be exempted from
exempted from wearing yellow Jewish star. Adequate space for officers and storerooms will be made available to any ICRC Jewish relief program.

Five. About 8,700 Jewish families amounting to some 40,000 souls plus 1,000 orphaned children will be allowed to emigrate from Hungary to Palestine via Rumania and Turkey. An initial transport of about 2,000 persons will leave Budapest within next 8 to 10 days. ICRC will take charge of departure transportation and care this convoy en route. Born will accompany first convoy to Rumanian port of Constanza. Boats are reported to be available.

HARRISON

cc: Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Alzin, Borenstein, Cohn, Dubois, Friedman, Gaster, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Weinstein, Files
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement.

Lisbon  
Dated  August 1, 1944  
Rec'd  3:56 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

2374, August 1, 1 p.m.

Have given Schwartz orally conclusion Department's

2112, July 28, 5 p.m. This is WRB 131. He apparently

reluctantly accepts Department's decision.

NORWEB

EH

EMB

Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Borenstein,  
Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Leager, Mann,  
Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargent, Standish, Weinstein,  
Files
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement.

AMERICAN EMBASSY,

LISBON

2112

FOR NORMES AND DEETER

With further reference to Department's 2101 of July 27 you are requested to advise Schwartz representative of Joint Distribution Committee that after thorough consideration of all available facts decision has been reached that Schwartz should not (repeat not) have any contact whatsoever or communication with Schroeder or any other German agent at Lisbon or at any other place.

STIBINIUS

ACTING

(GLN)

S/CR

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEp 27 1972
FROM: AMBASSADOR, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: July 24, 1944
NUMBER: 4729

This message is from McColland for WRB and concerns Department's 2377, July 11.

Although Swiss entry visas were secured over two years ago and on June 2, 1944 were renewed Gideon Richter and his wife have not yet arrived in Switzerland. The report is that their boy is in Ankara now.

It may be that the German plane angle is a confusion resulting from the arrival in Zurich on the twenty-fifth of June from Stuttgart in a Swiss airplane of four members of the families of Chorin and Weiss: Dr. Margaretha, wife and two children, Otto Henrich; Borko, wife and three children. False Swiss visas were possessed by these people who, as part of a ransom plan involving 54 members of these families, has been sent there by the Gestapo. It approximately the same date about 36 of these were deported to Lisbon in two German planes. It is reported from a reliable source that a portion of the price was a 25 year lease to the German Goring Works of the Weiss industries especially metallurgical, and that in addition several million Swiss francs were paid although there is no confirmation of this last. In Vienna there remain as hostages Hans Mietner, Baron Alfonso Weiss, George Kornfeld, wife and children.

From a reliable source it is stated that the Jewish Director of Akademie, II, one Wilhelm Bialitz, organized the departure of these persons and is now trying to come here himself. Should he arrive in Switzerland I make an attempt to see him. In the meantime I suggest that Bialitz be contacted by the neutral attache which Department's 2276 mentioned.

The case of Chorin and Weiss is the most outstanding example of the current ransom in Hungary of rich Jewish persons. It is reputed that the prices are over 100,000 Swiss francs per individual. Recently in Switzerland one or two intermediaries have turned up to negotiate such cases. The only individual which Department's 1946, June 6 and 2142, June 23 mentioned who after investigation of all these named turned out to have any useful channels through Kurt Grimm contacted one of these intermediaries on the thirteenth of July who departed for Vienna that evening to be in Budapest approximately the twenty-third of July. Around August 3 he should return to Switzerland with practical data.
It appears that according to indications which ICRC received on the eighteenth of July from the Hungarian Legation in Bern and earlier from a special ICRC delegate who around July 6 took President Huber's letter to Horthy, the Hungarian Cabinet met the thirteenth of July and agreed seemingly in spite of storm of protests and public indignation in Allied and neutral nations (not to mention Allied military successes and effect of bombardments Budapest) to consider permitting the Jews remaining in Hungary to be given relief from ICRC; and supervision of emigration of children and adults to Palestine and of children up to ten years of age other places. According to the same source after the Minister of Sweden's interview with Horthy on the fifth of July all deportations have ceased from Hungary.

HARRISON

cc: Miss Chauncey (For the Soc'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargsy, Standish, Weinstein, Files

OCR: EMS
7-29-44