

Negotiations in Switzerland -
Including German Proposals
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000666

NEGOTIATIONS IN SWITZERLAND - INCLUDING GERMAN PROPOSALS

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NEGOTIATIONS IN SWITZERLAND - INCLUDING GERMAN PROPOSALS

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GERMAN PROPOSALS THROUGH SWITZERLAND

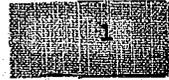
Cable #2025 from Lisbon	June 28, 1944	1
Cable #4170 from Bern	June 30, 1944	2
Cable #2360 (MRB 75) to Bern	July 10, 1944	3

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A

CAMP PROPOSAL

000672



000673

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

GHY-952

Distribution of
true reading only
by special arrange-
ment. (S) (W)

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

Lisbon

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

Dated June 28, 1944

Rec'd 9:02 a.m., 29th.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

~~CONTROL COPY~~

2025, June 28, 7 p.m.

FOR LEAVITT FROM FILPEL JDC 24 further amplifying JDC
21 and 22. Your WRB 87.

Mayer suggests and it is believed WRB representative
Bern wiring Washington as follows first, that United States
Sweden and Palestine should each grant visas in tens of
thousands for Hungarians on basis of which Swiss might re-
quest Hungary to allow refugees to remain there. Second,
Algers, Spain and Portugal should be asked to set up transit
camps especially for rabbies, religious and intellectual
leaders. Hungarian commander thinks German transit possible.
Third, since carrying out these plans in Europe involve
heavy cash and merchandise outlay Mayer would need millions
Swiss francs in hand additional to current appropriation.

It is thought by Dobkin that Palestine certificates
available provided United Nations approved Brandt proposal
or modification of it. Referring telegram to Mayer stating
that rabbies think cooperation Sternbusch imperative Saly
considers important you know that various responsible groups

seek

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State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP-27 1972

000674

-2-, #2025, June 28, 7 p.m., from Lisbon.

seek action their adherents and proteges while JDC is concerned with general rescue. Since propositions invariably overlap Mayer indicates necessity of decision on policy to support joint type as well as other.

Despite zeal special organizations America to accomplish their purposes we desire point out Saly's excellent working relationships with representatives all organizations in Switzerland. Expected Saly meeting delegates several groups soon hoping for fusion projects. Informing Schwartz all of above.

NORWEB

EDA
EH

*Copy Transmitted to
Pearitt 7/4/44
FH/dlb*

000675

2

000676

2 - *non-refugees*
Mr. Pohl

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: June 30, 1944
NUMBER: 4170



CONTROL COPY

SB



MCCLELLAND SENDS THE FOLLOWING FOR WRB.

Reference is made herein to the Legation's cable of June 24, no. 4041.

The Jews of Budapest have no illusion as to the fact that deportation is probably in store for the majority of 300,000 Jews concentrated in houses and restricted blocks all over that city, according to information dated June 18 and received from responsible Jewish circles in Budapest. It is openly admitted by the Germans that selection of those to be deported will be made on a basis as follows: (A) men who are able-bodied, (B) children, women and girls who are able-bodied, (C) all persons unsuited for work and children. No doubt the last mentioned category will be sent to Auschwitz for extermination while the first two groups will be used as forced labor in occupied territories and Germany.

There seems to be some possibility, as result of recent discussions in Budapest between responsible Jews and Germans

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

000677

and Germans, of the following: (1) rescue of a small number of children and prominent persons who will be allowed to leave Hungary in an initial convoy of 1000 persons; and (2) rather than being immediately exterminated, the lean concession that 30,000 Hungarian Jews unsuited for work will be maintained in three camps in Germany. The success of these two proposals depends in turn on two conditions:

(1) That there can be secured for the initial group of 1,000 and for others to follow emigration possibilities via Spain; and (2) that the three camps of 10,000 persons each in Germany can be supported by the supply of funds from Jewish organizations. To do this it is estimated that at least 500,000 Swiss francs monthly would be necessary. It was intimated by the Germans that further contingents would be allowed to leave Germany from these camps as Spanish transit and overseas (Palestine, North Africa or elsewhere) emigration visas became available.

These propositions have been discussed with Salymayer of Joint to whom appeal has been addressed, to find funds required for the support of such camps in Germany. We both feel that a serious attempt should be made to secure initial block of 1,000 or more Spanish transit visas at least for the children, even though we both consider them highly improbable and incomprehensible from many angles.

To care

000678

To care for such transit groups arrangements should be made in Spain and for further destinations also. A great many have Palestine certificates, according to information we have received from Budapest. We recommend that approach be made to the Spanish Government.

In at least trying to comply with requests of persons sur(*) place in Hungary there is nothing to lose and possibly something to gain, even though these propositions may seem to be far fetched. Even though remote, every channel of aid must be explored in view of the desperateness of the situation of Jews there. Over 400,000 have already been deported, according to reports.

HARRISON

(*) Apparent omission

3/1/44
DGR:MAS:EA

7-3-44

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM NUMBER 330

FROM American Legation, Bern
TO Secretary of State, Washington
DATED June 24, 1944
NUMBER 4041

McClelland reads the following for the War Refugee Board.

Reference is made herewith to Legation's message dated June 17, No. 2867, paragraph three.

Now there is no doubt that the majority of the Jewish population east of the Danube especially in eastern, northern, and north eastern Hungary has been deported to Poland. Further reliable information confirming this fact has come in in the course of the past two weeks from the following independent sources: (a) Swiss official employee just returned from Budapest; (b) Railway workers in Czech resistance movement (c) other reliable secret source regard information as to sources as absolutely confidential since any publicity regarding them would endanger lives.

Prior to the deportations, there were two weeks to a month of brutal concentration during which thousands of Jews were crowded together in primitive quarters with insufficient food, clothing and water, regardless of state of health, sex or age. The Hungarian gendarmes on László Endre's orders largely carried out this action.

Apparently the actual large scale deportations began about May 18 and lasted until the middle of June. The movement involved 22,000 persons per day: About 7,000 through sub-Carpatic Russia and 5,000 through Slovakia. Characteristic of such actions, people were deported 60 to 70 per sealed freight wagon for a trip of two to three days without adequate water or food probably resulting in many deaths en route.

Particularly used were the following stretches of railroads:

(1) Osap-Kaschau-Fresov-Lubotin-Hovysacz in direction of Oradea; (2) Satoraljaunhaly-Leginamich Wlany-Michaloves-Medzilaborce. Also many thousand troops to and from the Polish front were transported daily over this line; (3) Munkacs-Lavocane; (4) Galanta-Sered-Leopoldstadt-Hovoseto-Frencin; (5) Vrakky-Zilina.

It is urged by all sources of this information in Slovakia and Hungary that vital sections of these lines especially bridges along ONE be bombed as the only possible means of slowing down or stopping future deportations. (This is submitted by me as a proposal of these agencies and I can venture no opinion on its utility). At least.....

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State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972

in January 1944 preparations were being made to receive and
exterminate Hungarian Jews in these camps. Even a detailed
report on these camps will be added.

HARRISON

(*) apparent omissions

NY 740 BU
6/25/44

cc: See'y, Abrahamson, Akzin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gascon, Hodel,
Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Mannen, Marks, McCormack, Sargy, Smith, Standish,
Stewart, Weinstein, H. D. White, Fehle, Files.

JUL 4 1944

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following confidential message for you from Mr. Pilpel was received through the American Embassy at Lisbon under date of June 28, 1944:

"Mayer suggests and it is believed WRB representative Bern wiring Washington as follows: first, that United States, Sweden and Palestine should each grant visas in tens of thousands for Hungarians on basis of which Swiss might request Hungary to allow refugees to remain there; second, Algiers, Spain and Portugal should be asked to set up transit camps especially for rabbis, religious and intellectual leaders. Hungarian commander thinks German transit possible; third, since carrying out these plans in Europe involve heavy cash and merchandise outlay Mayer would need millions Swiss francs in hand additional to current appropriation.

It is thought by Dobkin that Palestine certificates available provided United Nations approved Brandt proposal or modification of it. Referring telegram to Mayer stating that rabbis think cooperation Sternbusch imperative Saly considers important you know that various responsible groups seek action their adherents and proteges while JDC is concerned with general rescue. Since propositions invariably overlap Mayer indicates necessity of decision on policy to support joint type as well as other.

Despite real special organizations America to accomplish their purposes we desire point out Saly's excellent working relationships with representatives all organizations in Switzerland. Expected Saly meeting delegates several groups soon hoping for fusion projects. Informing Schwartz all of above."

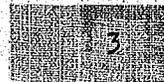
Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

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

FH:db 7/4/44



000584

2- war Refugee Ref. Am. Redls
CONTROL COPY

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: AMLEGATION, BERN
DATED: July 10, 1944
NUMBER: 2360

FOLLOWING FOR MINISTER HARRISON AT BERN FOR MCGLELLAND
The substance of the proposal reported in your 4170 of June 30 is being conveyed to the British and Soviet governments in accord with policy to do so with all such proposals no matter how dubious their nature or origin. Somewhat similar proposals have been reported through Stockholm and Ankara and the United States and British governments are now considering the practicability of requesting the Spanish government to receive temporarily a manageable number of Jews and other persecuted people permitted to depart by German and satellite authorities from territories controlled by them.

Saly Mayer should endeavor, through persons by whom appeal was addressed to him, to ascertain more detailed information concerning identity of persons making proposal and manner in which proposed operation would be carried out. In view of Swiss franc element, it would appear proposal is one motivated by German need for foreign exchange, and for exploratory purposes Saly Mayer might inquire about the acceptability

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

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STATE
WASHINGTON, D.C.
JUL 21 1941

the acceptability of support for proposed camps by means not productive of foreign exchange, such as by internal borrowings against blocked funds in neutral bank or the actual importation of foodstuffs and clothing under adequate Inter-cross supervision and with adequate guarantees as to use to which same will be put. In making his inquiries Saly Mayer should not refer to this Government or any interest it may have in the matter.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 75
x

HULL
(GLW)

000680

CABLE TO WASHINGTON WASHINGTON AT BERN FOR McCLELLAND

The substance of the proposal reported in your 4170 of June 30 is being conveyed to the British and Soviet governments in accord with policy to do so with all such proposals no matter how dubious their nature or origin. Somewhat similar proposals have been reported through Stockholm and Ankara and the United States and British governments are now considering the practicability of requesting the Spanish government to receive temporarily a manageable number of Jews and other persecuted people permitted to depart by German and satellite authorities from territories controlled by them.

Saly Mayer should endeavor, through persons by whom appeal was addressed to him, to ascertain more detailed information concerning identity of persons making proposal and manner in which proposed operation would be carried out. In view of Swiss freer consent, it would appear proposal is one motivated by German need for foreign exchange, and for exploratory purposes Saly Mayer might inquire about the acceptability of support for proposed camps by means not productive of foreign exchange, such as by internal borrowings against blocked funds in neutral bank or the actual importation of foodstuffs and clothing under adequate Inter-cross supervision and with adequate guarantees as to use to which same will be put. In making his inquiries Saly Mayer should not (repeat not) refer to this Government or any interest it may have in the matter.

THIS IS WNS CABLE TO BERN NO. 75

July 8, 1944
31 p.m.

JH LSH

LSLesser; pdk-8/7/44

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

not dictated or distributed

STERNBUCH DEALS

B

000688



000691

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: June 2, 1944
NUMBER: 3506

(See 37)

Following is from Sternbuch for Union of Orthodox Rabbis

The Vittel situation is not clear and for some time there has been no direct news. It is not known how many internees remain at Vittel and who are among those at the Drancy concentration camp near Paris. Necessary steps to bring internees back to Vittel have been taken by the American Legation at Bern.

In connection with Bergen-Belsen and York Camp Bergau near Dresden we wish to refer to last explanations by us. Unfortunately, there has been no change in the situation there. No authorization to contact or visit this camp or to send parcels of food is held by IRC. Your intervention is expected by us.

We urgently ask you to find a solution to the problem of proposed passports without regard to the Vittel situation. Those papers are received by us only from one Consulate up to the present time. This is absolutely insufficient for rescue work carried on by us. At various places such papers are useful means and they have so far helped in Slovakia and Hungary. Jews in Hungary are requesting them most urgently to be emitted by different states.

We are quite desperate regarding the increasingly terrible Hungarian situation. There are already on deportation lists 3,000 Jews. It is urgently requested by Rabbi of Munkacs and others that airmail be sent to the towns of Munkacs, Kaschau and Presov. 15,000 Jews per day are deported to Poland over this route since May 15. The people are in despair that nothing has been done until the present. It is requested that you intervene and not miss another hour in this matter as this is one means of rescue.

As yet our courier from Lithuania has not returned. Chief Rabbi Hager of Wyznits and family have been saved and arrived yesterday in Bucharest.

Negotiations with Slovakia for the purpose of opening further labor camps for refugees from Hungary have been started by us with the Vatican's aid. The cost of setting up these camps has been underwritten by us provided there is no restriction on admission of new refugees.

From the

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

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000694

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: June 16, 1944
NUMBER: 2077

CONTROL COPY

From War Refugee Board to Harrison

Please deliver the following message to Saly Mayer, St. Gall, Switzerland, from Moses A. Leavitt of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

"Please discuss with Sternbuch his cables to rabbinical group here regarding request Rabbi of Neutra for million dollars and request for aid from Freudiger. After discussion with McClelland please advise through Legation Bern possibilities extend increased aid to Jews Hungary. Rabbinical group here most anxious for your cooperation with Sternbuch. We would appreciate being kept currently informed. Mizrahi organization here received cable request for \$50,000 from Doctor Issac Rom Zurich Bahnhofstrasse 74 please contact him and advise purposes funds required and your recommendations."

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 43.

HULL

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

000695

CABLE TO BERN

From War Refugee Board to Harrison

Please deliver the following message to Saly Mayer, St. Gall, Switzerland, from Moses A. Leavitt of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

"Please discuss with Sternbuch his cables to rabbinical group here regarding request Rabbi of Neutra for million dollars and request for aid from Freudiger Stop After discussion with McClelland please advise through Legation Bern possibilities extend increased aid to Jews Hungary Stop Rabbinical group here most anxious for your cooperation with Sternbuch stop We would appreciate being kept currently informed Stop Misrachi organization here received cable request for \$50,000 from Doctor Issao Rom Zurich Bahnhofstrasse 74 please contact him and advise purposes funds required and your recommendations"

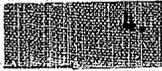
THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 43

June 15, 1944
10:15 a.m.

cc:Sec'y, Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Stewart, Central Files, Cable Control Files.

FH:lab 6/14/44

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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, Moscow
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: June 19, 1944
NUMBER: 2184

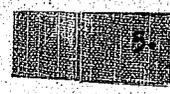
Reference is made herewith to Department's cable of June 9, No. 1460, and Embassy's cable of June 15, No. 2142, concerning proposals of the War Refugee Board.

There has been received by the Embassy from Vyshinski a secret note dated June 18 stating that there have been brought to the attention of the Soviet Government the contents of Embassy's note dated June 15, and that Vyshinski has been instructed by the Soviet Government to state that it does not consider it permissible or expedient to carry on any conversations whatsoever with the German Government on the questions which the note from the Embassy touched upon.

HARRIMAN

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

100690



000693

CONTROL COPY

*near Refugee Board
Mr. Peble*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED
FROM: American Legation, Lisbon
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: June 21, 1944
REF: 1944
X

1 copy only

Fols

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Enclosed send the following for the attention of Le-vitt,
JUN 21.

Refugee Board No. 73.

It is authorized by Saly that the Starbuck Foundation
operation is directed only toward aid for limited groups,
despite the size of grant.

NOV 1944

*6/27/44
Message sent to
Secret
JH*

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

000700

JUN 27 1944

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Mr. Filpel was received through the American Legation, Lisbon, under date of June 21, 1944:

"It is emphasized by Saly that the Sternbuch Freudiger proposition is directed only toward aid for limited groups, despite the size of grant."

Very truly yours,

J. W. Fehle
Executive Director

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

28 ✓
FH:ro 6/27/44

6

000702

*2-ward by [unclear]
[unclear]*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: June 21, 1944
NUMBER: 2119
x

CONTROL COPY

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The War Refugee Board requests that you deliver the following message to Mr. Isaac Sternbuch, 3 Teufener Strasse, St. Gallen:

"Cabled you 100,000 dollars equivalent 428,816 Swiss Francs to help comply with requests Neutra Rabbi and President Freudiger and for other rescue projects. Joint instructed Saly Meyer to discuss with you Neutra Rabbi's and Freudiger's appeals. Contact him and advise us regarding results. Contact War Refugee Board representative McClelland, detail to him your and Neutra rabbi's and Freudiger's plans and request his financial assistance. Rabbi Aaron Kotler, Vaad Hahatzala."

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 48.
x

HULL

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

000703

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AND MCCLELLAND, BERN, SWITZERLAND

The War Refugee Board requests that you deliver the following message to Mr. Isaac Sternbuch, 3 Teufener Strasse, St. Gallen:

QUOTE Cabled you 100,000 dollars equivalent 428,816 Swiss francs to help comply with requests Neutra Rabbi and President Freudiger and for other rescue projects. Joint instructed Saly Meyer to discuss with you Neutra Rabbi's and Freudiger's appeals. Contact him and advise us regarding results. Contact War Refugee Board representative McClelland, detail to him your and Neutra rabbi's and Freudiger's plans and request his financial assistance.

Vaad Hahatzala

Rabbi Aaron Kotler UNQUOTE

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 48.

June 17, 1944
12:15 p.m.

Ed. L.S.L.
Bakzin:ar 6/16/44

ועד ההצלה

VAAD HAHATZALA

(Emergency Committee for Refugee Scholars,
Yeshivoth, Rabbis and Communal Leaders)

132 NASSAU STREET

(ROOM 819)

NEW YORK 7, N. Y.

PHONE RECTOR 2-4235

MESSAGE TO ISAAC STERNBUCH
ST. GALLEN SWITZERLAND THROUGH THE
AMERICAN LEGATION, BERN

~~-----~~
~~-----~~
CABLED YOU 100,000 DOLLARS EQUIVALENT 428,816 SWISS

FRANCS. TO HELP COMPLY WITH REQUESTS NAE'RAH RABBI

AND PRESIDENT FREUDIGER AND ~~IF YOU FIND NECESSARY~~ *for other rescue projects.*

~~OTHERS IN THESE LANDS STOP~~ JOINT CABLED SOLLY MEYER *instead Solly*

TO DISCUSS WITH YOU ~~REGARDING~~ NAE'RAH RABBIS

AND FREUDIGERS APPEALS. ~~STOP~~ JOINT EMPHASIZED OUR MUTUAL KEEN

DESIRE THAT ~~SOLLY MEYER~~ COOPERATE WITH YOU. CONTACT HIM *and*

advise us regarding results. ADVISE WHAT YOU ACCOMPLISH AND WHAT MEYER DOES STOP

ADVISABLE NAE'RAH RABBI AND FREUDIGER APPEAL THROUGH

~~YOU DIRECTLY TO JOINT STOP~~ CONTACT WAR REFUGEE BOARDS

REPRESENTATIVE MCCLELLAN) *and* DETAIL TO HIM YOUR NAE'RAH

RABBIS FREUDIGERS PLANS AND REQUEST HIS FINANCIAL

ASSISTANCE.

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

Rabbi Avrom Kotler

*app'd
By Peblif*

000705

7

000706

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: June 27, 1944
NUMBER: 2184

x

FROM J. W. PEBLE, WAR REFUGEE BOARD FOR McCLELLAND, BERN

Reference Legation's No. 3506, June 2, containing message from Sternbuch to Union of Orthodox Rabbis.

The Board and certain private groups here are being pressed by Union of Orthodox Rabbis for funds in connection with appeal for \$1,000,000 from Rabbi of Neutra and President Freudiger of the Budapest Jewish Community reported in above cable from Bern, JDC has already cabled Saly Mayer to discuss this matter with Sternbuch.

Please send me at once your views concerning the proposal and, in particular, advise me whether the suggested payment will in your opinion produce results. Will you also consult Saly Mayer and in your message to me include Mayer's views which we will send on to the JDC.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 59.

HULL

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

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Akzin, Berns ein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laug lin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Peble, Sargoy, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H. D. White, Files.

CABLE TO HARRISON FOR McCLELLAND, BERN, FROM J. W. FEHLE, WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Reference Legation's no. 3606, June 3, containing message from Sternbuch to Union of Orthodox Rabbis.

The Board and certain private groups here are being pressed by Union of Orthodox Rabbis for funds in connection with appeal for \$1,000,000 from Rabbi of Neutra and President Freudiger of the Budapest Jewish Community reported in above cable from Bern. JDC has already cabled Saly Mayer to discuss this matter with Sternbuch.

Please send me at once your views concerning the proposal and in particular, advise me whether the suggested payment will in your opinion produce results. Will you also consult Saly Mayer and in your message to me include Mayer's views which we will send on to the JDC.

FH:lab 6/26/44

000708

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM BERT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington

TO: American Legation, Bonn

DATE: June 16, 1944

NUMBER: 2077

From War Refugee Board to American

Please deliver the following message to Sally Meyer, St. Gall, Switzerland, from Moses A. Lewitt of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

"Please discuss with Sternbuch his cables to rabbinical group here regarding request Rabbi of Neutra for million dollars and request for aid from President. After discussion with McClelland please advise through Legation Bonn possibilities extend increased aid to Jews Hungary. Rabbinical group here most anxious for your cooperation with Sternbuch. We would appreciate being kept currently informed. Misrahi organization here received cable request for \$50,000 from Reuter Isaac Ben Zurich Bahnhofstrasse 74 please contact him and advise purposes funds required and your recommendations.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 43.

BULL

CCs: Sady, Abrahamson, Abin Bernstein, Golri, DeBois, Friedman, Ganton, Hoggel, Laughlin, Lesser, Lundford, Mann, Sannon, Marks, McCormack, Cargoy, Smith, Standish, Stewart, Nainstein, H. D. White, Finkle, Filsa.

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

000709

ועד ההצלה

VAAD HAHATZALA

(Emergency Committee for Refugee Scholars,
Yeshivoth, Rabbis and Communal Leaders)

132 NASSAU STREET
(ROOM 819)
NEW YORK 7, N. Y.
PHONE RECTOR 2-4235

June 23, 1944

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

Honorable Sir:

We refer to the dispatch of June 12th which your Board made available to us and in which Isaac Sternbuch of our Committee in Switzerland calls our attention to the very strong appeals from the Naetrar Rabbi and President Freudiger of the Budapest Jewish Community. In these appeals, our attention is directed to the possibilities for rescue which these two leaders find existent and for which larger sums, as high as two millions are necessary.

The Vaad Hahatzala, as is known to you, made immediately available the sum of \$100,000.00 to the Committee in Switzerland. We hope to be able to send an additional sum at the earliest possibility.

The projects of the Naetrar Rabbi and President Freudiger are of such proportions, and our most earnest desire to meet them so limited, that we must respectfully submit the matter to your consideration, and to request your Board to designate from the funds under its control, whatever sums it may deem necessary to completely exploit the existent rescue possibilities in these plans submitted.

// We have brought the subject to the attention of Assistant Secretary of State Adolph A. Berle, Jr., who seems favorable disposed in the matter.

We feel, that we can in this request, receive the sincere and sympathetic concern which you have always manifested to the matters we have had occasion to call to your attention.

Very respectfully yours,

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

A. Kalmanowitz
Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

AK:r

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: June 2, 1944
NUMBER: 3508

Following is from Sternbuch for Union of Orthodox Rabbis:

The Vittel situation is not clear and for some time there has been no direct news. It is not known how many internees remain at Vittel and who are among those at the Drancy concentration camp near Paris. Necessary steps to bring internees back to Vittel have been taken by the American Legation at Bern.

In connection with Bergen-Belsen and York Camp Bergau near Dresden we wish to refer to last explanations by us. Unfortunately, there has been no change in the situation there. No authorization to contact or visit this camp or to send parcels of food is held by IRC. Your intervention is expected by us.

We urgently ask you to find a solution to the problem of proposed passports without regard to the Vittel situation. Those papers are received by us only from one Consulate up to the present time. This is absolutely insufficient for rescue work carried on by us. At various places such papers are useful means and they have so far helped in Slovakia and Hungary. Jews in Hungary are requesting them most urgently to be emitted by different states.

We are quite desperate regarding the increasingly terrible Hungarian situation. There are already on deportation lists 3,000 Jews. It is urgently requested by Rabbi of Neutra and others that airmail be sent to the towns of Munkacs, Kaschau and Presov. 15,000 Jews per day are deported to Poland over this route since May 15. The people are in despair that nothing has been done until the present. It is requested that you intervene and not miss another hour in this matter as this is one means of rescue.

As yet our courier from Lithuania has not returned. Chief Rabbi Hager of Wyszynits and family have been saved and arrived yesterday in Bucharest.

Negotiations with Slovakia for the purpose of opening further labor camps for refugees from Hungary have been started by us with the Vatican's aid. The cost of setting up these camps has been underwritten by us provided there is no restriction on admission of new refugees.

From the

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

From the Rabbi of Neutra we have received a message wherein he bitterly complains of not having enough money for this rescue work. He must support about (*) people from Hungary who are saved daily besides those coming from Poland. Moreover all Jews in hiding as well as in numerous labor camps must be fed. The Rabbin are all without livelihood. A further 200,000 francs have been placed at disposal and he wires that for the vast rescue program this sum is ridiculous. At least \$1,000,000 are expected by him and he calls heaven and earth as witnesses that if he had had more money he could have saved the Gaoz of Tschochow and many others.

The Rabbin of Neutra is a very old man and has been a frequent traveler of Hungary along the whole border. He is describing catastrophic prophecies. Nearly all Jews in Hungary are being set up in the most inhumane way. The border is being sealed under dictate of Germans and other countries and under the direction of local authorities which are quite as brutal as in the east. Szombathely is an absolutely closed ghetto now and under circumstances are unknown. Jews of Galanta are accommodated in Stfaunkow having been permitted to carry with them hardly anything. The way things look in concentration camps of Ksegod and Kassa cannot be described by me. The desert are in wood without cover. In Kaschau 15,000 and in Ungvar about 20,000 are living in brick factories. They are in houses in Nagyvarad but approximately 13,000 are in a few streets which are walled off with boards. It is the same in Munkacs. It is declared by Buurpleit Moframm that this is technique used to break down the resistance of masses psychologically to prepare them for the worst which has come true. Jewish deportations has become the naked truth and is mercilessly carried on. Today in Munkacs Kaschau, Nyiregyhaza, etc.; other transports are to follow tomorrow. About 310,000 of our brethren, orthodox, reservoir of the country are now being subjected to these measures. Avoiding further misfortune is solely dependent on your grasping this situation and on your coming to our aid. We are absolutely dependent on you for life or death. We can perhaps be partially or totally saved if you can and will keep us, but we are lost if not. Do not sit still and do not think about it long. Take action at once and awake those who can aid us as long as there is yet time to do so.

A million Swiss francs were promised at once by wire but a million dollars are requested by them. We wish to know what action should be taken.

HARRISON

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Sargoy, Smith, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H.D. White, Files.

V. H. E. C.
132 NASSAU STREET
Suite 819-820
NEW YORK 7, N. Y.

93



SPECIAL DELIVERY

SPECIAL DELIVERY

Honorable John W. Peltie, Exec. Dir.
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Miss Hodel
190

000713

8.

000714

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

000715

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000716

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: June 30, 1944
NUMBER: 4170

MCCLELLAND SENDS THE FOLLOWING FOR WEB.

Reference is made herein to the Legation's cable of June 24, no. 4041.

The Jews of Budapest have no illusion as to the fact that deportation is probably in store for the majority of 300,000 Jews concentrated in houses and restricted blocks all over that city, according to information dated June 18 and received from responsible Jewish circles in Budapest. It is openly admitted by the Germans that selection of those to be deported will be made on a basis as follows: (A) men who are able-bodied, (B) children, women and girls who are able-bodied, (C) all persons unsuited for work and children. No doubt the last mentioned category will be sent to Auschwitz for extermination while the first two groups will be used as forced labor in occupied territories and Germany.

There seems to be some possibility, as result of recent discussions in Budapest between responsible Jews and Germans, of the following: (1) rescue of a small number of children and prominent persons who will be allowed to leave Hungary in an initial convoy of 1000 persons; and (2) rather than being immediately exterminated, the lean concession that 30,000 Hungarian Jews unsuited for work will be maintained in three camps in Germany. The success of these two proposals depends in turn on two conditions: (1) That there can be secured for the initial group of 1,000 and for others to follow emigration possibilities via Spain; and (2) that the three camps of 10,000 persons each in Germany can be supported by the supply of funds from Jewish organizations. To do this it is estimated that at least 500,000 Swiss francs monthly would be necessary. It was intimated by the Germans that further contingents would be allowed to leave Germany from these camps as Spanish transit and overseas (Palestine, North Africa or elsewhere) emigration visas became available.

These propositions have been discussed with Salymayer of Joint to whom appeal has been addressed, to find funds required for the support of such camps in Germany. We both feel that a serious attempt should be made to secure initial block of 1,000 or more Spanish transit visas at

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

least for the children, even though we both consider them highly improbable and incomprehensible from many angles. To care for such transit groups arrangements should be made in Spain and for further destinations also. A great many have Palestine certificates, according to information we have received from Budapest. We recommend that approach be made to the Spanish Government.

In at least trying to comply with requests of persons sur(*) place in Hungary there is nothing to lose and possibly something to gain, even though these propositions may seem to be far fetched. Even though remote, every channel of aid must be explored in view of the desperation of the situation of Jews there. Over 400,000 have already been deported, according to reports.

HARRISON

(*) Apparent omission

DCR:MAS:EA
7-3-44

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Aksin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargo, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, R. D. White, Files.

000718

10.

000719

*2-year Refugee Rel.
in public*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: July 5, 1944
NUMBER: 4258

CONTROL COPY

KWB

From McClelland for attention of WRB.

About the second of May Sally Mayer first reported the proposition referred to in the Department's 2183, June 27, to JDC Lisbon by telephone. On June 29, I again discussed the whole matter with him. Involved in the proposition are ransom negotiations between representative Jewish circles Budapest and Germans, according to which the Germans would refrain from deporting Hungarian Jews in return for \$2,000,000. Numerous other conditions were also proposed to the Germans, principally being the following: preferential treatment of women, children, and old people; no brutality; exit permits for those possessing or receiving emigration visas; no labor camps to be outside Hungarian territory; and permission to send relief into whatever camps were set up. Early in May from local Hungarian Jewish resources a first payment of 10 per cent or \$200,000 was made. The detail of the conditions under which further installments were to be paid are not in our possession. The result was that the Germans immediately allowed a Jewish emissary to go to Istanbul (about May 16), even placing a plane at his disposal, to discuss the proposition, particularly the

emigration

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

000720

emigration angle which concerns Palestine. Later on the emissary made a trip to Jerusalem also.

Regarding this both Saly Mayer and I would be grateful if you could find out from JDC New York whether, during his visit to Barlas, Joel Brand contacted JDC. We request that you inform us regarding this matter.

Deportation of Jews from provinces started as soon as the emissary had left Budapest. This seems to have been due to over-zealous action on the part of Hungarian Nazis and anti-Semites for whom temptation to indulge in newly gained power and to plunder was too great, according to information which we have received.

However, no indications have been received from Budapest that negotiations on the original proposition have broken down or even that \$200,000 is to be considered as lost. Unfortunately the original result hoped for has been already largely annulled by drastic action of Hungarian authorities; and there seems to remain only Jews in Budapest area.

Hereafter this will be referred to as "proposition No. 1."

According to concensus of opinion the proposition referred to in the Department's 2184 of June 27, whereby Freudiger and Rabbi of Neutra appealed for one million dollars to save many Hungarian Jews is based on information possessed almost surely identical with "proposition No. 1." Freudiger sent this separate appeal to Sternbuch for the Union of Orthodox Rabbis in the USA, apparently in ^{an} attempt to make doubly sure. The
A
desire

000721

desire for this million was to finance rescue, particularly of Orthodox Jews in Hungary.

This matter was discussed by Saly Mayer and Sternbuch on the 29th of June, and they agreed that hereafter the financial leadership in the whole Hungarian question should remain in New York in the hands of JDC. Regardless of the source, all funds available in USA should be centralized with JDC and transmitted to Mayer for relief or rescue of all categories of Jews in Germany who are endangered. Saly Mayer, on the other hand agreed with Sternbuch to respect earmarked funds sent through him for special groups in Hungary, and the whole discussion has been confirmed by cable directly to the Union of Orthodox Rabbis by Sternbuch.

The most recent variant of "proposition No. 1" is contained in the Legation's 4170 of June 30. In the near future we ought to receive some clarifying information as further messages from Budapest are overdue. By now the emissary should have returned to Budapest.

We submit in answer to last paragraph of your 2184 that it is very difficult to predict whether practical results can be produced from such a ransom proposition. Personally, I am sceptical of any successful outcome, and one can only hope something will come of it. Rather than money, the Germans have already shown signs of requesting goods, such as foodstuffs, textiles. To check Hungarian elements who have launched this program of persecution with the avowed purpose of ridding their country of Jews will also be difficult. Perhaps this is the
reason

reason why the Germans have proposed taking the 30,000 to Germany.

However, there are two factors fundamental to the whole question: (1) There should be seriously explored all possible emigration destinations or temporary havens for Hungarian Jews such as Palestine, North Africa, USA for children or South America and sizeable blocks of visas obtained or at least agreement in principle for obtaining visas. There should also be secured transit authorizations for Spain and Portugal. The Germans have refused to allow departures via Rumania and Turkey for reasons as yet not explained. (2) There should be made available to Saly Mayer here in Switzerland in Swiss francs (in addition naturally to his regular relief budget) a substantial fund from JDC, and any other sources, of at least one million dollars. It is strongly felt by Mayer that this will serve to keep up the moral of the remaining Jews in Hungary, and of course such funds will be subject to any control desired, will remain in Switzerland, and without prior submission of proposal and specific authorization, will not be used.

During the course of the last two months, in order to meet this tragic situation, Saly Mayer has already sent over eight thousand Swiss francs into Hungary and two days ago he transmitted to Bratislava two hundred thousand Swiss francs.

HARRISON

000723

11.

000724

*2 million Refugee Fed.
m. cable*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: AMLEGATION, BERN
DATED: July 8, 1944
NUMBER: 2354
x

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FOR THE ATTENTION OF MCCLELLAND.

The Joint Distribution Committee is prepared, with reference to the penultimate paragraph of your 4258, July 5, to make the one million dollars requested by Sally Mayer available and within a few days remittance will follow.

The foregoing message is WMB cable to Bern no. 76.
x

HULL

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

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000725

~~SECRET~~

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AT BERN FOR McCLELLAND

Reference penultimate paragraph your No. 4258 of July 5.
JDC prepared to make available the one million dollars
requested by Saly Mayer and remittance will be made in next
few days.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 76.

July 8, 1944
5:00 p.m.

*Cleared with Pehler,
Lesser, DuBois, Leavitt
and Warren*

WH:db 7/8/44

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

not dittoed or distributed

000726

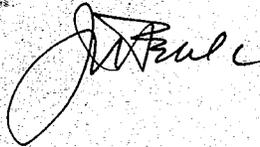
000727

July 11, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES:

Reference is made to cable No. 4258 from Bern, dated July 5, and the reference therein to the transfer to Saly Mayer of \$1,000,000 in Swiss francs. This cable came to our attention on Saturday, July 8, and the matter was promptly discussed with the JDC who said that they would put up the \$1,000,000, although presumably they would have to borrow the money. With respect to the problem of the requisite Swiss francs, we have had discussions with Glasser, Fox and DuBois, and Glasser also spoke to E. M. Bernstein at Bretton Woods on the matter. On Monday, July 10, I called at the Swiss Legation and discussed the matter with the Swiss Minister. He is cabling Bern, emphasizing the need for making available the Swiss francs to cover the \$1,000,000 transfer and also requesting Swiss francs to cover the transfer of an additional \$500,000. The Swiss Minister anticipated there would be difficulties with the Swiss National Bank in the matter, although he agreed the transfer had to be made. I asked him whether it would be helpful if the Treasury agreed to take all of the monthly quota of 8,250,000 francs against exportable gold rather than taking 3,250,000 Swiss francs of this amount against blocked dollars. He said he did not think that such a concession was important at this time since the Swiss were not exporting gold from the United States. The Swiss Minister said it might be helpful if the United States would permit the Swiss to buy certain goods which are not scarce in the United States for storage and shipment at a later date. He felt that this would demonstrate to the Swiss that their dollars are useable. He said he would explore this phase of the matter later and keep me advised.

Bruggmann also suggested that we send a cable to Harrison and McClelland to discuss this matter with Mr. Kohli of the Swiss Political Department.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'J. Paul', is written in a cursive style.

000728

July 11, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES:

Reference is made to cable No. 4258 from Bern, dated July 5, and the reference therein to the transfer to Saly Mayer of \$1,000,000 in Swiss francs. This cable came to our attention on Saturday, July 8, and the matter was promptly discussed with the JDC who said that they would put up the \$1,000,000, although presumably they would have to borrow the money. With respect to the problem of the requisite Swiss francs, we have had discussions with Glasser, Fox and DuBois, and Glasser also spoke to E. M. Bernstein at Bretton Woods on the matter. On Monday, July 10, I called at the Swiss Legation and discussed the matter with the Swiss Minister. He is cabling Bern, emphasizing the need for making available the Swiss francs to cover the \$1,000,000 transfer and also requesting Swiss francs to cover the transfer of an additional \$500,000. The Swiss Minister anticipated there would be difficulties with the Swiss National Bank in the matter, although he agreed the transfer had to be made. I asked him whether it would be helpful if the Treasury agreed to take all of the monthly quota of 8,250,000 francs against exportable gold rather than taking 3,250,000 Swiss francs of this amount against blocked dollars. He said he did not think that such a concession was important at this time since the Swiss were not exporting gold from the United States. The Swiss Minister said it might be helpful if the United States would permit the Swiss to buy certain goods which are not scarce in the United States for storage and shipment at a later date. He felt that this would demonstrate to the Swiss that their dollars are useable. He said he would explore this phase of the matter later and keep me advised.

Bruggmann also suggested that we send a cable to Harrison and McClelland to discuss this matter with Mr. Kohli of the Swiss Political Department.

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

JWPehle:lhk 7/11/44

000727

13.

000730

==

*2-Mar Ref. Red.
Mr. Pehle*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: July 12, 1944
NUMBER: 2387

CONTROL COPY

TO MINISTER HARRISON AND McCLELLAND.

Pehle has been in consultation with Swiss Minister here in an effort to secure without delay the Swiss franc equivalent of \$1,500,000 for extraordinary relief purposes. You are requested urgently to discuss this matter with Kohli of the Swiss Political Department. This relates in part to JDC compliance with Saly Mayer request reported in your 4258 of July 5.

THIS IS WRB CABLE BERN NO. 81.

HULL

RECEIVED
STATE DEPT.
JUL 15 1944

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 141-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972

000731

SECRET
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AT BERN AND McCLELLAND

Pehle has been in consultation with Swiss Minister here in an effort to secure without delay the Swiss franc equivalent of \$1,500,000 for extraordinary relief purposes. You are requested urgently to discuss this matter with Kohli of the Swiss Political Department. This relates in part to JDC compliance with Saly Mayer request reported in your 4258 of July 5.

July 11, 1944
5:10 p.m.

THIS IS WRB CABLE BERN NO. 81.

LSLesseridch

cc: Sec'y, Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodal, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Stewart, Central Files, Cable Control Files.

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

000732

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AT BERN AND McCLELLAND

~~Access to book & Pehle's / conversation~~ has been in consultation with Swiss Minister here in an effort to secure the Swiss franc equivalent of \$1,500,000 WITHOUT DELAY for extraordinary relief purposes. You are requested urgently to discuss this matter with Kohli of the Swiss Political Department. This relates in part to JLC compliance with Saly Mayer request reported in your 4258 of July 5.

July 11, 1944
5:10 p.m.

THIS IS WRB CABLE BERN NO. 81.

L.S.L.
LSLesser:deh 7/10/44

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

000733

14.

000734

July 13, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES:

Reference is made to my memorandum for the files of July 11.

The Swiss Minister called today and said that he had received word from Switzerland that the Swiss franc equivalent of \$1,500,000 would be available for the humanitarian purposes which I had described to him, the only condition being that the Swiss francs should not be used for other purposes and, if not needed for the purposes indicated should not be used at all. I thanked Bruggmann for this important action by the Swiss authorities.

With regard to the Treasury's request for additional Swiss franc facilities Bruggmann said that such matter ought to be discussed in Bern and that while he would be glad to send a cable to his government urging that such facilities be made available he could see that substantial difficulties would be involved.

J. A. Paul

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FOREIGN DEPARTMENT
FOREIGN OPERATIONS DIVISION

DATE July 14, 1944

TO: Miss Hodel

FROM: Peter Lang

As per our telephone conversation

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OUTGOING CABLEGRAM
JULY 14, 1944

Banque Nationale Suisse

Zurich

No. 468

By order of American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee Inc
we have credited \$1,500,000 to your account "T" Please pay Swiss franc
equivalent to the American Minister Berne Switzerland for payment to
Roswell McClelland, War Refugee Board representative, against receipt
STOP Arrangements for payment equivalent Swiss francs made by War
Refugee Board with Swiss Minister Washington after consultation with
Switzerland and with understanding that Swiss francs are to be used
solely for humanitarian purposes

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF NEW YORK

000738

16

000739

MEMORANDUM

For attachment to:

FFC Letter No:

Date:

TO: Liaison Officer, Foreign Funds Control

FROM: War Refugee Board

Subject: **Rescue operations in Hungary and the Balkans**

There is transmitted herewith a copy of a ~~letter dated~~ ^{memo from Miss Hodell dated 7-14-44}
from the ^{dealing with remittance of}
**\$1,500,000 to Federal Reserve Bank of New York for credit to account T of the
Swiss National Bank, Zurich, Swiss franc equivalent to be paid to Roswell Mc-
Clelland for rescue operations in Hungary and the Balkans.**

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

Remarks:

F. Hodell
For the War Refugee Board

Action:

Basic license No. Wa issued
Remittance license No. NY 638933 issued July 14, 1944
Other: x

B. H. Hark
Liaison Officer
Foreign Funds Control

Date: July 14, 1944

000740

July 14, 1944

: Mr. O'Flaherty
: F. Hodel

The War Refugee Board urgently recommends the immediate issuance of a license to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee to pay, notwithstanding General Ruling No. 11, \$1,500,000 to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York for credit to account of the Swiss National Bank, Zurich, the Swiss franc equivalent to be paid to the American Minister in Bern for payment to Roswell McClelland, War Refugee Board representative, for Saly Mayar.

The above-mentioned sum is needed immediately for rescue operations in Hungary and in the Balkans, which have been approved by the War Refugee Board. Arrangements for the Swiss francs were made by the War Refugee Board with the Swiss Minister in Washington after consultation with Switzerland with the understanding that the Swiss francs would be used solely for humanitarian purposes.

FH
F. Hodel

FH;db 7/15/44

000741

1 = 1944

NY 638933

Pursuant to application filed directly with this Office you are hereby authorized to issue a license permitting, notwithstanding General Ruling No. 11, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee or its bank of account to pay \$1,500,000 to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York for credit to Account T of the Swiss National Bank, Zurich, for payment of the Swiss franc equivalent to the American Minister at Berne, Switzerland for payment to Roswell McLelland, War Refugee Board representative, for Saly Mayer. Please send signed copy of license issued pursuant to this wire to Dr. Lang, Federal Reserve Bank of New York

(Initialed) O.A.S.

Oryia K. Schmidt
Acting Director
XXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

402

RBPark:emj 7/14/44

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17.

000743

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE July 15, 1944

TO : Mr. Pehle
FROM : F. Hodel
Re : ONE MILLION DOLLAR FUND FOR SALY MAYER

The following is the statement made by McClelland in his cable of July 5:

"There should be made available to Saly Mayer here in Switzerland in Swiss francs (in addition, naturally, to his regular budget) a substantial fund from JDC, and other sources, of at least \$1,000,000. It is strongly felt by Mayer that this will serve to keep up moral of the remaining Jews in Hungary, and of course such funds will be subject to any control desired, will remain in Switzerland, and without prior submission of proposal and specific authorization will not be used."

If you feel that a statement from us to McClelland is desirable, there is attached a proposed cable for your signature.

JH.

F. Hodel

Attachment

000744

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



OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

It will be appreciated if you will arrange for the immediate despatch in cipher of the attached proposed cable to Bern.

Attachment

100745

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON, BERN, FOR MCCLELLAND FROM WRB

Reference (Part 2) penultimate paragraph of your No. 4258 of July 5 and WRB cable No. _____, Department's No. _____ of July _____.

It is understood that \$1,000,000 fund which has been remitted by JDC to you for Saly Mayer will remain in Switzerland and will not be used without prior submission to Washington for specific authorization of WRB and Department.

700746

000747

2-22-44 R. H. Parks
m. F. H. L.

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: AMLEGATION, BERN
DATED: July 15, 1944
NUMBER: 2417
X

CONTROL COPY

Cable to Minister Harrison, Bern, for McClelland from WRB.

Please disregard WRB cable no. 81, Department's no. 2387 of July 12, since Pehle has made special arrangement with Swiss Minister here for Swiss franc equivalent of \$1,500,000 to be made available. The only condition imposed by the Swiss authorities is that the aforementioned Swiss francs be used solely for humanitarian purposes.

The \$1,500,000 is being supplied by JDC here and the Swiss franc equivalent should be turned over to Saly Mayer promptly upon receipt. \$1,000,000 of this amount is for the fund requested by Saly Mayer as reported in your no. 4258 of July 5. The balance of \$500,000 is for expenditure by Saly Mayer in connection with evacuation program from Balkans and as to which he will receive further instructions from Lisbon office of JDC.

Please cable when Swiss francs have been received and turned over to Saly Mayer.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 83.

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

HULL

000748

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON, BERN, FOR McCLELLAND FROM WRB

Please disregard WRB cable No. 81, Department's No. _____ of _____, since Pehle has made special arrangement with Swiss Minister here for Swiss franc equivalent of \$1,500,000 to be made available.. The only condition imposed by the Swiss authorities is that the aforementioned Swiss francs be used solely for humanitarian purposes.

The \$1,500,000 is being supplied by JDC here and the Swiss franc equivalent should be turned over to Saly Mayer promptly upon receipt. \$1,000,000 of this amount is for the fund requested by Saly Mayer as reported in your No. 4258 of July 5. The balance of \$500,000 is for expenditure by Saly Mayer in connection with evacuation program from Balkans and as to which he will receive further instructions from Lisbon office of JDC.

Please cable when Swiss francs have been received and turned over to Saly Mayer.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 83

3:05 p.m.
July 14, 1944

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

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Stewart, Central Files, Cable Control Files

Closed with Fil:db 7/14/44
Ms. Pehle + Mrs. Haerick JCH

000749

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

*I - was referred
Mr. Peble*

FROM: American Legation, Bern.
TO: Secretary of State, Washington.
DATED: July 26, 1944.
NUMBER: 4802.

CONTROL COPY

The following message is from McClelland for WRB.

We refer to messages from the Legation, Number 3506, dated June 2, and Number 4258, dated July 5; and to message from the Department dated July 18, Number 2449.

1. The following proposition has recently been submitted by Sternbuch; he declares it to be the Freudiger plan in its most recent development. Sternbuch has been asked to open a credit of 700,000 Swiss francs, through Schweizerischer Kreditanstalt, for the account of the firm of Intercommerz, in order to prevent deportation to Poland of a convoy of 1200 prominent Orthodox Jews, among them Rabbis, who are reported by associates of Sternbuch in Budapest and Bratislava to have departed from Hungary on their way to Spain. It is recommended for (PL) in Zurich to pay for forty tractors, agricultural, which are to be shipped through Schenker and Company (PL) for final delivery to a concern called Waren Verteilungskonter, located in Budapest; this payment to be made to the order of the Willy Tractor Factory (which is owned by Thomas Willy--PL), at

Lucerne

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

000750

Lucerne. This is an independent endeavor of Orthodox Jews in Hungary to rescue certain important members of their group, according to Sternbuch's description of the project. Gyula Link, a Jewish business man of Budapest, and Philipp Freudiger, head of Orthodox community of Budapest, are apparently the chief organizers of this action.

21. A train containing 1200 had passed through Bratislava on the 6th of July, where a correspondent, not named, talked with Rabbi Teitelbaum of Satmar, a member of the convoy, so Sternbuch reported on June 17th. Rabbi Teitelbaum said that they had been en route for six days already, and that the rumor was that the train would stay in Vienna about 14 days; they were to be taken to Spain for exchange for German war prisoners, they had been told.

3. As reported in message from the Legation of June 30, Number 4170, the matter of transports for Spain has been brought to our attention before and has usually been looked upon as a variation of the original ransom "Number 1 proposition" which was negotiated in Jerusalem and Istanbul by Joel Brandt and which concerned materials and money in exchange for German permission for the emigration of Hungarian Jews. Spanish transit visas for 500 children and 1500 grown persons had been granted, in principle, Dohkin of the Zionist organization, with regard to Spain, wired from Lisbon on July 25th.

4. An urgent telegram

4. An urgent telegram from Israel Kastner, a dependable Jewish lawyer in Budapest, a man who was closely associated with the first Brandt negotiations, was received on July 24 by Nathan Schwalb of Hechaluz, Geneva. This message requested that Sternbuch's proposition, especially the merchandise angle, be supported in every way. The above would appear to confirm the reality of the project which Sternbuch proposes.

5. ICRC has been asked by me to try to verify the departure of such a convoy of 1200 people and to obtain, through their delegation in Budapest, any other detailed information possible, but to date I have not received a reply from ICRC.

6. This entire proposition of Sternbuch's has been talked over with Saly Mayer of Joint, from whom 500,000 Swiss francs had been requested by Sternbuch, but, especially because there is no satisfactory guarantee that fulfillment of the tractor purchasing conditions would not only prevent the 1200 people being deported but actually assure their arrival in Spain, Mayer does not approve action along the lines proposed.

7. In order that an intelligent decision could be taken in time, I have urged Sternbuch continuously, ever since he first transmitted the appeals of Rabbi of Neutra and Freudiger, to secure further information with regard to these rescue plans.

Sternbuch

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July 18, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

The attached cable was prepared and sent to State after we received telephonic advice from the Vaad Hahatzala and from the JDC to the effect that a message had been received by the Vaad Hahatzala from Sternbuch to the effect that 1200 rabbis and communal leaders in Hungary were in danger of deportation and death within 48 hours unless 700,000 Swiss francs were made available immediately. The cable was dispatched after consultation with Messrs. Lesser, Abrahamson and Pehle. JDC and the Vaad Hahatzala were advised of the nature of our message to McClelland.

JH.

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*War Refugee Bd.
Mr. Riple*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATE: July 18, 1944
NUMBER: 2449

CONTROL COPY

FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD FOR MCCLELLAND.

Reports received here indicate serious immediate plight of large number Hungarian rabbis and communal leaders. Please consult Saly Mayer and Sternbuch jointly at once in effort to ascertain facts and plan course of action. JDC assumes Saly Mayer doint utmost to prevent reported deportation.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 86.

HULL

RECEIVED
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
JUL 20 1944

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

000756

TOP SECRET
SECRET
CONFIDENTIAL

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON, BERN, FOR McCLELLAND FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Reports received here indicate serious immediate plight of large number Hungarian rabbis and communal leaders. Please consult Saly Myer and Sternbuch jointly at once in effort to ascertain facts and plan course of action. JDC assumes Saly Myer doing utmost to prevent reported deportation.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 86

4:00 p.m.
July 18, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Stewart, Central Files, Cable Control Files

at Closed FH:db 7/18/44
at with Mann, Lessert & Mrs. Kelle

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JUL 20 1944

My dear Mr. Minister:

I have received your letter of July 14, 1944, and I wish to assure you of my deep appreciation for the recent action of your Government in placing at the disposal of this Government the Swiss franc equivalent of \$1,500,000 for humanitarian purposes.

While it is understood that the Swiss francs so made available will be primarily used for assistance to Jewish refugees in Hungary, I should like to explain that it is contemplated some of these funds will be used to assist refugees in Rumania, part of whom have fled to Rumania from Hungary.

I again wish to extend to you my deep gratitude for your sympathetic consideration of this and other matters which I have recently discussed with you. I assure you that this Government is deeply appreciative of the cooperation and help which the Government of Switzerland has extended in these great humanitarian undertakings.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director.

His Excellency,
The Minister of Switzerland,
Washington, D. C.

 JWPehle:lhk 7/20/44

000759

LÉGATION DE SUISSE
WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

F. A. 12

July 14, 1944.

My dear Mr. Pehle:

Confirming the conversation I had the pleasure to have with you yesterday, I wish to advise you that my Government is prepared to place at the disposal of the United States Government the Swiss franc equivalent of up to \$1,500,000 (one million five hundred thousand Dollars) against credit in dollars convertible into freely exportable gold.

It is understood that the American Legation in Berne will dispose of the Swiss francs so made available exclusively for the purpose indicated (assistance to Jewish refugees from Hungary) and only in such amounts as may be needed from time to time. It is further agreed that the dollar equivalent of the funds to be drawn under the arrangement will be credited to the account T of the Swiss National Bank with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

I am, my dear Mr. Pehle,

Sincerely yours,



Minister of Switzerland.

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

000760

LÉGATION DE SUISSE
WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

F. A. 12

(1 :

July 14, 1944.

My dear Mr. Penle:

Confirming the conversation I had the pleasure to have with you yesterday, I wish to advise you that the Government is prepared to place at the disposal of the United States Government the Swiss franc equivalent of up to \$1,500,000 (one million five hundred thousand Dollars) against credit in dollars convertible into freely exportable gold.

It is understood that the American Legation in Bern will dispose of the Swiss francs so made available exclusively for the purpose indicated (assistance to Jewish refugees from Hungary) and only in such amounts as may be needed from time to time. It is further agreed that the dollar equivalent of the funds to be drawn under the arrangement will be credited to the account T of the Swiss National Bank with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

I am, my dear Mr. Penle,

Sincerely yours,

Minister of Switzerland.

Mr. J. W. Penle
War Refugee Board
Washington, D. C.

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000762

*Henry
and the
Wass*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: July 21, 1944
NUMBER: 4670
x

McLelland sends following for WRB from Kuehl, Donnebaum, and Sternbush for Union of Orthodox Rabbis

Continuous contact is being maintained by us with ^{Dr} Laiffel. We have informed him that if possibilities of rescue work increase he will receive another hundred thousand Swiss francs, and have requested that he undertake transportation of refugees to Turkey from Bucharest. Places on ships are greatly lacking, and in view of development of situation soon anticipated it would be most important to counteract this lack. One thousand Swiss francs is still cost of a passage now-a-days.

We are forwarding a report shortly regarding rescue work for Italy and France.

One hundred thousand Swiss francs for general support have been sent by us to Freudiger. In addition we are in contact by telephone with the Wischnitz Rabbi Chaimmeirhager at Bucharest. A committee of several personalities has been formed by this Rabbi. Some time ago we also transmitted one hundred thousand francs for the management of this rescue work from Hungary to Rumania.

Twenty-three persons were brought to Bucharest lately. Among other Rabbis who have arrived at Bucharest there was the

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

100763

Bobower Rabbi Schloime and his son. Search is being made for the other members of this family. At the present time couriers are en route to Budapest from Bucharest in order to bring some more personalities back. It is felt that this is the best way to save various personalities at least. Three to five thousand francs is cost for one person. To avoid break in their rescue work an additional five hundred thousand francs is urgently requested by the Committee.

One hundred fifty thousand francs have been sent by us ^{fav} to Rabbi of Neutra. Latter is directing rescue work from Poland and Hungary to Slovakia and as regards support and rescue he has heavy obligations to fulfill. Just received wire from him in which he states that if we do not provide him with larger sums immediately he will hold CEO responsible for consequences since if he is not able to render sufficient help people run risk of deportation to Poland. He is referring to approximately eighteen hundred persons of whom greater part are in camps at present time.

Various plans are being worked out as regards Hungary, which have support of joint representative in Budapest also. In addition negotiations to save larger group are proceeding and may be concluded any day. We shall (*) money immediately as soon as guarantee is received that an agreement will be strictly fulfilled. We promised sum of one million francs to Freudiger's group for this purpose to begin with.

Our relations with McClelland are of the best. He willingly grants every possible help to us and all Jewish organizations.

Whether or

000764

Whether or not letters of Foreign Consulates are of any use we do not know, but perhaps they would be if respective states would grant protection. Such letters are at any rate only of use if they are passed on to me by Consulates of South American states in Switzerland at once. Reported rescuing people are getting smaller and situation is becoming progressively more critical in this respect.

HARRISON

(*) apparent omission

ICR:EBB
7/26/44

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*I - Van Kefauver Tel
Mr. Pable*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern.
TO: Secretary of State, Washington.
DATED: July 26, 1944.
NUMBER: 4802.

CONTROL COPY

The following message is from McClelland for WRB.

We refer to messages from the Legation, Number 3506, dated June 2, and Number 4258, dated July 5; and to message from the Department dated July 18, Number 2449.

1. The following proposition has recently been submitted by Sternbuch; he declares it to be the Freudiger plan in its most recent development. Sternbuch has been asked to open a credit of 700,000 Swiss francs, through Schweizerischer Kreditanstalt, for the account of the firm of Intercommerz, in order to prevent deportation to Poland of a convoy of 1200 prominent Orthodox Jews, among them Rabbis, who are reported by associates of Sternbuch in Budapest and Bratislava to have departed from Hungary on their way to Spain. It is recommended for (PL) in Zurich to pay for forty tractors, agricultural, which are to be shipped through Schenker and Company (PL) for final delivery to a concern called Waren Verteilungskonter, located in Budapest; this payment to be made to the order of the Willy Tractor Factory (which is owned by Thomas Willy--PL), at

Lucerne

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

000767

Lucerne. This is an independent endeavor of Orthodox Jews in Hungary to rescue certain important members of their group, according to Sternbuch's description of the project. Gyula Link, a Jewish business man of Budapest, and Philipp Freudiger, head of Orthodox community of Budapest, are apparently the chief organizers of this action.

21. A train containing 1200 had passed through Bratislava on the 6th of July, where a correspondent, not named, talked with Rabbi Teitelbaum of Satumare, a member of the convoy, so Sternbuch reported on June 17th. Rabbi Teitelbaum said that they had been en route for six days already, and that the rumor was that the train would stay in Vienna about 14 days; they were to be taken to Spain for exchange for German war prisoners, they had been told.

3. As reported in message from the Legation of June 30, Number 4170, the matter of transports for Spain has been brought to our attention before and has usually been looked upon as a variation of the original ransom "Number 1 proposition" which was negotiated in Jerusalem and Istanbul by Joel Brandt and which concerned materials and money in exchange for German permission for the emigration of Hungarian Jews. Spanish transit visas for 500 children and 1500 grown persons had been granted, in principle, Dohkin of the Zionist organization, with regard to Spain, wired from Lisbon on July 25th.

4. An urgent telegram

000768

4. An urgent telegram from Israel Kastner, a dependable Jewish lawyer in Budapest, a man who was closely associated with the first Brandt negotiations, was received on July 24 by Nathan Schwalb of Hechaluz, Geneva. This message requested that Sternbuch's proposition, especially the merchandise angle, be supported in every way. The above would appear to confirm the reality of the project which Sternbuch proposes.

5. ICRC has been asked by me to try to verify the departure of such a convoy of 1200 people and to obtain, through their delegation in Budapest, any other detailed information possible, but to date I have not received a reply from ICRC.

6. This entire proposition of Sternbuch's has been talked over with Saly Mayer of Joint, from whom 500,000 Swiss francs had been requested by Sternbuch, but, especially because there is no satisfactory guarantee that fulfillment of the tractor purchasing conditions would not only prevent the 1200 people being deported but actually assure their arrival in Spain, Mayer does not approve action along the lines proposed.

7. In order that an intelligent decision could be taken in time, I have urged Sternbuch continuously, ever since he first transmitted the appeals of Rabbi of Neutra and Freudiger, to secure further information with regard to these rescue plans.

Sternbuch

Sternbuch promised Link and Freudiger that he would raise 1,000,000 Swiss francs and back up their negotiations, in spite of lack of guarantees and definite details. When Sternbuch decided recently to pass on to me rather incoherent and desperate appeals made by his contact men in Budapest and Bratislava which involved a forty-eight hour time limit if these 1200 people were to be rescued from being deported, the above matter came to a head.

8. We await your instructions, in view of the fact that Intercommerz in Zurich recommended for an Willy and Schenker (a forwarding agency which Deutsches Reichsbahn owns) which is on our Proclaimed List already, and, further, in view of the fact that the whole proposition seems to be inherently a ransom deal which involves delivering to the enemy goods which obviously are important to the war effort, or, if the request for tractors is disapproved, free foreign exchange.

Consultation with Joint at once is recommended, as we assume that any money which might be used would have to come from funds transferred to us for Saly Mayer recently.

HARRISON

DCR:LCW 7/29/44



000771

Very urgent.

July 27th, 1944.

Dear Mr. Durbrow,

I am sending you enclosed information just received from Bern, Switzerland, which seems to be of utmost urgency.

I would be most grateful if you would draw the attention of the War Refugee Board (Mr. Penley) to this matter.

Yours very sincerely,

Walter Durbrow
Walter Durbrow

enclosure

Albridge Durbrow, Esq.,
Division of European Affairs,
Department of State.

000772

With reference to previous communications regarding the situation of the Jewish population in German-occupied areas, information is forthcoming from Bratislava that on July 6th a train was sent from Bratislava to Budapest with 1,200 persons. The train apparently was supposed to stay 14 days in Vienna to be sent later on for exchange purposes to Spain instead of Rumania. Rabbi Teitelbaum from Sotmar was among the passengers.

There was no food on the train. Efforts were made to obtain some through the International Red Cross.

Washington, July 27th, 1944.

000773

000774

*J. was Refugee
Ed - Mrs. P. H. H.*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: July 27, 1944
NUMBER: 2579

CONTROL COPY

FOR MCCLELLAND FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Referenc WRB Cable to Bern No. 83 (Department's 2417) of
July 15, 1944.

Please advise at once whether Swiss francs have been
received and turned over to Saly Mayer.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN, NO. 93.

HULL

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

000775

5250
1944
AMERICAN
RECEPTION
COMMITTEE

CABLE TO HARRISON, BERN, FOR MCGLELLAND FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Reference WRB Cable to Bern No. 83 (Department's 2417) of
July 15, 1944.

Please advise at once whether Swiss francs have been received
and turned over to Saly Mayer.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN, NO. 93.

11:30 a.m.
July 25, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel,
Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Stewart, Central Files, Cable Control Files

F.Hodel:css 7/24/44

discussed with JWP.

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2 - Leavitt
Pehle

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATE: July 29, 1944
NUMBER: 2614

CONTROL COPY

FOR MCCLELLAND FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD.
Please deliver following message to Saly Mayer from
Leavitt, JDC:

QUOTE Sternbuch cabled Rabbinical group here that 1,200 Hungarian Rabbis other leaders are now entrained Vienna for deportation. He claims you refused help to save this group and that immediate action may still rescue them by repatriation. He also claims that no understanding has been reached with you for coordination rescue activities despite such report to WRB. Orthodox groups here deeply disturbed by this situation and exerting great pressure on us. We are convinced that you and McClelland are doing everything to rescue as many people as possible, but we are not in position to answer such charges made by Sternbuch. Although we realize that Sternbuch is concerned primarily with Rabbinical groups we are just as interested in rescuing these elements and we hope that every effort is being made to save them and that every possible measure is utilized by you to effect their rescue. Please cable soonest. UNQUOTE.

Following for McClelland from Pehle: Refer WRB NO. 86 (Department's 2449) of July 18. We urgently request that every practicable step be taken to effect rescue of this group.

This is WRB cable to Bern No. 99.

HULL

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

000778

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
SECRETARY OF
WAR
JULY 26 1944
10:30 AM
RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
SECRETARY OF
WAR
JULY 26 1944
10:30 AM

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON, BERN, FOR MCCLELLAND FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Please deliver following message to Saly Mayer from Leavitt, JDC:

QUOTE Sternbuch cabled Rabbinical group here that 1,200 Hungarian Rabbis other leaders are now entrained Vienna for deportation. STOP He claims you refused help to save this group and that immediate action may still rescue them by repatriation. STOP. He also claims that no understanding has been reached with you for coordination rescue activities despite such report to WRB. STOP Orthodox groups here deeply disturbed by this situation and exerting great pressure on us. STOP We are convinced that you and McClelland are doing everything to rescue as many people as possible, but we are not in position to answer such charges made by Sternbuch. STOP Although we realize that Sternbuch is concerned primarily with Rabbinical groups we are just as interested in rescuing these elements and we hope that every effort is being made to save them and that every possible measure is utilized by you to effect their rescue. STOP Please cable soonest. UNQUOTE.

Following for McClelland from Pehle: Refer WRB No. 86 (Department's 2449) of July 18. We urgently request that every practicable step be taken to effect rescue of this group.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 99.

July 26, 1944
2:35 p.m.

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman,
Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Stewart, Central Files, Cable Control Files.

aa
A.Abrahamson:css 7/26/44

Jef

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*I was Ref. at
Pelle*

UNCLASSIFIED BY 60320/AMK/SJF/STP

TO: American Legation, Bern
FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: July 26, 1944
REF: 4087
X

CONTROL COPY

Enclosed are the following for AMB.

With reference to Department's messages of July 26, No. 2579 and July 26, No. 2617, 3,400,000 Swiss francs received through Swiss National Bank July 27. These funds are being held at the disposal of Saly Mayer, to be withdrawn as required, with his approval. I instructed bank to make first advance of 2 million francs on July 27, which will be used as follows:

1. On instructions Joseph Schwartz for transportation of 751 refugees from Rumania to Palestine, payment of 280,500 francs to account of Wolf Kowalski, Hollenbacher Bank Istanbul in Union Banque Suisse Zurich.
2. Funds to be purchased here in Switzerland for relief program (probably to be conducted by IARC) for Jewish children in Budapest.
3. Additional financing flight endangered Hungarian Jewish refugees to Rumania and Slovakia.

We have requested Saly Mayer to furnish us hereinafter with detailed expenditure in connection with Swiss franc equivalent one million dollars, as recommended in numbered paragraph two of Legation's message of July 5, No. 4259. We plan to exercise control usually expected over

distributions

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

000781

No. 107-40

distributions of supplies for rescue and relief work in enemy territory
under special license granted Joint Distribution Committee, in care
of First Finance Division (EDD, OCS) to be used by Sally Meyer with
reference to construction program from Germany.

HARRISON

DGR:EFV

8-1-40

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000783

*2-war Refugee Bd
Mr. Peble*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: The American Legation, Bern
TO: The Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: July 29, 1944
NUMBER: 4874

CONTROL COPY

The following message is for the Department, the War Refugee Board and the Foreign Economic Administration from McClelland.

1. By his own account the proposition of Sternbuch is a ransom scheme and direct aid would be given to the enemy war effort and the position of the British and this Legation would be compromised in policy and principle if this or other similar ransom operations, whether involving cash or goods, are carried out.

2. Either on the Proclaimed List or recommended for the Proclaimed List are all of the firms involved in the tractor deal. Willy is notorious for his disregard of the interests of the Allies and Schenker is a German concern. The authorities of Switzerland and private interests must know of Sternbuch's approach to these Proclaimed List and the former may be embarrassed already because of his known relations with the Legation.

3. The Governments of Britain and America are exerting all efforts to persuade the Swiss to limit the purchasing power made available to the enemy through new financial facilities and to diminish exports of material to the enemy which would be useful to the enemy's war effort (number 2564 and

number 2559

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

000784

number 2559 both dated July 26 from the Department are referred to). If such a transaction were to be undertaken or even considered seriously our position would almost surely be affected adversely.

4. Also, simple ransom money payments are proposed by Sternbuch as an alternative to the tractor deal. Circular telegram dated November 24, 1942 from the Department stated the policy of the United States toward transactions of this kind. (These instructions have not been rescinded and this and the British Legation are continuing to operate under them.) It would appear that departure from this policy should ^{only} be undertaken with the knowledge and concurrence of British MEW, but such departure would be unfortunats at the present time. (number 4802 dated July 26 from the Legation is referred to.)

HARRISON

DCR:MPL
7/30/44

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*2-was Ref Bt
Pelle*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT
FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: August 2, 1944
NUMBER: 2656

CONTROL COPY

FOR McCLELLAND, BERN, FROM THE DEPARTMENT AND WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Reference Legation's No. 4802 of July 26, 1944.

We rely entirely on your judgment in this matter and accordingly, and in view of the pending consideration of the reported Hungarian offer to permit emigration, we concur in your view that it is not (repeat not) feasible to undertake the transaction in question at this time. We assume that if further information is received you will keep us fully advised. We also assume that you will continue to make all possible efforts to rescue refugees from Hungary and other German-occupied areas.

The foregoing has been discussed with the JDC and it is in accord with the views expressed.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 106.

STETTINIUS
(Acting)

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

000787

CABLE TO HARRISON FOR McCLELLAND, BERN, FROM THE DEPARTMENT AND WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Reference Legation's No. 4802 of July 26, 1944.

We rely entirely on your judgment in this matter and and in view of the pending consideration of the reported Hungarian accordingly, we concur in your view that it is not feasible to offer to permit at this time. (repeat not) emigration, undertake the transaction in question. We assume that if further information is received you will keep us fully advised. We also assume that you will continue to make all possible efforts to rescue refugees from Hungary and other German-occupied areas.

The foregoing has been discussed with the JDC and it is in accord with the views expressed.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 106

11:00 a.m.
August 1, 1944

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

JH. Cleared with report J.R.C. 807 L.S.L.
PH:lab 7/31/44 ad